



Residents of the Adams Estate at Glen Forbes, including arborist Ringo Gannon and his young sons, make their feelings known ahead of council consideration of an application to cut a swathe through native vegetation on their main access road, Stanley Road, to make way for more sand mining trucks.

LOSS OF SERENITY

THE Adams Estate at Glen Forbes is a secret little settlement of about 30 houses that would have stayed a beautiful, tranquil secret if it wasn't for sand mining and the plans by Hanson Construction Materials to widen the access road to one of their mines.

They've lodged an application with the Bass Coast Shire Council for a planning permit to remove 36 mature trees and other native vegetation along Stanley Road "for the expansion of the road and construction of a footpath".

Fed up with the impact of the mining and the movement of trucks, the people of the estate simply don't want their residential bush setting destroyed to make way for more noise, dust, trucks, light and dead animals.

They've already contributed 43 objections and last Friday, they turned out in force to get the message across with some pointed messages on posters, and with a few words from their spokesperson, Janet Grimes, a 50-year resident of the Adams Estate.

"The main issue is the devastation of the woodland and the trucks. They want to cut down 36 trees along the road reserve, together with scrubland and other grassland to be removed.

"It's the road widening, the loss of vegetation and the trucks," said Mrs Grimes.

Another resident, Ringo Gannon, said the whole length of the road, from the Bass Highway to McGrady's Road would be impacted.

Continued page 3

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Health plan in a shambles

THE State Government's grand plan to reform the management, operation and cost of hospitals in Victoria is in a shambles in Gippsland after the two local hospital operators, Bass Coast Health (BCH) and Gippsland Southern Health Services (GSHS) last week withdrew their support for a Gippsland Local Health Service Network.

The operators of the sub-regional hospital at Wonthaggi and the soon-to-be-completed community hospital at Cowes (BCH), and the two hospitals at Leongatha and Korumburra (GSHS) have instead written to the Health Department saying they want to join the proposed Bayside Network instead.

However, according to the independent Expert Advisory Committee (EAC), which was tasked with developing the state's new Health Services Plan, a minimum population of 200,000 people is needed for optimal operation of a local network in regional areas.

The Gippsland Network was to have had a catchment of 250,000 people, with Latrobe Regional Hospital at its hub, but without Bass Coast and much of South Gippsland would have fewer than 180,000 people.

At its annual general meeting on Thursday last week, Bass Coast Health firmly nailed its colours to the Bayside network mast, expected to include Alfred Health, Kooweeerup Regional Health Service and Peninsula Health, in partnership with Calvary Health Care Bethlehem, a denominational hospital at Caulfield South.

The network would serve a population of 1.18 million, including Bass Coast's permanent population of 40,789 and South Gippsland's 30,577. The population of Bass Coast swells to more than 70,000 or 80,000 during peak holiday periods.

Speaking about the preferred option within the reforms proposed by the Health Services Plan, BCH Board Member Julia Oxley detailed the local health service's bid to join Bayside, a position that was endorsed by the board and communicated to the Secretary of the Department of Health, Professor Euan Wallace, last week.

Ms Oxley said the board was confident that joining the Bayside network was the best outcome for the community of Bass Coast.

Continued page 3

Health plan shambles; BCH, GSHS pick Bayside

From page 1

"Bass Coast Health is committed to improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for our community as a growing subregional health service serving the needs of Bass Coast and South Gippsland but we cannot achieve this alone," said Ms Oxley.

"Last week our board chairman Ian Thompson with the full support of the Bass Coast Health Board and the Community Advisory Committee wrote to the Department of Health Secretary to confirm Bass Coast Health's intent to be part of the Bayside Local Health Service Network.

"Initially the Expert Advisory Committee aligned Bass Coast with the Gippsland network, but we are confident that this is the best solution for our service building on strong and established links with Peninsula Health and Alfred Health.

"The board recognises that amalgamation will deliver the best outcomes including safe, high-quality care closer to home and is committed to this path which will build upon existing local partnerships and connections and strengthen the use of resources to reduce duplication and improve local access to care."

Ms Oxley said that following the release of the government's Health Services Plan, with its qualified recommendation that Bass Coast join the Gippsland network, Bass Coast Health undertook an extensive consultation program, meeting with and surveying 600 employees and community members to obtain their perspective on the future structure of health services including the Wonthaggi Rotary Club, Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG) and Inverloch Lions Club.

These forums and also consultation with the Community Advisory Committee, who contacted their own community networks, Ms Oxley said, revealed overwhelming support for BCH being a part of the Bayside network.

Natural pathways, she said, were already established, reinforced by the needs of the people who visited the area



Bass Coast Health Board Director Ian Leong spoke during Thursday's Annual General Meeting, during which Julia Oxley made a case for Bass Coast Health to join the Bayside Network.

regularly from south-eastern Melbourne and accessed the Wonthaggi Hospital ED and Phillip Island Community Health Hub for health care.

Ms Oxley said drive times were shorter to Melbourne on dual-lane highways, whereas it took people from Cowes two hours to travel across the Strzeleckis to Traralgon while public transport links were also firmly established towards Melbourne.

"Since 2016, Bass Coast Health has sought to deliver safe, high-quality care, grow clinical services and capability and improve the self-sufficiency of our catchment and sub-region through strategic partnerships. Our partnership with Alfred Health has been instrumental in this and in lifting Bass Coast Health's self-sufficiency and sub-regional capability with specialist services and workforce across surgery, medical oncology, radiation oncology, haematology, dermatology, deontology and cardiology plus the Monash pathology services. This is expanding to respiratory, sleep studies, and multidisciplinary meetings for breast surgery and oncology – a pretty powerful partnership."

Pathway enhancement to Peninsula Health, especially

through Frankston Hospital, had also been crucial to the development of Bass Coast Health's capacity to service its subregional community.

Ms Oxley said joining the Bayside Health Network would provide Bass Coast with superior access to whole-of-life health care and personal care.

"To date, 80 per cent of transferred Bass Coast Health inpatients have chosen to travel to metropolitan Melbourne care whilst five per cent have chosen to go to Traralgon."

Ms Oxley said the BCH board was also hoping that the name 'Bass Coast' might be included in the branding for the new 'Bayside' network.

GSHS picks Bayside

Gippsland Southern Health Service Board Chair Athina Georgiou also confirmed, via media release last Friday, that GSHS also had put in a proposal to be connected to the Bayside network.

Ms Georgiou said people in the communities of Leongatha and Korumburra typically travel to Melbourne on larger and major roads for care and have established connections to health care in Melbourne.

"Data demonstrates that

people in our community use local services or mostly go to Melbourne for care, aligning with the proposed network," Ms Georgiou said.

Ms Georgiou stressed that the proposal was initiated by GSHS.

"This is our choice and our proposal based on what we believe is best for our community and supported by our staff," she said.

GSHS has strong existing pathways and connections with services in the Bayside network, particularly Bass Coast Health (BCH).

CEO Lou Sparkes said that under GSHS's proposal, local residents would benefit from greater access to care via single wait lists for surgery, establishment of referral pathways through the network, and enhanced use of capacity across the network, including more use of rural sites by the larger health services.

"We believe our proposal would result in care closer to home for our local residents and improved health outcomes for the local population, with better connections to medical expertise, prevention programs and primary care teams."

More details on the Sentinel-Times' website at sgst.com.au.

Bush settlement fears loss of serenity

From page 1

"They're talking about 1.73 hectares. We estimate it will be closer to 76 trees that will go and that there'll be a significant increase in truck movements, 7am to 7pm six days-a-week," he said.

Removal of the trees, increase in trucks, impact on wildlife, airborne silica and increase in crime are some of the issues raised by objectors.

"If the utterly sick decision of a go-ahead on bombarding the Adams Estate, with these industrial-scale levels of chaos is given, where does that leave us the homeowners?" said one of the objectors, anticipating that speed, noise and frequency of truck movements will exceed permits once the operation begins.

Western Port Woodlands spokesperson Catherine Watson says that it's a great shame the application for the road widening has been allowed to go forward to council given the outcome of the Strategic Extractive Resource Areas (SERA) review which excluded the entire Bass Coast Shire from future sand mine development and the likely scaling back of operations.

Council is likely to consider the application for vegetation removal and road widening at its council meeting in February or March, leaving time for interested people to make further submissions.

Cannabis crop kingpin arrested

MAJOR Drug Squad detectives have continued to chase down criminals involved in one of Victoria's largest cannabis hauls – more than 6000 plants – seized at Leongatha South on Tuesday, October 22.

Last Thursday, December 5, they arrested two men as part of their investigation into the cultivation of large commercial quantities of cannabis by a Vietnamese organised crime syndicate.

"With assistance from the VIPER Taskforce as well as the Springvale, Croydon, Box Hill and Morwell Divisional Response Units, seven warrants were executed at an industrial premises in Morwell, three residential addresses in Springvale, a residential address in Mount Waverley, a storage facility in Hallam and a semi-rural property in Silvan," police said on Friday.

"Over the course of the investigation over 8500 cannabis plants have been seized, which would have a street value of over \$30M.

"A 40-year-old Springvale man, who police will allege was the leader of the syndicate, was charged with cultivation and trafficking of a large commercial quantity of cannabis.

"He will appear at court at a later date. "A 53-year-old Noble Park man is expected to be charged on summons in relation to the offence of cultivate large commercial quantity of cannabis."

Over 200 plants, a large commercial quantity, were located at the Silvan address and at least 400 plants being hydroponically cultivated were seized from the Morwell property."

Read the full story at sgst.com.au.

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CONTENTS

Entertainment	42
Puzzles	44
Real Estate	45-47
Farming	48-51
Trades & Services	52-53
Classifieds	54-55

FEATURES

Health and Wellness	28-29
Shop Local this Christmas	32-41

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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND



TUE | Dec 10

Possible shower.

Wind AM: Light

Wind PM: W 15-25km/h

13° 19°



WED | Dec 11

Cloudy.

Wind AM: SW 15-20km/h

Wind PM: W 20-30km/h

13° 20°



THUR | Dec 12

Shower or two.

Wind AM: W 20-30km/h

Wind PM: Light

14° 22°



FRI | Dec 13

Possible shower.

Wind AM: W 15-20km/h

Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h

14° 22°



SAT | Dec 14

Partly cloudy.

Wind AM: SW 15-20km/h

Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h

13° 22°



SUN | Dec 15

Partly cloudy.

Wind AM: Light

Wind PM: Light

12° 23°

IN BRIEF

Rates increases within cap for fourth consecutive year

EACH of Victoria's 79 local councils kept their rate increases within the 2.75 per cent rate cap for 2024-25 as set by the Minister for Local Government, according to the Essential Services Commission's Council Rate Cap Compliance Report.

Essential Services Commission Chairperson Gerard Brody said it is pleasing to see all Victorian councils again acting in compliance with the rate cap.

"This is the fourth consecutive year all councils have been compliant with the rate cap. Ararat Rural City Council chose not to increase its rates, and the remaining 78 Victorian councils raised their rates close to or in line with the 2.75 per cent cap."

While waste service rates and charges are not included in the rate cap, the commission monitors and reports on councils that change the structure of their service rates and charges.

Five councils introduced new service charges to recover costs for waste management services that the councils had not previously provided, neither of which were Bass Coast Shire Council nor South Gippsland Shire Council.

Korumburra walkway underway soon

WORKS on South Gippsland Shire Council's project to create a walkway connecting Commercial Street and the Korumburra Community Hub are expected to commence early next year and be completed mid-2025.

The intention is to make it easier for the community to access the Hub and to provide additional car parking.

"Council has heard from the community the importance of this link," council CEO Kerryn Ellis said.

As previously reported, council purchased the former Korumburra Newsagency site at 27 Commercial Street, the fire-damaged building set to be demolished to make way for the walkway.

The pedestrian link and public space will feature lighting and CCTV, benches, a water fountain and opportunities for future public art including murals.

Safe demolition of the existing building will get the project underway.

Other works will include:

- Construction of a new structural masonry boundary wall
- Concrete footpath with stone accents
- Landscaping consistent with the streetscape works and Korumburra Community Hub, including mudstone boulders, planting and drainage
- Realignment of the kerb and pram crossing on Little Commercial Street for im-

proved access to the Korumburra Community Hub.

For more information on this and other projects happening in Korumburra, please visit southgippsland.vic.gov.au/korumburraprojects.

Offensive graffiti

A CONCERNED local recently used the Snap Send Solve app to alert South Gippsland Shire Council to malicious graffiti on a building beside the Great Southern Rail Trail in Leongatha that targeted a particular person.

"Walking along the rail trail yesterday I noticed the usual graffiti but am very concerned over the content clearly targeting a young woman," the community member told the Sentinel-Times, stressing that the situation needs highlighting, and the person targeted deserves community support.

The message was racist in nature and urged self-harm.

When contacted about the situation, council said the offending graffiti was scheduled to be removed that afternoon.

A message targeting the same individual has since been spotted on a Leongatha footpath.

Leongatha police have been contacted to establish if any report has been made about the graffiti concerned, the Sentinel-Times waiting to hear if that is the case, but advised that offensive graffiti carries heavier penalties than graffiti would normally attract.

For those needing support, Lifeline can be contacted on 13 11 14.

Wonthaggi cannabis in administrator's hands

OPENED by former Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews amid much fanfare in December 2019, a state-of-the-art cannabis extraction facility in Wonthaggi has been placed in the hands of administrators Gideon Isaac Rathner.

According to reports, all staff have been laid off, pending the outcome of the first meeting of creditors, a virtual meeting on Thursday, December 12 at 10.30am.

Those with an interest in the meeting can email Gideon Rathner at grathner@lowe-lippmann.com.au.

Neither the financial position nor the status of outstanding worker entitlements is known at this time.

Launched by Canadian medicinal cannabis company MediPharm Labs, the firm was trading under the banner of Onelife Labs Pty Ltd, ACN: 616 895 606.

Council vote on 88-place childcare centre

THE Bass Coast Shire Council is set to approve a commercial development at 1517-1529 Bass Highway, Grantville to include an 88-place children's Centre.

Originally, the council approved a planning permit for a development on the site on December 15, 2021, which allowed for the development of a service station, convenience restaurant, retail premises and subdivision of the land into seven lots, while also removing native vegetation and the erection of signs.

However, in order to add a childcare centre, the developers have had to resubmit their application.

Features of the project include:

- Childcare centre (capacity 88 children, 20 carparks)
- Six retail tenancies across two buildings
- Service station (eight pumps) to operate 24 hours per day, seven days a week
- Convenience restaurant (50 patrons)
- 49 carparks, 12 bike parks

On June 17 this year, Bass Coast Shire approved a planning permit for a childcare centre on the corner of 78-80 Korumburra Road and 22 Wentworth Road, North Wonthaggi, which is understood to have a capacity for 104 places with 22 car parking bays and four bike racks.

\$1.71 million paid to councillors

THE Bass Coast Shire Council paid out a total of \$1.416 million in allowances to its councillors over the four years of their last tenure and the councillor who finished top of the pile was former Mayor Cr Michael Whelan.

Cr Whelan received \$257,061.36 (two years as mayor), Cr Clare Le Serve \$191,520.98 and Cr Brett Tessari \$181,083.26, both serving terms as mayor.

Of the former deputies Cr Rochelle Halstead received \$160,027.89 and former councillor Leticia Laing \$138,770.34.

Crs Rooks, Larke and Bauer received their basic councillor allowance of \$122,106.24 for the term.

On the expense account list to be tabled at this week's council meeting, Cr Whelan received \$77,308, Cr Le Serve \$41,440, Cr Halstead \$46,820, Cr Tessari \$39,817 and Cr Laing \$30,350.

Of those councillors that didn't hold higher office during the term, Cr David Rooks claimed the most in expenses, \$27,956, as against \$7238 and \$7371 respectively for Crs Larke and Bauer.

The total expense claim was \$293,990.85, grand total a tick over \$1.71 million in payment to councillors.

New phone tower at Cape

AMONG the reported planning applications in this week's Bass Coast Shire Council agenda is a submission for a "replacement Telecommunications Facility" in Seaward Drive, Cape Paterson.

The number of planning applications coming forward to the shire, including building applications, subdivisions and the like is recovering from monthly lows of 20 in January, 29 in March and 37 in April to 52 and 49 in September and October but still way off the highs of a few years ago.

Building permit activity in recent months is roughly on a par with last year with 102, 90, 94 and 110 per month this financial year as compared to 87, 115, 82, 112 in July, August, September and October 2023.

'Swimming Not Advised' at our dangerous beaches

WHETHER it's at Kilcunda on the mainland or Forrest Caves on Phillip Island, the scenes of several tragic drownings last summer, visitors will be greeted with new warning signs this holiday season.

In the past week, the entrances to beaches at Kilcunda got their new signs, following similar work on Phillip Island.

The message is loud and clear, not delivered in conjunction with 'No Dogs' warnings: 'Swimming not advised - strong currents and rips'.

The signs include large hazard symbols conveying a don't swim message and highlighting moving rips.

Prominent public affairs commentator, Graham Jolly of Cape Woolamai, has praised the authorities for erecting the new signs.

"Council and Phillip Island Nature Parks need to be congratulated for what they are doing, not only putting up the new warning signs but also being prepared to educate tourists visiting their information centres," Mr Jolly said.

"It's something we all need to take responsibility for. We simply cannot repeat the experience of last summer which affected so many people.

"My concerns are that the signs only refer to swimming. I spoke to some of the affected family members, and they told me they were only wading in the water, not swimming, when the sand slipped out from under them, and they were immediately struggling.

"It's good to see the signs



are being located down closer to the beach, I only hope visitors look at the signs and heed the warning, but it needs to be supported by an education and promotion campaign."

Recently the Bass Coast Shire Council launched a more comprehensive beach safety campaign, urging people to only swim at patrolled beaches, and encouraging them to "assess the environment and take precautions to prevent tragedy by swimming or wading".

"If you are unsure about conditions on a beach; do not swim there. Please only enter the water on patrolled beaches where there are lifeguards.

We want everyone who comes

to enjoy our beaches to go home safely.

"We encourage all visitors and residents to download the Beach Safe app (Beachsafe App | SLSA Beachsafe) and access key beach safety messaging on the Life Saving Victoria website and throughout our Visitor Information Centres."

The authorities will also be using VMS advertising boards at Kilcunda and at the Phillip Island Visitor Centre to reinforce the beach safety message over the summer.

Click on the beachsafe.org.au link or scan this code for up-to-date details on beach conditions including safe beaches and patrolled beach locations.

New warning signs are being erected at Bass Coast's most dangerous surf beaches ahead of the summer holiday influx. It doesn't mean you can't swim but if you are unfamiliar with the location or the conditions - don't go in!



Debris scattered across nature strip after serious collision



Two young men are lucky to be recovering from non-life threatening injuries after their car collided with a gum tree, sign and fence, amongst other structures.

along Graham Street, before hearing the roar of an engine a minute or so later nearby - "I haven't heard that sound in long time."

Bricks from the culvert were split horizontally in half, whilst VB cans lay scattered along the natures strip further up the road. It is unknown at this stage whether alcohol is a contributing factor or was stowed in the rear tub, as a box also lay amongst the debris which included a suitcase and other items. Its alleged speed was a contributing factor at this stage.

All emergency service agencies worked together and were praised for their efforts.

Police are appealing for any witnesses or those nearby with dashcam and CCTV

footage to contact Wonthaggi Police Station on 5671 4100 or crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or make an anonymous report at crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime.

'Christmas With A Cop', two arrests and a knife

On December 6, as police were making their way to the Christmas variation of 'Coffee With A Cop', they spotted a 33-year-old male from Wonthaggi in Murray Street, who was wanted for not appearing in court the previous day. He was arrested and has been bailed to appear at Koorumburra Magistrates Court in April.

Not long after, an 18-year-old male from Warragul was observed in the vicinity of

the library. He was arrested in relation to theft of vehicle number plates. The male was interviewed and will likely be charged at a later date.

A 31-year-old male from Wonthaggi was then spoken to near the library, at which time a knife was located, which this male should not have had with them. The knife was seized, and the male will be receiving subsequent paper-work.

However, police from Bass Coast and South Gippsland did join local community members at Myli - My Community Library (Wonthaggi Library) for 'Christmas With A Cop', where plenty of questions were asked by the local community at the festive event.

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BASS COAST

Animals and fireworks

Fireworks displays will be held around Bass Coast to celebrate the festive season.

Dogs and horses in particular can be frightened by fireworks, please make sure that your pets are safe and secure when there are fireworks displays in your area.

Fireworks displays will be held:

Tuesday, 10 December:

- Cowes: 9.30pm, Carols by the Bay, Cowes Jetty,

New Year's Eve (Tuesday, 31 December)

- Coronet Bay: 9.30pm, Coronet Bay Foreshore

- Cowes: 9.30pm, Cowes Jetty

For more information on these events visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/events.

Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead

LAST week I was honoured to host the 2024 Community Grants event. It was an evening filled with stories of passion, dedication, and it showcased the incredible impact our local community groups and volunteers are having across the Bass Coast.

At Bass Coast Shire Council, we are proud to support initiatives that bring people together and make our region a better place to live. Through our grants program, we've been able to fund projects that make a difference to the heart and soul of our community. From art, music, festivals and dance to sports, recreation, and environmental protection, these projects uplift us all. The range of projects Council has supported reflects our diverse community and their interests.

One story that stood out for me was from the Arts Society Phillip Island Region (ASPIR). After 30 years without a permanent base, ASPIR now calls the Creative Arts Station home. When they heard that the old CFA building in Cowes would soon become vacant, they set to work to make it home. They've transformed the space into a welcoming hub, a beautiful space to create. This group's passion and determination is truly inspiring, and Council are delighted that community grants can help bring projects like this to life.

The Inverloch Men's Shed proudly showed the crowd a wooden sign that had been made using their new CNC lathe. Purchasing this new tool with the help of a community grant has not only increased the quality and quantity of their work but has had an added benefit of increasing the members' confidence with computers. This is something they have been able to take into their lives outside the shed.

One of the highlights of the evening was being able to speak to our volunteers. Hearing their stories and enthusiasm and seeing the contribution they are making in Bass Coast communities. None of this would be possible without them. Their time, energy, and unwavering dedication breathe life into these initiatives.

If you or you know someone with a project idea, I would encourage you to explore our community grants. Council's Quick Response Grants can be a simple and easy way of turning an idea into reality. You can find more information on our website.

To all volunteers in our community, thank you.

Four-storey office block for San Remo

STAFF in a proposed four-storey office block, to be located at 151 Marine Parade, San Remo, on the site of the former Jim's Bait and Tackle, will get a commanding view over the Phillip Island Bridge and Western Port while they work.

The planning application for the 11-space office project is set to come before the last Bass Coast Shire Council meeting of the year next Wednesday, December 11, where council is expected to tick off on the application despite receiving 20 objections.

Among the objections were several complaints about a proposal to waive nine parking spaces, the shire officers' report noting a Traffic Engineering Assessment prepared by Traffix Group finding that there were approximately 428 on-street car parking spaces in the vicinity of the project.

Objections focused on overlooking residential balconies, loss of view, construction noise, visual bulk, waste management, insufficient parking spaces, overshadowing, location of plant and equipment on the roof, wind-tunnel effect, and potential use of some of the office spaces for residential purposes.

In relation to the latter, shire officers said the 11 small



Concerns that some of the proposed office spaces in a new Marine Parade development might be converted into residential units has been rejected by a Bass Coast planning assessment.

offices ranged in size from 13 square metres to 25 square metres, and any attempt to change the building use from office to residential was "unlikely to garner support".

Despite the concerns, a report to council is supportive of the investment in business locally.

"The addition of 11 offices in central San Remo will provide diversity in the range of businesses and will increase activity in the San Remo commercial area," according to a council report.

"The roof will have a significant

installation of solar panels for common area lighting. All roof elements including solar panels and lift overruns are within the overall built form of the roof design," according to the report, which notes the building will top out at almost 19 metres at the rear.

The building will be almost 18 metres fronting Marine Parade. The bottom floor will be retail.

In summary, the shire says the proposed retail and office development is consistent with the relevant planning policies of the Planning Scheme and

will make a positive, visually engaging contribution to the commercial success of San Remo, and provide much-needed office space to the township, adding vibrancy and boosting economic activity within this important commercial centre.

"The subject site has no direct abutment to nearby residential land and is located at a distance from residential land further to the south, such that there will be negligible impacts from the proposed development upon the nearest dwellings."

No money, no options: It's retreat or nothing for Inverloch, they say

A REPORT to the Bass Coast Shire Council's final meeting of the year this Wednesday, responding to an urgent motion from Cr Meg Edwards, paints a dire picture of the impact and lack of options for addressing "the accelerating erosion of the Inverloch coastline".

The report details what's happened in the past few years, since "the Inverloch shoreline retreated landward by as much as 70 metres" in the decade to 2020, including the development of a \$450,000, 70-metre geotextile wall in front of the surf club, and a 160-metre rock revetment wall protecting Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road.

But it also reveals a serious lack of funding and the complete absence of viable options going forward, beyond sand renourishment, which the report acknowledges could be viewed by the community as a failure to act given the success of such efforts to date.

This has left authorities

scrambling for ways to protect "at-risk assets such as the surf lifesaving club building, utilities, roads and private properties" in the short term, "while a retreat approach is developed".

Since August 2024, for example, the Council has spent \$223,000 on erosion response works to address immediate risk to assets and beach access while its annual budget allocation for emergency works to respond to coastal erosion, including sand renourishment, at both Inverloch and Silverleaves on Phillip Island is just \$150,000.

The report goes on to address several of the "hard engineering" options, including rock and rockbag seawalls and the option of extending the geotextile wall in front of the surf club.

"In the specific coastal context at Inverloch Surf Beach, there are no known engineered solutions that will prevent the movement of sand offshore during storm events.

A rock revetment or rock wall will almost certainly result in

the complete loss of high tide beach. Any extension of the existing engineered walls will afford protection to assets immediately behind them for some time, but will not reduce the need for renourishment.

"The terminal scour effect observed at the end of the existing walls after each storm event would continue to occur at the new end of the extended wall/s.

"Wet sand fences, trialled at both ends of the Surf Beach in recent years, have demonstrated little to no effectiveness at preventing sand loss during peak events. While effective in some settings, the high wave energy and sand movements in Inverloch dwarf any contribution wet sand fences make between storm events. At the Cape Paterson Road end of the beach, the fence has been deformed over the course of just a few years, by the moving sands."

Considered the most viable of the engineering options, an extension of the geotextile wall would likely cost \$350,000 to

\$400,000 which is money the council does not have.

The council will consider several recommendations at this week's meeting, including seeking a meeting with the Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos to ask that large-scale dune restoration works commence as soon as possible.

Council will continue with its current program of works, replacing sand and providing safe beach access while advocating for more State and Federal funding to support coastal local governments and communities in dealing with coastal erosion and sea level rise.

Inevitably however, in response to a lack of funding and a lack of protection options, the council will have to develop the "retreat mechanism and strategy" referred to by the Cape to Cape Resilience Project which is code for planning controls on at-risk assets including infrastructure and housing in the firing line.

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Holiday home tax in time for Christmas

"DEAR Customer, you must notify us by 15 January 2025 if you own a home that has been unoccupied for more than six months."

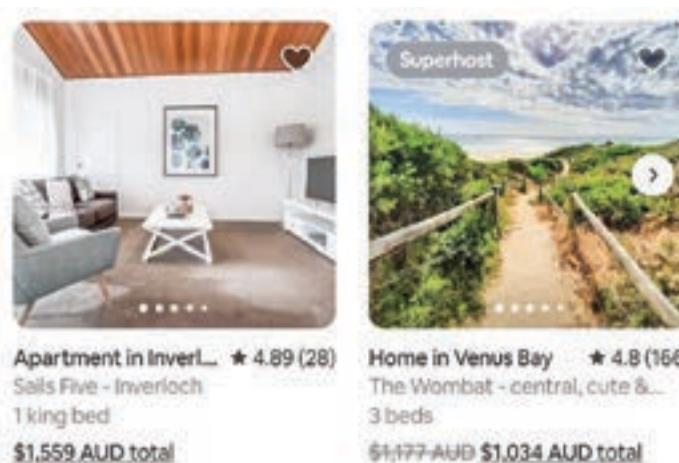
This was the opening paragraph of a communique from the Commissioner of the Victorian State Revenue Office (SRO), Paul Broderick, in the past week, to people who own an additional house or apartment, other than their principal place of residence.

It was no Christmas card.

Although not specifically targeting holiday homeowners and short-stay landlords, the letter advised them of a hefty new tax, a tax called the Vacant Residential Land Tax (VRLT), on second houses and apartments that remain vacant for more than six months a year and are not available to the permanent rental market.

In order to avoid paying the tax, holiday homeowners will need to declare they stay in the house for four weeks or more a year. But they may only claim the exemption on one additional property.

Those with an apartment in Melbourne, as well as their holiday home, or those with multiple holiday homes which they operate as a short-stay business, will not be able to avoid paying one per cent of the capital improved value of the property, going up to two per cent in



Operators of short-stay accommodation say the new tax on holiday houses, the Vacant Residential Land Tax (VRLT), is another nail in the coffin of their hospitality sector.

the second year, and three per cent in the third year.

With holiday houses by the coast in South Gippsland and Bass Coast valued typically between \$600,000 and \$1 million, owners who can't claim the exemption will be up for between \$6000 and \$10,000 in the first year, going up to between \$12,000 and \$20,000 in the second year and \$18,000 to \$30,000 in the third year.

Dozens of affected owners, according to an Inverloch real estate agent, immediately went out and put their properties on the market.

It's not a surprise.

The new tax follows the introduction of a short stay levy

of 7.5 per cent by the SRO, also from January 1, 2018 to "help address the lack of housing supply in Victoria", the Vacant Residential Land Tax initially applied only to vacant residential properties in inner and middle Melbourne.

There's also Land Tax and shire rates to pay.

A local short-stay property owner contacted by the Sentinel-Times believes it will kill the sector.

"Who could afford to operate an Airbnb? No one, which I guess is their aim," he said.

But it's not just those involved in the short-stay market who'll be impacted.

The new tax might have unintended consequences, for

example, for people who live in Wonthaggi and own a beach shack at Cape Paterson that they never rent out.

The SRO Commissioner isn't keen on providing exemption to those who own a "holiday house" close to home.

"The Commissioner of State Revenue must also be satisfied that the property was a genuine holiday home, having regard to its location and distance between the owner or vested beneficiary's actual home and the holiday home, as well as the frequency and nature of its use," according to details provided on the exemptions' page of the SRO website.

Introduced by the State Government from January 1, 2018 to "help address the lack of housing supply in Victoria", the Vacant Residential Land Tax initially applied only to vacant residential properties in inner and middle Melbourne.

But from January 1, 2025, VRLT will apply to residential property across all of Victoria if the site is vacant for more than six months in the preceding calendar year.

Penalty warning

Severe penalties apply. Failing to advise the SRO may result in you paying not only the arrears in tax but also a 90 per cent penalty.

Phillip Island Neighbourhood Battery locations announced

RENEWABLE energy specialist Mondo yesterday confirmed seven locations to install neighbourhood batteries on Phillip Island.

Locations for the neighbourhood-scale batteries were chosen in consultation with the community and will provide additional energy storage capacity for locally generated solar power.

The batteries will be installed at the following locations:

- Battery 1: Berninnett, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes
- Battery 2: Kembla Pasadena, 1 Kembla Road, Cowes
- Battery 3: Seagrass Everton, Opposite 11 Seagrass Avenue, Cowes
- Battery 4: Goodwood Elvington, Opposite 75 Goodwood Drive, Cowes
- Battery 5: Recreation Reserve, Corner Hallway Drive and Hoad Street, Wimbledon Heights
- Battery 6: Bass Coast Shire Council Depot, 105 Settlement Road, Cowes
- Battery 7: Katherine Circuit, 50 Katherine Circuit

Five of the seven batteries will each store 205 kWh of electricity, which is the amount of energy used by 11 houses for 24 hours. Two of the batteries will each have a storage capacity of 410 kWh to accommodate larger transformers and a high density of solar installations.

The project has been a collaboration between Mondo, the Bass Coast Shire Council, Totally Renewable Phillip Island and the Victorian State Government.

Phillip Island has been an integral part of Mondo's community energy focus over the past six years.

Since 2021 it has invested more than \$10 million to install and energise a 5MW/10MWh distribution battery on Phillip Island.

The batteries will be installed from February and fully operational by August 2025.

Please be respectful to road workers

Most of us understand that abusing road workers is unacceptable, but they often face verbal and physical aggression from speeding, distracted or impatient drivers.

When you're driving through a road worksite, don't beep your horn or yell at the road workers. No one should be abused when they're at work.



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Shire CEO Kerryn Ellis moves on

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council CEO Kerryn Ellis has tendered her resignation and is expected to depart in mid-February next year.

The announcement was made by Mayor Cr John Schelling last Wednesday, December 4.

The news of Ms Ellis' departure comes eight months after council awarded her a new five-year contract extension, in April this year.

It is understood that Ms Ellis will take up an appointment at the Office of the Victorian Ombudsman, Marlo Baragwanath, following her departure from South Gippsland.

News of her departure follows a similar announcement by Baw Baw Shire Council Chief Executive Officer, Mark Dupe, effective from December 24, 2024.

It is understood that Baw Baw, South Gippsland and a number of municipalities across the state now have CEO positions vacant.

Mayor Schelling was full of praise for Ms Ellis' tenure locally.

"During her five years at Council, Kerryn has transformed the organisation, leading it out of a difficult period – mired in uncertainty – and providing a clear direction



After five years at the helm of the South Gippsland Shire Council, Kerryn Ellis has tendered her resignation.

built on shared values and a commitment to community.

"Kerryn started her employment at South Gippsland Shire Council in March 2020 which coincided with the beginning of COVID lockdowns.

Despite this unconventional beginning and the difficulties that came with it, Kerryn was determined to make changes at Council to give the incoming Councillors the greatest chance of success.

"Together, with the support of Councillors, Kerryn brought unity and integrity back to the Council Chamber. Differences of opinion were encouraged through respectful discussions, which in turn, helped to promote the sharing of ideas.

"As someone who was new to the workings of local government before being elected, I will always be appreciative of how well Kerryn communicated to myself, and my colleagues, just what it means to be a Councillor and how it's not just a job, but an opportunity to positively shape the future direction of our community."

Cr Schelling listed several of Ms Ellis' and the shire's achievements during her tenure including significant capital works programs, considerable success with government grant applications, a low staff turnover rate (13.74 per cent), and several statewide awards.

"Equally impressive has been Kerryn's work within the organisation where she has worked tirelessly to rebuild staff morale and establish a culture where people are, once again, proud to say where they work."

The task of attracting a new CEO has already commenced.

'Hundreds of Inverloch houses' at risk, they say

HUNDREDS of houses in Inverloch will eventually be lost to inundation, as a result of beach erosion, unless urgent protective action is undertaken.

That's the view of a newly-formed community group, the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group, which has firmly rejected the default position of "adapt and retreat" in favour of protective works that will secure the future of the town's surf lifesaving club, Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road and housing.

"Without question, a large section of the township of Inverloch is now at serious risk because of years of inaction by the Victorian State Government," said a spokesperson for the group, its newly-appointed chair, Paul Cross.

"I want to make it clear that government inaction over a period exceeding eight years, which has seen our coastline continuously erode, has placed under imminent threat

of loss the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse, road and what is left of our precious dune formation, which will eventually be followed by the loss of hundreds of houses if no urgent protective action is undertaken," said Mr Cross.

"We are aware that adapt and retreat is under serious consideration by the State Government and our committee will do all possible to protect our community.

"Retreat is not an option as far we are concerned, and we believe the vast majority of community members will share that view when they come to understand the depth of the crisis which now exists.

Mr Cross said the group would "marshal people power in numbers the government cannot ignore" and announced that on Sunday, January 5, 2025, a major public rally would be held on the Inverloch Foreshore in front of the surf lifesaving clubhouse.

"Our committee calls on the community of Inverloch and beyond to turn out to save our foreshore, clubhouse, road and houses," he said.

Mr Cross said the committee will also be calling on the Victorian State Opposition to commit to protecting Inverloch.

"We have a full-blown crisis in Inverloch and we call on all political parties to commit to protecting Inverloch and saving our town as we know it today," Mr Cross said.

As well as Mr Cross, the committee includes former State Opposition Leader, Alan Brown, and former Woorayl Shire Engineer Keith Gorder.

A Facebook page has been established under the group's name to inform the community of the activities of the committee and to seek public support and comment.

Mr Cross said the surf lifesaving clubhouse was already

in imminent danger of being undermined by the sea and being damaged beyond repair.

"This is an absolutely unacceptable outcome and we call on the Victorian State Government to step up now, as a matter of extreme urgency, and save this facility which is vital to saving lives, and put in place protective works to ensure it is not lost to the Inverloch community."

He said works to secure Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road, providing access to the RACV Resort, a key employer and major tourist facility, were just as urgent.

If the road goes, people of Inverloch are just starting to wake up to the fact that hundreds of houses are eventually at threat of being inundated by seawater and loss he said.

"Without question, a large section of the township of Inverloch is now at serious risk because of years of inaction by the State Government."

COUNCIL BRIEFS

MAV leadership role for Cr Hersey

SOUTH Gippsland Shire councillor Nathan Hersey continues as Director for Gippsland at the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV), having recently been elected as Deputy President (Non-Metro).

He sees the appointment as a further opportunity to advocate for Gippsland through attending more events and meetings with ministers, promoting the region's importance and need for support and funding.

Cr Hersey demonstrated his commitment to advocacy throughout his first term as a councillor and feels there's plenty left to achieve.

Despite a recent health scare, he is taking on additional responsibilities at the MAV on top of his new leadership role, due to the departure of some councillors who were unsuccessful during the recent council election period.

"Because we've lost a few Board members, I'll also take on a few of the other municipalities around the State that don't have representation on the MAV Board at the moment," he said.

MAV Board positions are subject to change again in the early months of next year when Board elections take place.

Domestic Animal Management Plan on track in South Gippsland

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is well on course in implementing its Domestic Animal Management Plan (DAMP) 2022-2025 according to a report to be presented at Wednesday's council meeting.

The report declares that 97 per cent of actions outlined in the plan have either been completed or are on track to be during the final year of the plan.

Specifically, 38 per cent (13) of 34 planned actions have been completed, with 59 per cent (20) on track, while one action related to 'Dangerous, Menacing or Restricted Breed Dogs' is listed for monitoring.

That action refers to promoting the Department of Primary Industries Dangerous Dogs Hotline, council noting it prefers such incidents to be reported directly to its officers rather than through a third party.

Councillors hit ground running in South Gippsland

THE steep learning curve for new councillors is demonstrated by the intense schedule outlined in South Gippsland Shire Council's latest Summary of Strategic Briefings.

Among other things, councillors have been introduced to the Code of Conduct under which they will operate, learned about the business of council, undertaken an Integrated Planning Overview session and an Introduction to Local Government.

They've also had a swearing-in session, a council meeting, Council Committee Overview, Statutory and Strategic Planning Overview and a session on the Community Vision 2040.

All that and more was crammed in between November 11 and 21.

Tomorrow, councillors tackle their second public meeting, the last for this year.

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Deb Leonard
INDEPENDENT
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**South Gippsland
Shire Council**

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Australia Day Photography Competition

South Gippsland Shire Council is once again running an Australia Day Photography Competition.

The theme this year is **Australia Day: South Gippsland – Our Home**. Images must be taken within South Gippsland Shire or nearby. Entrants can interpret the theme however they choose, and entries are welcome from any South Gippsland resident or ratepayer.

There are two prize categories - an open category with a \$500 prize and a junior category (15 and under) with a \$300 prize.

Submitted images will not be used by Council outside of the

competition.

The Australia Day Photography Competition is funded by the National Australia Day Council.

To find out more about the South Gippsland Australia Day Photography Competition, or to submit an entry, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadaycompetition

Entries close Wednesday 15 January 2025.

Winners will be announced on Friday 26 January 2025.

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL
South Coast Community
Leadership Program**



Applications are now open for the South Coast Community Leadership Program.

This free six-month course is designed to help community members build their leadership skills, explore new ways of leading, and connecting with other like-minded local people.

This is an opportunity to upskill that you won't want to miss.

For more information and to apply, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership

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

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

South Gippsland Shire Council offices will be closed from 3.00pm Tuesday 24 December 2024 and will reopen Thursday 2 January 2025 at 10.00am. Council staff will be available on the phone and online from Thursday 2 January 2025 at 8.30am.

Bin Collections: Properties scheduled to have their kerbside bins emptied on Christmas Day

will be serviced on Thursday 26 December instead. This affects Bena, Loch, Mirboo North, Poowong, Dumbalk, Koowarra, Meeniyan, Nyora and Tarwin.

Visitor Information Centre, Foster: 7 days a week, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Closed Christmas Day. Phone 1800 630 704.

Coal Creek: 7 days a week, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Last entry 3.30pm. Closed Christmas Day.

South Gippsland Citizen's Advice Bureau and Visitor Information, Leongatha: Closed 24 to 26 December, 31 December and New Year's Day. Closed Sundays. Open 10.00am to 2.00pm outside those days. Phone 5662 2111.

Maternal and Child Health: Centres are open (except for public holidays) but limited to Key Ages and Stages (KAS) checks. Appointments required. For support, call 5662 9294. Council

and community playgroups do not run during school holidays. Go to www.playgroup.org.au to find contact details for your local playgroup.

Public Immunisation: Sessions will not be held in the first week of January but will recommence on 13 January. Go to: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Waste Management: All transfer stations and the Koonwarra landfill are also closed on Christmas Day. Operate as scheduled all other times. Opening hours are displayed at sites and on: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha
15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra
03 5662 9200
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The old Korumburra Senior Citizens building is being destroyed by vandals and squatters

By Courtney O'Brien

AMIDST ongoing efforts of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Club (KSCC) to prove their former home on Radovick Street belongs to them, the building has been left abandoned and at the mercy of vandals and squatters.

The KSCC vacated the building last June, leaving it in an immaculate state, but recent vandalism and destruction inside and outside the building has escalated to such a great extent that a table was used to smash glass doors and windows and then slammed through a wall.

KSCC member and advocate, Angie Bowen said it was noticed by locals last month that some kids had been breaking into the building, by removing a flywire on a window and climbing through.

At that point, no damage had occurred and a local business owner had reportedly moved the kids on.

A few days later Angie drove past the building and was surprised to notice the power was still on and there were coloured disco lights going.

"The righthand room at the front was obviously occupied," Angie said, who later reported it to police.

The police later informed Angie that a young man with mental illness had been occupying the building, who was not from the area and who the police had moved on.

It was also noticed that a huge amount of items had accumulated inside the building, including furniture, signs, soft toys, fans and other things which were stacked on the stage and strewn about in other rooms.

However, police reportedly believed the young man wasn't



Korumburra Senior Citizens' old building in Radovick Street has had squatters with piles of stuff stacked up on the stage and strewn about.

responsible for the items.

"None of that would have belonged to him. He had no means to actually put it there. He was a lone soul that needed somewhere for the night," said Angie, recounting what the police told her.

"Someone has been, obviously entering this place, and have accumulated all that rubbish that was on the stage."

One of these items was the table that was used to cause the most recent and senseless damage, which Angie believes was done in a different vein to the other break-ins, which hadn't been overtly destructive.

"Then this last one, there was a table ... And someone had picked the table up, and

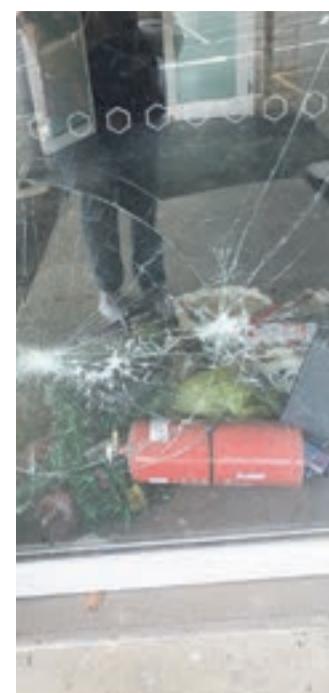
literally thrust it through a wall, and the legs are protruding the other side," explained Angie.

"Also, the front door, they've been trying to get in, but the glass in the front door is laminated, which, of course, they can't break through. But it's shattered in a circular shape. There's damage going on that is totally uncalled for."

Angie also commented on other incidents that have occurred at the site.

"Another local resident said that other times the tap in the kitchen has been left on, and he has managed to get in and said the whole kitchen was totally flooded, so he swept it all out and he looked after it."

Since the most recent vandalism has occurred, Council



The most recent vandalism to the building has seen doors and windows smashed, with Council planning to board them up.

stated that "the site has been resecured and there are also imminent plans to board remaining windows and remove remaining materials."

Council have also switched off the power to the building.

In line with the resolution from April's Council Meeting, Council stated they are currently working to remove the Public Use Zone on the land and will then proceed to sell the land by public sale.

Police have been contacted for comment and are investigating.

If anyone witnesses vandalism, squatting or anti-social behaviour at or near the Senior Citizens Centre please contact Korumburra Police Station. If urgent action is required contact 000.

Access and inclusion invitation in South Gippsland

WHILE South Gippsland Shire Council has no plans to establish a separate LGB-TIQA+ Advisory Committee as requested by the Rainbow Local Government group, council is set to invite the organisation to submit an Expression of Interest to join its Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

The Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee is intended to support

engagement with and inclusion of communities that may experience barriers to access and inclusion.

At Wednesday's council meeting, councillors will respond to a petition from the Rainbow Local Government organisation received at the November council meeting.

The recommendation to councillors is to vote to thank the petitioner and invite the organisation to

apply for representation on the Access and Inclusion Committee.

The Access and Inclusion Committee will provide council with advice on the development and implementation of a South Gippsland Access & Inclusion Action Plan.

"This committee is made up of members with experience of barriers to access and/or inclusion, or

organisations that support members of the community who experience barriers to access and/or inclusion," council states, with such access applying to goods, services and facilities across the shire.

Membership of the Committee is currently open and communities who may experience barriers to access and inclusion are encouraged to submit applications.

Calling local creatives to the South Gippsland Arts Committee

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified and interested members of the community who would like to be part of the South Gippsland Arts Committee.

The committee is an exciting and dynamic think tank of creative locals whose purpose is to collaborate with council's Arts, Culture and Visitor Economy Team to help deliver the Arts, Culture and Creative Industries Strategy 2022-26 and contribute to future planning and decision-making.

The current committee has had many accomplishments

that highlight the importance of this committee.

Some of these achievements include:

- The development of new policies such as the Arts and Civic Memorabilia Collection Policy and Public Arts Collection Policy.
- Shortlisting candidates for the Leongatha and Korumburra Railway Precinct Mural projects.
- Mentoring Korumburra Secondary College students who assisted with shortlisting candidates for the Korumburra Railway Precinct Mural Project.
- Providing ongoing input

into the ArtCubes program.

- Assessing projects applying for funding under the South Gippsland Creative Fund.
- Ongoing advocacy for the promotion and support of arts throughout South Gippsland.

The new committee will be made up of no more than 10 members who will be selected through this Expression of Interest process.

One councillor and up to two representatives from council's Arts, Culture and Visitor Economy team will also attend meetings to provide a strong conduit back to council.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for local creatives to build on the work of the previous committee," Mayor Cr John Schelling said.

"I strongly encourage anyone with a creative bone in their body to seriously consider this opportunity and apply quickly."

Applications will be assessed by an internal panel that will consider the specialist skills, knowledge and experience of the applicant.

Expressions of Interest close on Friday, December 20.

To submit your Expression of Interest and for more information, visit southgippsland.vic.gov.au/artsadvisory.

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling



ON Wednesday, December 4, South Gippsland Shire Council's Chief Executive Officer Kerryn Ellis tendered her resignation.

Kerryn has been a fierce advocate for South Gippsland and over her time as CEO, she has transformed the organisation into a place people want to work.

I have been privileged to work alongside Kerryn for the past three years, and while I am sad to see her moving on, I am extremely grateful for everything she has done here.

All Councillors have very much enjoyed working with Kerryn, and it is on behalf of all of us that I say thank you to Kerryn for all of her hard work. We wish her every success for her next adventure.

If you would like to see a full statement on this matter, you can do so at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Expressions of Interest open for Arts Advisory Committee

South Gippsland Shire Council is seeking Expressions of Interest from suitably qualified and interested members of the community who would like to be part of the South Gippsland Arts Advisory Committee.

The Committee will be made up of no more than 10 members that will bring their specialist skills, knowledge and experience to the group. This is a fantastic opportunity for local creatives to build on the work of the previous Committee, so I strongly encourage you to consider applying.

Expressions of interest close on Friday, December 20, 2024. Please apply now at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/artsadvisory

Grand Ridge Road closure

If you are travelling on the Grand Ridge Road this week, please note that it is closed between Canavans Road and Hollins Road landslip repairs. Detours are in place via Canavans Road or Ferndale Road. The road will reopen Saturday, December 14, 2024.

Events

Over the last 16 days, Council has participated in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Part of this campaign, a walk was held in Leongatha on Wednesday, along with a photo pop-up to encourage people to talk about respect.

I'd like to thank everyone who came along to support these events and all others held across South Gippsland. Together we can have a safer South Gippsland.

On Thursday evening, Councillors Bron Beach, Clare Williams and Brad Snell joined me at the Community Planning Network's Presentation to Councillors. These groups have been working tirelessly to create plans for their towns that highlight the needs and opportunities for some of our towns.

Thank you to the representations from:

- Meenyan Progress Association.
- Sandy Point Community Group.
- Poowong Community Consultative Committee.
- Kongwak Hall.
- Welshpool Area Future Focus Group.
- Port Welshpool Working Group.
- Fish Creek Community Development Group.
- Yanakie Progress Association.
- Korumburra Round Table.
- Nyora Progress Association.

I appreciate all of you for volunteering your time to speak with us.

Congratulations Councillor Hersey!

I'd like to congratulate Cr Nathan Hersey on his appointment as Deputy President (Non-Metro) at the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV). Cr Hersey has been part of MAV in some capacity for the last three years, and it is terrific to see him take on this position.

Entries open for Wonthaggi Show

DON'T get in a pickle you still have time to prepare your jams, jellies, chutneys and preserves for the upcoming Wonthaggi Summer Agricultural Show.

Needlecraft, garden, home and farm produce, children's decorated boots and saucers, animals, insects, and creatures made from fruit and vegetables, recycled articles and containers of flowers and foliage can all be entered for free.

Knitting, crochet work, toys, dolls, sewing, embroidery, and patchwork can be entered as needlecraft.

Produce from the home garden or farm, garden collections, veggies, fruit, honey, eggs, herbs, hay, and green crop sheaths go into the produce section.

Containers of foliage or flowers and decorated saucers and gumboots are entered as horticulture.

Jams and preserves, jellies, chutneys, relish, sauce, and vinegar will go into the home produce section and baked items such as scones, cakes, slices, biscuits, and bread go into cookery.

The competitive children's section welcomes decorated boots, saucers, animals, insect creatures or thing made from fruit or vegetables along with containers of foliage or flowers, recycled articles and drawings or paintings on an A4 sheet of paper.

Entries close on Thursday, January 2 at 4pm with judging on Friday, January 3.

The Bass Coast Summer Agricultural Show will be held on Saturday, January 4 from 9am to 4.30pm at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve.

Don't miss out.

Email basscoastagshow@hotmail.com for more information and entry forms.



Nicky Chung, CEO of the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association, is delighted to hear that the new National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Newhaven on Phillip Island will include a significant collection telling the story of the Vietnamese diaspora in Australia. With Phil Dressing deputy chair NVVM, Neville Goodwin board member, John Methven founder and board member and Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead.

Honouring their story and ours, together

MEMBERS of the board of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum have met with the Minister for Defence Personnel and Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Matt Keogh, in Canberra to make a pitch for a further \$40 million in funding to build their new museum at Newhaven.

The group detailed its renewed pitch for funding last Tuesday with the new museum to include a major collection on the history of the Vietnamese diaspora in Australia, one of the largest in the world.

"If you go to the War Memorial in Canberra you won't see a

lot of the history of the Vietnam War that we have here, and there's little known about the story of how the Vietnamese people came to Australia, after the fall of Saigon, which happened 50 years ago on April 30 next year," said Deputy Chair of the board of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, Phil Dressing.

"For example, little is known by the general community about Operation Babylift (between April 3 and 26, 1975) when more than 3300 infants and children, most of them orphans from South Vietnam, were brought to the

United States and other western countries like Australia.

"Tragically, one of the planes taking the children to a new life crashed and burned on take-off and they were all killed, including two Australian women, Lee Makk and Margaret Moses from Adelaide, who had volunteered to go and take care of the children.

"Tragic, but who knows about it?

"These are the stories and more that we want to tell at this new, bigger museum, as well as the story of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War," said Mr Dressing.

On Tuesday, last week, members of the NVVM board including Phil Dressing deputy chair, Neville Goodwin board member, John Methven founder and board member met with Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and CEO of the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association (AVWA) Nicky Chung to discuss the museum's involvement in a major program of events next year to celebrate 50 years since the mass arrival of Vietnamese people in Australia, following the end of hostilities.

More details on the Sentinel-Times' website at sgst.com.au

Bass Coast Wonthaggi Show

ENTRIES INVITED TO EXHIBIT YOUR TALENTS

As part of the Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Agricultural Show this is an opportunity to enter these sections of the Show for no charge

NEEDLECRAFT

Knitting, Crochet, Toys, Dolls, Sewing, Embroidery and Patchwork.

PRODUCE

from your Garden and / or Farm Garden Collections, Veggies, Fruit, Honey, Eggs, Herbs Hay and Green crop sheaths

HOME PRODUCE

Jams and Preserves inc. Jellies, Chutneys, Relish, Sauce and vinegar Cookery - scones, cakes, slices, biscuits, bread and much more

**ENTRY FORMS ACCEPTED UNTIL THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 4PM
JUDGED ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 3, 2025**

Programs with entry forms are available:

- Online on FB Show page: Bass Coast - Wonthaggi Summer Show
- At a pick up point - The Wonthaggi Club - McBride Ave, Wonthaggi
- Email us on basscoastagshow@hotmail.com for a program or any enquiries

HORTICULTURE

Containers of foliage/flowers. Decorated Saucers and Boots

CHILDRENS SECTION

Decorated Boot
Decorated Saucer
Animal, Insect, Creature, Thing made from fruit and / or vegetable
Container of Foliage / Flowers
Recycled Article
Drawing / Painting A4 Paper - Poultry, Chooks, Ducks, Chickens

Meeniyian Community Carols

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 23**

Tanderra Park, Meeniyian

Free BBQ at 6.30pm

CAROLS BEGIN at 7.30pm



Featuring the South Gippsland Concert Band and the Good News Community Choir also featuring items by

Tanya Wilson, an interactive childrens item, and a short message by radio presenter Randall Green

Sponsored by the local community and church.

ALL WELCOME

COAL CREEK, Farmers' MARKET

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
8AM - 12.30PM
COAL CREEK CAR PARK**

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Loch village local Beck Pierce and nine other Loch volunteers took on wet and rainy conditions to help spread mulch at the newly installed Loch playground.

Mulch goes down at new Loch playground

THE NEXT stage of the brand new Loch playground has been finished with 10 volunteers spreading 32 cubic metres of mulch on a rainy Saturday recently.

Five of the volunteers were from the Loch Memorial Reserve Committee and five were local community members from Loch Village. Despite the downpours, the hard-working crew brought along their shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows to finish off this part of the playground in time for Christmas.

A few more items will be added in the coming weeks to complete the playground with two bench seats and a drinking fountain donated by South Gippsland Water to be installed.

"We've got to mount those. We're going to put a bench seat on either end of the playground itself, and we're waiting on South Gippsland Water to deliver our drinking fountain. Once that's been done, we're going to mount it at the edge of the whole thing, so the mums and dads can sit down and have a cold

drink if they want to, while they're watching their children play," said Frank Springer, President of the Loch Memorial Reserve committee.

The Loch Memorial Reserve Committee have worked with the community in a team effort to plan, choose colours, demolish old equipment, install the new equipment and now place the mulch.

The newly installed equipment provides a new playground for the community which benefits local families and visitors.

Opportunity for underpass artistic project

SUITABLY qualified community members are encouraged to put their hands up to join a panel tasked with selecting an artist or creative team to deliver a contemporary art installation in the newly constructed Koonwarra underpass, South Gippsland Shire Council having opened an Expression of Interest process.

Three community members will be chosen as panel members, joining two council officers in that capacity.

Two community panel members must have experience in delivering a permanent lighting or sound installation, the

other needs to demonstrate an understanding of the Koonwarra site and its unique environment, with knowledge and experience of public art preferred.

All panel members will be required to visit the site to familiarise themselves with the technical and environmental aspects of the underpass, review the relevant technical and environmental information regarding the site, and participate in the assessment and selection process.

The Public Art Installation Project is part of the Great Southern Rail Trail Activation Project funded under the Victorian Government's Council

Support Package.

Mayor John Schelling encourages those with an interest in public art and suitable qualifications to submit an Expression of Interest, saying it is an exciting opportunity to be on a creative panel that will decide the overall aesthetic of the Koonwarra underpass.

Each selected panel member will be remunerated \$500 for their time, expertise and travel.

Expressions of Interest close Friday, December 20.

To submit your Expression of Interest and for more information, please visit southgippsland.vic.gov.au/artpanel_EOI.

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Christmas Cheer

- Without Breaking the Bank

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELIcapital

The festive season is upon us, and while Christmas is a time for joy, family, and togetherness, it can also bring financial stress. Between gift shopping, festive meals, and decorations, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the costs. But let's take a moment to remember what the season is truly about: creating memories with loved ones. With a little planning, we can celebrate without emptying our wallets—and even find gifts that give back.

Savvy Spending in the Festive Season

First, let's tackle the shopping frenzy. Before you dash into the stores or scroll endlessly online, set a budget and stick to it. It might not sound festive, but financial peace of mind beats the regret of an overblown credit card bill. Look for deals early—many retailers offer pre-Christmas discounts that rival Boxing Day sales. Apps and browser extensions like Honey or CamelCamel can help track price drops, ensuring you get the best deals without the legwork.

Another tip? Consider pooling resources with family members for group gifts. Instead of buying individual presents for everyone, pitch in for something special the whole family can enjoy, like a board game or movie night kit.

Gifts That Keep On Giving

Instead of traditional gifts that cost money without much return, why not think outside the (gift) box? Consider presents that could help your loved ones make or save money:

• **For the budding entrepreneur:** A starter kit for a hobby they've been curious about—knitting supplies, baking tools, or even a small art set. Who knows? It could spark a passion that leads to extra income.

• **For kids and teens:** A piggy bank or savings jar paired with a little starter cash. Throw in a book about money

basics to make it a teaching moment.

• **For adults:** Subscription services that add value—like an audiobook platform for the commuter, a budgeting app for the financially conscious, or a class in a skill they've always wanted to learn.

Homemade gifts can also be surprisingly meaningful. A jar of homemade cookies, a custom photo calendar, or a handwritten coupon for a home-cooked meal can be far more cherished than something store-bought.

First and foremost: Time

Let's not forget: the most valuable gift you can give is your time. Instead of focusing on things, why not invest in experiences? Plan a family hike, a movie marathon, or a Christmas baking day. These moments create the kind of memories that don't come with a price tag.

If you're hosting Christmas dinner, consider a potluck approach. Asking each guest to bring a dish not only lightens your workload but also shares the cost. Plus, it's a great way to enjoy a variety of family recipes and traditions.

The True Spirit of the Season

The pressures of holiday spending can sometimes overshadow what Christmas is really about. It's easy to get swept up in commercials that suggest happiness comes wrapped in a bow, but joy doesn't come from stuff—it comes from connection. A heartfelt letter, a genuine conversation, or simply being present can mean more than any gift.

This Christmas, let's focus on what matters: kindness, togetherness, and gratitude. By being mindful of our spending, creative with our gift-giving, and intentional about our time, we can make this festive season meaningful without breaking the bank.

After all, the best things in life aren't things.

RELI Capital wish all the readers of the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times a Merry Christmas and happy New Year.

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

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Growing support for creative art therapies petition

THE RESPONSE to Inverloch therapist Dr Carla van Laar's petition to maintain NDIS funding for creative art therapy has soared to 27,000 signatures.

The next goal is 35,000 signatures and Carla is well on her way to achieving it.

According to Dr Van Laar, all allied health professionals have a place in providing much-needed care for every member of our community especially people for whom mainstream services are inaccessible or inappropriate.

"In many instances, creative and experiential therapies such as creative arts therapy, dance/movement therapy, drama therapy, art therapy, play therapy and music therapy, are more effective than medical model therapies in engaging and supporting people with disabilities," stated Carla.

"This is because we use more-than-verbal methods, employ multi-modal communication and learning styles, and work with the whole person in ways that support physical, social/emotional, and cognitive health and wellbeing."

The responses to Carla's online petition have been moving.

One respondent said her son Tim got nowhere when going to a traditional talk-based psychologist, but when he switched to an art therapist, things took off for him.

"He was able to share his anxieties, talk cathartically about having been bullied at school, and has even developed pride in his artistic skills, which he never thought he had."

"If you really care about this generation of children you wouldn't be taking away a proven therapy."

Another respondent said their daughter had used play therapy when younger followed by art therapy when traditional psychology and occupational therapy did not work for her.

"My daughter has come so far due to art therapy."

"She had such terrible anxiety and art therapy with a qualified art therapist is the only thing that helps."

Natasha writes that her oldest son does art therapy to help with his emotional regulation and her youngest was about to start for the same reason.

"The high demand for music and creative arts therapy services by NDIS participants is evidence of the efficacy of these therapeutic supports," said Dr Carla van Laar.

To access Carla's petition, go to change.org/p/creative-and-experiential-therapies-belong-in-the-ndis.

Friends of Coal Creek return carriage roofs to former glory

FRIENDS of Coal Creek members have begun the arduous yet exciting work of restoring the roofs of three train carriages which are part of the Coal Creek Community Park and Museum and date back to the 1930s.

Work has started on the roof of the first class carriage which will then be followed by the second class carriage and storage carriage roofs.

"It's quite a complex thing to be done. In the fact that the roofing has been previously repaired 25 years ago," explained Roger Powell from Friends of Coal Creek (FOCC).

"What we're having to do is take off the fibreglass surface over the top of it, and then peel back all the canvas that's underneath it, rip all that off, repair all the struts and the wood roof surface underneath, and then reapply a canvas top with some sealant on it."

The old fibreglass and canvas were part of previous restoration work, with the fibreglass intended to prevent water from leaking into the carriage, however, that hasn't been the case.

By uncovering the roof's



The Friends of Coal Creek volunteers have begun work on restoring the roofs of three train carriages from the 1930s to their former glory.

struts further assessment for remediation work will be made, to return the carriages back to their former glory.

"The roofs were timber struts with a stretched canvas over the top, which was then bituminised or sealed.

It didn't leak and that's how all the trains were built," explained Roger.

FOCC received a \$50,000 Tiny Towns grant from the State government and some funding from the South Gippsland Shire Council to begin carrying out the work.

"It's \$50,000 to restore the roof structures and do as much as possible once we get the roof structures done," said Roger.

"Once all that gets done, we can then actually work on the inside of the carriages, because at the moment the carriages are leaking, and so you can't do things when things are leaking."

The volunteers are receiving advice from external engineers with heritage rail expertise and working under the supervision of SGSC.

Roger anticipates it will take them at least until mid-next year to complete.

"If we get this done by mid-next year, it will be absolutely wonderful, it means that the carriages will be reopened. We'll be able to then clean them out, repaint them, redo all the stuff that you have to do inside, so they get restored to pretty much what they were like back in the 1930s, 40s."

The complete cost of the work is estimated to be about \$80,000, with the SGSC and FOCC both funding parts with volunteer labour on top.

"I think that we're really wanting the community to observe and see what we're doing and this is part of the restoration and the rebuilding of Coal Creek into a major tourist destination," added Roger.



A vibrant collection of small artworks from 50 exciting artists will take centre stage at Berninnett this Saturday.

Contemporary art comes to Berninnett this December

GET ready to immerse yourself in a stunning showcase of artistic talent at the PICES 50x50 Exhibition from December 14 to January 1, 2025. Featuring the work of 50 accomplished artists, this new and exciting event offers a treasure trove of small, affordable artworks perfect for art lovers, collectors, and gift-givers alike.

Visitors will have the chance

to explore a diverse array of media, including painting, photography, pottery, printmaking, sculpture, and textiles. Each piece, presented in an "Art Salon Style", reflects the unique vision of artists from Bass Coast, Gippsland, and beyond, and celebrates the vibrancy and creativity of the local and regional art communities.

Whether you're seeking a

bold statement piece or a subtle and intimate work, there's something for everyone at this exhibition.

With the holiday season upon us, the PICES 50x50 Exhibition is the ideal destination for finding that one-of-a-kind Christmas gift. Discover meaningful, handmade artworks that are sure to delight and inspire your loved ones, all while

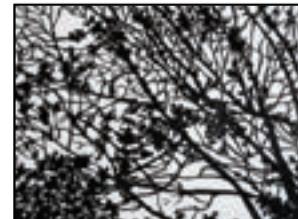
supporting talented artists and the arts.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience the beauty and variety of small-scale art at its finest. Mark your calendar and visit the PICES 50x50 Exhibition at Berninnett Art Gallery, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes from Saturday December 14 – it's a celebration of art, creativity and community.

PICES 50X50 Art Exhibition

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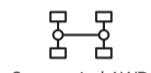
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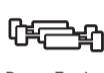
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CFA's Chief Officer Jason Heffernan.

CFA issues warning after stark rise in fires

CFA is urging Victorians to take extra care this summer after vegetation fire jumped more than 50 per cent during the 2023/24 Fire Danger Period.

Between October 1, 2023, and April 1, 2024, CFA responded to 2145 vegetation fires including grass, bush and farmland across Victoria, compared to 1415 incidents in 2022/23.

This increase was accompanied by a 21 per cent rise in fire investigations, revealing that many incidents were caused by avoidable factors.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said reducing fire risk this season is critical given the summer outlook for a hot and dry season ahead.

"Many of the incidents we investigated – such as escaped burn-offs and machinery-related fires – were preventable with proper preparation and compliance with fire safety regulations," Jason said.

"Fires on Total Fire Ban days remained a major concern during the last Fire Danger Period (FDP), with 449 incidents recorded."

Of the 449 incidents, 21 per cent were caused by escaped burn-offs, nine per cent by campfire, eight per cent were deemed suspicious and five per cent were linked to machinery fires.

"Total Fire Ban days are declared to minimise the risk of fires starting and spreading, so it's critical we see fewer avoidable incidents on these days," Jason said.

"Simple precautions like adhering to restrictions, planning ahead and ensuring equipment is safe can help protect lives and property on these dangerous days."

This warning comes as parts of Victoria face an increased fire risk this summer – including the west, southwest, northeast, southwest Gippsland including Mornington Peninsula and Greater Melbourne.

"We're urging all Victorians to plan ahead, maintain their properties and adhere to fire restrictions to help reduce the risk and protect our communities this season," Jason said.

"Always check fire danger ratings, make sure your machinery is in good working condition and clear vegetation around your property to reduce the risk of fire spreading."

"Together, we can make a real difference this season and help protect what matters most."

For more information on fire safety and preparation, visit CFA's website.

Bass Coast transport dynamos call it a day

AFTER thirty-nine years in transport and trucking Inverloch brothers Alan and Russell Miller have called time on their legendary Wonthaggi freight business VCF Transport.

Selling out to ASX-listed logistics group FleetPartners, Alan and Russell Miller will walk away from their Carneys Road depot at the end of the month.

"We sold Wonthaggi Removals and Storage eighteen months ago," said Alan.

"VCF Transport was sold in November."

Taking on the Herald-Sun and Age daily newspaper run from Melbourne to Yarram in 1985 Alan and Russell with their father Jack bought Vicki's Transport three years later.

"We bought 'Vicki's' at a creditor's meeting," said Alan.

Renamed VCF Transport in 2000 the brothers never looked back.

"It was hard, very hard," remembers Russell.

"Sometimes we paid our staff more than we paid ourselves."

Starting the newspaper run while still in their twenties the Miller boys were soon married with children on the way.

Russell raising five children and Alan with two there was little time for family.

"It is sad, but the only time we really saw our kids was when they came to work at the depot," said Alan.

"They worked for pocket money."

The workload was punishing. "We would leave home for Melbourne around 6.30pm and drive through the night to make the last deliveries to the newsagent in Yarram before breakfast," said Russell.

"Then we started leaving home earlier and earlier to pick up magazines from Consolidated Press in Sunshine. "Car magazines, Better Homes



Alan and Russell Miller VCF Transport founding partners. B03_5024

and Gardens, Women's Weekly and Woman's Day. We delivered them all."

Starting out the back of a fish and chip shop in Graham Street the brothers soon moved to White Road, bought a depot in Dandenong, and then eventually relocated to Carneys Road.

The newspaper run lasted for thirty-five years.

"We thought we had a job for life," said Alan.

Then the Internet came along and the whole business changed.

Unsurprisingly the Miller boys rarely had time to read magazines or newspapers.

"The newsagents wouldn't allow you to be late. People love their daily newspaper."

Vicki's was solely a parcel freight business.

The Miller brothers needed to expand into general freight and purchased bigger trucks.

"We went from a little van and a three-tonne Isuzu truck to a fleet of semi-trailers."

The combined multi-million dollar business of VCF Transport and Wonthaggi Removals and Storage was running 16 trucks and employed 21 staff.

Alan and Russell Miller ran newspapers at night and moved furniture during the day.

"I can't look at another billiard table," said Alan.

The general freight business expanded to deliver SIGMA pharmaceutical products across the state.

Now contemplating retirement Alan and Russell Miller say forty years in trucking is long enough.

"Saturday nights were our only rest."

"We never had a holiday."

"I only ever went home and mowed the lawn," said Alan.

Alan and Russell could probably afford to pay someone else to mow their lawns now.

Growing up at Inverloch, Alan and Russell both love the town and have no plans to move.

"I'm looking forward to finding something I like," said Alan.

"Game fishing would be nice."

Passionate about junior football and the Inverloch Football Club Russell Miller served nine years as Club President starting up the U12s and U14s teams.

"I'm happy that four Inverloch players are now on AFL lists," said Russell.

"It would be lovely to get some value out of my golf membership."

A member of the Leongatha Golf Club for eleven years Russell Miller can only remember playing in three competitions.

The brothers remember the early days as tough.

"We didn't have much capital, we had nothing."

Thanking their loyal staff, Alan Miller said the staff made the business.

"We always had long-term employees."

Three have worked for Alan and Russell for over twenty years.

Alan and Russell's father Jack Miller was initially part of the business which traded as J, R and A Miller.

Retiring at age 72 Jack Miller is now 89 and no doubt justly proud of his family.

"He's happy we're getting out," said Alan.

"Happy we can retire."

VCF Transport was handed over to the new owners on November 1 and Wonthaggi Removals and Storage was sold in 2022.

Mensland returns to Wonthaggi

THE POPULAR Mensland range of smart casual menswear is back in Wonthaggi conveniently located at the entrance to Plaza Arcade.

All ages, shapes and sizes are catered for including hard-to-fit big and taller men.

Proprietor of Wonthaggi Mensland and the Plaza Arcade, Peter Liddle said Mensland's national buying power gives the Wonthaggi store access to a wide range of styles and colours without compromising on price.

"We stock good-value men's garments," said Peter.

"No one else has this style of casual wear."

Mensland Wonthaggi has polos, jackets, plain shirts, slim-fit shirts and dress shirts for special occasions.

Try the Mensland neat casual summer range.

"Twelve different styles of jeans," said store assistant Brendan Knight.

A carpenter by trade, construction manager for thirty-eight years and currently President of Wonthaggi Power, Peter Liddle is a tall man and has made sure the Wonthaggi Mensland store

has plenty of stock for bigger men.

Working in partnership with his wife Sharon the Liddle family has a long history in Wonthaggi.

"The Plaza Arcade used to be the town's picture theatre," said Peter.

Two picture theatres, in fact, the Soldiers Memorial Theatre and the Plaza Theatre and later home to the White Manufacturing Company and Exacto Knitwear.

"The big storm of '93 blew the roof off," recalled Peter.

The Plaza Arcade was rebuilt and continues to be regularly upgraded with new flooring and now the new Mensland store.

Mensland caters for young men in their 20s to the over 70s.

"New stock of linen and cotton shirts, golf shirts, swimwear and smart casual shorts are coming in every week," said Brendan.

You will find the new Wonthaggi Mensland at the entrance to the Plaza Arcade in Graham Street or go to mensland.com.au to check out Mensland's huge range of clothing, footwear and accessories for the whole family.



Proprietor Peter Liddle (pictured right) and Brendan Knight at the new Mensland store in Wonthaggi. B14_5024

PROJECT UPDATES



WISHING YOU A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to talk with us, give feedback and share local knowledge this year.

We've enjoyed getting out and about and look forward to continuing these conversations in 2025, as we work towards bringing offshore wind to Gippsland.



Speaking with students at careers events



Top: The Toora Triathlon
Bottom: Meeting local suppliers

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Star of the South
Star of the South Project
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COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MILESTONE

The Star of the South Community Advisory Group recently celebrated its 30th meeting.

The group provides a forum for members to hear updates, provide local advice and share feedback. This year, the group discussed project timelines, transmission plans and community benefit sharing.

Thank you to the Independent Chair and group members, who have contributed their time, community spirit and goodwill to help shape Star of the South.



OFFSHORE WIND NET POSITIVE CHALLENGE

We're excited to collaborate with Ocean Impact Organisation to uncover offshore wind innovations to leave a positive legacy for the climate, ocean, and biodiversity.

Find out more at ocean-impact.org/oswchallenge

GIPPSLAND OFFSHORE WIND DAYS

Thank you to the 170 people who spoke with us and shared feedback in Seaspray, Foster, Traralgon and Yarram during November.

Some of the key topics we were asked about included project timing, ports, protecting marine life and job and supply opportunities.



COME AND TALK WITH US

Got an offshore wind question?

Find our team at:

Sea Days Festival, Port Welshpool Ferry Terminal
Saturday 4 January, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

Pearl Park Music Festival, Main Street Foster
Saturday 4 January, 10 am – 2 pm



Gippsland office hours

Our Gippsland office will be closed Tuesday 24 December and reopen Tuesday 7 January.

New Directors appointed to Destination Gippsland Board

DESTINATION Gippsland welcomed two new board directors, Adam Vardy and Mandi Davidson, at their Annual General Meeting, held in Traralgon on Thursday, November 28.

Adam Vardy brings a wealth of tourism and hospitality experience to the board. Alongside his wife Julia, Adam owns and operates Mewburn Park Homestead, a wedding event and accommodation business in Central Gippsland. As a full-time tourism owner/operator, Adam understands the needs and challenges of starting and operating a tourism business. Prior to tourism, Adam was a graphic designer. Adam's family have farmed in the Maffra region for four generations.

Mandi Davidson has also been appointed to the Destination Gippsland board. Mandi has had a successful senior executive career spanning more than 20 years, she is currently an executive manager (Strategy and Innovation) with the RPS Group. Mandi began her career as a cadet journalist with the Herald Sun and went on to become the paper's Deputy Chief of Staff. She holds a Master of Commercial Law, a Master of Professional Communication, and an MBA.

Jan Fitzgerald was re-elected Chair and thanked outgoing Directors, Nicola Pero and Neil Travers, and congratulated Adam Vardy and Mandi Davidson on their appointment to the Board.

"The past five years have seen significant challenges for tourism, from bushfires to COVID and the resulting economic pressures, and during this time Destination Gippsland has worked to support tourism operators and successfully promote the region. The contribution made by our retiring directors, Nicola Pero and Neil Travers, has been significant over many years and is greatly appreciated."

Adam Vardy and Mandi Davidson join the following serving Board Directors: Jan Fitzgerald (Chair), Neil Plumridge (Deputy Chair), Andrew Clark, Michelle Nicholson, Daniel Miller, Greg Box, David Morcom, Kerryn Ellis and Mark Dupe, alongside Board Observers Kerri Villiers, Sara Rhodes-Ward and Jason Bannikoff.



Dale Ryder (of Boom Crash Opera) and Tristan Ross gave an incredible performance at Inverloch's Inlet Hotel.

All for a great cause

WHAT could have been better than a music duo consisting of Dale Ryder and Tristan Ross?

Well you can't say the weather which was perfect, but it was the cause they were playing for.

Dale (of Boom Crash Opera) and Tristan graced the Inlet Hotel in Inverloch on Saturday, December 7, delivering an incredible performance which helped raise funds for the Young Veterans and The Salvation Army.

The initiative is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for issues faced by veterans from mental health to social re-integration.

The duo played a range of classics and crowd pleasers with the event hailed a success.

Rock lobster priced for Christmas

LIGHT catches for the opening of the rock lobster season have seen prices for live crays at the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op rise to a wallet stretching \$120 a kilogram.

One lobster weighing two and a half kilograms will set you back \$300 cooked or claw-snapping live.

Ryan Stephens, Seafood Manager of San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op said the two biggest lobsters caught so far this season are still in his tanks waiting for one or two lucky families this Christmas.

"The best crays are the older ones with coral on their shell," said Ryan.

"Cleaner-looking crays have moulted and grown a new shell."

The newly re-opened Chinese market is yet to have an impact on local prices with exports to China and elsewhere slated to begin later in December.

"We're not interested in exporting from San Remo," said Ryan.

"Our lobsters go straight into the domestic or local market."

The Victorian Rock Lobster Fishery is based primarily on one species the Southern Rock Lobster, which is found on coastal reefs from the southwest coast of Western Australia to the south coast of New South Wales, including Tasmania and New Zealand.

Just over 100 kilograms of rock lobster has been landed



Catch of the day with Ryan Stephens Seafood Manager San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op. B09_5024

in San Remo so far this season with another 300 kilograms needed before Christmas.

The season opened a month ago on November 15, but the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op didn't see their first local crays for another eight days due to bad weather.

"Any shortfall in local lobster supply is made up with live or cooked crays from Portland," said Ryan Stephens.

San Remo has two cray boats at sea the Tempest and Casino.

The Rock Lobster Fishery is Victoria's most valuable commercial fishery.

Southern rock lobsters are found to depths of one-

hundred-and-fifty metres with most of the catch coming from inshore waters less than one hundred metres deep.

Fishing for rock lobsters is prohibited during closed seasons for breeding.

The closed season for female rock lobsters extends from June 1 to November 15 and is designed to protect females with eggs during the spawning period.

The closed season for male rock lobsters is from September 15 to November 15 designed to protect males moulting once every two years when their new soft shells make them vulnerable.

The San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op is taking orders for Christmas and if lobster is out of your price range the Co-Op has Moreton Bay Bugs from Hervey Bay and Moreton Bay in Queensland, cooked and green prawns from Queensland, freshly shucked Tasmanian oysters and locally caught Duckfish.

To check out the catch of the day go online to srfco.com.au, phone 5678 5206, follow San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op on Facebook or Instagram, or call into the Fisherman's Co-Op seven days a week at 170 Marine Parade, right on the seafront.

Wonthaggi whistle almost ready to blow again

THE Wonthaggi State Coal Mine whistle has been fully restored to its original condition and is now close to being re-installed at the coal mine poppet head in Apex Park.

According to volunteer Michael Bohmer, the restoration of the whistle has been a longer process than first anticipated, as the rods securing the bells to the manifold were severely corroded.

A lengthy process was used to submerge the whistle in penetrating oil continually removing, heating and working on undoing the assembly to avoid any damage to the bells and manifold.

Initially, new replacement rods were to be manufactured using stainless steel.

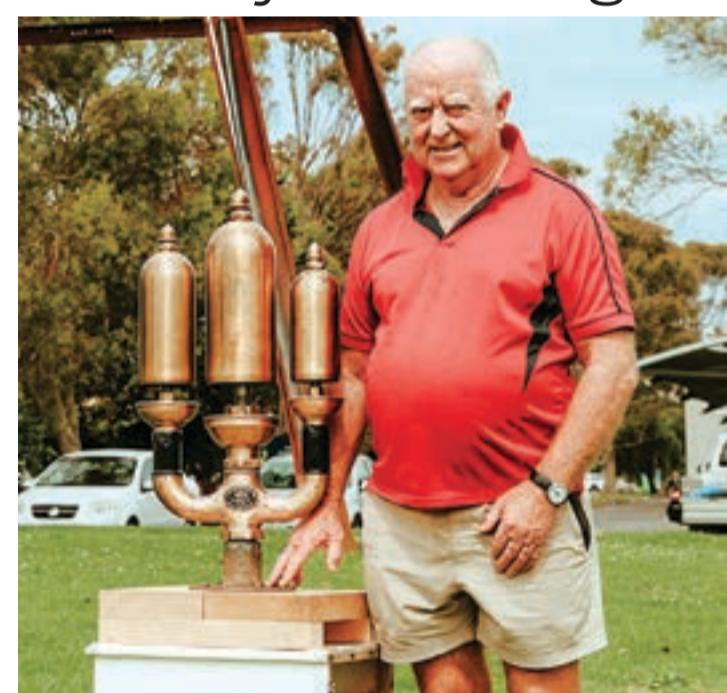
Further research by volunteer engineer Steve Randles discovered the rods were made of mild steel to act as a sacrificial anode designed to

corrode first, preserving the brass manifold and bells for at least another 100 years.

The restored whistle is to be displayed at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club until volunteers complete the plumbing at the poppet head and the reworking of the control valve mechanism.

Once completed the whistle will be returned to its original position to start blowing again every day at midday.

Volunteers thank the committee and members of the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club who helped finance the restoration and the businesses who made the restoration possible. Covered In Paint, Ampelite Dandenong, Engineering Products Of Australia, Precision Plating Dandenong, Bass Coast Council, Kennards Hire and the dedicated staff and volunteers at the State Coal Mine.



Jim Quilford with the restored whistle.
Photo: Vanessa Joy Photos.

Local community groups making a difference

BASS Coast Shire Council celebrated the success of local community groups this week at a heartwarming Community Grants Celebration at the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club.

Eighty community groups have received a total of \$276,327 in funding over the past year helping to turn project ideas into reality.

The event showcased how the grants empower community groups with recipients sharing their projects, stories and pictures of what was made possible through the Bass Coast Shire program.

One standout story came from the Arts Society Phillip Island Region (ASPIR) which, after 30 years of operating

without a permanent base was celebrating a milestone birthday in its new home at the Creative Arts Station.

The community hub converted from the old CFA fire station was a Council-led initiative.

ASPIR secured \$12,000 in grants through two successful applications to further enhance the usability of their space, adding accessible doors, window facades for natural light, and improved insulation to create a more functional and welcoming environment.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead shared her pride in the grants program.

"These grants empower

community groups to achieve amazing outcomes that enrich life across Bass Coast.

"I've had the privilege of witnessing first-hand how this funding helps bring ideas and projects to life and builds skills and confidence in our local groups."

"I look forward to seeing even more inspiring events, projects, and improvements in 2025," said Mayor Halstead.

Among the highlights recognised on the night were the Archies Creek Public Hall Trust receiving \$5000 to prepare a staged redevelopment plan for Archies Creek Hall, Lang Lang Foreshore Committee of Management awarded \$5000 to beautify an unsightly water

tank with a native bird mural, and the Inverloch Stars Soccer Club securing \$2000 through a Quick Response Grant for their Go Girls program to recruit and retain girls in soccer.

Bass Coast Council's Community Grants Program is open all year round, and grants are assessed twice annually offering funding across several categories.

Quick response grants provide immediate funding of up to \$2000 and support a diverse range of needs like equipment and small events.

For more information on applying for grants go to basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/community-grants.

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In stock and ready for immediate delivery



Wonthaggi

\$1000s slashed off RRP - Don't miss out!



2024 Toyota Camry Hybrid SX

48,888 DRIVE AWAY

8km SN: 11761989



2024 Toyota Kluger Hybrid GXL

75,990 DRIVE AWAY

5,120km SN: 11399202



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78,990 DRIVE AWAY

3,450km SN: 11523414



2024 Toyota Corolla Hybrid Sedan Ascent Sport

35,990 DRIVE AWAY

1,250km SN: 10710745



2023 Mitsubishi Triton Xtreme

57,990 DRIVE AWAY

9,350km SN: 2839024



2024 Mitsubishi Triton GLS

57,290 DRIVE AWAY

7,450km SN: 2907676



2024 Mitsubishi Triton GLS

58,390 DRIVE AWAY

6,500km SN: 2911334



2024 Mitsubishi Triton GLX+

51,490 DRIVE AWAY

1,450km SN: 2931891

Leongatha

We've wrapped up sensational deals!



2024 Ford Ranger XLT V6

73,990 DRIVE AWAY

18,250km SN: HBFP



2024 Ford Transit Custom LWB

57,990 DRIVE AWAY

35km SN: HQQ7



2023 Ford F-150 Lariat

137,990 DRIVE AWAY

25km SN: D604



2023 Ford F-150 Lariat

139,990 DRIVE AWAY

35km SN: E389



2023 Mitsubishi Outlander Aspire

42,990 DRIVE AWAY

16,250km SN: 2861951



2023 Mitsubishi Triton GLS

49,990 DRIVE AWAY

5km SN: 2864643



2024 Mitsubishi Triton GLS

55,990 DRIVE AWAY

4,950km SN: 2910581



2024 Toyota Hilux Rogue 48V

73,990 DRIVE AWAY

4,000km SN: 11684922

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LMCT 8179
wonthaggityota.com.au

Wonthaggi Mitsubishi

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LMCT 8179
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leongathamitsubishi.com.au

Leongatha Ford

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T (03) 5662 4144
LMCT 8179
leongathaford.com.au



Kaye Courtney, a cheesemaker at Bassine Specialty Cheeses Glen Forbes chats with chefs Matt Haigh and Shane Delia about some of the local firm's best cheeses including the award-winning Kilcunda cheese at the Local Flavours Food & Drink Showcase last Sunday.



Mary Cleland and Glenda Paisley made their way around the Local Flavours Food & Drink Showcase at Berninneit last Sunday.



The Lopez family from Melbourne tried some of the food on offer at the Local Flavours Food & Drink Showcase at Berninneit last Sunday.



Phillip Island locals Cryss Plummer, Richard Nixon and Patrick Lauwers enjoyed the Local Flavours Food & Drink Showcase at Berninneit last Sunday.



Cowes' residents Debbie Capaul, Rod Silver and Daniel Capaul sample some of the fare at the Local Flavours Food & Drink Showcase at Berninneit last Sunday.



Giving some of the wines from The Gurdies Winery the taste test at the Local Flavours Food and Drink Showcase at Berninneit last Sunday were Kaye Brown, Debbie Capaul and Allyson Murphy with Lara Standish of The Gurdies.

New Island food festival is born



It's strawberry-picking time at Macca's Farm on Dalyston-Glen Forbes Road Glen Forbes according to Peter Sheree and Blew Sonnet and don't forget to order Christmas hams.



Delighted with the success of the first 'Local Flavours Food and Drink Showcase' at Berninneit last Sunday, Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead plays her part by promoting some of the produce from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op with Geoff Hutton and Ryan Stephen, while also getting around the stands inside the centre.

THE first 'Local Flavours Food and Drink Showcase' at Berninneit last Sunday was a roaring success with organisers already setting up to return next year, bigger and better.

Destination Phillip Island in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Economic Development Team organised the event to showcase local producers from Phillip Island and Bass Coast and are already planning to expand it with art and music next year.

Supported by Agriculture Victoria through its Vic Grown Regional Activations Grant it featured local food and drink producers not only selling their produce but also talking up the fantastic fare available locally via interviews with guest host, chef Shane Delia.

"We've made a great start, I think, and the community has really responded, not just the producers, but also the local residents and visitors," said Destination Phillip Island General Manager Kim Storey.

"We're taking video and images of the event today to use when promoting next year's event, so yes, definitely, we'll be back next year."

"We've been careful to develop the template this year and we'll be looking to expand it further next year into art and music."

Speaking about the event, Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead said it was a great use of the new Berninneit space, and she'd like to see more activation at the front of the building and in the courtyard at the rear next time.



Try it, you'll like it! Nevis Zorzut of Pickle My Chili at Cape Woolamai was pleased with the response to the first food festival at Berninneit last Sunday.



Bass Coast Mayor Rochelle Halstead, SGCS volunteers John Cuttriss and Ed Thexton with sponsors Bryony Cosgrove and Phillip Heath from Inverloch.

New walking trail opens at Inverloch

THE final stage of the Screw Creek Conservation Trail at Inverloch has been opened by Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead.

Screw Creek trail is a two-kilometre, natural-surface interpretive trail that winds through lowland forest in the Screw Creek Nature Conservation Reserve providing public access with minimal impact to vegetation and wildlife.

Screw Creek walking and observation trail was a community-driven project made possible by a team of dedicated volunteers, over many years, from the South Gippsland Conservation Society with support from the Lord Mayors Charitable Foundation, Heath Cosgrove Charitable Fund, Bass Coast Shire Council, and Inverloch Rotary.

The first stage of the project started back in 1995.

"Originally it was partly cleared farmland," said Project Convenor John Cuttriss.

"A developer wanted to turn the area into a large housing estate right up to the edge of Screw Creek."

A development application submitted to Woorayl Shire was fiercely opposed by conservationists claiming it was the last remaining remnant bushland in Inverloch.

The South Gippsland Conservation Society joined with the then Inverloch Ratepayers and Residents Association to protest against the proposed housing estate.

Ten years later after numerous public meetings and planning applications the Screw Creek Nature Reserve was created in 2012.

The Screw Creek conservation trail consists of two kilometres of walking trails with directional bollards to guide

you along the way.

Fourteen bollards have QR codes that link you to short videos about the history, environment and wildlife of the Screw Creek Nature Reserve and a trail map.

Volunteers worked for many years to construct the bridge and raised walking trail.

Videographer and editor Terry Melvin captured video perspectives of the reserve to enhance the trail experience.

Linda Cuttriss developed the interpretive trail content with individual presenters.

The Screw Creek trail is an extension of the Screw Creek nature walk accessible from Inverloch Foreshore Caravan Park just a short distance away.

The land is a public conservation and resource zone where dogs are not permitted.

For more information go to sgcs.org.au/screw-creek-trail.



Ed Thexton, SGCS President speaks at the Screw Creek Trail opening. B27 5024

Tourism bounce-back a highlight for Phillip Island Nature Parks

A RECORD run of sell-out nights at the Penguin Parade and over one million visitors to Phillip Island Nature Parks attractions are the major highlights of the organisation's most recent annual report.

Visitation was up 18 per cent from the previous year, with strong domestic support and growing international visitation, with almost three weeks of sell-out nights over last summer, and another 20 nights sold out in February 2024.

The little penguin population is thriving, estimated at 37,000 across the Summerland Peninsula despite facing some setbacks early in the breeding season.

Other highlights include:

- Winning the silver award in the Major Tourist Attractions category at the prestigious Victorians Tourism Awards.

- Receiving \$8 million in support from the State Government for the replacement of critical infrastructure, which will help ensure services at the Penguin Parade, Nobbies Centre and other



A record run of sell-out nights at the Penguin Parade were recorded in Phillip Island Nature Parks' recent annual report. Photo: Phillip Island Nature Parks.

reserve locations can continue without interruption.

- Starting the first phase of the 'Penguin Parade Boardwalks and Viewing Stands Redevelopment' project thanks to a \$5 million State Government grant.

- Collaborating with partner organisations and the community to deliver 'Sharing Our Shores' and 'Dark Sky So Shearwaters Fly' campaigns to support nesting shore birds and migrating short-tailed shearwaters.

- Celebrating conservation efforts in the Threatened Species Report 2023 for threatened flora and fauna on Phillip Island (Millowl) and for Victoria.

"We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of the local Phillip Island (Millowl) community and a huge contingent of valued stakeholders. Advisory committees continued to meet throughout the year to guide our approach to many of our operations and initiatives, while helping us

to better represent our community," Phillip Island Nature Parks Chief Executive Officer Catherine Basterfield said.

"As always, our vast achievements rely on the hard work and dedication of every person on our team. We are proud to be supported by dedicated staff, volunteers, contractors, partner organisations and community groups, who each play a role in the success of the Nature Parks. We thank them for their passion and output."



Forty-eight nesting boxes have been installed in the Strzeleckis to encourage birds and small tree-dwelling animals into the area.

Nesting boxes installed in the Strzeleckis in a trial to support wildlife

GREENFLEET have installed 48 nesting boxes in their Nature Link project in the Strzeleckis in a trial that seeks to support the habitat and breeding activities of local birdlife and other small tree-dwelling animals.

The Strzelecki Nature Link project is made up of four properties that will eventually form 3.5 kilometres of connected natural habitat.

It is an area that is abundant with native birdlife, that has increased since the establishment of the forest.

As the young forest continues to grow and become established tree hollows are needed to see small native species thrive, however, as they take decades to form, the nesting boxes provide an interim measure to help the wildlife until the forest matures.

"Greenfleet has restored legally protected native forests for over 27 years, and we take a long-term approach to climate action and nature restoration," said Greenfleet's CEO, Wayne Wescott.

"Over time, tree hollows will form in our Strzelecki Nature Link but the Thermal Haven Nest Boxes allow us to provide immediate benefits to the wildlife already in our forest."

The Thermal Haven Nest Boxes simulate tree hollows and encourage birds such as the Grey Shrike-Thrush, Nankeen Kestrels and other varieties to visit the area.

It was also found that other small species were interested in using the boxes, with a sugar glider spotted checking one out.

Ongoing assessments will be conducted with observations undertaken and data collected on which birds and animals are visiting the boxes, how they are using them and breeding rates.

This will be done by Victoria University's Applied Ecology and Environmental Change Research Group who have partnered with Greenfleet on the project.

Dr Christine Connelly, Lecturer in Environmental Science at Victoria University will be supervising the team monitoring the boxes.

Their data collection will consist of routine visits to the area, using portable cameras on poles and motion sensor cameras to observe the nest boxes.

"It's terrific to be working with Greenfleet and Bird Habitats to support and document the return of hollow-dependant species to the Strzelecki Nature Link. This project is really important in providing suitable habitat for many species that need hollows for nesting and roosting within the Link," said Dr Connelly.

The Thermal Haven Nest Boxes are prototypes with seven different designs to accommodate various species with different entry and internal sizes, and were designed and manufactured by Bird Habitats.

"Thermal Haven Nest Boxes have been created in memory of our daughter, Rose McMahon who loved people, the bush, beaches, and animals, especially native birds. Offering a similar thermal profile to a natural tree hollow, they buffer temperature extremes and can provide homes to local wildlife," said Chris and Katrin McMahon, founders of Bird Habitats.

"Installing our nesting boxes within Greenfleet's Strzelecki Nature Link Forest has been a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the positive and immediate impact they can make. We are really proud of the product and are thrilled that they are already being utilised by species in Greenfleet's native forest."

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

Are we celebrating Christmas or not?

LAST Saturday, December 7, we were in Melbourne for a pre-Christmas catch-up and had a walk around the city, mainly to take a look at the Myer Christmas Windows.

The Myer Christmas Windows have been a Christmas tradition in Melbourne since 1956 when they adopted a 'Santa and the Olympics' theme for obvious reasons.

Other themes have followed over the years, including How the Grinch Stole Christmas, the 12 Days of Christmas, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, and Wind in the Willows to name a few, with animation in particular delighting the youngsters.

Korumburra set and costume designer Colin Mitchell got his start in the industry working on several of these annual projects.

This year's theme is 'The Australian Zoo and An Irwin's Christmas Story' and while there's a traditional nativity scene at one end (without explanation), separate from the other windows, there's a distinct lack of 'Christmas' in this year's 'Myer Christmas Windows'.

And taking a look around, Bourke Street in general looks especially bleak this year, without much in the way of bunting and lights, and what festive messaging there is in shops and streets is about celebrating "the holidays" and shopping rather than the true meaning of Christmas.

However, while you'll often hear that Australia is a "much more secular society these days" or that we need to "be respectful of other cultures", the fact is that the most dominant religion in Australia today is still 'Christianity' 43.9 per cent (2021 Census), followed by Islam (3.2 per cent), Hinduism (2.7 per cent) and Buddhism (2.4 per cent).

A further 38.9 per cent ticked the 'no religion' box at Census time so they're hardly likely to be offended by references to the Christmas story and messages such as 'Happy Christmas' instead of 'Happy Holidays' daubed around the place.

The local shires and local businesspeople do a much better job of understanding that while almost half the population still embraces the true meaning of Christmas, the vast majority are also happy to give a nod to the "peace and goodwill" at Christmas (Luke 2:14) mentioned in the bible.

So, if you still want to say 'Happy Christmas' go for it, whether you're celebrating the real Christmas story or simply acknowledging the tradition and taking the opportunity to extend peace and goodwill to family and friends.

No one should be offended by that.

Noxious weeds must be dealt with

IN LAST week's edition of SGCT October 3, the surface condition of the South Gippsland Highway, main arterial roads and their roadside slashing, along with an article on controlling blackberries On The Land, all caught one's attention. However, nothing was mentioned as to the appalling amount of noxious and/or environmental weeds that now cover the roadsides of the aforementioned highway and main roads.

Once upon a time local government councils stated that roadside noxious weeds and rabbit control was the responsibility of the adjoining land holder from their property frontage line to the centre line of the road, on all roads under Council control. A local law that by and large worked well, as no rural landowner wanted blackberries and



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grobb' Robinson.

ragwort, in particular, seeding and spreading over their farming properties, or wild rabbits

Enter the metropolitan State Government, declaring that the responsibility for control of such issues was the responsibility of Local Government.

South Gippsland Shire Council now states on its website, "blackberry and ragwort sprayed at the discretion of Council's Biodiversity Supervisor". If that be the case, after looking at local roadsides, then maybe SCSC does not have such a supervisor on its staff.

As for VicRoads, the all-powerful arm of the Vic State Government, their overwhelming infestations of blackberries and soon to flower ragwort does not comply with its own roadside policies.

Proof of my observations can be seen on the short drive between Korumburra and Leongatha and as one enters Leongatha, you may observe the wild rabbits on the mown area between the blackberries along the rail trail and the highway. May be a novelty for some.

While the mixture of blackberries and other noxious weeds along the highway that adjoins Korumburra's SGSC controlled Coal Creek Park, almost beggars' belief.

I suggest that any South Gippsland rural landowner, who now has to bear the brunt of State or Local Governments lack of responsibility and inaction regarding roadside noxious and environmental weed control, should contact their regional politicians and protest a situation that is fast becoming not only a blight on our landscape, but will adversely affect their property and fast growing cost of its management.

Never in my lifetime of being a South Gippsland resident have I seen such neglect of our roadside environments and the threat it poses to our unique rolling hills and pastures.

Dennis Conn, Whitelaw

Can we grow the largest eucalypt?

LAST week the National Trust of Victoria crowned South Gippsland's "Mount Fatigue Giant," located in the Strzelecki Ranges, as Victorian Tree of the Year.

The mountain ash giant is an impressive 46 metres tall with a trunk girth of 18.85 metres. I was reminded of a visit to the "site of the World's Tallest Tree," near Thorpdale which the plaque claimed was felled in 1884 and was measured at a

towering 114 metres tall.

Whether this giant is, or was, the world's tallest tree seems in dispute with a current Coast Red in North America coming in at 116 metres, and a different claim of 132 metres for another tree mentioned. Whichever is the case, it appears several eucalypts figure in the top 10 living trees around the 90 metre mark.

So I'm wondering with our conditions in South Gippsland being conducive to growing the large eucalypts can anyone come up with the tallest specimen in South Gippsland, Australia or even the world.

Steve Finlay, Leongatha

Regional funding for CFA

I WANT to set the record straight on reports regarding the CFA's funding. I know it has caused some fear and anger in our regional communities.

Reports of an almost \$70m cut from the CFA are wrong.

Every year, a certain amount of money within our emergency services' budgets is earmarked for specific projects and services – like funding for the rollout of 18,000 new Motorola radios to brigades.

Setting aside these funds isn't a cut. Every dollar of these quarantined amounts is spent on CFA – directly benefitting the CFA and their volunteers.

Government departments manage many of these projects and they pay the bill. It streamlines administration and takes the burden off emergency services so they can focus on what they do best – keeping Victorians safe.

This year, more than \$337 million in CFA base funding has been allocated – an increase of almost \$17 million on the comparable figure last year.

This doesn't include the money we invest on top of this on new trucks, uniforms and upgrading stations.

The Fire Services Property Levy funds almost 78 per cent of the CFA's total funding needs – not 25 per cent.

I know National Party members are out there with their negativity trying to spin a false narrative about cuts. They should support, not scare country communities and stick to the facts. Labor has delivered 80 new tankers since 2018, 22 are being built and 15 pumbers are on order. The Nationals didn't fund a single truck in their last few years in government, and they slashed \$66 million from the CFA budget whilst in office.

It's disappointing that I must correct this unhelpful misinformation, but it's a further opportunity to recognise and thank our amazing CFA brigades and all emergency services – I want you to know our Government will always give you what you need to continue keeping Victorians safe.

Jaclyn Symes, Minister for Emergency Services



Vox Pop

What's your favourite Christmas carol?

**Carol**

Leongatha

"They're all good, but Away In a Manger, because it's one children can identify with – the pictures and things."

**Carmen**

Mirboo North

"Drummer boy because I love the rhythm and it just gives me goosebumps thinking about it."

**Emily**

Leongatha

"Probably Jingle Bells because it's from Mean Girls and that's a cracking good movie."

**Dani**

Mirboo North

"Silent Night because it's the only one I can remember."

Real solutions by Mr Kennedy

I READ the article "John Kennedy initiative to benefit old and young" in the December 3 edition of the Sentinel Times with great heart following the earlier story about vandalism in Korumburra.

I believe Mr Kennedy's suggested initiative is an elegant solution to a few problems facing Korumburra residents and the SGSC and is an example of how, by getting people together and considering the background of problems, real solutions can be found and progress made.

I commend Mr Kennedy's thinking and actions and hope we see more of his thinking applied to other issues council is facing. He seems to be a wonderful addition to our group of councillors.

Laurie Martin, Leongatha

Major parties transparent, come again?

HO, HO, ho! Christmas comes early for we who love a good laugh. If you didn't laugh, you'd cry, especially reading the letter from Julian Glynn of Cowes. This former treasurer of the Victorian Liberals has the hypocritical gall to suggest that the major parties are transparent about their funding and independent candidates are not.

In our area that would be Deb Leonard. I asked her how much direct funding she's had from Mr Glynn's "billionaire climate change advocates". Short answer, none.

The Climate 200 action group has given \$20k to Ms Leonard's campaign. All her funding is openly published on her website.

Let's talk billionaires. Simon Holmes à Court backs Climate 200. He's wealthy, net worth \$150m, but no billionaire. Gina Rinehart's a billionaire. She's not funding teal independents. She donates to the major parties. As do huge corporates like Woodside, Macquarie, Pratt Holdings, tobacco giant Phillip Morris, the list goes on. No dollars for independents there.

Meanwhile, the Labor and Liberal parties want to grant each other \$90m in election funding. So, spare me the fatuous self-serving nonsense, Mr Glynn.

It all leads one to think that the major parties, whose votes have declined dramatically in recent elections, are terrified of losing further votes, and seats, to community-based independents. Personally, I hope they do.

Leigh Candy, Drouin

Are you bushfire ready?

WITH the warmer weather and intermittent storms, it is a timely reminder to ensure we are all aware and prepared for what to do in case of bushfire.

Bushfires can spread rapidly – even in urban areas under the right conditions.

If you do not already have a fire plan in place, an online tool is available to help at fireplanner.vic.gov.au. If you do already have a plan, please ensure it is up-to-date.

The CFA recommends that your plan should include the answers to the following 10 questions:

1. Which Fire Danger Rating is your trigger to leave?
2. Will you leave early that morning or the night before?
3. Where will you go?
4. What route will you take – and what is your alternative in the event that a fire is already in the area?
5. What will you take with you?
6. What do you need to organise for your pets or livestock?
7. Who do you need to keep informed of your movements?

8. Is there anyone outside your household who you need to help or check up on?
9. How will you stay informed about warnings and updates?
10. What will you do if there is a fire in the area and you cannot leave?

It is important to ensure you rely on more than one source for news and information in an emergency like a bushfire. Great resources during these times include the VicEmergency App or website, as well as your local radio stations.

In an emergency, the State Government may send alerts via text message from the mobile number 0444 444 444. Please ensure this number is not blocked.

As many Gippslanders know from first-hand experience, it is not uncommon to lose power in a bushfire emergency. This is why it is important to ensure you have a battery-powered radio and a backup power bank or alternative way to charge your mobile.

The simple act of planning now can make a huge difference later.

Danny O'Brien MP, State Member for Gippsland South

The place for free speech

THERE are some news articles I should not read such as an inquest into suicide. Why did they do it?

Similarly, a Letter to the Editor was published in the Sentinel Times (19/11) titled "Not the place for religious dialogue".

The writer has used the power of the pen in a public forum to deny another member of the community the capacity to express their views to the community – it is called the freedom of the press.

In Metropolitan Melbourne, the local community newspapers have disappeared as they are no longer viable.

One does not know what is, for example, happening at Local Government level. It is left to local activists or someone else to monitor the culture of the Council. Here in Gippsland, there are newspapers that communicate happenings to the community.

I have also grown up in the culture of the Catholic Church and experienced the same culture that existed at the time. It applies in the church, in the education system and in the home – the father ruled in the home with respect. It was the culture of the time.

In my professional life with a government agency, I was a "troubleshooter" who set about changing the culture to provide a safe and enjoyable workplace within a group. Power and authority have their place in an organisation but it depends on the culture that exists within each group.

This applies equally to religious organisations that in some cases is total control. I have spent my life since my youth

working as a volunteer in church societies. There is both good and bad experiences across the spectra – it is one's responsibility to ensure that the correct culture is established.

The scandals that have hit the churches have brought forward open forums in which newspapers played an essential part.

In the universal book, the Bible, the Prophets of the Old Testament were consistently reminding their folk to amend their culture whilst the warrior of the New Testament St. Paul was regularly conveying the same message to the new Christian converts.

The war in the Middle East and Ukraine is an ample illustration of how power and authority are used for utter domination behind a gun loaded with bullets.

The letter writer lays claim to all the attractive attributes – faith, hope, gratitude, compassion and empathy – that one has developed throughout life through family and community.

Is the writer just going to sit on one's tail showing intolerance and denying other members of the community their right to try to improve the culture in which we live by maintaining open dialogue? The churches are just another member of the community!!

Peace to all.

John Killian, Ryanston

Sharing your thoughts

I AM writing to respond to the letter in the November 26 paper, titled "Not the place for religious dialogue", from Dilene Hinton.

It broke my heart to read Dilene's letter regarding her experience with the Catholic Church. It was very sad and I fully understand her decision to have nothing more to do with the Church.

However, that is not everyone's experience, for example, I have been blessed that my experience of the Church has been very positive. In the Catholic Church I met Jesus and a community of wonderful people who are my friends. My experience is shared by many, as I suppose is Dilene's.

Regarding the place of religion in our local paper, all I can say is that it is a community paper and so reflects the diversity of the community, including our different experiences and opinions regarding religion. Christians form a large part of our community and so you would expect that the Christian viewpoint would be found in our local paper, along with many other different viewpoints.

Thanks to the Sentinel-Times for the "Faith Factor" column and thanks to the authors who share their thoughts, even when they are challenging.

Patrick Kelly, Wonthaggi

'Disgust' at relentless attack

I AM writing to express my disgust at the relentless attack on the former South Gippsland Shire Mayor and present councillor Clare Williams and her family, in the newspaper, The South Gippsland Voices.

Editor, Mr Don Hill, a former councillor and member of the dismissed council and unsuccessful candidate for the present council, attacks Cr Williams with vicious and snide remarks in almost every edition of his paper.

Councillor Williams, a young woman, with a family, has shown great courage, to stand for council to represent our community (a job not many people are prepared to do) and in my opinion, has done it so well.

Councillor Williams does not deserve the rubbish written by Mr Hill.

Glenn Wright OAM, Leongatha

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.



Veterinary Nurse Hayley Verboon from the Gippsland Veterinary Group in Newhaven. B02_4824



Veterinary Surgeon Heidi Farrer and Veterinary Nurse Brooke McCarthy preparing Lenni and Lewis for their annual tooth clean. B03_4824

How to be a... Veterinary Nurse

IF THIS candle is lit, someone is saying goodbye to their beloved pet.

A sobering message in the foyer of many veterinary clinics reminds us that the work of a veterinary nurse is not always easy.

"I grew up on a farm and wanted to be a veterinary nurse since I was sixteen," says Hayley Verboon, a Veterinary Nurse with the Gippsland Veterinary Group on Phillip Island.

Work experience with the Gippsland Veterinary Group in Year 10 led to Hayley being offered a job offer as a trainee.

Hayley enrolled in a Certificate IV Veterinary Nursing with the Animal Industries Resource Centre (AIRC) based in Queensland.

"It was an online course with assessments from time to time on Zoom," said Hayley.

Hayley also had access to a veterinary nurse mentor with ten years of experience and recommends undertaking work experience.

"Veterinary Nursing can be very competitive."

"Study is very time-consuming with assessments requiring answers to between 40 and 50 questions."

"Every day is different."

Loss can be a challenge for a veterinary nurse.

"The grief side can be sad," said Hayley.

The duties of a veterinary nurse include reception, surgery, animal hospital and consulting.

"You're not doing the same thing every day."

The Newhaven Veterinary Clinic is always busy over summer.

"We see lots of small animals, dogs, cats, rabbits, chickens, even pet snakes."

Pet owners can be children or anxious adults.

"Snakes can suffer from eye issues or being egg-bound."

"Damaged scales can also be a problem for a snake."

Despite the long days, Hayley says veterinary nursing is a rewarding career.

"It's nice when we can help pets and their owners."

The Gippsland Veterinary Group has clinics in Leongatha, Foster, Wonthaggi, Mirboo North, Inverloch, Newhaven and a new clinic in Grantville with a large animal and equine centre on the South Gippsland Highway in Leongatha.

You can follow the Gippsland Veterinary Group on Facebook and Instagram or gippsvet.com.au.



BCC Dudley Campus Year Nine Maths Award recipients: Sonny Yuyang, Jenson Cooper and Mikayla Thomas.



BCC Dudley Campus Year Nine (Visual) Arts Award recipients: Charlee Neal and Jilli Wallace.



BCC Dudley Campus Year Nine Science Awards: Jarrah Tagell, Josiah Burfitt and Mikayla Thomas.



BCC Dudley Campus Sandra Shively Art Award recipient Ella Humphrey-Singleton.



BCC Dudley Campus Year Nine (Performing) Arts Award recipients: Paris Connors and Daisy Soumilas.

Year nine students celebrated



Dudley Campus Year Nine Sport Awardees Miah Roberts and Will Simmons.

LOCAL students from Dudley Campus, Bass Coast College, were recently celebrated at a special awards ceremony. The event honored the academic achievements and contributions of the graduating Year 9 cohort.

These talented young people have demonstrated exceptional academic prowess, outstanding participation in school activities, and admirable personal qualities. Their hard work and dedication have set a high standard for future generations of students.

As the students transition to the senior campus for Year 10, the school community wishes them continued success in their educational journey.

English: Mikayla Thomas, Scarlett Whiting and Mia Stanbridge.

Maths: Mikayla Thomas, Jenson Cooper and Sonny Yuyang.

Humanities: Mikayla Thomas, Mia Stanbridge and Isla Spradbury.

Health/PE: Both: Isla Spradbury. PE: Archie Jobe. Health: Zara Bourne.

Japanese: Phoebe Lester and Zara Bourne.

Arts (Visual Arts): Charlee Neal and Jilli Wallace.

Technology: Jarrah Tagell, Connor Gammaldi and Georgia Cousens.

Science: Mikayla Thomas, Josiah Burfitt and Jarrah Tagell.

Arts (Performing Arts): Daisy Soumilas and Paris Connors.

Sport Awards: Will Simmons and Miah Roberts.

Sandy Shively Memorial Art Prize: Ella Humphrey Singleton.



BCC Dudley Campus Year Nine Humanities Award recipients: Mikayla Thomas, Mia Stanbridge and Isla Spradbury.



BCC Dudley Campus Technology Award recipients: Jarrah Tagell and Connor Gammaldi. Absent: Georgia Cousens.



BCC Dudley Campus Year Nine award recipients: Archie Jobe (PE), Zara Bourne (Health) and Isla Spradbury (Health & PE).



BCC Dudley Campus Year Nine Japanese Award recipients: Zara Bourne and Phoebe Lester.



Bass Coast College Year 7, 8 and 9 awards for 2024.

Bass Coast College 2024 awards

BASS Coast College proudly presented year 7, 8 and 9 students with their 2024 awards. This year's awards showcased academic excellence and excellence across a range of subjects, as well as all-round effort and participation.

The Outstanding Academic Achievement was sponsored by the Wonthaggi Lions Club and presented to Year 8 Lexi Gannon, Year 8 Thor Aitken Atwell, Year 7 Jesse de Menech and Year 7 Abbey Beveridge.

The Wonthaggi Lions Club and the Wonthaggi Club sponsored four scholarships of \$125 each to these students in Years 7 and 8. These awards have been awarded for all-round effort and participation. Dudley Campus Principal Jesse Boyd said, "We have analysed a large scope of data, looking at student attendance, lateness and results in a range of assessment metrics.

These students have not been awarded an Excellence Award in a subject but have

shown excellence across a range of subjects. All recipients of these \$125 awards have attended a large number of days but also over 800 classes across the year haven't been late to class."

Awards:

English: Ruby Barsony and Clarissa Johnson.

Maths: Bethany Lester, Ella Hubbard and Ty Railton.

Humanities: Ruby Barsony, Axel de Vent and Aliysha Watters-Dunlop.

Health/PE: Kiarra Spinks

(SEAL) (Health and PE), Dusty Rayner (PE), and Tahlia Radford (Health).

Japanese: Bethany Lester and Adele Egan.

Arts (Visual Arts): Eden Roberts and Samu Stewart.

Technology: Emma Patterson, Aruna Shrestha and Eden Roberts.

Science: Ruby Barsony, Zac Dewar and Sambriddhi Sapkota.

Arts (Performing Arts): Euan Horsburgh and Mason Chetland.



Sport Awards. Year 7 Eden Roberts and Year 7 Mason Chetland.



Sport Awards. Year 8 Chase Bergmeier and Year 8 Alyssa Jarvie.



Outstanding Academic Achievement. Sponsored by Wonthaggi Club. Year 7 Jesse de Menech and Year 7 Abbey Beveridge.



Outstanding Academic Achievement. Sponsored by Wonthaggi Club. Year 8 Lexi Gannon and Year 8 Thor Aitken Atwell.

Bollywood joy in Leongatha

WHILE worn out by day's end, Leongatha Primary School (LPS) students and staff had a ball preparing for and delivering colourful and vibrant Bollywood performances, cramming a dress rehearsal and two shows into a frenetic Friday.

Musician Parvyn Singh and Josh Bennett inspired the young performers through workshops in the leadup to the big day, teaching them about Indian music and dance.

Reflecting on the fun staff and students had during the Bollywood shows, teacher Steph Martin said it's the first such event at the school since the pandemic.

"To have everyone involved was pretty spectacular," she said, estimating 350 kids from Grades 2 to 5 were part of the action.

While it's been some years since Josh and Parvyn's previous visit to LPS, Steph described them as being "as excellent as ever".

The enthusiasm of school staff made the ambitious Bollywood project possible.

"We've got excellent staff who put their hand up to do these things, which is really good," Steph said.

While simple in nature, costumes added flamboyance and a fun vibe.



Bollywood shows at Leongatha Primary School were filled with energy. A04_5024

Mirboo North Primary to get a new fence

MIRBOO North Primary School will be granted \$199,876 to install new perimeter fencing to make the grounds safer for students, staff and visitors.

The grant is part of the State Government delivering \$25 million across 58 schools for a range of small-scale refurbishments, such as bathroom, playground, and fencing repairs, through the 2024/25 round of the State Government's Capital Works Fund.

A new fence will be constructed along the Ridgeway/Strzelecki Highway side of the school and it will also extend along the whole perimeter of Ballock Street and into the court around the school as well.

"Currently with the fence on the highway, it's too low – with the highway frontage, so the new fence will be higher, making it safer for students and for passersby as well," said Principal of Mirboo North Primary School Matt Snell.

"It's a substantial upgrade and it's pretty timely because the old fence is starting to perish rather quickly."

The school have been speaking to and will engage local contractors to carry out the work.

They are hoping to get the project underway and completed early next year, with the work potentially being undertaken in a couple of stages.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Education Ben Carroll made the funding announcement last week.

"Every student deserves world-class facilities at their school. We will continue to invest in renovating school facilities, making sure we meet the needs of every child," said Mr Carroll.

"Every family wants the best for their kids – the best education in state-of-the-art facilities. Our record investment in school infrastructure is delivering for our hard-working school communities in the Education State."

The Victorian School Building Authority will work with successful schools from early 2025 to deliver their projects.

All construction is set to be finished by the end of May 2026.

Are schools moving in the right direction?

THIS year the 2024 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results are being used to see if schools are moving in the right direction. The results were released on Thursday, December 5, benchmarking students in years three, five, seven and nine.

The NAPLAN is an annual assessment undertaken in each state and territory to test reading, writing and numeracy.

Dr Venessa Fernandes, Senior Lecturer and Associate Head of Monash's School of Education, Culture and Society said, "we must shift the focus from a 'league of tables' deficit narrative to using this data at school and regional level for place-based improvement strategies that look at the needs of a cohort of students and provide the infrastructure to support them, their schools and their community through active, local-level improvement processes.

In Inner Regional Victoria, 48 per cent of year three students performed strongly in reading with 70.9 per cent in writing, 43.1 per cent in spelling, 40.9 per cent in grammar and punctuation and 55 per cent in numeracy. Of this 10.4 per cent (reading), 4.6 per cent (writing), 12.5 per cent (spelling), 17.7 per cent (spelling and punctuation) and 8.6 per cent (numeracy) fell into need additional support.

For year five writing scored eight per cent, 26.3 per cent, 56.7 per cent and seven per cent (needs additional support, developing, strong and exceeding, respectively), whilst spelling sat at 12.1 per cent, 27.7 per cent, 45.8 per cent and 12.4 per cent. Compared to year three, grammar and punctuation improved sitting for those performing strongly at 56.8 per cent. Year nine grammar and punctuation was the most significant difference coming in at 18.6 per cent for poor.

Read the full results on the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority.

Foster students crash course in trauma

THE Prevent Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y) program was delivered at South Gippsland Hospital (SGH) recently, by a team of health care professionals from the Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH) Intensive Care Unit and Emergency and Allied Health departments.

The program was targeted at Year 11 students from Foster Secondary College (FSC) and covered predominant causes of traumatic injury, the chain of survival, what traumatic injury looks like, the emergency response, the hospital and rehabilitation journey, how long-term injuries are treated, the effects of trauma on the individual, and the effects of trauma on families and friends.

Students and teachers were immersed in practical scenarios with the LRH team, Ambulance Victoria (AV) and Victorian Police (VicPol). They also heard from a trauma survivor who demonstrated and showed the audience some of the life changing impacts of trauma. SGH and FSC staff were on hand to assist with the delivery of the workshop.

SGH Director of Community Care, Samantha Park says that "this is the second year we have hosted the program in our Community Health Centre. The information students are given and the hands-on scenario stations we hope leaves a lasting impression on the dangers of alcohol consumption and the associated risks.

"We are grateful for the input of LRH, AV and Vic Pol staff to run the program, as well the FSC staff for supporting this important awareness program".

New facilities for Newhaven College

STAFF and students at Newhaven College will benefit from the refurbishment and extension of the junior school building to create an additional two classrooms and an outdoor learning area, which will improve student educational outcomes.

Senator for Victoria Jess Walsh said work on the project will be delivered with the support of Australian Government funding of \$1,000,000 through the Capital Grants Program.

"These new facilities will provide school staff, teachers and students at Newhaven College with better, more modern spaces in which to work, teach and learn," Senator Walsh said.

"The Australian Government is committed to providing all schools with appropriate funding so that all students, including those at Newhaven College, get the best possible education."

Senator Walsh said the new facilities will benefit the students currently at Newhaven College, as well as the many students who will follow in future years.

"The teachers, staff and students at Newhaven College have built a strong and positive school community and these new facilities will further enhance our local educational opportunities," Senator Walsh said.

"Our government strongly believes in providing the best possible resources so that local students can realise their potential and develop the skills they need to go on to further study or to find a job.

"I congratulate Newhaven College on their successful grant application and look forward to seeing the positive impact these new facilities will have on the school community."



Prep Teacher Kerryn Lynch with 2025 Prep students William Muller, Mason Manias and Georgia Hill with School Readiness Bags.



2024 Prep Teacher Fiona Smart's hands-on approach in Prep helps students thrive.

Newhaven College sets strong foundations for 2025 prep students

THE school year has ended, but Newhaven College is already thinking about 2025 and is excited to welcome its incoming Prep students next year. Understanding the importance of starting strong, the College has invested in valuable resources and established a partnership between the College and home to ensure students are well-prepared for their educational journey.

The College's commitment to setting up Preps for success begins with introducing School Readiness Bags and comprehensive presentations for parents. These initiatives are designed to provide families with essential information and resources to support their child's transition into school.

The bags are filled with educational resources aimed at developing fundamental skills needed for the first year of school. Items include tools for reinforcing correct

handwriting techniques, starting points for writing letters, fine motor development activities, books, name cards, maths resources, workbooks and pencil grips.

One parent, Tamara shared her positive experience, stating, "I am learning just as much as my kindergarten student in forming good habits and knowing what to do and how to help. These resources have been invaluable in preparing us both for the start of school. It has been wonderful to see how excited my child was to utilise the resources provided.

"Every other day he's asking for his reader and wanting to practice and play. It's really boosting his confidence and enthusiasm for the start of school".

Research consistently shows that strong fine motor skills, oral language development, pre-literacy and numeracy skills are foundational to future

academic success. By providing these resources and guidance, the aim is to establish these skills early on, setting Preps up for every success.

In addition to the School Readiness Bags, the College has implemented a comprehensive Transition Program for parents and students. This program includes parent information sessions on literacy, numeracy and school readiness and a Prep Information session.

While parents gain valuable insights, students participate in transition days, spending time with their future peers, teachers and support staff.

The final Orientation Day ensures that students, teachers and parents are familiar with every part of the program. This thorough introduction helps families understand what is needed to support their child's learning and how they can be partners with the school in extending and reinforcing this

learning at home.

Newhaven College believes that school readiness is a collaborative effort between the school and families. The School Readiness Bags, parent presentations and Transition Program are just the first steps in this partnership. The College is dedicated to being proactive in its approach, ensuring that parents and children are equipped with the knowledge and tools to succeed.

As they look forward to the new school year, the College is confident that these initiatives will create a strong foundation for Prep students, fostering a love for learning and helping them thrive in their educational journey.

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

Nutritious foods top of the menu for local students



Katriona (Kitchen Specialist, Foster Primary School), Scott (School Principal, Foster Primary School) and Sue (Assistant Principal, Foster Primary School) celebrating their efforts in Vic Kids Eat Well.

school hours care for their involvement.

"Boosting nutritious foods and drinks in these settings makes a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of local kids."

A great education starts with children and young people having the energy from a variety of foods to focus and learn. Kids who eat nutritious

foods in their everyday lives can be more alert and interested in activities, which can improve their concentration, memory and learning.

Vic Kids Eat Well is supported by the Victorian Government and is delivered by Cancer Council Victoria, in partnership with Nutrition Australia. It is implemented

locally by the South Coast Prevention Team (Health Promotion workforce of Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service and South Gippsland Hospital).

There are 20 schools and OSHC programs across Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shire now part of the exciting movement. The South Coast Prevention Team provide on-the-ground health promotion support to review menus and help local schools and OSHC select simple swaps as part of the initiative.

Schools and OSHC are eligible to receive rewards as they implement nutritious changes through the Vic Kids Eat Well initiative. The South Coast Prevention Team further supports settings to continue their journey towards meeting relevant nutrition policies and guidelines, and to receive further Victorian Government Recognition through Cancer Council Victoria's Achievement Program.

Visit vickidseatwell.health.vic.gov.au to join the movement today and be supported by a member of the South Coast Prevention Team. For more information contact prevention@basscoasthealth.org.au.

Grade 6 students shine at St Laurence's Graduation Mass

THE Grade 6 Graduation Mass at St Laurence's Church on Thursday evening was a heartwarming celebration of achievement and community.

Proud families, friends, and staff gathered to honour graduating St Laurence O'Toole Primary School students as they marked the completion of their primary school journey.

The final awards, which recognised outstanding contributions and achievements, were the highlight of the night.

Isabel Biju was awarded the Sisters of St Joseph's Award for her dedication to service and values. Henry Boyd received the Mary MacKillop Grade 6 Award, celebrating his exemplary leadership and commitment.

Stephanie Hill-Smith earned the Citizenship Award, reflecting her kindness and positive influence on others. Oscar Verboon shone brightly, taking home the Specialist Award for excellence in Music, Dance, and P.E.

The teaching group for Grades 5 and 6 agreed the special Mass was a fitting send-off for the group.



St Laurence O'Toole Primary School's Grade 6 students are ready to move on to new challenges at senior school after graduating.



Music coordinator Beth Winterhalter and principal John Freeman enjoy a glorious evening during 'Rock On'. A16_5024

Students 'Rock On' at Mary MacKillop

PERFECT weather helped ensure the success of Mary MacKillop College's first 'Rock On' concert, student performers providing entertainment while people celebrated the approach of Christmas and enjoyed a family picnic on the lawn on Thursday evening.

Music coordinator Beth Winterhalter organised the energetic concert, expressing delight at how it all came together and the improvement the young performers have shown, having honed their skills through lunchtime concerts during the year.

"These kids are awesome," she declared.

Principal John Freeman congratulated Beth on organising a great community event that offered the chance for the kids to showcase their talent.

Leongatha S.C. students enjoy campus experience

STUDENTS from Leongatha Secondary College enjoyed an immersion day at the Hawthorn Campus of Swinburne University as part of their Year 9 Melbourne Camp.

The Bass Coast Future Bound Program delivered by the Country University Centre (CUC) to Year 9 students throughout the region aims to help nurture aspirations and future thinking about post-secondary school options.

The day involved a range of Higher Education and TAFE-taster workshops including an aviation flight simulator, graphic design, astrophysics, supercomputing, virtual reality technologies, mock-law trials, wave power engineering, sports media, education and early childhood learning, interior design and animation.

Hoping to widen participation in the program CUC Education Program Coordinator, Rhett McLennan said the day was an incredible opportunity for students to have a go at a range of sessions in the higher education and TAFE sectors.

"The activities were designed by Swinburne students to give a taste of what is available and to see if there may be something that our students are interested in exploring down the track," said Mr McLennan.

"To date we have delivered the Future-Bound program to over 400 students across four local secondary schools."

The program is offered at no cost to schools and delivered on-site.

CUC is currently taking bookings for Terms 1 & 2 in 2025.

"We are happy to work with schools to lock in dates prior to the holiday break," said Mr McLennan.

Year 9 Coordinator at Leongatha Secondary College Nenad Tarlac said the day was a great way for Leongatha Secondary College students to learn from current students and ask questions about how university and TAFE work.

"We are very grateful to CUC and Swinburne for supporting our students as they begin to consider their future pathways and explore tertiary study options."

For more information on the Bass Coast Future Bound Program or the Country University Centre call 0472 741 451 or go to cucbasscoast.edu.au

Bass Coast students graduate with pride and celebration



Bass Coast Specialist School Principal Rob Sands, Jordan Crugnale MP and Assistant Principal Caroline Siby with graduates Mitchell, Triston, Sophie and Fibé. XB54_5024

Honours for St Joseph's Primary School students



Grade 6 honours students at St Joseph's Primary School Wonthaggi. B41_5024

STUDENTS at St Joseph's Primary School in Wonthaggi celebrated the approaching end of the school year with a celebration Mass and lunch for Grade 6 students.

Mitch Dynes and Vivienne Hallam were awarded Spirit of Mary MacKillop awards for students who emulate the spirit of Mary MacKillop through their efforts to help others in the school community.

Mila Wylie and Grace Luff were awarded St Joseph's School Spirit awards for displaying St Joseph's values in behaviour and leadership by helping others, being respectful and welcoming to all members of the school community.

Eleanor Trease and Izzy Coyne received Community Spirit awards for displaying Catholic values, empathy, willingness to help others and

care for the common good in the school community without seeking recognition.

Outstanding Academic Achievement awards went to Maya Newton for English, Matthew Korecki in Mathematics, and Vivienne Hallam for a passionate and enthusiastic approach to Performing

Arts and thinking critically about various styles of music.

Max Gammaldi received the STEAM award for being inquisitive, thinking critically, compassionately, and creatively to solve problems and design new ideas while working positively in a team.

Sophie Allan received the

Physical Education award for consistently high levels of achievement, sportsmanship, and effort in all areas of physical education.

The Italian award was presented to Mila Wylie for her consistent effort and achievements in the Italian classroom.



LCHS welcomes landmark gambling reforms

LATROBE Community Health Service has welcomed the landmark gambling reforms introduced by the Victorian Government in Parliament this week to reduce gambling harm.

The new laws introduce carded play on gaming machines in Victoria, requiring people to insert a player card to operate a gaming machine and allowing them to set limits on how much they are willing to lose.

Under the new reforms, the maximum amount of money that someone can load onto a machine at a time will reduce from \$1000 to \$100, the spin rate of machines will slow down by 40 percent, and gaming areas in hotels and clubs in Victoria will have forced closure periods from 4am to 10am.

"Latrobe Community Health Service welcomes any changes that gives people back some control when it comes to harmful gambling habits, and these reforms are certainly a step in the right direction," LCHS Gambler's Help Team Leader, Chipo Chiyangwa said.

"This legislation offers important protections for people who use the pokies, and we hope they are the first of many changes introduced to help people reduce the time and money they spend on gambling," she added.

An estimated 330,000 Victorians experience harm because of gambling each year – and Chiyangwa says this extends beyond the person gambling, to their loves ones and communities.

"Gambling harm can look like huge financial debt, poor mental health and self-esteem, a breakdown in relationships, family violence and other issues like drinking and drug use," she said.

"It's important to remember that gambling isn't just about luck, gambling products and games are carefully designed to keep us coming back – often at a cost," Ms Chiyangwa said.

In Gippsland, \$154m was lost to electronic gaming machines in the last financial year.

"Given these changes are being rolled out in a phased approach, we're asking our community to seek support now if they need it," she said.

If you or someone you love is impacted by gambling, Latrobe Community Health Service can help. We provide a free and confidential counselling service for your financial and mental wellbeing. Give us a call on 1800 242 696 or email gamblingsupportservices@lchs.com.au.

Bass Coast Health celebrates a year of achievement

BASS Coast Health (BCH) made it a feature of its annual general meeting last Thursday to celebrate the contribution by 41 long-serving staff members, presenting those who reached milestones of between 10 and 35 years with awards.

Special mention was made of Maree McFarlane for 35 years of service, Glenda Edwards for 30 years and Darryl Lewis for 25 years.

In total, 580 years of service was acknowledged, while new interim BCH CEO, Professor Simone Alexander, who only started the previous Monday, was also welcomed at the meeting.

She said while BCH was proud to deliver health services to the community, the team of passionate and skilled staff are the biggest asset of the health service.

"Many of our staff are caring for people who are their family, their friends and their community, and know the health service is also there for them should they need medical care. They're proud and dedicated to providing quality care, enhancing their skills and to being there for their colleagues," she said.

Staff to receive service awards were:

- 10 years: Gai West, Karen McBride, Lynnette Grewar, Kerry Bracken, Kate Lindsay, Annie Bailey, Konstantinos Syrrakos, Lisa Milkins, Sonia Dunlop, Lina Sand, Kimberley Chetland, Shainy Joseph, Gary Bergman, Rebecca McFarlane, Jennifer Moon, Nannette Gale, Nadia Howard, Grace Thomas, Ramesh Bhandari, Natasha Stapleton, Anne Gleeson and Katrina Coxon.
- 15 years: Deborah Guy, Karina Blackman, Catherine Methven, Susan Lambert, Kasey Beattie, Colin Wood, Jane Ori, Kathryn McGarvey, Sharyn Williams and Elizabeth Knight.
- 20 years: Patricia McFee, Terrence McGlashan, Nicole Baker, Andrew Pollitt, Carmel O'Hea and Donna Dalton.
- 25 years: Darryl Lewis, 30 years Glenda Edwards and



The recipients of service awards at Bass Coast Health's Annual General Meeting last Thursday were staff members, from left, Darryl Lewis 25 years, Glenda Edwards 30 years, Andrew Pollitt 20 years, and Maree McFarlane, 35 years.

35 years Maree McFarlane. Volunteers and auxiliaries also received the organisation's warm appreciation.

They continue to offer many services, including transport to medical appointments, providing a concierge service to consumers, helping with administration tasks, and supporting Theatre patients.

"Our volunteers, auxiliaries and community are the heart of our health service. Their tireless and passionate fundraising efforts have raised a combined \$713,000 over the year to support equipment purchasing and continued service development," Ms Alexander said.

BCH was proud to be named the winner of the Premier's Medium Health Service of the Year at the 2024 Victorian Public Healthcare Awards.

"We could not have achieved what we have without our valued partnerships with many organisations who are as equally committed to the Bass Coast. The contributions from our loyal partners have helped us to advance our health service for our community," Ms Alexander said.



The recipients of 15-year service awards at Bass Coast Health's Annual General Meeting were staff members, from left, Sharyn Williams, Colin Wood, Jane Ori and Karina Blackman.



The recipients of 10-year service awards at Bass Coast Health's Annual General Meeting were staff members, from left, Anne Gleeson, Kate Lindsay, Lisa Milkins and Katrina Coxon.

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Campaign launched for early lymphoedema detection locally

SOUTH Gippsland residents are being asked to help with the early detection of lymphoedema by supporting a new fundraising appeal.

Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) has launched a campaign to raise \$18,000 to bring the SOZO Digital Health Platform to the region.

The appeal is off to a great start with a \$4000 donation from the GSHS Lyrebird Auxiliary and \$1000 from the Leongatha and District Community Foundation.

SOZO is a non-invasive monitoring device that incorporates special technology to aid in the assessment of lymphoedema in less than 30 seconds.

Lymphoedema is a progressive, lifelong disease that can often be debilitating.

GSHS physiotherapist and lymphoedema practitioner Mandy Fletcher said early detection was critical in controlling the progression of the disease.

"This is one area where the SOZO Digital Health Platform can make a significant difference," she said.

"We know that up to 25 per cent of women who have had breast cancer treatment are at risk of developing lymphoedema, but the SOZO machine can significantly reduce that risk."

The SOZO is an easy-to-use non-invasive machine.

It can detect lymphoedema before noticeable swelling, allowing for early treatment and providing the best opportunity to prevent the condition from progressing to chronic lymphoedema.

The SOZO can also measure muscle and fat.

Clinicians can use this critical information about the human body to measure and track the management of other chronic diseases and to help maximise patient health.

"The SOZO is the gold standard in lymphoedema detection and can make a big difference in the lives of people with lymphoedema and other chronic diseases. We hope



The Gippsland Southern Health Service Lyrebird Auxiliary's Lyn Yeomans, Robyn Powney and Helen Taylor with physiotherapist and lymphoedema specialist Mandy Fletcher (centre).



Cr Clare Williams, Lou Sparkes and Geoff Dean with a cheque for \$1000 from the Leongatha and District Community Foundation. The money will go towards special technology to provide early detection of lymphoedema at Gippsland Southern Health Service.

local people realise the importance of this service and support the appeal," Ms Fletcher said.

Lyrebird Auxiliary president Lyn Yeomans said the technology was needed in the local community.

For the past 37 years, the auxiliary has been raising funds to buy equipment needed at GSHS and saw this as an ideal opportunity to make a significant contribution.

"Our members know of people with lymphoedema, and we are aware that the current equipment is old and cumbersome and it's inconvenient if people have to travel to access a SOZO," Ms Yeomans said.

"We were keen to contribute money to starting this campaign because we do believe it's needed, not only for lymphoedema but for other ailments."

Ms Yeomans encouraged the

community to get behind the campaign.

"It would be wonderful to raise more funds for this machine which, unfortunately, is needed more and more. We need to work together to address the needs of the community," she said.

The Leongatha and District Community Foundation has also donated \$1000 to the appeal.

Treasurer and South Gippsland Shire Councillor Clare Williams said the Foundation believed it was a great initiative to support and encourage local services.

"So many services are being reduced in regional areas and if this is something that can be provided here it will be fantastic for the community," Cr Williams said.

"A lot of people have to go to Warragul or Melbourne for services but not everyone can do that, so we need as many services as possible being provided locally."

The fundraising campaign will run until the end of February.

People can visit mycause.au/page/356210/help-us-detect-lymphoedema-early to donate to the appeal.



Adrian Ward is excited to help clients maximise their health, bringing his expertise to Leongatha. A11_5024

Rediscovering your health in Leongatha

ADRIAN Ward of Koonwarra offers alternative pathways for people to optimise their health, the Nutritional Medicine Practitioner now available for appointments at Leongatha Health Hub.

He focuses on uncovering and addressing the root causes of health concerns, with helping motivated individuals rediscover their health and vitality at the heart of his practice.

"It's always a mixture of lifestyle and genetics involved, and we all have different responses to environmental impacts that come our way," he said.

"I take a holistic approach, look at the individual, investigate the quality of their sleep, their physical activity, diet and nutrition."

Tweaks in lifestyle and targeted nutritional supplementation are key strategies to help people get their body systems back on track.

Adrian concedes it takes real commitment for people to change their lifestyle and he takes a non-judgmental approach, allowing clients to determine the extent of alterations they are willing to make.

"People are often quite surprised about the changes they can make in the trajectory of their health," he said, with physical and mental benefits achievable.

Striking a balance in life between self-indulgence and self-denial is something Adrian helps clients achieve.

"It's a balance between pleasure and discipline," he explained.

Having a strong understanding of what constitutes healthy eating is part of what Adrian offers, and he complements that with appropriate supplements.

If you are interested in booking a 15-minute free 'Discovery Zoom Call' or registering as a client, email Adrian at adrian@rediscoveringyourhealth.com

He will be at Leongatha Health Hub once a fortnight on Mondays, and also works at a Pakenham clinic.

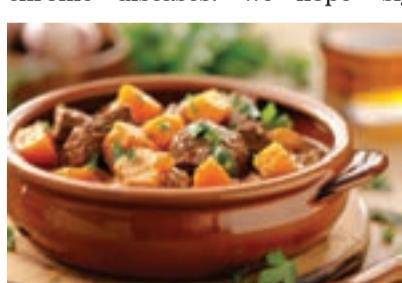
During his diverse career, Adrian has been a drug and alcohol counselor, massage therapist, environmental sustainability educator and a biological farming consultant.

Unlocking the science of sleep

SLEEP is critical for all sorts of reasons, but a team of international scientists has discovered a new incentive for getting eight hours of sleep every night: it helps the brain to store and learn a new language.

A study led by the University of South Australia (UniSA) and published in the Journal of Neuroscience has revealed that the coordination of two electrical events in the sleeping brain significantly improves our ability to remember new words and complex grammatical rules.

In an experiment with 35 native English-speaking adults, researchers tracked the brain activity of participants learning a miniature language called Mini Pinyin that is based on Mandarin but with similar grammatical rules to English.



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PollyannaR and Peter Sleeman make a stand for respect. A06_5024



South Gippsland Shire Council's Peter Sleeman and Mayor John Schelling have plenty of support as they campaign against family violence. A09_5024



While Cr Sarah Gilligan plays up to the camera, the deputy mayor recently spoke about the need for action against family violence. A08_5024



Maddie Hungerford and Harsha Puvvala attended a workplace training session on gender-based violence, discussing the importance of calling out inappropriate behaviour both in the workplace and in the community. Z03_4924



Holly Richards and Thanh Nguyen recap on their training session at Westernport Water on the prevention of gender-based violence. Z02_4924

Sombre message on a bright day

WHILE glorious sunshine lent itself to a pleasant stroll on Wednesday, South Gippsland Shire Council's Walk Against Family Violence drove home the sombre message that societal change is needed.

Councillors, council staff, representatives of The Salvation Army, and members of the community assembled at Leongatha Memorial Hall, hearing from Mayor John Schelling about the importance of the day and the grim statistics behind it.

"Family violence rates everywhere are too high, and this includes here in South Gippsland," Cr Schelling said, noting Victoria Police responded to 577 family violence incidents in the shire last year, a 12 per cent increase on the previous year.

"The walk today is a chance for our community to come together and say, 'Enough is enough,'" he declared.

The walk was one of many activities throughout South Gippsland Shire marking the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

Many attendees delivered their own messages about what respect means to them, with PollyannaR again running her pop-up photo booth with the theme 'Big Respect'.

Council's 'social planning officer' Peter Sleeman organised the walk and the broader 'Big Respect' campaign.

"We talk to the community about what they think respect is and how it connects with family violence, and how we respect each other in our community," he said.



Councillors Bron Beach, Nathan Hersey, Scott Rae, John Kennedy, Steve Finlay, Brad Snell, John Schelling (Mayor) and Sarah Gilligan (Deputy Mayor) are ready to walk against family violence, with Cr Clare Williams unable to attend. A05_5024

The message heard from many attendees was that respect is about being treated fairly, something that should apply to everyone.

Both Peter and PollyannaR heard lots of accounts, particularly from women, about family violence experiences they have had in our region in the past.

"They're concerned about their daughters and young women who might not know that what they're experiencing is abuse," Peter said, explaining that controlling behaviours often lead to violence.

That might start by telling a partner what they can and can't wear, then beginning to control the money before spiralling into

physical violence.

Peter stressed that events such as Wednesday's help draw attention to unacceptable behaviour.

PollyannaR stated that understanding what respect looks like is the foundation for preventing violence against women and children, and indeed anyone in the community.

Creating awareness of available help was an important part of the day, with people learning about 1800 Respect (1800 737 732), a 24-hour seven-day-a-week support line, and local services such as those provided by The Salvation Army.

PollyannaR stressed that support is available to those being

impacted by family violence now as well as those still affected by past experiences.

Brenda of The Salvation Army expressed her appreciation to South Gippsland Shire Council for running Wednesday's event, explaining the importance of highlighting the prevalence of family violence.

"It's around recognising that it does happen in local small communities, and it can be hidden, and we're all saying 'no' to family violence," she said.

A line of orange brightened Leongatha's main streets as walkers took to the footpaths wearing orange hats conveying the message, 'Walk Against Family Violence.'



The Westernport Water team joined the conversation 'Men Supporting Safer Communities' aligned with the United Nations 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. Pictured from left, Thanh Nguyen, Edward Allis, Jade Heyes, Holly Richards, Geoff Russell, Christie Spargo, Katie Cichowski, Maddie Hungerford, Aidan Walker and Harsha Puvvala. Z01_4924

Active bystander training to call out inappropriate behaviour

SINCE 2017, the Bass Coast Shire Council has partnered with four of the region's biggest employers, including Phillip Island Nature Parks, Westernport Water and Bass Coast Health, to deliver Active Bystander workplace training that equips staff with the skills to act in our communities, homes and workplaces.

This year, the training was extended to the broader Gippsland community, with new sessions in partnership with South Gippsland Shire Council and South Gippsland

Water.

The three-hour training session was offered in Neuhaven at Westernport Water with Aidan Walker and Emma from Bass Coast Shire Council facilitating the event last Thursday.

By learning how to be an Active Bystander, you can safely and effectively challenge attitudes in your personal and professional life and contribute to creating safe and respectful communities.

"The session was based on calling out stereotypes, sexist jokes, language, and then

explaining the framework of how to call it out when you witness inappropriate behaviour," said Aidan.

Westernport Water employee Edward Allis said, "The session was a great refresher on some of the basic ways to challenge sexist culture and behaviour and applying it both in the workplace and in any social interaction."

Aidan explained that there is an activity called 'The Man Box' and what it talks about is 'What is a stereotypical man?'

"There is this stereotype that men are strong and tough,

and they cook the barbecue and drink beer, but then if you're not in that 'box' then what are you?" said Aidan.

"This activity addresses that just because you're not in that 'box' or you have feminine qualities it doesn't make you weak and having these stereotypes can be a driver towards gender-based violence."

These sessions were about addressing these issues both in the workplace culture and in everyday life to address gender-based violence as part of the United Nations 16 Days of Activism.



An important message is delivered at the Walk Against Violence in Leongatha's education precinct.

Education precinct Walk Against Violence

THE recent 'Community Walk Against Family Violence' in Leongatha's education precinct delivered important messages about respect to school students and other participants.

Anglicare representatives were present, providing information on relevant services the organisation offers, and there was free food including orange-themed items to draw attention to the '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence' campaign.

"I was surprised and pleased how many members of the public attended," Leongatha Primary School's Respectful Relationships Coordinator Steph Martin said, noting the Respectful Relationships Lead and other Education Department staff were present.

Representatives of the local SES and CFA were on hand to support the event.

The extensive Respectful Relationships curriculum addresses the issue of gender-based violence along

with teaching students coping strategies and how to manage emotions, and ways of seeking help and solving problems.

Steph stressed it is important to ensure the messages children are getting about respect are shared with the broader community.

Leongatha Secondary College principal Brad Hutchinson and a Leongatha Primary School staff member spoke to attendees about the 16 Days of Activism and shared relevant

information from Respect Victoria.

Students from the primary and secondary schools were joined on the walk by those from Leongatha Specialist School.

There was more promotion of this year's event leading to a spike in community attendance, and it is hoped to involve South Gippsland Shire councillors and staff in next year's walk.

Council provided sponsorship towards the purchase of donuts this time.



South Gippsland Hospital staff began the walk against gendered violence at Foster Hospital. ob01_5024

South Gippsland Hospital and school students walk against violence

STAFF from the South Gippsland Hospital were joined by 180 Foster school students last Wednesday who took to the streets in a walk against gender-based violence.

The walk was organised as part of the hospital's activities and participation in the 16 Days of Activism against gendered violence.

The international campaign calls for an end to violence against women and girls and runs from November 25 (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until December 10, (Human

Rights Day).

"This is all about respect and having conversations about women feeling safe and speaking out, and listening and finding a way forward together. We like to be unified and think it's important as well to call out bad behaviours when we get a chance," said Paul Greenhalgh, CEO of South Gippsland Hospital.

Students from Foster Primary School and Foster Secondary College joined in the walk which started at the hospital and ended at Manna Gum Community House in Foster.

"We're just joining in as a community agency because as a school we recognise that family violence - we're overrepresented in Gippsland stats' and we want to change that at an education level and by joining with other members of the community. We feel like we're making a bit of a stand and showing our support," said Anna Stefani, Wellbeing at Foster Secondary College.

Mr Greenhalgh addressed the students once they reached Manna Gum Community House and encouraged them all to talk, listen and call out disrespect when

they see it.

He made an apology to all the women who have endured violence from men across our society.

Ms Stefani also added that they'd been trying to get a collaborative event happening for the last couple of years.

"We're really thrilled that today we've done it and of course, our respectful relationships curriculum and education, it's what reducing family violence is all about. So, we can all make a stand towards that and we have done that today."

Cost of living crisis spikes demand for financial counselling,

DEMAND for financial counsellors continues to increase as the cost of living spirals with more families reporting they are in financial stress, according to Nationals MP Melina Bath.

Speaking in State Parliament, Ms Bath said financial counsellors are in high demand as state taxes, increased utility bills, interest rates and rental unaffordability create a huge burden on vulnerable Victorians.

"The (Victorian) Government is failing to address the deepening crisis despite one-third of households reporting they are experiencing food insecurity and mortgage stress," said Ms Bath.

"People from all walks of life are telling me they are worse off than they were a decade ago.

"Many local families and individuals are struggling to pay their household bills and keep food on the table."

Regional Victorians are worse off than their city counterparts, with households charged 21 per cent more for water and up to 30 per cent more for electricity.

Ms Bath said Community Health counsellors report the financial pressures across our community are not temporary.

"The cascading effects of financial crises such as housing instability, mental health deterioration and family breakdown underscore the need for more financial counsellors at the grassroots level.

"There is an ever-growing issue around homelessness with more people sleeping rough, while our emergency food banks are struggling to keep up with demand.

"We need more counsellors to assist financially stretched Victorians who are becoming reliant on credit cards and other low lines of credit to manage their weekly expenses.

"The Nationals are calling on the Allan Government to fund the delivery of targeted programs to ease cost of living pressure in regional Victoria and invest in a sustainable workforce to help manage the financial stress that so many are facing."

Lowering the gender gap in cycling

IN A world-first study, Monash University researchers have found that 92 per cent of young Victorian women, aged 18-29, are interested in riding a bike, but their participation is four times lower than men of the same age - demonstrating huge unmet demand.

Research by Dr Lauren Pearson and colleagues found that this is influenced by Australia's current transport networks and support systems being set up for the needs and safety perceptions of confident, physically fit men.

Her research has found that the top barriers to riding a bike for young women are concern about a collision with motor vehicle (70 per cent); they do not want to ride on the road (70 per cent); and concern about motorist aggression (68 per cent) (sample size = 646). Importantly, over one in five surveyed reported concern about sexual harassment as a barrier to bike riding.

"Our focus is a particular cohort of women who really want to ride, but are afraid to take it up, despite the clear health and environmental benefits," she said.



Murphy and Lenny took a moment to say hi to Santa at the Christmas party. C10_5024



Red was the colour of the night for Willow and Hazel in spectacular dinosaur Christmas dresses. C18_5024



Audra shared a quiet moment with Santa sharing what she wanted for Christmas. C06_5024



Lily has superhero powers in her hand as she watches Santa. C23_5024



Customers Jeremy and Amaira stand at either end, with Ruby Fire Brigade members Tim, J J, Linda, Ken, Kath and Karen. A28_5024

Christmas tree fundraiser success for Ruby Fire Brigade

THE EXCITING combination of Christmas trees and fire trucks drew families to Leongatha Fire Station on the weekend as Ruby Fire Brigade held its major annual fundraiser, selling affordable festive trees.

"It's going towards our new truck which is arriving soon," Ken Williamson of Ruby Fire Brigade said.

While the brigade's

Christmas tree sales have been raising money towards that cause over the last few years, the truck is expected to be delivered within a couple of months.

The Victorian Government's Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program has helped fund the truck, with the brigade having to raise the rest.

Jeremy and daughter

Amaira were pleased to find the right tree Jeremy said buying from the Ruby Fire Brigade is the start of a tradition and supports a good cause.

The brigade purchases its trees through a supportive Christmas tree farm, normally selling them during the first weekend of December, this time choosing the month's first

full weekend.

Most trees sold, with Ken expressing his appreciation to the brigade's loyal customers and those who began a new Christmas buying tradition this year.

When contacted by the Sentinel-Times yesterday, he was set to calculate how much Ruby Fire Brigade has raised through this year's tree sales.

Christmas splendour spreads joy to all in Korumburra

CHRISTMAS magic has returned to Korumburra, the 23 Grandview Rise home of Helen Murray (Muz) and Ryan Burns (Burnsy) transformed by five weeks of hard work into an enchanting festive world captivating children and adults alike.

"It's a labour of love," Ryan said, having again taken the last couple of weeks of November off work to make sure the ever-expanding display is ready by December 1.

A large singing Santa greets visitors, the joy of 'Jingle Bells' and 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' filling the air.

The garage and carport space are filled with a wonderland of items and characters, and you'll discover an Aussie element.

A giant bear has been added this year.

The house and surrounds emit glorious light, with wonderful discoveries such as Santa's caravan home and his sleigh.

While almost all the lights are LED, a significant energy saving over old-style technology, the extravaganza still doubles the couple's power bill, but that's a cost they are happy to withstand, Helen describing



Ryan Burns and Helen Murray with Barbara Price and Sharron-Lee Murray seated, a stunning festive collection behind them. A24_5024

the positive response from visitors to the display.

"Most people thank us for it and they're usually pretty amazed," she said.

Prior to moving to Korumburra, the couple's Rowville home was a Christmas beacon, drawing large crowds.

Despite having lots of experience, it's never easy getting such an extensive

justifying the required effort.

Along with the expense, new challenges always arise, with something breaking down every year, a trial being conducted when everything is in place to check what needs attention, whether by fixing or replacing.

South Gippsland weather is the biggest obstacle, wind and rain causing havoc at times, and a conscious effort has been made to keep the indoor displays off the ground in case of flooding.

People can enjoy the Christmas splendour every night from 8pm, with a full walk through of the display on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and nightly from December 20.

Santa and companions will be present on December 23 and Christmas Eve between 8pm and 11pm.

Fortunately, the neighbours have taken to the yearly transformation of their street.

One did comment last year that there were a lot of cars coming up and down the street. Helen replying, "Well, it's going to get worse," but the festive joy has helped everyone take that in their stride.

SHOP LOCAL this Christmas



Santa praised Will's Christmas spirited shirt on Friday. C04_5024



Magnus and Juliette beamed with delight at meeting Santa at Rainbow Park. C07_5024



Maxi, Ila, Imogen and Santa were helping spread the Christmas cheer with their brightly coloured clothes. C15_5024



Niko and Santa were full of Christmas cheer. C08_5024



Jemma may have been a little nervous but was happy to meet Santa on dad's (Tim) knee. C16_5024



Elijah and Maddy shared with Santa what they wanted for Christmas with dad, Tim. C19_5024

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Inverloch Christmas Carols

GET TOGETHER, have fun and celebrate the spirit of Christmas at this year's Inverloch Christmas Carols.

The evening will showcase lots of the local music talent with The Streeton Court Big Band (who played at Inverloch Jazz Festival) being one of the main acts and the U3A Choir singing backing vocals for all the musicians.

The Wonthaggi Citizens Band Junior Brass will be performing, giving these talented kids a chance to get up on stage and Inverloch Primary School students will be holding a performance as well.

Food will be available with the Inverloch Lions Club cooking up a sausage sizzle and there will be free popcorn and entertainment for the kids.

Unfortunately, Santa won't be attending Inverloch Carols this year, but he has organised for some bags of sweets (courtesy of the Treat Time Lolly Shop Inverloch) to be dropped off to all the kids.

This fun, free, family-friendly event will be celebrating the message of hope shared at Christmas.

It is organised in collaboration by the local churches and sponsored by many local businesses and the Bass Coast Shire Council.

Inverloch Community Christmas Carols will take place on Saturday, December 14 from 5.30pm – 8.15pm at The Glade, The Esplanade, Inverloch.

Newhaven College helps St Vinnies support the community

IN ADDITION to the assistance provided to people experiencing poverty throughout the year, St Vincent de Paul volunteers have been working tirelessly to create Christmas food hampers and gift assistance for those in the community who are experiencing hardship.

Newhaven College was thrilled to be able to help St Vinnies by collecting toys from the College and broader community under the Wardy's Newhaven College Christmas Tree. Now residing in Blue Hills Residencies Retirement Village in Cranbourne, John Ward, the founder of the Christmas Tree, sends his greetings and special thanks.

"Thank you to all who have responded to the tree and kept a Newhaven College tradition going for another year," John said.

Last week Newhaven College St Vincent de Paul volunteers, Mary Stack (President), Hess and Monica Bekema, Linda Sparkes, Cathy and Howard Jones were incredulous at the generous donations. 160 local families will be the happy recipients of the gifts donated and expressed their appreciation for the College



St Vincent de Paul volunteers collecting the generous donations from under Wardy's Newhaven College Christmas Tree. Mary Stack (President), Hess and Monica Bekema, Linda Sparkes, Cathy and Howard Jones.

and broader community.

"We would like to thank all the community, businesses, charities and craft groups, including Rhyll Boomerang Bags and Newhaven College for their generous donations to our Christmas Giving tree. The gifts and donated goods enabled us to help families in San Remo/Cowes who required support during the Christmas period.

"We ask our clients to come into our hall and collect their

Coles vouchers and hampers and then they can select the toys that are appropriate for their children. As well as this we also had Pinchapoo Pamper packs and Share with Dignity bags and toiletry packs that were donated to us. Overall, this day was very successful, and we again thank everyone who made it possible."

St Vincent de Paul also recognise and thank Aldi Cowes and San Remo IGA for their

generous contributions.

Newhaven College Principal, Mr Tony Corr expressed his delight at being involved.

"Newhaven College is pleased to be supporting St Vincent de Paul on their Christmas toy collection each year. Our school community are very aware of the very important work that (they) do and understand that these donations can make such a significant difference to many children and families."

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SHOP LOCAL this Christmas



Santa hats and Frozen dresses were the order of business for Abbie as she celebrated on Friday. C14_5024



Suni was incredibly happy to see Santa on Friday night in Inverloch. C02_5024

Wonthaggi Christmas Carols

CELEBRATE Christmas by going along to the Wonthaggi Christmas Carols with free and fun children's activities, live music and, of course, a visit from Santa.

This year's feature act will be children's entertainer Elk Puppets, who will provide a special Christmas-themed puppet shows.

Animals on the Move, a mobile animal farm, will also be there with their petting zoos and mini pet programs, for the kids to learn from and play with the animals.

Santa will also be arriving on the night and there's a rumour that he will be arriving on some odd form of transport.

The Wonthaggi Citizens Band will be providing the music and backing for the Good News Community Choir who will be singing all the favourite carols. St. Joseph's Primary School will also be performing.

The Wonthaggi Rotary Club will be running the sausage sizzle and drinks and coffee will be available to buy.

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Rochelle Halstead will open the event and Councillor Brett Tessari and local Jess Rigby will both be compering.

The event is a collaboration of the Anglican, Baptist, United Churches and Wonthaggi Christian Life Centre, and is made possible by donations and sponsorships of many local businesses and the council.

Wonthaggi Community Carols will be held at Wishart Reserve and if the weather isn't cheerful the event will move to the Town Hall.

All are welcome on Sunday, December 15 from 5.30pm to 8.45pm.

We wish all our wonderful clients a safe and festive season

Don't forget your batteries!

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Family Fun Carols



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SHOP LOCAL this Christmas



Young and old had fun creating their very own Christmas Wreaths at the Grain Store during Christmas in the Boo. Expert guidance was provided by the talented Michelle Rose and the gorgeous fresh and dried flowers, greenery and wreath rings were donated by the Community Bank Mirboo North & District, making the event free for all. ob17_5024



Santa joined Early Learning Educators from Inverloch Childcare on Friday at Rainbow Park for a very special Christmas party. From left, Aleesha, Angela, Chloe and Lauren. C21_5024



Merry Christmas from Brett, Kerryn and the team at Nagels Pharmacy. We are open every day of the year, except Christmas Day, for all your healthcare needs! A15_4924



Wishing everyone a merry and bright Christmas were Eva, Kabya, Riyosan and Aarab. C20_5024



SHOP LOCAL this Christmas

Sharon's Christmas joy a drawcard at Terry White Leongatha

CHRISTMAS cheer is in abundance at Terry White Leongatha, people often popping in to see Sharon Caporale's festive outfits, the pharmacy assistant renowned for her December flair.

Each morning she selects a different look, influenced by the weather, having a sizeable collection to choose from that includes dresses and skirts.

It's all housed in boxes in the back shed until November when Sharon gets everything shipshape, washing and ironing, to ensure she's ready to continue her December tradition.

Sharon was inspired to dress up by a couple of staff she worked with years ago, having noticed their Christmas costumes bringing smiles to people's faces.

She particularly loves seeing kids and the elderly enjoying the festive vibe.

"It's sad to see so many older people who don't see the joy anymore because they're isolated or they don't have family around here, so it brings a smile to their faces," Sharon said.

Asked about the most way-out costume she's worn over the years, Sharon was stumped but workmate Laura Kemper was quick to point out that anything with lights fits that bill.

While Sharon was free of bells when Sentinel-Times visited, there are days when her jingle is heard before she's seen.

Other staff wearing festive shirts add to the Christmas feel, and the store is filled with music for the season.



Sharon Caporale looks festive in her chosen outfit on Thursday. A13_5024



Indi and Willow had a blast on Friday taking a moment to visit Santa for a special treat. C03_5024



Taj and Theo pulled out matching tops for Santa! C05_5024

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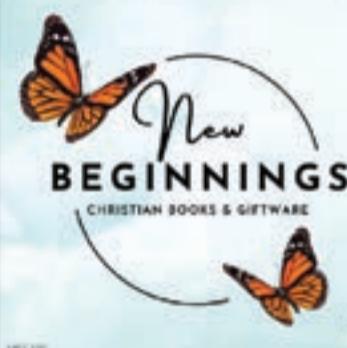
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SHOP LOCAL this Christmas



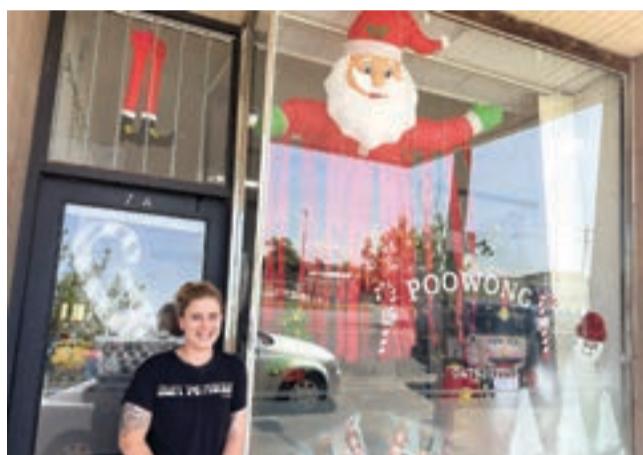
Support local this Christmas and drop into Macca's Farm for your meats and produce with hams still available. Visit Macca's Farm at 2185 Dalyston-Glen Forbes Road, Glen Forbes. C01_5024



Rose and puppy babycino with Santa at Nature's Beauty Spa Salon in Poowong will be keeping all the locals looking beautiful this festive season. ob15_4924



The rain didn't dampen Atreus's spirit at Rainbow Park! C13_5024



Coreen from Poowong Hair and Beauty is excited about the upcoming silly season and had fun decorating the store front. ob16_4924



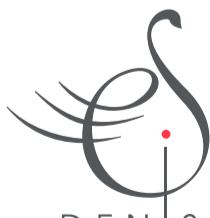
Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas from the team at Alex Scott & Staff Wonthaggi. C25_5024

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SHOP LOCAL this Christmas



Western Port Ward Councillors had a jolly time singing along to the carols on Sunday at Grantville's Christmas Carols. From left, Mayor Rochelle Halstead, Cr Jan Thompson, and Cr Jon Temby.



Annie kept busy in the coffee van delighting visitors with a warm beverage at the Grantville Christmas Carols on Sunday evening.



Paige is keen for some Bratz dolls this Christmas, as she dives into conversation with Santa. C29_5024



Roaring into Christmas with Santa was Alby. C17_5024



'Tis the season for Christmas carols

WHICH one is your favourite? Is it one of the traditional carols like Silent Night, O Holy Night, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing or Joy to the World? Maybe Away in a Manger, The First Noel, Deck the Halls, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer or We Wish You a Merry Christmas does it for you. Or the ever popular, All I Want for Christmas Is You!

Whatever you fancy, there is still time to sing-a-long at one of the Christmas carols events coming up in a town near you.

One of the most popular locally is the Cowes Carols by the Bay, tonight, Tuesday, December 10.

Every year, hundreds gather to share festive spirit and sing at Cowes Carols by the Bay, organised by Island Voice.

Catch up with friends or bring the family as you make your way to the Amphitheatre on The Esplanade at the Cowes foreshore.

Cowes Carols by the Bay starts at 5.30pm with a market, rides and of course, a visit by the jolly man himself, Santa.

There will be free children's

activities, including rides, face painting, and an animal farm. Father Christmas will arrive at 6.30pm. The Carols by Candlelight main event will commence at 7.30pm. The carols will finish at 9.30pm with the Cowes Community Fireworks display to follow, making for a grand finale to a brilliant evening.

Entry is free, and visitors are welcome to bring picnic rugs, chairs, food, and drink (no alcohol permitted).

Other Christmas Carols events include:

Poowong: Tuesday, December 10, 6pm

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 and if it's wet, the carols will move into the Uniting Church. All donations will go to the Milpara Food Bank.

Leongatha: Friday, December 13, 5.30pm

A great family night out, filled with entertainment

from local performers, food trucks, fireworks and a special visit from Santa! Head along on Friday from 5.30pm at Leongatha Recreation Reserve. Gold coin donation, bring chairs or picnic rug.

Inverloch: Saturday, December 14, 5.30pm

Organised by the churches and sponsored by local businesses, Inverloch Community Christmas Carols will take place on Saturday 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.

Corinella: Saturday, December 14, 6pm

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.

Wonthaggi: Sunday, December 15, 5.30pm

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 from 5.30pm to 8.45pm with free and fun children's activities.

San Remo: Friday, December 20, 5pm

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.

Korumburra: Saturday, December 21 (Christmas Market)

Meeniyan: Monday, December 23, 6.30pm

Featuring the South Gippsland Concert Band and the Good News Community Choir, pop along to Tanderra Park from 6.30pm for a free BBQ with carols commencing at 7.30pm.



There were smiles and lots of lists on Saturday at Wonthaggi CFA's Christmas Party. C28_5024



Santa and his helpful Inverloch CFA elves have been busy this year. Handing out presents to children at Inverloch Childcare on Friday evening and then to children of Wonthaggi CFA's volunteers on Saturday. C27_5024



Roger Pendlebury and Mark Munday from Phillip Island rode to Caldermeade Farm to take part in the annual Phillip Island Christmas Toy Run on Sunday.

Police praise perfect Phillip Island toy run

IT WAS a bit windy, right, and apparently some of the traffic control volunteers at Caldermeade came down with COVID but other than that, it was a perfect day for the third annual Phillip Island Christmas Toy Run last Sunday.

And both organisers and police were delighted with the response.

While one of the organisers, Jason Hampsted sent the 400 riders on their way from Caldermeade Farm at 11am, his partner Samantha was on hand to greet them when they arrived at The Esplanade in Cowes.

"We launch the event straight after the GP. Everyone has to register online and we've had about 390 riders this year which is great," said Sam.

"We get a lot of help from Phillip Island Rotary and the CFA and the toys and gift cards are distributed to disadvantaged children and families in the Phillip Island, San Remo, Bass, Corinella, Coronet Bay, Grantville, and Kilcunda areas who get 100 per cent of the proceeds."

Most of the riders deck out their bikes, and themselves, in the Christmas theme and there are prizes for the best dressed.



It was a festive occasion for a good cause when 400 motorcycle riders turned out in their Christmas finery for the annual Phillip Island Christmas Toy Run last Sunday.



Steve Wollmer of Baxter even had Santa's sleigh fitted to the back of his fully decked out Kawasaki Vulcan 900 Classic for the ride to Phillip Island.



More than 400 motorcycle riders made their way across the bridge at San Remo during Sunday's annual Phillip Island Christmas Toy Run.



One of the organisers of the annual Phillip Island Christmas Toy Run, Jason Hampsted of Dead4eva Designs & Dead4eva Tattooing in Cowes gives riders their instructions at Caldermeade Farm before they head off in convoy to Phillip Island.



Keen motorcycle riders Andy and Val Grayden of Leongatha catch up with the organiser of the annual Phillip Island Christmas Toy Run Sam Hampsted.



Hayward, Ruggaz and Snapper from the south-eastern suburbs enjoy a coffee at Caldermeade Farm before heading off on the Phillip Island Toy Run.



Peter Loeff of Chirnside Park was all kitted out for the annual Phillip Island charity toy run on Saturday.



Among those helping to make the Phillip Island Christmas Toy Run a success on Sunday were Sam Hampsted, Leigh Drew (Seymour), Jimmy Gregory, and Matt Sbizzivvi (Cranbourne).



Katrina Shillinglaw and Luke Jones of Tarwin Lower get set to head out on the annual Phillip Island Toy Run on Sunday.

Empowering youth this summer

THE YES Youth Hub (YYH) is busy planning activities and programs for the summer months. A Christmas Party will be held on Wednesday, December 11 with the opportunity for young people to "make or take" a Christmas gift. Young people will be able to create a Christmas present to give to someone in their life or take a ready-to-go gift. This will support young people who may not have enough money to purchase gifts for family or friends this year.

A free community movie event featuring "Love Simon" is screening at the Wonthaggi Cinema on Wednesday, December 18. The YES Youth Hub provides free tickets for the community, free choc top and popcorn!

There will also be live music in the foyer from 5pm thanks to Bass Coast FReeZA.

This event is funded by a HEY grant from the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria which aims to support the wellbeing of young LG-BTIQA+ people.

The Monday Meal on offer every week and access to the food pantry (free food supplies for young people) will continue until the YYH closes for the year on Wednesday, December 18.

These two initiatives are supported by The Y Open Doors Program which aims to support those experiencing disadvantage. The YYH and The Y Bass Coast are committed to improving food security for young people in Bass Coast.

The YYH will reopen for 2025 on Monday, January 6 and will be open on Mondays and Tuesdays across January. This will ensure young people have access to the free Monday Meal, the food pantry and of course, the social space and support from YYH staff.

Activities on offer throughout January will include a sticker-making workshop and a chance to learn how to spray paint. There will also be a live music event on Phillip Island and a "Skate Park Leagues" skate competition at the Kilcunda Lobster Festival on Sunday, January 26 thanks to Bass Coast FReeZA.

The YES Youth Hub staff will also be working with young people to assemble "Back to School Packs."

These packs will include the stationery young people will need when they head back to school in late January. The stationery is kindly provided by the CWA Wonthaggi Owl Women. The packs will be distributed via several means including Family Services staff in the area and the Wellbeing team at Bass Coast College campuses.

Pop-up events may also be happening so follow @yesyouthhub on Facebook or Instagram - @BassCoast.freeza to stay up to date on FREE events and support services for young people in Bass Coast.

If you want further information contact yesyouth.hub@ymca.org.au

The YES Youth Hub, managed by The Y, is located at 76 Watt Street, Wonthaggi and is supported by Bass Coast Shire Council.



Dan Lawrie, David Dearricott, Bruce Grainger, Dianne Paragreen, Bernadette Grainger, Jennifer Paragreen, Susie Sparkes and Judy Barnard.

FAMDA shines in Drama League

THE Victorian Drama League held its 27th awards ceremony in Melbourne on Sunday, November 30, with Foster theatre company, FAMDA, earning four nominations.

In a competition with twenty-six other theatre companies from across the state, FAMDA's April/May production of 'The Architect' was nominated for the prestigious Drama of the Year trophy along with nominations for Susie Sparkes as Best

Actress, Pixie Jones for Best Properties and Judy Barnard for Best Costumes.

Other nominees in the Best Drama category were 'Still Alice' staged by Lilydale Athenaeum Theatre, Malvern Theatre Company's 'Lovesong', Williamstown Little Theatre's 'Photograph 51' and the ultimate winner, Geelong Rep's production of 'Misery'.

Best Comedy nominations went to Beaumaris Theatre for 'Steel

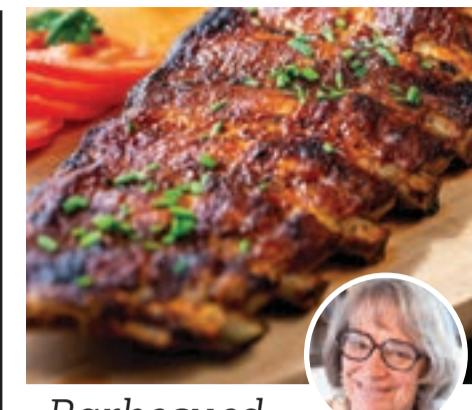
Magnolias', Essendon Theatre Company's 'Skin of Our Teeth', 'Looped' staged by The Mount Players from Macedon and 'Noises Off' presented by Windmill Theatre from Narre Warren with the trophy going to Strathmore Theatre Arts Group's 'Hand of God'.

FAMDA president, Dianne Paragreen, said she was extremely proud of what the FAMDA team had achieved in such illustrious company.



The Architect.

JA21486



Barbecued Spare Ribs

By Meg Viney

Ingredients

- 1 kg pork spare ribs
- 1/3 cup red wine
- 1/4 cup of tomato purée
- 2 tbsp apple cider vinegar
- Half an onion chopped
- One clove crushed garlic
- 1 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp of mustard and a pinch of chilli powder
- One sprig of oregano chopped or a teaspoon of dried oregano

Method

Mix together and pour over spare ribs in a baking dish then marinade for 24 hours.

Bake in a hot oven about 200° basting constantly until the ribs are cooked and golden. Of course this can all be done on a barbecue

Serve with jacket potatoes and a salad.

Photo: Alexandru-Bogdan Ghita | Unsplash

'Eagle Rock' comes back to Archies Creek

THE 'Eagle Rock' man himself, Ross Wilson has had such a massive response to his '50 Years Of Hits Tour' in 2024 that it's coming back again, to Archies Creek on Sunday, February 2, 2025.

Due to overwhelming popular demand, the tour is extending into 2025 and to over 100 shows, making it the biggest tour of his incredible 60-year career!

From Daddy Cool to Mondo Rock and as a solo artist, with no less than 26 ARIA Top 40 hits to his credit as a singer, songwriter and producer, Ross is one of Australia's most awarded, respected and well-known artists.

But hurry. Last time the tickets sold out within days of going on sale, Google Ross Wilson Archies Creek through TryBooking.

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Corinne and Jack Pearce enjoy the music during Mary McKillop College's 'Rock On' concert. A19_5024



Dave Robinson and young Harper reflect the positive vibe during the 'Rock On' performance. A20_5024



Georgina Owen and mum Rebecca relax at 'Rock On'. A21_5024



Philip Heath and Bryony Cosgrove at the opening of the Screw Creek walking trail. B31_5024



Steve and Jill Dunn with Dallas Wyatt all of Inverloch attended the walking trail opening. B34_5024



Rhonda Sutton and Susan Atkins celebrating the opening of the Screw Creek walking trail in Inverloch. B35_5024



Brendan and Babette Casey at the Screw Creek walking trail in Inverloch. B36_5024



Peter Martin from Skyline Management Systems attended the field day in Woodleigh. B17_5024



Geoff Rogers from Ryanston at the Bass Coast Landcare Field Day. B21_5024

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Mary MacKillop College 'Rock On', Screw Creek Walking Trail Opening, Bass Coast Landcare Field Day and Christmas in the Boo.



Dave Robinson, Gavin Cassidy and Sally Newton take it easy at 'Rock On'.
A18_5024



Debbie Williams of Inverloch and SGCS President Ed Thexton at the opening of the Screw Creek walking trail. B33_5024



Christine and Joey came from out of town to browse all the stores at Christmas in the Boo. ob13_5024



Chris and Graham were wondering around Christmas in the Boo after helping their daughter set up her stall there. ob14_5024



Aaron Stephens from Landcare with Camilla Graves from Woodleigh enjoying the Bass Coast Pest Control Field Day. B20_5024



Charlotte, Will and Riddah were looking forward to checking out all the food vendors at Christmas in the Boo. ob16_5024



Jack, Brittany and Jagger were excited to be at Christmas in the Boo and awaiting the arrival of Santa. ob15_5024

Sentinel-Times

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A story of courage and resilience

YVONNE Bornstein has had experiences most of us couldn't imagine, let alone survive and live to tell the tale.

She endured one of the most terrifying ordeals someone could experience after being abducted by Chechen terrorists in Moscow, during the early 1990s.

Since her harrowing experience, Yvonne has learnt to overcome these struggles, writing a highly successful book detailing the events.

Her biography is titled 'Eleven Days of Hell: A Terrifying True Story of Kidnap, Torture and Dramatic Rescue by the FBI and the KGB'.

It took 12 years to finally tell her story.

In 1992, as a wife, mother and businesswoman, Yvonne was caught up by capitalists in the now former Soviet Union.

Because of a bad Moscow business deal, Yvonne was held hostage for USD \$1.6 million ransom by Chechen terrorists originally thought to be the Russian mob.

It was only in 2004 that a key player in the rescue put together by the FBI, the CIA, KGB and the Australian Federal Intelligence Agencies amazingly linked the kidnappers to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.

In a surprising twist, the acclaimed author will be releasing her first children's picture book, 'Welcome to Eevee's Farm', reflecting the life she now enjoys.

The Sentinel-Times spoke to Yvonne about her journey, how she is



Yvonne's mother Billie on her 100th birthday. Yvonne dedicated 'Eleven Days of Hell' to her.

entering the world of children's books and how she continues to overcome her traumatic experience.

Residing in Gippsland surrounded by her adult children and grandchildren, Yvonne is excited for what the next chapter holds.

During 2023, inspired by the scenery across her farm, Yvonne adapted her oil painting background to watercolours with the intention of adding rhyming text which she offered to her publisher - New Holland Publishing in Sydney who were happy to try the change of direction.

"The difference between writing a 364-page book full of trauma compared with the fun and enjoyment that I derived out of writing and illustrating 'Welcome to Eevee's Farm' was life-changing.

She hopes you will enjoy all the characters such as Billie the bunny,

Duncan the duck, Emmy the elephant, Ben the bluebird and many more!

The official release date in Australia is January 10, 2025.

The book is available now for pre-order.

Storytime events will be held at libraries across Gippsland.

Eleven Days of Hell is also scheduled for re-release by May 2025.

There has been interest shown for her biography to be adapted into a TV series or feature film.

Yvonne is hoping to inspire others who have had traumatic experiences to bring joy back into their lives.

She is ecstatic for the release of 'Welcome to Eevee's Farm' and has many more illustration books planned.

You can pre-order at turnthepagebookshop.com.au/p/welcome-to-evee-s-farm.

Joyful Christmas shopping in Jumbunna

JUMBUNNA Bush Market provided a perfect Christmas shopping stop for those visiting open gardens in the area recently.

This scribe bought a festive reindeer from mother and daughter team Barbara Price and Helen Murray, who are fast becoming renowned for their large-scale Christmas lighting displays in Korumburra's Grand View Rise.

Their Bush Market stall featured a variety of home-crafted items, the pair resplendent in Christmas aprons.

Sentinel-Times also chatted to stall holder Shahni about her handmade items such as colourful 'Jolly Dolly's', with her creativity including the use of recycled materials such as felt backing from a tray being turned into a jacket for one of the dolls.

An abundance of other craft was available at the market, along with plants.

Tasty morsels such as scones and cake or a hot sausage in bread, as well as barista-made coffee ensured plenty settled in for a chat in the relaxed vibe of the Jumbunna Hall.



Helen Murray and mum Barbara Price ensure a festive vibe at Jumbunna Bush Market. A01_5024



Shahni shows off her 'Jolly Dolly's' and other creations. A02_5024

Real Estate

South Gippsland and Bass Coast



Multiple commercial properties in the heart of Leongatha have come up for sale but how are small businesses going? ob05_5024

Commercial opportunities

FOR THOSE looking for a new investment or business opportunity, five diverse commercial properties located right in the heart of Leongatha have come up for sale but is it a good time to do business?

There are retail, industry and office spaces, in prime locations, with street parking and walk-through traffic. A couple are vacant spaces while others have existing businesses in place, with the potential for long leases.

David Trotman sales consultant for Ray White in Leongatha said there has been some interest in the commercial property he's selling and others they have listed.

"There have been a few through, and one who seems to have a bit of interest in it."

While small businesses are the backbone of our local economy, in the current economic climate with costs on business being higher than ever, one wonders if it is a sensible time to enter the market.

In a recent survey, Victoria was found to be the worst place to do business in Australia with a low ranking for its property taxes and charges, payroll taxes, and business licencing requirements. However, in 2023-24, new business owners weren't deterred and

73,125 businesses started in Australia, with 18,641 of these opening in Victoria.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), there are about 7560 small businesses across Gippsland, and small businesses in regional Victoria make up about 31 per cent of the small business pie.

This year the Victorian Chamber of Commerce advocacy was successful in obtaining a number of successes for small businesses in the most recent state budget. These included no new or increased taxes to be applied to Victorian businesses, insurance duty to be abolished gradually over a 10-year period, stamp duty for commercial and industrial properties to be abolished over the next four years, and the payroll tax-free threshold to be lifted from \$900,000 to \$1 million from July 1, 2025.

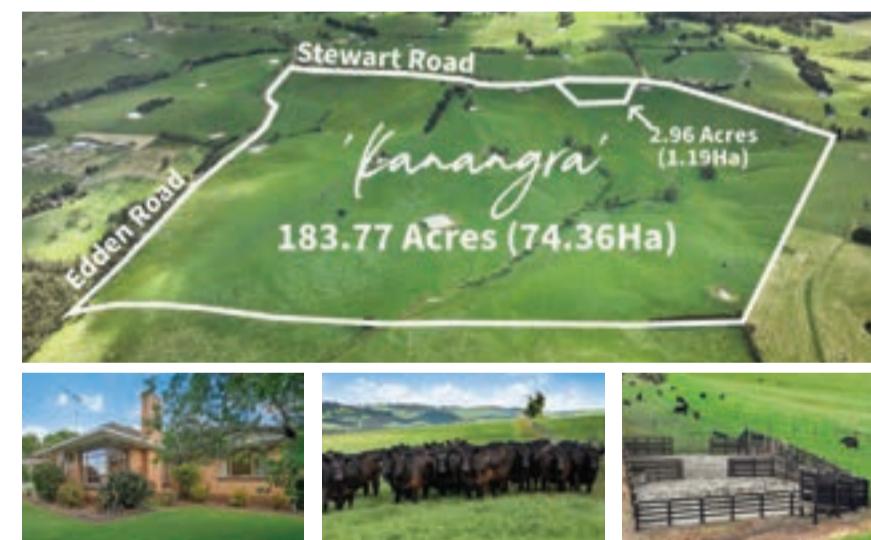
In a recently released report by the ABS, company gross profits (CGP) were shown to be variable across 13 industries. For the last September quarter and with seasonal adjustment, the industries that saw profit rises were retail at 1.4 per cent, and financial and insurance services at 3.8 per cent.

Read the full story at sgst.com.au.

Nutrien Harcourts

AUCTION NEXT WEEK

125 Stewart Road, Woodleigh
Friday 20th December 2024 - 1pm (E.S.T) - Kernot Hall



186.73 Acres (75.56Ha) in Two Titles.

6 main paddocks with excellent fencing, 8 Dams & 14 troughs.

Beautiful rolling to undulating topography & heavy duty stockyards

A comfortable 4 bedroom, 1 bathroom circa 1960's brick veneer home.

Terms: 10% Deposit, Balance in 60 Days or Earlier By Agreement
Inspections Strictly By Appointment Only.



Barry Redmond
Ph: 0477 622 292



Matt Redmond
Ph: 0418 357 341

Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha 5662 2292



Explore SJD Homes in Wonthaggi this Summer



FOR those spending time on the Bass Coast this summer, the SJD Homes Display Home Super Centre in Wonthaggi is a must-visit destination for anyone considering building a new home. Showcasing award-winning designs, the four homes on display provide inspiration for both locals and holidaymakers looking to create their dream home or a relaxing coastal retreat.

The display centre will remain open throughout the summer, with the exception of key Christmas and New Year's days. Open daily from 12pm to 5pm, visitors can explore the thoughtfully designed spaces in cool comfort.

Whether you're local or just passing through on a summer road trip, take the time to stop by and explore the displays. It's a great way to start planning your dream home on the coast. With a reputation for quality and innovation, SJD Homes makes it easy to envision the possibilities for your future build.

Visit sjdhomes.com.au for exact opening dates at the Wonthaggi Display Home Super Centre.



SJDhomes

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HOME BUILDER



- Sustainable Homes
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- House & Land Packages

- Customised Homes
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- Investment Properties
- Irregular Block Specialists

Visit the SJD Homes
Wonthaggi Display Home
Super Centre



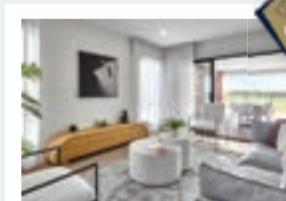
Caversham 314

4 2 2



Patterson 332

4 3 3



Portsea 376

4 3 3



Maldiv 223

4 2 2

330 White Road, Wonthaggi
Open 7 Days 12pm-5pm

9095 8000

sjdhomes.com.au



Charming country living on the edge of Leongatha

ESCAPE to your own piece of rural tranquillity with this delightful property set on 2.47 acres (one hectare), offering the perfect balance of country living and town convenience. Located just 2.5 kilometres from Leongatha's vibrant town CBD, you'll enjoy the peaceful surrounds while still being close to all essential amenities.

Key Features:

- Location: Enjoy the best of both worlds with bitumen road frontage, just a short walk or bike ride to town. Perfect for teenagers to get to town independently. Situated opposite the renowned Fleet Wines – a charming family-run winery with a cellar door, where you can enjoy wine with friends just steps from home.
- The Home: A well-maintained Hardiplank home featuring three spacious bedrooms and two bathrooms. The home captures stunning elevated rural views from its west-facing rooms and veranda. The open plan living area includes a wood fire for cosy winters and reverse cycle air-conditioning for year-round comfort.
- Rumpus/Teen Retreat: At one end of the house, you'll find a rumpus room that can serve as a teenager's retreat, kids' playroom, or multipurpose space-perfect for family flexibility.
- Kitchen and Bedrooms: The functional kitchen includes laminate bench tops, a gas LPG cooktop, electric wall oven, dishwasher, and great pantry space. All three bedrooms offer rural views and ceiling fans, with the master bedroom featuring a walk-in robe and ensuite. Two additional bedrooms have built-in robes.
- Bathrooms and Laundry: The family bathroom includes a separate shower

and bath, while the toilet is separate. There's also a separate laundry for added convenience.

- Outdoor Living: Enjoy the outdoors with a covered BBQ area, perfect for entertaining.
- Shed and Carport: A three-bay lock-up shed with concrete floor, lights, and power offers ample space for storage or hobbies. An additional bay could easily be converted into a home office or gym, offering lovely rural views. A lean-to carport provides additional shelter for your vehicles.
- Gardens and Grounds: The property features established gardens, colourful flower beds, and mature trees, creating a peaceful and private setting. A small vegetable patch and fruit trees offer the opportunity to grow your own produce.
- Land and Water: There's a main paddock with a small animal shelter, dam, and excellent fencing. The property is well-suited for small-scale hobby farming or keeping animals.
- Water Supply: Two water tanks ensure reliable water supply for the property.

Why You'll Love It:

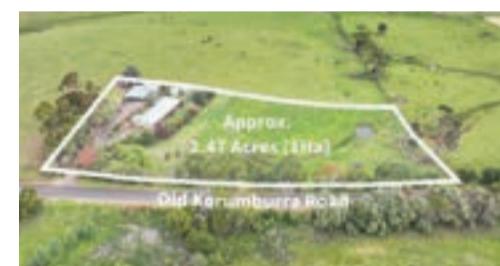
This property offers a rare opportunity to enjoy small acreage living with all the conveniences of Leongatha town at your fingertips. Whether you're looking to create your own rural retreat, need space for the kids to roam, or want a manageable property with room to grow, this home ticks all the boxes.

Don't miss out - this is a must-see for buyers seeking a peaceful lifestyle with a strong connection to nature, yet close enough to enjoy all the benefits of the local community.



3 | 2 | 6 2.47 Acres

165 Old Korumburra Rd, **Leongatha**
For Sale \$925,000
Agent Nutrien Harcourts
Matt Redmond 0418 357 341
matt.redmond@nh.com.au



47 Bair Street, Leongatha
(03) 5662 2292

Scan the QR code to visit our website



Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha

JUST LISTED



LEONGATHA

Lovely Family Home

- 4 bed, 2 bath BV home on 900m² block.
- Open plan Kitchen/dining/lounge.
- Fully appointed kitchen & large breakfast bar.

\$649,000

FOR SALE



LEONGATHA

Private & Peaceful!

- 3 bed plus study BV home on 5,834m².
- 3bay LU with roller doors, power and concrete.
- Beautiful gardens with stunning mature trees.

\$900,000

AUCTION



WOODLEIGH

'Kanangra'

- Comfortable B/V home & outstanding farmland.
- 186.73 Acres of versatile land in 2 titles.
- Fencing, stockyards, dam water & troughs.

Auction: Friday, December 20 at 1pm

FOR SALE



LEONGATHA

Stylish

- Fully renovated interior.
- Stunning kitchen and bathrooms.
- Dble carport, rumpus room and large backyard.

\$635,000

FOR SALE



LEONGATHA

Original 1970's Home!

- 3 BR, 1 bathroom original 70's brick veneer.
- Corner 608m² approx. block.
- Lock up shed. Adjacent reserve playground.

\$410,000

FOR SALE



ARAWATA

Charming Country Retreat

- Lifestyle property spanning Approx. 56 Acres.
- Fully renovated weatherboard farm cottage.
- Double bay shed, water storage and well fenced.

\$1,100,000

FOR SALE



LEONGATHA

Stunning Home!

- Beautiful family home on approx. 797m².
- Executive Kitchen with quality appliances.
- Master suite boasting ensuite & walk in robe.

\$730,000

FOR SALE



LEONGATHA

Elegance in this 1910 Period-Style Home!

- Stylishly renovated 3 bedroom home.
- New double car garage, small workshop.
- 300 meters from Leongatha's town centre.

\$750,000

COMING SOON



LANCE CREEK

Sustainable Lifestyle Property

- Approx. 34 Acre off grid lifestyle property.
- Modern rendered straw bale home.
- Ample shedding, stock yards & more features.

\$1,650,000



BARRY REDMOND

Director / Estate Agent
0477 622 292



KELLIE THOMAS

Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449



MATT REDMOND

Licensed Estate Agent
0418 357 341



MONIQUE WIGHTMAN

Marketing Manager & Office Admin

FOR SALE



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- Situated on 3.3 acres with stunning gardens.

\$1,250,000

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA

David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
Mitch Cochrane	0438 078 000	Brian Vuillermoz	0429 436 040
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
WARRAGUL		Dale Atherton	0428 888 300
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	PAKENHAM	
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
		Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA

Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	LEONGATHA	MELBOURNE LAND
		Andrew Newton	0402 940 320
		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL	COWES
Brian Silver	0407 347 509	Alan Steenholt	0409 423 822
Angus Hall	0466 326 487		
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM	VENUS BAY
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472
BERWICK		LANG LANG	KOO WEE RUP
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898
		Angus Hall	0466 326 487

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Our professional team is ready to help manage your weeds and invasive species this season. We specialise in controlling Blackberry, Ragwort, and Thistles using expert knowledge and top-quality equipment. With 4 Quick Spray units and up to 300m of hose, we can reach even the toughest areas. Additionally, our Invasive Species team provides expert Fox and Rabbit control to protect your property.

For a free, no-obligation quote:

Weed control: Rob Gray

0448 386 724 or robbie.gray@basscoastlandcare.org.au

Fox & Rabbit control: Aaron Stephens

0456 390 423 or aaron.stephens@basscoastlandcare.org.au.



**Bass Coast
Landcare
Network**

4 Bass School Road, Bass | 03 5678 2335 | www.basscoastlandcare.org.au



Aaron Stephens and Dave Bateman from the Bass Coast Landcare Network demonstrating the use of a soft jaw leg hold rabbit trap. B26_5024

Pests and weeds field day at Woodleigh exposes feral deer

THE BASS Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) in partnership with the Kong-wak Ellipak Beef-Cheque farmer group conducted a well-attended 'Partnerships against Pests' field day at the property of Marie and David Triggs in Woodleigh.

More than 25 local landholders attended the event which focused on educating farmers about managing weeds and pest animals such as foxes, rabbits, and deer on their properties.

Feral deer are emerging as one of the area's most serious environmental and agricultural threats with a growing deer population in Bass Coast Shire.

It is estimated there are between one and two million wild deer in Victoria consisting of four species sambar, red, fallow and hog deer with sambar by far the most populous and widespread.

The Woodleigh field day began with a thorough overview of common weed species by the Landcare Network's Executive General Manager, Dave Bateman and the most effective weed control methods and products.

Field day attendees took part in a farm walk on Marie and David's stunning Woodleigh property which boasts five kilometres of Bass River frontage.

The group focused on the ongoing Hemlock problem along the Bass River.

The discussion continued at the property's main house where Emanuel Vlamis of Skyline Management provided an insight into the history of his company's efforts to support landholders in managing deer populations.

Emanuel Vlamis detailed the challenges posed by deer in the area which are said to be causing significant damage.

The Triggs property became the first in

Victoria to receive an ATCW permit for trapping fallow deer, a process that took two years to complete.

Skyline Management now aims to streamline that process to assist other landholders obtain permits more quickly.

"Money is being spent on deer control, but numbers keep rising," said Mr Vlamis.

A local property owner said it should not take two years to obtain a permit.

Mr Vlamis explained landholders can apply for a permit if grass or an orchard is being eaten by deer.

Skyline Management is developing an enclosure and automatic gate system to capture deer and allow them to be euthanised humanely.

"Big stags can run through farm fences," said Mr Vlamis.

"Deer can also carry a heavy parasite load."

Farmers said wild pigs and goats are also an issue.

"One adult deer can eat as much grass as an Angus," said Mr Vlamis.

"A big stag as much as two Angus."

Bass Coast Landcare Network's Invasive Species Team Leader Aaron Stephens wrapped up the expert talks with a detailed presentation on managing foxes and rabbits, covering pest numbers, breeding patterns, habitat, and effective control measures.

Landholders had plenty of opportunities to ask Aaron questions during a lively discussion over lunch.

Bass Coast Shire said the field day provided valuable insights and practical advice for local farmers dealing with pests and weeds reinforcing the importance of community collaboration.



Bill Barry from the Bass Coast Landcare Network demonstrating the management of weeds. B25_5024



Rain, rain don't go away

THURSDAY'S Leongatha Store Sale prices were again well up on those of a couple of weeks ago, driven by the positive impact of recent rain.

Simon Henderson of Phelan & Henderson & Co said the store market has transformed significantly, noting that, "Everyone was teetering and it was a bit of a negative outlook."

He attributes that to the fact that expected wet weather hadn't arrived, making people nervous.

"Now we've had a lot of rain through the area and the feed has gone to the next level; the clover's bounced back," Simon said, adding he has recently observed some farmers cutting a second lot of silage.

From a store buying perspective, that has shifted people's outlook from one of cautiousness to keenness to buy, the change driven by impressive grass growth.

"It'll hold us in good stead until at least the new year," Simon said of recent rain that was particularly prolific in the Gippsland Hills around Kongwak, with healthy falls elsewhere.

While the weather is expected to continue warming up, more rain is anticipated, the hotter conditions enabling cattle to gain weight faster than they otherwise would on the same amount of feed.

"Once the nights warm up,



Brooke and Danny Elford enjoy a morning out at the Leongatha saleyards on Thursday.
A15_5024

they'll do even better, so now we've got all this feed around it's a great time to put weight on cattle quickly," Simon said.

He noted prices were again up about \$150 on those of a couple of weeks ago, holding firm compared to the November 28 Store Sale.

On Thursday, Angus steer weaner calves made up to \$4.50 per kilo, the best price for some time after reaching about \$5 in August.

"We had some nice Angus heifers from Burumbeet, west of Ballarat," those bred by Neil Hayward and weighing 376 kilos, fetching \$1360 or \$3.62 per

kilo, being well bred and ideal for joining up now for spring calving.

"There was a large buying gallery with more interest being shown from all farmers," Simon said, observing a fair few who were recently onlookers were buying on Thursday.

That applied to both large-scale and hobby farmers.

Feedlot buyers were active and successful in purchasing heavier Angus steers, which were making between \$3.72 and \$3.90 per kilo for cattle over 500 kilos, with bigger lines of feeder steers being purchased, sometimes three or four pens

at a time from the same vendor.

Cattle in the 450 to 500 kilo bracket made up to \$4.10 a kilo.

While prices were healthy, Simon joked that seeing this scribe at the market was the day's real highlight.

The Store Sale was undoubtedly a special day out for Brooke Elfard, husband Danny seizing the opportunity while the kids were at school to invite her out on a date at the romantic destination where he checked out prices and did a little "window shopping" for steers, albeit with the prospect of coffee at the kiosk.

Use your dairy effluent now on silage regrowth

By Agriculture Victoria Dairy Industry development officer Rachael Campbell

and no more than 120kg potassium per hectare per year.

Total nitrogen application should be no more than 60-80kg nitrogen per hectare.

Heavier applications increase the risk of nitrate poisoning, mineral imbalances and losses to the environment.

If chemical analysis isn't available, a rule of thumb is to apply liquid effluent at a rate of one megalitre per four hectares, where there is no likelihood of runoff from the property.

Restrict cattle grazing for

at least 21 days after the application of effluent, as this withholding period will overcome any palatability or fouling issues, reduce the risk of pathogens and allow time for the plants to respond to the nutrients.

Sludge will also need to be removed from your first pond every so often, depending on the design.

This can be applied to paddocks about to be cultivated for a crop or sprayed thinly on pasture at similar times to the effluent.

Vacuum tankers can be useful for this purpose.

Withholding periods tend to be longer for sludge

applications than liquid effluent, and these paddocks shouldn't be grazed until the grass has grown through the sludge layer.

Continue to conduct regular soil testing over the longer term where effluent is applied to monitor nutrient levels and soil health.

For more information about using dairy effluent visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/dairy/managing-effluent or contact Rachael Campbell on rachael.campbell@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

For more information on managing during drought, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/dry-seasons or call 136 186.

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre 

Rain lifts store demand

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded another very good offering of 3000 store cattle at last Thursday's VLE Leongatha store sale with some excellent annual drafts on offer.

Good rains recorded throughout eastern Australia over recent weeks has sparked the store market with rises of \$200 to \$300 from what was seen a few weeks ago.

Local demand has increased with feed continuing to grow in South Gippsland as well as buyers with plenty of orders for cattle to go north at most southern store markets now.

Leongatha Store Sale On Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024

L Tanian 7 Angus	650kg	\$3.66	\$2380
L Tanian 5 Hereford	622kg	\$3.50	\$2180
Kuch Grazing 16 Angus	563kg	\$3.81	\$2150
Kuch Grazing 16 Angus	553kg	\$3.68	\$2150
Kuch Grazing 32 Angus	552kg	\$3.89	\$2150
Kuch Grazing 16 Angus	545kg	\$3.98	\$2170
Kuch Grazing 16 Angus	537kg	\$3.90	\$2100
Kuch Grazing 17 Angus	536kg	\$3.90	\$2100
Kuch Grazing 15 Angus	534kg	\$3.93	\$2100
Kuch Grazing 17 Angus	533kg	\$3.74	\$2000
Kuch Grazing 15 Angus	528kg	\$3.78	\$2000
Nalajule 14 Angus	525kg	\$3.79	\$1990
Kuch Grazing 30 Angus	523kg	\$3.82	\$2000
M Rowles 13 Angus	522kg	\$3.82	\$2000
M Rowles 14 Angus	510kg	\$3.56	\$1820
Nalajule 20 Angus	499kg	\$3.96	\$1980
Pinora Angus 13 Angus	479kg	\$3.86	\$1850
Chesterfield 15 Angus	478kg	\$4.10	\$1940
Nalajule 22 Angus	468kg	\$4.07	\$1910
O Waller 16 Angus	455kg	\$3.60	\$1640
Nalajule 23 Angus	451kg	\$4.01	\$1810
Pinora Angus 13 Angus	451kg	\$3.73	\$1690
Chesterfield 20 Angus	445kg	\$3.99	\$1780
A & A Missen 20 Angus	438kg	\$3.99	\$1750
Latrobe Park 23 Angus	437kg	\$3.77	\$1650
Chesterfield 23 Angus	433kg	\$3.92	\$1700
Hookey Pastoral 17 Angus	429kg	\$3.82	\$1640
Cw Littlejohn 14 Angus	428kg	\$3.98	\$1710
Hookey Pastoral 16 Angus	426kg	\$3.70	\$1580
Shottak & Semmens 18 Angus	425kg	\$3.83	\$1630
Af Sheridan 21 Angus	413kg	\$4.11	\$1700
Nalajule 23 Angus	413kg	\$3.86	\$1600
Af Sheridan 23 Angus	410kg	\$4.14	\$1700
Hookey Pastoral 17 Angus	409kg	\$3.75	\$1540
Briarsview Pastoral 14 Angus	408kg	\$3.66	\$1500
Ponderosa 13 BB	403kg	\$4.21	\$1700
Hookey Pastoral 17 Angus	401kg	\$3.75	\$1510
Latrobe Park 22 Angus	393kg	\$3.78	\$1490
T Beamish 20 Angus	387kg	\$3.82	\$1480
Af Sheridan 18 Angus	385kg	\$4.02	\$1550
Chesterfield 22 Angus	383kg	\$3.64	\$1400
Ponderosa 21 Hereford	369kg	\$3.89	\$1440
Latrobe Park 20 Angus	367kg	\$3.92	\$1440
Af Sheridan 23 Angus	367kg	\$3.83	\$1410
M Berry 20 Angus	363kg	\$4.07	\$1480
H & J Bland 8 Charo	356kg	\$3.55	\$1270
Je Bowron 12 S/Horn	351kg	\$3.75	\$1320
M Berry 24 Angus	335kg	\$4.35	\$1460
Je Bowron 12 S/Horn	325kg	\$3.37	\$1100
C & L Stewart 9 Angus	321kg	\$4.04	\$1300
C & L Stewart 16 Angus	313kg	\$4.17	\$1310
M Berry 18 Angus	307kg	\$4.19	\$1290
Tpa Pastoral 21 S/Horn	274kg	\$3.78	\$1040
A Stollery 19 Angus	262kg	\$4.80	\$1260
C & L Stewart 15 Angus	256kg	\$4.55	\$1170

Heifers

Nalajule 14 Angus	482kg	\$3.54	\$1710
M Rowles 11 Angus	477kg	\$3.51	\$1680
Nalajule 21 Angus	462kg	\$3.60	\$1670
Pinora Angus 15 Angus	442kg	\$3.55	\$1570
Nalajule 21 Angus	435kg	\$3.60	\$1570
M Rowles 18 Angus	426kg	\$3.56	\$1520
Nalajule 22 Angus	424kg	\$3.64	\$1550
Nalajule 11 Angus	378kg	\$3.49	\$1320
W Caldwell 7 Angus	351kg	\$3.27	\$1150
Missen Farming 9 Angus	335kg	\$2.98	\$1000
M Rowles 9 Angus	352kg	\$4.99	\$1760
M Jeffery 10 BB	332kg	\$3.30	\$1100
I & G Curry 10 Angus	320kg	\$3.46	\$1110
D & M Jones 12 Angus	304kg	\$3.61	\$1100
R & J McGlade 7 Angus	289kg	\$2.76	\$800

X Bred & Dairy

D Crossfield 8 Angus X	551kg	\$3.13	\$1730
Ballarat Artificial Breeders 14 Friesian	592kg	\$2.76	\$1690
Ballarat Artificial Breeders 16 Friesian	525kg	\$2.93	\$1540
Ballarat Artificial Breeders 15 Friesian	519kg	\$2.94	\$1530
Ballarat Artificial Breeders 16 Friesian	509kg	\$3.02	\$1540
Barker & Oakley 9 Friesian X	377kg	\$2.27	\$860

Cows & Calves

R & L Johnson 8x8 Angus		\$2040	
E Mauger 13x13 Angus & Hereford		\$1720	
E Mauger 10x10 Angus & Hereford		\$1720	
D & A Lace 10x10 Limo X		\$1720	

WELLINGTON LIVESTOCK *'WHERE LOYALTY COUNTS'*



Last delivery date December 19 for Christmas break

Merry Christmas to all our loyal clients

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- ✓ more LOYALTY & BETTER SERVICE

ABS Direct: Cattle processed from Friday to Friday

LIVESTOCK RATES	

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Bee-come a beekeeper

BEES play a crucial role in plant pollination and keeping the ecosystem healthy.

Andy Tiege is the President of South Gippsland Beekeepers (SGB), who run monthly meetings in which the first half an hour is dedicated to newbies, and local bee-keeping courses are also held throughout the year.

"It's a fascinating subject, and for me, the honey is not the main thing. Bees are the main thing. The colony acts as one in the best interest of the colony, with huge discipline, with a very strict social structure they communicate not with language, but with pheromones, with smells," explained Andy.

"For instance, a plant flower has a very small electrical charge when a bee lands on it, that electrical charge is discharged, so the next bee to come along, as soon as he lands on the flower, he knows there's been a bee there already, and the nest has been robbed. So, he doesn't waste his time, he goes off and finds another flower."

"The more you know about these creatures, the more extraordinary they become."

A beginner beekeeper course includes honeybee social structure, stages of bee development, nutrition, inspecting brood, lighting a smoker, opening and reassembling a beehive safely, beekeeping equipment, identifying common pests and diseases and beekeeper responsibilities.

"Sometimes we get people who've had bees for a couple of years, and they just want more information, more confidence; whereas we also get people who don't have bees, never had bees, and they're really keen to find out what it's all about so that they can make an informed decision on whether to get some," said Andy.

The next beekeepers course will be held in February in Mirboo North. The SGB also provide a service to collect swarms. For more information go to: southgippslandbeekeepers.org.au

Record crowd celebrates women in dairy



Members of the Gippsland Women in Dairy event committee.

AROUND 180 of Gippsland's dairy women packed into the Moe Racing Club for the annual GippsDairy ladies' lunch on Friday, November 29.

The theme of the day was Wise Words, with attendees hearing from local farmers Lyn Hornby, Thelma Hutchison, and Chris Anderson.

The three ladies entertained the crowd by sharing stories from the past and reflecting on the challenges they have faced, as well as the changes the dairy industry has undergone throughout the decades.

The event – organised by the Gippsland Women in Dairy Discussion Group – is now in its third year. It encourages women from across Gippsland to spend time connecting and networking with their like-minded peers, as well as hear from inspiring and thought-provoking speakers.

Allison Potter was the event's emcee. Ms Potter is Head of Field Services for Bulla and is an experienced dairy and beef farmer. A founding member of the Gippsland Women in Dairy discussion group, she sees the benefits that these events provide to attendees.

"This is a great day for women to take some time away from the farm and connect with one another – creating vital networks in the Gippsland region," Ms Potter said.

GippsDairy Project Coordinator – Women in Dairy, Belinda Griffin, was pleased with the number of ladies who attended the event in 2024.

"It's important to provide opportunities for dairy women to connect with each other, and we're thrilled that a record number took the time to come along and be involved this year," Ms Griffin said.

"Hopefully events like these continue to grow as these networks become stronger."

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A/c J Dean, Newborough (BAW BAW)

17 Angus steers, 16 mths, VB

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A/c Greenwald Pastoral (ELDERS)

250 Angus steers, 10-11 mths, 100% Dunoon blood,

NE Accred, 2 X 5 in 1, Multimin at weaning

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(ALEX SCOTT)

80 Angus & Black Baldy steers, 7-9 mths by Absolute and Moorunga stud Angus bulls, 2x 5in1, 3x Multimin, drenched and weaned, VB

A/c Groves Estate (ELDERS)

16 Angus steer weaners

20 Angus heifer weaners

Banquet blood

A/c R Stivey, Tynong North (ALEX SCOTT)

35 Angus steers and heifers, 12-14 mths, By stud

"Tiboorburra" Angus bulls, Ex "Te Mania" blood cows

A/c Bass Coast Contracting (ELDERS)

15 Angus steers, 14 mths

15 Angus heifers, 14 mths

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A/c N Ireland, Labertouche (ALEX SCOTT)

25 Angus steer weaners by AI "Endeavour" 2x 5in1,

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From the West to the East comes a new veterinarian

By Courtney O'Brien

SOPHIE Gough grew up out in the Western District of Victoria on a beef and sheep farm and from the time she was a kid, was always passionate about working with animals.

Having graduated as a Veterinarian from Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga earlier this year, Sophie took up a position with the Gippsland Veterinary Group (GVG), just three months ago.

Although it's a fair way from home for Sophie, this is by design, as she is interested in learning new things from different people in an area she fell in love with while on placement.

"I was very much interested in how much large animal work that Gippsland (Veterinary) Group gets, with all the dairy and beef work – that's kind of what drew me to the area.

"I did placement with the Gippsland Vet Group last year, and basically just fell in love with the area; the region, it's got lots to offer."

Sophie was also one of eight veterinarian graduates in Victoria to be chosen for the 2025 Victorian Livestock Veterinary Scholarship Program.

The program runs over two years and provides candidates with clinical supervision, training and mentoring, peer support and networking, directives and tools for cases and HECS debt relief of \$20,000 per year, on program completion.

"They supply a supervisor and mentor that you get paired up with, and they come and provide on-the-job support which just helps alleviate some pressure with



New veterinarian for the Gippsland Veterinary Group, Sophie Gough's passion is in treating large animals.

my work," explained Sophie.

"The aim of it is to provide a high level of support and help retain vets in the large animal sector."

It's the large animal sector that Sophie is most passionate about and it's an area she feels most comfortable in, having grown up around large animals.

"I think a big part of it is just being outside, working with large animals in that it's a lot of problem solving and

thinking outside the box, sometimes they don't always exactly follow the textbook," said Sophie.

"I find it really rewarding building rapport with farmers and dealing with herd-related issues."

As a mixed veterinarian, Sophie also works with small animals, which she admits is somewhat outside her comfort zone, but she does enjoy the diversity of domestic and wildlife cases that present at

the Newhaven Clinic.

"I think that's the amazing thing – the flexibility of being able to do and see so much."

Over the next few years, Sophie looks forward to building her confidence in expertly managing a wide range of large animal procedures and situations for herds and for large hobby animals.

"I look forward to eventually feeling comfortable performing large animal surgery, for example, caesarean, where we are pulling calves out and completing abdominal surgery, such as, correcting obstructions."

"But also, there's an element of herd disease-related investigations, that takes time and experience. I look forward to being able to do that sort of stuff, investigating why we have an outbreak of a disease in a herd-related issue."

While Sophie is committed to working in Gippsland for a few more years, gaining experience and expertise across the field, she would eventually like to take her skill set to other countries, already having completed a placement desexing dogs in Thailand.

"I do have a bit of a dream of locum in New Zealand... and I'd probably just do that for six to eight months, just because there's a lot of dairy work over there."

"But at this stage, I'd be very much here in Gippsland for quite a number of years before I consider that," said Sophie, who has no plans of returning home to the West soon.

"I'm very much enjoying the transition to Gippsland. Everyone's really lovely and welcoming, and I'm slowly getting to know people in the area."

Global beef markets navigate production decline

HERD contraction in the world's four largest beef-producing nations – the US, Brazil, China and Europe – is expected to lead to the first reduction in global beef supply since the COVID-19 pandemic, altering trade flows in the year ahead, Rabobank said in a recently-released research report.

In its latest Global Beef Quarterly – titled Navigating declining global production, uncertainty in 2025 – the agribusiness banking specialist says Brazil and the US are likely to lead declines.

"Reductions in China, Europe and New Zealand are also likely," the report said.

"Australia may be the only top 10 beef-producing nation to post year-over-year production gains in 2025."

While North American cattle prices have been high for close to two years as a result of lower cattle numbers and stronger consumer demand, the report says other regions around the world have experienced low cattle prices.

"This trend has started to change as declines in global beef supply start to firm up support for cattle prices in South America, Australia and New Zealand."

With available supplies altered across the top global beef markets, the reports say beef trade is expected to shift dramatically.

"We anticipate Australian beef producers will increasingly depend on exports to absorb stronger domestic production, while Brazil will see global markets as a better demand opportunity compared to lacklustre domestic demand," report lead author, Rabobank senior animal protein analyst Angus Gidley-Baird said.

The report says global beef production has the potential to swing dramatically if weather patterns change.

Whilst Australia has maintained relatively adequate rainfall for the past few years, the threat of dryness could lead to more production – as producers are forced to turn off more stock.

Who will pay for GHG emission reductions in Australia's milk market?

AS KEY players in the food supply chain set targets for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, Australia's dairy sector is grappling with how to best transition to lower-emissions production, and how the cost will be borne, Rabobank says in newly released research.

The report, Who pays for GHG emissions reductions in Australian drinking milk markets?, by the agribusiness banking specialist's RaboResearch division, says addressing "enteric" (digestive tract) methane production in dairy cattle – particularly through the use of feed additives – has the greatest potential to deliver emissions reductions for the sector. And this will likely come at a cost.

However, the report says, the good news is this additional cost is relatively low for Australia's drinking milk sector – estimated to total \$35.1 million annually, or less than two per cent (2.5 cents per litre) of the retail value of milk. And it could potentially be spread across dairy sector stakeholders – including farmers, processors, retailers and consumers.

While emissions reduced for the sector could be as much as 226,000 tonnes of CO2 annually, or the equivalent of taking approximately 103,000 cars off the road.

Report author, RaboResearch sustainability analyst Anna Drake says the issue of who pays within the value chain, though, will need to be determined before the dairy sector can begin implementing effective emissions reduction practices.

Options for reducing GHG emissions in dairy production can be broadly grouped into two categories – management based and technology/innovation, the report says.

Submissions into Organics Senate inquiry welcomed



Organics Bill with Jackie Brian, David Littleproud, Damien Rankine and Niki Ford.

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Francis:

A beautiful friend and soul mate of Jeanie, Ron, Robyn, David and families.

Our love to Doug, Tiffany, Sam and families.

BORDIGNON,
Giovanni:

24.06.1928 - 30.11.2024.

Devoted husband of Bruna.

Loving father of John and Denise and Joan and Baz.

Grandfather to Belinda and Nick, Matthew and Kerry, Nicole and Kane, Brooke and Lewis.

Great Grandfather to Lachlan, Thomas, Madeliene and Sebastian.

Dearly Missed.

CROCOMBE,
George John:

01.11.1930 - 04.12.2024.

Loved son of Dick and Mabel (both dec.).

Lifetime friend and business partner to Colin, Winnie, Janelle, Dick, Darlene, Dean, Peter and Lee, and families.

You made us what we are today, and we are all so successful and could not have done it without you.

DAVIS, Kaye:

Passed away peacefully at home on December 3, 2024, after a short illness.

Loved wife of Bert. A loved mother, nana, sister and friend, who will be so dearly missed.

As per Kaye's wishes a private cremation was held.

FENNELL,
Robert Anthony:

02.10.1945 - 29.11.2024.

Loved husband of Marg.

Loving dad and father-in-law of Scott and Wendy, Travis and Ha, Brock and Vanessa, Bree and Shane.

Treasured Pa to Charlie, Annie, Ruby; Lacy, Hugo; Nash, Raph, Hattie and Lukah.

Loved son of Roy and Nellie Fennell (both dec.), brother of Bill, Kerry, Daryl, Greg and families.

Adored son-in-law of Doris (dec.), brother-in-law of John, Daniel and families.

Cherished uncle to all his nieces and nephews.

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STUBBS,
Noel Leslie:

Passed away 06.12.2024, at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Son of Charlie (dec.) and Nellie (dec.).

Brother to Janice (dec.) and Kevin.

Husband of Milene, loving father to Mark, Leigh, and Jason. Stepfather to Jodie, Neil, and David.

Adored grandfather of Zarlie and Kayla, Ashley and Dylan, Brianna, Josh, and Macey, Ryan and Joel, Angus and Samantha, Marcus and Milly.

Father-in-law to Sandra, Jo, Minnie, Zareen and Leanne.

Beautiful man resting peacefully.

STUBBS,
Noel Leslie:

Big brother to Kevin (Gumpy) and brother-in-law to Marg.

Uncle to Rachel, Jolene, and Darren.

Gone fishing.

Love ya mate.

WRIGHT,
Greg (Shiner):

Musical Director of the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

A very talented musician whose legacy will live on in the Band and musicians he has taught and inspired.

Our deepest sympathy to Greg's family from the Committee and members of the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

DEATHS

WRIGHT,
Greg:

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend, Greg Wright.

Greg made a significant contribution to the music in the local community, he will be greatly missed.

-- Rob, Heather, Glenn and families.

FUNERALS

BORDIGNON: Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Giovanni Bordignon

will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Korumburra Road, Wonthaggi, **TOMORROW WEDNESDAY** December 11, 2024, commencing at 11am.

At the conclusion of Mass, the funeral will leave for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.

Handley & Anderson Wonthaggi 5672 1074

CROCOMBE: A Celebration of the Life of Mr George John Crocombe will be held at Christ Church, 36 Station Road, Foster at 11am on Monday December 16, 2024, followed by burial in the Foster Cemetery.

GIPPSLAND FUNERAL SERVICES

FUNERALS

FENNELL:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Robert Fennell will be held at the Leongatha Football Netball Club Rooms, Roughhead St, Leongatha, **THURSDAY WEEK** December 19, 2024, commencing at 1pm. At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Leongatha Cemetery.

For live-streaming go to www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au

Handley & Anderson Wonthaggi 5672 1074

GARAGE SALES

DALYSTON:

3 Mary Street, Saturday December 14, 8am - 4pm. Sunday December 15, 8am - 12noon. Household. Bric-a-brac. Christmas decorations, new and used.

INVERLOCH:

41 Sandy Mount Avenue, Saturday December 14, 8am - 3pm. **MOVING HOUSE!** Various items.

USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS**PUBLIC NOTICES**

Ready to Make Changes?

Jason Crestani, your local Psychologist!

Over 28 years experience

Local resident.

Sees children &

adults too NDIS

and Medicare

ASD, IQ & ADHD

Assessments

www.inspiredhoney.com
P: 0425 764 733

JEREMY GILL: "I Jeremy Gill residing at 2 Bridge Street Foster, Victoria, 3960, as of December 10, 2024, will no longer be held responsible for any debts incurred in my name without my express written permission".

PERSONALS**COMPANIONSHIP WANTED:**

Male 70 year old widower, slim, non-smoker, social drinker, seeking a slim lady 67 plus for companionship in 2025 to travel North with. Phone Brian: 0451 776 821.

PUBLIC NOTICES

bass Coast community foundation

Making a real difference in the lives of people across Bass Coast.

If you can give, please give where you live.

www.bccf.org.au

SITUATIONS VACANT

NEWHAVEN COLLEGE



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12

Newhaven College is seeking applications for: **TEACHER OF BRASS**

Part-Time (0.4FTE) fixed term with the possibility of ongoing.

For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website or contact Director of Music, Matthew Goss via email: matthew.goss@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Commencement 24 January 2025 for the academic year. Applications to be submitted to: matthew.goss@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Applications close Wednesday 18 December, 12pm

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

**DEATHS****DEATHS****DEATHS****DEATHS****FUNERALS****GARAGE SALES****PUBLIC NOTICES****PUBLIC NOTICES**

ALEXANDER, Francis:

A beautiful friend and soul mate of Jeanie, Ron, Robyn, David and families.

Our love to Doug, Tiffany, Sam and families.

BORDIGNON, Giovanni:

24.06.1928 - 30.11.2024.

Devoted husband of Bruna.

Loving father of John and Denise and Joan and Baz.

Grandfather to Belinda and Nick, Matthew and Kerry, Nicole and Kane, Brooke and Lewis.

Great Grandfather to Lachlan, Thomas, Madeliene and Sebastian.

Dearly Missed.

CROCOMBE, George John:

01.11.1930 - 04.12.2024.

Loved son of Dick and Mabel (both dec.).

Lifetime friend and business partner to Colin, Winnie, Janelle, Dick, Darlene, Dean, Peter and Lee, and families.

You made us what we are today, and we are all so successful and could not have done it without you.

DAVIS, Kaye:

Passed away peacefully at home on December 3, 2024, after a short illness.

Loved wife of Bert.

A loved mother, nana, sister and friend, who will be so dearly missed.

As per Kaye's wishes a private cremation was held.

FENNELL, Robert Anthony:

02.10.1945 - 29.11.2024.

Loved husband of Marg.

Loving dad and father-in-law of Scott and Wendy, Travis and Ha, Brock and Vanessa, Bree and Shane.

Treasured Pa to Charlie, Annie, Ruby; Lacy, Hugo; Nash, Raph, Hattie and Lukah.

Loved son of Roy and Nellie Fennell (both dec.), brother of Bill, Kerry, Daryl, Greg and families.

Adored son-in-law of Doris (dec.), brother-in-law of John, Daniel and families.

Cherished uncle to all his nieces and nephews.

To place a notice please call 5672 1888

STUBBS, Noel Leslie:

Passed away 06.12.2024, at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Son of Charlie (dec.) and Nellie (dec.).

Brother to Janice (dec.) and Kevin.

Husband of Milene, loving father to Mark, Leigh, and Jason. Stepfather to Jodie, Neil, and David.

Adored grandfather of Zarlie and Kayla, Ashley and Dylan, Brianna, Josh, and Macey, Ryan and Joel, Angus and Samantha, Marcus and Milly.

Father-in-law to Sandra, Jo, Minnie, Zareen and Leanne.

Beautiful man resting peacefully.

STUBBS, Noel Leslie:

Big brother to Kevin (Gumpy) and brother-in-law to Marg.

Uncle to Rachel, Jolene, and Darren.

Gone fishing.

Love ya mate.

WRIGHT, Greg (Shiner):

Musical Director of the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

A very talented musician whose legacy will live on in the Band and musicians he has taught and inspired.

Our deepest sympathy to Greg's family from the Committee and members of the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

DEATHS

WRIGHT, Greg:

We are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend, Greg Wright.

Greg made a significant contribution to the music in the local community, he will be greatly

Sentinel-Times Classifieds

SITUATIONS VACANT

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.



ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN A CARING AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT

IT TECHNICIAN

Full Time Position - 38 hours (5 days) per week
Commencing January 28, 2025
Job Vacancy ID: 1456222

MATHS/SCIENCE TEACHER

Family Leave - Full Time Position - 38 hours (5 days) per week
Commencing January 28, 2025
Job Vacancy ID: 1456272

Bass Coast College is seeking suitably qualified staff to join its team in 2025 for the above positions.
Applications can be made via DET Recruitment Online.

For further information please contact Leith Cummins - College Principal (5611 4000)

SITUATIONS VACANT

Advertise your job vacancy

in the Sentinel-Times and get a FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at www.sgst.com.au

Email your job adverts to: ads@sgst.com.au

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

Sentinel-Times

DEADLINES

Classified single column

Mondays 12.00 noon

Classified double column

Fridays 3.30pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

TO ADVERTISE



Phone:
5672 1888



Email:
ads@sgst.com.au



In person:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi
36 McCartin St, Leongatha



Mail:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

Office Hours:
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

Payments accepted:



Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

Fleet & Facilities Coordinator



With our 2040 Vision and Strategy guiding us toward our vision - to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations - we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to join us.

South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:
• Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
• Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
• Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
• Family friendly workplace, including Paid Parental Leave
• Flexibility to work from home, with base location at any of our offices in Wonthaggi, Foster or Leongatha

Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

Fleet & Facilities Coordinator

• Full-Time/Permanent or Part-Time - Negotiable
• SGW Enterprise Agreement Band 6 - \$82,702.66-\$89,148.20 + Leave Loading + Superannuation
• Starting Location – Leongatha/Hybrid Working Arrangements. Other starting locations available subject to negotiation

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

Applications Close Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 5pm

Note – Shortlisted applicants will be contacted prior to Christmas. Interviews will ideally be held in the first two weeks of January 2025.

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> and follow the instructions to sign up for job alerts.

1300 851 636 | www.sgwater.com.au

LB1442

Sentinel-Times



Could your pooch be the 225 Australian Dog of the Year. Photo: Puppy Tales Photography.

Do you have the Australian dog of the year?

FOR the fifth year running, Puppy Tales is proud to once again lead the search for the 2025 Australian Dog of the Year to sniff out the doggo who best embodies the true-blue Aussie dog spirit of love, inspiration, courage, assistance and fur-iendship!

The winners will be unleashed on Australia Day, January 26, 2025.

"The Puppy Tales Australian Dog of the Year celebrates the faithful canine companions who stand by us through life's ups and downs while making a paws-itive impact on society," said Kerry Martin, award-winning pet photographer, author and founder of Puppy Tales.

If your dog represents the true spirit of Australia by being courageous, loving or in any way amazing, nominate them now. Nomination deadline is 8pm on Sunday, January 12, 2025.



Melina Bath MP at Mt Bishop on the west coast of Wilsons Promontory.

Calls for vacancy monitoring in National Park campgrounds

THE STATE Government has been called on to monitor campground vacancies in National Parks where sites are free for the next six months.

Melina Bath MP claims the government's free camping policy was ill-thought-out and could adversely result in camping sites remaining vacant when campers abandon their bookings.

"Without a deposit fee paid in advance, campers can take the easy option to abandon their booking for whatever reason, leaving the site unoccupied," said Ms Bath.

"Previously non-refundable deposits ensured campers honoured their reservation or cancelled within the acceptable timeframe so campsites could be rebooked.

"The unintended consequence of (the) flawed policy is a potential reduction in visitors to our regions particularly in less favourable weather, and a loss of revenue to local businesses, cafes, pubs, and supermarkets.

"Our rural towns have been impacted by the cost of living crisis and every dollar from visitors to our region supports local jobs and ensures businesses remain viable."

Ms Bath said the Allan Government must monitor vacancy rates in all 130 National Parks announced as free camping sites to assess the number of 'no show' bookings and any negative impact on tourism.

A voice for seniors in Victoria

OLDER Victorians will have their voices heard as part of a new advisory committee established by the State Government.

More than 240 older people from across Victoria applied to be a part of the committee, demonstrating the high level of interest and passion to advocate for issues affecting older Victorians.

The committee will raise awareness of the positive contributions and meaningful participation of older people in social, economic and cultural life, as well as promoting rights and respect for older Victorians.

The committee membership represents the diversity of the Victorian community, with members including Aboriginal Victorians, people with disability, culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, LGBTIQA+ people and regional Victorians.

The inaugural eight community members of the committee are appointed for a term of up to three years.

• FAITH FACTOR

Preparing our hearts for Advent

By Captain Amanda Hart, Corps Officer, South Coast Gippsland Salvos

DO YOU have a set routine to prepare for each day – breakfast, shower, teeth, hair, clothes? Or is your preparation a case of everything that needs to happen happens at some point? Whether we have a set of routines or we're a bit more all over the place, we all have our own ways of preparing for the things ahead.

Preparation isn't always easy; a lot of work can go into one single moment in life. Think of how much work goes into performing a stage show, for example, when all that most people see is a perfect performance on one night.

The Bible – Scripture – is filled with stories about preparation and what is to come. One such story is that of John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin.

It had been an incredibly long time since the Israelites had heard from God when suddenly, amid their oppression under Roman rule, John the Baptist breaks onto the scene and proclaims that the time has come to prepare – to prepare for the coming Messiah!

In those days, John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' (Matthew chapter 3, verses 1-3).

I imagine the Israelites experiencing a whole range of feelings – from frustration to anticipation – because they had been living for so many years under Roman oppression, but now they were able to see the light at the end of the tunnel. They had read over and over the story of the coming Messiah, they had waited expectantly, and now they were being told he was on his way.

The people were already excited when Jesus commenced his outreach and ministry because John had prepared their hearts.

Advent, the lead-up to Christmas, is a time of preparation. It's a time when we prepare our hearts as we remember the true meaning of Christmas – that God sent his son, Jesus, to the world to bring peace, hope, love, and joy. It's also a time when we prepare our hearts to receive what God has in store for us in the days, months, and years to come.

What are you preparing to receive this Advent season?

~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~

LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

JOIN the Leongatha Community House for a festive evening exploring the best Christmas lights in Leongatha and surrounding towns! First stop a hot chocolate. The first trip was a sellout, so the community house has added a second trip on Monday, December 16 at 8pm.

Just \$10 per person with a few places remaining so bring a friend, relax and take in the light shows.

The Christmas lunch has

been rescheduled to 12.30pm Friday, December 13. All are welcome to come along – meet the friendly staff, volunteers and all the regulars as the community celebrates Christmas together with the Leongatha Community House family.

Wear your best festive attire! Please call to book for catering purposes.

Coming up in 2025 is a new program available in early January; however, bookings

will be available online prior. Classes will then return in the first week of February from Monday, February 3.

Classes and workshops returning include:

- Ukelele Jam on Mondays at 1pm
- Zumba Gold on Tuesdays at 9am
- Creative Writing and Story Telling on Tuesdays at 10am
- Women's Self Defence on Tuesdays at 5pm
- Beginners Sewing on

Thursdays at 1pm

• Conversation in Italian on Fridays at 10am

Please remember to book or submit your expressions of interest for any groups or activities in the program in term one, 2025. Call in and talk to the friendly staff.



16 Bruce Street, Leongatha PH: (03) 5662 3962 www.leongathacommunityhouse.org.au [Facebook](#)

MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

THE Milpara Committee of Governance would like to extend an invitation to Jenni Keerie's thank you, retirement afternoon tea. In addition to all her tireless work for Milpara Community House over the past decade, Jenni has been devoted to the community through her work as a Councillor at the South Gippsland Shire Council, and as a volunteer in numerous community organisations.

We would like to reassure you that this is not a farewell. Jenni will continue to be an active volunteer and has taken on Secretary on the Committee of Governance. The afternoon tea is to acknowledge the end

We hope to see you there, this is also a great opportunity to catch up before Christmas.

The afternoon tea details: Thursday, December 19, 3 pm - 5 pm at Korumburra Community Hub Flexi Space.

To attend please RSVP by 12pm Tuesday, December 17.

We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Jack Oster, who has been involved in Milpara on and off over many years, currently teaching our Easy Steps to Computers Course. Jack has let us know that he would like this to be

his final term of teaching and is looking forward to enjoying his retirement.

We would like to thank Jack for the wealth of knowledge that he has patiently shared with our students and community.

If you are interested in sharing your skills with the community, or perhaps looking to improve your skills, call into the Lower Level of the Korumburra Community Hub and have a chat.

Milpara Community House is putting together their calendar of courses and activities for 2025.

In addition to all our regular social activities, we will continue to offer courses in computers, English language, story and



15 Little Commercial St, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au [Facebook](#)

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Michael Nugent for the stock list and other information on 0416 039 933 or email him at WonthaggiCoop@gmail.com.

The Parkinson's Peer Support Group also meet this week on Friday 1pm to 2.30pm. This neurological disorder has a complex range of symptoms unique to each individual. Living with Parkinson's can be very isolating and challenging for individuals and their families and while it is a deeply personal experience it need not be done alone. To enrol contact Fight Parkinson's Vic. On 1800 644 189. Note

that this group meets on the second Friday of the month.

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, it's on this week,



6 Murray St, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3731 www.wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com [Facebook](#)

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

■ WONTAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

Maintenance and renovation were on the agenda at the garden last week. Volunteers tackled the garden's walkways and two vegetable plots.

Kevin continued his mission to renew and/or rebuild original wood framed plots, adding another level to the two ground level plots, to improve access and growing potential.

Marisa and helpers used lots of cardboard (thanks Vinnies!) to lay on the ground under woodchip mulch. The idea is to suppress weeds while making paths easier to walk on.

It's the right time to get on with heavier garden work before hot weather really sets in. Summer season planting is well underway and, from now until autumn, watering takes up a good part of the garden volunteers' time.

For more information about getting involved contact tgorron@westnet.com.au, BCAL on 5672 3115, or drop in on Thursdays between 10 and noon to visit the volunteers.

■ U3A WONTAGGI

Are you 50+ and retired or semi-retired? Looking to keep your mind and body active, explore new interests, and make new friends? Then U3A Wonthaggi is the perfect place for you! With 41 courses and activities to choose from – including an impressive 17 brand-new options – 2025 enrolments now open.

Course Categories include art and creativity, environment and nature, exercise and wellbeing, human health and nutrition, history and humanities, literature and words, and music and social activities

For the full course list and

enrolment details, visit u3awonthaggi.org.au/coursesactivities or call 0493 471 254.

■ WONTAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

One week in and the Woodies' gift shop has already sold over 200 items. More are being added each day, so even if you've already had a look, there's still more to see. Don't delay though because every piece is unique, and you won't get another chance if you miss out.

Prices start at just \$5 so there really is something to suit every taste and budget.

For more information, visit wonthaggewoodcrafters.com.au or visit the store at the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 www.bcal.vic.edu.au [Facebook](#)

Final meet for local swimmers

THERE was excitement in the pool at Traralgon for the final GSI for 2024.

A special training session was held for the Camp 21 swimmers, who were selected to receive extra training and give their best in an attempt to achieve qualifying times for upcoming State Sprints and Countries.

Nine South Gippsland Bass (SGB) swimmers were part of the Camp 21 training session and time trial: Penelope, Heidi, Tristan, Caiden, Mitchell, Milla, Abbie, Archie and Georgia.

Thank you to SGB coaches Lorri and Trin and the other Gippsland coaches for supporting the swimmers – they had a fantastic experience.

The event was a smaller

meet, without many of the state-qualified swimmers who are resting up for the Victorian State Age Championships next weekend and this made for a great meet for the younger swimmers as it was a shorter day.

They made the most of the day and coach Caiden was very pleased with the young team, who all put in their best, with many personal bests as well as several qualifying times.

This is the last event for the year in Gippsland, with racing continuing in the new year.

There will be some resting time, but January has two important championships for the club with many swimmers heading to Melbourne and Mildura.



Caitlin and Taylan congratulate Abbie on her time trial swim as part of the Camp 21 program.



Students participated in a game of tug of war against each other. C26_5024

Water safety on the agenda at Wonthaggi Life Saving Club

IT WAS all systems in action on Friday, as students from St Thomas the Apostle Catholic Primary School in Cranbourne participated in a community water safety day at Wonthaggi Life Saving Club.

The morning's activities included on beach action from an obstacle course, to flags and tug of war.

After a delicious BBQ lunch students then hit the water under the watchful eye of life-savers, and teachers, where they learnt crucial water safety skills.

The water safety programs by Wonthaggi Life Saving Club have included both community events and school events, with local schools also having participated.

The events are crucial in the lead up to summer,

particularly after last year's devastating drowning statistics.

And whilst students had all the fun on Friday, there are opportunities for both the community and kids to get involved over the upcoming school holidays with Nippers, Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion running with a community Come and Try Open Day on December 27 starting at 10.30am. For more information about this season's programs head to wlsc.org.au.

To register or learn more about the upcoming events on offer head to wlsc.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events.

And remember, only swim between the flags this summer – head to beachsafe.org.au for beach information and patrol locations.



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 10
▲ 6.56am	1.51m
▼ 12.40pm	0.50m
▲ 7.18pm	1.35m

WEDNESDAY	December 11
▼ 12.48am	0.56m
▲ 7.40am	1.46m
▼ 1.31pm	0.45m
▲ 8.33pm	1.36m

THURSDAY	December 12
▼ 1.46am	0.68m
▲ 8.30am	1.42m
▼ 2.29pm	0.39m
▲ 9.54pm	1.41m

FRIDAY	December 13
▼ 2.51am	0.79m
▲ 9.26am	1.38m
▼ 3.31pm	0.33m
▲ 11.06pm	1.49m

SATURDAY	December 14
▼ 4.05am	0.86m
▲ 10.28am	1.36m
▼ 4.41pm	0.27m

SUNDAY	December 15
▲ 12.12am	1.58m
▼ 5.25am	0.88m
▲ 11.31am	1.36m
▼ 5.48pm	0.21m

MONDAY	December 16
▲ 1.14am	1.65m
▼ 6.35am	0.84m
▲ 12.35pm	1.38m
▼ 6.49pm	0.17m



The Black Snake Productions will be at the upcoming Seadays Festival in Port Welshpool with some cute critters.

Join in the fun at the 2025 Seadays Festival

THE Port Welshpool Working Group is staging the 2025 Seadays Festival on January 4 and 5.

This festival is held at the Old Ferry Terminal on Lewis Street, Port Welshpool, open from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

The Seadays Festival has activities and displays to appeal to all members of the family.

The 'Come Try Fishing' will give children (five to 15 years old) the chance to catch a fish under the guidance of experienced volunteers.

All bait and rods are supplied, and all children receive a rod and reel at the conclusion of the session.

Numbers per session are limited to 15. Sessions will run from 10am and 2pm each day.

Bookings can be made via the seadays-festival.com.au website.

A \$2 booking fee applies to help with costs.

The Black Snake Productions will have some cute critters to see up close, and even give a pat or a cuddle.

The Port Welshpool Working Group greatly appreciate the sponsorship of the Community Book Toora Foster and Welshpool Bendigo Community Bank for making this attraction possible.

Marine experts and divers will have the touch tanks with some examples of marine life found in the local waters of Corner Inlet.

They will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the specimens that they have found.

There will be plenty of children's activities to choose from, whether it is the Welshpool Horticultural Society, Coast Care (DEECA), or MiLi libraries Welshpool/Foster, to keep the children engaged.

Educational displays from Victorian Fishing Authority, Prom Coast Eco-Link, Star of the South (Southerly Ten) along with the latest developments with E-Bikes – in conjunction with the Great Southern Rail Trail – and sea kayaks.

These are just some of the attractions at Seadays 2025.

Check out the website for full details of what's happening at seadaysfestival.com.au.

Entry is only \$5 per adult. Children 15 years and younger are free.

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au

ELITE NETBALL IN MEENIYAN

A NEW opportunity for local netballers to play elite netball is fast approaching.

The Edithvale Aspendale Netball Club are holding trials to play in the Waverley 19/U State Super Netball Series this Sunday, December 15 at 10am.

Join a successful club and train locally under the guidance of Leonnie McClusky and Jamie Easter.

Trial location: Meeniyany Stadium, 2 McKitterick Street, Meeniyany.

For further details contact the club's netball manager, Helen, on 0402 459 531.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

DECEMBER 3 at Wonthaggi RSL: North/South pairs.

First: Mary Brewis and Faye Rowlands 67.08.

Second: Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs 57.92.

Third: Penny Loughran and Ruth Stevenson 48.75.

East/West pairs:

First: Bronwyn Sund and Mike Dooley 62.08. Second: John French and Debbie Anglim 59.58. Third: Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles 50.83.

December 6 at Inverloch:

North/South pairs:

First: Matti Shub and John Quayle 61.90. Second: Maureen Stiles 7 Penny Loughran 53.37. Third: Phillip and Neville Chapman 53.27.

East/West pairs:

First: Faye Rowlands and Anne Gibson 62.50. Second: Bronwyn Sund and Marie Sands 54.76. Third: Moya Crowley and Mike Dooley 54.46.

RIVERSIDE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

ROUND nine results:

Section 1/2 doubles: Warragul Blue 2 - 17 w/out Warragul White 1 - 9; Moe 9 - 55 defeated Drouin Gold 0 - 15; Trafalgar 2 - 29 defeated by Drouin Maroon 7 - 54; Hallora 7 - 52 defeated Poowong 2 - 28; Neerim District - bye.

Drouin Maroon 65.5, Moe 57, Warragul White 53, Hallora 50, Neerim District 43, Warragul Blue 41, Drouin Gold 37.5, Trafalgar 26, Poowong 23.

Section 1 singles: Drouin Gold 0 - 0 - 6 w/out Trafalgar 0 - 1 - 7; Drouin Maroon 0 - 1 - 7 w/out Moe Red 0 - 0 - 7; Moe Blue 1 - 2 - 17 defeated by Moe White 2 - 5 - 35; Drouin White - bye.

Moe White 30, Moe Blue 29, Moe Red 22.5, Drouin Gold 19.5, Trafalgar 15, Drouin Maroon 12, Drouin White 12.

Section 2 singles: Neerim District 6 - 48 defeated Drouin Maroon 0 - 0 (forfeit); Warragul 1 - 10 w/out Trafalgar 1 - 12; Moe 1/23 defeated by Drouin Gold 5 - 43.

Trafalgar 46, Warragul 40.5, Drouin Gold 33.5, Neerim District 33, Drouin Maroon 25, Moe 14.

AM & DTA TENNIS

ALL matches were washed out this week.

If home teams could contact the Score Secretary for wash-outs in the future it would save her time as weather can be so different around the area.

The ladders will be updated after the Gatha Round on December 14.

Next week is the Association tournament, start time is 11am as there will be junior matches in the morning and the entry fee is \$5 per player.

If all teams could have at least one entry in the men's, ladies and mixed that would be great.

Entries can be sent to Secretary Nicole by Thursday, December 5 either by email or text, details are in the front of your tennis draw.

Here's hoping the weather is better for the next couple of Saturdays.

Netballers wrap up winter indoor season

THE Wonthaggi and District Netball Association held its Winter 2024 Indoor Netball grand final on Tuesday night, December 3.

Everyone is enjoying playing in the Bass Coast Stadium with three courts - such a treat.

There were many great games over the season.

The highest-scoring game for the season was between Power 17s and Sapphires where 101 goals were scored in 48 minutes - more than two a minute.

Generally, it was a great and friendly season.

The association would like to thank all teams for entering and enjoying netball.

Special thanks also go out to all the umpires as well.

All the finals were very close and often decided only by a goal.

They were fantastic games and condolences to those teams missing out, but better luck next season.

Section 1:

What a close battle this was.

Power 17s played Mums and Bubs and it was anyone's game.

Power started off strong with a two-goal lead at quarter time.

Mums and Bubs came back firing, giving them a five-goal lead at halftime.

Injury had struck Power, but taking one for the team returned and played beautifully.

A very determined Power side - which lost the grand final last season - was not going to give up now.

In the third quarter, Power was one up, 25 to 24.

In the last quarter, the battle continued, and it was an even quarter.

Power 31 to Mums and Bubs 30 was the final result.

Congratulations to both young teams on a fantastic, exciting game and displaying great skills - well worth watching, well done.

Section 2:

It must be said over the last few seasons how FairNuff have blossomed and kept on improving by beating a higher-ranked team to get into the grand final.

Sisterhood is new to the competition but rose to get into the grand final.

This was also an exciting game.

It was level in the first quarter, then FairNuff got ahead by two.

Third quarter saw both teams score nine goals each.



The Section 1 premiers Power 17s, back from left, Milly Jobe, Izzy Fitzgerald, Eva Brown, Laci Gilliland, Chloe Larsen, Sonia Seuren and Millie Brosnan with runners-up Mums and Bubs, front from left, Grace Morris, McKenzie Slidders, Miah Roberts, Georgia Slidders, Ruby Trew, Michaela Shepherd, Oona Shepherd and Katrina Slidders. Absent: Power 17s Macy Peterson and coach Courtney Brann.



The social section premiers Lily and Claire Akers, Fiona Mills, Kirra and Koa Durling, Rarni Holness, Liz Friswell, Zalia Cowell and Fiona Foon.



Section 2 premiers FairNuff, back from left, Ella Cargill, Jacqueline Rosetti, Una Curtain, Kelly Smith, Eliza Dickie, Bella Anderson and Harriet Waugh with runners-up Sisterhood, front from left, Katie Baker, Annette Spinks, Jodie Kilner, Esther Evans, Jess Rowe and Bonnie Patterson. Absent: FairNuff's Bonnie Einsiedel and Holly Forsyth, and Sisterhood's Alyssa Hughes and Sarah Reed.

FairNuff had another better quarter, taking out the win 32 to 28.

Congratulations on a great game girls - enjoyable to watch.

There were some great skills also being displayed.

Social:

Benchwarmers played another young developing side, the Killy Panthers.

Congratulations and well-done girls.

This was the highest-scoring grand final for the night - Benchwarmers 47 to Killy Panthers 33.

The reward was chocolates.

It was a great Standard of a game to finish up on - well played.

The overall best and fairest winner from 120 players went to Emma Ton, first runner-up went to Ruby Trew and second runner-up went to

Holly Forsyth.

Congratulations on a great season, very well deserved.

Close on their heels were Macy Peterson, Ellie Bates and Zalia Cowell.

Behind them was Esther Evans, Bailey Duscher and Tamarra Grieve.

Next season will start early February, so stay tuned.

Wishing everybody a safe and happy Christmas.

Drop punt down memory lane as Ron Fletcher is remembered



Ron Fletcher played for North Melbourne in the VFL from 1950-1951.

FOOTBALL legends do not get any larger than the six-foot-plus (185 cm) North Melbourne ruckman and former young Wonthaggi footballer Ron Fletcher.

Born April 1927 Ron played twenty-one games in the Victorian Football League from 1950 to 1951 debuting as a 24-year-old against Footscray.

Known for his skills on the field Ron Fletcher was an Australian rules footballer who made a significant contribution to the sport during his career.

Fletcher was a prominent

figure in Australian football during his playing years passing away in 2011 aged 84 the much-loved husband of Wonthaggi women's footballer Margaret (Peg) Fletcher (née Keltie).

Precious family photographs of the well-remembered footballer have only just recently come to light.

Wearing jumpers 34 and 36 for North Melbourne Ron's talent was recognised early in his career when aged just 15 he won a trophy in 1942 presented by the Union Hall Committee for the Most

Improved Player in the Wonthaggi Football Association Season 1942.

Ron's uncle Les Kew Ming who played for North Melbourne in the VFA once held the record for the world's longest drop punt.

The Fletcher and Kew Ming families are fondly remembered as two local families that were not only skilled but genuinely loved their footy.

If you have a family photo and a story you would like to share send it to news@sgst.com.au.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, December 3.

Stableford: 20 players.

A Grade: Wayne Knights (17) 38 points. B Grade: Dale Wyhoon (22) 38 points.

NTPs: first Wayne Knights and 10th Ian Cash.

Thursday, December 5:

Stableford: 25 players.

A Grade: Mitch McGrath (16) 42

C/B. B Grade: Tim Morgan.

NTPs: first Steve Duffield, seventh Shayne Harland, 10th David Enbom and 10th Tim O'Neill.

Saturday, December 7:

Sponsors: Peter Van Agtmaal.

Stableford: 52 players.

A Grade: Clint Newcombe (10) 42 points. B Grade: Godfrey Strong (18) 37 C/B.

NTPs: first Kodie Spokes, seventh Malcolm Garnham, 10th Murray Webb and 13th Ayden Walters.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY'S weather was ideal for the golfers and the club was rapt to have enough women play to make three grades with some great results recorded.

Shelley Snooks (19) won A Grade 72 net and Kerri Besley (17) was runner-up on a c/b 76 net.

Well done to Trudi Mantell (29) who had a lovely round to finish with 68 net, winning the December Monthly Medal, B Grade and the Tiny Teapot voucher.

Runner up in B Grade was Lyn Perks (31) 70 net.

The C Grade winner was Lyn Lepin (43) 74 net and Kath Welsh (37) was runner up 76 net.

BDTL went to Kim Enbom (28) 74 net on a c/b, Barb Twite (26) 75 net and Heather Grist (24) 76 net on a c/b.

Johanna van den Heiligenberg had the best Scratch Score with 87.

NTP winners were first Pam Evers (Kelly's Bakery), Johanna 10th (One Stop Discount Shop) and Kerri on the 13th (Burra Garden Supplies).

Denise and Ian Gibson were the Thursday Twilight winners, 22 points, on a c/b from Deb and Billie Wrigley.

The club had a team participate in the Welshpool Plate on Friday with Shelley Snooks winning an NTP.

On Saturday, Gail Beer (33), had a terrific round to win with 40 points.

Julie Hillberg (23) was runner-up 37 points and a BDTL went to Merrisa Cosson (10) 33 points.

NTPs went to Merrissa (Kelly's Bakery voucher) and Gail on the 13th green.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, December 3: Titleist Tuesday Stableford Event.

Tuesday's Stableford round had a field of 63 members/guests take to the course selecting either blue or yellow tees.

Thanks again to the Titleist team for its outstanding sponsorship of the day.

A Grade winner: Darren Read (15) with a score of 38 points.

A Grade runner up: John McInnes (12) with a score of 37 points on a countback.

B Grade winner: Jeffrey Brewer (19) with the high score of the day of 42 points.

B Grade runner up: Bert Borg (21) with a score of 40 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Russell Williams at 2.58m. NTP 14th: Paul Luck at 1.91m. NTP 16th: Nick Shaw at 3.90m.

Thursday, December 5: Stableford.

Thursday's Stableford round saw 87 members/guests take to the course in the warmest weather, teeing off either the blue or yellow markers, with a shotgun start at 9am.

Overall winner: Kevin Michael (26)

with the high score of the day with 40 points.

A Grade winner: Stuart Harry (15) with a score of 38 points. A Grade runner-up: Gordon Morrison (15) with a score of 37 points.

B Grade winner: Gary McGrath (17) with a score of 37 points on a countback. B Grade runner-up: Trevor Steer (18) with a score of 37 points.

C Grade winner: Tyrone Zukovskis (19) with a score of 39 points on a countback. C Grade runner-up: Ken Lay (20) with a score of 39 points.

D Grade winner: Kevin Michael (26) with a score of 40 points. D Grade runner up: Russell Pentland (25) with a score of 37 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Leo De Bondt. NTP 14th: Will Norden. NTP 16th: Hugh Goodman.

Saturday, December 7: Monthly Medal Stroke event.

Saturday Monthly Medal Stroke event was another fine weather day with 53 members/guests on the course teeing off the black markers with some high scores being recorded.

A Grade winner: Stuart Harry (15) with the high score of the day of -6. A Grade runner up: Malcolm Gin (12) with a score of -5.

B Grade winner: Gary McGrath (18) with a score of -2. B Grade runner up: Michelle Richards (20) with a score of -1 on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Jason Dennerley at 1.00m. NTP 14th: Geoffrey at 1.30m. NTP 16th: Alan Starkey at .24m.

Ladies

GREAT weather again this week for the December Monthly Medal in which 24 women competed and eight were elected to play a Stableford event.

Di Williams is in a strong position for the medal this month, but she will have to wait patiently for the Saturday day competitors to complete their rounds.

Di had 94/24 70 net.

Michelle Roberts was not too far behind with 100/29 71 net.

Down-the-line balls – ranging from 72 net to 74 net – were won by Cheryl Borg, Kay Dumbleton and Janet Monk.

Jo McNaughton had 34 points to win the Stableford event from seven other competitors.

Glenyce McRobert won a ball down the line with 30 points.

Nearest the pin on the 16th was won by Bev Reinhard again this week and Michelle Roberts on the 14th.

Second shot on the fifth was won by Alison Strong.

Marie Sands won the nine-hole competition from six other competitors with an excellent 20 points.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, December 3: Stableford.

Winners: J. McFarlane (15) 38 points.

DTL: J. Kus and C. James 34 points c/b.

NTP: fourth J. Kus, sixth S. Beitz and 16th J. Kus.

Birdies: fourth J. McFarlane, 16th J. McFarlane and G. Shandley.

Saturday, December 7: Stroke.

A Grade: S. Woodall (8) 71 net c/b. nB Grade: G. Shandley (13) 71. C Grade: S. Hill-Smith (20) 70.

DTL: Tim Traill 71, M. Payne, J. Coleman, J. Hughes and R. Madigan 72 c/b.

NTP: fourth R. Felmingham, sixth D. Felmingham, 13th D. Jerram and 16th M. Payne.

Birdies: 16th M. Payne.

B Grade Championship play-off: G. Shandley defeated J. Kidd.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: December 5, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Peter Magnusson 40.

Runner up: Ian Murrells 39.

BDTL to 36: Martin Cox 38, Messy Chand 37, Jim McEachern 36 and Bruce Betts 36.

Results: December 5, SR. 36.

Competition: Stableford nine-hole 10 to 18.

Winner: Secondo Tiziani 19.

BDTL to 17: Willy Williams 18, Ian Murrells 18 and Ray Hender 17.

Results: December 7, S.R. 72.

Competition: Stroke Monthly Medal and putting.

A Grade: Mark Tiziani 67.

B Grade: Blake Cornelis 67.

C Grade: Ben Martin 65 (Monthly Medal).

BDTL to 70 C/B.

Ball sweep: Shaun Stirton 66, Kevin Jamieson 67, Jim McEachern 68, Miles Foster 69, Jonathon Clayton 69, Steve Terrill 69, Sam Horvath 69, Peter Brewster 69, Max Ahern 70 and Graham Ryan 70 C/B.

NTPs: Julian Wintle second, Julian Wintle fourth, Kevin Loughran propin eighth, Max Walton 13th and Kevin Jamieson money hole 17th.

Putting: Kevin Jamieson.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY saw the playoff for the Star Medallist 2024 in a final round of Stroke 2024.

There were 21 players, and the daily winners had some lovely scores.

A Grade's winner was Catherine Bolding (17) 69 net, B Grade's winner was Jan Beaumont (22) 67 net, and C Grade's winner was Anne Poulton (37) 73 net.

The Star Medallist was Kaylene Hodgetts (20) 70 net.

NTP on eighth was Marg Johnson and 17th Bev Sloan.

BDL went to Kaylene Hodgetts 70, Bev Sloan 70, Robyn Wilkinson 72, Yvonne Everitt 73 and Betty Bowmar 73.

Mixed

SUNDAY was the final Mixed event for 2024.

A fabulous field of 40 players enjoyed the day with much laughter and wonderful spirit.

Thank you to the generous sponsors Illa May Wonthaggi and the Geyer family for providing a yummy lunch.

The Geyer family also featured prominently in the winners' circle.

A Grade winners were Kathy Geyer and son Robbie 70.25, with runners-up Karen Sheerin and nephew Alex Geyer 71.75 net. B Grade winners were Layla Robertson and Geoff Prowd 76.375, and the runners-up were Jan Beaumont and nephew Stuart Beaumont 77.25.

NTP on second was Jim Jordan, eighth Wendy Jordan, 13th Steve Terrill and 17th Wendy Cross.

BDL went to Stephen Kane and Kaylene Hodgetts 73.75, Peter and Pam Hanley 74, Mat and Marg Johnson 76, Tim Skate and Catherine Bolding 78.125, and Chris Yann and Steve Terrill 79.

WOORAYL

Ladies

THE December Monthly Medal was played on Wednesday.

The event was Stroke and Putts.

Thirteen ladies played on what was a beautiful day.

The A Grade winner and Monthly Medallist was Sharyn Rayson 72 net.

B Grade's winner was Sherrill Winkler 82 net.

BDL went to Linda Forrester 75 net, Heather Sullivan 81 net, Elly Berryman 83 net and Pauline Lancaster 83 net.

Linda Forrester won the putting with 31 putts.

NTP was Elly Berryman eighth, Heather Sullivan 11th and Sharyn Rayson 17th.



Wonthaggi Golf Club's daily winners Catherine Bolding, Jan Beaumont and Anne Poulton with Star Medallist Kaylene Hodgetts (second right).



Clint Newcombe was the A Grade Saturday Stableford winner at the Korumburra Golf Club.



Trudi Mantell was Korumburra's Monthly Medal winner last Wednesday.



Winners of the Tuesday Stableford were Dale Wyhoon in B Grade and Wayne Knights in A Grade at the Korumburra Golf Club.



The winners and runners-up of the final Mixed event at the Wonthaggi Golf Club were, back from left, Jan Beaumont, Stuart Beaumont, Layla Robertson, Geoff Prowd, front from left, Kathy Geyer, Robbie Geyer, Karen Sheerin and Alex Geyer.



The Breakaway Bowls Club held its Christmas lunch at the Cape Paterson Community Centre on Monday, December 2.



Korumburra Bowling Club's Club Championship winners were Shane O'Loughlin and Vera Sund.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Turkey Triples winners were Peter Forrest, Daryl White and Lindsey Meredith from Phillip Island.



Rhonda Rattenbury, John Stewart and Marj Ford won Breakaway Bowls on Friday.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

IT'S nearly that time of year. Santa's getting ready and clubs are having their lunches.

The club had its lunch at Cape Paterson Centre on Monday and a great time was had by all who attended.

Thanks go to Rhonda, John, Linda and Brian for organising the day.

There was another great turnout at the club on Friday.

The support for the club is amazing – it is wonderful to have the support of so many.

Thank you to all concerned – remember, it's your club.

The winners were Rhonda Rattenbury, John Stewart and Marj Ford with +29.

Just remember, bowls is back on Monday at 1pm at the Cape Paterson Community Centre.

FOSTER

IT WAS a big week at the club, with four nights of Christmas break-up parties – some with barbecues and bowls, others with roast dinners and then the Jack Attack competition in the mix also.

It was another great Wednesday night out on the green with a good crowd.

The winners for the night were Les's Maidens, Cheryl, Kevin and Helen.

Prizes were sponsored by Foster Post Office.

Runners-up were the team of newcomers, BTJ's, Adam, Michelle and Roxy.

Chocky prizes were sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

Next week is the final night of this competition.

The club is having a special barbecue tea supplied by Paragreen Real Estate.

Presentations will be made to the premiers, runners up and the wooden spooners.

The club is also having a Christmas dress-up theme.

It will be a fun-packed night all round.

The next competition will begin on Wednesday, January 15, running until mid-March.

INVERLOCH

INVERLOCH Bowls Club will be hosting the South Strzelecki Regional Pairs on Sunday, December 15.

KORUMBURRA

IT WAS another busy week around the club, beginning with the Monthly Triples on Monday with 24 teams competing. Winners on the day were Ron Burge, Arthur Moule and John Paterno.

Runners up was the Warragul team of Rob and Gaye Wren, and Bruce Thompson.

Best last game went to Keith March, Judith Nicholl and John McVeigh.

In Midweek Pennant, Division 1 hosted Corinella.

Jenny McVeigh went down 16

shots to 21, Katrina Evans won 23 shots to 16 and Jo Lomagno won 18 shots to 15 – an overall five-shot win.

Division 2 travelled to Leongatha and came home winners.

Judith Nicholl won 21 shots to 17, Lena Harfield won 17 shots to 15 and Jim Garnham won 27 shots to eight.

Friday saw the final of the Club Championships.

In the men's section, a great match resulted in Shane O'Loughlin defeating Charlie Edgerton to win by two shots in a very tight game.

In the ladies', Vera Sund got the better of Jo Lomagno for her first Club Championship.

In weekend Pennant, Division 1 travelled to Phillip Island and came away victors by one shot.

Robin Provin went down 18 shots to 29, Charlie Edgerton won 25 shots to 15 and Kevin Beecroft won 22 shots to 20.

Division 3 hosted Corinella.

Geoff Barber won 23 shots to 18, Les Davis won 22 shots to 11 and Ross Lomagno went down 15 shots to 29 – an overall two-shot win.

Division 4 travelled to Port Welshpool and found windy conditions difficult to handle.

Alan Cherrett lost 19 shots to eight, Jim Garnham lost 27 shots to seven and Rob Sund went down 21 shots to 20 – not a good result.

LEONGATHA

LAST Tuesday, the Leongatha Bowls Club welcomed a side from the Korumburra Bowls Club to play round eight of the Midweek Pennant Division 2 competition.

Korumburra shone on the green and won the day with an overall winning score of 65/40 shots.

Individual rink results:

Rosa James skip Leongatha was defeated by skip Judith Nicholl Korumburra 17/21 shots.

Dot Shandley skip Leongatha was defeated by skip Lena Harfield Korumburra 15/17 shots.

Jenny Miller skip Leongatha was defeated by skip James Garnham Korumburra 8/27 shots.

The Mixed Fours Medley, which is predominantly a Ladies Day, was run on Thursday in hot conditions, which was enough for the girls to vacate the green early in the afternoon and discuss the news of the world in the clubhouse.

The event was sponsored by South Gippsland Homes and the major prize winners were Jenny McVeigh, Errica Hayes, Lorraine Gallinger and Francene Smethurst from Korumburra Bowls Club, who won the show.

The runners-up were foreigners from different clubs being Di Ashton, Denise Silver, Carolyn O'Donohoe and Kathy Hiscock.

Round nine of the weekend

competition was disappointingly played by Leongatha resulting in losses to Division 1, Division 2 and Division 4 sides.

Improvement is necessary if the club wishes to be competitive and compete in the finals.

Individual rink scores for the Division 1 contest were as follows:

Frank Seaton skip Wonthaggi defeated Jenny Miller skip Leongatha 22/12 shots.

Benjamin Mattock skip Wonthaggi defeated Angela Hackett skip Leongatha 25/10 shots.

Brian Donohue skip Wonthaggi was defeated by Anthony Collier skip Leongatha 12/20 shots.

Individual rink scores for the Division 2 contest were as follows:

David Barry skip Tarwin Lower was defeated by Les Wilson skip Leongatha 15/22 shots.

Kevin Jones skip Tarwin Lower defeated Rod Jackson skip Leongatha 27/12 shots.

Michael Bowman skip Tarwin Lower defeated Ron Symmons skip Leongatha 15/14 shots.

Individual rink scores for the shellacking that Division 4 received at the hands of Philip Island were as follows:

Michael Haack skip Phillip Island defeated Alan Moxey skip Leongatha 30/12 shots.

Greg Dixon skip Phillip Island defeated Lynne McIntyre skip Leongatha 24/14 shots.

David Hoffman skip Phillip Island defeated Karen Fidler skip Leongatha 17/14 shots.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

FORTY bowlers arrived at Corinella for an expected warm day for bowls.

The bowlers were signed in by Pauline McWilliams and John Nicholson while Peter McWilliams and Rob Jeffrey arranged the teams.

The usual 12 ends were played in the morning but after the table and cash raffle at lunchtime the afternoon session was reduced to 10 ends due to the hot conditions.

A few wrong bias bowls added to the Royal Children's Hospital contribution.

This week's winners on a score of 35 were Steve Edge(S), Ron Fenton (3), Brenda Moloney (2) and Jenny Smith (L).

Runners up also on a score of 35 were Tony Heppleston (S), Neil Andrietta (3), Pauline McWilliams (2) and Peter Thorley(L).

Best one-game winners on a score of 18 were David Smith(S), Rob Jeffrey (3), Gwen Jeffery (2) and Enid Johnston (L).

A huge thank you to the Corinella volunteers for setting up the green, organising morning tea and manning the bar for the hot thirsty bowlers.

Next week, there will be a meeting at Corinella again for the usual weekly competition.

Continued page 61



Winners of Korumburra Bowls Club's Monthly Triples were John Paterno, Arthur Moule and Ron Burge.



Jenny McVeigh, Errica Hayes, Lorraine Gallinger and Francene Smethurst from Korumburra Bowls Club won the Mixed Fours Medley at the Leongatha Bowls Club.



Fred Demenech, Glenda Binch, Barbara Culph and Jim Wilson celebrated a win together at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls on Friday.

From page 60

A Christmas breakup will also be held with lunch being provided and also afternoon tea. As usual, the group wishes everyone success on both pennant days. Until next week, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another busy week at the club.

Tuesday saw Division 1 travel to Tarwin looking to keep its season going with another win.

After a narrow win last week, it was looking to bounce back with a strong result.

All rinks played well to record a solid result.

The final scores Wonthaggi 64 Tarwin 44.

Division 2 played host to San Remo at Wonthaggi, on a fine day, perfect for bowls.

All rinks played well to secure a hard-fought win.

The final scores Wonthaggi 61 San Remo 48.

Division 3 went to Meeniyan looking for a win.

Wonthaggi found the going tough against a very strong team.

The final scores Wonthaggi 45 Meeniyan 68.

Tuesday night saw barefoot bowls with a very good number, on a cold windy evening.

Lots of bowlers were happy to retire inside after bowls.

The winners on the night were Brian and Kerry.

Wednesday was Turkey Triples Day with both greens full, which is a good result for the club.

Two changes to the day were 10 ends after lunch.

The other was music being played during the day, which was a great hit.

There were no four-game winners, with the winners being a team from Phillip Island, who were Peter Forrest, Daryl White and Lindsey Meredith with a score of three wins and 36 shots up.

The runners-up were a composite team of Mick Coram, Bryan Donohue and Ross Gabb with a score of three wins and 27 shots up.

Best game went to Chas Buccelli, Dave Barry and Aldo Sartori with a fine score of 23 shots up.

The Naba award, which is a cap each from the Wonthaggi Club, went to the Harry Forrester team.

Thursday morning social bowls went very well, with good numbers on a fine morning.

Saturday saw Division 1 play host to Leongatha at Wonthaggi.

It was always going to be tough, with Leongatha looking to keep its season alive.

All rinks played well against a team up for a fight.

The final scores Wonthaggi 59 Leongatha 42.

Division 2 went down the road to Inverloch to do battle against a team that were there to win.

Inverloch played well all day but with true fighting spirit Wonthaggi was able to fight back to

force a draw and salvage some points.

The final scores Wonthaggi 62 Inverloch 62.

Division 4 went to Tarwin looking for a win.

After a close match all day, on a very different green, Wonthaggi just fell short.

The final scores Wonthaggi 54 Tarwin 61.

Division 5 played host to Loch at Wonthaggi, also on a fine sunny day.

All rinks played well to record a very good win.

The final score Wonthaggi 75 Loch 40.

Bowls this week: Tuesday Pennant, Tuesday night barefoot bowls, Wednesday social bowls at 1pm, Thursday social bowls at 10am, Friday coaching at 10am and Saturday Pennant.

Friday night is still going well, with good numbers, plus a lot of happy bowlers.

Friday saw the Men's and Ladies' Championships played, which was always going to be a tight match in the men's with Bryan Donohue and Rob Aitken.

The Championships were played in fine conditions, with all bowlers able to showcase their skills.

As all matches which go back and forth during these games, this was no different.

In the end, Rob was able to claim his second championship.

The ladies' match saw Kathy Simpson and Denise Silver go head-to-head, with Kathy looking for her 11th title and Denise her first.

Both bowlers played well, to put on a fine display of bowls, with Kathy able to claim the title.

Well done to all bowlers for putting on a great display in front of a very good number of spectators.

There are some photos on the club's Facebook page. Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THIS week, the club had a total of 59 members competing - 29 on Tuesday and 30 on Friday.

It was an amazing turnout of people enjoying a great week of bowls.

A reminder next week is the last week of bowling before the club breaks for Christmas.

On Tuesday, no team won two games.

Both winning teams had a win and a draw.

The winners with a plus 19 were Judy Sweetnam, Gwen Clancy and Jenny Bakker.

Runners up on plus nine were Glenda Binch, John Rook and Ken Peterson.

Friday's winners on plus seven, winning two games, were Fred Demenech, Glenda Binch, Barbara Culph and Jim Wilson. Runners up on plus 14, winning one game only, were Thelma Kavanagh, Elaine Graham and Max Sweetnam.



Register Here

Adam Tagliaferro (with Maliyah, Sharlette and Ayla) will be coaching the Under 12 and under 14 girls footy sides for Nyora and welcomes any girls interested in playing to get in touch.

Girls invited to join Nyora's junior all girl football teams

By Courtney O'Brien

NYORA Football and Netball Club are working on putting together two all-girls under 12s and 14s football teams for the coming footy season.

The idea to form the girl's sides was generated by Nyora born and bred Adam Tagliaferro's eleven-year-old daughter, after she played a few games of footy.

"It wasn't until my daughter went and played school footy. She'd played mixed footy at Nyora four or five seasons ago and she didn't really like it. I guess the boys were always bigger and stronger and faster and, I guess more developed. And then when she went and played girls' footy at the school, she and her friends really loved it, and really excelled at it," explained Adam.

"She mentioned how much she enjoyed it and said Dad, can we start a side?"

Having a long association and love of football himself, racking up over 200 games during his football career, Adam thought it was a great idea and is prepared to call on his experience to coach the girl's sides.

"I pretty much played my

whole life in Nyora, since I was nine years old. I went over to the Thorpdale Footy Club and spent two years as the senior playing/assistant coach over there. Then I came back to Nyora and spent

two further seasons as the senior playing assistant coach, and one of them was our Seniors 2018 Premiership," said Adam.

"I grew up playing sport my whole life, and it's the best memories I have in my childhood, running out on the field with my mates and making life-long friends and all that sort of stuff. So, I think it's just more about getting numbers involved in sport and giving our girls their own platform to do that."

Eight or nine girls have already reached out and shown interest in joining the teams. Within the West Gippsland Junior Football League, there are five-six all-girls teams that the Nyora girls will be competing in.

"I guess it's probably putting some seeds in the ground for them to go and play against girls to start with; and hopefully it drags a few more girls that are interested in football, that are maybe a little bit underdeveloped or unskilled or a little bit anxious playing with boys and it gives them more of a chance to showcase their talent," said Adam.

The Nyora Football and Netball Club have been successful in building up their junior teams in recent years with their two junior boys sides making it to the finals this year.

"I think adding girls is just another element of that; trying to get girls involved in sport and out running around."

While Adam admits that coaching girls footy is a bit scary, he believes he has something valuable to offer them, alongside the sport itself.

"I'd like to think I've got a lot of football knowledge I can share with girls, and I've got four kids as well; I know you probably need a lot more patience with children."

"I'm aiming to have a lot of fun next year with the girls, and I'm aiming to make it a good space for them, to build on that and hopefully teach them a thing or two about football."

For more information call Adam Tagliaferro on 0433 612 814 or Shannon on 044 676 164, or register using the QR code.



Under 12 and under 14 girls are invited to come and have some fun and join in the Nyora footy all girls teams for the coming season.

Boost for community sport

A NEW government program is backing more community sport in regional Victoria.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced more than \$1 million in grants from the Strengthening Regional Community Sport program will go to seven organisations to deliver programs in regional Victoria.

Grant recipients include Badminton Victoria, which has received \$170,000 to increase participation and make the sport more inclusive across seven areas in regional Victoria, including Bass Coast Shire Council – with a focus on communities who may not have taken part in the sport before.

A \$230,000 boost will help Life Saving Victoria partner with Gippsland-based organisations, including GippSport and local schools, to grow participation and the skills of local lifesavers, particularly in Bass Coast and South Gippsland LGAs, as well as East Gippsland.

Additionally Bass Coast Shire residents will benefit via Badminton Victoria, as they aim to bring the Regional Badminton Revitalisation Program to the area.

Strengthening Regional Community Sport is designed to help bring organisations, clubs, leagues and associations in regional Victoria together to work on tailored, localised projects that remove barriers, create opportunities, support volunteers and increase participation.

The program is part of the Labor Government's \$60 million Regional Community Sport Development Fund that is delivering infrastructure and programs to support more regional Victorian families and children to get involved in sport.

Kookas win in Iona

AFTER weather and the National Championship curtailed the rampaging Kookas in the last month, the Golden Oldies were raring to hit the pitch in Iona. Iona Icons won the toss and wielded the willow.

The Kookas soon had the Icons screwed down tighter than the South Gippsland Council Question Time.

All trundlers were accurate and dangerous.

Best of a select bunch was Peter Pulveriser Petrou 2/11, Robbie Flight Merchant Francis 2/18, Mr Cricket Gary Adams 1/2, Killer Keith Houghton 1/16 and Joe Tiga Boy Burke 1/10.

This meant the Icons only got to 7/88.

After a sumptuous lunch in the Shearing Shed, the dynamic duo of Vic Country skip Peter Miller 16no and Peter Pulveriser Petrou 12no got the Kookas cooking.

Waza Hayes whacked 8no, Dave Tessari a sublime 21no, Peter Little a perfect 10no, Jimmy Junior Armstrong 6no, with Mr Cricket Adams 8no and Joey Tiga Boy Burke 6no, bringing the Kookas to a 1/92 win.

Man of the match went to Peter Petrou for a great all-round performance, like new mayor John Schelling will no doubt emulate.

Next it's an oldies road trip to take on the Ballarat Goldiggers. Ballarat, here come the Kookas, looking for fun, great cricket and friendship in the Goldfields.

Leongatha Small Bore Rifle Club

GIPPSLAND Shield – 90 metres:

Held at Sale on December 1.

Sale won the round with 2401.1237 with Traralgon very close behind on 2400.5332.

Leongatha came third on 2398.9718.

Best shooters (scratch) on the day were: David Garrett (Traralgon) scoring a 200.011 in Bench Rest; Daniel Croatto (Leongatha) and Kenneth Hart (Leongatha) scoring 196.003 each in Prone.

Best handicap winners on the day were: Edward Lowe (Sale) scoring 200.4545 in Bench Rest; Geoffrey Young (Sale) scoring 200.3478 in Prone.

Next round will be held at Sale Small Bore Rifle Club on Sunday, February 2, at 10am.

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.



The Blaster team at the Koonwarra L/RSL Cricket Club. Photo: Jodie Arnup.

Kids learning cricket are having a blast



Zac and Max love going to Woolworths Blast at OMK.



Willow and her mum Mel getting some practice in at the Woolworths Blast session at the Koonwarra L/RSL Cricket Club.



Zac and Emma at OMK's Woolworths Blast program.

Korumburra backs the Woolies Blast program



Korumburra Cricket Club showed its support for its future cricket legends by running a Woolworths Blast program.

THE Woolworths Blast program continued this week at the Korumburra Cricket Club.

Korumburra's sessions run on Sunday mornings.

The program allows children up to 10 years old to discover a passion for the game of cricket and pick up some new skills through fun, activity-based sessions.

Clubs right across the Leongatha and District Cricket Association have given local children the opportunity to participate in the Woolworths Blast program.

Goannas record another win

VETERANS

AFTER what seems a long break due to weather cancellations and National Championships, the Gippsland Goannas Over-60 cricket team made the trip to Zerbes Reserve in East Doncaster to play the local veterans.

Winning the toss, captain Rino inserted the opposition and opened the bowling with Bernie Symons and Peter Anton. Symons broke through in the seventh over and was promptly replaced by Rob Bacchetti.

Anton bowled five overs and Rino Metlikovec then took over.

A wicket to Bacchetti either side of drinks had East Doncaster (ED) three down at less than three runs per over.

Neil Meredith replaced Metlikovec, who took over wicket-keeping duties from Chris Devent.

Bacchetti bowled his eight overs and took 2/24, and Andrew Smith came into the attack.

His four overs earned one wicket for just 14 runs.

Mero bowled eight on the trot, for 25 runs, while recruit Andy Slevin bowled two overs, Barrie Nunn two overs, 1/7, Col Carmody one over, 1/2 and Mark Brown one over for eight runs.

The ED final score was 7/142 after 40 overs.

Chris Devent took a catch and effected a run out for the Goannas.

Metlikovec and Devent opened the innings for the Goannas, with the skipper retiring with just 10 runs to his name after six overs, allowing Carmody to come to the crease.

After 10 overs the score had advanced to 36 runs.

Devent was out for 13 in the 13th over, and Rob Taylor joined Col, who was dismissed for 12 in the 16th over.

Anton came in and he and Taylor took the score along steadily reaching 2/49 at the drinks break.

After drinks, these two worked to increase the scoring rate and the score reached 100 in the 30th over.

Pete was bowled on the first ball of the 31st over for a well-made 28 runs.

Mark Brown came and went quickly, as Bacchetti joined Taylor.

Taylor retired for 40 in the 35th over for the fourth consecutive time this season, bringing Meredith into bat.

When Bacchetti was run out at the start of the 36th over the Goannas still needed more than 20 runs to win.

Meredith and Symons, with some sensible batting, got the Goannas score to 5/144 in the 39th over, improving the Goannas winning record to four from the five games completed so far this season.

The Goannas Over-60 team plays Iona at home next Sunday, while the Over-70 team will travel to Caulfield to play the strong ACS team on Tuesday, December 17.

The Goannas now practice at the nets at the Duncan Cameron Reserve in Traralgon on a Wednesday evening from about 4.30pm.

All new recruits are most welcome, particularly for the Over-70 team who occasionally struggle for numbers.

The Goannas Over-50 team was due to play the SE Vets in a home game on Sunday in their last game before the break for Christmas.

No scores are available at present.



Leongatha and District Cricket Association's U13 Development League team tied with Warragul on Sunday.

Competitive clashes in round three of GCL

JUNIORS

THE Leongatha and District Cricket Association hosted Warragul for round three of the U15 GCL and U13 Development League on Sunday, December 8.

U15 JCW round three: Leongatha and District Cricket Association (LDCA) 7/148 defeated Warragul 93 all out.

The LDCA skipper Eamon Berryman won the toss and elected to bat on a good-looking Korumburra Turf pitch.

Berryman opened with Archie Moore.

The loss of both openers early brought Tex Dyson and Lou Read to the crease.

Tex (12) looked in really good form before being caught on the fine leg boundary.

Read (41) was showing his usual great temperament and with Archie Donohue (27) playing in the same manner the left-handers combined for a match-winning partnership of 74.

Jed Caddy (11no) and Frazer Livingstone (15no) were both on debut for the U15s then finished off the innings really well with positive batting and running between the wickets to get what the boys thought was a decent total.

LDCA's turn with the ball saw Archie Luke and George Edwards open the attack with Edwards claiming the first wicket

with what the boys described as an absolute seed.

Lou Read came on first change with instant success claiming two quick wickets – one via a brilliant one-handed catch by keeper Jonah Foster.

Max Johnston also chimed in with a wicket to have Warragul 4/20.

Frazer Livingstone then came on and bowled a fantastic six-over spell of leg spin claiming two wickets with left-arm spinner Archie Donohue claiming another.

No respite for Warragul with Archie Williams also bowling some nice overs of leg spin before Lou Read and Archie Luke came back on and finished the game off.

Read ended with four wickets and Luke claimed the last scalp.

It was a really good team performance with the ball backed up by good fielding and catching.

Jonah Foster with another three catches continues to develop his wicketkeeping every game.

Coach Dave Newman was pleased with the win and in particular, the bottom-age boys on debut Jed Caddy, Frazer Livingstone and Archie Williams who looked very comfortable at that level.

Thanks to Warragul for the spirit in which the game was played, Korumburra Cricket

Club for the use of their great facilities and providing a great lunch, curator Don MacQueen producing a good cricket pitch for the boys to show their talents with bat and ball.

Thank you to umpires Les White and Neil Grabham and major sponsor Wonthaggi Toyota for their continued support of junior cricket.

A tie for U13s

U13 Development League round three: LDCA 118 tied Warragul 7/118.

The U13s game at Outram had a bit of everything.

The LDCA boys, batting first, got off to a disastrous start with the in-form Toby Nicholas being run out.

Ollie Joyce was proving a handful as he claimed three wickets to have the LDCA reeling at 6/20.

Enter Oliver Bolge (32) and Levi Richardson (33) who batted brilliantly, a mix of good defence and punishing the bad ball saw them combine for a 78-run partnership.

Jaxon Eddy played a few nice shots late to get the total up to 118.

Bolge was then back in the action claiming the first two wickets of the Warragul innings before a really good partnership was formed by Elijah Robinson

and Isaiah Glover – both boys batted patiently.

The LDCA bowled well enough to keep the run rate down. At 4/107 and the set batters out, the game was certainly up for grabs, with both teams looking the winners at stages. It all came down to one run off the last ball to win, a run out eventuated with the scores ending up a tie and the kids no doubt all having an amazing experience.

Bolge and Ryder Pedlow with two wickets, Sonny Williams and Callum Smith claiming one each for the LDCA.

Coach Nick Eddy was pleased the boys hung in there after looking out of the game at different stages but pointed out they needed to tidy up their bowling with too many extras being conceded.

Well done to both teams for a great game of cricket and the spirit it was played.

Thanks to OMK for hosting the game, their great playing surface and facilities are a credit to all.

Thanks to all the parents for helping throughout the day.

Manders Plumbing and Gasfitting and MJA Accounting are also thanked for their continued support of the U13 team.

Both teams will be back in action when LDCA hosts the Latrobe Valley on January 19 for round four.



Archie Donohue and Lou Read were the standout players in Leongatha and District Cricket Association's U15s GCL match against Warragul.



2km | 6km | 9km
Sunday January 5, 2025
 Inverloch's running event on the beach!
 Timed event - every participant gets a finishing medal.
 Face painting, food, coffee + prizes!!
 Registrations open until January 4

REGISTER HERE



C GRADE

DIVISION 1

Phillip Island 2/106 d K-Bass 9/105

Kilcunda-Bass 1st INNINGS: J Huckett 3, S Leman 39, V Kumar Gopal 2, Fill-in 10, S Tapscott 1, M Gold 0, E Magnussen 33*, C Bettles 5, H Huckett 1, J Henderson 0, O Leighton 0*.
Bowling: P Cleary 0/3, J Allan 0/21, D McCausland 2/23, Fill-in 2/15, T Hornsby 1/2, R Hughes 1/14, B Marshall 2/6, D Fusinato 1/21
Phillip Island 1st INNINGS: T Blackwell 57*, B Marshall 5, D Fusinato 33, T Hornsby (c) 8*.
Bowling: S Leman 1/19, S Tapscott 0/31, Fill-in 1/23, V Kumar Gopal 0/17, C Bettles 0/9, H Huckett 0/1, M Gold 0/6

Nerrena 8/169 d Club 150

Nerrena 1st INNINGS: B Gannon (c) 41, W Cocksedge 37, G Murphy (vc) 7, C Baudinette 48, C Marinou 4, C Salmon 16, J Donohue 1, Fill-in 2, Fill-in 1*.
Bowling: P Wishart 0/35, A Babu 0/30, J Licens 2/14, T Dudas-Jacobs 1/41, S Liddle 1/27, J Shannon 2/21
Club 1st INNINGS: W Speed 42, J Caddy 0, J Licens 10, T Dudas-Jacobs 2, M Chisholm 12, A Quilty 18, C Prosser 14, A Dynes 15, A Babu 13*, S Liddle (c) 2, J Shannon 7
Bowling: B Salmon 0/33, D Grigg 0/17, C Baudinette 5/29, C Marinou 2/18, J Donohue 0/19, Fill-in 0/19, Fill-in 1/7, G Murphy 0/7

OMK 6/175 d Korumburra 95

OMK 1st INNINGS: R Quaife 13, R White 35, O Fitzpatrick 28, B Hayes 16, C Hart 10, J Hayes 10, N Wylie 21*, D Elford 24*.
Bowling: J Douglas 0/34, D Scott 1/11, G Edwards 0/26, O Maskell 2/25, L Dole 0/22, P Beadel 3/45, N Belvedere 0/7
Korumburra 1st INNINGS: C Turton 23, N Belvedere 0, G Edwards 9, D Scott 9, P Beadel 3, T Morrison (c) 0, J Douglas 10, L Dole 8, R Gallagher 11*, L Gallagher 2, O Maskell 0
Bowling: R White 0/17, O Fitzpatrick 2/11, N Wylie 1/21, D Elford 3/4, J Hayes 0/17, M Whiteside 3/5 J Myors 1/18

Town - Bye

C GRADE

DIVISION 2

Koonwarra L/RSL 4.213 d Nyora 8/209

Nyora 1st INNINGS: G Alsem 10, K Maclure 64, A Linford 34, T White 27, T Cavanagh 1, J MacDonald 2, K Wurzbacher 39, W Uren 0, W Dourley 1*, A Macdonald 5*.
Bowling: C Riseley 2/24, S Paterson 2/18, J Pickersgill 0/13, J Geary 1/21, T Collins 0/34, T Lund 2/46, D Yuthmika 0/39
Koonwarra-Lenongatha RSL 1st INNINGS: A Boxall (c) 26, S Anderson 16, T Collins 32, G Matthies 88*, S Paterson 38, Private player 1*
Bowling: K Maclure 1/40, T Cavanagh 2/66, W Dourley 0/33, G Alsem 0/21, J MacDonald 0/23, A Linford 0/17, W Uren 1/9

Phillip Island 3/135 d MDU 3/134

MDU 1st INNINGS: G Webster 54*, T Bright 3, D Thomas (c) 67, J Cleator 1
Bowling: Fill-in 1/24, M Cleary 1/24, Fill-in 0/28, P Francis 0/9, K Campbell 0/25, M Carville 0/20
Phillip Island 1st INNINGS: P Francis 73*, S Niven 23, S Di Falco 23, L Cleary 0, Fill-in 2*
Bowling: K Brown 0/18, J Cleator 2/22, C Webb 0/15, S Riley 0/35, L Thomas 0/20, C Casey 0/21

Inverloch 6/138 d Glen Alvie 8/137

Glen Alvie 1st INNINGS: D Hynes 47, N Brown 37, C Stewart 22, I Thorn (c) 6, C Chandler 1, J Hynes 0, W Simmons 2*, K Andersen 3, C Andersen 0, O Luff 2*.
Bowling: C Butler 1/21, A Parker 2/24, I Richardson 2/18, W Chapman 1/16, N McMillian 0/17, J Foote 0/12, L Richardson 0/8, M Asbury 0/13
Inverloch 1st INNINGS: W Chapman 50, J Foote 16, M Asbury 42*, I Richardson 0, J McDonald 3, M Woods (c) 3, N McMillian 0, C Butler 3*
Bowling: W Simmons 1/28, C Anderson 0/16, P Loos 0/8, J Hynes 1/16, O Luff 2/27, N Brown 0/24, K Andersen 2/11

OMK - Bye

Club stumble against Nerrena

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

WONTHAGGI Club fell short of its target against Nerrena on Saturday.

In a battle between second and third on the ladder, third-placed Nerrena held on to show it's a top-spot contender.

The game was played at the Leongatha Velodrome, where Nerrena began its winning way with a successful toss.

Opting to bat first, the Red Caps sent in captain Brian Gannon and Wayne Cocksedge.

They made 41 and 37 respectively but were both dismissed LBW by Justin Licens.

Batting fourth in the order, Cameron Baudinette put in another strong effort and top-scored with 48 runs.

Club stepped it up in the second half of the innings and limited the run rate, thanks to the efforts of William Speed, Jatin Shannon and Phillip Wishart.

Shannon and Licens claimed the most wickets for Club with two each.

With the Red Caps finishing its innings with 8/169, Club had something to aim for.

Opening the batting, Speed led the charge with 42 runs before he was caught by Cocksedge off the bowling of Jack Donohue.

Despite a start that matched Nerrena's performance, Club could not gain momentum and found it harder to get runs on the scoreboard.

Speed's 42 runs was the top score, followed by Aidan Quilty with 18 runs.

The bowling finesse of Cameron Baudinette was too much for Club, as Baudinette claimed a handy 5/29.

Christos Marinou was also a multiple-wicket taker.

Club was bowled out at 10/150.

Cobras crumble to top of the table OMK

LADDER leader OMK claimed its third victory of the new season with a comfortable win over Korumburra.

OMK welcomed the Cobras to Digger Park, where the home side won the toss and chose to bat.

Opening batsman Robert Quaife succumbed to the bowling of Darren Scott with just 13 runs, but Russ White and Owen Fitzpatrick combined well to put 35 and 28 runs on the board respectively.

Both had their wickets claimed by Owen Maskell.

Patrick Beadel then went on a bowling streak and dismissed three OMK batsmen.

The innings ended with Nick Wylie and Danny Elford at the crease.

Wylie made 21 runs and Elford made 24 runs – both not out.

OMK finished up on a total of 6/175.

Caleb Turton opened the batting for Korumburra and made 23 runs.

Unfortunately for the Cobras, this turned out to be the top score of the day with OMK bowlers Elford and Matt Whiteside going on a spree.

Jayden Douglas and Rob



Nerrena's Gerard Murphy waits for the right moment. Ns07_5024



Trae Dudas-Jacobs stays composed. Ns09_5024

Gallagher contributed 10 and 11 runs towards the end of the innings, with Gallagher finishing the match not out.

Korumburra surrendered the win to OMK with a score of 10/95.

Blackwell's brilliant 57

PHILLIP Island breezed by Kilcunda-Bass' score at the Bass Recreation Reserve.

The home team won the toss and chose to bat.

It turned out to be a tough day for Kilcunda-Bass, despite a good start from Stephen Leman with 39 runs.

Edward Magnussen added 33 not out later in the innings, but with a final tally of 9/105, it was going to be a tough ask.

Wicket-taking efforts were shared between Phillip Island bowlers Daniel McCausland, Brydon Marshall and a fill-in player with two wickets each.

Thomas Blackwell and Marshall opened the batting for Phillip Island.

Kilcunda-Bass quickly dismissed Marshall with Jackson Henderson taking a catch off the bowling of Leman.

However, Drew Fusinato stepped in and made 33 runs before he was dismissed.

The game was called with Blackwell and captain Tony Hornsby on 57 and eight not out respectively.

Phillip Island won with a score of 2/106 in the 24th over.

Leongatha Town had the bye.

Glen Alvie chose to bat first and sent in David Hynes and Ned Brown, who delivered a strong start.

Hynes made 47 runs and Brown made 37 runs.

Batting third, Cooper Stewart added 22 runs, but thereafter the run rate began to slow.

Aedan Parker and Isaac Richardson stood out as Inverloch's best bowlers, taking 2/24 and 2/18 respectively.

Singles were claimed by Cameron Butler and Wayne Chapman. Glen Alvie finished its innings with 8/137.

Chapman was in-form at the crease as he opened for Inverloch. Jordon Foote was bowled by Jarvis Hynes for 16 runs, but the partnership of Chapman and Michael Asbury made 50 and 42 runs respectively.

Asbury was not out at stumps.

Glen Alvie then ramped up its bowling pressure, with wickets falling to William Simmons, Kent Andersen and Owen Luff.

The top bowlers were Luff and Andersen, who claimed 2/27 and 2/11. Regardless, Inverloch was able to get over the line and made 6/138.

Koony dominates Nyora

KOONWARRA L/RSL proved to be too strong for Nyora.

Playing at Wonthaggi's McMahon Reserve, Koonwarra L/RSL won the toss and chose to field.

Keith Maclure top-scored for Nyora early with 64 runs.

Amanda Linford and Travis White added 34 and 27 runs respectively, and Krystin Wurzbacher contributed 39 runs later in the innings.

Koonwarra L/RSL bowlers Campbell Riseley, Shane Paterson and Tyson Lund shared the spoils by taking two wickets each. Nyora played out its allotted overs, resulting in a final score of 8/209.

Koonwarra L/RSL reached its target within 25 overs.

Captain Ashley Boxall opened the batting and made 28 runs.

Tom Collins recorded 32 runs, but it was Glenn Matthies who sealed it for Koonwarra L/RSL, as he made 88 not out.

Nyora bowler Tim Cavanagh took 2/66 and singles were claimed by Maclure and William Uren.

Koonwarra L/RSL went home with the win with a score of 4/213.

OMK had the bye.

Local cricket

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

Sentinel-Times



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MDU's Matt Martin would eventually make 23 runs. ns20_5024

Sharks rattle the Red Caps

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

PHILLIP Island showed why it is currently on top of the ladder after putting third-placed Nerrena through its paces on Saturday.

The Sharks travelled to the Nerrena Recreation Reserve to take on the Red Caps, with the home team winning the toss.

Opening batsman Billy Trotman was bowled for five runs by Timothy Niven.

His dismissal sent in James Kelly to work with Kade Berryman, and they went on to make 28 and 23 runs respectively.

These were the top scores as the Phillip Island fielders upped the pressure.

Niven and Tarryn Allen took three wickets each.

Jobe Williams was also a multiple-wicket taker.

Nerrena was bowled out 10/119 in the 57th over.

Phillip Island opened its innings, but the Croattos were unwilling to let them get off to an easy start.

Tharidu Asurumuni and Lawrence Ferrari opened the batting.

Asurumuni is still in with 15 not out, but Ferrari was bowled by William Croatto after three runs.

Sarith Angelo was sent out to bat and immediately sent back after Mitchell Croatto bowled him for a golden duck.

Asurumuni and Williams will continue Phillip Island's campaign next weekend.

Phillip Island is sitting on 2/27, having faced 13 overs.

Game on for Inverloch

MDU is ready to defend 10/175 against Inverloch this Saturday.

MDU won the toss at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve and after a slow start began to see rewards for its efforts on the scoreboard.

Craig Hoober and Matt Martin made the first significant contributions with 25 and 23 runs respectively.

Daniel Field top scored with 37 not out late in the day and



MDU's Craig Hoober makes a solid shot. ns17_5024

Dylan Zuidema recorded 21 runs.

For Inverloch, the top bowlers for the day were John Richardson and Leigh Cole, claiming 3/34 and 3/40.

Callan O'Flynn and Archie Terlich also took two wickets each.

Inverloch now awaits its chance to respond.

OMK eyes the chase this weekend

Wonthaggi Club posted a handy score of 10/209, but OMK will be looking to pass the target on Saturday.

Playing in Outtrim, OMK won the toss but sent in Club to set the tone of the game.

Opening batsman David Britt delivered when he made the top score of 41 runs. Heath Dobbie later added 32 runs to the score.

Nicholas Auddino was a threat to Club early as he claimed 5/59.

He was responsible for the dismissal of most of the top half of Club's batting order.

Toby Nicholas and David Jeffries took two wickets each.

Club was bowled out in the 64th over, giving OMK the opportunity to open its account.

The opening partnership of captain Adam Busana and Mitchell Sawyers each made two runs not out and will pick up where they left off this weekend.

Town captain Levi Hickey led the charge to keep scores low, claiming 4/13.

Korumburra had the bye.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Koonwarra L/RSL has victory in its sights

IT WAS a tough day for Glen Alvie with Koonwarra L/RSL descending on its final score.

Glen Alvie welcomed Koonwarra L/RSL to the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve and won the toss, but it was downhill from there.

Louis Read slowed Glen Alvie's run rate significantly as he claimed 4/8.

This included the dismissal of Andrew Brown, who tried to salvage Glen Alvie's score with a top score of 22 runs.

Glenn Boxall and Britney Thomas claimed two wickets each. Glen Alvie was bowled out 10/76.

Koonwarra L/RSL played 17 overs, opened by Boxall and Darren Read.

Boxall was caught by Jay Tiziani for 12 runs off the bowling of Archie Donohue.

Nick Arnup joined Read and made 11 and 23 runs respectively. Koonwarra L/RSL is sitting on 1/51, eying off Glen Alvie's score of 76.

Town leads battle

KILCUNDA-BASS also has its work cut out for it in its battle against Leongatha Town.

Town won the toss at the Bass Recreation Reserve and chose to field.

Town captain Levi Hickey led the charge to keep scores low, claiming 4/13.

Kilcunda-Bass captain Ray Gardiner top-scored with 24 runs before he was bowled by Hickey.

He was the only batsman to reach double figures.

Bowler Lachlan Gill joined the attack by taking 3/21 and Frazer Livingstone claimed 2/9.

Kilcunda-Bass was bowled out 10/85 in the 49th over.

Town opened its innings with Trent McRae making 13 runs and captain Luke Ashton making seven runs.

Both had their wickets claimed by Rohan Duff.

Allan Bedford kept the intensity up by dismissing Luke Bowman and Colin Bruce for ducks.

Town is sitting on 4/23 and Max Carter and Davern Goss will go into bat when play resumes this weekend.

Knox steadies Nyora

NYORA will be pursuing an outright win against Foster this weekend.

Playing at the Poowong Recreation Reserve, Foster chose to bat first.

Opening batsman Brandon Busuttil was quickly dismissed by Sam Henry for three runs, but the partnership of Neil Henry and Tim Garvey managed to make 21 and 32 runs respectively.

Sam Henry continued to work his way through the Foster batsmen, taking 4/30.

Tully Bernaldo, Tyler Perkins and William Dixon added to the decimation of Foster's batting order by taking two wickets each.

By the 50th over, Foster was all out 10/99.

Nyora played 20 overs before it overtook Foster.

Daniel Esler and Jordan Knox opened the batting for Nyora.

Esler made 16 runs before he was caught by Brad Cripps off the bowling of Lance Moon.

Captain Keith Linford was sent in next and made 10 runs before his wicket was claimed by Ryan Jorgensen.

Knox and Ryan White made 42 and 25 not out, which pushed Nyora's final tally to 2/107.

The Imperials had the bye.

B GRADE

DIVISION 1

Nerrena 119 v Phillip Island 2/27

Nerrena 1st INNINGS: B Trotman 5, K Berryman 28, J Kelly 23, D Symmons 0, E Berryman 13, J Renden 0, M Croatto 4, C Dougherty 3, M Croatto 12*, J Checkley 2, W Croatto 12

Bowling: J Williams 2/31, T Niven 3/26, D Wormersley 0/12, T Allan 3/29, A Brayley 1/14

Phillip Island 1st INNINGS – T Asurumuni 15*, L Ferrari 3, S Angelo 0, J Williams 3*

Bowling: W Croatto 1/6, M Croatto 1/20

Inverloch v MDU 175

MDU 1st INNINGS – T Zukovskis 9, A Dyke 9, W Prosser 1, C Hoober 25, M Martin 23, R Henry 14, R Prosser 10, D Field 37*, D Zuidema 21, C McCaughan 9, L Webb 1

Bowling: J Richardson 3/34, L Cole 3/40, C O'Flynn 2/45, A Terlich 2/34, J Mottram Carter 0/9, W Stewart 0/2

OMK 0/9 v Club 209

Club 1st INNINGS – K Allison 12, D Britt 49, H West 5, S Roche 19, B Harvey 12, J O'Reilly 22, M Davey 20, H Dobbie 32, B Evans 12, L McRae 4*, M Sharp 10

Bowling: R Foster 1/36, D Wylie 0/19, B Maguire 0/22, N Auddino 5/59, T Nicholas 2/16, A Busana 0/24, D Jeffries 2/28

OMK 1st INNINGS – A Busana (c) 2*, M Sawyers 2*

Bowling: S Roche 0/1, M Sharp 0/4, H Dobbie 0/2

Korumburra – Bye

B GRADE

DIVISION 2

Nyora 2/107 v Foster 99

Foster 1st INNINGS: B Busuttil 3, N Henry 21, T Garvey 32, R Maile 0, S Embuldeniya 6, A Gibson 2, R Jorgensen 0, L Moon 3, L Welsh 6, N Samat 1*, B Cripps 0

Bowling: R White 0/11, S Henry 4/30, L Brock 0/13, Fill-in 0/13, T Bernaldo 2/13, T Perkins 2/8, W Dixon 2/4

Nyora 1st INNINGS: D Esler 16, J Knox 42*, K Linford (c) 10, R White 25*

Bowling: N Henry 0/17, L Moon 1/21, R Jorgensen 1/35, B Cripps 0/20, A Gibson 0/14

Kilcunda-Bass 85 v Town 4/23

Kilcunda Bass 1st INNINGS: B Joseph 8, B Elmore-Jeffries 1, D Ferguson 5, Z Crow 7, R Gardiner (c) 24, A Bedford 5, A Leighton 5, A McBride 6, J Matser 0, R Duff 3, J Papworth 0*

Bowling: L Hickey 4/13, L Gill 3/21, T McRae 0/7, C Bruce 0/8, F Livingstone 2/9, L Ashton 1/13, M Carter 0/8, T Strybosch 0/2

Town 1st INNINGS: T McRae 13, L Ashton (c) 7, L Bowman 0, C Bruce 0, M Carter 0*, D Goss 0*

Bowling: R Duff 2/6, A Bedford 2/16

Glen Alvie 76 v Koonwarra L/RSL 1/51

Glen Alvie 1st INNINGS: G Moore 1, A Donohue 11, J Brown 0, A Dakin 2, R Spiteri-Stevens 12, J Tiziani (c) 11, A Brown 22, T Bals 0, L Scholz 5, G Hynes 1, L McRae 4*

Bowling: L Read 4/8, N Arnup 1/9, G Boxall 2/14, S Chadwick 1/23, B Thomas 2/15, R Read 0/2

Koonwarra L/RSL 1st INNINGS: G Boxall 12, D Read 23*, N Arnup 11*

Bowling: L McRae 0/12, G Hynes 0/11, L Scholz 0/13, A Donohue 1/8, R Spiteri-Stevens 0/4

Imperials – Bye



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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Mustafa Nader (Korumburra) 125 ; Max Royal (Phillip Island) 6/17

A2: Matthew Dakin (Glen Alvie) 137 ; Aidan Simmons (Nyora) 5/39

B1: David Britt (Club) 49 ; Nicholas Auddino (OMK) 5/59

B2: Jordan Knox (Nyora) 42* ; Louis Read (Koon L/RSL) 4/8

C1: Thomas Blackwell (P-Island) 57* ; Cameron Baudinette (Nerrena) 5/29

C2: Glenn Matthies (Koon L/RSL) 88* ; Kent Andersen (Glen Alvie) 2/11

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Joel Brann prepares for the ball. Ns12_5024

LADDERS

RD 4

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%		
C GRADE, Division 1					C GRADE, Division 2		
OMK	36	1.736	No ladder available				
Club	30	1.901					
Nerrena	18	0.966					
Kilcunda-Bass	18	0.828					
Phillip Island	18	0.749					
Korumburra	18	0.695					
Town	6	0.403					

Local cricket
www.sgst.com.au

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 7 (DAY 2) - SATURDAY DECEMBER 14, 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 K-Bass	Wonthaggi Turf	Brad Phillips

B GRADE, Division 1

Nerrena v P-Island	Nerrena	Neil Graham
Inverloch v MDU	Inverloch Turf	Steven Williamson
OMK v Club	Outtrim	Michael Thomas
Korumburra - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 2

Nyora v Foster	Poowong	Tyson Tootell
Kilcunda-Bass v Town	Bass 1	Glenn Plymin (wk2)
G-Alvie v Koon L/RSL	Glen Alvie	Geoff Wyatt
Imperials - BYE		

ROUND 5 - SATURDAY DECEMBER 14, 2024

C GRADE, Division 1

Club v OMK	McMahon	Ozzie Williams
P-Island v Nerrena	Rhyll	TBA
Town v Kilcunda-Bass	Leongatha SC	Paul Gardiner
Korumburra - BYE		

C GRADE, Division 2

MDU v Glen Alvie	Dumbalk	TBA
Koon L/RSL v P-Island	Leongatha Vel	TBA
OMK v Nyora	Digger Park	TBA
Inverloch - BYE		

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective umpires can contact

Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136 or Doug Pell 0404 301 333

Cobras potent due to Nader's ton

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

MUSTAFA Nader led Korumburra to an impressive score of 10/353 after recording 125 runs in the A1 match against Koonwarra L/RSL.

The Cobras travelled to the Koonwarra Recreation Reserve and started their strong campaign by winning the toss.

Nader opened the batting with Andy Millar, who made a handy 46 runs.

Nader was eventually stopped when Matthew Boswell took a catch off the bowling of captain James Rushton.

Rushton and Jason Kennedy also had a day out and kept the pressure on the Cobras, taking 5/85 and 5/74 respectively.

Korumburra was given another boost when Rumesh Rangana – batting fifth in the order – stepped up and made 96 runs until his wicket fell to Kennedy.

Korumburra was bowled out just before the end of their allotted overs.

Koonwarra L/RSL will dig deep to reach its target this Saturday.

Nerrena dominates Imperials

NERRENA is hungry for an outright win after its onslaught on the Imperials.

The Red Caps won the toss and sent the Imperials into bat first.

Nick Eddy managed to top score for the Imperials with 18 runs, with vice-captain Lachie Wright adding another 10 later in the innings, but the run rate overall was slowed by the Nerrena side.

Nerrena bowlers Josh Trease and Jarrod Hoy shared the honours by taking 3/17 and 3/34 respectively.

Timothy Wightman was also a multiple-wicket taker.

In the 36th over, the Imperials were bowled out 10/60.

Nerrena wasted no time reaching the Imperials' score playing out their innings until stumps.

Opening batsman Jack Curtis made 69 runs before he was caught by Isaac Bolge off the bowling of Martin Reidy.

Wright, Bolge and Reidy



OMK captain Koby Brann was the only batsman to put up any resistance, making 41 in his side's score of 105. Photo: Peter Cleeland.



Club's Stewart Beaumont clips the ball wide of the keeper on his way to scoring 43. Ns15_5024

managed to dismiss Loc Roberts, Tadgh Gannon and Hayden Funnell for one run, two runs and a duck respectively.

Mitchell Clark made 47 not out by the end of the day.

Nerrena made 4/122 and now hold the upper hand over the Imperials.

Royal rampage for Island

PHILLIP Island delivered a tough contest for OMK at the Newhaven Recreation Reserve.

OMK was bowled out with a score of 10/105.

Phillip Island batted 21 overs and made a threatening 1/74.

Koby Brann stepped up, batting fourth in the order.

Brann made 41 runs before his wicket fell to Zac Brown thanks to a catch from Kohen Beaumont.

Phillip Island bowler Max Royal worked overtime to ensure OMK barely touched the scoreboard.

Royal took a whopping 6/17, with two wickets falling to Brown and one wicket claimed by Kurt Lane.

OMK was bowled out with a score of 10/105.

Phillip Island batted 21 overs and made a threatening 1/74.

Lachlan Cleeland opened the batting with Beaumont and remained 43 not out. Beaumont's wicket fell to Peter Dell after 11 runs.

Captain Daniel Mock was next in and is 15 not out.

Phillip Island will continue its run on Saturday.

Town's big chase

WONTHAGGI Club played a solid innings and is set to defend 10/254 this weekend.

Playing at Scorpion Park, Leongatha Town won the toss and chose to send in the away team.

Captain Joel Brann led his team to the handy final score with 59 runs.

Stewart Beaumont, Ryan Thomas and Jarvis Harvey contributed 43, 45 and 41 runs respectively.

Harvey was not out at the end of the innings.

Ethan Smith was Leongatha Town's top bowler for the day, taking 3/43.

Dulaj Lakshitha Mendis Polwatthha Gallage, Madura Madusanka and Ron Abeysinghe took two wickets each.

Club faced 74 overs before it was bowled out.

Town is now awaiting its turn to bat.



Wicket hit! Glen Alvie's Archie Moore was bowled out in the opening minutes of the match. Ns01_5024

Donohue and Dakin dominate

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

GLEN Alvie batsmen Matthew Donohue and Matthew Dakin were a formidable force on Saturday, as both recorded a ton against Kilcunda-Bass.

Kilcunda-Bass won the toss and sent Glen Alvie into bat first – a favourable decision for Glen Alvie, who went in ready for battle.

Donohue opened the batting with Archie Moore.

Glen Alvie suffered a hiccup when Moore was bowled out by Cameron Davidson for a duck but regrouped as it sent in Dakin.

Donohue finished the innings with 103 not out and Dakin made 137 runs before Harrison Berry managed to claim his wicket.

Captain Ben McRae added 30 runs and Darcy Hale made 19 not out.

Wickets were shared between Kilcunda-Bass bowlers Davidson, Berry and Brad Wright.

Glen Alvie is sitting fairly comfortably with a score of 3/298, waiting to be challenged by Kilcunda-Bass this weekend.

Inverloch falls to Simmons spell

NYORA vice-captain Aidan Simmons ensured Inverloch struggled to get runs on the board at the Nyora Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

Simmons claimed 5/39, swiftly dismissing the top half of the order.

This included Inverloch's top scorer Jake Dennerley, who managed to make 29 runs.

Bowlers Aaron Kaddatz and captain Jake Henry joined the attack with 3/57 and 2/0 respectively.

Inverloch batsmen Callum Asbury and Jack Butcher contributed 16 and 14 runs early on before they were both dismissed by Kaddatz and Jesse Dugard ended the innings with 10 not out.

Inverloch was bowled out on 10/96.

Nyora faced 21 overs, but Inverloch came out with a vengeance, eager to make scoring opportunities just as difficult.

Henry Dolphin and Colin Knox opened the batting.

Dolphin made 11 runs before he was run out by David Newman and Knox made six runs before Asbury claimed his wicket after a



Glen Alvie opener Matthew Donohue scored an unbeaten 103. Ns05_5024



Harrison Berry bowled with precision against Glen Alvie. Ns03_5024

catch from Butcher.

Bailey Henderson and Michael Lynch were not out, having made three runs each.

Sitting on 2/26, Nyora will continue its campaign this weekend.

Foster fights back

MDU made a strong start to its innings, but Foster upped the pressure to keep its final tally within reach.

MDU won the toss and chose to bat.

The opening partnership of Paul Le Page and vice-captain Mitch McGrath posted the top scores of 33 and 59 runs respectively.

The Foster bowlers kept scores low for the rest of the innings.

Richard Johnston and Jack Gay were Foster's standouts, taking 3/21 and 3/15.

Josh Toner and Ollie Rook shared two wickets each.

MDU lasted 63 overs and were bowled out 10/133.

Foster opened its account and played 12 overs.

Gay made two runs before he was caught by Sembakkutige Chathura Laksan off the bowling of Mark Cantwell.

Mitchell Allott was dismissed for a duck by Sam Bright.

Toner and Jake Best had made 12 and one not out at stumps and will continue Foster's innings on Saturday.

Foster is currently on 2/15.

A GRADE

Korumburra 353 v Koon L/RSL

Korumburra – 1st INNINGS

Mustafa Nader c: M Boswell	125
b: J Rushton	46
Andy Millar c: C Buckland	24
b: J Rushton	24
Ben Spicer st: H Scrimshaw	5
b: J Rushton	96
Jason Richards b: J Kennedy	11
Rumesh Rangana b: J Kennedy	12
Matthew Allen lbw: J Rushton	2
GSA Mudalige b: J Rushton	12
Zachary Barrett b: J Kennedy	2
Aaron Damon b: J Kennedy	1
Mitch Young c: C Buckland	1
b: J Kennedy	12
James Dunn not out	6*
Extras (1w, 2lb, 2lb)	14

Total 10 / 105 (53.2 Overs)

Bowling: M Royal 19-11-17-6, G McCausland 8-1-24-0 (1w), T Niven 3-0-10-0, H Womersley 6-2-16-0, Z Brown 13-2-29-2, K Lane 4-1-3-1

Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS

Lachlan Cleeland not out 43*

Kohen Beaumont c: ? b: P Dell 11

Daniel Mock not out 15*

Extras (1w, 2mb, 2lb) 5

Total 1 / 74 (21 Overs)

Bowling: T Pickering 6-0-24-0 (1w), P Dell 8-2-24-1, J Lamers 4-1-16-0, R Williams 2-0-6-0 (2nb), J Cochrane 1-0-2-0

Imperials 60 v Nerrena 4/122

Imperials – 1st INNINGS

Campbell Reid c: H Funnell b: J Hoy 7

Rowen McLennan c: D Berryman

b: J Hoy 4

Aydan Williams c: M Clark b: J Trease .. 3

Nick Eddy run out: A Gannon, H Funnell 18

Jack Ginnane b: J Hoy 2

Troy Williams lbw: J Trease 0

Lachie Wright c: J Curtis

b: A Gannon 10

Cooper Rickard b: J Trease 8

Martin Reidy c: A Gannon

b: T Wightman 6

Isaac Bolge c: J Hoy b: T Wightman 0

Noah McLennan not out 1*

Extras (1w) 1

Total 10 / 60 (35.5 Overs)

Bowling: J Trease 14-5-17-3, J Hoy 11-2-34-3 (1w), T Wightman 6.50-0-8-2,

A Gannon 4-3-1-1

Nerrena – 1st INNINGS

Jack Curtis c: I Bolge b: M Reidy 69

Loc Roberts c: R McLennan

b: L Wright 1

Tadgh Gannon c: C Reid b: I Bolge 2

Mitchell Clark not out 47*

Hayden Funnell b: M Reidy 0

Darcy Berryman not out 0*

Extras (1w, 1lb, 1b) 3

Total 4 / 122 (39 Overs)

Bowling: L Wright 12-3-30-1 (w), I

Bolge 8-2-27-1, A Williams 5-1-19-0,

J Ginnane 3-0-25-0, M Reidy 6-1-13-2,

N Eddy 4-0-4-0, N McLennan 1-0-2-0

A GRADE

DIVISION 2

Inverloch 96 v Nyora 2/26

Inverloch – 1st INNINGS

Riley Harris c: B Henderson

b: A Simmons 2

Callum Asbury b: A Kaddatz 16

Jake Dennerley c: R Cordeux

b: A Simmons 29

Jack Butcher c: A Simmons

b: A Kaddatz 14

Walter Taberner c: B Henderson

b: A Simmons 5

Rhys Newman lbw: A Simmons 0

Jacob Strickland c: B Henderson

b: A Simmons 2

David Newman c: C Knox

b: A Kaddatz 6

Ty Debono c&b: J Henry 8

Jesse Dugard not out 10*

Cooper Newman c: B Henderson

b: J Henry 3

Extras (1nb) 1

Total 10 / 96 (53.2 Overs)

Bowling: A Kaddatz 27-13-57-3 (1nb), A

Simmons 22-7-39-5, J Henry 4.2-4-0-2

Nyora – 1st INNINGS

Henry Dolphin run out: D Newman .. 11

Colin Knox c: J Butcher b: C Asbury 6

Bailey Henderson not out 3*

Michael Lynch not out 3*

Extras (2w, 1nb) 3

Total 2 / 26 (21 Overs)

Bowling: C Asbury 11-6-8-1 (1nb),

J Dugard 6-1-11-0 (1w), C Newman 4-2-7-0 (1w)

MDU 133 v Foster 2/15

MDU – 1st INNINGS

Paul Le Page c: T Dyson b: J Toner 33

Mitch McGrath c: J Best

b: R Johnston 59

SC Lakshan c: T Dyson b: J Toner 13

Jai Bright b: O Rook 5

Total 3 / 298 (75 Overs)

Bowling: C Davidson 10-3-22-1 (1w,

1nb), H Berry 10-1-37-1 (5nb), R Brown

9-0-42-0, B Rookes 8-1-31-0, B Wright

13-2-44-1, M Grayson 4-0-21-0, R Wallace 6-1-26-0, J Tregebar 15-1-73-0

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Emma Sanderson from Oxford, Sofia DeLeon, Guatemala, Ruben McMahon, Inverloch and Adam Kinross, Belgrave at the Shack Bay fish count. B47_5024

Great Victorian Fish Count at Shack Bay

DIVERS from throughout the world joined Cape Paterson and Inverloch residents for the Great Victorian Fish Count at Shack Bay.

Hundreds of divers and snorkellers donned their togs, rashies and wetsuits all along the Victorian coastline for the state's largest-ever marine citizen science event.

The Great Victorian Fish Count has been uniting citizen scientists for 22 years with the aim of building a long-term picture of marine life across the Victorian coastline and advancing our understanding of the vibrant marine ecosystems in Bass Strait.

Fish count coordinator for Shack Bay, Mike Tesch says

fish populations are increasing in marine parks such as the Bunurong Marine Park part of the coastal park which stretches from San Remo to Inverloch.

"Pressure from fishing has eased in the marine parks," said Mr Tesch.

"Global warming is also changing the currents east of Wilson's Promontory."

The East Australian Current (EAC) now extends to Tasmania.

Divers have also noticed significantly less kelp in our relatively warmer waters.

"The kelp forests are dying," said Mike Tesch.

Ninety per cent of our kelp forests are claimed to be in Tasmania but some fish are now returning to local waters including

the very striking Boarfish.

"We still have soft corals known as the Great Southern Reef."

Fish counting is done in groups with the group leader holding a slate to record fish sightings as single fish or fish in small or large groups.

ReefWatch Coordinator for the Victorian National Parks Association Kade Mills described the event as both a celebration and a critical contribution to marine conservation.

"The Great Victorian Fish Count is not just an incredible adventure for participants, it's also a cornerstone of citizen science in Victoria."

"Over the years, participants have rediscovered fish like the

Western Blue Groper and documented rarely seen fish, like the Spotted Grubfish, Silver Dory, and Short-nosed Boarfish."

The event also shines a light on the importance of protected marine areas.

Snapper are back in large numbers according to the fish counters.

"Snapper breed in Port Phillip Bay and rarely travel further than Western Port or Wilson's Promontory," said Kade.

Port Phillip Bay and the Bass Coast are critical to the breeding cycle of snapper.

"Every five years we see snapper in large numbers."

According to Kade Mills marine parks are excellent places for researchers and citizen

scientists alike to discover and document wildlife in incredible underwater habitats.

"Through the collective efforts of divers and snorkellers, we've built a deeper understanding of the unique fish that call Victorian waters home."

"This work by researchers also underscores the need for more marine national parks to make sure these habitats are protected for future generations."

The annual fish count has confirmed the importance of Victoria's marine national parks and sanctuaries as a vital refuge for marine life.

For more information about the Great Victorian Fish Count go to vnpa.org.au/gvfc.

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