

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024

Sentinel Times



Finger-picking perfect weekend for uke players

THE two-day Phillip Island and Bass Coast Ukulele Festival at Berninnet last weekend turned out to be a strumming success with hundreds of patrons, all clutching their happy little instruments, playing along with guest presenters and performers in the community room at Berninnet. Among them was noted South Gippsland musician Ian McMullan of Wonthaggi who traded his guitar for the day on Saturday to convene a workshop on fingerpicking. Visited by new Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, the event was sponsored by the Bendigo Bank, Westernport Water and the Bass Coast Shire Council with the members of several local ukulele groups participating.

HOSPITAL SHAKE-UP

LOCAL hospitals are bracing themselves for an announcement, expected in December but likely to come early in the New Year, of the biggest-ever shake-up to hospital management and operations.

The decision is set to prove crucial for the flow of public patients from South Gippsland and Bass Coast and for the local hospital workforce.

The issue was the elephant in the room at the annual general meeting for Gippsland Southern Health Service at Leongatha last Thursday.

A feature of the announcement will be the establishment of the new Local Health Service Networks across the state, including

Barwon South West, Grampians, Loddon Mallee, Hume and Gippsland.

The State Government is keen to follow the recommendations of the Expert Advisory Committee, contained in its 'Health Services Plan', formally released in August this year, but completed last April, where Bass Coast Health (BCH), Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) and South Gippsland Hospital at Foster join a Gippsland network in which management and service is dominated by Latrobe Regional Hospital.

The establishment of a network board and appointment of a network CEO are among the proposals.

GSHS has submitted a dissenting view,

seeking to retain links with Bass Coast Health, Foster and Koo Wee Rup hospitals in a group that includes high-level services from Nepean Health.

However, one of the key findings of the expert panel is that regional networks need to have populations of more than 200,000 to develop the scale and capability to meet most of the care needs of their local communities.

"The Gippsland Network is proposed to serve a population exceeding 250,000 people, which meets the threshold scale to meaningfully support population health outcomes."

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Local MPs step up to new roles

GIPPSLAND Nationals' MPs Danny O'Brien and Melina Bath are expected to have a bigger role to play if the Opposition wins the next Victorian State Election on Saturday, November 28, 2026.

While it's a big ask with Labor holding 56 seats in the 87-seat governing house and the Liberal-National Coalition just 27, Mr O'Brien would be the new Deputy Premier and Ms Bath, the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Aboriginal Affairs if their new appointments translate in government.

The Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, was elected unopposed as the new Leader of The Victorian Nationals last Tuesday, November 26 after long-serving leader Peter Walsh announced his intention to retire at the next election.

The Member for Lowan, Emma Kealy, will continue as Deputy Leader and in a leadership reshuffle announced with the Liberals' leader John Pesutto, Ms Bath was appointed the Shadow Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Aboriginal Affairs.

Interestingly enough, both Mr O'Brien and Mr Pesutto come from Traralgon where Mr O'Brien knew his leadership colleague's brother at school.

While welcoming the new role, Mr O'Brien has been quick to reassure the people of Gippsland South that his first priority will continue to be local.

"It is the greatest honour to have been elected as Leader of The



Gippsland MPs Danny O'Brien and Melina Bath, pictured here at San Remo chasing local fishing jetty issues, have both been promoted to key new roles for the State Opposition.

Nationals," Mr O'Brien said.

"For over 100 years, The Nationals have served the interests of rural and regional Victoria. That will not change.

"I want to assure the people of Gippsland South that my responsibilities to my electorate will always come first.

"I will continue to ensure I remain available and accessible to anyone in need of assistance with state government related matters right across Gippsland South.

"I entered politics because I have always believed rural and regional people get a raw deal.

"Both as leader of our great party and as the State Member for Gippsland South, I will fight every

day for country people like us to get a fair go. I look forward to working with our Deputy Emma Kealy and the rest of the team to continue serving Gippsland South as well as the people of the rest of rural and regional Victoria."

Ms Bath congratulated her Gippsland colleague on his elevation to the top role.

"Having known Danny for 20 years, I appreciate how conscientious, sincere and capable he is, and I look forward to working with him and Deputy Leader Emma Kealy to fight for the issues that are important to rural and regional Victorians," said Melina. "I am excited to tackle my new role and relish the opportunity given to me," she said.

Hospital shake-up

From page 1

According to the 2021 Census, Bass Coast has a permanent population of 40,789 and South Gippsland 30,577. Their absence from a Gippsland network would make it unviable.

A network plan which links Bass Coast in particular, to LRH in Traralgon, and not Frankston, Dandenong or Monash Clayton, has already attracted public criticism. These comments on the Sentinel-Times' Facebook page this week:

* West Gippsland Regional Hospital at Warragul should be with Latrobe. They are closer than us here in Wonthaggi and the Island. Which bureaucrat came up with the ideas for the networks? Did they drop a pin on a map – have no understanding of the regional areas at all.

* Why would anyone on the island want to travel to Latrobe when Peninsula is closer and an easier drive?

South Gippsland Hospital at Foster is supportive of the plan, joining a network which includes Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, Bass Coast Health, Central Gippsland Health Service, Gippsland Southern Health Service, Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH), Omeo District Health, Orbost Regional Health, and Yarram & District Health Service.

Under that scenario, West Gippsland Hospital (Warragul) would be linked to Monash Health with hospitals at Dandenong and Clayton, and Koo Wee Rup Regional Health Service with the Peninsula Health group.

The sticking point is the proximity for patients of Bass Coast Health, with hospitals at Wonthaggi and Cowes, and Gippsland Southern Health Service, with hospitals at Korumburra and Leongatha, to major Melbourne metro hospitals including Dandenong Hospital, Monash Medical Centre and Frankston Hospital with whom these hospitals have established links.

The local hospitals have already been advised of the Health Department's preferred model for a Gippsland-wide Local Health Service Network, giving them until December 6 to propose a different scenario.

GSHS has already presented its case to retain links with nearby metro fringe hospitals. It is not known whether Bass Coast Health has done likewise, although this may become clearer at their AGM this Thursday, December 5, when the board will also introduce new Interim CEO, Professor Simone Alexander, currently Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer at Alfred Health, who started her new role on Monday.

At last week's GSHS AGM, both the board chair Athina Georgiou and chief executive officer Louise Sparkes referred to the imminent announcement of the hospital reforms.

"We have been participating in the regional planning and are eagerly awaiting the government announcement," said Ms Georgiou.

Ms Sparkes said the reforms had the potential to "bring enormous benefits for our health service".

Asked after the meeting if she was hopeful of achieving an outcome which retained links with Bass Coast Health and Peninsula Health, Ms Sparkes simply referred the 'Sentinel-Times' to details in the Health Services Plan.

While a plan to deliver a full suite of health services close to home in all regions of the state is the goal, the increasing cost of service and staffing problems, including competition for scarce clinical personnel within regions, are driving the changes.

Locally, Bass Coast Health has reported an operating deficit of \$3.233 million on a budget of almost \$170 million, Gippsland Southern Health Service an operating deficit of \$1.933 million and South Gippsland Hospital, a surplus of \$94,229, as compared to a \$160,022 deficit last year.

But it's at the metro hospitals where the blowout is most pronounced, with 52 of the 68 health services which recently tabled their annual reports, for the 2023-24 year, recording deficits, totalling more than \$1 billion.

Among the worst offenders were Monash Health \$321M, Northern Health \$116M, Western Health \$105M, Eastern Health \$100M, Austin Health \$71M and Peninsula Health \$59M.

Traffic chaos looms for Island



SEVERAL collisions on or near Phillip Island Road have again highlighted the potential to create massive, time-consuming traffic snarls. The allegedly intentional crash with a police vehicle at Forrest Caves, a car flipped onto its roof at San Remo and a two-car collision near Woolamai Road at Bass all created significant delays for motorists. Of course, the welfare of passengers is the biggest concern, and reports have been received of only minor injuries at most. But the limited access problems are the major concern prompting renewed calls for the duplication of the Bass Highway all the way to Cowes, an alternate route around San Remo and a reassessment of the car ferry proposal for Cowes.

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IN BRIEF

Vegetation slashing and public questions

REGULAR commentator on South Gippsland Shire Council matters, David Amor asked what is being done to prepare for forecast extreme conditions this summer, querying whether council, working with VicRoads, will be able to complete slashing of vegetation along major roads.

“Council has an annual slashing program for firebreak roads that commences in December and is completed in mid-January; all other roads are slashed annually for drain maintenance and sight distance,” Council CEO Kerryn Ellis responded at Wednesday’s council meeting.

“Council does not undertake any slashing of VicRoads’ managed roadsides, although we work closely with VicRoads,” she explained.

David also queried whether it is possible to reinstate the opportunity for members of the public to pose verbal questions at the end of each monthly public council meeting.

The Council CEO replied that council does have public question time at council meetings.

While those questions are now in written form, Kerryn highlighted the chance for members of the public to address council via an expression of interest process, which is outlined on council’s website.

Cr Rae urges farmers to contemplate council tilt

COUNCILLOR Scott Rae, a Foster North farmer, has called on more farmers to run for council next time, issuing the suggestion during Wednesday’s council meeting.

“I’m an old man and I’m not doing this forever,” the fierce advocate of preserving South Gippsland Shire’s valuable agricultural land said.

He urged farmers to start thinking about making a run for council, encouraging those in the Shire’s agricultural sector to chat to him and learn about the role of being a councillor.

Noting that while he was satisfied voters chose a strong group of councillors at the recent election, Cr Rae was disappointed with the lack of people in agriculture across South Gippsland Shire who appeared on ballot papers.

While the recently elected councillor group will be in place for four years, he stressed that four years “goes in the blink of an eye”.

Grants open to strengthen community energy resilience

APPLICATIONS are now open for the second round of Energy Resilience and Literacy Grants under AusNet’s \$12 million Energy Resilience Community Fund.

More than \$3.5 million has

already been distributed to help support impacted communities, with 24 recipients recently receiving a combined \$650,000 in grants from round one.

The grants are open to eligible community and not-for-profit organisations, local councils and small businesses.

Up to \$50,000 is available for Energy Resilience Grants and up to \$25,000 for Energy Education and Literacy Grants.

Grants funding is for physical and mobile energy resilience assets and education, awareness and literacy programs to help build and strengthen community energy resilience, and to help communities prepare for and recover after a severe weather event or outage.

Funded projects must be located within AusNet’s electricity distribution area and clearly improve community energy resilience.

To check if your project falls within AusNet’s network, visit the Find Your Energy Distributor website.

For further information, visit ausnetservice.com.au/about-us/community/energy-resilience-community-fund.

Amber alert for South Gippsland

AN AMBER alert was issued on Thursday, November 28 at South Gippsland Hospital as COVID transmissions rise in the region.

According to Paul Greenhalgh, South Gippsland Hospital CEO, the hospital is reporting an increase in community transmission with several house/community staff testing positive over the last week.

“(We’re) getting on the front foot to avoid an outbreak on the ward,” Mr Greenhalgh said.

The amber status means South Gippsland Hospital’s visiting hours are between 9.30am and 7pm daily with a maximum of two visitors per patient at a time, for up to two hours.

Those entering the hospital must wear a mask, sanitise their hands and sign in and out of reception.

The hospital is also asking for those who are symptomatic to refrain from visiting.

The reported increase comes as the Victorian Department of Health issued an increase in COVID-19 activity health alert across the state on Wednesday, November 27.

According to the alert, seven-day average hospitalisation figures increased approximately 12 per cent with notified case numbers (laboratory-confirmed) increasing 10 per cent, a 63 per cent increase over the last month.

The rise in COVID cases comes after a spike in respiratory diseases in 2024 that also saw the highly contagious pertussis, whooping cough, record 49,104 cases, the highest since records began and surges in laboratory-confirmed

influenza and RSV this year.

Read the full story at sgst.com.au

Disgusting behaviour will not be tolerated

POLICE are calling out ‘disgusting’ behaviour on Ventnor Beach Road after a 77-year-old male was assaulted by a group of males on Friday, November 22.

It’s understood the group of approximately half a dozen offenders waved down the elderly driver as he travelled along Ventnor Beach Road around 7.45pm.

Stopping, the offenders requested a lift. After explaining that they wouldn’t all fit in his car it’s alleged one of the offenders kicked the victim’s car.

The victim stepped out of his car to investigate the damage when the group proceeded to assault him.

The elderly victim from Ventnor suffered swelling and bruising to his face with a significant laceration to his right ear.

One male was arrested at the scene, with investigations ongoing as police make enquiries about the remaining offenders.

Bass Coast Senior Sergeant Jason Hullick called out the offender’s behaviour as “calous and disgusting” and noted the offenders were not part of the Schoolies celebrations.

“Anyone with information including witnesses, dashcam and CCTV footage, please contact Crimestoppers (1800 333 000 or crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime) or Wonthaggi Police Station (5671 4100).

Schoolies on best behaviour

EXTRA police presence and engagement with local venues saw an incredibly positive ‘Schoolies Week’ in Bass Coast this year, according to local police. And whilst it’s understood there may be some Schoolies who have opted to extend their stay, the official celebrations finished on Sunday, December 1.

Drink driver caught

POLICE are out and about on the roads conducting breath tests, as one driver found out on December 1 when his vehicle was impounded for drink driving.

The detection occurred in Wonthaggi, at about 1.11am when a vehicle was intercepted on White Road, which was allegedly driven by a 28-year-old male from North Wonthaggi.

It is further alleged that the driver returned a preliminary breath test that was positive for alcohol and that the driver returned a breath test at the police station which was 0.190. The vehicle was impounded for 30 days, at a cost of \$1275 and the driver’s licence was immediately suspended.

The driver will receive a summons to the Korumburra Magistrates’ Court.

School saving bonus coming to Gippsland

A \$400 School Saving Bonus has been rolled out to help busy Victorian families with the cost of living.

In Gippsland South, 41 school campuses with 6996 students will be able to access the School Saving Bonus.

The grant, from the State Government is to help cover the cost of textbooks, uniforms, camps, excursions, and other school activities.

Member for Eastern Victoria, Tom McIntosh made the announcement while in Gippsland.

“Education is the ticket to a better future. This is meaningful and targeted support for families that is focused on the next generation and will make an immediate difference,” Mr McIntosh said.

Parents with kids at a government school won’t need to apply for their bonus: it is free, automatic and universal.

Families will receive an email giving them access to their \$400 per child and the bonus applies to each child.

Families will be able to choose how they allocate their funds, whether that’s a uniform and textbook voucher – or adding money to their school account for camps, excursions or other extracurricular activities.

The voucher for uniforms and textbooks will be redeemable at local school-approved uniform or book suppliers.

Families can purchase uniforms and textbooks in-person or online through school-approved suppliers, including State School Relief, which offers items such as shoes, swimwear and workwear for VCE Vocational Major students.

Vouchers will also be redeemable at school-operated second-hand uniform and textbook shops and will be valid until June 30, 2025.

Unspent funds will automatically transfer to a family’s school account once the uniform and textbook voucher period expires, with parents able to use the remaining funds on future school activities.

For families of students at a non-government school, the \$400 will be provided directly to each school. Non-government school families who are eligible for the means-tested Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (including health-care and concession card holders) are also eligible for the School Saving Bonus.

For more information on the School Saving Bonus, visit vic.gov.au/school-saving-bonus.

Fire restrictions next Monday

FIRE restrictions come into place for Bass Coast, South Gippsland and Wellington this Monday, December 9, and will end at this stage on May 1, 2025.

Local child rapist gets 25 years in jail

A 54-year-old local delivery driver, who sexually abused the two young sons of his de facto spouse, over a period of up to 12 years, between 1999 to 2011, has been handed a total effective sentence of 25 years in jail after being found guilty of a heinous list of 18 charges.

He will be eligible for parole after a minimum of 18 years, in 2041, when he will be 71 years of age and will be on the Sex Offenders Register for life, required to keep police informed of his whereabouts.

The man, who cannot be named locally in order to protect the identity of his victims, first sexually assaulted one of his victims at age five, when the boy returned home sick from school.

He raped the same child when he was eight years old in harrowing circumstances read into the public record by County Court Judge Michael McInerney during the sentence hearing last Tuesday, November 26.

He was convicted of a total of five offences against the youngest of his victims, and 13 charges against his older brother, over a period of eight years, from the age of 10 or 11 years, with many of the assaults taking place while other members of the family or friends were in or near the house.

In determining the objective gravity of each of the individual charges, Judge McInerney took into account a number of factors specific to the case including the breach of trust and parental authority to the children and his de facto, and the persistent nature of offending against the boys over a period of eight to 12 years.

He said the sexual crimes against the two children were both predatory and opportunistic, and featured the domination of the children by the offender, telling them to keep the incidents secret or they would come to serious harm.

In the case of the younger of the two, he not only threatened the child after the rape but also told him "he would be dead if anyone found out" about another serious sexual incident two to four years later, again after the boy had returned home from school.



The county court last week heard a harrowing account of historic incest crimes committed against two local children by the de facto partner of the boys' mother.

In relation to the older boy, he told him that "friends of mine would make him disappear" if he didn't do what he was told.

Prior to sentencing, Judge McInerney noted the plea by the man's defence lawyer, Steven Anger, in which he accepted that a term of imprisonment was inevitable but urged the court not to pass a sentence that was "crushing". He submitted that his client deserved a discount for having "limited unrelated priors" including no priors for sexual offences against children, that he had a good upbringing, that he had been a hard worker all his life and was doing well in prison undertaking programs and courses.

He included court process delay as a mitigating factor saying that it was four and a half years before the case ultimately concluded, after the offender was charged in January 2020.

Mr Anger also submitted that allowance should be given for a clinical assessment of depression and PTSD.

The judge disagreed. "What is evident from the report and diagnosis is that [the offender] sees himself as a helper or rescuer," Judge McInerney said, noting the man's own assessment of his kind treatment of others and a willingness to do anything to help.

"While he attested to a normal sex drive and explicitly denied any attraction to children, the facts speak otherwise."

Judge McInerney said he considered [the offender] to be very active sexually and was keen to "be involved in sexual activity when, wherever and with whom he could achieve it, be it a 15-year-old young female, for whom he is now serving a sentence for crimes committed, his various partners, his de facto spouse and the two male children of his de facto".

"He was happy to take every opportunity for his own sexual gratification."

Noting that the offender maintained his innocence, which was his right, while in

turn calling his victims "compulsive liars", he said the man was not entitled to any discount on the basis of either the psychological report or remorse.

In acknowledging the impacts on the two victims, he said the older of the two, now an adult, described severe mental health issues, depression and repeated thought processes reliving the assaults, resulting in mental breakdown and attempted suicide.

He said incest was a crime against the victim and the community resulting in irreparable and fundamental damage to the victim for the perverted indulgence of the adult entrusted with their care.

The older of the victims and his mother, the former de facto spouse of the convicted man, were in court to witness the sentencing.

If details in this story cause you to feel unwell or distressed, call Lifeline on 13 11 14, a 24-hour 7 day-a-week support service or go to the Lifeline website at lifeline.org.au.

New interim CEO appointed at Bass Coast Health

BASS Coast Health is being tight-lipped about the appointment of a new Interim CEO, to replace Shaun Brooks, appointed on October 18, 2024 after the departure of Jan Child, who spent an eventful eight years in the role.

The new Interim CEO is expected to be announced as Professor Simone Alexander, Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer at Alfred Health, who reportedly commenced her new appointment at Bass Coast Health on Monday this week, December 2.

Simone has more than 25

years of experience in the healthcare sector.

As the Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer at Alfred Health, she has been responsible for the management and performance of Alfred Health's clinical operations.

A Registered Nurse by profession, Simone has an extensive clinical background in nursing and clinical leadership of many areas of The Alfred and Sandringham hospital operations.

The board of Bass Coast Health is expected to have

more to say about the appointment at its annual general meeting this Thursday, December 5 where the health service will also address an operating deficit of \$3.233 million last financial year, on a budget of almost \$170 million, and progress on Stages 2 and 3 of the Wonthaggi Hospital redevelopment for which there has been a State Government promise of \$290 million in funding.

The new Phillip Island Community Hospital, operated by BCH, is expected to open in Cowes early in 2025.



Bass Coast Health has appointed a new Interim CEO. She is Professor Simone Alexander from Alfred Health.

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Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



LAST week, I had the privilege of joining To the Beach and Back: A Walk Against Family Violence, organised by the Corinella & District Community Centre as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. This campaign highlights the ongoing need for change in attitudes and behaviours in our communities.

Seeing local people unite against family violence was both inspiring and heartening. It highlighted the strength of our community spirit and compassion. It was also a timely reminder to me of how collective action can raise awareness and influence change. The statistics remain devastating. In Australia, one in three women will experience violence from a man during their lifetime. Too many women are losing their lives because of violence from a man they often already know. These figures remind us that our action must continue beyond these 16 days and be throughout the year.

The Corinella & District Community Centre has a long history of supporting the community. The Centre, like so many others in Bass Coast, offers connection through craft, games, lunches and support services. Just last week the Centre was recognised with the Neighbourhood House Gippsland Community Resilience Award for their response to the February storms. During power outages after the storm event the Centre opened its doors to provide a place for residents to gather, charge phones, have a hot drink and get up to date information. They were then a driving force in setting up the Waterline Emergency Network who work to build resilience in the community to emergencies.

The upcoming holiday season also reminds us of the importance of community coming together, kindness and giving. I am delighted to announce that the Bass Coast Giving Tree Appeal for 2024 is now officially open.

This wonderful appeal, in its 21st year, is coordinated by the Combined Welfare Group, including local churches, charities such as The Salvation Army, and the St Vincent de Paul Society. It provides vital support to families and individuals in need, bringing joy and hope during what can be a difficult time for many. Donations of new, unwrapped gifts for children of all ages, gift cards, and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at any of council's customer service centres where trees are on display. These donations help ensure local families can enjoy a special meal or provide gifts that brighten a child's Christmas. I encourage everyone to contribute to this appeal if you can. It's been a tough year for so many, but I'm always inspired by the generosity and spirit of our community.

Donations will be accepted until Friday, December 6, except in Cowes, where they will continue until Thursday, December 12.



Joy and Geoff welcomed Jon Temby into their home with fellow campaign supporters to congratulate him on his success in being elected as a Bass Coast Shire councillor.

Cr Temby listening for the future of the environment

COUNCILLOR Jon Temby was recently appointed as a councillor for the Bass Coast Shire Council stating that he will strongly advocate for the protection and enhancement of natural assets.

Cr Temby was welcomed into the home of author of 'From The Horse's Mouth' and 'Spuds, Rabbits and Flour Bags' Joy Rainey.

Joy, her husband Geoff and campaign supporters held a celebration luncheon for Cr

Temby where they discussed better protection for environmental assets and the 'Gardens for Wildlife' concept which raises concern about the loss of habitat occurring in Bass Coast.

Joy recently raised the need for the shire to consider partnering with 'Gardens for Wildlife' to foster the municipality's local plants and animals stating that the loss of habitat occurring in Bass Coast worries her.

Joy ardently argues that slowly, Bass Coast farmlands and habitat areas are being swallowed into the tourist and housing abyss.

Cr Temby said that he hasn't worked with 'Gardens for Wildlife' before but is supportive of the concept. "I can see it fitting in with that bigger picture really well," said Cr Temby.

"When farmers put in shelterbelts, if they are more conscious of the need for ensuring that our shelterbelt links up

with the shelterbelt next door, then that's when we get better protection from the wind and more shade from the sun, but if we also get a good mix of local native plants, we can then create a viable corridor for birds and insects to use."

With Cr Temby's history in horticulture and propagation, he is interested in continuing the conversation and working with locals to educate them on what to plant to help deliver this concept within the shire.

Council acknowledgement out of sync with policy

OFFICIALLY, according to the current policy adopted by the Bass Coast Shire Council on March 21, 2012, the "traditional owners" acknowledgement to be read out at the start of Council meetings is as follows (13 words):

"We respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, their spirits and ancestors."

So, how did it get to the stage where a much longer acknowledgement was read out by CEO Greg Box at the recent November meeting of Council, as follows (88 words):

"Bass Coast Shire Council acknowledge the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and

waters, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and Lore. Bass Coast Shire Council celebrates the opportunity to embrace and empower the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Island Communities in their diversity. Bass Coast Shire Council will create opportunities for future recognition and respectful partnerships that will honour the Traditional Owners and Custodians, and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples."

According to the 'Policy of acknowledgment' on the Council website: Council will acknowledge the Traditional

Owners of this land through a statement of acknowledgement read at the commencement of ordinary meetings of Council, at all public meetings organised by Council officers where external agencies or members of the public are present and at all public events organised and run by Council officers.

The following options, they say, are respectful statements of acknowledgement and suit different situations:

- Option 1 (suited to a Council meeting, public meeting or event) "We respectfully acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, their spirits and ancestors."
- Option 2 (suited to a pub-

lic meeting or event where Elders are known to be present) "We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders and all Elders present here tonight | today."

- Option 3 (suited to an event) "We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to their elders past and present and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in our community today."

It has been reported to the 'Sentinel-Times' that the new council will soon move to update its present policy or to confirm the existing policy by changing the form of the present acknowledgments.

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More patients, more staff and doctors at GSHS

GIPPSLAND Southern Health Service (GSHS), which operates hospitals at Leongatha and Korumburra, has continued to improve access to care for the South Gippsland community during 2023-24.

A feature of this has been the introduction of a new medical model at the Urgent Care Centre at Leongatha, and within the wards, enabling local people to be seen for urgent care by a doctor from 8am to 9pm daily, instead of travelling for care, with doctors available in the wards from 8am to 12 noon.

As detailed at the annual general meeting of the health service last Thursday, November 28, this has resulted in 4300 people being seen for urgent care at Leongatha and Korumburra in the 12 months to June 30, 2024.

Together with the unbudgeted costs of agency and locum staff, this prevented GSHS from achieving its budget forecast, finishing the year with an operating deficit of \$1.9 million.

The health service remains in a strong financial position however, according to the board's finance chair Rajan Sawant, that it did not qualify for "sustainability funding" from the state government to cover the budget deficit.

Speaking at the annual meeting, GSHS Chair Athina Georgiou listed several highlights in a challenging year which



Higher patient throughput and the establishment of a new model for doctor and nurse practitioner support at the Urgent Care Centre in Leongatha were highlights of the last financial year for Gippsland Southern Health Service, according to board chair, Athina Georgiou.

included responding to the storm events of February 2024. They included:

- Higher throughput of patients including 14,000 outpatients, 21,000 separations, 148 births, and 2075 surgeries.
- Introduced a new Cardiac CT Coronary Angiography (CTCA) service in August with demand exceeding expectations.
- Hospital in the Home launched mid-February 2024.
- New Cancer Survivorship Program also launched in mid-February for patients who have completed active treatment.
- A successful year of recruitment increasing staff from

296.91 EFT to 314.29.

- Establishment of a Community Advisory Committee.
 - Established a partnership with the Alfred to deliver a better cardiac care pathway for patients.
 - And new workplace models for the post-pandemic era.
- The GSHS 2023-24 annual report was officially released on the day showing the health service reached 98.11 per cent of its national funding model targets, a six per cent improvement on 2022-23 activity, with 3886 people accessing acute and urgent care services.

The health service also surpassed its satisfaction targets, with 98 per cent of patients

reporting positive experiences in hospital.

Speaking operating deficit of \$1.9 million on a budget of more than \$50 million, Director of Finance Jason O'Reilly said staffing gap challenges requiring the extensive use of agency staff was the main reason for the operating deficit.

GSHS experienced a 3.74 per cent increase in income from operating activities compared to an increase in expenditure of 9.4 per cent.

Mr O'Reilly said the balance sheet remained in a strong position with \$25m of current assets.

"The organisation has made enormous strides in increasing activity levels and with the uplifted unit price of the National Weighted Activity Unit (NWAU), is hopeful of being able to achieve similar activity levels in 2024-25 while reducing the reliance on agency staff, in order to achieve a break-even result," he said in the report.

Ms Georgiou and health service CEO Louise Sparkes said GSHS eagerly awaited the outcome of the government's decision regarding reform and was ready to respond to the final plan.

"Reform will remain an ongoing feature of health both across the sector and for GSHS for the next few years at least and we look forward to an improved system as a result, for our community in the years ahead."

Still no news on town boundaries

THE long wait for an announcement from the State Government about where town boundaries will be established, in 25 settlements across Bass Coast, is set to go on.

Of particular interest is the proposed expansion of Cape Paterson, for up to an additional 980 blocks within the existing settlement boundary, north of Seaward Drive, and the expansion east of San Remo.

There are also implications for farming practices in the Bass Coast Shire.

In October this year, when the State Government gazetted a 12-month extension for the completion of its Bass Coast Distinctive Area and Landscape process, started in October 2019, local MP Jordan Crugnale said she expected to have more to say in November.

At the time Ms Crugnale said:

"Once the Draft Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) is finalised in November, I will have more to say to the Bass Coast community about the proposed boundaries and outcomes of the plan. I know how important this is and that there is frustration this is taking longer than expected but I can assure everyone that this is a priority for government and the work will be done."

However, there's been no sign of the all-important SPP document, prompting a retraction by Ms Crugnale.

"I am once again extremely disappointed that we will not be able to finalise the DAL documentation to seek both endorsement from the responsible public authorities and inform communities about the final boundaries as was stated to happen by the end of November," Ms Crugnale said this week.

"I know the community want certainty and this update does not provide that right now."

"I am assured that work is progressing and am in constant communication with the Minister for Planning's office and as soon as I am able to share an additional update I will."

Officially, the government has until October 27, 2025, to complete the process, or apply for a further extension of time.

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Claire Kent – Director of Nursing, Damon Stynes – SGH Board Chair, Paul Greenhalgh – CEO, The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas – Minister for Health, Samantha Park – Director of Community Care, Dr Louisa Tatton – Senior Partner and General Practitioner at Foster and Toora Medical Clinics.

SGH to be in the Gippsland Health Service Network

THE Hon. Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Health, Ambulance Services and Health Infrastructure, visited South Gippsland Hospital recently to take a tour of the Foster facility and meet patients and staff. A meeting with senior staff also took place after the tour, where the Chief Executive Officer Paul Greenhalgh reports that “it was a constructive meeting with the Minister, where we discussed the current and future state of our service, and explored the opportunities on the eve of health system reform.”

In a letter received from the Minister, subsequent to the visit, the proposed Health Service Network groups were listed.

“South Gippsland Hospital is supportive of its proposed grouping to remain in Gippsland. SGH believes that the Gippsland Health

Service Network is where we belong. Retaining our rural and remote identity, and remaining in Gippsland is important to us. SGH looks forward to working in collaboration with Network partners in a constructive way.”

Hospitals are uniting across regions to form Local Health Service Networks. The purpose of these Networks is to work together to provide Victorians with greater access to health care services, closer to home. The Networks will use their resources to provide more options to patients who need treatment and care that cannot be provided by their local hospital. Each Network will also team up with a major tertiary, women’s and children’s hospital.

There are several broad phases of further consultation to occur before the July 1, 2025 go live date.

NDIS petition wins overwhelming support for creative therapy

A PETITION by Inverloch therapist Carla van Laar to maintain NDIS funding for creative art therapy has attracted an unprecedented 17,000 signatures on Change.org.

“It exceeded my expectations,” said Carla.

Working from her home studio in Inverloch, Carla studied Creative Arts Therapy at RMIT and completed a doctoral degree in Therapeutic Arts Practice at The MIECAT Institute.

Carla claims creative and experiential therapies are vital for improving the quality of life for NDIS clients and fostering independence for people with disability of all ages.

One example Carla said would be a 20-year-old client attending weekly sessions and spending up to one to one-and-a-half hours sculpting clay or natural objects. Without NDIS funding that client would have difficulty finding a similar outlet to express their creativity which would affect his wellbeing. “In this local area there is an absolute shortage of other options,” said Carla.

Another example, a seven-year-old girl with autism and anxiety could come to Carla’s art studio to relieve the stress she feels at school after being bullied by other children.

“Her needs are not always met,” said Carla. “Art and painting is something the girl loves. She is highly creative and takes the paintings home.”

Without NDIS funding for creative arts therapy Carla believes school refusal and anxiety could increase and the girl may lose confidence and become more withdrawn.

“We are trying to avoid a young person growing up in a hostile world, at increased risk of self-harm, not feeling accepted or valued. Quite often a child can feel they are not good enough to fit into this world.”

The Australian New Zealand and Asian Creative Arts Therapies Association (ANZACATA) says the changes to NDIS funding are being pushed through parliament without adequate



Inverloch therapist Carla van Laar overwhelmed by support for her petition to maintain NDIS funding for creative art therapy. B18_4924

consultation after being advised by the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) which arts therapies would not be eligible for funding from February next year.

Carla van Laar is concerned for the welfare of vulnerable clients.

“These therapies offer a unique, evidence-based approach that goes beyond traditional methods helping individuals stay active, regulate emotions, and engage with their communities.”

ANZACATA claims the NDIA has left the profession reeling.

“The unexpected removal of art therapy from the National Disability Insurance Scheme will leave hundreds of Australians living with a disability without access to crucial therapeutic support,” said ANZACATA.

Dr Kate Dempsey, CEO of ANZACATA said the organisation and its members are shocked and dismayed at the lack of transparency, poor process, absence of fairness and the lack of communication surrounding these changes.

“We have been given nothing in writing to explain why after more than a decade, art therapy is to be excluded from the NDIS.”

ANZACATA claims arts therapy is a proven, evidence-based treatment currently providing essential support to NDIS participants

who often struggle to engage with conventional therapeutic approaches; with art therapy funded since the NDIS commenced.

“This decision will have devastating consequences for NDIS participants who rely on arts therapy as their primary means of therapeutic support,” said Dr Dempsey.

“Many of our members’ clients cannot effectively engage with traditional talk-based therapies, making arts therapy their vital link to therapeutic support.

“The removal of arts therapy services contradicts the NDIS’s founding principle of providing choice and control to people with disability.

“It represents a significant step backward in Australia’s commitment to providing accessible disability support services.”

ANZACATA is calling on the Federal Government to maintain arts therapy as an approved NDIS service, engage in consultation with practitioners and service users, review the extensive evidence supporting the effectiveness of arts therapy and consider the broader economic and social impacts of this decision.

To sign Carla van Laar’s petition go to change.org/p/the-hon-martin-foley-victorian-minister-for-health-and-creative-industries-art-therapist-mental-health-practitioner.

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Five minutes Korumburra, 10 minutes Leongatha, 25 minutes Inverloch. The pottery is also open weekends, public holidays and most weekdays. (It is best to phone first during weekdays 0403 023 761).

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Harman Wines' golden philosophy reaps reward

HARMAN Wines recent 'Gold Winner' success in the 'Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries' category of the Victorian Tourism Awards, fits in perfectly with the Wattle Bank business' all-around philosophy.

"We've all had a goal to go for gold in everything we do, from the people we employ, to the service and products we provide," co-owner Nicole Harman said.

The business has been extensively recognised for its sustainability efforts, winning numerous environmental and sustainability awards.

"We are an off-grid and solar-powered winery and all wine-making is done with sustainable practices," Nicole said.

Much of the food is sourced from the onsite kitchen garden or from within 30 kilometres of the venue.

Harman Wines, which specialises in cool climate varieties, continues to evolve, having added tapas to its menu after previously serving exclusively pizzas.

Guests enjoy views of the vines, knowing the whole winemaking and bottling process takes place at Harman Wines.

Nicole and partner and winemaker David Harman have also expanded the wine side of the operation by buying a neighbouring property and planting more vines.

With its aim to provide an



Nicole and David Harman are thrilled after Harman Wines was named a 'Gold Winner' at the 2024 Victorian Tourism Awards.

awesome experience for visitors, Harman Wines began just 10 years ago but now welcomes around 35,000 people a year.

About 65 per cent of visitors are from outside the region, with the rest loyal local customers.

The business returns that community support, featuring local artworks on its walls, and showcasing musicians from the area each weekend, also supporting various sporting clubs.

"Harman Wines is a multi-award-winning family-owned

winery, cellar door and restaurant in the Bass Coast Region of Victoria and has established itself as the region's premier wine tourism destination," the Victoria Tourism Industry Council states.

"We are so thrilled to have won Gold at the Victorian Tourism Awards," Nicole said, that triumph adding to previous Bronze and Silver acknowledgements.

Harman Wines, located at 612 Korumburra-Inverloch Road, Wattle Bank, near Inverloch, is open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.



Vandalism disgust in Korumburra

KORUMBURRA Round Table president Terry Waycott expressed disgust with the behaviour of those who have vandalised a couple of local murals.

"It highlights how little respect a minority in our town have for the artistry of the likes of Melanie Caple," he said, referring to "her fantastic mural recently completed but now the subject of creeping vandalism".

That mural is located just outside the Korumburra railway underpass on a wall of new South Gippsland Shire councillor John Kennedy's bike shop.

Melanie, whose work features prominently in South Gippsland, is renowned for her natural scenes featuring flora and fauna from the area.

A black tag and face were scrawled alongside one of her birds near the underpass.

Artwork inside the subway, known as 'Girls Own Space' was tagged with black writing.

Terry highlighted the lack of repercussions faced by those who abuse public property, arguing that empowers them to continue their destructive behaviour.

He spoke of the possibility of installing security cameras out of the reach of vandals.

As well as the damage done to local murals, public toilet facilities in Korumburra have been defaced and the town's Senior Citizens Centre has come under attack in a show of contempt for local seniors who have long called the building home and are fighting to return.

"Council is aware of growing acts of vandalism occurring in South Gippsland, the most recent being on the beautiful Melanie Caple mural in Korumburra," council CEO Kerry Ellis said.

"It's disappointing for our community, and for council, to see something enjoyed by so many people intentionally damaged and it is also costly."

Kerryn stressed the graffiti on the mural is not art and is disrespectful to the local community.

The graffiti has now been removed, with the council CEO saying council is exploring options for funding to assist with combatting vandalism and encourages people with information to contact Victoria Police.

Sadly, the graffiti attack is no longer the most recent vandalism in Korumburra, the Senior Citizens Centre again hit, with glass in the front door damaged and a side window smashed.

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South Gippsland Shire Council News

The Great Southern Rail Trail

New and improved website

Explore Australia's most southern mainland rail line with the fresh new Great Southern Rail Trail website.

The platform allows users to map out their journey and plan ahead for a scenic walking or riding adventure along the Trail, which spans an impressive 130 kilometres between Nyora and Yarram. The route can be undertaken in full or in easier bite-sized portions.

Explore the distance and elevation between the towns, find your closest water station, learn about the region's history and choose from a variety of access points to the Trail.

The site also gives users the opportunity to delve into the character and charm of each of the Trail's passing towns.

If an adventure along the Great Southern Rail Trail is on your summer holiday to-do list, be sure to head over the new website to get the most out of your upcoming journey.

What are you waiting for? Head to www.gsrt.com.au today!

The new website has been delivered by South Gippsland Shire Council in partnership with Wellington Shire Council.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Closure: Grand Ridge Road



Drainage works associated with landslip repairs will be taking place on Grand Ridge Road, Trida from Monday 9 December to Friday 13 December.

The closure will take effect between Hollins Road and Canavans Road.

If you are using this road, please detour via Canavans Road or Ferndale Road.

For updates of road hazards and closures, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/roadhazards

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday 11 December 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

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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM: WALK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

Raise awareness of gender equity and family violence prevention.

Wear orange and join us on Wednesday 4 December at 12.30pm. The walk will start at the front of Memorial Hall in Leongatha.

You can also head to the Hall before or after the walk for our BigRespect Photo Pop-up.

More information about 16 Days of Activism can be found at: www.16daysgippsland.com.au

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

RFT/376 – Mirboo North Early Learning Centre Concept Design

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 10 December 2024.

RFT/419 – Fish Creek Streetscape

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 17 December 2024.

RFT/423 – Korumburra Commercial Street – Hub Pedestrian Link

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 21 January 2024.

Documentation is available from Council's e-Tendering Portal

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

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Coastal Strategy implementation to continue after recognition

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council recently won the 'Leadership in Climate Adaptation and Resilience' award at the Victorian Marine and Coastal Awards 2024, reinforcing its commitment to implementing positive change in that area.

The award was presented to council for the 'South Gippsland Coastal Strategy', which aims to respond to climate change and work to secure the protection of coastal communities through the completion of 22 actions.

That strategy was adopted during the previous council term after extensive community consultation, proposing bold actions such as the removal of coastal township greenfield areas from the planning scheme and restricting development to one dwelling per lot in sensitive coastal areas.

The South Gippsland Coastal Strategy previously won the Climate Change and Resilience Award at the Planning Institute of Australia's Awards for Planning Excellence.



South Gippsland Shire Council planners with the award for 'leadership in climate adaptation and resilience'.

Re-elected councillor and Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan, a Venus Bay resident, is a fierce advocate for the need to mitigate the impacts of climate change on coastal towns.

She'll continue the positive work through her role as South Gippsland Shire Council's representative in the Australian Coastal Councils Association.

Undoubtedly much hard work lies ahead for South

Gippsland Shire councillors and council staff as they strive to implement actions contained in the Coastal Strategy.

"The Strategy gives our planning team strong direction, and we are committed to ensuring we can progressively complete each of the included actions," council CEO Kerryn Ellis said.

She acknowledged the

contribution of the community members who provided feedback that helped in the development of the Strategy.

The latest award was presented to South Gippsland Shire Council's Director of Future Communities, Lucas Gardiner in Melbourne.

Ms Ellis said the award "is testament to the sector-leading work we are doing in this space".

John Kennedy initiative to benefit old and young

KORUMBURRA bike shop owner John Kennedy, recently elected as a South Gippsland Shire councillor, has proposed a strategy to enrich the lives of local young people while also returning the town's Senior Citizens Club members to their much-loved home.

That would be achieved through a shared arrangement for the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre that would require council's agreement for the building to be used.

John stressed he will pursue the initiative as an individual while working with council, planning to chat to local police and school principals about his plan and learn more about what young people want.

He recently caught three kids in the Senior Citizens Centre, having been tipped off that vandalism was occurring.

John politely advised the trio they shouldn't be there, the encounter prompting him to contemplate the issues facing local youth and leading to the conclusion they are bored and lack things to do.

He is proposing to offer kids activities at the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre such as



Cr John Kennedy with Korumburra Senior Citizens Club members Ronnie Branca, Beryl Jarrett, Frank and Eunice Walker, Angie Bowen, Janne Grenon and Kris Crichton. A13_4924

boxing training, karate, band practice, computer games and a place to hang out, noting the senior citizens are happy to have a shared arrangement for the building.

"I've just organised a boxing coach; he's a local guy and he's been around all the best boxers in Australia for three or four decades," John said, explaining he learned a lot of respect himself through boxing.

A staunch advocate of Korumburra Senior Citizens Club members returning to the Senior Citizens Centre at 14 Radovick Street, John outlined

why it is an ideal location for them and young people.

"It's in the heart of town, in the best spot," he said.

He argues there's nowhere comparable locally, with the Korumburra Community Hub's hilly location making it inaccessible to many seniors and the new building not suited to running some of the activities he wants to introduce for youth.

Korumburra Senior Citizens Club committee member Angie Bowen confirmed the club supports using the Centre as a multipurpose facility.

With South Gippsland Shire

Council having to manage a large portfolio of buildings in an environment of rate capping and cost-shifting, it is keen for buildings to be shared rather than underutilised.

That prompted the decision not to renew the lease for the Senior Citizens Centre and to sell the building.

However, the land would need to be reclassified from 'Community Use' to 'Commercial' for the sale to proceed, meaning there is still an opportunity to change course if an arrangement can be reached to share the facility.

South Gippsland Highway works at Stony Creek finally scheduled

LONG-awaited rehabilitation works for the South Gippsland Highway at Stony Creek are scheduled to be completed by mid-2025.

The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien said the condition and subsequent speed reductions on the two-kilometre stretch of road between McKittericks Road and Charlton Road has been a point of contention among locals and visitors alike.

"It is great to hear that we can finally expect to see some action towards repairing this section of road so that the

speed limit can be returned to normal and we can get traffic safely flowing again," Mr O'Brien said.

"It is disappointing however that it has taken so long for works to be funded and that this is the only stretch of the highway to be receiving serious treatment this summer.

"Anyone who has driven the South Gippsland Highway recently would be hard-pressed to choose just two kilometres of road to fix."

Mr O'Brien highlighted that multiple main roads throughout Gippsland South are in

an appalling state and will only deteriorate further without sufficient investment.

"The Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Melissa Horne has also advised that just 7.6 kilometres of the South Gippsland Highway near Meenyan, Yarram and Foster will be included in this year's resurfacing program."

RIGHT: The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, says rehabilitation works are finally scheduled for the South Gippsland Highway at Stony Creek.



Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling



HELLO South Gippsland.

This is my second week of Mayoral duties and I again want to express my gratitude to those who have supported me as a Councillor, and now as Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council. It means a lot. It has been a busy couple of weeks and things are indeed ramping up for the new year.

16 Days of Activism: Walk Against Domestic Violence

I'm looking forward to walking with our community in an act of solidarity against family violence. It is a shame that in 2024 we still have statistics that show that this issue remains prevalent in our community. This is why it is important that we continue to raise awareness and make a stand together to say: "Family violence is not on". The walk will be taking place Wednesday 4 December at the front of Memorial Hall Leongatha from 12.30pm.

Leongatha Railway Precinct

On a lighter note, it is fantastic to see a much-loved community asset reappear at the Leongatha Railway Precinct. The pedestrian bridge has been warmly welcomed by our community and I look forward to making use of the new bridge when it is open. The fencing has now been taken down around the playground which features some impressive play equipment. I encourage our younger community members to get out there and give it a whirl.

Fire Season

Fire season is fast approaching, with the Fire Danger Period beginning Monday 9 December at 1.00am. Over the weekend, Council supported a Fire Season Information Session at the Mirboo North Market which provided advice and assistance on preparing your property for the hotter days. If you are looking for more information on what you can and can't do over the Fire Danger Period, please visit: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/fire-danger-period/about-the-fire-danger-period

Mirboo North

Councillor Williams, Councillor Snell and I, recently attended the Mirboo North Recovery Session with Dr. Rob Gordon at the Mirboo North Hall. It was a great opportunity for us to check in with the Mirboo North community and see all the progress they have made in the way of recovery from the February storm.

Councillor Snell and I also attended the Mirboo North Foundation's Annual General Meeting where several grants were given out on the night to support upcoming recovery projects. It was great to see the community so supported and I congratulate the Foundation on their achievements.

Leongatha Business Association

Finally, I had the opportunity to join the Leongatha Business Association at a networking evening last week. It was great seeing so many businesses come together to chat and celebrate the start of the festive season. I know that everyone is really trying to save where they can this year, but I would encourage everyone, if possible, to try and shop local this Christmas. By doing so, you're not only supporting our small businesses but also the economy in South Gippsland.

Manna Gum Community House AGM

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Manna Gum Community House in Foster was told how important volunteers were to the Community Centre's continuing success.

Volunteer hours over the previous twelve months at Manna Gum equated to a staggering \$279,858.

"Manna Gum deeply appreciates all our Manna Gum Community House volunteers," said Manna Gum Community House President, Sue Plowright.

Highlights for the year included emergency resilience funding from South Gippsland Shire Council which enabled a volunteer expo event to be held at Manna Gum in partnership with South Gippsland Hospital and fifteen local organisations.

Manna Gum also celebrated Hannah Bradsworth's achievement in winning a Southern District Shine On Rotary Award for volunteers, recognising Hannah's many years of volunteering, mentoring, and participation in the arts.

A lifetime membership was conferred at the previous AGM on one of Manna Gum's longest-serving volunteers, Noelle Bonnin who taught French as a volunteer, served on the Board of Manna Gum for a number of years and helped establish the popular café.

The Annual General Meeting passed a constitutional change to support Manna Gum's application to become a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). Manna Gum's inclusion on the Deductible Gifts Register is seen as a high priority to strengthen the Community Centre's long-term financial security.

The ArtCubes program has proven to be a significant drawcard, bringing colour and vibrancy to Foster and Toora.

Manna Gum faced some financial challenges during the past year but there were also signs of improvement from fundraising, the community café, and course fees.

Funded project work and the community café were particularly bright areas for the community centre financially with the café increasing its income by about 30 per cent according to Treasurer, Linley Granger.

To expand the reach of Manna Gum's, Learn Local Programme basic technology classes were offered in Fish Creek, Toora and Foster, while social and service activities, in particular, services for women and children, were recognised by the MacKenzie Foundation enabling Manna Gum to plan ahead with some security for its Hub program in Toora. The Hub program provides an opportunity for parents and carers in the Corner Inlet community to socialise, support, and engage with one another.

Project GreenPlot is now in its fifth year and continues to support local households with seasonal fresh food every fortnight.

Manna Gum Community House is also a partner agency with The Salvation Army in providing a Community Doorways program to support local community members who are experiencing financial crisis.

Manna Gum received seven tonnes of donated food in 2023 from Foodbank, FareShare, and the Salvation Army valued at over \$100,000, a 30 per cent increase on 2022.

Two new board members were confirmed at the Annual General Meeting, Catherine McLead and Juliette Reeve.

Great night for Leongatha business operators

LEONGATHA Business Association (LBA) president Marty Reidy is ecstatic with the success of Tuesday night's Christmas Networking Event at McCartin's Hotel.

There was a buzz in the air all evening as business operators and other attendees chatted and enjoyed tremendous hospitality thanks to the sponsorship of nbn Local.

While providing an enjoyable start to the festive season and an opportunity to express appreciation to LBA members and Leongatha's broader business community, the evening will also help the LBA committee plan future events and activities.

"We want to find out what matters to you; part of our role is to advocate on your behalf and to facilitate networking events or training if you need it, so the feedback we get from you is invaluable and will help set the agenda for the next 12 months," Marty said.

People were encouraged to chat to an LBA committee member or write down their ideas on the provided butcher's paper.

It was also a chance for new members to join, the cost just \$99.



Leongatha Business Association Vice President Christie Nelson and President Marty Reidy enjoy Tuesday's Christmas Networking Event. A02_4924

Marty expressed his appreciation for the nbn Local sponsorship, noting it made Tuesday's event possible.

Sentinel-Times chatted to some of the business operators present about why they consider a vibrant business association is important.

Geoff Clarkson of Sweet Life Café spoke of the opportunity to connect with those from other local businesses and help the area grow.

Partner Jodie Clarkson is keen to see LBA continue to

run community events that bring people together.

That's something co-owner of Number 9 Dream café Emma Mulligan is also keen to see, having fond memories of a Christmas Festival run a few years ago that provided a great atmosphere.

Janine Lowe of SignSpec spoke of the need for networking events in Leongatha.

"It gets people out of their comfort zone to meet other business owners and feel more involved in the

community," she said.

Christian Stefani, South Gippsland Shire Council's manager of regional partnerships, was delighted with the big turnout on Tuesday evening, noting it shows an active network of businesses in Leongatha.

He feels healthy business associations are important across the shire, creating opportunities in terms of marketing and promotions, and sharing of knowledge and skills for the mutual benefit of all members.

Christian said LBA and other such associations provide a voice for local business operators, helping them connect with council and convey opportunities and issues they consider important.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor John Schelling and Cr Clare Williams were also at Tuesday's gathering to hear what is important to local business owners, as was Mary Aldred the Liberal Party candidate for next year's Federal election.

Sentinel-Times looks forward to reporting future activities of LBA and other Business Associations in South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires.

A hard line on hard rubbish for South Gippsland

LOCAL councils are concerned with matters closest to our homes, many of which can also be the cause of much consternation for residents, such as roads, rates and rubbish.

It was the latter of these last week that led to much discussion and debate amongst South Gippsland Shire residents when one local declared on Facebook that South Gippsland Shire Council 'Should have at least one hard rubbish collection per year!'

Other residents agreed and made comparisons with policies that other Councils have in place.

'Latrobe Shire found biannual hard rubbish collections better than tip vouchers. I agree. SG needs to follow suit.'

While others had further gripes about not having waste collection at all due to where

they live.

'I agree, plus extend the weekly garbage collection to outside its current limits. If school buses can travel these roads so can a garbage truck. Recently visited some isolated bush areas along the border and was amazed to see bin collection out in the middle of nowhere...'

'Meenyan-Mirboo North (Mardan Road) for one. No collection even if almost in town.'

'Folk outside the normal garbage collection routes should be given free tip vouchers. \$8 for a small bag of rubbish, seems a bit expensive to me. Particularly as our rates increase regularly, with few if any services. Our unmade road, seldom graded, fallen trees, pushed onto the roadside, creating increased fire hazards! Very poor SGSC!'

Others disagreed with having

a free hard rubbish collection service for residents once per year, due to the potential for increased rates for everyone.

'I would imagine that a hard waste collection at everyone's house would be a big cost to Council and it would (be) passed on by increasing the waste charge for us all! Also, no such thing as 'free' hard waste drop-off - just another increase to the waste charge for everyone. It seems a better option that if people have more hard waste and rubbish, they should be the ones to pay for managing it, rather than everyone else having to cover their costs.'

Unfortunately for those who would like to see a change to the policy of hard rubbish collections, the South Gippsland Shire Council have recently adopted their ten-year Waste

and Resource Recovery Plan 2024-2034 and "there is no change to the current system proposed," according to SGSC CEO, Kerry Ellis.

Council also confirmed what some residents had voiced.

"The collection of hard waste is never free. There are two options used by most local councils to deliver a hard waste service. It is either included in the collection of rates - which means it is paid by all ratepayers regardless of whether or not they use the service - or delivered using a user pays system," stated Ms Ellis.

SGSC adopts a user pays system during October/November when a maximum of two cubic metres of rubbish can be collected from homes in the South Gippsland Shire for a fee of \$157 or \$56 for pension card holders.

Danny O'BRIEN_{MP}
State Member for Gippsland South

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National spotlight shines on family-run storage business

FAMILY-operated Bass Coast Boat and Caravan Storage has been named 'Storage Facility of the Year' at the Self-Storage Association Australasia (SSAA) annual awards on the Gold Coast.

Competing against close to 3000 storage facilities across Australia and New Zealand the award is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and innovative spirit of this small family-run business on the Bass Highway at Glen Forbes.

"It was a proud moment for the family," said Director, Jenni Lewandowski.

A celebration of resilience and success the prestigious award highlighted the journey Bass Coast Boat and Caravan Storage has taken in the Bass Coast community.

"We were thrilled to be awarded Storage Facility of the Year (150-500 Units)," said Jenni.

Judges commended Bass Coast Boat and Caravan Storage for customer reviews, pride, affordability and being an owner-operated family business.

The sixteen-hectare property off the Bass Highway originally ran 20 head of cattle but much of the cattle herd has now been replaced with caravans and boats.

"When we started the

majority of our customers were retirees," said Jenni.

The storage facility is now attracting customers up to an hour's drive from Glen Forbes.

"They want to be close to their holiday destination or close to boat ramps.

"Storage options in the city have limited availability," according to Dean Lewandowski.

The on-site security system allows customers access to the storage area seven days a week from 7am to 7pm.

Boats and caravans can be stored in 115 undercover spaces or 100 external sites with work underway to soon double the undercover storage capacity.

The busiest times of the year are summer and school holidays.

When asked what they love most, the family's two children had an easy answer.

"We love the animals, the cows and nature."

The family's pet dog Harvey included.

Bass Coast Boat and Caravan Storage is located just off the highway at 1835 Bass Hwy, Glen Forbes, online at basscoastbcs.com, phone 0484 144 948 or follow @basscoastbcs on Facebook or Instagram.



Dean and Jenni Lewandowski from Bass Coast Boat and Caravan Storage accepting their award for Australasian Storage Facility of the Year.

Applications open for South Coast Community Leadership Program

ARE you passionate about your community and ready to take your skills to the next level?

The 2025 South Coast Community Leadership Program is a free and exciting six-month course designed to help participants build their leadership skills, explore new ways of leading and connect with other like-minded local people. For the first time the program will have participants from Bass Coast Shire as well as South Gippsland Shire thanks to a partnership between the Councils.

The program will run from Saturday, March 15 until Sunday, August 10 and consist of professionally facilitated workshops to be held in towns across the two Shires. The workshops will cover a range of topics including emotional intelligence, creating community projects, community engagement and storytelling.

Applications for the program close on Sunday, February 2, 2025.

The program is open to individuals aged 18 and over. Participants must live, work or volunteer locally in Bass Coast or South Gippsland.

"I am thrilled to see the Community Leadership Program take place once again and look forward to seeing how the Program evolves with the collaboration between our two

Councils," Councillor John Schelling, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council, said.

"Programs like this help strengthen our communities, growing respectful and dignified leaders who enhance our workplaces, community groups and other community-focused organisations and activities.

"I would encourage anyone with a desire to be an effective leader to apply for this invaluable opportunity."

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Rochelle Halstead was just as excited to be partnering with South Gippsland Shire Council on the program.

"Supporting leadership skills and development is a win-win. It's great for the person involved and it is fantastic to have those skills in our communities. We're looking for applications from anyone who has a real passion for their community and would benefit from this program," Mayor Halstead said.

"Often our wonderful community leaders don't see themselves as a leader or are reluctant to nominate for a program like this. If you know someone who would be well suited to this amazing opportunity, then please encourage them to submit an application."

To apply and for more information, please visit: southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership



Artist Impression

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A man and a woman are sitting on a grassy field, smiling and holding glasses of red wine. The woman is on the left, wearing a light blue button-down shirt and black pants. The man is on the right, wearing a black t-shirt and blue jeans. They are both holding glasses of red wine, and the woman is also holding a bottle of wine. The background is a lush green field with trees in the distance.



For more information and a full program, visit localflavoursshowcase.com.au or follow on Instagram and Facebook at [localflavoursshowcase](https://www.instagram.com/localflavoursshowcase).



14 | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Mary Aldred ready to represent Monash if she earns voter support

MARY Aldred, who will contest the Federal Seat of Monash for the Liberal Party at next year's election, addressed a Thursday night gathering in Leongatha as she continues chatting to people throughout the electorate, hearing their issues and ideas.

She was introduced by friend and supporter Jeremy Curtis for the informal meet-and-greet, the relaxed setting at hidden bar 'Open Gippsland' ideal, encouraging people to talk casually about important issues to them.

"If she's successful, she will bat for us and you can always go to her if you have got an issue," he told the audience, with some attendees well-known to Mary and others coming to learn about her political approach.

Mary spoke of her diverse work history, which she considers will be advantageous in Canberra should she be elected.

That history includes leaving school early to work in her parent's small business, giving her an appreciation of the commitment and determination it takes to succeed.

"I've dedicated a large chunk of my working life to standing up for small business owners in this region and nationally," Mary said.

She's worked in government and industry, including the energy industry, emphasising the latter is "incredibly important to our region and the transition that's taking place".



Mary Aldred is accompanied by a mixture of supporters and curious community members who came to hear what she has to offer should she become the Member for Monash. A17_4924

Acknowledging transition is required, Mary stressed energy affordability, security and sustainability are all important considerations, noting many families are looking at rising energy bills wondering how to pay them.

That led into the broader issue of the cost pressures people are facing.

"Cost of living is going to be top of mind wherever I go around this electorate," she said.

Ensuring Gippsland has a strong and sustainable future as an agricultural hub and remains a food bowl for the nation, are other priorities, Mary saying that if elected she will advocate on behalf of farmers.

She was the founding CEO of the 'Committee for Gippsland' over a decade ago, and emphasised she has a track record of helping bring about needed infrastructure projects.

She has also worked in technology and cyber security

across the Asia Pacific region, giving her confidence she can contribute in Federal Parliament on national security and cyber security.

Mary acknowledged Monash is a marginal seat and that whoever is elected will have a big responsibility.

"It should be a tough contest, and I look forward to earning your confidence and trust," she said, her approach being to make herself available to people throughout the electorate.

She's happy to come and meet them where they are rather than expecting them to come to her.

One attendee asked about the division of responsibilities between different levels of government.

In response, Mary explained she is always happy to advocate on behalf of the community, noting the strong coalition team in Gippsland and her willingness to work with State

Members of Parliament.

Local business owner Jim Pickersgill was interested in hearing what Mary had to say, afterwards describing himself as "apolitical" but concerned about what's happening locally, Australia wide and globally.

"I thought it was very good," he said of the session, praising the courage of anyone willing to go into politics and noting it requires a thick skin.

"I think she's a genuine person and she's got a lot to offer," he said, having been one of the attendees to ask Mary a question during a relatively brief but broad-ranging discussion.

So far, Mary and independent Deb Leonard who is backed by Voices for Monash, have been highly active engaging with people in the electorate.

Incumbent Russell Broadbent, long a representative of the Liberal Party, now an independent, is not yet willing to say whether he will run again.

Crucial Shire Council documentation missing

THE standoff between South Gippsland Shire Council and the Korumburra Senior Citizens Club continues, with council insistent it owns the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre and the land on which it sits, and the seniors adamant the land was donated for the purpose of building the centre.

While the current council points out it has the documentation to prove ownership, the meeting minutes of the former Korumburra Shire Council that could outline the exact arrangement made have not yet been put forward by council.

Korumburra Senior Citizens Club secretary Kris Crichton submitted a question ahead of Wednesday's South Gippsland Shire Council meeting, requesting that such minutes be provided.

While nothing was mentioned about those minutes in Wednesday's response by council CEO Kerryn Ellis, the Sentinel-Times has previously asked council for those documents.

Kris argues the April 19, 1961 Korumburra Times article on the official opening of the Senior Citizens Centre is conclusive proof that the 14 Radovick Street land was donated to the senior citizens by Korumburra Shire Council.

However, that article does not make it clear whether council actually gave the land to the Senior Citizens Club or simply made it available for the construction of their Centre.

Sentinel-Times has located an earlier report from February 22, 1961 that reveals the owner of the land at the time the Senior Citizens Centre was being built.

"The Senior Citizens Centre, which is in the process of being constructed on council land in Victoria Street, is to be officially opened by Sir Giles Chippendale at 2.30pm on Saturday, April 15.

"That's interesting but you can't overcome the hurdle of what was said on the 19th of April," Secretary Kris said.

A previous article on July 27, 1960, also referred to council ownership of the land.

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HOME PRODUCE Jams and Preserves inc. Jellies, Chutneys, Relish, Sauce and vinegar Cookery - scones, cakes, slices, biscuits, bread and much more	Drawing /Painting A4 Paper – Poultry, Chooks, Ducks, Chickens

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- Email us on basscoastagshow@hotmail.com for a program or any enquires

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Volunteering with the Inverloch Cemetery Trust

DID you know that the Inverloch Cemetery is managed by Inverloch locals on a volunteer basis? We see our role as a Cemetery Trust to ensure that the final resting places of our 'passed' community members and friends, are respected in preserved and well-maintained beautiful surrounds. We have set a high standard for which we are very proud of.

Cemeteries are more than burial/resting sites; they are repositories of history and culture. The Inverloch Cemetery Trust members (the custodians of this historical site), believe it is important to be able to provide the community with an affordable final resting place, whilst maintaining its financial viability to continue to preserve our environment where families and friends can honour their loved ones. As volunteer members of the Cemetery Trust, the Cemetery fees are how we are able to sustain this special environment.

Current Secretary, Terrie Seymour joined the trust in April this year.

"Having recently retired from the workforce, I wanted to do something where I could use my skills to benefit my local community. I saw the advertisement and thought, well that sounds interesting, so I spoke with Frank, the Chairperson, made an application, had an interview and the rest is history. I'm really enjoying learning and contributing to an important community service essential to our local community. I see it as a privilege to be part of making sure our 'passed community and friends of Inverloch' are provided with a respectful resting place now and into the future" she said.

Volunteering for a cemetery trust is a powerful and tangible experience. It's one that reminds us of the importance of connection - to history, to community, and to each other. It's an opportunity to contribute to your community, while gaining knowledge, experiences and memories that will stay with you for a lifetime.

If you've been looking for a meaningful way to contribute to your community, consider becoming a part of this vital and rewarding community service. We are particularly looking for new trust members with experience or knowledge in financial management, bookkeeping, administration, horticulture, social media, marketing and communications. Let us know how you might be able to contribute to your local cemetery.

Contact Frank Kisvarda, Chairperson on 0418177505 or fkisvarda@bigpond.com.



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GSHS recognises staff for leadership, values and safety



Lisa Shannon was one of two recipients of the Values Champion awards. Lisa is pictured with Board Deputy Chair Chris McLoughlin.



The Staff, Safety and Quality Award was presented to Dayna Leatham, pictured with Jill Linklater, (Chair of the Clinical Quality and Safety Board).

FOUR Gippsland Southern Health Service staff members have been rewarded for their leadership and focus on safety and values.

The annual staff awards were presented during the GSHS annual general meeting on November 28, recognising staff who had made a positive impact during the year.

CEO Lou Sparkes said the awards were an important way of encouraging excellence and innovation in the health service.

"We acknowledge all our highly skilled staff for their commitment and professionalism and at the same time like to highlight the special contributions made by some people that make a big difference in the services offered by GSHS," Ms Sparkes said.

The Emerging Leader Award was presented to Individual support coordinator team leader Lisa Matser for her compassionate leadership and tireless efforts to support staff and consumers

The award recognises and celebrates an employee who has demonstrated significant leadership potential, taking initiative in their roles, and showing a

commitment to driving positive change.

The Staff, Safety and Quality Award recognises the demonstration of innovation, leadership and self-directed safety initiatives leading to tangible improvements.

It was awarded to acting maternity unit nurse unit manager Dayna Leatham for her exceptional leadership in maternity care and her commitment to delivering best practices in patient safety.

The Values Champion awards for 2024 recognises one clinical and one non-clinical employee who consistently demonstrated the organisation's values and made an impact on a positive culture.

Acting nurse unit manager of the multi-function ward Lisa Shannon was recognised for her exceptional dedication to clinical care, and hotel services cleaner Cameron Clapton for ensuring a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for staff and consumers.

The awards are nominated by the senior leadership team each week with a final nominee selected each quarter by the executive team.

Reginald Wilson honoured with Life Membership at Miners Dispensary



Deputy Chair Trevor Bowler presents Director Reginald Wilson with his life membership of the Miners Dispensary.

IN A celebratory event held at the Inlet Hotel on Saturday, Reginald Wilson was awarded Life Membership of the Miners Dispensary. The honour, presented by Deputy Chair Trevor Bowler, recognises Reg's unwavering dedication and nearly three decades of service on the community pharmacy's board.

Reg is the last mine member serving on the Dispensary's Board and has been a steadfast supporter of the organisation since joining in 1996. His contributions have upheld the legacy of the Miners Dispensary, which was founded in 1922 to provide pharmaceutical and dental services to employees and families of the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine.

Reg has been a key supporter in guiding the Miners Dispensary through significant evolution. He assisted the leadership team in transitioning the pharmacy from a model focused on dispensing medications to a modern, patient-centered approach. Today, the Dispensary provides a wide range of tailored health services, including Meds-

Checks, health screenings, and prescribing for conditions such as urinary tract infections, mild skin issues, and vaccinations. Reg has consistently championed the pharmacy's mission of improving patients' health and wellness every day.

Trevor Bowler praised Reg for his dedication during the event, stating, "Reg's support and commitment have ensured that the Miners Dispensary continues to thrive as a vital healthcare provider for the community."

Reg joins a distinguished group of Life Members - Danny Carr, Luciano Storti, Colin Street, Rodney Beech, and John Bordignon - who have also made outstanding contributions to the Dispensary's enduring success.

This recognition celebrates Reginald Wilson's extraordinary legacy of service and cements his place in the history of the Miners Dispensary. His commitment ensures the Dispensary remains a cornerstone of healthcare for the Wonthaggi community and beyond.



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Wonthaggi Toyota Service Department



MEET THE NEW TEAM



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Service and
Parts Manager



Jessica Palmer
Service Advisor



Ryan McGuirk
Service Advisor



Sarah Prowse
Parts Interpreter



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Workshop Foreman



Mitchell Roberts
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Michael Carroll
Technician



Colin Stanbury
Technician



Andrew Suckling
Trade Assistant



Michael Suckling
Apprentice



Molli Brusamarello
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OH WHAT A FEELING

Fishing for motivated results



Year 10 Effort awards at Bass Coast Secondary College. B215_4924



Year 11 Effort awards at Bass Coast Secondary College. B211_4924



Year 10 Outstanding Academic Achievement awards at Bass Coast SC. B210_4924



Year 10 Effort awards at Bass Coast Secondary College. B213_4924



Year 11 Key Learning Area Awards. B206_4924



Year 11 Effort awards at Bass Coast Secondary College. B212_4924

A FISHING analogy in the search for better results won loud applause for Bass Coast Secondary College Principal Ross Bramley at the Year 10 and 11 presentation ceremony last week.

With campuses in Wonthaggi, Dudley and San Remo Mr Bramley said there would be a lot of changes for Bass Coast Secondary College next year.

Principal Bramley went on to thank the teaching and non-teaching staff, parents and community members for their support of Bass Coast College.

Outstanding Year 11 VCE academic achievement awards were presented to Judson Battye, Lana Brusamarello, Chilli Cabello, Henry Ferguson, Isabella Gude and Georgia Hamilton. Outstanding Year 11 VCE VM to Charlotte Crellin and Vanessa Rowe.

Year 11 Watersure scholarships were presented to Lucy Aylett, Milla Lamb and Mostyn Lumsden with Dennis Vague special awards to Lucy Aylett and Chilli Cabello.

Year 11 Coordinators awards went to Annabelle Birt, Ethan Milnes and Melinda Weir.

Year 11 Key Learning Area awards went to Judson Battye (Literature and Humanities), Georgia Hamilton (English), Hamish Gleeson and Milla Laub (Health and PE), Spencer Ferguson (Commerce), Sienna Macmillan (Unit 1-2 Japanese), Kayla Bowers (Maths), Lorenzo Lepiten (Maths Extension and Physical Sciences), Laura Brusamarello (Life Sciences), Brodie Sartor (Materials Technology), Jorja Tiziani (Food Studies), Zoe Carr (Performing Arts) and Maggie Tsousidis (Visual Arts).

Outstanding Year 10 academic achievement awards went to Anabelle Bremmer, Ava Gannon, Alexandra Jaskula, Sebastian Kenny, Alexei Laub, Sienna Macmillan and Fred Soumilas.

Year 10 WaterSure scholarships were awarded to Sam Carter, Ava Gannon, Makayla Oates, and Harvey Welsford.

Year 10 students Makayla Oates and Edward Spiteri-Stevens were admitted to the Kwong Lee Dow Scholars Program, Sienna McMillan won the ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award, and Oliver Thomas received the ADFD Future Innovators Award.

Year 10 Coordinators awards went to Cale Hooper and Alexandra Jaskula.

Year 10 Key Learning Area awards went to Sienna Macmillan (English), Maeve Wilkinson (Literature and Humanities), Makayla Oates and Holly Williams (Health and PE), Anabelle Bremmer (Business/Commerce), Harvey Welsford (Japanese), Hope Oates (Maths), Oliver Thomas (Maths Extension), Sebastian Kenny (Life Sciences), Jack Sim (Physical Sciences and Performing Arts), Arieta Fergie (Food Studies and Materials Technology) and Sharlotte Hogan (Visual Arts).

at Bass Coast Secondary College



Year 10 Special awards at Bass Coast SC. B209_4924



Year 10 Watersure scholarships. Harvey Welsford (VCE), Ava Gannon (VCE), Sam Carter (VCE VM) & Makayla Oates (VCE) with sponsor Matthew Laguitton.



Year 10 Outstanding Achievement Award. Fred Soumilas, Alexandra Jaskula, Ava Gannon, Annabelle Bremner, Sebastian Kenny, Alexei Laub & Sienna MacMillan.



Year 11 Outstanding VCE Academic Achievement Awards. Judson Battye, Henry Ferguson, Chilli Cabello, Lana Brusamarello, Bella Gude and Georgia Hamilton.



Year 11 Coordinators Awards. Annabelle Birt, Ethan Milnes and Melinda Weir. B205_4924



Year 11 VM Outstanding Achievement. Charlotte Crellin and Vanessa Rowe. B202_4924



Dennis Vague Special Award winners. Lucy Aylett and Chilli Cabello. B204_4924



Year 11 Watersure Scholarships. Milla Laub (VCE), Mostyn Lumsden (VCE VM) and Lucy Aylett (VCE) with sponsor Matthew Laguitton. B203_4924



Year 10 Certificates of Appreciation. B218_4924



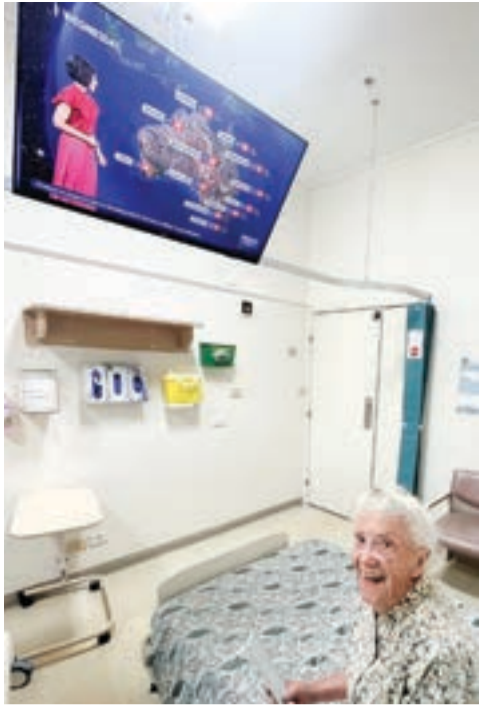
Please join us

SPORTING ALUMNI LAUNCH & ACKNOWLEDGING DENNIS VAGUE
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 at 11am
Wonthaggi Campus Gymnasium (2 McKenzie Street)

“Recognising outstanding sporting achievements by former students of Wonthaggi Technical School, Wonthaggi High School, Wonthaggi Secondary College and Bass Coast College”



GUEST SPEAKERS INCLUDE DARREN BERRY AND BEN VAGUE
Light morning tea to follow the event
RSVP: December 6, 2024
Darren Parker 03 5611 4000 | alumni@basscoast.vic.edu.au



Joan Newman with the new smart TVs that were made possible by her generous donation to South Gippsland Hospital.

New TVs for the South Gippsland Hospital Acute Ward

THE South Gippsland Hospital (SGH) has new televisions (TV) thanks to a generous donation made by Waratah Bay's Joan Newman.

Whilst 96-year-old Joan doesn't require an inpatient bed herself very often, she was delighted to gift the Hospital \$25,000 toward the complete refresh of TVs located at each of the 18 beds in the Acute Ward.

Joan was thrilled to make this contribution so that the patient experience is enhanced with new smart TVs that are over twice the size of the old ones which were 15 years old.

"I had visited people in hospital quite a bit over the years and noticed the small TVs that reportedly had a few issues with them. So when it was proposed to upgrade the TVS with my donation I thought, why not," Joan said.

"Joan is an amazing woman with a big heart and we are appreciative of her gift. As it turns out we didn't need all of Joan's money for the TVs, so we have some change left over and we are speaking with her about another project," SGH CEO Paul Greenhalgh commented.

More doctors coming our way

WITH rural GP trainees at a 10-year high, the Rural Doctors Association of Australia (RDAA) says that long-term investment in new GP training programs is needed to keep building the pipeline of future rural doctors.

Dr Sarah Chalmers, RDAA President-Elect, said that it was exciting to see the success of innovative programs and training options in attracting junior doctors into rural medicine.

"The Royal Australian College of GPs (RACGP) has announced they have more than 1500 GPs training next year, with around 600 of these training on the rural pathway," Dr Chalmers said.

"This is fantastic news for general practice, but particularly for rural general practice which has now exceeded the RACGP's rural pathway target for the first time in around a decade.

"But to address the long-term undersupply of GPs and RGs into rural Australia, we need programs and initiatives to be funded on a permanent basis," Dr Chalmers said.

RDAA Chief Executive Officer, Peta Rutherford, highlighted two other issues in attracting new doctors to rural and regional areas, access to childcare and employment opportunities for the doctor's partner.

She urged local medical centres, health services and local authorities to address these issues when attempting to attract more doctors.

Cowes locals celebrate travel win at Wonthaggi Mitsubishi

COWES couple and avid travellers Aga and Darek Pyka are looking forward to taking off on an adventure after winning a \$5000 Flight Centre voucher from Wonthaggi Mitsubishi.

Before that trip, they'll hit the road for Perth in the Mitsubishi Outlander 'Black Edition' that put them in the running for the prize.

The competition ran over a two-month period, with everyone buying a new or demonstration model Mitsubishi going into the draw.

Loyal customers Aga and Darek who have bought cars from the dealership previously intended to purchase a used vehicle but were swayed by the offer of 10 years capped price servicing and a 10-year or 200,000km warranty on the new Outlander.

Having seen most parts of Australia, the pair originally from Poland, are excited about venturing to Perth, not having yet made it to Western Australia.

As for the voucher, a trip to New Zealand has been on their minds, but they are now



Travel voucher winners Darek and Aga Pyka stand either side of Wonthaggi Mitsubishi sales manager James Chetcuti. A01_4924

contemplating heading to Hawaii.

Aga explained what draws her and Darek to Wonthaggi Mitsubishi.

"It's close and it's good service, and we have James," she said, referring to sales manager James Chetcuti and

pleased to have supported a local business rather than one in Melbourne.

James said that the team's commitment to customer service drives the repeat business that keeps the dealership's doors open longterm.

The winning couple are glad

James persuaded them on the merits of buying a new Mitsubishi, clearly happy with the friendly and expert sales advice they received.

The 10-year warranty and capped price servicing offer continues across the Mitsubishi new car range.

Woorayl Lodge delegation heads to Canberra

LEONGATHA'S Woorayl Lodge recently sent a delegation to Canberra, Co-CEO – Corporate Services Andrew Ross saying productive meetings were held raising awareness of the need to increase aged care bed capacity in South Gippsland.

The timing of the visit was chosen to fit into a sitting week that offered a greater chance of meetings, with those in charge of Woorayl Lodge continuing to seek funding to allow for planned expansion by building a new aged care facility at Boags Road Leongatha.

The Woorayl Lodge delegation included Linda Fiddelaers (Chair of the Woorayl

Board), Leo Argento (Board and Building Committee Member), Jaimee Brydon (Co-CEO – Clinical Care) and Mr Ross.

Meetings were held with Lilli Balaam, an advisor to the Shadow Minister for Health and Aged Care Anne Ruston, and with Michael Lye who is Deputy Secretary for Ageing and Aged Care at the Department of Health and Aged Care.

Members of the delegation outlined the history of Woorayl Lodge, an overview of the planned new facility and its build costs, funding options, and increased staffing and accommodation plans.

Economic benefits, as projected by the South Gippsland Shire Council, were also outlined, including the creation of jobs during the construction phase and to operate the completed facility and care for residents.

"Many thanks to Mary Aldred who provided contacts for Woorayl to reach out to in Canberra, and the South Gippsland Shire Council who provided a letter of support as well as economic data that we were able to use in our presentation," Mr Ross said.

South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerry Ellis noted council has actively supported the establishment of a

multi-care facility in Leongatha through written and verbal representations to government, something that is consistent with its adopted advocacy priorities.

"Economic modelling undertaken by council indicates that the project, whether staged or delivered in full, will provide significant investment and employment into the local community," Kerry said.

She stressed that the population of South Gippsland Shire is ageing, with the numbers of older people exceeding those originally projected, making it important that there be adequate infrastructure in place to meet demand.

Dodgy digital communications must be addressed, firefighter says

THE State Government has been called out in Parliament over the issue of poor digital connectivity for Fish Creek.

Country Fire Authority veteran Ray Poletti, a volunteer with over 55 years' experience in the Fish Creek Fire Brigade expressed serious concerns about locals not being able to contact him about fire brigade business due to the town's poor telephone reception.

Writing to Melina Bath MP, Mr Poletti said connectivity issues such as hour-long delays between the sending and delivery of messages and data, and devices unable to connect to a signal strong enough to make calls or receive messages, must be addressed.

"With summer and bush-fire season on our doorstep, it's unacceptable for country towns not to have access to a reliable telecommunications service," said Melina Bath.

Victorian Minister for Government Services, Gabrielle Williams recently claimed the Allan Labor Government was delivering more than 1200



Danny O'Brien MP, Ray Poletti Fish Creek CFA and Melina Bath MP.

mobile projects and 150 broadband projects across the state, ensuring Victorians can connect with loved ones, the community and essential services, especially during emergencies.

Given ongoing digital communications problems in parts of South Gippsland Melina Bath called on the State Government to include Fish

Creek in the state's network upgrades.

Fish Creek was stranded without power and the internet when storms lashed the area in September.

The Fish Creek Post Office had no phone, internet or card machine until power was restored late in the afternoon the following day.

Fish Creek Pharmacy and

General Store and Fish Creek Hardware were only able to operate business as usual with the use of ADSL on the wired phone network.

"Regional communities should not be left exposed by unaddressed mobile blackspots and poor connectivity," said Ms Bath.

"Victoria's emergency management system is reliant on mobile technology.

"If the local CFA cannot send or receive messages in a timely manner how on earth will the Government keep Fish Creek residents safe in the event of an emergency?"

Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien said, "Ray is just one of many people who have raised the poor mobile service in and around Fish Creek with me.

"While telecommunications is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, the recent State Government subsidy program has put more emphasis on the city, while country communities like Fish Creek have missed out."

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Leongatha We've wrapped up sensational deals!

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 <div>FINANCE AVAILABLE</div> <p>2023 Mitsubishi Outlander Aspire 42,990 DRIVE AWAY 16,250km SN: 2861951</p>	 <div>FINANCE AVAILABLE</div> <p>2023 Mitsubishi Triton GLS 49,990 DRIVE AWAY 5km SN: 2864643</p>	 <div>FINANCE AVAILABLE</div> <p>2024 Mitsubishi Triton GLS 55,990 DRIVE AWAY 4,950km SN: 2910581</p>	 <div>48V</div> <p>2024 Toyota Hilux Rogue 48V 73,990 DRIVE AWAY 4,000km SN: 11684922</p>

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Sentinel-Times
COMMENT

Hospital management changes too simplistic

IT MIGHT surprise you to know that Victoria is the best-performing state in three key health measures; surgery wait times, adverse events and readmissions.

It is also the highest overall performer, as ranked across 15 measures of system performance of availability, affordability, access, equity and outcomes, according to Professor Euan Wallace AM, Secretary Department of Health, who addressed the State Government's Public Accounts and Estimates Committee in mid-November this year on just these issues.

And that in the context of Australia being a global leader in health, outperforming the likes of the Netherlands, UK, NZ, France, Sweden and Canada.

So, a lot of the things we do here are best practice but not everything about the health system is rosy.

Earlier this year, the government commissioned an expert advisory committee to prepare a Health Services Plan and they found that "while our health services system has served us well in the past, it is no longer fit for purpose to meet current and future challenges".

Duplication of services and competition for staff between multiple health services in the same geographic region, inconsistent access to high-quality care especially for patients from rural and regional areas and the steeply rising cost of service delivery have led to cost blowouts at all of our major hospitals, and some locally.

Last financial year, Bass Coast Health reported an operating deficit of \$3.233 million on a budget of almost \$170 million and Gippsland Southern Health Service, at Leongatha and Korumburra, an operating deficit of \$1.933 million.

An ageing population, the increasing level of chronic disease and enduring impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have applied further pressure.

Key to the response recommended by the expert advisory committee is the establishment of Local Health Service Networks, in Gippsland's case, putting all of the hospitals from Cowes and Wonthaggi through to Bairnsdale in the one group effectively controlled and supported by Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH) as the region's Group A Hospital.

The advisory committee found that for these integrated health networks to operate optimally, from a cost and service point of view, they need a catchment population of greater than 200,000 people. Gippsland would have 250,000 people with South Gippsland and Bass Coast included.

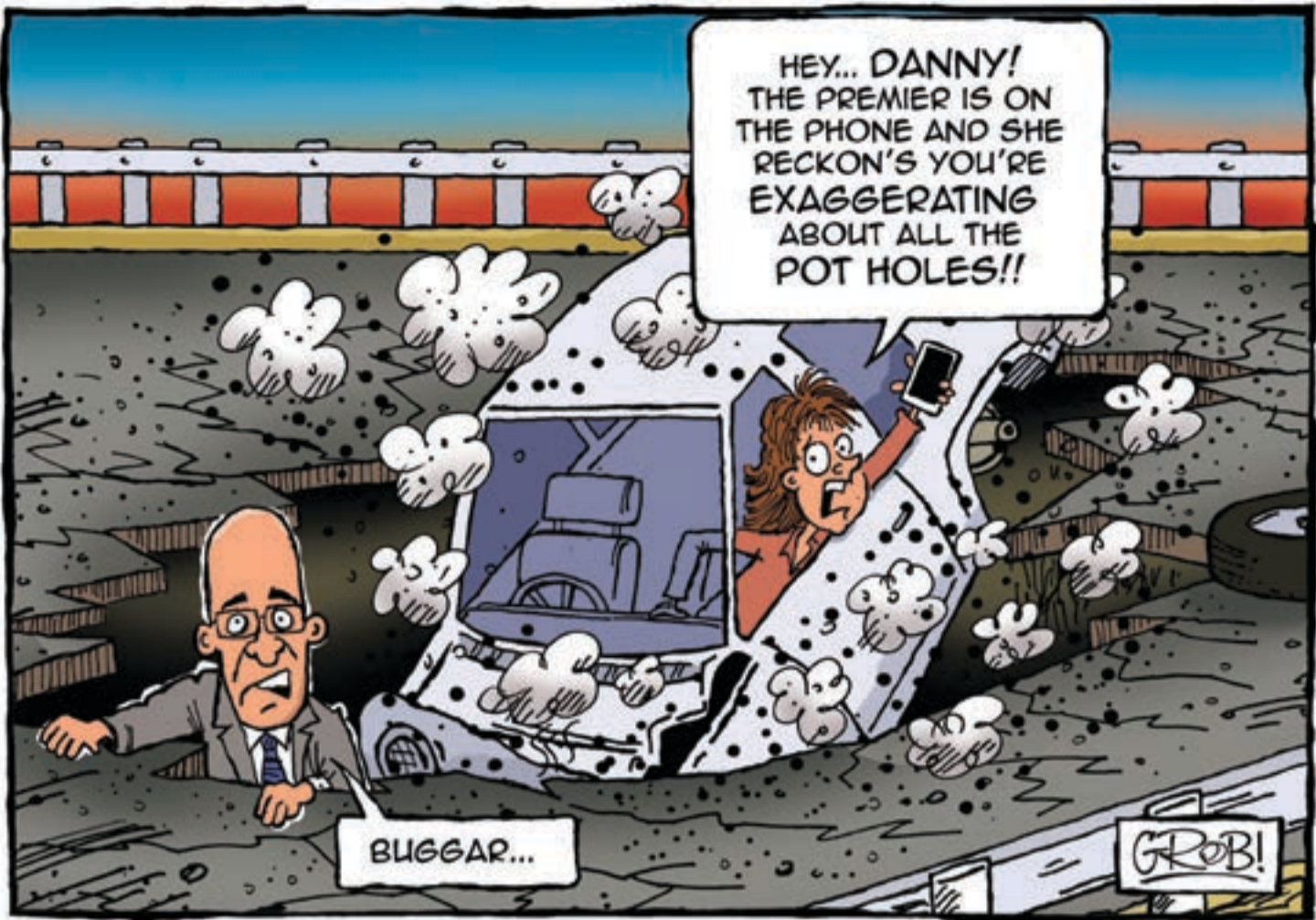
The obvious problem for these two urban fringe Local Government Areas (LGAs) is that local patients, local doctors and visiting specialists are still going to want to use established links to providers at hospitals such as Dandenong, Frankston and Monash.

That's all right, except that it's going to create the false economy of locating and paying for service delivery at and out of LRH that a quarter or more of the catchment is not going to use.

The other obvious issue with dividing regional Victoria into five networks is that while it might work with back-office functions such as payroll, accounts and records, while facilitating more structured cooperation around service planning and delivery, it's too simplistic to be trying to deliver most health care within artificial boundaries.

You'll also have the problem we've all become familiar with since local government amalgamations where bureaucrats can't see anything outside their own main town limits.

What will happen to local hospitals if an overarching, skills-based network board and a network CEO are based in Traralgon, or worse, Lonsdale Street? You be the judge.



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grob' Robinson.

Political party games

A SURE sign that a federal election is not far off came with former treasurer of the Victorian branch of the Liberal Party, Julian Glynn's letter to the Sentinel Times last week.

Well done to the editor for pointing out Mr. Glynn's past affiliation as it gives context to the game being played here.

Rather than spending time refuting the numerous calculated claims aimed at denigrating good people trying to genuinely represent their electorate with childish tit for tat, I would prefer to remind the reader that such letters are a part of that political game major parties play to stay in power and which Independents consistently threaten with an integrity less seen by the ideologically bound.

And as one of the world's great story tellers once wrote, 'A lie goes around the world before truth gets its pants on.'

Tim Mulligan, Warragul

Potholes for All Seasons

WHILE Gippslanders are scrambling to get their hands on The Nationals Member for Gippsland, Darren Chester's annual #Love-Gippsland calendar, as Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety I have been working on a 2025 calendar far less glamorous.

Aptly titled Potholes for All Seasons, this calendar will show our crumbling roads, month-by-month in all their gruesome glory.

To achieve this, I need your help to highlight the worst roads throughout Victoria – many of which are no doubt right here in Gippsland!

If you are passing by a pothole, pull over safely and take a photo or two and ensure you note down the name of the road.

Help me and my colleagues in The Nationals expose the dire state of our roads network by submitting the photos – the worst will play a starring role in the calendar.

Go to potholepics.com for full details on how to help us expose potholes in your area.

It is time the Allan Labor Government woke up and took the issue seriously.

Danny O'Brien MP, Leader of The Nationals, State Member for Gippsland South

Accessible leadership crucial

BASS Coast Health has established an outstanding, inclusive environment for community input and culture, an achievement many other health services would envy. Over the past eight years, a strong foundation of mutual respect and trust has been carefully built through open and honest communication. Is the board fully aware of the significant impact of the departure of Jan Child as CEO?

One wonders why two board members have resigned in recent times.

While the appointment of Simone Alexander as interim CEO is welcomed given her experience at the Alfred Hospital and the partnership developed with this metropolitan facility in recent years, the community must be reassured that her focus will remain firmly on local service delivery. It is crucial that she remains accessible to address local needs, to engage with the community, and to provide unwavering support to the dedicated staff managing the daily operations of Bass Coast Health.

Our previous CEO set a remarkably high standard of availability, transparency and commitment, often exceeding the demands of a full-time position. Her departure has left many community members concerned about the continuity of leadership and the potential loss of momentum in service delivery and community engagement.

The current board faces a significant challenge to build trust and confidence in its decision-making processes. The community, with its long memory and deep investment in Bass Coast Health is vocal in its dissatisfaction. Clear, transparent communication and proactive damage control measures are urgently needed to reassure the community and to demonstrate that their concerns are being taken seriously.

Name and address supplied

Questions asked on worst roads

TO JORDAN Crugnale and the Victorian Labor Government – When are you going to fix the roads and potholes in Bass Coast?

According to a 2024 report from the RACV, two out of the 12 most dangerous roads in Victoria are right here in Bass Coast; Bass Highway (Jam Jerrup to Leongatha M420/B460) and the Phillip Island Road (Phillip Island B420). Potholes and poor road condition were the top issues identified, with an overwhelming 64 per cent of participants identifying these as the primary safety issue; up from 46 per cent in 2021.

And according to the Age newspaper, drivers are suffering shredded tyres, smashed gearboxes and other motor vehicle damage from monster potholes. Do you actually care that people's lives are now in danger? Have you advocated to your government to have the roads repaired to a proper and safe condition? When? And with what result?

Thanks to your government, the state of the roads in Victoria are now a national disgrace – so exactly when do we get to see the problem fixed?

Rob Parsons, The Gurdies

Vox Pop

What are you doing for Christmas?



Anthony Walls
"Not much as we're working but we'll probably head down to Tarra Valley for a week or so."



Niall Murphy
"I'm attending a family gathering at Inverloch; mum has 12 brothers and sisters, all from Leongatha, and they each bring a food item to Christmas lunch."



Steve Webber
"We're having lunch with my daughter in her unit for the first time."



Christian Stefani
"Christmas is spending quality time with family and doing a few jobs on the list my lovely wife has prepared."

The 'Sentinel-Times' encourages readers to write with issues of interest or concern but letters that have a local reference point will be given priority. Writers are also urged to be brief where possible. Letters may be edited for space and legal reasons, and must be submitted with the author's name and contact details of which only the name and town location will appear.

Bass Coast Giving Tree up and running

THE Bass Coast Giving Tree Christmas Appeal for 2024 to support local families in need across the community is now officially open.

This annual program is co-ordinated by the Combined Welfare Group which includes local churches, community groups and charities such as The Salvation Army and the St Vincent De Paul Society.

Now in its 21st year, Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead says the generosity of the community never ceases to inspire her.

This year they're asking for donations of new, unwrapped gifts for children of all ages, gift cards and non-perishable food items.

Cr Halstead encouraged donations to the program.

"It's been such a tough year for so many so if you're in a position to make a donation, even a small one, every bit helps."

"I'm so proud of how our community comes together each year to support one another, even when times are tough."

"In addition to toys and gifts, we're also looking for food donations such as rice, pasta, canned vegetables, biscuits and special Christmas items like mince pies and puddings. Many of these are small, low-cost items that may mean a local family can have a special Christmas meal that they otherwise might not have been able to afford," Cr Halstead explained.

"Thank you to everyone who has donated to the program so far, it's wonderful to see so many gifts under the trees already. A special thank you to former mayor and councillor Clare Le Serve who was already encouraging donations to the program back in September as part of her community thank you event."

Christmas Giving Trees are now on display in Council's Customer Service Centres in Cowes, Grantville, Inverloch and Wonthaggi. Donations will be accepted up until Friday, December 6 at all Centres except for Cowes which is until Thursday, December 12.



Donations of new, unwrapped gifts, gift cards and non-perishable food items are being welcomed to support local families in need this Christmas.

Celebrate together this festive season

HAVE you left the staff Christmas party to the last minute? Perhaps the weather isn't looking kind for a family catch up outdoors, well look no further, as Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre have last minute slots available for group bookings, including Christmas parties.

Whether looking to go all out exclusive hire with bowling, arcade games, lazer and food, or something a little more subdued there are packages and options for everyone!

As an award-winning accessibility venue everyone can participate, particularly in the bowling, with special bowling balls available on site, and baby change facilities so even the youngest members of the community don't have to miss out.

With a disco ball and glow in the dark carpet, let your Christmas party come to life.

To book call 5952 3977 or pop into 91-97 Settlement Road, Cowes.

CONVERSATION *with Claire*



The true origins of Christmas

By author Claire Chitty

THIS festive season did you stop to consider the true origins of Christmas? Or has the influence of consumerism outweighed this occasion? The birth of Jesus Christ symbolised a new beginning for humanity, to cleanse the iniquities of the world through His life, death and resurrection. Fast forward two thousand years and not much seems to have changed.

As the final month on the calendar comes to an end, and colourful lights adorn houses around the Bass Coast, it's an opportunity to reflect on the year that was. It's time to rethink how we do life and what we want to create in the future. It's time to rekindle kindness and respect. It's time to acknowledge teachers and the vital role they play in education. It's time to treat retail and hospitality employees with reverence and a friendly smile. And most importantly, it's time to recognise the honourable emergency services, who constantly deal with those who put their lives and others at risk through drugs, alcohol and speed. It's time to take ownership of how we behave.

We all have different beliefs and originate from various cultures, yet we're all human and share this planet. It is encouraging to witness small groups in the area quietly and cautiously questioning and creating community where people are valued for their skills and abilities rather than treated as a number in the matrix. They're tired of the money-grabbing mentality and choosing instead to make a positive difference and contribution to the world. You could say they are implementing the selfless teachings and deeds Christ shared as a healer and leader to show humanity a better way of being.

So, whether December 25 is a holiday or a significant religious event for you, see it as a sacred time of unity, connection and gathering with family, friends and strangers to make the world a little brighter. May peace, good will and joy ripple out into the wider community.

In Ghandi's words, "Be the change you want to see in the world," for change starts with us individually.



This Christmas, treat your loved ones to something delectable with last-minute gifts from Home Cook BBQ, Wonthaggi! From savoury BBQ rubs, Weber BBQs and accessories, tableware for Christmas day, cookie and cupcake decorations and cutters, glassware to gift cards, they've got everything to make the season extra flavourful and jolly. C02_4924



The wet weather didn't deter Ricky on Saturday as he collected a Christmas tree from Wonthaggi Garden Supplies. All set for December 1. C04_4924



Whether rocking horses, homewares or toys there is a huge selection of one-of-a-kind handcrafted goods available at Wonthaggi Woodcrafters. It's also a great opportunity to buy local. Malcom Phillips was on hand yesterday helping buyers. B700_4924



Pop along on Thursday, December 5, 6pm-8pm to Bunnings Wonthaggi for a Christmas Family Event. Limited places - bookings essential. Pictured: Lola and Finn who had a blast at last years event.

~ A carolling delight ~

Corinella

Head along to the Foreshore Rotunda where you'll enjoy children's activities, a visit from Santa and have the opportunity to sing along to your favourite Christmas carols. Bring a rug or chair, drinks and snacks, and enjoy a festive Christmas time on Saturday, December 14.

Cowes

Come along and enjoy an evening of carols, children's entertainment, food vans and finish off the evening at 9.30pm with a fireworks display. The evening kicks off with children's entertainment from 5pm. Santa himself will arrive at 6pm, with carols from 7.15pm. Head along to The Esplanade Cowes.

Foster

Bring the family, a picnic dinner, and something to sit on as Foster celebrates Christmas together on Sunday, December 8 from 5pm – 6.30pm at Pearl Park. If the weather turns, the event will be hosted at Foster War Memorial Arts Centre.

Grantville

Bring along a chair or blanket and join in at the annual Christmas carols in the park at Grantville with carols provided by Sisters and Mistrs. There will be stalls, face painting, a jumping castle, food and drinks from 5pm, Carols commence at 6pm and Santa will pop by around 8pm.

Inverloch

Organised by the churches and sponsored by local businesses, Inverloch Community Christmas Carols will take place on Saturday, December 14 from 5.30pm – 8.15pm. Showcasing local musical talent with food available, the fun family friendly event will be celebrating the message of hope shared at Christmas.

Leongatha

A great family night out, filled with entertainment from local performers, food trucks, fireworks and a special visit from Santa! Head along on Friday, December 13 from 5.30pm at Leongatha Recreation Reserve. Gold coin donation, bring chairs or picnic rug.

Poowong

Enjoy a sausage and a sing at this year's Poowong Community Christmas Carols. A BBQ will be held from 6pm with Carols starting at 7pm. The event will be held in the Poowong Community Garden behind All Saints Church at 10 Nyora Road, Poowong on Tuesday, December 10, and if it's wet, the carols will move into the Uniting Church. All donations will go to the Milpara Food Bank.

San Remo

Come along to the San Remo foreshore, bring along a chair or blanket and join in as San Remo celebrates Christmas with Carols, food and of course a visit from Santa on Friday, December 20 from 5pm – 9.30pm.

Wonthaggi

Wonthaggi Community Carols at Wishart Reserve is a free community event put on by the churches and sponsored by local businesses. All are welcome, families, seniors and youth, on Sunday, December 15 from 5.30pm to 8.45pm with free and fun children's activities.



Late night shopping for Christmas in Korumburra

KORUMBURRA Late Night Christmas Shopping will be held on Thursday, December 19 from 4pm to 7.30 pm, giving locals an opportunity to do their Christmas shopping in town. Ongoing works to the local streetscape might have things

looking a little different this year but Korumburra will still have the Christmas celebration it deserves. Local resident Corie Blackley who provided last year's children's entertainment will be back again this year, Elders will also be providing children's

activities and there will also be face painting, Santa photos, Christmas carols and a few other surprises in store. All local businesses are invited to stay open late, so locals can browse and find last-minute gifts for Christmas this year.



Kathy Richards from Korumburra Florist will be open up until Christmas with gorgeous fresh bunches of flowers available for all occasions. ob08_4924



Taya, Tracey and Kirrah from Kelly's Bakery in Korumburra are bringing the festive season joy with all their usual delicious fare as well as Christmas specials like gingerbread houses. ob05_4924



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SHOP LOCAL

this Christmas





It's Christmas trees galore at Wonthaggi Garden Supplies! Mel, Chris and the team are on hand to help spread the Christmas cheer, pop in to grab a real tree before they run out. C03_4924



With all your seafood requirements for the festive season, be it fresh fish, crays, oysters, prawns or fish and chip dinner; Dale Spooner, Hervey Doerr-Rolley and the team at the San Remo Fishermen's Co-op have what you need.



Brandon Bull and Becky Millen taking Christmas orders at traditional butchers Mitchell & Co. B405_4924



Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas from Illa May Clothing. Open 9am to 5pm weekdays and 9am to 1pm on Saturdays there is still time for presents and summer attire. C01_4924

REAL Christmas TREES

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6ft and above \$85

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SHOP LOCAL *this Christmas*





Celebrating Christmas at Wonthaggi Miner's Dispensary are Carol Coutis and Kerry Walker. B406_4924



Audiologists Grant Hill and Braden Betley and the team at About Bass Coast Hearing would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. To enhance your quality of life through better hearing contact the team today. Z02_0923

Loch Christmas Drive helps local families this Christmas

LOCH businesses are participating in a local Christmas drive to collect donations that will go towards helping local families who are doing it tough this year.

The Loch Post Office, Kin Goods, Yakity Yak, Loch Pilates Studio, The Loch Grocer and On Clarence are the businesses involved in accepting donations for the drive.

Loch local, Amanda Odrowaz runs Loch Pilates Studio and decided to organise the Christmas drive with other local businesses in Loch this year.

"It's been a really challenging year for people and to have the opportunity to give where we can is wonderful. It's been so joyful seeing people's generosity and knowing that we can make a little bit of difference by giving what we can, each in our own way," said Amanda.

Carrington's of Loch Village are also supporting the cause having lent baskets to the businesses where donations can be placed.

Many lovely gifts for a range of ages have already been donated and further donations can be made up until Thursday, December 12, to help bring joy to families this Christmas.

The Leongatha Salvos branch will then collect and distribute gifts to local families.



Hayleigh from Kin Goods is happy to be participating in the Loch Christmas Drive to help bring joy to families doing it tough this Christmas. ob01_4924



Rochelle from Yakkity Yak has already received a few great donations that will go to families in need this Christmas. ob04_4924

Don't forget your batteries!

We want you to be able to hear your loved ones over the Christmas break



Visiting Inverloch, Cowes and Frankston



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Shop 5, Plaza Walk Arcade, 23 Murray Street, Wonthaggi (opposite the new Bass Coast Library)
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You're invited to our Christmas VIP event

Members only Pre-Christmas shopping VIP event
Thursday, Dec. 5 – Wednesday, Dec. 11

At our VIP event members will enjoy:



25% off selected gift lines*



Free gift wrapping^



Plus, Spend \$25 or more on gifting range at the VIP event to go into the draw to **win 1 of 3 \$200 gift hampers***

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Sat 8.30am-1.30pm Sun 9.00am-1.00pm

www.minersdispensary.com.au  /Miners-Dispensary/

26 | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES



SHOP LOCAL
this Christmas





The team at A Garden of Thoughts are ready to assist with all your Christmas gifts with a large selection on offer, from Kris Kringle through to homewares and baby items.



Looking for a beautiful Christmas gift. There's plenty on offer at Revive Beauty & Spa in Wonthaggi. From gift packs to gift cards and December specials, pop in store today for that special someone. C10_4924



Don't forget your seafood order

Hurry! Get your all-important Christmas fish, prawns, crays and oysters order into the Bass Strait Direct shop at 24-26 Boys Home Road, Newhaven, before it's too late. Closing date for Christmas orders from the award-winning suppliers of the "freshest locally caught seafood direct from the pristine waters of Bass Strait" close on Friday, December 13. Call in, phone it in on 5956 7980 or email to: bassstraitdirect@outlook.com. But don't miss out.

Extended Christmas Hours

Every Sunday until Christmas
10am - 2pm



143 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
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FOR YOU OR SOMEONE SPECIAL!

Spend \$130 on Gift Vouchers and you'll receive

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HOURS: Dec. 23 - 7.30am - 5pm, Dec. 24 7am - 3pm, Closed Dec 25 and 26
Check Facebook  Bass Strait Direct for other hours
1/24-26 Boys Home Road, Newhaven Phone 5956 7980



SHOP LOCAL *this Christmas*





Sharon Caporale, Keely Harper and Laura Kemper are among the friendly staff at Terry White Leongatha who are there to help with your Christmas shopping, including finding something suitable for Kris Kringle gifts. With Christmas fast approaching, the December 4 catalogue has a great selection to spoil your family and friends. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and to stay safe over this holiday period, from the team at Terry White Chemmart Leongatha. A12_4624



ACE Industrials Branch manager Trevor Arnold and salespeople Spencer Chadwick and Phil Grant enjoy providing friendly local service and helping solve clients' challenges with expert advice, the business offers industrial supplies and agricultural products. A16_4924

New designs unveiled crafted off the jeweller's bench



All types of Argyle pink diamonds available

Different grades of strong pink and blush pink at manufacturer prices



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ME0172

Stunning gifts and treasured heirlooms

LOOKING for a unique Christmas gift for someone special in your life? Perhaps you'd like a family heirloom reworked. There are many skills to Denis Hawkins, not least the air that makes one relax in his presence, an air that makes you trust him with some of your most prized possessions whether stunning gemstone or family heirlooms, and an air that amazes at his vast array of talents, you see Denis is not just a jeweller and creator of stunning masterpieces but an artist, woodworker and sculpturer amongst far more talents – a multipotentiality. “I enjoy working with my hands,” Denis explained.

Mr Hawkins is one of the few jewellers who can create, make and set, taking every opportunity to hone his skills, learn new techniques and read about metals and gemstones – even though his raw talent flows effortlessly, making his progress seem almost innate. Amongst his varied favourites are the family heirlooms that pass his working desk for restoration. “Working with old original pieces, 1850s, 1860s – 19th century, rebuilding those you've got to know what solders they possibly used because you got hard solders, medium solders and soft solders. They start off with the hard to get the main basis. You can't use hard (in the more intricate work) because that might spring open, you're going use some slightly softer solders. Restoring old jewellery is really satisfying to see, and to wonder where it might be



in 500 years.” When you hold a piece of handcrafted jewellery, it's immediately clear that it's more than just an accessory. Unlike the commercially manufactured, handmade creations tell a story – a story of artistry, dedication, and individuality. Each twist of wire, every gemstone placement, and every polished surface reflects the unique vision of the maker and recipient. It's the next level of craftsmanship. Handmade jewellery possesses a soul, offering a connection that bulk production simply cannot achieve. “There are only two or three of us that specialise in art deco pieces in Victoria – because we learnt the old trades and techniques. People don't want pieces that everyone else has.” Denis' eye and the beauty he creates is mesmerising. Diamonds and a breathtaking ruby beckon to adorn the neck as a pendant, gemstones far superior to mainstream conglomerates that charge a small fortune for inferior quality gemstones subjected to heat treatment. “It's pretty special making nice jewellery and knowing people trust me. I couldn't give up making jewellery,” Denis said. “I was very lucky that I learnt to start a ring from a bar of gold and finish a ring on the finger.” Before you head to the city, check out Denis Hawkins work and purchase a gift that will not only outlive a lifetime, but is as unique as the recipient.





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FROM 5:30

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- #1 - #5 screw extractor includes left hand cobalt jobber drills: 2.0, 3.0, 4.0, 5.5, 7.5mm



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10pc Bolt
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150pc Portable Tool Kit
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Newhaven College



The Bendigo Community Bank Awards – Year 9 students James Cameron, Jemima Fraser, Scarlet-Grace Jongejan and Zoe Paterson were presented their awards by Bruce Proctor and Jan Eriksen of San Remo Financial Services, pictured with Board Chair David Jobe.



Newhaven College's staff received recognition for service. Teachers Nathan Leys, David Prideaux, Cynthia Young and Elizabeth Hall were among those celebrated.



Director of Learning, Karen Milkins-Hendry congratulates the dux for Years 9, 10 and 11 for 2024, Aidan Kelly, Tilly Stecher and Lara Smyth.



ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award recipient Isabel Mahon and ADF Future Innovators Award winner Tilly Stecher pictured with Head of Senior School, Brett Torstonson and College Chair David Jobe.

TO MARK the end of the 2024 school year, Newhaven College hosted two eagerly awaited Presentation Evenings, celebrating the achievements of both the Junior School and the Middle/Senior School communities.

Held in the College gymnasium, both events drew a full house of enthusiastic teachers, staff, students and their supportive families.

Congratulations were extended to the Junior School Celebration Evening hosts – 2024 Captains and Vice Captains Edward Lee, Chloe Shapardon, Eden Hallas, and Leith Cameron – for their outstanding contributions to the event. The Year 5–11 Presentation Evening was expertly hosted by the 2025 College Captains, Isaac Savona, Grace Howlett, Gabriel Di Falco and Abby Papas, who carried out their first formal captaincy duties confidently.

Junior School Celebration

The Junior School Celebration evening was a fitting end to the school year as the success of all students was celebrated. Junior School students were presented with a certificate of achievement for completing a wonderful year of learning and improvement. The students demonstrated their talents with singing, music and spoken word performances onstage.

Mrs Cath Huther, reflecting on her first year as Head of Junior School spoke about the Newhaven College community. "In my new role, I have been struck by the strong sense of community at Newhaven College and its profoundly positive impact. Our school is a community of learners, with parents, teachers and students, all working together to create an environment where strong learning and work habits established at school are reinforced at home. I feel extremely privileged to be a part of this and am certainly looking forward to continuing this exciting educational journey together."

College Principal, Mr Tony Corr, reflected these sentiments.

"At Newhaven, we pride ourselves on the fact everyone is known. That everybody is somebody and their unique gifts and talents are fostered and celebrated. I am proud of the way we have achieved that this year and congratulate our entire College community on their efforts and accomplishments in 2024."

Middle and Senior Schools Presentation Evening

On Thursday evening, the school celebrated with song, words and awards in an evening to celebrate the successes of students, in academics,

sport, values and music. The procession of award presentations was interspersed with some stunning musical performances. The Combined College Choirs performed Fixer Upper from Frozen and Senior band Laney Days pumped out Highroad by Sir Woman.

Newhaven College is incredibly proud of its teaching and non-academic staff. Librarian Jo Foster and Science and Systems Engineering teacher Nathan Leys received recognition for 20 years or more of service and dedication to the school over those years.

For 18 years of service, recipients included Junior School teacher Marcelle Krieg along with Music and Drama power couple Nina and David Prideaux. Other recognition of dedication to the College were Year 9 Teacher, Elizabeth Hall (13 years), Student Support and Teacher Cynthia Young (10 years), departing Prep Teacher Linda Austin (10 years) and Teacher Anna Paterson (10 years).

A wide range of awards was presented to recognise outstanding achievement in Academic Studies, Music, Sport, Values, Theatre and Drama, Design, Visual Arts, Technology, and Building and Construction.

Major Award Recipients:

- Senior School Dux Awards – Aidan Kelly (Year 9), Tilly Stecher (Year 10) and Lara Smyth (Year 11).
- ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award – Isabel Mahon (Year 10).
- ADF Future Innovators Award – Tilly Stecher (Year 10).
- The Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program – Tilly Stecher and Lulu Lightowler (Year 10).
- Luke Bolding Memorial Award – Ayden Fawaz (Year 11).
- St Vincent de Paul Society Frederic Ozanam Awards – Saxon Collier and Lavenia Hewitt (Year 6).
- The Bendigo Community Bank Awards – James Cameron, Jemima Fraser, Scarlet-Grace Jongejan and Zoe Paterson (Year 9).
- Rotary: Outstanding Community Service Award – Lachlan Chapman (Year 5) and Mia Tillotson (Year 8).
- The Reverend John Leaver Award – Marley Brown (Year 11).
- Donald Cameron OAM Award – River Henderson (Year 10).
- Peter Reith AM Memorial Prize – Kordelia Kossena (Year 9).
- Duke of Edinburgh Awards – 16 students completed their Bronze Award. Silver was awarded to Matilda Feehan, Tilly Stecher and Jasmine Ruffin.

The College community congratulates all award recipients for 2024.

celebrates excellence



Alan Bolding presented the Luke Bolding Memorial Award to Year 11 student Ayden Fawaz, pictured with VCE/VET Coordinator Elaine Epifano.



Newhaven College is honoured to present the annual Peter Reith AM Memorial Prize to Year 9 student Kordelia Kossena, who demonstrates the ideals Peter Reith upheld of strong community values. Pictured here with Fran Reith and Board Chair, David Jobe.



The prestigious Reverend John Leaver Award was presented to Year 11 student, Marley Brown by Louisa Warnock and Sholto Bowen OAM, Executive General Manager of Ecumenical Schools Australia.



Year 6 students Saxon Collier and Lavenia Hewitt were presented with the St Vincent de Paul Society Frederic Ozanam Award by Mary Stack, President of the Cowes St Vincent de Paul.



Life Governor Pamela Cameron and Manny Houssaye from Lions Club of Phillip Island awarded Year 10 student River Henderson the Donald Cameron OAM Award.



Year 3 students Mila Potter and Peyton Rhee were congratulated on completing a successful 2024.



Lachlan Chapman (Year 5) and Mia Tillotson (Year 8) were awarded Rotary's Outstanding Community Service Award, pictured here with Brian Holloway and John Tennant from Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo.



Junior School Celebration Evening hosts, 2024 Captains and Vice Captains Leith Cameron, Edward Lee, Chloe Shapardon and Eden Hallas.



Graduating Year 4 to move onto Middle School is a big milestone for students Evelyn Felstead, Eden Hallas and Lucy Gojrzewski.

Newhaven College Board welcomes expertise and community leadership

THE Newhaven College Board of Directors plays a vital role in providing governance oversight and strategic direction to ensure the school continues to provide the highest level of educational opportunities for the community.

"Our College Board comprises members of our local community who each bring high-level professional skills and valuable perspectives", said Chair of the Board, David Jobe.

The most recent member to join the Board is Damien McKenna, a Principal lawyer of Duffy & Simon, who acts for numerous clients in the property and commercial areas. In addition, he has provided advice over the years for numerous independent schools, focusing on compliance,

contractual and policy advice and guiding them through various legal challenges.

Damien is also involved in the local community, providing ongoing legal advice to local sporting clubs and not-for-profit organisations, and participating actively on several committees. Damien has one child attending the College and another set to enrol in 2025.

"Over forty years ago, our college was built by members of our local community coming together in a spirit of shared endeavour to create something remarkable," said David.

"It is a privilege to be involved with such a group of high-calibre individuals who give so generously of their time to continue that tradition today."



Newhaven College Board of Directors 2024. L-R Board Members Damien McKenna, Rebecca Naughtin, Tony Corr (Principal), Megan White (Deputy Chair), Steve Morris, David Jobe (Chair), Kylie Holmes, Tracey Costello, Alan Norton (Director of Business). Absent: Graham MacGregor.

Last Loch Market before Christmas

THE LAST big Loch Summer market before Christmas will be held on Sunday, December 8, from 8am to 1pm.

Over one hundred stallholders will be set up on the green grounds of the old Loch Rail station courtesy of the Strzelecki Lions Club.

There are many and varied stalls including chickens and hens for sale, Lions Christmas cakes, history books written by residents and a community support stall where locals can help with any questions others might have about the area.

Food vendors will also be onsite to keep the coffee flowing and satiate appetites.

This market has loads of community spirit and country ambience to enjoy.

"Our market now has really developed into an amazing market where we're full of stall holders and have an enormous number of people attend, and so it's going along very nicely," said Noel Gregg of the Strzelecki Lions Club.

"We particularly welcome new people that are new to the area that have never been to our market before."

The market also provides a good opportunity to plan a day out, see the region and do the Nyora, Loch, Poowong drive – only nine minutes between each.

LIFE Moments



THEO James Lyttle-Oosthuizen was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on November 19, weighing 3.57kg. He is the first child for Bayley Lyttle and Cherise Oosthuizen of Wonthaggi.



TIARA Brittini-Jade Rogan was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on November 18, weighing 3.57kg. She is a daughter for Shaun and Kehoma Rogan of Phillip Island, and a sister for Blayde, 15, and Eli, 11.

Send your birthday, anniversary or baby photos to news@sgst.com.au

Inverloch gig for 'Young Veterans'

'YOUNG Veterans' is raising awareness of the help available through RSLs, with Boom Crash Opera's Dale Ryder joining the cause in a special performance at the Inlet Hotel, Inverloch this Saturday, many veterans who served in recent conflicts suffering mental impacts, and an alarming number of suicides occurring.

Event organiser Glen Coburn, an older veteran supporting young ones, said that between 2000 and 3000 veterans have been lost to suicide since the Afghanistan conflict arose.

"Homelessness and addiction are rife and they lead to suicide, so we're just trying to raise awareness that veterans can go to the RSL and ask for help," he said, noting the importance of letting them know they are not alone and that there is no weakness in asking for assistance.

In fact, it takes courage to say "I am not ok".

Young veterans Laurence Quinn and Mathew Keene are driving the 'Young Veterans' initiative.

Looking forward to Saturday, Glen spoke of the resurgence of Boom Crash Opera songs, with Dale set to perform an acoustic gig with Tristan Ross.

"The sacrifices made by our veteran community are the reason we live in a free and democratic society today," Dale said.

He stressed many veterans feel neglected by the public and the government but there is help available.

Local Eric Collier is providing support at Saturday's event, releasing his own album.

Young Veterans has the backing of sports stars, television personalities and those from the acting fraternity, former Hawthorn player and larger-than-life character Robert DiPierdomenico recently appearing at the Inlet Hotel in support of the organisation.

Young Veterans is already well advanced on plans for events next year.

Join Dale Ryder (Boom Crash Opera) and Tristan Ross, supported by Eric Collier at the Inlet Hotel Inverloch, Saturday, December 7 1.30pm to 5.30pm.

For bookings phone 5674 1481.



Dale Ryder will be performing this Saturday at the Inlet Hotel in Inverloch with Tristan Ross.



Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico chats with Young Veteran Laurence Quinn, a former Afghanistan veteran highlighting the issues for returned and retired veterans.

Why we're reaching out to young veterans

Laurence Quinn, who served with the Australian Army in Afghanistan, spoke in Inverloch recently, as part of a Young Veterans outreach program to raise awareness of their mental health challenges.

A former executive member of the Hawthorn RSL, he joined noted supporter of veterans causes, Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico, at the event.

"Have I experienced it myself, yes I have and honestly, as a community, I don't think we're getting any better at understanding it and deal-

ing with it," Mr Quinn told the Sentinel-Times, levelling criticism at the government, ADF, DVA and even the RSL which he said hadn't always welcomed veterans from "the forgotten war".

"There's a much higher level of mental health issues among veterans, for sure."

"That's why we are doing events with well-known sporting identities and celebrities, we want to try to make contact with some of the young veterans who feel disconnected, and we want to reach out to regional areas as well."

That's why Young Veterans was formed and the cause has been taken up locally, with

the next event being a night of music and entertainment with Dale Ryder (Boom Crash Opera) and Tristan Ross supported by Eric Collier.

Dipper was more than happy to add his weight to the cause.

As well as visiting Gallipoli, Borneo, Kokoda, East Timor and other fields of war in support of our service personnel, he was instrumental in the formation of the Good Blokes Society to get blokes to talk about their concerns.

"I had the honour of going to Kokoda with Ron Barassi for his 70th birthday in 2006, with Simon Crean, John Bertrand and a group of others and we cried practically every night as they read out the account of what happened at each location we came to."

"We need to honour and support our veterans a lot more than we do for what they do and what they give up to keep us and the world safe."

Available veteran support services include:

Lifeline Australia offers free crisis support and suicide prevention at any time and can be contacted on 13 11 14.

Open Arms - Mental health support for Army, Navy and Air Force personnel, veterans and their families. Call 1800 011 046 for free and confidential support, available any time, offering individual, couple and family counselling.

Open Arms offers suicide prevention workshops.

Self Help Tools are also available to assist with building resilience.

Veteran Central - The place for Victorian veterans to interact with ex-service organisations and get the support they need to maintain their wellbeing. Call 1300 645 838 with expert staff linking you to appropriate available supports. The service is available to any veteran and their family members.

Other services - Other available services for veterans include Compensation Support, Veterans' Employment Program, and Financial Welfare.

Visit rslvic.com.au/veteran-support or your local RSL for further information.

Send us your photos

If you're having a 21st, club function, wedding, or other social event, take some photos, name the people in the snaps and email to news@sgst.com.au

Sentinel-Times

It won't cost a cent to see them in print!

DALE RYDER (BOOM CRASH OPERA) & TRISTAN ROSS SUPPORTED BY ERIC COLLIER



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
from 1.30pm – 5.30pm
at the Inlet Hotel, Inverloch

ENTRY BY DONATION with all proceeds going to THE YOUNG VETERANS and The Salvation Army (Project 614)

BOOKINGS 5674 1481

RAISING AWARENESS TO VETERAN SUICIDE, HOMELESSNESS AND ADDICTION ~ PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

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Wildly entertaining, A Difficult Year is a must

**Bass Coast Fine Film Group presents
"A Difficult Year"**

THE Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proud to present the last film for 2024, "A Difficult Year", a wild comedy from directorial duo, Éric Toledano and Olivier Nakache (The Untouchables).

The film introduces us to two unemployed men who are grappling with debt and a sense of purposelessness. Their journey begins as they unwittingly bluff their way into an eco-activist group, which serves as a catalyst for self-discovery. This narrative arc highlights the importance of resilience in the face of adversity, illustrating how individuals can find strength and purpose even when life seems overwhelming. The film's humorous yet heartfelt approach allows viewers to connect with the characters' struggles, making their eventual growth feel both relatable and inspiring.

The dynamics between the two male leads and the woman they both admire creates a compelling love triangle that adds depth to the story. The film showcases how these personal relationships can lead to moments of awakening and transformation. While the characters are often depicted



Official Selection of the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival (Special Presentation), A Difficult Year is a wildly new comedy from filmmakers Éric Toledano and Olivier Nakache. Photo: Carole Bethuel.



Bass Coast Fine Film Group wraps up 2024 with heartfelt comedy A Difficult Year.

as flawed and duplicitous, their interactions reveal the complexities of human connection and the impact these relationships have on their journeys. This aspect of the film emphasises that even in challenging times, love and

friendship can serve as powerful motivators for change and personal growth.

Additionally, "A Difficult Year" reflects on societal issues and their impact on individuals, particularly focusing on themes such as eco-anxiety

and over-indebtedness. The film cleverly intertwines humor with serious topics, shedding light on the pressing environmental concerns of our time while also addressing the personal financial struggles faced by many. Through its satirical lens, the film encourages viewers to contemplate the broader societal implications of these issues and their effects on everyday lives.

Screening at 10.45am, Sunday, December 8 at Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre, 96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. BCFFG members entry free, with general public welcome at usual box office prices.

To find out more about this film, visit the website: basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com/current-season, and follow the links to the film.

Now is also the time to join or renew membership for 2025 for the Bass Coast Fine Film Group. Great value at \$65 a year, for 10 films plus discounts for other cinematic events, it makes a great Christmas gift for film lovers. To find out more about membership, visit the website at basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com/membership.

The Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proudly sponsored by the Bass Coast Shire.



Melbourne-based singer-songwriter Steph Strings will be performing at the upcoming Folk Sounds on Thursday, December 5 at Riverview Hotel, Tarwin and Sunday, December 8 at Berninnet.

Folk Sounds heads to Gippsland

FOLK Sounds presented by Always Live, The Hills Are Alive, Oceans Sounds and Lonely Lands Agency (LLA) - the inaugural Folk Sounds' tour will see Didirri, Kee'ahn and Steph Strings hit the road together for the very first time in a Victorian Exclusive.

The night will see the three artists performing songs from their stunning catalogues in some of the best venues in the region. In keeping with the collaborative spirit of the tour and the artists themselves, they will each flip a coin to decide the playing order on the night.

It's a rare opportunity to see all three of these acts on the same bill and not to be missed.

Teaming up with Always Live to help raise funds for their 2024 charity partner \$1 from each ticket sold will go directly to Support Act and the amazing work they do with music workers, artists and crew.

For more information and to book tickets head to thehillsarealivegroup.com.au/folk-sounds.

Poowong Market

A WASHOUT that caused the cancellation of Poowong's Little Market in November means it has been rescheduled for December 15, just in time to do some local Christmas shopping and support small local businesses as well.

Starting out as only 20 - 30 stalls for a once-a-year market, just a few years ago, this little market has grown to be not so little anymore and is now held twice a year with well over 100 stall holders coming to the event.

This December will be no different with over 140 stalls booked and with Santa and Bluey making an appearance on the day.

So head on over to the Poowong football oval on Sunday, December 15 from 10am to 2pm and support some local businesses and the Poowong Football and Netball club with a gold coin entry on arrival.

Artist submissions closing this Friday.

SUBMISSIONS for the 48th Leongatha Art and Photography Show close this Friday, December 6 at 6pm.

More than 24 prizes and awards are presented each year for artists and photographers including 'Best in Show', 'Best South Gippsland Resident' and a 'People's Choice' Award.

Artists may enter in any of 14 categories divided into different painting mediums, drawing techniques, as well as photography and 3D, with sections for youth and people with all abilities.

The 2025 Show will be open to the public for three weeks from Saturday, January 18 to Saturday, February 8 at the Leongatha Memorial Hall.

For an entry submission form go to leonartshow.com.au/entry-submission.

Korumburra Show and fundraising Christmas Market



Kids can meet Santa at the upcoming Korumburra Market.

THE kids can meet Santa at the Korumburra Christmas Market being held at the showgrounds from 9am to 2pm on Saturday, December 21.

A range of stallholders will proffer a wide range of items perfect for last-minute Christmas gifts, and there will be many new storeholders that haven't been at the market before.

A good range of food vendors will be a treat for the tastebuds and live music will entertain the crowd.

There is a gold coin donation

on entry with all funds raised going to provide free activities for kids at the Korumburra Show, with between \$3000 - \$6000 spent on this each year.

Dinkum dinosaurs will be coming to the 2025 show, from Western Australia and having only done a handful of shows in Victoria, will be an exciting one to check out.

"We always strive to try and mix it up and find something different for that, and the reason why we run markets is that we try and fund the kids activities at the show, so

these markets do go a long way (towards that)," said Danial Robbins, President of the Korumburra A & P Society.

The Korumburra market is always happy to welcome new stallholders and they are also looking for a volunteer to help organise and run the market, which they are hoping to incorporate with some new events next year, such as a rodeo in January.

For more information about becoming a stall holder or volunteering email korumburramarket@gmail.com.

WONTHAGGI

B I N G O

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 8pm - 10pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

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10.45am SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER
A DIFFICULT YEAR
Last film for 2024!

Two swindlers, deep in debt, infiltrate a group of climate activists when they are attracted to the free food and drinks they are offered.

General public welcome. Members Free Entry!

@ WONTHAGGI UNION CINEMA
96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Check the website for more info:
basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com



Rena Renden and Woorayl Lodge Auxiliary member Mary Jepson at Saturday's fete. A19_4924



Woorayl Lodge residents and friends Lois Ross and Olive Dillon and new member of staff Chloe Shambrook, who is doing a business traineeship. A20_4924



Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath with the winner of her raffle prize Jill Wellard and Jaimee Brydon, Co-CEO of Woorayl Lodge. A22_4924



Stuart Evans of Evans Petroleum and Alex Aeschlimann from nbn Local relax at the Leongatha Business Association Christmas Networking Event at McCartin's Hotel. A07_4924



Glenn and Angela Jobe at the Bass Coast SC Year 10 and 11 awards presentation. B101_4924



Eden and John Carter attended Bass Coast SC for the Year 10 and 11 awards presentation. B102_4924



WaterSure scholarship sponsor Matthew Laguitton at the Bass Coast SC Year 10 and 11 awards presentation. B103_4924



Darren Dempsey and Anna Close-Mewitt at the Bass Coast SC Year 10 and 11 awards. B104_4924



Dr Bob Fergie watched the presentation of awards to Year 10 and 11 students at Bass Coast Secondary College. B105_4924



Pictures of you and your friends at Bass Coast Secondary College Awards Presentation (Year 10/11), Leongatha Business Association Christmas Networking Event and Woorayl Lodge Fete.



Woorayl Lodge Auxiliary members Ruth Taylor, Jill Wellard and Judy Murphy offer tasty baked goods. A21_4924



South Gippsland Shire Mayor John Schelling and Liberal candidate for next year's federal election Mary Aldred at Tuesday's business networking evening in Leongatha. A08_4924



Geoff and Jodie Clarkson of Sweet Life Café get into the Christmas spirit with other business owners. A09_4924



Joe Licciardi, who runs Joe the Barista, and Leongatha Business Association committee member Sam Embuldeniya of IT Solutions in Gippsland at the recent networking evening. A10_4924



Number 9 Dream cafe owners Eden Shields and Emma Mulligan enjoy an evening with other business operators. A11_4924



Teresa Paola and Wal Brusamarello at the presentation of awards for Years 10 and 11 at Bass Coast SC. B106_4924



Ben and Bridget Soumilas at Bass Coast SC for the presentation of awards to Years 10 and 11. B107_4924



Janine and Luke Lowe of SignSpec take it easy at the networking gathering. A12_4924

Sentinel-Times

>>> ORDER THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS 5672 1888



CROSSWORD

No. 63 - by 'Johnno2' of Cape Paterson

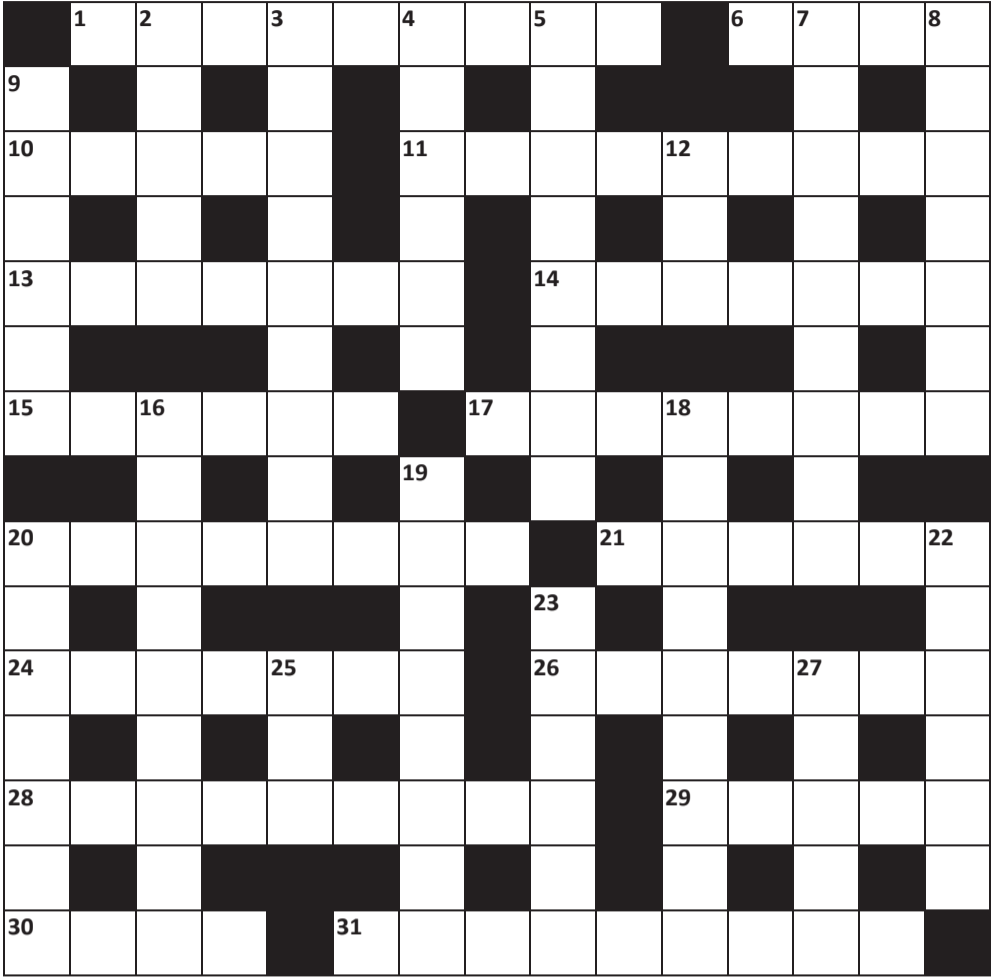
CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1, 6-across To be, or not to be: that is ...! Sick theatre! (9,4)
6 See 1-across
10 Bower caught animals (5)
11 Outcome with revolutionary cure: filled with a new stamina (9)
13 Root for simple meat worker (7)
14 George looney, getting around Nescafé intro stuff (7)
15 Mum's husband ditched his ring: he'd finished (6)
17 'All out!' - One-out lock-in for car maker (4,4)
20 See 31-across
21 University grounds
California politician facing 'We, The People' (6)
24 A wretch played in *Observer* (7)
26 Aspire to target a spire? (3,4)
28 Close call for Spooner's champion bird (5-4)
29 Dorothy's dog eats his rump rapidly (5)
30 Harmless passivity, with development progressively to loathing (4)
31, 20-across Morally strengthening home of *Letters and Numbers*? (9-8)

DOWN

- 2 *Porky and Press* (5)
3 Dead or a.... Ha! Confound *that* future! (4,5)
4 Attempt attack in League (6)
5 Australian icon Kendell hits turbulence and meets untimely end (3,5)
7 Renovation to worsen joint right of possession (9)
8 Most shy from Met and seek corruption (7)
9 Unfriendly piscine? (6)



- 12 Fix costume (3)
16 Hugging broke fight without force (4-5)
18 Awesome retro art, oddly for us, meant zilch (9)
19 Define between 'French' and 'Half French' (8)
20 Network renege on impulse control (7)
22 Premier semillons, chardonnays, hocks, nebiolos, all with 'Australian nose' (6)
23 Gone rather ecclesiastic? (6)
25 His time, for first sweet success (3)
27 Give us six across backward point (5)

STRAIGHT CLUES

ACROSS

- 1, 6-across Hospital theatre (9,4)
6 See 1-across
10 Animals, as opposed to flora (5)
11 Stamina (9)
13 Root, insert (7)
14 Stuff, gulp down (7)
15 Mum, quietened (6)
17 All out, at top speed (4,4)
20 See 31-across
21 University grounds (6)
24 Observer (7)
26 Aspire (3,4)
28 Close, bound together (5-4)
29 Rapidly tempo in music (5)
30 Loathing (4)
31, 20-across Morally strengthening (9-8)

DOWN

- 2 Porky; also, press (for) (5)
3 (The) future (4,5)
4 League, or agreement - between nations usually (6)
5 Australian bushranger icon (3,5)
7 Right of possession (9)
8 Most shy (7)
9 Unfriendly (6)
12 Fix; also, costume (3)
16 Body-hugging (4-5)
18 Awesome, frightening (9)
19 Define, establish (8)
20 Control, entrance (7)
22 Nose, colloquially (6)
23 Ecclesiastic, church leader (6)
25 Popular success (3)
27 Point in question (5)

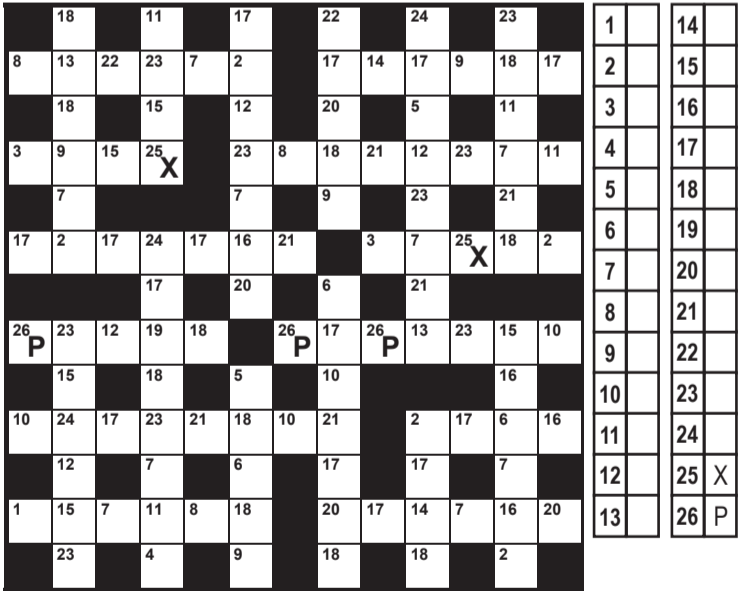
SOLUTION



CODEWORD

No. 216

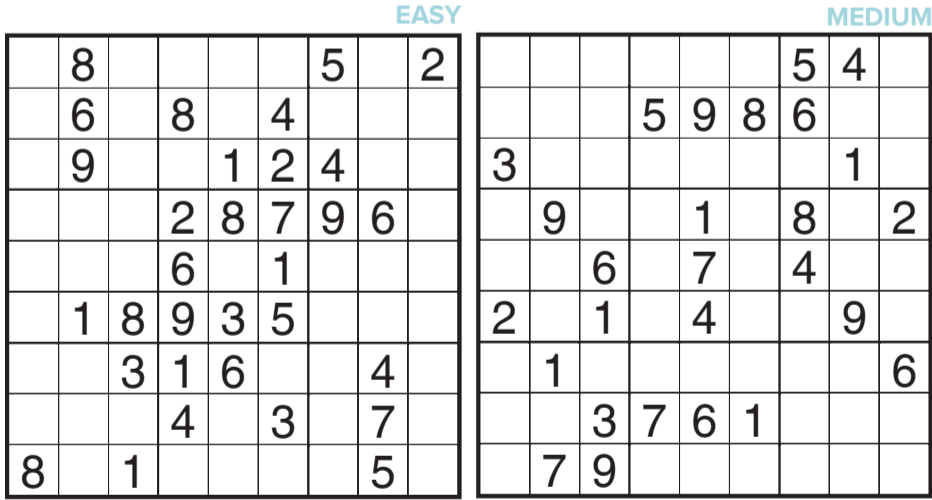
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



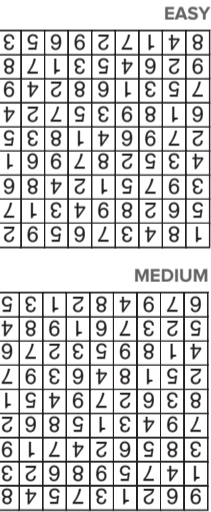
SUDOKU

No. 256

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. Which US comedian wrote the 2000 novella *Shopgirl*?
2. True or false: the *Venus de Milo* was carved with no arms?
3. The Mekong River runs through how many countries?
4. Who was named CEO of Apple after Steve Jobs resigned from the position?
5. What does P.S. stand for?
6. Jenny Shipley was the 36th prime minister of which country?
7. What class of animal is a dugong?
8. Rose Byrne (pictured) played Ellen Parsons in which US legal mystery series?
9. Lent is to Easter as Advent is to what other holiday?
10. Name The Cranberries' 1993 debut album.



WORD SEARCH

No. 167

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



- ARMSCYE INTERFACING SCISSORS
BASTE LACE SILK
BIAS LINEN SUEDE
BOBBIN MEASURING TAILOR
CHALK TAPE THIMBLE
CHIFFON NEEDLE THREAD
COTTON ORGANZA TOILE
DART OVERLOCKER TWEED
EMBELLISH PINS UNPICK
EMBROIDERY PLEAT WOOL
FABRIC RAW EDGE ZIGZAG
FOOT PEDAL RUCHE
HEM SATIN

SECRET MESSAGE: All part of life's rich tapestry

ANSWERS: 1. Steve Martin 2. Christmas 3. Six 4. Tim Cook 5. Postscript 6. New Zealand 7. Mammal 8. Damages 9. Lent 10. No Christmas 11. False 12. Y 13. O 14. Z 15. U 16. N 17. A 18. E 19. V 20. G 21. T 22. B 23. R 24. M 25. X 26. P



Nutrien graduates at Store Sale

By Andrew Paloczi

AN ENTHUSIASTIC and diverse group of young people establishing careers in the agriculture industry were at Leongatha saleyards on Thursday, the latest graduates of Nutrien's two-year in-house 'development program'.

Head of learning and development at Nutrien, Robyn Barber said of the finishing 2023 intake that they completed a uni degree and were successful in getting a spot in the graduate program.

The application process takes place annually, with selection recently occurring for the group starting in 2025, with approximately 1000 applications received for 25 spots.

Robyn outlined how the program is structured.

"They work alongside branch staff to learn the fundamentals of their job," she said, explaining that 70 per cent of what participants learn is on the job with their mentors.

Other learning is achieved through four workshops run over the two years of the program, with Robyn explaining the benefits.

"We take them to areas throughout Australia and expose them to different parts of agriculture, all the facets that we touch as a company so that they can understand what Nutrien and our people do," she said.

That is advantageous for participants establishing their careers and is aimed at them becoming leaders in the business.

Much of Australia was represented in the group, with people from Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

The visit to Leongatha



Terry Ginnane of Nutrien agency 'South Gippsland Livestock' joins Nutrien 'development program' graduates at Leongatha saleyards on Thursday. A14_4924

saleyards was the final workshop for the graduating group.

"They're employed on an ongoing basis but now they take on senior roles within their own teams," Robyn said.

There is a diverse range of positions offered through the development program, including IT, finance and HR roles, meaning a lot of non-rural people are becoming interested in joining the agriculture industry and working for a company in that field.

A number of this year's program graduates are agronomists and will work with Nutrien's farmer clients and help them with their crops.

Emily Hyde of Dalwallinu in Western Australia is one of them, having developed a

passion for agriculture on the family farm.

"I enjoy working with growers, and you see how much time and effort they put into it, and the least we can do is help them out," she said.

While at the saleyards, the graduates heard from Victorian Livestock Exchange managing director Brian Paynter and from Terry Ginnane, director of 'South Gippsland Livestock', an agency for Nutrien.

"Nutrien are very good at running graduate programs, and there's probably been four or five of our staff go through those programs over the last five years," Terry told the Sentinel-Times.

"As a senior person, it's not always easy to spend time

with all your young people as much as you should," Terry said, noting the program offers structured learning and the chance to gain knowledge from a broader range of people, increasing their skill set.

Networking is another benefit, with participants developing relationships with people from different areas that assist them going forward, Terry giving the example of his son Jack having established such relationships through the program with people from Tasmania.

That has proved helpful when buying cattle from there, with the relationship also benefiting those Tasmanian connections when they need something done in Gippsland.

MARKET REPORT

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CLAAS Harvest Centre **CLAAS**

Prices lift for stores

By SGSSA

AGENTS yarded another very good yarding of 3800 cattle at last Fridays VLE Leongatha store sale.

With some handy falls of rain locally and good rains in NSW and QLD brought increased enthusiasm from a large crowd of buyers along with the return of a few feedlot orders and commission buyers with orders securing loads going to Cobar, Dubbo, Tamworth and other parts of NSW.

Prices generally lifted \$50 to \$150 with some isolated sales \$200 more.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024
Steers

R Duke 10 Angus	639kg	\$3.27	\$2090
P,K,R Hourigan 11 BB	557kg	\$3.20	\$1790
EG & KM Triantyllou 16 Angus	538kg	\$3.38	\$1820
Walker Family 16 Angus	525kg	\$3.27	\$1720
J Gibson 11 Angus	515kg	\$3.60	\$1850
P,K,R Hourigan 12 Hereford	515kg	\$3.33	\$1720
Boundry Rd Inn 17 Hereford	514kg	\$3.32	\$1710
IC & RA Ripper 19 Angus	508kg	\$3.51	\$1790
F Fotopoulos 12 Angus	504kg	\$3.41	\$1720
J Gibson 18 Angus	490kg	\$3.71	\$1820
Ik & Dc Ricardo 11 Angus	487kg	\$3.34	\$1630
H&R Need 18 Angus	482kg	\$3.74	\$1800
L Murphy 16 Angus	464kg	\$3.66	\$1700
YQ Australia 21 Angus	457kg	\$3.47	\$1590
Hayman Family 12 Angus	453kg	\$3.33	\$1510
T & C Jacka 10 Angus	441kg	\$3.73	\$1650
H Fisher 10 Angus	405kg	\$3.47	\$1410
T&C Hulls 22 Angus	395kg	\$3.64	\$1440
JW & MA Spencer As Angus	386kg	\$3.52	\$1360
R Jakovljevic 10 Angus	384kg	\$3.32	\$1280
Karsen Park 14 Angus	380kg	\$3.57	\$1360
P&J Sibly 20 Angus	379kg	\$3.64	\$1380
S Thomas 12 Angus	378kg	\$2.90	\$1100
T&C Hulls 22 Angus	375kg	\$3.94	\$1480
Belgrano 18 Angus	374kg	\$3.93	\$1470
Belfrage Pastoral 13 Angus	374kg	\$3.29	\$1230
AC & JS Miles 10 Angus	365kg	\$2.98	\$1090
T&C Hulls 22 Angus	349kg	\$3.86	\$1350
S Faik 11 Angus	338kg	\$3.25	\$1100
Warrook Angus 16 Angus	337kg	\$3.79	\$1280
T&C Hulls 22 Angus	333kg	\$4.05	\$1350
AJ & EF Colvin 21 Spk	332kg	\$3.37	\$1120
T&C Hulls 17 Angus	331kg	\$3.68	\$1220
R Dixon 17 Angus	321kg	\$3.42	\$1100
Belgrano 21 Angus	310kg	\$3.87	\$1200
T&C Hulls 14 Angus	309kg	\$3.91	\$1210
R Smallwood 10 Angus	309kg	\$3.39	\$1050
Belgrano 22 Angus	304kg	\$4.32	\$1320
Warrook Angus 11 Angus	305kg	\$4.00	\$1220
Sandy Creek Pastoral 27 Angus	296kg	\$3.98	\$1180
M Doom & D McMaster 11 Ang	279kg	\$3.58	\$1000
AJ & CR Cook As Angus	277kg	\$3.61	\$1000
T&C Hulls 19 Angus	274kg	\$4.08	\$1120

Heifers

KJ & HM Nicklen 18 Angus	490kg	\$3.38	\$1660
S Thomas 10 Angus	375kg	\$3.12	\$1170
Belgrano 14 Angus	356kg	\$3.48	\$1240
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 17 Angus	351kg	\$3.41	\$1200
IK & DC Ricardo 17 Angus	345kg	\$3.18	\$1100
GS & JE Tuckett 18 Angus	339kg	\$3.42	\$1160
Belgrano 22 Angus	311kg	\$3.44	\$1070
G Blackshaw 18 Angus	310kg	\$3.24	\$1010
R Dixon 17 Angus	309kg	\$2.84	\$880
Sandy Creek 18 Angus	295kg	\$3.42	\$1010
RK & GC Smith 20 Angus	292kg	\$3.18	\$930
R Player 12 Angus	288kg	\$3.12	\$900
AJ & CR Cook 15 Angus	287kg	\$2.96	\$850
Belgrano 19 Angus	286kg	\$3.49	\$1000
Providence Ridge 12 Angus	266kg	\$2.40	\$640
M Doom & D McMaster 11 Ang	253kg	\$3.16	\$800
Linlithgow Investments 11 Ang	225kg	\$3.15	\$710

Xbreds

M Attar 12 Angus X	530kg	\$3.14	\$1670
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Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, November 25, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x	\$18 to \$40
Friesian Bulls	\$25 to \$84
Friesian Heifers	\$32 to \$52
Beef Bulls	\$38 to \$100
Beef Heifers	\$38 to \$76

Number of Calves: **98**

Number purchased to rear: **21**

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
Mitch Cochrane	0438 078 000	Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
		Dale Atherton	0428 888 300
WARRAGUL		PAKENHAM	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Maree Malloy	0408 316 715
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Brian Silver	0407 347 509	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
INVERLOCH		Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	LANG LANG		Angus Hall	0466 326 487
BERWICK		Tom Gibson	0438 574 472		

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Dairy farmers wanted for research on cow movements and the NLIS

RESEARCHERS are looking for dairy farmers who are willing to offer feedback on how they move their cattle and the challenges they may experience with the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

Chief Investigator for the study Dr Jennifer Manyweathers said there is currently a lot of movement that occurs that doesn't actually make it to the NLIS, which could be due to many different reasons, and this is the area that researchers are seeking to understand better, as they believe that the NLIS is not fit for purpose as it now stands.

"It's a very challenging platform to manage animal movements, and so we want to understand that from the producer's point of view as to what they're doing with their cattle, why they're doing it that way, when do they interact with the system, and when do they elect not to," said Dr Manyweathers.

"The NLIS is designed without producers in mind and that really needs to change if they want better engagement, better traceability, better-supporting disease outbreaks, which



Dairy farmers are wanted to give feedback on the NLIS system.

is our passion, and the system needs to be more responsive to the end users, for sure."

The researchers from Charles Sturt University are interested in hearing experiences from a wide and diverse range of dairy farmers and those working across the industry.

There is no set time commitment for the study and it is simply a conversation that may be five minutes or five hours, dependent on the person, but generally, it takes about an hour.

Researchers will be organising on-site, face-to-face chats or via Zoom or

phone call if that is the person's preference.

Data will be collected until April next year, and the project will wrap up in June 2025.

Those who've contributed to the project will be asked how they want to receive the findings and general information will also be released through Dairy Australia and Agriculture Victoria portals.

All the information people provide is completely confidential and deidentified.

To be involved use the QR code (above). For more information contact Lynne at lhayes@csu.edu.au.

Protecting farms and gardens from blackberries

FEW Gippslanders need reminding of the highly predatory nature of the prickly, perennial blackberry pest, scientific name *Rubus fruticosus*.

The scrambling invasive blackberry plant with its arching and entangling stems rising up from a woody crown can form thickets several metres high choking waterways and towering above sheds and outbuildings.

Blackberry stems can be green, purplish or red, smooth or moderately hairy, round or angled, with razor-sharp, curved or straight prickles of different sizes. The canes normally dry off after fruiting but may occasionally live longer.

First-year canes usually do not produce flowers but second-year canes growing as side shoots bear the flowers and fruit.

Blackberry roots grow down vertically from the woody crown to a maximum depth of 1.5 metres depending on the soil type and numerous secondary roots grow horizontally for 30 to 60cm sending out thin roots in all directions.

Blackberry seedlings are not very vigorous in their first year but after the woody crown is formed they will become firmly established and difficult to remove with seeds germinating mainly between September and November and new canes produced from the crown each spring.

Identifying blackberry species can be difficult and it is important to correctly



Declared noxious weed *Rubus fruticosus* or prickly blackberry. B21_4924

identify which species is present because they do not all respond the same way to control measures.

Blackberry can severely decrease the productivity of land, alter water flow, lead to erosion problems and provide a harbour for pest animals. They can also out-compete and displace native plant species and lead to a loss of biodiversity.

Controlling blackberry is a long-term project and generally cannot be achieved by a single strategy, particularly for larger infestations.

The three main management options available for blackberry control include physical and biological control and herbicides.

The first step is to develop a blackberry management plan. The optimal time to spray blackberry is when the plant is actively growing from flowering through to fruiting. Spraying before berry-drop will go a long way in stopping the spread of blackberry but do not

spray when the temperature rises above 30 degrees.

Most importantly take advice from a trusted chemical supplier and choose the appropriate herbicide for your particular situation.

A glyphosate product without surfactant such as 'Roundup Biactive' is best for large or small infestations in environmentally sensitive areas, however, it is not selective and may kill ground cover plants providing protection against erosion. For small infestations of plants less than two years old try Triclopyr picloram but for very large infestations of plants older than two years use Metsulfuron-methyl or Triclopyr picloram.

Always follow the product label, particularly in relation to dilution strengths and ask your chemical supplier for the appropriate safety clothing and application techniques.

For more information contact your local chemical supplier or go to vicblackberrytaskforce.com.au.

Dairy Australia announces results of 2024 AGM

DAIRY Australia members have elected two directors at the 2024 Annual General Meeting, and the Board appointed Harrisville dairy farmer Paul Roderick as the new Dairy Australia Chair, following the retirement of outgoing Chair James Mann.

There were two vacancies for the Dairy Australia Board for directors with milk producer skills.

The directors elected at the AGM are Euberta dairy farmer Simone Jolliffe (milk producer skills) and Taree dairy farmer James Neal (milk producer skills). Both directors were elected unopposed.

There were three further items considered at the AGM and voted on by levy payers:

- Item 3, to increase the aggregate for directors' fee pool, was approved.

- Item 4, to amend the constitution to provide the Board with flexibility to appoint a Managing Director or a Chief Executive Officer, was approved.

- Item 5, to remove the Australian Dairy Products Federation as a Group B member of Dairy Australia, was not approved.

Mr Mann noted that the outcome for item 5 was very comprehensive, with 87 per cent of farmers voting against removing ADPF as a Group B member of Dairy Australia, demonstrating a strong desire across the industry for farmers and processors to work together.

This year's AGM was held online and in Warrnambool, Victoria. The results of the AGM will be available on the Dairy Australia website, dairyaustralia.com.au/agm.

VLE - LEONGATHA

STORE SALE

3000 CATTLE 3000

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c Kuch Grazing, Darriman (NUTRIEN)
220 Angus steers, 15-16 mths, Landfall blood, Vacc MHR/IBR 19/11, EU & NE Accred

A/c Pinora Angus, Heyfield (NUTRIEN)
26 Angus steers, 17-18 mths, NE Accred

A/c J Daraio, Cardinia (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 18 mths, Temania blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c A & A Missen, Woodside (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 14-15 mths

A/c T & D Gilheany, Buffalo (SEJ)
10 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, By Leawood Bulls

A/c N & R Lee 'Loyola' Stratford (NUTRIEN)
9 Angus steers, 15 mths

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c S Bare', Hallston (SEJ)
21 Angus heifers, 14 mths, 2 x 5in1, Battersby blood

A/c Pinora Angus, Heyfield (NUTRIEN)
16 Angus heifers, 17-18 mths, NE Accred

A/c N Hayward, Burrumbeet (PHC)
13 Angus heifers, 15-16 mths, By Langi Kal Kal bulls, Ex TeMania blood cows

A/c T & D Gilheany, Buffalo (SEJ)
6 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths, By Leawood Bulls

WEANERS

A/c N.B Smith, Pound Creek (SEJ)
180 Angus & Angus Hereford steers
100 Angus & Angus Hereford heifers
9-10 mths, weaned 10 days, By Dunoon, Leawood & Moorunga Bulls, 3 x Multimin, 2 x 5in1 & Cydectin

A/c Nalajule P/L, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
Annual Draft
100 Angus steers, 13-15 mths
60 Angus heifers, 14-15 mths
Tops of drop, ideal future breeders, all Pure Leawood blood, VB, GF & NE Accred

A/c AF Sheridan & Partners, Wuk Wuk (NUTRIEN)
90 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, Lawson blood, EU & NE Accred

A/c G & C Hosking, Woodside (SEJ)
40 Angus steers
35 Angus heifers
Leawood blood, VB, GF and ABF

A/c B & K Foat, Woodside (SEJ)
40 Angus steers
30 Angus heifers Leawood
Leawood blood, VB, GF and ABF

A/c Micah Berry, Wonthaggi (NUTRIEN)
60 Angus steer calves, 9-10 mths, By Te Mania & Bowman Stud bulls, NE Accred

A/c Hookey Pastoral, Sale (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, Leawood blood, EU & NE Accred

A/c A & A Van De Lustgraaf, Bingenwarri (SEJ)
50 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c D & M Jones, Mirboo (NUTRIEN)
50 Angus mixed sex, 9-10 mths

A/c M & I Hendriksen, Skye (SEJ)
25 Limo X steers, 9-10 mths
25 Limo X heifers, 9-10 mths
All Calves by Keystone Bulls

A/c J Bowron, Sandy Point (NUTRIEN)
27 Shorthorn steers
20 Shorthorn heifers
8-9 mths, 2x5in1 & B212/10

A/c Southerly Farms, Tyabb (SEJ)
20 Ang steers
17 Ang heifers
9- 10 mths by La Trobe Park Angus

A/c Thexton Farms, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)
35 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, East Gippsland bred

A/c KRG Ross, Delburn (NUTRIEN)
16 Angus steers, 14 mths
10 Angus heifers, 14 mths

A/c M & M Lee, Bundalaguah (PHC)
25 Hereford heifers, 12-14 mths, Karoonda & Mawarra blood

A/c C Griek, Bayles (SEJ)
25 Angus mixed sex, 9-10 mths, By Angus Stud Bull

A/c C Zissis, Mirboo (NUTRIEN)
15 Angus steers
10 Angus heifers
12 mths

A/c French Island Trading (NUTRIEN)
22 Angus mixed sex, 8-9 mths

A/c CW Littlejohn, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 13-14 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Knox & Morrison, Outtrim (NUTRIEN)
10 Angus steers
10 Angus heifers
9-10 mths

A/c J White, French Island (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus mixed sex, 12 mths

A/c Melaleuca Pastoral, Ruby (NUTRIEN)
18 Angus steers, 18 mths, VB & NE Accred

A/c N Hayward, Burrumbeet (PHC)
17 Angus heifers, 12-14 mths, By Langi Kal Kal bulls, Ex TeMania blood cows

A/c R & J McGlade, Boolarra (NUTRIEN)
8 Angus steers, 9-10 mths
3 Limo X steers , 9-10 mths
6 Limo X heifers, 9-10 mths

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c KRG Ross, Delburn (NUTRIEN)
10 X/Bred Strs, 10 Mths

A/c Sojoro P/L (NUTRIEN)
50 Friesian steers, 2 yo

COWS & CALVES

A/c A & K Farms, Swifts Creek (NUTRIEN)
28 X 28 Hereford cows & calves, 2.5 yo Cows-Sugar Loaf & Newcomen blood, with BB CAF 2-4 mths, Tambo blood, not rejoined

A/c D & R Lace, Newry (NUTRIEN)
10x10 X Bred cows & calves with 1-2 mth Limo CAF

5662 4033

5662 2291 0429 050 349

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 | 37

Sharing Our Shores: Help us protect hooded plovers

PHILLIP Island Nature Parks is urging the community to help threatened hooded plover shorebirds 'nest and rest' this breeding season by walking on dedicated beach tracks, keeping dogs on leads and cats indoors.

Nature Parks has partnered with Birdlife Australia, Bass Coast Shire Council and the Conservation Regulator's Operation SOHO to protect the nesting birds with the Sharing Our Shores awareness campaign.

Sharing Our Shores will run from December 1 to April 30 to remind the community to consider the birds, which nest in the high tide line and sand dunes. Their eggs and chicks are often difficult to see and are at risk of being trampled and disturbed by beachgoers.

Phillip Island Nature Parks Kate Adams, Community Impact Manager, said Sharing Our Shores was an important annual community awareness initiative that had already saved countless birds and chicks during the breeding season.

"This summer we want everyone to enjoy our beaches, but that means ensuring the safety of all of the inhabitants, including hooded plovers and other migratory shorebird species, which need the opportunity to nest and rest during spring and summer," Kate said.

"Conservation is a shared community responsibility and we all have a role to play in looking after the unique and wonderful wildlife we have on Phillip Island, after all, it is what makes this such a unique place to live and visit."

Birdlife Australia's Beach-nesting Birds Project Coordinator Kasun Ekanayake said dedicated volunteers worked hard to safeguard beach-nesting birds on Phillip Island and mainland Bass Coast.

"The volunteers of BirdLife Australia's Friends of the Hooded Plover Bass Coast devote a lot of time and effort towards protecting them on beaches between San Remo and Inverloch," he said.

"So, the opportunity to work with Phillip Island will help us reach a broader audience to encourage the responsible use of beaches during summer."

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead said residents and visitors had an important role to play in supporting local conservation efforts.

"Phillip Island is a special part of the world and being a bird-friendly beachgoer is the best way we can contribute to the protection of the wildlife whilst enjoying our beautiful beaches," Cr Halstead said.

"We encourage all beach users to be mindful of wildlife. Keep to the designated paths, have your dog on a lead, keep cats inside, stay away from signed nesting areas, and take your rubbish with you."

The Conservation Regulator's coordinator of Operation SOHO, Han Auld said: "We'll be patrolling right along the coast to educate beachgoers about how small changes in their behaviour on beaches can make such a difference to the local hooded plover population."

In addition, Nippers from Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club will enjoy a pop-up at Cleeland Bight on January 3 from 8.30am to 12.30pm to share the community message about protecting hooded plovers.

Celebrating Landcare at Parliament House

THE Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare (VPFL) gathered last week for their first event, bringing together policy-makers, Landcare champions and industry stakeholders, to celebrate the critical role of Landcare in supporting both urban and regional communities.

Landcare Victoria Inc welcomed this unique opportunity to connect with parliamentarians, to highlight the critical work of Landcare groups across the state, from restoring native habitats to supporting sustainable agriculture with a representative from both Bass Coast Landcare Network and South Gippsland Landcare Network present.

"Landcare represents the best of our communities, where volunteers and professionals come together to care for our land, waterways, and oceans," Landcare Victoria CEO Claire Hetzel said.

"The establishment of the VPFL demonstrates the importance of fostering collaboration at every level, to ensure the longevity of these efforts. This event was a fantastic opportunity to give MPs a better understanding of the critical role of Landcare, in not only addressing environmental and agricultural issues, but also supporting community resilience and connection.

"This week also marks the 38th birthday of Landcare, launched on November 25,



Member for Eastern Victoria, Tom McIntosh with Richard Welch MP, and Landcare Victoria CEO Claire Hetzel at the first Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare event last week.

1986, by then Minister for Conservation, Forests and Lands Joan Kirner and then president of the Victorian Farmers Federation Heather Mitchell.

"Landcare has a successful legacy in Victoria and we look forward to that legacy extending long into the future," Ms Hetzel said.

Attendees heard firsthand from Landcare facilitators and volunteers, who shared stories of resilience, innovation and impact. The event also provided an opportunity to discuss the ongoing challenges faced by the Landcare movement,

including securing long-term funding for programs such as the Victorian Landcare Facilitator Program.

The group's co-convenor Richard Welch MP emphasised the importance of support for the sector.

"Up until 2024, Victoria was the only Parliament in Australia that didn't have a Parliamentary Friends of Landcare and we felt that needed to change," Mr Welch said.

"Having local volunteers and facilitators join us in Parliament House was our small way of demonstrating that we

respect their hard work, but more than that we are enthusiastic about it too and want to support their work. We look forward to working with Landcare Victoria and empowering grassroots care for our environment."

Group secretary Tom McIntosh MP praised the dedication of Landcare volunteers.

"I'm proud to be one of three MPs to establish the Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare – acknowledging the work 60,000+ volunteers do across the whole state," Mr McIntosh said.

"For decades landcare volunteers have helped improve farmland productivity, and the beauty and usability of our shared public lands and waterways."

The Victorian Parliamentary Friends of Landcare is co-convened by Member for North-Eastern Metropolitan Region Richard Welch and Member for Ripon Martha Haylett, with Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh serving as secretary. These three advocates for Landcare spearhead the bipartisan group, which has around 40 members from across the political spectrum.

The VPFL aims to serve as an ongoing platform to build awareness, strengthen advocacy, and foster collaboration in support of landcare's mission to create a sustainable future for Victoria.

West Gippsland's 2024 Lyrebird Award recipients announced

WEST Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (the CMA) is delighted to announce five dedicated groups and individuals as winners of the 2024 Lyrebird Awards.

Winners are: Bass Coast Landcare Network, Bryan Watterson, Kate Mirams and Peter Neaves, Gippsland Intrepid Landcare and John Topp, Gippsland Indigenous Plants.

Awards were announced at a special gathering at Narkoojee Winery on Monday, November 25.

The award ceremony was kicked off by Minister for Water, the Hon. Harriet Shing MP who gave a video address to the gathered Board and community members, noting that lyrebirds represent hope that the work being doing for waterways will secure their return.

"These awards are for community and partners who have gone above and beyond in their work and initiatives across the region. They represent, and are illustrative, of the ways CMAs intrinsically operate – together, in partnership with local communities, partners and the mighty movement of Landcare," said Minister Shing.

Board Chair, Mikaela Power and CEO, Martin Fuller then presented the five awards noting why each recipient was a standout in West Gippsland for their contribution to caring for catchments. Moving from west to east across the catchment, the winners all have demonstrated outstanding commitment and leadership to protect and restore their patch in West Gippsland – often over many years.

Bass Coast Landcare Network

Planting over five million plants trees since the network began in 2004, Bass Coast Landcare Network is unique to Landcare in Victoria having an



Bass Coast Landcare Network Lyrebird winners David Sutton, Ken Connor, Dave Bateman, Paul Spiers and Linda Bowden.

invasive species team, works crew and nursery producing 160,000 plants each year and hold 30 community planting days per year. They also work with farmers on sustainable agriculture activities and host over 40 community and education activities a year.

Bryan Watterson – Corner Inlet Landcare

The CMA recently achieved a first milestone by removing willows from the entire length of the Agnes River and fencing and planting over 98 per cent along its length. Bryan was one of the key community champions of this – planting extensively on his own property and inspiring others to do the same. He has supervised the planting of 70,000 trees on his own property alone and inspired many neighbours and landholders to get on-board, leading to hundreds of thousands of trees planted in Gullies of the Strzelecki Ranges.

Gippsland Intrepid Landcare

The new generation of Landcare volunteers. Formed in 2017, the group is aimed at young people wanting to protect the region's environment while having epic adventures across Gippsland. They organise activities that combine fun and friendship with environmental work such as kayaking, hiking, mountain bike riding and their hugely successful Plant & Dance events and support Landcare groups and networks across the region, helping them connect young people to Landcare.

Kate Mirams and Peter Neaves

From their dairy farm in Newry, Kate and Peter have been role models for change, most recently with trials of regenerative/sustainable agricultural practices and building a community of practice to keep nutrients on farm and out of waterways and the Gippsland Lakes.

John Topp – Gippsland Indigenous Plants

Native plant guru and nurseryman John Topp has been sharing his love and knowledge of native plants and conservation for over 50 years. John owned and operated Gippsland Indigenous Plants, a specialist native plant nursery in Valencia Creek that supplied over 130 different species of local plants primarily to Landcare and the CMA.

The Lyrebird Awards acknowledge West Gippsland's champions and their significant achievements and contributions to protecting and enhancing the region's natural resources. Launched in 2005, the Awards were again held in 2008 and 2011. Awardees were chosen by a Board-nominated selection panel that considered nominations from the Board, Community Engagement Advisory Groups and CMA staff.



Asbestos is present in millions of Australian buildings, including homes and workplaces.

Take caution with home renovations

LAST WEEK was National Asbestos Australia Week and Master Builders Australia alongside industry leaders are calling for caution around ageing asbestos, particularly as the summer season approaches and more Australians undertake home renovation projects to save costs.

It's estimated that one in three Aussie homes may still contain asbestos and tragically, around 4000 Australians die each year from asbestos-related diseases.

With the rise in renovations and simple additions like home security installations, homeowners could unwittingly put themselves at risk by drilling into asbestos eaves to install security cameras, CCTV systems, and sensor lights.

These actions can release asbestos fibres which, when not properly controlled, can lead to serious health issues, including mesothelioma and lung cancer.

Master Builders Chief Executive Denita Wawn has urged all Australians to take care when it comes to home renovations or repairs.

"If your home was built before 1990, there's a good chance it contains

asbestos," said Ms Wawn.

"Asbestos was used in over 3000 building products, and it can show up inside and outside, in floors, walls, ceilings, eaves, pipes and roofs.

"Most of those products are 30 to 100 years old, and the older they become, the more likely they are to release harmful asbestos fibres into the air if disturbed.

"While it's tempting to do DIY projects to save money, the consequences can be deadly.

"You can't tell if a material contains asbestos just by looking at it; if you think a material might contain asbestos, you should err on the side of caution and call a professional to find out for sure.

"Before you start any DIY projects, contact your local Master Builders Association to find a builder or accredited asbestos removalist.

"The Australian Government's Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency has a whole suite of great resources available on their website," Ms Wawn said.

For more information, please visit asbestossafety.gov.au.

FOR SALE

37 Sullivans Road, Korumburra



PRIME BLUE GUM COUNTRY – IDEAL TURNOUT BLOCK IN TWO TITLES

Situated in the rolling hills of South Gippsland this parcel offers 158 acres in 2 titles of lush pastures, renowned for its heavy cattle carrying capacity and high rainfall. With views of the township of Korumburra and the spectacular rural landscape, this grazing farm is just 15 minutes' drive to the coastal town of Inverloch, the regional hub of Wonthaggi and the Victorian Livestock Exchange. This exceptional property includes 15 main paddocks with 5 dams and troughs in every paddock (fish in the main dam) a 42.4m x 11m 7-bay shed with power, water and security lights, disused dairy and yards with very good cattle crush and loading race. Convenient turning circle for a semi-trailer. All weather laneways and easy access to the South Gippsland highway. Multiple house sites offer a range of stunning views and northerly aspects whilst several gullies planted out with natives provide a haven for wildlife and sheltered paddocks.

The property offers a unique country/coastal lifestyle opportunity. Land: 138 acres plus 20 acres \$13,000 per acre.

CONTACT INVERLOCH:
Marni Redmond 0403 525 413

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Classic Kernot lifestyle and quality grazing

ELDERS Real Estate is pleased to present this quality 146-acre grazing property including three-bedroom home. This property has all the lifestyle attributes required in the highly sought after Kernot/Loch district. The close proximity to Melbourne creates an opportunity for the new owner to have the freedom and ease of access to country and city life. The Kernot valley is renowned for its highly productive carrying country and is the icing on the cake for this rare opportunity.

Key features include well-balanced undulating land, a comfortable three-bedroom home with magnificent views, and secure water from dams, springs, and a creek, supported by 40+ inches of annual rainfall.

The property boasts quality fencing, 14 paddocks, laneways, two-stand shearing shed, hay, machinery, and sundry sheds, excellent cattle and sheep yards, silo, and auto-feed system.

Superb pastures with fertiliser history, ample hay paddocks, and sheltered treed creek and gullies enhance both functionality and aesthetic appeal.

Easy access to Melbourne 113 kilometres, Loch 14 kilometres, Grantville 13 kilometres, Korumburra 27 kilometres, Wonthaggi 29 kilometres, and Phillip Island 52 kilometres adds value to this desirable property.

Selling in conjunction with Elders Delaney Real Estate Bunyip. Contact Ben Townsend 0400 594 487 Elders Leongatha/Korumburra or Ray Cullen – Elders Delaney Bunyip on 0429 977 313 for more information or to arrange an inspection of this property.

3 1 2 59.08ha

55 Michie Road, **Kernot**
For Sale \$1.95 Million
Agent Elders
Ben Townsend 0400 594 487



Over 40 years' experience

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new listing

Leongatha486m²
First Home Opportunity

- 4-bed, 1-bath home
- Separate lounge with R/C S/S
- Close to shops

Web ID: 300P164770\$405,000

new listing

Jumbunna4717m²
Craftsman Built Home

- 4-bed, 3-bath home
- Kitchen has ample cupboard storage
- 6.6kw solar system

Web ID: 300P167643\$1.295 - \$1.395m

new price

Nerrena10 Acres
Prime 10 Acres

- Gently undulating acreage
- Superb rural views
- Stockyards for livestock handling

Web ID: 300P6327\$410,000

Buffalo683 Acres
Ivy Park

- 14 Paddocks + Treed Shelters
- Crush, stockyard, loading ramp & LU shed
- Fattens 400-500 steers annually

Web ID: 300P166300EOI

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Licensed Estate Agent
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SHARON TURTON
Sales Consultant
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HELEN ARESTIA
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NATALIE RES
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Elders Korumburra
11 Commercial Street
Ph 5658 1894

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37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523

40 | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

EXPERIENCE the best of coast and country living! This charming home is set on 27 ha / 68 acres* of productive grazing centrally located, with an easy 15-minute drive to the beaches of Inverloch and the shopping precinct of Leongatha.

Be welcomed into this exceptionally built home, with its featured nine-foot ceilings and hardwood spotted gum timber floors, that guide you through to the spacious open-plan living that seamlessly combines the kitchen, dining and living space.

This home boasts:

- A gourmet country kitchen complete with spacious walk-in pantry, pyrolytic oven, induction cooktop, dishwasher, central island benchtop with power and plenty of storage for culinary enthusiasts.
- Second separate family living room, a study, in addition to a fully enclosed alfresco area, perfect for when you come inside from the paddock or shed.
- Three bedrooms, with the master suite complete with ensuite and walk-in robe, with built-in robes in the second and third bedrooms.
- A family bathroom featuring a bath, vanity, shower and separate toilet, catering to both comfort and convenience.
- An excellent-sized laundry, in addition to the exceptional amount of storage throughout this home. Attached garage and double carport.
- Quality well-considered build, with double glazed windows, fully insulated throughout, a

reverse cycle air conditioner, wood heater, solar hot water, with electric backup, and 3KW Solar with 6KW battery, providing back-up and nighttime usage, keeping your power bills right down.

Externally:

- The 68 acres approximately is flat to gently undulating providing good drainage to the two dams, with one dam being spring fed, providing water security.
- Three paddocks, small holding paddock to stockyards, traditionally running young cattle or bullocks, so plenty of scope for horses, agistment or lease out to supplement income.
- Magnificent six-bay shed 21.6m x 9m with four closed-in and two open bays. 3.6mt high and two roller doors, this fully concreted and powered shed will delight any shed enthusiast.
- Underground concrete tank for house water, fully enclosed vegetable garden, chook house, orchard plantings and woodshed

The property has been set up as low maintenance, providing for easy living and an opportunity for you to add your touch. With an exceptionally built, comforting country home, 15 minutes to local towns and under two hours to Melbourne, this property is most worthy of your consideration.

For further information and to arrange a personal inspection, please call Irene Walker at SEJ Real Estate on 0429 045 632.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist

**Denotes approximately*



3

2

3

27ha*

32 Wintles Road, **Leongatha South**

For Sale \$1,650,000

Agent SEJ Real Estate

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MOUNT BEST

- Contemporary home – 1ha approx
- North facing lounge, covered deck
- 3 fitted bdrms, master with ensuite
- Solar power and hws
- LU garage / workshop

\$850,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

LEONGATHA

- Situated in a quiet location with nearby park
- Low maintenance 4 bed, 2 bath, 2 living B/V home
- Central kitchen with open plan, dining and living
- Generous walk in pantry, and central island bench
- Natural gas ducted heating, RC/AC for cooling
- Enclosed yard, double garage, ready to move on in!

\$565,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

MEENIYAN

- 24ha/60 acres (approx.) Grazing
- Ideal beef or dairy turnout block
- Flat to undulating, exceptional soil
- Warm sheltered, Est trees & views
- Stockyards, 3 paddocks and lane

\$745,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

ALBERTON WEST

- Luxury home, approx. 9.7 acres
- Multiple living areas
- Paved courtyard
- Double auto garage, 4 bay, annexe
- Fully fenced, bore + tank water

\$1,406,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

FOSTER

- Vacant block approx. 4.6 acres rural living
- Undulating, mix pasture and bush
- Views from countryside to Prom
- Fenced, power to boundary

\$685,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

FOSTER

- Approx. 3.4 acres rural living
- Farmland views to Corner Inlet
- Undulating to dam and wetlands
- Fenced, power to boundary, access track

\$665,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

TOORA

- Neatly presented with much done
- Stroll to amenities & school
- 3 bedrooms, modern bathroom.
- LU storage shed, space for garage STCA

\$430,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2024 | 41



NESTLED in a preferred location near the schooling precinct and just a short, flat stroll to town, this character-filled four-bedroom, two-bathroom cottage is ready to welcome you home. Freshly painted externally, this home effortlessly blends charm and modern conveniences with its inviting entry and seamless flow to a spacious rear deck overlooking a lush, plant-filled yard.

Step inside to discover inviting timber floorboards and multiple living areas, offering space and flexibility for the entire family. The modern kitchen is a dream, featuring an integrated fridge and dishwasher drawer, an induction cooktop, and a pyrolytic oven. Comfort is guaranteed year-round with ducted gas heating, a split system, and the ambiance of an open fireplace.

The rear section of the home provides a private retreat, perfect for teenagers, elderly parents, or visiting guests. Outside, the established garden is a haven for avid gardeners, boasting mature plants and trees that create a serene haven. The driveway runs down the side of the house, leading to a versatile shed for storage or parking.

Located on a block size of 615sqm, this home is ideal for families, growing households, or those looking to downsize from out of town while retaining character and charm. Don't miss this unique opportunity to enjoy the best of cottage living in a prime location.

Please contact the friendly Alex Scott and Staff sales team today for more information: Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299, Andrew Newton 0402 940 320, Dan Huther 0418 334 801 and Tony Giles 0407 528 192.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in preparing the above information, it is to be used as a guide only. Please refer to the appropriate legal documentation to complete your due diligence.



4 2 - 615m²

4 Macdonald Street, **Leongatha**
For Sale \$590,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299
Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
Dan Huther 0418 334 801
Tony Giles 0407 528 192



Stunning lifestyle retreat with unparalleled views

DISCOVER the beauty of 1959 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, a remarkable rural lifestyle property set on 1.88ha of stunning landscape. This modern five-year-old home, built by local quality tradesmen, offers breathtaking panoramic vistas that will leave you in awe. As you pull into the driveway, you'll be greeted by the serene environment that accompanies this exquisite residence.

Step inside to find a light-filled living zone featuring elegant Tassie Oak flooring, complemented by pellet heating with heat transfer and split system heating and cooling for year-round comfort. The entire home boasts double glazing, ensuring a peaceful retreat from the outside world. The modern kitchen is a chef's dream, with stone benchtops, a Belling cooker, and a new integrated Miele dishwasher, along with plenty of storage for all your culinary needs. There is a second living with another split system ideal for quiet time reading a book and taking in your surroundings.

The outdoor space is just as impressive, with stacker doors leading to a northern outdoor area perfect for entertaining or relaxing. The undercover area is ideal for watching sunrises with your morning coffee or enjoying a glass of wine as storms roll by.

With a large main bedroom with equally good views features a walk-in robe and ensuite, plus two additional bedrooms with built-in robes and desks, this property is the perfect family haven.

















Additional features include landscaped gardens, a double garage, workshop, carport, orchard, veggie gardens, and ample water supply. Located just 15 minutes from Wonthaggi and Loch Village, and only 90 minutes from Melbourne, this property truly offers the best of rural living.



3 2 4 1.88 ha

1959 Loch-Wonthaggi Rd, **Ryanston**
For Sale \$1.5 - \$1.6 million
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783
Cal Nation 0439 334 163



<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>10 Routhead Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoned mixed use providing multiple options• Unique updated brick cottage, 3 bed 1 bath• Very close walk to centre of town<div>\$435,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>POOWONG</div> <div></div> <div>13 Nyora Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 bedroom, central location• Breathtaking views• 988m² block<div>\$665,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>GRANTVILLE</div> <div></div> <div>5 Hopkins Drive</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home to Renovate• 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, carport• French doors open to spacious verandah<div>Price Reduced \$489,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>250 White Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 bedrooms• Rural outlook• Good shedding<div>Sold \$465,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>KARDELLA SOUTH</div> <div></div> <div>45 James Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Architectural excellence, sustainable luxury• 14.97 acres with panoramic views• Too many extras to list, must inspect<div>\$1,650,000-\$1,750,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>12 Queen Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prime position, vacant possession• Flat 876m² block• 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom<div>\$525,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>CORINELLA</div> <div></div> <div>31 Smythe Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stunning 4 bedroom modern family home• Outdoor entertaining area, double garage• Walk to shop, park, bus etc<div>Price Reduced \$699,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>13 Nelson Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom• 3 living zones• New solar power system<div>Sold \$500,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>5 Evergreen Vista</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Titled 2056sqm block in Springs Estate• Coveted north-south aligned block• Offering essential services, incl natural gas<div>\$420,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>BENA</div> <div></div> <div>605 Bena-Kongwak Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approx 4.3 acres• Outstanding views• 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom<div>\$920,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>LOCH</div> <div></div> <div>2 Clark Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4+ acres (approx.)• 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, brick home• Large garage/workshop<div>Price Reduced \$850,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>52 Turner Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom• Established gardens• 2 living zones<div>Sold \$590,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>12 Sloan Avenue</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Entry level property with 3 bed, 1 bath• Good size yard with shed• Walk to rail trail, hospital, park and reserve<div>\$385,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>23 Bridge Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Period home• Prime location• 3 bedroom, 3 living<div>\$695,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>GRANTVILLE</div> <div></div> <div>58 Brazier Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Solid neat low maintenance property• 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom brick home• Walking distance to town centre<div>New Price \$597,000 - \$609,000</div><div>Contact: Grantville Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>76 Broome Crescent</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 bedrooms• ¼ acre block• Rear lane access<div>Sold \$420,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>

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DEATHS

BRUHN (nee Kimber), Maureen Joan:

06.01.1937 - 23.11.2024.

Passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family aged 87 years.

Loving wife of Ken.

Loving mum, grandmother, and great grandmother.

Forever in our hearts.

DEATHS

VOILLERMIN, Anthony (Jim):

08.02.1931 - 23.11.2024.

Passed away peacefully at Opal Coast Care Inverloch aged 93.

Brother to Miriam (dec.), Pat, Bob, Mary, Leone, Eileen (dec.), John and Adrienne (dec.).

Our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Stan and the staff for your love, care and support.

Well done good and faithful servant.

DEATHS

ROBERTS, David George:

26.07.1935 - 26.11.2024.

Passed away peacefully at South Gippsland Hospital.

Adored, wonderful and so much-loved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Husband of Coral.

Father of Alison and Mark, Cathy and Carl, Keryn and Glen, Paul and Angie.

Pa of Clare and Sebastian, John and Katja, Timothy, Dominic and Bianca, Jack and Tiffany, Alice and Matilda.

Great Grandpa of Nola.

Such a blessing and a privilege to have him part of our lives.

DEATHS

RISSTROM (nee Calder), Loris:

The funeral service for Loris will be held at Drysdale Uniting Church on Friday December 6, 2024, commencing at 11am.

FUNERALS

ROBERTS:

A Celebration of the Life of Mr. David George Roberts will be held at Christ Church, 36 Station Road Foster at 11am on Wednesday December 11, 2024, followed by burial in the Toora Cemetery.

FUNERALS

VOILLERMIN:

A Funeral Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mr. Anthony Vuillermin will be offered at the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 18 Foster Road Fish Creek, TOMORROW WEDNESDAY December 4, 2024, at 1pm.

FUNERALS

CHURCHILL, Joseph Alfred:

In Loving Memory of a wonderful husband and father, passed away December 5, 1964.

It's been 60 years since we said goodbye, but to us it feels like yesterday, and with the passing of each one of those years, our memories never fade.

Much loved husband of Emily (dec.), and loving father of Wayne and Jennifer.

FUNERALS

RICHARDS (Clarke), Lesley:

30.11.2016.

As a young girl Lesley had visited South Gippsland. She loved the site of the rolling hills and nearby Inverloch beaches.

-- Husband George and sons Philip and Nicholas.

FUNERALS

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IN MEMORIAM

ZURMA, Maria:

Passed away 04.12.2019.

We think of you in silence, and often speak your name, but all we have are memories, and a photo in a frame. To your resting place we wander, and place flowers with loving care, but no-one knows the heartache, as we turn and leave you there.

Your loving son Tony, Tricia, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rest In Peace.

IN MEMORIAM

HOWARD:

The Howard family wish to thank those that knew Kevin for their thoughts and prayers, and the beautiful flowers, and cards we received.

A special thanks to all the staff at Koorooman House, who loved and cared for him in the months prior to his passing.

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DALYSTON:

56 Daly Street, Saturday December 7, 8am - 1pm.

Fridge tools, baby items, household items, bric-a-brac, double bed, furniture, books, DVD's and heaps heaps more.

FOR SALE

WONTHAGGI:

62 Murray St, Saturday December 7, 2024.

9am - 2pm.

Weather permitting.

FOR SALE

WONTHAGGI & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY RAILWAY STATION MUSEUM:

Apex Park, Murray Street, Wonthaggi.

Saturday December 7, 2024,

8am - 1pm.

Local History publications, framed historical photos - these make great Christmas gifts plus secondhand books.

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24 Campbell St, Saturday December 7, 8.30am - 2pm.

Assorted goods.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FIREWORKS NOTICE

Notice to all animal owners in and around Leongatha area.

A Fireworks display will be held on the Friday, Dec. 13, 2024

Approx. 9:15-9:30pm

Please ensure your animals are secure at this time. Thank you.

Further info contact 0430 021 100

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HM12217



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Applications must include a resume and cover letter.

Email hr@stoitse.com.au to apply or for further information.

HM12222

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Sentinel-Times

Rain can't dampen Woorayl Lodge Fete

By Andrew Palocz

INCLEMENT weather on Saturday forced a reshuffle at Woorayl Lodge. The decision was taken at 7am to move its Fete indoors, and that call came up trumps despite the stress of extensive reorganisation in limited time.

"I'm pleasantly surprised," Woorayl Lodge Auxiliary president Kaye Warren said of the terrific turnout, sales and the fun everyone had.

She admitted panicking when the joint decision was made to shift the event inside, not knowing how it would go but expects earnings to compare well with those of recent years.

"We sold out of all our perishable goods, all the cooking, jams and relish."

Leongatha Lions Club's barbecue was such a hit, the snags were all snapped up.

While the rain prompted the Lions not to cook hot chips, the club gave its generous planned donation anyway, with Kaye expressing her gratitude.

Leongatha's Aldi, Woolworths, IGA and Saputo contributed prizes as did Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath and pre-selected Monash candidate Mary Aldred, Kaye delighted with the community support the fete receives every year.

Feedback was excellent.

"The residents had an absolute ball," Kaye said, adding that one of them, Faye Lyons, provided a highlight when invited onto the dance floor to partner with a member of Gatha Rock, thrilling the group's audience and Faye.



Woorayl Lodge Co-CEO Andrew Ross, PCA Tina Allen who won the hamper donated by Monash candidate Mary Aldred who stands beside her, with Co-CEO Jaimee Brydon. A23_4924

The dance display, usually held outside on a temporary floor, was shifted to the dining room to avoid having to perform on carpet.

Saturday morning's reshuffle included bringing the stalls into the Nelson Lounge, which had been set up for Devonshire Tea.

That was instead served in the Fairbank Lounge, requiring a quick transfer of furniture and moving some residents.

"There was a lot of organisation that went on between 7 and 8 o'clock; it was all hands on deck and the staff who came in were unbelievable," Kaye said of what proved a terrific team effort.

All money raised will go to initiatives that benefit Woorayl Lodge residents.



Chloe Wylie creates a relaxed mood with her music at Woorayl Lodge. A24_4924



Fiona Bilbrough in her garden with a piece made from an old hot water service. A34_4924



Kris Paule and Allie Coad with Violet enjoy the Jumbunna Cottage Garden. A28_4924

Friends of Coal Creek share magical gardens experience

FRIENDS of Coal Creek's Open Garden Weekend provided great value as people took in the splendour of four diverse gardens, three in Jumbunna and one in Korumburra.

Hardy souls ventured out on Saturday despite persistent rain, with Sunday turning on glorious weather to admire the gardens and shop at the Jumbunna Country Market.

The three Jumbunna gardens opened on both days, with painter and gardener Fiona Bilbrough of Korumburra inviting people to explore her studio and garden on Sunday.

Fiona's partner Jim, a plumber, creates eye-catching outdoor art. Fiona highlighting a piece made from an old hot water service, the pair combining to design such works.

A weeping cherry tree is dear to Fiona's heart, having appeared to be a dead stick when the property was purchased seven years ago, many

people asking when it would be removed or turned into a sculpture.

"Gardeners have this enduring quality of persistence," she said of her ultimate triumph with a tree so many people would have given up on.

'Mon Beau Jardin' (My Beautiful Garden) is set on the 12-acre Jumbunna property of former professional jockey Kerry Trewin, who once rode a 100-to-1 winner at Stony Creek.

A serious fall in 1998 ended her 14-year racing career and she eventually chose to sell her Cranbourne property and move to Jumbunna where she has lived for about 20 years, her garden taking shape on what were largely open paddocks.

She's propagated many of her plants from cuttings and trained herself in a variety of skills including topiary, bonsai and espalier.

Just down the road, 'Swift

Heath' the property of Chrissy and Paul Walker already featured an established garden when they moved there, but the retired couple have continued to display their own creativity.

The garden features Japanese, ornamental, and Australian sections, pathways, stairways, cabins and plenty of wildlife.

Part of the property was once an access route to a nearby coal mine.

Chrissy describes 'Swift Heath' as a "labour of love" and "pretty much a full-time job".

Previous owners Reg and Cheryl called the garden 'Evermore', having transformed muddy paddocks on a gently sloping hillside, with Paul and Chrissy calling the property home for the past four and a half years.

They were inspired to rename the garden 'Swift Heath' due to Chrissy's ancestral ties

to the renowned Irish writer Jonathan Swift, famous for penning 'Gulliver's Travels'.

'Jumbunna Cottage Garden' has been greatly expanded by owner David Slack over more than 30 years.

In the lead-up to the open gardens event, he said he wanted people to see and appreciate what had been part of his life's work, and even the difficult-to-please would surely have appreciated the beauty of what he had created.

Further details of David's garden were provided in the preview of the event in the November 19 issue of the Sentinel-Times.

At the Jumbunna Country Market, a variety of craft items, some Christmas themed, and plants were on sale, as were scrumptious cakes, Devonshire Teas and other treats and barista-made coffee.

The open gardens event raised around \$1600 towards Coal Creek projects.

Plan ahead this fire season

By CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan

AS WE come into summer and what we know will be a challenging fire season, I am urging all Victorians to have a fire plan and know where to get emergency information from.

Two significant fires have already taken place in the Wimmera and Otways this spring and the summer seasonal outlook shows there is an increased fire risk for more of the west, southwest, northwest, Greater Melbourne, and the southwestern parts of Gippsland including the Mornington Peninsula. Grasslands in the areas with a heightened risk have superficial green on top that conceals underlying dryness, meaning grassland curing is likely to start earlier than normal.

In the other parts of Victoria, the fire risk is expected to be normal, and we will continue to monitor these areas to identify any significant changes to fire risk.

CFA is ready to protect our communities, as we do every year, and has been working with our Victorian emergency service partners to prepare for the fire season.

Fire safety is a shared responsibility between fire services and the community.

We're asking all Victorians in high-risk areas to take simple actions to prepare their family and property as the weather begins to warm.

On hot, dry, windy days, fire can start and spread quickly.

If the Fire Danger Rating is extreme or catastrophic, leaving early before a fire has started is the safest option.

Never wait for an official warning before you leave, as you may not get one.

• FAITH FACTOR

Do we respect others?

By Pastor Jeff Robertson,
Connections Church Inverloch +
Foster, Australian Christian Churches

IT SEEMS like there's been a lot of divisive issues coming up in society recently, where people have strong opinions and have trouble seeing how people could seriously be on "the other side". I guess it's nothing new, but seeing recent US election reports and reactions is a case in point.

We readily write off those who don't see things as we do, or who express something that allows us to categorise them, put them in a box, and disregard them.

It reminds me of the saying "respect is earned". While I understand the sentiment, sometimes this outlook can be used to disregard someone until they earn our respect. I actually try to work the other way around – that "disrespect is earned". I think it's good to treat everyone with respect, certainly including people who I've just met and know nothing about.

There may be people who earn my disrespect through their behaviour, but until then they get the benefit of the doubt. In fact, even when someone earns my disrespect, I still try to treat them with respect. Because my aim isn't to be like them, but to be a person of honourable character.

Jesus said, "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:37). He also gave us the golden rule, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you." (Matthew 7:12).

In everything. Even the hard things. Even the difficult people. Even the people who are wrong! Wouldn't the world be a better place if we could disagree, yet still be respectful? If we gave people the benefit of the doubt that we want them to show us? If we applied Jesus' timeless teaching to how we live today? Divisive issues will never go away – but we get to choose how we conduct ourselves and how we treat people, even when we disagree.



Speed career conversations were held with students with mentors from the Gippsland Southern Health Service, South Gippsland Shire Council, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, South Gippsland Water, Interchange Gippsland, TAFE Gippsland and McPherson Media Group.

Career conversations broaden horizons of Mirboo North students

THE SOUTH Gippsland Bass Coast Local Learning and Employment Network (SGBCLLEN) hosted their final Career Conversations event for 2024 in Mirboo North last week.

Mentors meet with the Year 10 and 11 students from the Mirboo North Secondary College giving them the opportunity to explore different industries and career pathways.

The mentors represented a variety of local businesses and organisations and chatted with the groups of young people about what their jobs are, what they do on a daily basis, the good and not-so-good parts and how they got to where they are.

There were lots of lively conversations, valuable insights, and exciting career possibilities shared and discussed with the students.

These conversations help to expose youth to local opportunities and jobs they may not have known existed or considered and this broadens their horizons while encouraging them to aim high.

Held at the Mirboo North Shire Hall, well-known locals Andy McCarthy and David Tree participated in both sessions, alongside Gippsland Southern Health Service, South Gippsland Shire Council,

Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, South Gippsland Water, Interchange Gippsland, TAFE Gippsland and McPherson Media Group.

The SGBCLLEN would like to extend their thanks to the local community for their continued support.

For anyone who would like to be involved in 2025, feel free to reach out to Nicole Milner at nicole@sgbcllen.org.au.

Stony Creek racing season launch

STONY Creek Racing Club celebrated its season launch on the weekend, with members and locals turning out for a special evening. Master of Ceremonies Sam Doran from Racing.com joined by AFL Legend Robert 'Dipper' DiPierdomenico.

Doran previewed the season, horse racing enthusiast Dipper entertained attendees with his stories and club CEO Jason Benbow unveiled the 2025 Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup.

"There is much excitement around the club as completion of a number of capital projects nears," Benbow said ahead of the first race meeting of the season, the Brandt Family Fun Day on Sunday, December 30.

"We have been working on an upgrade to the female jockey's room, public bar, the TAB area, a new customer service hub, race day office, and a new alfresco deck and shade sail, all of which will enhance the experience for our industry participants, members and visitors," Benbow elaborated.

While membership numbers are strong for this time of the year, he encourages locals to consider buying a membership, with packages that allow access to all five race meetings starting from just \$50, and information available on the club website.

In addition to these capital works, in September, the club celebrated its new automated irrigation system that

enables consistent watering of the whole track while reducing the risk of leaks, overwatering and pooling.

The irrigation system was identified as crucial for a club that predominantly races in the summer months, the works helping ensure a fair and consistent racing surface.

The Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup event during the Labour Day Weekend will round out the Stony Creek racing season on Saturday, March 9.

General admission for this season's Stony Creek race days is \$20 for adults and \$15 concession, with kids free.

For more information, please visit stonycreek.com.au.



Former Hawthorn footy champ and seasoned entertainer Robert DiPierdomenico holds the 2025 Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup alongside Stony Creek Racing Club CEO Jason Benbow.

A great night out for the whole family at Foster twilight market



LOCAL hand-makers stalls, food vans, community cafe, fun activities and live music all added up to a great night at the inaugural Manna Gum Twilight Market on the grounds of Manna Gum Community House.

The Twilight Market and licensed pop-up bar are part of a series of events coinciding with the South Gippsland Shire ArtCube exhibition.

The market attracted fifteen stallholders who were kept busy all evening.

Despite the hot weather traditional banh mi beef rolls and dahl served from the Bendigo Bank Market Kitchen proved to be a

highlight along with hot drinks and cake from the Manna Gum Community House Café.

Everyone was kept well entertained by live music from the SmileyDoherty band and Rosie Henshaw performing on sitar.

A chance to do some early Christmas shopping and catch up with good friends over light refreshments and a bite to eat.

It doesn't get any better than this.

LEFT: Rosie Henshaw on sitar at the Manna Gum Community House Twilight Market.



BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

THIRTEEN thousand hours. That sounds like a really long time, doesn't it? But that's the number of student contact hours BCAL was contracted to deliver for Learn Local in 2024 – one of the largest allocations in the south eastern region.

This week, multiplying learners by course hours, BCAL hit the target. And that's just for Learn Local courses. It doesn't include the 20,000 hours of Accredited Certificate course delivery, of which three quarters was for Skills First and the remainder being the Australian Migrant English Program.

On top of that, there's all the short courses in First Aid and Hospitality, plus thousands of hours of Capacity Building sessions for NDIS clients. In total, over 600 people accessed BCAL's services this year.

Not bad for a small community organisation staffed entirely by part-timers!

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

Garden volunteers had to act quickly, last week, to remove a potential environmental 'thug' from spreading.

A tall clump of perennial queen anne's lace (aka as wild carrot, and resembling cow parsley, elderberry and toxic hemlock), was suddenly in bloom and threatening to drop thousands of tiny seeds.

It had to go. Helpers got busy cutting off flower heads, bagging them, cutting back stalks and starting to pull up roots.

Recent rain made that part of the job a lot easier. All agreed it was a good lesson in what not to invite into the garden.

The good work was rewarded when volunteers shared around the last of the garlic harvest, some delicious beetroots, onions, spinach and carrots.

If you would like to help at the garden please contact tgordon@westnet.com.au, via BCAL on 5672 3115, or by calling in on a Thursday between 10am and noon to meet the small, friendly crew.

■ WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

The Woodies' annual Christmas pop-up shop is now open at the workshop. Nearly 600 items are available for sale.

If you think about it over the year, that adds up to 30

pieces per week or over four per day. Another way to look at it is, the figure represents seven pieces for each member.

Of course, that doesn't include all the items made for special displays like Easter, Father's Day and the Melbourne Cup weekend, as well as toys made for events at The Vietnam Veterans Museum and Bunnings.

All proceeds go to maintaining the club, its tools, and stock. Plus, it keeps membership fees low for new members.

For more information, visit wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or visit the store.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 www.bcal.vic.edu.au

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

THINKING about a certain festive season? Wondering what to get or make for that certain person? Perhaps you have a creative idea or two. Why not choose Monday and Friday mornings to make them a reality. Picture yourself putting a quilt together with the help and cheery company of the quilting group on Mondays, 9.30am to 12.30pm.

Then, to keep on track, or if you have other craft gift ideas, get along to the Craft n Cuppa Group on Fridays 10am to 12noon and perhaps garner some ideas and skills from these friendly craft loving people.

Is the creative soul inside you wanting to get out and spread the joy of what you give to your art? The Art Group may be more your style. Perhaps expressing it in gifts for others would be an excellent thing to do. They meet on Wednesdays 1.45 to 3.30pm. It doesn't matter where you are in the arts scape, be it experienced or not, all are welcome. So, bring your paints and pencils, a canvas, rocks or whatever you would like to work on.

Are you 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 next week Thursday, December 12.

Wanting to keep your food costs down as much as you can especially at this time of year? Then have you considered the Wonthaggi Food Collective? Yes? Good move. For those not in the know,

the WFC happens every second Saturday of the month at Mitchell House, 11am to 1pm. This local group buys food in bulk and then distributes it at a low mark up to its members. Sort out what you want to purchase and ring Michael Nugent on 0416 039 933 or email him at wonthaggiCoop@gmail.com for the stock list and other information. It's next Saturday, December 14.



6 Murray St, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3731 www.wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com

YES YOUTH HUB

WITH Christmas just around the corner, the YES Youth Hub and FReeZA legends have been working hard to finalise our School Holiday Program for Summer 2025! With so many opportunities on offer, including movie days, skate pop-ups, and arts events, be sure to watch our socials for more info!

It's been a hectic time of year for the YES Youth Hub – as we know it has for everyone, and the team continue to support young people diligently as we move towards the end of the year. With exam season upon us, the Hub has become a nice 'chill' spot for

several Year 12 students, who enjoy the opportunity to grab a Zooper Dooper, relax, and unwind during this stressful time before hitting the books for their next exam!

This week saw Monday Meals serve up plates to 13 hungry young people, with the Bangers and Mash Pie very gratefully received! We also saw lots of creativity this week with the making of bracelets and necklaces, as well as perler bead art seeing some amazing 16-bit style creations! The Hub was a hive of activity this week, with over 40 enthusiastic young people spending time in the space,

and we loved having them here!

Tracey is unfortunately finishing her time with the YES Youth Hub this week as Programs Coordinator. But never fear – she will still be around for events and programs in the future. A note from Tracey: "I'd like to say a huge thank you to the beautiful humans of the Bass Coast community. It has been an absolute honour to work with all of you during my time with the YES Youth Hub, and I am immensely proud of the work I have done in contributing to the YES Youth Hub becoming a safe, welcoming and

inclusive space for the youth of Bass Coast. My heartfelt thanks go out to the youth of Bass Coast, who overwhelming have been open and accepting of the beautiful work that we have conducted in this community over the last three years. Working with these young people has been the highlight of my career, and I hope they have learnt as much from me, as I have from them. Big love to you all. Mic Drop."



76 Watt Street, Wonthaggi PH: 0477 224 430 @YESYouthHub

LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

JOIN us for a festive evening exploring the best Christmas lights in Leongatha and surrounding towns! We will start with a stop to grab ourselves a hot chocolate. The first trip was a sellout, so we have added a second trip on Monday, December 16 at 8pm. Just \$10 per person.

Our Christmas Lunch has been rescheduled to 12.30pm Friday, December 13 so please feel welcome to come along and meet our friendly staff and volunteers and all of our regulars as we celebrate Christmas together with our Leongatha Community House family. All are most welcome. Please call to book for catering purposes.

The Friendship Group is meeting for the final time this year on Saturday, December 7 at 10.30am so join us for fun, laughter and support. All are welcome as we build connections and create lasting friendships in our community.

Coming up in 2025 we have our regular groups and classes with some new activities being added. Our brochure will be available early in January however bookings will be available online before then. Some of the new classes and workshops being offered include: Tech Time, Computer workshops on a monthly basis, fun with photos, watercolour painting, colour theory in art, introduction to jelly printing, junk journal keepsakes. You are always welcome at Leongatha Community House. Please call in and talk to our friendly staff.



16 Bruce Street, Leongatha

PH: (03) 5662 3962

www.leongathacommunityhouse.org.au

MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

MILPARA Community House is a glow with orange hands and flowers as part of the Orange the World campaign's 16 days of Activism Against Violence. The 16 Days seeks to turn attention to the immense impact that family violence has on the lives of so many. As a bright and optimistic colour, orange represents a future free from Violence.

The 16 days also aligns with the "Respect Is" and "Call It Out" campaigns which aims to support the Victorian community in understanding what respect means, what it looks like, and how to put it into practice in their everyday lives. Respect is knowing that you can help prevent violence against women.

Everyone deserves to be safe, equal and respected. But right now in Australia, that isn't the reality. More than one in three women have experienced men's violence. Not all disrespect leads to violence against women – but all violence against women begins with disrespect. All of us have the power to change that by respecting women wherever we live, learn, work and play. To learn more about 16 Days of Activism visit respectvictoria.vic.gov.au or call into the Upper Level of the Korumburra Community Hub to view our display and see what services and advice we have to offer.

Also on display on the Upper Level is the work of Korumburra Secondary College's Like Minds Class. The Students have utilised their research skills to answer the question: "How can we improve the Health and Wellbeing of Korumburra's Citizens?". You can scan the QR code and vote for the best option of the students' proposals. While you're there, why not fill in one of our Suggestions for Milpara cards with an idea or activity that you would like to take part in?



15 Little Commercial St, Korumburra

PH: (03) 5655 2524

www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au

Surfing Victoria State Titles calendar revealed

SURFING Victoria is excited to announce the 2025 Victorian State Titles event calendar across Shortboard, Longboard and SUP disciplines, as well as confirm the Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles dates for 2025.

“These events are at the core of what we do at Surfing Victoria, and they provide opportunities for surfers from across the state to compete and be part of the surfing community,” Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson said.

“We look forward to crowning state champions across all divisions and seeing some great surfing in hope-fully great waves.”

The 2025 Victorian Junior Surfing Titles events are now open for entry via surfingvic.com/events with other events to open for entry in the coming months.

Surfing Victoria State Title calendar:
Woolworths Victorian Junior Surfing Titles round one – Bells Beach: January

Leongatha Small Bore Rifle Club results

2024: 20m Bench Pennant - Section D:

Round nine: Leongatha A 595.013 defeated Camberwell A 591.018.

200.004: Christopher Sargent.
199.004: Kenneth Hart.
196.005: Jack Sargent.
193.007: Bradley Hall.

Round 10: Leongatha A 598.021 (bye).

200.009: Christopher Sargent.
199.007: Kenneth Hart.
199.005: Jack Sargent.
197.005: Bradley Hall.

Ladder: Horsham B 32, Leongatha A 32, Brunswick 20, Camberwell A 20, Mildura A 16
2024: 20m Bench Pennant - Section G.

Round nine: Leongatha B 587.009 defeated Sale C 585.015.

196.005: Robert Spratt.
196.002: Peter Gallus.
195.002: Michael Ryan.

194.003: Lucy Bradbury-Ryan.

Round 10: Mildura B 587.014 defeated Leongatha B 584.011.
196.003: Peter Gal-

lus. 195.005: Robert Spratt.

193.003: Michael Ryan.
186.002: Lucy Bradbury-Ryan.

Ladder: Frankston C 40, Leongatha B 28, Oakleigh C 20, Mildura B 16, Sale C 16

2024: 20m Bench Pennant - Section I.

Round nine: Benalla B 589.011 defeated Leongatha C 572.007.

192.003: William Ross.
190.002: Allan Ross.
190.002: Mathew Eldridge.
179.001: Cameron Davidson.

Round 10: Camberwell B 586.013 defeated Leongatha C 573.005.

192.001: William Ross.
191.004: Cameron Davidson.
190.000: Allan Ross.
189.000: Mathew Eldridge.

Ladder: Benalla B 36, Camberwell B 32, Kyneton 28, Leongatha C 16, Portland 8

The club shoots on Friday nights at 8pm at the rifle club on the Leongatha Recreation Reserve.

Any inquiries, please call R. Spratt 5664 2358.

Victorian SUP Surfing Titles – Pt. Impossible: May 24.
Victorian Masters Titles – Jan Juc: May 25.
Australian Indigenous Surfing Titles – Bells Beach/Dirrak: May 30 – June 1.



Jacky Dow, Penny and Hank Wolswinkel, and Jacque Kent were the Tenpin Bowling ABL League winners.

Business bowlers roll out incredible performance

RESULTS from the week ending December 1.

2sCompany – Monday evening finals: first place on 28 points King Pins; second place on 27.5 points Pinpushers; third place on 25.5 points Palms.

Highest scores for the season: Les Peters 221 pins and Jenny-Anne Sciore 220.

ABL (Almost Bowling Legends) Wednesday nights: first place on 205 points:

Dreamers; second place on 200 points Storm; third place on 194.5 points Pinpals.

Highest scores for the season: Rob Wilkinson 252 and Valma Peterson 191.

Thursday night the business leagues had a show-down for the ages.

Both the early and late leagues went head-to-head in a thrilling knockout round, with one team reigning supreme as the summer



Nathan Love, and Stephen and Matthew Clarke were the Business League winners at Tenpin Bowling on Phillip Island.

2024 champions.

In a nail-biting finale, the Woolly Rollers and S&R Clarke Auto faced off.

The Woolly Rollers bowled an impressive 515 pins, but S&R Clarke Auto stole the show with a jaw-dropping 603 pins.

A huge shoutout to S&R Clarke Auto for their incredible win.

Woolly Rollers: Kerri, John Lia, Troy Monk.

S&R Clarke Auto: Nathan Love, Stephen Clarke and Matthew Clarke.

Top score for this season goes to Anothony Hancock with a whopping 244 pins.

The league extends its gratitude to all participants who bowl each week.

The new season will start in the first week of February, and there are available spots for those interested in joining the Thursday night league.

Phillip Island Boardriders Club Longboard 2 Competition

ON SATURDAY, November 16, the Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) hosted their Longboard 2 competition for the 2024/25 season at the renowned Crazy Birds surf break. The event was expertly coordinated by Longboard Coordinator Nala Taylor, with the support of the PIBC Longboard subcommittee, ensuring a smooth and enjoyable day for all competitors.

The 2024/25 Longboard format allowed all competitors, regardless of age or gender, to surf two heats each. Athletes' best two waves from their respective heats were added to four waves total, with the winners announced at the end of the day.

Treasurer Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs stated, "It was a magic day spent with a great community, at a great location."

PIBC would like to thank photographers Peter Fogarty, Craig Anderson, Andrew

Lidsey (Bunny), and PIBC Treasurer Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs for their photography of the event.

As well as sponsors of the event's prizes Jacquie Chambers Art, Zev Landes and Pacific Longboard Magazine and major sponsor Rip Curl Phillip Island.

Results

Open Men: 1st Eli Curry, 2nd Andy McHenry and 3rd Ben Gerard Taylor.

Open Women: 1st Nala Taylor, 2nd Sonia Seuren and 3rd Ebony Maier.

Mixed Style Masters (45+): 1st Jacquie Chambers, 2nd Andrew Lidsey and 3rd Robert Matthews.

Mixed Juniors (U18): 1st Scarlett Rennie and 2nd Savannah Bennett.

Awards

Best Noseride: Lucy Camenzuli

Best Cutback: Ben Gerard Taylor

Most Improved: Zev Landes



Jacquie Chambers (Winner Mixed Style Masters 45+). Photo: Andrew Lidsey (Bunny).

Triple taekwondo gold for young Wonthaggi fighter

WONTHAGGI martial arts junior Marisa Rinaldi has come home with three gold medals from three separate disciplines at the Eastern Region Invitational Taekwondo Championships in Doncaster.

Convened by the Australian Korean Martial Arts Academy the championships attracted competitors from twelve clubs in Melbourne's eastern region and Gippsland.

Marisa Rinaldi from Heenan

Taekwondo was named best overall athlete at the event and won gold in the Red-Black Division, Sparring, and Team and Individual Forms.

Heenan Taekwondo took eleven sparring fighters to the competition including the young para-athlete boys, the two aged fourteen and finished runners-up in the medal count with fifteen gold, five silver and one bronze.



Heenan Taekwondo team and coaches at the Eastern Region Taekwondo Championships.

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
December 3

2.27am 1.63m
8.08am 0.78m
1.55pm 1.34m
8.02pm 0.27m

WEDNESDAY
December 4

3.04am 1.67m
8.45am 0.74m
2.38pm 1.37m
8.40pm 0.25m

THURSDAY
December 5

3.43am 1.69m
9.21am 0.70m
3.20pm 1.39m
9.15pm 0.25m

FRIDAY
December 6

4.21am 1.68m
9.58am 0.67m
4.01pm 1.39m
9.51pm 0.26m

SATURDAY
December 7

5.00am 1.65m
10.34am 0.64m
4.43pm 1.38m
10.30pm 0.30m

SUNDAY
December 8

5.37am 1.61m
11.13am 0.60m
5.28pm 1.37m
11.10pm 0.36m

MONDAY
December 9

6.15am 1.57m
11.54am 0.56m
6.17pm 1.36m
11.57pm 0.45m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au

Edithvale Eagles coming to Gippsland



Edithvale Aspendale Netball Club plays at elite level in the U19 State Super Series, and Gippsland netballers will be given the opportunity to join.

THE Edithvale Aspendale Netball Club is spreading its wings and offering an opportunity for local netballers to play at the elite level in the U19 State Super Series team.

The Edithvale Aspendale Netball Club (EANC) was a foundation club in the inaugural 2024 U19 State Super Netball Series (SSNS), which is played at the Waverley Netball Centre on a Friday night.

It was a force to be reckoned with, making finals against rival Victorian Netball League clubs and associations.

Next year, the EANC will have two teams competing in the U19 State Super Netball Series, one based in Aspendale and the other in Gippsland.

The Gippsland connection team will be coached by local netball legend Leonnie McClusky, whose love of netball has spanned many years.

She had a very long playing career and has outstanding coaching credentials.

Leonnies has coached at the Australian, state, regional and local levels.

She has been recognised by Netball Victoria, being awarded a State Distinction Award and she is a life member of the Gippsland Regional Netball.

Currently, Leonnie is actively involved in netball as senior coach of the Nyora Football Netball Club, head coach of Southern Fusion Netball Club, and president, state titles officer and U15 coach of the Gippsland Regional Netball Club. Leonnie also umpired and is currently a B Grade umpire tester and an Advanced Umpires Mentor.

Leonnies is netball personified and her ability to develop players for the elite path is unsurpassed.

She will work closely with the EANC U19 head coach Jamie Easter and they will make a formidable coaching team.

Jamie has played and coached at the elite level with State and Tasmanian Netball

League (TNL) premierships to her credit.

She holds an Intermediate Coaching Accreditation and was awarded the U19 Netball Coach of the Year in the TNL in 2022.

The EANC is a netball club with a proud history of success through player development across Football Netball Leagues since 2010 and currently also compete in the SFNL.

If you're interested in pursuing top-tier netball and to date you have missed out on being selected for an U19 SSNS team, the EANC are offering this opportunity for you to start your journey on the netball pathway as an Eagle.

Trials will be held at the Meeniyan Stadium on Sunday, December 15, at 10am.

For further details and to be sent the link to register to trial for the EANC Eagles elite U19 team, please contact Helen Hollis on 0402 459 531 or email ediaspnetty@gmail.com.

South Gippsland Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 26 at Wonthaggi RSL:

Masterpoint winners:
First: Bronwyn Sund and Mike Dooley 63.18 per cent average board score.

Second: Lois Dwyer and Faye Rowlands 56.94.

Third Phillip and Neville Chapman 55.56.

November 29 at Inverloch Angling Club:

North/South masterpoint winners:

First: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 62.44.

Second: John French and Debbie Anglim 58.70.

Third: Phillip and Neville Chapman 56.20.

Fourth: Maureen Stiles and Penny Loughran 55.50.

East/West winners:
First: Lois Dwyer and Robyn Egan 58.09.

Second: Faye Rowlands and Ian McPhee 55.11.

Third: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 51.54.

Congratulations to the new learners who are progressing so well at the Monday night 7pm sessions at the Angling Club. Some have already progressed to the 9.30am Thursday morning supervised play sessions at the Wonthaggi RSL whilst a few have already competed and won at club competition level.

The next learners intake starts in February.

If interested in enrolling, ring Alan Johnston on 5674 1838.

Riverside Tennis Association

ROUND six results:
Section 1/2 Doubles: Hal-lora 7 – 46 defeated Warragul Blue 2 – 26; Trafalgar 0 – 22 defeated by Warragul White 9 – 57; Neerim District 1 – 24 defeated by Moe 8 – 54; Drouin Maroon 9 – 54 defeated Poowong 0 – 10; Drouin Gold – bye.

Ladder: Drouin Maroon, Moe, Warragul White, Hal-lora, Drouin Gold, Neerim District, Warragul Blue, Trafalgar, Poowong.

Section 1 Singles: Drouin White 1 – 2 – 25 defeated by Drouin Gold 2 – 4 – 31; Moe White 3 – 6 – 36 defeated Drouin Maroon 0 – 0 – 12; Trafalgar 0 – 0 – 17 defeated by Moe Blue 3 – 6 – 36; Moe Red – bye.

Ladder: Moe White, Moe Blue, Moe Red, Drouin Gold, Drouin White, Trafalgar, Drouin Maroon.

Section 2 Singles: Trafalgar 4 – 41 defeated Neerim District 2 – 31; Drouin Gold 4 – 42 defeated Warragul 2 – 36; Moe 0 – 6 defeated by Drouin Maroon 6 – 48.

Ladder: Trafalgar, Warragul, Neerim District, Drouin Gold, Drouin Maroon, Moe.

Wonthaggi Croquet Club hosts level play singles tournament

SPONSORED by the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, the Wonthaggi Croquet Club held its annual level play singles tournament on the weekend of November 23 and 24.

Players from several Gippsland clubs, Mornington, Monash, Bendigo, Sorrento and Rosebud Village Glen took part in two sections.

Four games were played on Saturday in hot, windy and very trying conditions with three games to finish off the tournament on Sunday in rainy weather until around lunchtime.

Despite these varying conditions, some terrific croquet was on show over the weekend.

The weekend was broken up with dinner at the Workmen's on the Saturday evening.

In Section 2, two Bendigo players – as it happens, husband and wife – came away with the honours.

Sandra Volk won six out of seven and Greg Hicks with five out of seven finished runners-up.

In Section 1, David Budge from Monash, with five wins +4



Working behind the scenes at Wonthaggi Croquet Club's annual level play singles tournament were Sue Baker, Sue Cartwright, Peggy Valders, Lee Bennetts, Marj Prendergast, Anne Hill and Sue Priller. Absent: Philip Bool, Stephen Wilbourne and Bert Orr.

hoops was pipped into second place by John Carr from Mornington with five wins +8 hoops – well played all.

Once again, events like this cannot function without the assistance of club members prior to and during the event.

A working bee several days before had the courts and

surrounds looking fantastic which attracted many favourable comments during the weekend.

Sue Baker and many helpers manned the kitchen ensuring everyone was well looked after throughout the weekend.

Sue Cartwright with her apprentice Stephen Wilbourne did a great job managing the

tournament, Tom Lacey refereeing, and Michael Barber and Gerry Kool timekeeping.

Bert Orr waded his way expertly through the raffle.

A special mention must go to the Paint Place, who for many years now, have kept the club supplied with line marking paint.

Amy dives in for her third Super Swim challenge

AMY Hodson is swimming for a cause again in 2025 – taking on her third Super Swim challenge to raise funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation with a plan to swim 30 kilometres and raise \$3000.

Did you know that every minute of every day a sick child is admitted to hospital in Australia? In support of these children, Amy joined the Starlight Swim Challenge to help families through these difficult times.

Amy's mother Robyn said Amy's motivation for the challenge came from her time in and out of hospital as a young child. Amy has no vision in her right eye, she was born with a rare cataract on the right side and underwent surgery at only eight weeks old. Since then, she spent many years at the Royal Children's Hospital for

appointments and further surgeries due to her cataract.

Amy swims with the South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club (SGB), training three to four times a week at the YMCA in Wonthaggi – totalling approximately three to four kilometres per training session and with the support of her coaches, Amy will track every swim at training and every extra swim over the month of February.

Already raising 23 per cent of her goal, Amy said she has also donated \$30 of her own pocket money.

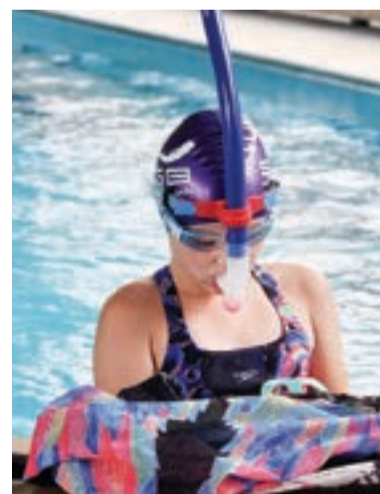
In 2023, Bass MP Jordan Crugnale recognised Amy's commitment to others, awarding her with the Community Gem 2023 award.

Ms Crugnale noted, "Your courage and tenacity in navigating your own vision impairment and the love, care and support you

demonstrate at home for your two siblings who have Autism and ADHD, is testament to the remarkable young person that you are.

"Despite your own health challenges, you found a passion for swimming and coupled with the support of the community you have made a real difference in the lives of other sick kids and their families. Your contribution to the Starlight Foundation Super Swim Challenge, swimming 25 kilometres and raising over \$10,000 for a charity so close to your heart, and as a kid helping other sick kids is simply inspirational. So many hearts are singing."

To help young Amy reach her third goal in 2025 and raise \$3000 visit superswim.org.au/a-hodson and support Amy in her 30-kilometre Starlight Super Swim Challenge. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



12-year-old Amy Hodson was awarded the Community Gem award 2023 and is taking on her third Super Swim Challenge in 2025 to raise funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation.





Margaret Morgan, Rhonda Rattenbury and Pat Novak were the winners at Breakaway Bowls on Friday.



Inverloch Bowling Club's Major Singles Championship finalists were Lorraine Dowson, Graham Turton, Joy Brown and Martin Hannaford.



Dot Shandley, Vito Serafino, and Rosa James were the winners of the Monthly Triples event at the Leongatha Bowls Club.



Frank Grant (L), David Smith (S) and Max Summers (3) were the winners of this week's South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group competition.



The best one-game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group were Chris Brooks (3), Jenny Smith (L), Lou Magri (S) and Mark Andreatta (2) (inset).



Three Wonthaggi ladies, plus one from Phillip Island, have won the Strzelecki South Fours Championship. They were Joy Phillips, Robyn Dennis, Caroline Donohue and Jan Jeeves.



Jan Milkins, John Postlethwaite and Maggie Scapin shared a win on Friday at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

THE club finally got back to bowling on Friday. There was no bowls on Monday due to a COVID scare from the Probus bus trip – better to be safe than sorry. Friday's winners were Margaret Morgan, Rhonda Rattenbury and Pat Novak. They had a great win on +18 – well done ladies. Don't forget the Christmas lunch is on Monday – partners included. The club is sure to have some fun. There's no cost, just bring yourself. See you all on Friday at 1pm at the Cape Paterson Community Centre.

INVERLOCH

ON FRIDAY, the club witnessed some accurate and thrilling bowling from the Major Singles finalists. Joy Brown and Lorraine Dowson played off for honours in the ladies' final. The men's final was between Graham Turton and Martin Hannaford. Many an end was decided on the final bowl. Eventually, Lorraine Dowson and Martin Hannaford went on to win their final.

All bowlers displayed excellent skills throughout their match. Twenty-eight bowlers rolled up on Thursday for social bowls. A mixture of Triples and Fours was played over two games of 10 ends each. With two wins and 33 points, the team of Reg Varty, Yvonne Kee and Karen Orford took out the day's honours. Runners-up were Paul Davis, Graeme Dunlop, Christine Corrigan and Harry Dunn. The hard luck story of the day went to John Hallas, Joy Brown, Peter Gentsch and Jill Kennedy.

KORUMBURRA

IT WAS a different week this week with the washout of Saturday Pennant. Common sense prevailed and matches were abandoned. In Midweek, Division 1 travelled to Wonthaggi and went down by the narrowest of margins. Jo Lomagno lost 14 shots to 28, Katrina Evans won 26 shots to 17 and Ben Peachy won 24 shots to 20 – an overall one-shot loss. Division 2 hosted Wonthaggi and also had a close encounter. Judith Nicholl lost 20 to 25, Jim Garnham won 19 shots to 13 and Lena Harfield went down 15 shots to 18 – well done to all concerned. Don't forget to sell your raffle tickets in the Christmas hamper.

LEONGATHA

SCENIC San Remo Bowls Club was the venue for the Division 2 Midweek Pennant round six contest between Leongatha and San Remo Bowls Clubs. The Leongatha representation was alarmed to discover that the San Remo side contained two women and 10 men whilst the Leongatha Club had the reverse composition of two men and 10 ladies. The existing rule for Pennant play is that Midweek Pennant play is now "open Pennant" for both sexes, which has not been accepted favourably by bowlers in general. Neither club broke the existing regulations, but the concept was a talking point within the current structure. The Leongatha Division 2 side presented well on paper and bowled accordingly to win by four shots with a final score of 59/55.

Individual rink scores were as follows: Andy Dennis skip San Remo defeated Karen Fidler skip Leongatha 23/13 shots. Maree McKiernan skip San Remo was defeated by Dot Shandley skip Leongatha 16/21 shots. Tony McKiernan skip San Remo was defeated by Rosa James skip Leongatha 16/25 shots. On Wednesday, the match committee had to make a snap decision on whether the Monthly Triples should be played because of the inclement weather conditions declared for the day. They chose to run the event, which was the right one and 24 teams rocked up to play an enjoyable game of bowls. South Gippsland Quarries was the major sponsor for which the club is thankful. The ladies once again worked tirelessly in their new kitchen to provide food for the bowlers. The final analysis presents three teams with four games won being Rosa James +24 shots first position, Wendy Watkins +18 shots second position and Griffio +13 shots third position. Best game prize went to Wayne Parks with a 17-shot win in the second game. Pennant play on Saturday was a washout on all greens.

MIDWEEK BOWL

THE club had a great day at Lang Lang. Lots of bowlers turned up to fight it out for this week's premiere team. With so many great players from so many great clubs, it's always a marvellous competition, but never an easy one. The day was mild to warm, but after yesterday's heavy downfall, it was extremely humid. Bowlers were signed in by Pauline and John as Peter arranged the teams for the day. The green was in excellent condition and ran slightly better than usual – guess the rain did some good. There was plenty of laughter and friendly banter as always. This week, charitable players did all they could to add to the Royal Children's Hospital tin. The winners this week were Frank Grant (L), David Smith (S), Max Summers (3) Runners-up on a score of 36 were Wendy Pownall (3), Peter Grattan (S), Pauline McWilliams (2) and Marianne Scales (L). Best one-game winners on a score of 20 were Chris Brooks (3), Jenny Smith (L), Lou Magri (S) and Mark Andreatta (2). A huge thank you to Marianne and Colin, as well as Bev and Jenny for turning on a great afternoon tea after the game. Thank you also to Neville for setting up the green and Laurie for clearing up outside after the game as well as David, Jenny, Gwen, Bev and everyone else for clearing up inside. Next week, the group will be meeting at Corinella for a continuation of the midweek challenge and looks forward to seeing all its friends once again. As usual, the club wishes everyone success on both pennant days – if only everyone could be a winner. Until next week, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another busy week at the club. Tuesday saw Division 1 play host to Korumburra at Wonthaggi on a fine but overcast morning.

Sometimes you need a reality check during the season. This was it, with the team getting home by one shot at the end of the day. The final scores Wonthaggi 65 Korumburra 64. Division 2 travelled to Korumburra looking for a win against a team that was also looking for a win. In a tight battle all day, Wonthaggi was able to escape with the points at the end of the day. The final scores Wonthaggi 56 Korumburra 54. Division 3 played host to Inverloch at Wonthaggi, and after a loss last week, it was looking to bounce back with a win. All rinks played well to record a very good win. The final scores Wonthaggi 69 Inverloch 38. Tuesday night went off well with a very good number of bowlers enjoying perfect weather. The barbecue and the raffles were well received, plus a cold drink or two. The lucky team was Sommer, Glen and Kym under the team name of Kitty Kisses. A photo is on the club's Facebook page. Thursday was a perfect morning for social bowls. As you would expect, a very good number of bowlers were on the green for a game of social bowls. Saturday was a washout with rain all day. Just a recap on ladder positions after the first half of the season: Saturday Pennant: Division 1, Division 2, Division 4, and Division 5 are all on top of the ladder – a great result for the club at this stage of the season with a lot of hard work to be done yet. Midweek Pennant: Division 1 is on top, Division 2 is in second place and Division 3 is in 3rd place – once again, another good result at this stage of the season. Bowls this week: Tuesday Pennant and Tuesday night is barefoot bowls, with doors open at 4pm for a 6pm start. Wednesday is Turkey Triples Day. Thursday is social bowls at 10am. Friday is coaching at 10am. Saturday is Pennant. Friday night was a great night at the club with two Christmas break-up groups at the club, not only enjoying the bowls, but the weather was perfect. Rod and Mick were happy meat tray winners. Don't forget the club's Christmas dinner, with numbers looking good.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THE club enjoyed an amazing week of bowling with 30 people playing on Tuesday. The club is coming along in leaps and bounds with lots of fun and laughter and everyone enjoying each other's company every day while bowling. Tuesday's winners with a plus 28 were Lia Smith, Jeannie Slocombe, Jean Wylde and Jim Rodhi. Runners up on plus 17 were Sylvia Mattock, Jenny Bakker, Ken Peterson and Max Sweetnam. On Friday, the club had 21 players with another great win to Jan Milkins, Maggie Scapin and John Postlethwaite on plus 29. Coming second on plus 10 were Betty Huitema, Jenny Bakker and Max Sweetnam. All teams on both days won two games each.



Winners of the Perrett Family Foursomes Board Event at the Woorayl Golf Club were Linda Forrester and Sherrill Winkler.



Wendy Cross won Wonthaggi Golf Club's Wednesday competition and is pictured with runner-up Layla Robertson.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, November 26.
Stableford: 32 players.
A Grade: David Enbom (12) 36 C/B points.
B Grade: Murray Webb (25) 40 points.
NTPs: first Murray Webb hole-in-one, seventh Wayne Knights, 10th Bill Anderson and 13th Steve Duffield.
Thursday, November 28:
Stableford: 32 players.
Winner: Shayne Harland (5) 40 C/B.
NTPs: first Mick Belvedere, seventh Wayne Knights, 10th Darren Read and 10th Wayne Knights.
Saturday, November 30.
Sponsors: KGC.
Monthly Medal: 21 players.
Monthly Medal winner: Billie Wrigley.
A Grade: Billie Wrigley 69 C/B.
B Grade: Jason Dowel 73.
Scratch winner: Shayne Harland 73.
NTPs: first Steve Duffield, seventh Donald Van Rooye, 10th Kodie Spokes and 13th Steve Duffield.

Ladies

LAST Wednesday, after many rounds played in good spirits, the finals of the Singles Knock-out was played.
Well done to the four finalists and the club congratulates the winners in both sections.
Heather Grist won the match against Johanna van den Heiligenberg in A Grade and Lyn Perks defeated Deb Wrigley in the 30+ Markers event.
There was also a Stableford event with Kim Enbom (29) in form again, winning with 37 points.
Shelley Snooks (19) was runner-up 34 points and BDTL went to Julie Hillberg (22) 33 points and Kerri Besley (17) 32 points on a c/b.
The nine-hole comp was won Lyn Leppin (41) with 14 points.
NTPs went to Viv Enbom first and Merrissa Cosson 13th.
The Thursday Twilight winners were Gail Beer and Simon Perks 25 points and runners-up were Betty Thomson and Mark Marotti 20 points.
Ian Gibson was NTP on the first green.
Four women travelled to Meenian on Monday to participate in the Ambrose event and although there were no wins, they had an enjoyable day.
On Friday, the club was fortunate to be able to field two teams



The Leongatha Golf Club annual Kevin Castwood Top Gun winners were first place Craig Hams (centre), second place Bernie Skerys (right) and third place Alan Starkey (left).



Red Rocks Golf Club's Geoff Cohen and Lang Lang Golf Club's Warren Krahe were pictured playing in the Longest Day fundraising event held at Red Rocks Golf Club on Phillip Island.

in the Ambrose event in Foster.
Well done to the team of Lyn Leppin, Julie Hillberg, Kerri Besley and Kim Enbom, who won a BDTL and to Kim, who had a NTP.
Despite the rain and heavier conditions on Saturday, there were some good results.
Trudi Mantell (29) won the RB Monthly Medal with 71 net, so received the Luscious Café voucher.
Kerri Besley (17) was runner-up with 73 net and also had the best Scratch Score with 90.

LEONGATHA

SUNDAY, November 24: Kevin Castwood Top Gun Final.
One of Leongatha Golf Club's most popular events is the Kevin Castwood Top Gun Final with 19 players who have recorded the highest winning Stableford scores over the past three months competing over 18 holes, with one player per hole being eliminated until two players remain on the 18th hole.
It was great to have such a crowd in attendance for the 2024 final.
Well done to all who participated.
Overall winners:
First place: Craig Hams (10).
Second place: Bernard Skerys (21).
Third place: Alan Starkey (10).
Tuesday, November 26: Stableford.

Tuesday's Stableford round had a field of 60 members/guests take to the course selecting either blue or yellow tees.
A Grade winner: Nicholas Byrne (14) with a score of 37 points.
A Grade runner up: Greg Ellt (15) with a score of 36 points on a countback.
B Grade winner: Ashleigh Hutton (17) with 37 points.
B Grade runner up: David Richards (17) with a score of 36 points.
C Grade winner: Adrian Smith (26) with the high score of the day of 41 points.
C Grade runner up: Michael Street (30) with a score of 37 points.
NTP fifth second shot: Alan Starkey at 2.50m. NTP 14th: Ashleigh Hutton at .23m. NTP 16th: Winton Knop at 2.35m.
Thursday, November 28: Evans Petroleum Stableford.
Thursday's Stableford round saw 77 members/guests take to the course teeing off either the blue or yellow markers, with a shotgun start at 9am.
Thank you again to Evans Petroleum for its continued sponsorship.
A Grade winner: Paul Richardson (17) with a score of 37 points

on a countback.
A Grade runner up: David Richards (17) with a score of 37 points.
B Grade winner: Bernard Skerys (21) with a score of 39 points.
B Grade runner up: Tyrone Zukovskis (20) with a score of 38 points.
C Grade winner: Matthew Pearce (24) with a score of 39 points.
C Grade runner up: Rene Zeller (25) with a score of 38 points.
NTP fifth second shot: Peter Stivic. NTP 14th: Ashleigh Hutton. NTP 16th: Steve Vuillermmin.
Saturday, November 30: Stableford.
Saturday was a poor day for golf with the rain and wind making conditions very challenging.
Only 29 members/guests bravely took to the course for a Stableford round, with some high scores still being recorded.
A Grade winner: Darren Read (15) with the high score of the day of 40 points.
A Grade runner up: Ethan Lamers (11) with a score of 37 points on a countback.
Congratulations on a great score recorded by Mark Billows with an eagle on the third hole.
NTP fifth second shot: Bernard Skerys. NTP 14th: Ethan Lamers. NTP 16th: Mark Allison.

MEENIYAN

OVER the past week, the club has been able to complete all its 2024 board events playoffs.
Irene Holm was successful in winning the Lorraine Eddy Singles Knockout final and the Star Medallist.
In the R and H Poletti 4BBB final, Jenny Cope and Heather Poletti were the winners.
The course is absolutely enjoying the rain and the heat and is looking fantastic, thanks to the many volunteers.
Meenian ladies held their annual Joan Beaumont Plate on Monday, November 25.
Proudly sponsored by Bendigo Community Bank Toora and District and Foster Branch, the ladies were thrilled to see 16 teams play a four-person Ambrose, with the course looking fantastic after the weekend rain all set off at 9-30 for a shotgun start in perfect weather.
The winners for the day were Meenian 1 with a fantastic score of 61.125.
The team included Dot Christie, Faye LePage, Louise Vuillermmin and Gail Browne.
Runners-up went to Meenian 2 Veronica Park, Janet Trease,



Winner of the Lorraine Eddy Singles Knockout final and Star Medallist Irene Holm at the Meenian Golf Club.

Tanya Thorson and Pam Erving with a score 61.375.
Down the line balls went to Mirboo North Wendy Gervasi, Maree Thompson, Barb Stimpson and Jeanne St Ellen 63.125, Woorayl Elly Berryman, Heather Sullivan, Bev Bridge and Kath Davis 64.25, Wonthaggi 2 Wendy Cross, Patsy Britt, Dawn Judkins and Merryn Dear 65.25, and Phillip Island 4 Adrienne Anglin, Vicki Roff Smith, Joan Nicholson and Lesley Medowcroft 65.625.
NTP on the second was Jan Trease Meenian, eighth Pam Rothfield Phillip Island, 11th Jo Disher Phillip Island, and 14th Barb Warren Foster.
Thanks to all the salad and slice makers and the wonderful team in the kitchen.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, November 26: Stableford.
A Grade: S. Woodall (9) 37 points.
B Grade: C. Bourne (16) 39 points.
DTL: T. Bradshaw, G. Shandley and P. Woodall 35.
NTP: fourth G. Renwick, sixth J. Kus, 13th C. Bourne and 16th G. Renwick.
Birdies: sixth W. Reynolds and J. Kus.
Saturday, November 30: Par.
A Grade: P. Woodall (8) one down c/b.
B Grade: W. Reynolds (18) three up.
DTL: G. Shandley +2, S. Mills +1 and N. Baker -1.
NTP: fourth S. Hill-Smith, sixth N. Bickerton, 13th G. Shandley and 16th P. Woodall.
Birdies: sixth Tim Traill and 16th W. Reynolds.

RED ROCKS

THE Longest Day fundraising event was held at Phillip Island's Red Rocks Golf Club on Friday, November 29.
This charity event, held every year, is in support of Cancer Council awareness for the Sun-Smart campaign.
All players in the event played 72 holes in one day to help raise funds for the charity.
"This is a day we support every year. Yes, it's a long day – and tiring – but as this cancer has touched a family member, this also reminds you how they have also done it tough and I want to do everything I can to help," the club's Geoff Cohen said.
Special thanks to Red Rocks Golf Club for helping to support the day.



Heather Poletti and Jenny Cope were Meenian Golf Club's R and H Poletti 4BBB final winners.



Korumburra Golf Club's Singles Knock-out winners were Lyn Perks (30+ markers) and Heather Grist.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: November 28, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole.
Winner: Tim Skate 47.
Runner up: Adrian Nixon 45.
Ball sweep: Gary Youtlen 40, Phillip McCrimmon 40, Ian Murrells 37 and Glenn Hewlett 37.
Results: November 28, SR. 34.5. Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.
Winner: Ian Murrells 17.
Ball sweep: Ken Cuman 15, Willy Williams 15 and Blake Cornelis 15 C/B.
Results: November 30, S.R 71. Competition: Stableford.
A Grade: John Walsh 35.
B Grade: Graham Ryan 39.
Balls down the line to 33 points on C/B: Joshua Kilgour 38, Alan Cubbon 35, Scott Williams 34, Graeme Rodgers 34, David Riccardo 33 and Messy Chand 33 C/B.
NTPs: Alan Cubbon second, Peter Dell fourth, Geoff Bell propin eighth, Joshua Kilgour 13th and Inoke Baudromo money hole 17th.

Ladies

THE match committee postponed the Star Medalist Playoff until next week, so a small group of players started the day in full wet weather gear, which soon saw them ditched as the humidity level skyrocketed.
Everyone continued and the winner was decided on countback with Wendy Cross (36)37 points getting the nod from Layla Robertson (32)37 points.
Layla also claimed the only NTP won on the day on the second.
BDL went to Marg Johnson 36, Simone Lindsay 36 and Kaylene Hodgetts 34.

WOORAYL

THE second round of the Perrett Family Foursomes Board Event, sponsored by Jean Hayes, was played this week.
The event for the day was Stroke pairs.
Woorayl Golf Club had four seasons in one day. It started in drizzle, then heavy rain, wind, then the sun came out and it was extremely humid.
The winners of the event with 76.5 were Elly Berryman and Heather Sullivan.
Runners-up with 78 were Sherrill Winkler and Linda Forrester.
Sherrill and Linda also won the Perrett Family Foursomes board event – 154 over two weeks.
BDL went to Jean Hayes and Kath Davis 80.



Helping to provide some of the atmosphere between races at Woolamai on Saturday was local singer Imogen Price of Phillip Island.



Mel McDonald stole a march on the field to run away with the second race on Sacra with Pine Valley second and Galleria third.



Josh Heriot stepped up to fill in for usual Woolamai race caller, Ben Sporle, who was overseas for the Japan Cup.



The boys were all suited up to stay dry on the outside for North Ringwood visitor Brenton Webb' buck's party, but they remained well-irrigated on the inside at the Woolamai Races.



Manning the public bar at the Woolamai Races on Saturday from the Dalyston FNC were Shay Davis, Jane Ori, and Christine Smith.



Food service volunteers from the Archies Creek Hall at the Woolamai Races on Saturday included Jane McKee, Nicole Hynes, Josie Charles and Anne Gleeson.



A group of Toora netball friends including Lia Roof, Jade Roberts and Tena Dixon enjoyed their day out at the Woolamai Races.



You bewdy! This happy group followed Traralgon trainer Troy Kilgower (and jockey Grant Seccombe) through a treble of wins at Woolamai on Saturday.



Enjoying their day at the Woolamai Race were Gembrook visitors Konner Allcott, Darcy Williams, Dean Allcott, Adam Lawson and Kiowa Asling.

Fun for all at Woolamai's season opener



That's one! Jockey Grant Seccombe brings the Troy Kilgower-trained Combustion back to the winner's circle after the first race, with the assistance of Clerk of the Course Andrew Taylor, the first of three winners on the six-race card at Woolamai on Saturday.



Having fun at a hen's party at the Woolamai Races on Saturday was this group from The Gurdies including Coni Cooper, Elisha Ward, Sam Cooper, Narelle Colima and Hannah Bain with Carrum Downs visitor 'Max' happy to play the horse.



Adding some colour to the day at Woolamai for Taylah Johnson of Hallam, at the Bowens Christmas party was Hayley of 'Fancy Faces' face painting.



Taking a closer look at the racehorses at Woolamai on Saturday were Maddy McAskell with Winter and Mila of Bass.



Maxilla Matthews of Trafalgar celebrates a nice collect from bookies Darren and Brett of Gee Gee Racing at Woolamai on Saturday.



Enjoying the Woolamai Races on Saturday were Dave Nelson, Liv Knabe and Shelton Ndlovu as part of a Korumburra Carinya work break-up party.



There were a number of work group celebrations at Woolamai on Saturday including this Royal Flying Doctors group from Wonthaggi.



That's one way to beat the rain. Woolamai racegoers Emily and Maddison with Paige Millar came prepared for anything at Woolamai on Saturday.



Jockey Mel McDonald rated Chanting Rhythm superbly to catch the leaders and go on to a clear win in race 3 from Ramsgate, and Hazel's Gold.



The trainers and strappers lead out their hopefuls in the first race including the well-named "Miss Greysull" which managed a respectable third.

Darts Delight as Spring Series ends in style!

THE AIR was electric as 31 darting enthusiasts gathered on a Monday night for the thrilling conclusion of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League Spring Series.

A season filled with highs, lows, and countless bullseyes came to a spectacular close, with individual champions crowned and team trophies hoisted in celebration.

The individual competition saw Dave Healey snag the bronze medal with a stellar effort, particularly impressive given his part-time attendance.

“Every second week? No problem,” joked Healey, proving that talent doesn’t take a day off, even if he occasionally does.

Bob Hee continued his run as a darting dynamo, securing second place with the consistency and finesse that has made him a perennial favourite.

For Bob, it was business as usual, but his fans were ecstatic nonetheless, giving him a hero’s send-off as he accepted his prize.

Taking top honours and the coveted gold was none other than the Prez, Scott Leithbridge, a well-deserved victory met with enthusiastic applause.

In a brief and humble acceptance speech, the Prez credited his success to countless hours of practice, sharp focus, and perhaps a little bit of luck.

The evening wasn’t just about individual glory.

Team competition was fierce, with John’s squad, comprising Brendan, Irene, and Mark, claiming the team victory.

Their collective skill and teamwork earned them the title for the night, and the banter among teammates was a testament to the spirit of the league.

Of course, no darts night would be complete without a little raffle excitement.

Dave Healey didn’t stop at third place; he also walked away with the coveted San Remo Butchers meat tray, proving once again that he’s a man of many talents.

Meanwhile, Big Tony hit the jackpot with the mega Christmas hamper, sparking cheers and a little envy from the crowd.

Not to be outdone, Grummo scored the smaller Chrissy hamper, which he declared the perfect size for his festive snacking needs.

Special recognition went to Paul for assisting in running the competition, ensuring that everything went off without a hitch.

With Christmas cheer in the air and a well-earned break on the horizon, the league now sets its sights on season 2025, slated to begin in mid-to-late February.

Until then, the dartboards will rest, the champions will revel, and the countdown to another unforgettable season begins.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and here’s to bullseyes in 2025!

SGB swimmers work towards State Championships

IT WAS a busy day in the pool at Waragul for the SGB swimmers, who gave everything in the wind and sun to secure the last few times they needed for the upcoming State Championships this month.

With every millisecond counting, the wind and its effect on the water made it tough going, but coach Dylan was so proud of his swimmers’ efforts.

“When you look at the fact so many got times today in the outdoor pool, it means when they come up against the Metro swimmers who mainly race in indoor pools, they should even further improve on their times, and it’s going to make for an exciting meet,” he said.

Every race had family members urging the swimmers on from the sidelines with many smiles from swimmers when their times flashed up on the big screen, and supportive words from teammates when they went oh so close.

Over the weekend, other swimmers competed in Melbourne at an event hosted by Cheltenham.

Next weekend is the last GSI of the year, with swimmers racing in Traralgon, many focused on the State Sprints and Country Victoria Championship Qualifying times in January.

Jemima Geitz triumphs in Canberra



Coaches Brad Anderson and Scott Bindloss of Corner Inlet Boxing Club enjoy the moment with a triumphant Jemima Geitz after her 48kg title winning bout in Canberra.

CORNER Inlet Boxing Club’s Jemima Geitz recently capped off a busy and successful 12 months, winning the Australian elite women’s 48 kilogram title at the AIS in Canberra where she got the better of fellow Victorian Fatma Sfarjalani.

Jemima was part of the very successful Victorian team that took out the ‘best performed State’ and the ‘best performed women’s team’.

Victoria claimed seven gold and a silver out of a possible 22 bouts.

Jemima’s coaches Scott Bindloss and Brad Anderson could not have been more proud of her well-deserved win, with Bindloss also one of the managers and coaches of the Victorian team.

Corner Inlet Boxing Club has won numerous gold and silver medals in the junior ranks but Jemima’s triumph is its first gold medal in elite or open age competition.

She started boxing training for fitness a few years ago, moving into competitive boxing about two years back and having 12 bouts under her belt prior to her recent Canberra success.

Corner Inlet Boxing Club welcomes everyone, including those with special needs, with boys, girls, women and men all belonging and people feeling a part of the place once they walk through the doors.

“We train people who want to be competitive boxers through to those who just want to learn the fundamentals of boxing and be fit, and for Jemima it started out as a fitness thing and progressed from there,” Anderson said.



Tarkyn Taylor accepted thanks from Korumburra Indoor Recreation Centre Management Committee president Donald Olden on behalf of his grandparents Dot and Wayne Taylor.



David Enbom shakes hands with Korumburra Indoor Recreation Centre Management Committee president Donald Olden and is thanked for his ongoing contributions to the centre.

Korumburra Indoor recreation centre contributions recognised

THE Korumburra Indoor Recreation Centre Management Committee made a presentation to David Enbom and Tarkyn Taylor – on behalf of his grandparents Dot and Wayne Taylor – on Sunday, November 24.

This was to show the committee’s gratitude for the voluntary input to the Indoor Rec Centre by David Enbom over the past 40 years and to show appreciation for the ongoing commitment that Wayne and Dot Taylor have given the recreation centre during their cleaning tenure.

David began his involvement as one of the drivers of the many fundraising initiatives that raised the necessary funds to begin the indoor recreation centre’s building project.

He was instrumental in the initial planning and design of the facility and was selected as the builder in charge of construction.

His pride in the value of the centre has been demonstrated through his ongoing participation with the committee since its inception.

Wayne and Dot were appointed cleaners in 2002.

Their pride in the maintenance, cleanliness and the attractive, welcoming and inviting appearance of the centre as a community asset continued until their recent retirement from their position.

The committee wishes them a very relaxing retirement.

Young Cougars face up for Koonwarra L/RSL junior cricket



Julian Riccardi batting for Koonwarra L/RSL. Photo: Jodie Arnup.



Koonwarra L/RSL junior player Charlie Pye showing batting skills. Photo: Jodie Arnup.



Rio at Woolworths Cricket Blast with the Inverloch Stingrays Cricket Club. B305_4924

Big blast cricket for Inverloch littlies

INVERLOCH'S youngest bowlers and batsmen were all class for the third session of the Woolworths Cricket Blast series under the watchful eye of Inverloch Stingrays U17 players.

Cricket Blast is Cricket Australia's entry-level program for kids aged ten and under wanting to learn the skills of cricket, make new friends and experience the thrill of being part of a team.

Non-stop action is guaranteed from the first-time batters and bowlers with thirty youngsters registered for Cricket Blast at Inverloch all aged from six to ten.

Junior cricket is the next step for kids who are ready to take their cricket skills to another level.

The Inverloch Stingrays field three U11 teams as well as U13, U15 and U17 teams.

A total of ten weekly Woolworths Cricket Blast sessions will be held at Inverloch over summer with six to be played before Christmas.

To register for Woolworths Cricket Blast, go to Play Cricket play.cricket.com.au

"It's all about participation and keeping kids active," said Cricket Blast convenor and pioneer Inverloch women's cricketer Jackie Newman.

"Parents are encouraged to come along and help."

U17 Stingray players Jack Butcher, Rhys Newman and Archie Terlich, and Senior Coach Leigh Cole have all volunteered their time for Woolworths Cricket Blast.

You can follow the Inverloch Stingrays Cricket Club U11's, U13's, U15's, U17's, Women's, C Grade, B Grade, A Grade and Woolworths Cricket Blast program on Instagram.



A confident shot by Oskar at Woolworths Cricket Blast in Inverloch. B308_4924



Classy bowling from Otis at Woolworths Blast with the Inverloch Cricket Club. B302_4924



Bobbie keeping his eyes on the ball at Woolworths Blast U10 cricket in Inverloch. B301_4924



Confident batting from Reuben at Woolworths Blast with the Inverloch Cricket Club. B300_4924



Woolies Blast programs have started across many of the clubs in the Leongatha and District Cricket Association, including Nyora Cricket Club.

Kids love Woolies Blast

THE Woolworths Blast program is well underway for many clubs in the Leongatha and District Cricket Association.

The program was established for children aged 10 and under to enjoy an early cricket experience.

Providing a safe, inclusive and positive environment, the locals assist young cricketers in discovering new skills through fun, game-based activities.

It is a foundation for children to find their passion for cricket to continue high participation rates in the local junior competitions.

Leongatha Town, Imperials and Nerrena are running a combined program, with each club hosting three sessions each.

The clubs would like to thank Woolworths for supplying sausages and bread at the third session for each club.



Exercise, skills and fun were guaranteed at Nyora's Woolies Blast program.



A catch is taken at a Woolies Blast session at Scorpion Park in Leongatha.

Cricketers selected for Vic Country team

TWO local cricketers will represent the Vic Country in the upcoming Australian Country Cricket Championships.

The championships are set to be held in the Barossa Valley from January 2 to 11.

Phillip Island Cricket Club's Daniel Mock was selected as an emergency.

The Sharks' captain has made 245 runs this season, his highest score being 115 not out in round two against Koonwarra L/RSL.

Jess Bohn was selected for the women's side, with play set to start on January 3.

Jess was previously affiliated with the Koonwarra L/RSL Cricket Club and now coordinates the women's competition for the Leongatha and District Cricket Association.

This is the third year in a row that Jess has been successfully selected into the Vic Country team and she is excited for the upcoming competition.

To be selected, Jess played off in a doubleheader T20 competition at the Catherine McAuley College in Coolock and attended trainings at Junction Oval.

Jess – a batter and a wicketkeeper – and the Victorian team made it through to the grand final in the last championship, losing in the grand final to Queensland.

In her first championship, the team made it through to the semi-final before losing to South Australia.

"It's a really good standard of competition and the only similar pathway to playing premier cricket," Jess said.

"I'm very excited to be part of the team again. I believe we have a very strong side and hopefully we will come back with some silverware."

Jess said she is seeing some excellent emerging talent from the Leongatha and District Cricket Association's growing women's competition.

"We have some junior girls who play in Dandenong, which is a great pathway to playing a higher level of cricket," she said.

"I'm very keen to see how the women's competition develops because we have some really good players."

Goannas' games postponed

THE weather has not been kind to veterans' cricket recently.

Goannas games from last Sunday, November 24, this week, December 1, and Tuesday, December 3 have all been postponed or cancelled due to the weather.

Goannas Over 70 players have returned from the National Championships in Dubbo, with a win in Division 1 and runners-up in each of Division 1 and 2.

There are several Goannas participating in the first National Over-55 Championships in ACT.

A summary of all Goannas involvement in National Championships will be reported upon the conclusion of this event.

Next Goannas games are scheduled for Sunday, December 8, with the Over-50 team playing a home game against SE Veterans, and the Over-60 team playing away at East Doncaster.

The Goannas will have a social event at Blue Gables Vineyard on Friday, December 13, from 4pm, while practice will continue at Duncan Cameron Reserve Traralgon this Wednesday from 4.30pm, followed by a meal at the Traralgon Bowls Club.



The Killy-Bass Great Whites took a narrow win over Nyora in their Sunday morning match at Bass last Sunday.

Competitive scores recorded in women's cricket doubleheader

WOMENS ROUND 4

THE wind was at full strength as the Phillip Island women's cricket team arrived at Bass 2 for the round four clash against Kilcunda-Bass Hammerheads.

The first game of the doubleheader, Captain Bec won the toss and elected to field.

Grace opened the bowling and achieved quick success with two wickets in her first over.

Kate and B soon followed up with wickets of their own.

Katie then bowled with pace to claim the next two wickets and Jess two more.

Winnie finished the first rotation with great line and length to claim a wicket of her own.

Katie claimed another two wickets in her second over, taking her total to an incredible 4/7.

Rosanna worked tirelessly behind the stumps, contributing to six runouts and Jane, Claudia, Jess and Bec joined the wicket haul ensuring that the Island women finished their innings with every bowler getting a wicket.

The Kilcunda-Bass Hammerheads finished their innings on 71 runs.

Rosanna and Katie opened the batting for the Island.

Rosanna smashed two well-placed boundaries and Katie ran effortlessly to turn the strike over, a brilliant 25-run partnership. Grace and Jane demonstrated pure skill, with Grace top scoring with 17 runs, including two boundaries.

The Island reached 53 at the change.

Jess was up for the challenge, with three well-placed balls sailing to the boundary, inspiring B to a beautifully placed boundary down the ground.

The score reached 82.

Bec, Claudia and Kate all ran well between the wickets and Winnie finished the game with a very powerful four.

The Island won the game with 126 runs.

Congratulations to Katie, the Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Entertainment Centre player of the match.



Phillip Island's Rosanna (wicket keeper), Grace (top scorer in both games), Katie (player of the match in round four) and Winnie played sensational games during the women's double header.

Wonthaggi Club vs. Glen Alvie

GLEN Alvie took on Wonthaggi Club at Leongatha's Scorpion Park 2, resulting in a victory.

Club won the toss and chose to bat first.

Megan Krause opened the batting for Club and made six runs, which was looking to be the top score until Amanda Goodsell stepped up eighth in the order and made 11 runs.

Lauren Sinclair recorded Glen Alvie's best bowling scores, taking 3/8.

Club finished its 20 overs with 61 runs to defend.

After the changeover, Ella Angarane opened Glen Alvie's account and made 17 runs off 12 balls.

This was Glen Alvie's top

score, but the contribution of Captain Gaby Hynes' 14 runs and Ella Cargill's 15 runs pushed Glen Alvie ahead.

Rahni Mann was Club's best bowler, taking 2/14.

Singles were taken by Megan and Amanda.

With a total of 95, the game went to Glen Alvie.

Kilcunda-Bass Great Whites vs. Nyora

KILCUNDA-BASS welcomed Nyora to its home ground for a thriller.

Nyora won the toss and chose to bat.

Amanda Linford set the standard for the game when she made 19 runs off 12 balls.

This was Nyora's most impressive score until Krystin

Wurzbacher stepped up and managed to make 28 runs during her allotted overs, including six fours.

Millie Gold gave a strong performance, claiming 3/26.

Kilcunda-Bass held Nyora back from crossing into triple figures, leaving Nyora to defend 99 runs.

The Great Whites proved it was up to the challenge by getting over the line by three runs.

Kristie Jacobs paired well with a fill-in for the side, making 14 and 10 runs respectively.

Wicket-taking was shared well between the Nyora bowlers, with Amanda, Shona Lynch and a private player each taking two wickets.

With 102 runs, the game went to the Great Whites.

Leongatha Town vs. Koonwarra L/RSL

High scores were the order of the day between Town and Koonwarra L/RSL.

Playing at Leongatha's Scorpion Park 1, Town won the toss and made a good decision by choosing to bat first.

Nat Challis led the charge with 15 runs, with Sarah Knox contributing 14 runs.

The top score came later in the innings when captain Sari Hickey delivered 17 runs.

Single wickets were taken by Koonwarra L/RSL bowlers Teagan Hughes, Kim Peters and captain Britney Thomas.

At the end of the 20 overs, Town had amassed 122 runs.

This turned out to be out of Koonwarra L/RSL's reach, but the side still put up a great battle.

The biggest effort of the day came from Kathy Zacharopoulos, who recorded 31 runs, including two sixes.

Lucy Carter claimed the most wickets for Town, taking 2/6.

Sari, Brenda Stewart, Chiara Marinou and Nat took single wickets.

With 106 runs, Koonwarra L/RSL conceded defeat to Town.

Inverloch (bye).



Cathy Felstead of the Kilcunda-Bass Hammerheads looks to dispatch this leg-side delivery watched closely by Nyora keeper Jess Lynch.

Island remain undefeated

WOMENS ROUND FIVE

WITH rain threatening the second game of the doubleheader, Captain Bec lost the toss and the Islanders were sent into the field. Winnie opened the bowling with speed and Grace demonstrated great skill.

Katie bowled with strength, and with B's determination and Jess' accuracy, they restricted the Kilcunda-Bass Great Whites' run rate.

Jane bowled an excellent double wicket maiden and another maiden finishing with an impressive 2/0 (2).

Claudia, Jill and Bec all bowled with great effect and Winnie claimed a sensational wicket, clean bowling the opposition. Jane, Grace and Rosanna all took catches in the field and Rosanna's efforts behind the wickets resulted in two runouts.

The Kilcunda-Bass Great Whites concluded their innings on 72.

As the humidity turned to darkened clouds, Grace and Jane opened the batting for the Island.

Amazing Grace smashed an impressive five boundaries, top scoring for the Island with 24 runs.

Jane ran quickly between the wickets and the pair got the Island off to a flying start with a 39-run partnership.

Claudia, Jill and Bec kept the runs ticking over and B sent the ball flying for four over mid-wicket.

Jess was in fantastic form, hitting powerful shots to achieve three boundaries and an electrifying six.

Katie and Rosanna kept the runs coming and Winnie, once again, finished the innings for the Island with a stunning boundary.

Congratulations to Jane, the Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Entertainment Centre player of the match.

Special mention and thanks to Kilcunda Bass Cricket Club for hosting the doubleheader.

The Island women's cricket team remain undefeated for the season.

Leongatha Town vs Inverloch

TOWN went down to the reigning premiers at Leongatha's Scorpion Park 1.

The Stingettes won the toss



Nyora's Julie McGrath looks to sweep this Kilcunda-Bass Hammerhead's delivery towards the boundary.

and chose to bat in an innings that showed their strength.

Jacqueline Newman opened the batting for Inverloch and made 16 runs, which was followed by 10 runs from Katrina Slidders and the top score of 19 runs from Nicole Creaser.

Keely Dennerley polished off the innings with 13 runs, leaving Inverloch with a final score of 109.

Town's wicket-taking efforts were well shared with singles to Brenda Stewart, Gen Anderson, Isla Hickey and Lucy Carter.

Town switched to batting and started strong with 14 runs to Lucy.

In the second half of the innings, the batters started to threaten Inverloch with Brenda, Kathryn Stewart and Nat Chalis making 10, 12 and 17 runs respectively.

Inverloch's bowlers were in beautiful form with Amy McRobert, Katrina and

Jacqueline claiming three wickets each.

Georgia Slidders was also a multiple-wicket taker.

Town delivered an impressive 93-run tally, but the win went to the high-performing Stingettes.

Wonthaggi Club vs. Koonwarra/LRSL

KOONWARRA L/RSL showed excellent form to win against a competitive Wonthaggi Club.

Playing at Leongatha's Scorpion Park 1, the toss went to Koonwarra L/RSL, who chose to field.

Megan Krause made 13 runs, which looked to be Club's top score.

However, Gaby Hynes – a Glen Alvie player filling in for the match – made 15 runs to close the innings.

Koonwarra L/RSL showed its skill with a whopping seven bowlers taking wickets – Aliessa Wrigley, Teagan Hughes, Karla

Williams, Melissa Buckley, Kim Peters, Carmen Dettmer and captain Kathy Zacharopoulos.

The fielders also worked hard all innings with catches taken by Beth Drury, Carmen and Kathy.

Kathy proved to be an all-rounder as she also dominated the batting.

Batting seventh in the order, Kathy produced 37 runs, including three fours and three sixes.

Rahni Mann and Sophie Barnes shared the bowling glory for Club, taking 2/12 and 2/11 respectively.

Rahni and Sophie were also active across the field, taking a catch each.

Catches were also taken by Megan and a fill-in.

Koonwarra L/RSL made 102, defeating Club's total of 87.

Kilcunda-Bass Hammerheads vs. Nyora

IT WAS a showdown between Kilcunda-Bass and Nyora at the Bass Recreation Reserve.

Nyora won the toss and decided to send Kilcunda-Bass into bat first, which would help Nyora focus on a target later on.

A fill-in player and Jaclyn Clark performed well for the Hammerheads, making 13 and 17 runs respectively.

However, it was another fill-in player who turned the competition up by hitting four fours and an overall run tally of 30.

Amanda Linford and Emma Kaddatz were the top bowlers for Nyora with two each.

Jessica Lynch also took two catches for the day.

Kilcunda-Bass finished its allotted overs with a competitive 115 runs.

Batting third in the order, Krystin Wurzbacher had Kilcunda-Bass battling to defend its score when she made 28 runs.

Amanda sealed the deal for Nyora by finishing the innings with 21 runs.

Sarah Tyrell was Kilcunda-Bass' stand-out bowler, taking 2/19.

Sarah and Elyse Fisher also recorded a catch each.

By just three runs, Nyora claimed the win with a score of 118.

Glen Alvie (bye).

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 7 (DAY 1) - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

A GRADE, Division 1

K L/RSL v Korumburra
KOONWARRA
Ashleigh Stride
Town v Club
SCORPION PARK 1
Ian Salmon
Phillip Island v OMK
NEWHAVEN
Ken Scrimshaw
Imperials v Nerrena
LEONGATHA TURF
Shane Moore

A Grade, Division 2

Nyora v Inverloch
NYORA
Les White
Foster v MDU
FOSTER GC
Geoff Parkinson
Glen Alvie v Kilcunda-Bass
WONTHAGGI TURF
Brad Phillips

B GRADE, Division 1

Nerrena v Phillip Island
NERRENA
Michael Ryan
Inverloch v MDU
INVERLOCH TURF
Steven Williamson
OMK v Club
OUTTRIM
Michael Thomas
Korumburra - BYE

B GRADE, Division 2

Nyora v Foster
POOWONG
Geoff Wyatt
Kilcunda-Bass v Town
BASS 1
Graham Wightman (week 1)
Glen Alvie v Koonwarra L/RSL
GLEN ALVIE
Neil Grabham
Imperials - BYE

ROUND 4 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024

C GRADE, Division 1

Kilcunda-Bass v Phillip Island
BASS 2 - TBA
Nerrena v Club
LEONGATHA VEL - TBA
OMK v Korumburra
DIGGER PARK - TBA
Town - BYE

C GRADE, Division 2

Nyora v Koonwarra L/RSL
McMAHON - TBA
Phillip Island v MDU
RHYLL - TBA
Glen Alvie v Inverloch
DALYSTON - TBA
OMK - BYE

Subject to Confirmation.
Any prospective umpires can contact
Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136
or Doug Pell 0404 301 333

Local
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Picture of success! The connections of Chanting Rhythm get around the six-year-old mare after her first race win, after six starts, under the guidance of jockey Mel McDonald.

Woolamai treble as racing launch beats the rain

HIGHLIGHT of the first local race-horse meeting of the summer, at the popular picnic venue Woolamai on Saturday, was the fact that the club managed to get through a day of thrilling racing and end-of-work year celebrations.

Rain was falling lightly as the punters and partygoers started arriving at 12.30pm, some in their plastic ponchos and raincoats or under umbrellas, while others paid scant regard to the threatening clouds and dressed up in their race-day finery or something colourful regardless.

It seemed that the Armageddon, increasingly predicted by the bureau these days, was in fact happening.

The rain was still tumbling down as the first race approached at 1.40pm before kindly holding off for a couple of hours to really get the party started. Floods? Not so much!

By the time the light showers returned, talented female jockey Mel McDonald had already booted home a double, in consecutive races,

embarrassing the boys with an all-the-way victory by six lengths, on the Jason Evans-trained Sacra in the second race, and an equally impressive ride on Chanting Rhythm in the third.

"The track is holding up well. They're getting into it but there's not much kickback at this stage which is good. It's still quite good on the fence but you might start looking for a bit firmer going out wide later," said Ms McDonald.

A feature of her two wins was the presentation of a trophy in memory of Woolamai and District Racing Club legend Don 'Duck' Matheson, to the winning connections of race two.

Mr Matheson, who was associated with the club in every capacity for more than 50 years, passed away in August.

The raid by jockey Grant Secombe, and Traralgon trainers Troy and Ricky Kilgower was also in full swing with the trio combining to get Combustion home in exciting style

in the first, then backed up with Lisieux at \$6.50 in the fourth, and High Ferocity, also at \$6.50 in the last race.

The dominance by McDonald and Secombe left only crumbs for the other jockeys with Leigh Taylor getting the other win available, on Lika Mosh in the fifth race for Cranbourne trainer Peter Foster.

In short, while the rain failed to dampen spirits or to take away from the fun and frivolity of the patrons, it almost certainly stopped an even bigger crowd turning out.

For all that, it was another great day of racing and social interaction with more to come at Woolamai on Saturdays December 21, and 28 and January 11 with the Alex Scott and Staff Woolamai Cup on Saturday, February 8.

Stony Creek Racing Club kicks off its season with the Brandt Family Fun Day on Monday, December 30.



It's all smiles from horse and rider as Mel McDonald brings off a double in consecutive races at Woolamai on Saturday.



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