



## BEACHSAFE WARNING

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don't go!

THE blistering start to the summer beach season along the Bass Coast and in South Gippsland has been accompanied by a chilling message from the Victorian State Coroner Sarah Gebert.

As crowds flocked to local beaches, even on a workday yesterday, with temperatures hitting the high 30s, Ms Gebert issued a stern warning to beachgoers.

"In the lead up to the summer season, I implore the Victorian community and visitors to our state to be aware of the risks of Australian beaches and take precaution where needed."

Her plea came as part of an inquiry into the shocking tragedy of Wednesday, January 24 this year, when four visitors from Clyde drowned at Forrest Caves on Phillip Island during a family outing to see the

penguins.

They never got there.

Ms Gebert acknowledged that while there is "no one easy solution to prevent ongoing fatal drownings" education about water awareness and safety is paramount.

"It appears that in many cases, including this coronial investigation, clear signage warning of risks alone is inadequate," she said, noting that people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities residing in major cities were the most at risk.

But not only them. See the full story inside.

### Terrible record

Last summer, drowning as a cause of death claimed 134 lives in Australia

between December 1, 2023 and February 29, 2024; that's at least one person drowning every day. Seven of those lives were lost in Bass Coast and South Gippsland this year.

In an effort to avoid last year's toll, Royal Life Saving Australia and local Victoria Police members are calling on everyone to make water safety a priority by considering the risks and preparing before heading out.

"Beach incidents affect the whole community," said Bass Coast Police Sergeant Ryan Burns.

"It is not just the welfare of the families directly affected, but emergency service members, witnesses, the general community.

Continued page 3

As temperatures hit the high 30s on Monday this week, casual beachgoers were still accessing Forrest Caves on Phillip Island, past a chilling reminder of the tragic drowning of four visitors last January.

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# Coroner's plea for beach safety

THE drowning deaths of three people at Forrest Caves on Wednesday, January 24 this year and the subsequent death of another member of their family group the following day, has been investigated by the State Coroner Sarah Gebert.

In a decision handed down on December 9, Ms Gebert found that three of the four, all of Indian origin and recently arrived in Australia, were unable to swim, and one, Jagjeet Singh Anand (23 years), had limited swimming ability but no formal training.

While delivering her findings into the tragic incident, the Coroner made an appeal to the community ahead of the summer beach season.

"In the lead up to the summer season, I implore the Victorian community and visitors to our state to be aware of the risks of Australian beaches and take precaution where needed."

Describing the circumstances of the deaths on January 24, Ms Gebert said the deceased; Reema Sondhi 42 years, Jagjeet Singh Anand 23 years, Kirti Bedi 20 years, and Suhani Anand 20 years, were on a day trip to Phillip Island from Clyde in a family group of nine people, including two young children.

They visited the Phillip Island Chocolate Factory and the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on their way to see the Penguin Parade but stopped off at Forrest Caves Beach to eat their lunch after seeing a sign by the road.

Interviewed later by police, three of the surviving family members said they did not notice any warning signs about the beach or the lack of Life Saving Victoria patrols on their walk from the Forrest Caves carpark to the beach.

After eating their lunch, adult members of the group joined the children who had been playing on the water's edge, but as they weren't planning to swim on the day, all were fully clothed or mostly clothed.

However, at the point of deciding to leave the water and the beach to continue their journey, a large wave knocked some members of the group off their feet, leaving five struggling in the water, including the husband of one of the deceased, Sanjeev Sondhi, who managed to get back to the shore.

Members of the group called for help and beachgoers retrieved three unconscious females from the water but were unable to revive them.

They were unable to find the



While the State Coroner found that clear signage warning of risks alone is inadequate, investigators found there was no provision on the signs for translation to foreign languages. That's still the case today at Forrest Caves.

fourth member of the group, Jagjeet Singh Anand "due to the rip and dangerous conditions". He was located by the police airwing and a boat crew from Woolamai Beach Surf Lifesaving Club, in knee-deep water, 25 minutes after the alarm was raised at 3.30pm.

CPR and Advance Life Support Resuscitation was performed for an extended period on the beach on the four unconscious adults by paramedics and additional members from Victoria Police and Woolamai Beach LSC. After approximately 45 minutes of treatment with no signs of life, paramedics declared Reema, Jagjeet, and Kirti deceased. Suhani was flown to Alfred Hospital, arriving at approximately 5.52pm, however, after treatment and assessment she died in the Intensive Care Unit the following morning.

In establishing the contributing factors, the Coroner relied on the investigation of the incident by Sergeant Leigh Cole, who had been assigned as the Coroner's Investigator. He outlined several factors including:

- While there was signage in place warning of the dangers of swimming at Forrest Bluff West, the family group did not notice, pay attention to, or think relevant any signs at the commencement of the walking track to Forrest Bluff West that warned that the beach was unpatrolled and had dangerous currents.
- The group appears to have entered the water where a rip was occurring. It is likely

the group believed this was a good place to swim as the water appeared calm.

- Having been dragged out into the rip, they did not have the knowledge, skills, nor experience to navigate their way back to the beach.

He recommended the development of adequate signage including a multilingual format, as well as education and promotion of Surf Life Saving Australia's 'BeachSafe' app via social and mainstream media to encourage members of the public to check and use the information provided before attending the beach.

As part of her investigation, Ms Gebert also asked the Coroners Prevention Unit (CPU) to compile statistics on unintentional deaths at beaches along the Victorian coastline between July 1, 2014 and October 28, 2024.

"The CPU identified 75 unintentional coastline drowning deaths of swimmers during that period, with 36 of the deceased born overseas, 12 of unknown origin and 27 born in Australia," said the Coroner.

"The statistics outlined above highlight the particular vulnerability of persons born overseas to accidental drowning in Victorian (and Australian) coastal waters," she said.

Mention was also made of the Bass Coast Shire Coastal Risk Assessment project, which was developed as part of the Surf Life Saving Australia Beach Drowning Black Spot Reduction Program in 2019, identifying hazardous local beaches

and action to be taken.

The Coroner noted the findings of that report including "implementing a process for continuous monitoring and review of hazards" and also that while Royal Life Saving Australia indicated there is no immediate need to update recent signage, signs should be reviewed periodically.

The inquest also heard from the Bass Coast Shire Council's Acting Coordinator Community Resilience, Nick Grant-Collins, who advised that the Multi-cultural Engagement Network was initially established to support public health messaging through Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Communities Task Force funding.

"Specifically with respect to drownings, and following the drownings that are the subject of this investigation, Bass Coast Shire and Mornington Peninsula Shire convened a group of southeast Melbourne councils committed to collaboration and innovation to drive better beach safety outcomes for all community members, with a strong emphasis on engagement with CALD communities," from the Coroner's report.

Finally, the Coroner conveyed her sincere condolences to the affected families for their loss which tragically occurred in the setting of a joyful family day where no one could have imagined the devastating outcome.

She commended the actions of the other beachgoers and responding emergency services personnel, and heroic resuscitation efforts.

## BeachSafe warning

### From page 1

"Last summer was devastating locally. As well as the fatalities, we also lost police members, some resigning due largely in part to their attendance of these events, others no longer take their families to the beach," he said.

"There are life-changing consequences for all involved."

"This summer we want the community to speak up. If you notice people looking like they are going for a swim somewhere they shouldn't, go and have a chat with them. Remind them of the currents, the rips... Point them to the BeachSafe app."

"Just because experienced surfers are heading out in the water, does not mean it is safe for swimmers."

Regular swimmers and local beachgoers are not immune either with beach conditions consistently changing, added Royal Life Saving Chief Executive Officer Justin Scarr.

"With summer upon us, many families will be planning holidays and day trips to the water, but we're urging everyone to also consider their water safety plans as part of their preparation," he said.

"The choices you make before you leave can save lives."

Get the Beachsafe app, find the patrolled beaches, and check the conditions... or don't go!

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### Contractor paid in hay bales

AN OBSERVANT Cowes resident queried council last week about how much they got for the sale of round bales produced on the council-owned 'Carnival' site.

Response: Council does not sell the hay from the named sites. The contractor who cuts and bales the hay, receives the product in lieu of payment.

### \$180,000 for anti-vaping campaign

THE recent Quarterly Community Report to the Bass Coast Shire Council has an item relating to a \$180,000 grant for a Regional Anti-Vaping Campaign.

Keen council watcher John Trigt wanted to know who the campaign was being presented to in the Bass Coast community and why?

Response: In partnership with Gippsland Councils, and the Gippsland Public Health Unit, Council has been successful in securing VicHealth funding to develop behaviour-change campaigns with the aim of reducing harm from vaping and e-cigarettes for young people in Gippsland.

### No GPS trackers in use

IN QUESTION time last week, council was asked to explain how many council workers vehicles is council in the process of fitting GPS trackers to at an approximate cost of \$450,000?

Not happening, they say.

Response: Council is not in the process of fitting GPS trackers to Council vehicles. There is no budget allocation in the 2024-25 budget for GPS implementation.

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

**15° 22°**



**WED | Dec 18**

Partly cloudy.  
Wind AM: SW 15-25km/h  
Wind PM: S 15-20km/h

**13° 21°**



**THUR | Dec 19**

Sunny.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: E-SE 15-25km/h

**11° 26°**



**FRI | Dec 20**

Sunny.  
Wind AM: E 15-20km/h  
Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h

**14° 29°**



**SAT | Dec 21**

Mostly sunny.  
Wind AM: S 15-25km/h  
Wind PM: S 15-25km/h

**15° 24°**



**SUN | Dec 22**

Shower or two.  
Wind AM: S 15-20km/h  
Wind PM: W-SW 20-30km/h

**14° 22°**

## IN BRIEF

### Your thoughts on Victoria Road

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is looking into pedestrian and traffic management options to improve safety around Loch Primary School, particularly Victoria Road and Roy Street.

Local residents, members of the school community, business owners, bus operators, emergency services and the wider community are encouraged to participate in the engagement which asks regular users of Victoria Road and Roy Street about their travel patterns and what they would like to see changed to improve safety.

This work is possible due to a successful analysis grant, awarded as part of the 2024 Transport Accident Commission's (TAC) Local Government Grant Program.

"It is important we hear from as many people as possible in the Loch community to truly understand the issues in this area. I encourage everyone to participate and make their voice heard," Kerryn Ellis, CEO South Gippsland Shire Council.

You can provide feedback at [yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au).

### Wildlife Coast Cruises wins again

WILDLIFE Coast Cruises have added another trophy to their collection in 2024, announced as Best's Wines Tourism and Hospital Award winner at Victorian Community Achievement Awards on Friday evening.

Wildlife Coast Cruises were up against Blackman's Brewery, Tina Banitska of Daylesford and Yarra Valley Dairy in the Community Achievement category.

(it's no) Drama of Foster was a finalist in both the Australia Community Group Award and Foundation Mental Health and Wellbeing Award but narrowly missed out to SoapAid and Zach Greig.

### What's next for the Cowes Jetty Shed - have your say!

THE Bass Coast Shire Council are seeking feedback on the Cowes Jetty Shed - currently open as a café until April 2025. This space is approximately 63m2, with access to water and electricity and council have opened feedback on what should be next for this iconic shed.

Listening to the voice of the community, the Bass Coast Shire Council have the community consultation open for the significant site until March 2, 2025, so what do you want to see there in the future? Submit your suggestion by visiting Cowes Jetty Goods Shed | Engage Bass Coast.

The land and site are owned by the Bass Coast Shire Council and the Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and is a heritage-listed site.

Council will ensure the proposed use of the space aligns with community values, the Cowes Activity Centre Plan 2014 and Council's Property Policy.

### EPA Victoria's advice for businesses closing for Christmas

BUSINESSES and construction sites closing for the Christmas holiday period should make sure they have properly secured their sites, facilities and equipment, says EPA Victoria.

Factories, warehouses, construction sites and many other businesses will need to take steps to make sure they have secured their operations so they do not pose an environmental risk.

"Everyone has to act to prevent pollution under the General Environmental Duty which is part of the Environment Protection Act 2017," said EPA CEO Lee Miezis.

"That means taking the necessary steps to ensure machinery is properly turned off, chemicals are properly stored and there are no leaks escaping

the site to stormwater drains.

"It also means security and fire management systems such as alarms and sprinklers are working and firewater containment systems are operational.

"Building sites should also be managing any litter they create. That can often be as simple as making sure the skip bin lid is closed and that waffle slab styrene in particular is properly tethered on site.

"EPA officers are working over the holiday period and will enforce compliance, with heavy penalties for anyone not taking their responsibilities seriously."

### Gone but never forgotten

A LEONGATHA man who has forever etched his face, if not his name, into the DNA of Australia, Robert Anthony Fennell, will be remembered this Thursday, December 19 as a prominent Vietnam Veteran, champion local sportsman, successful businessman and better bloke.

Famously photographed in August 1967 by military photographer Mike Coleridge, with other members of 5 Platoon, B Company, 7RAR, including his best army mate Stan Whitford, formerly of Wonthaggi, while on "tour" in Vietnam, Rob's image will adorn the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Canberra in perpetuity, even after his passing on November 29.

The Funeral Service for Rob Fennell, expected to be one of the biggest in the district's history will be held at the Leongatha Football Netball Club Rooms, Roughead Street, Leongatha this Thursday, December 19 commencing at 1pm.

The event will also be livestreamed at [cogaudiovisual.com/robert-fennell](http://cogaudiovisual.com/robert-fennell).

### Cost of rezoning 'Carnival' site

THE issue of rezoning the Carnival Land and Hilton Chadwick Reserve in Cowes continued to plague the council last week with John Kuzma

asking what it would cost.

In response, the council said a planning scheme amendment is estimated at between \$200k-\$300k but that rezoning of the land is not required for its redevelopment as a sports facility.

What the community is concerned about is that if the land continues as 'Farming' zone and is not reserved for community purposes, some of it might be sold off by a cash-strapped council.

In answer to another question, council said it would take between six and 18 months to rezone the land.

### Shire runs 12 EVs

HOW many electric cars does the Bass Coast Shire Council have and who uses them?

That was one of the issues raised during community question time last week, revealing that the council runs 12 electric vehicles, four in the general carpool, one driven by the mayor and seven by senior officers as part of their salary package.

### No new parks in Powlett Ridge

POWLETT Ridge Estate residents in Wonthaggi want to know where their promised park will be located and when the works will be undertaken by Council?

Short answer, no time soon.

In answer to a question to council last week about the park by Prudence Scholtes, claiming the developer's money was already in hand, council said no.

Response: Council officers have required the developer of Powlett Ridge Estate to provide a cash contribution for public open space, to contribute towards embellishing of public parks. The Wonthaggi North-East Precinct Structure Plan identifies future parkland across the precinct. It does not identify a new park within Powlett Ridge Estate.

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## We're having a break too!

Readers, advertisers and contributors please note:

**The final edition of the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times for this year will be published on Tuesday, December 24, 2024.**

Our offices will be closed between Christmas and Thursday, January 2.

Publication date for the first paper in the New Year is Tuesday, January 7, 2025. Usual advertising and news deadlines apply.

**Sentinel-Times**

JAZZ736

# Foster Hospital commits to Gippsland network

ANNOUNCEMENTS in recent weeks by neighbouring health services, Bass Coast Health (BCH) and Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS), that they want to join the Bayside Local Health Network and not a Gippsland group of hospitals has not altered the resolve of South Gippsland Hospital (SGH) at Foster.

Following its annual general meeting on Thursday, December 12, at which no mention was made of the elephant in the room, the impending reform of hospital management statewide, Board Chair of South Gippsland Hospital, Damon Stynes, said SGH remained committed to a Gippsland Local Health Service Network, with Latrobe Regional Hospital (LRH) as the provider of the most complex care needs within the region.

"Nothing has changed for us," said Mr Stynes.

"Logically, we are part of Gippsland, and we already have established links with Traralgon. We said that to the Health Minister (Mary-Anne Thomas) when she visited the hospital recently."

Asked if they would still do their proper due diligence on policies, procedures and activity at Latrobe Regional Hospital before committing to the Gippsland network, Mr Stynes said they weren't making their decision on the basis of a glossy hospital brochure.

"We have great confidence in what we do here, but a lot of things are already done at Traralgon," he said.

"We get some things from Bass Coast, and I can't see that changing in a hurry. It's not like they'll be leaving the district."

The following statement was issued in November after the Health Minister's visit to Foster in October:

"South Gippsland Hospital is supportive of its proposed grouping to remain in Gippsland. SGH believes that the Gippsland Health Service Network is where we belong. Retaining our rural and remote identity, and remaining in Gippsland is important to us. SGH looks forward to working in collaboration with Network partners in a constructive way."

Mr Stynes said this remained the case.



The South Gippsland Hospital awarded honorary life governorship to seven long-term contributors to the hospital including Graeme Baxter, Peter Rushen (dec) represented by Liz Rushen, Carol Barker and Trish Shee. Absent: Professor Jim Buttery, Professor Priscilla Robinson and Dr David Pollard.

Despite the strong positions taken by Bass Coast Health and their near neighbour, Gippsland Southern Health Service, against the recommendations of the government's expert advisory committee, it is yet to be confirmed.

Such a move would leave Gippsland below the 200,000 population threshold identified by the committee in its Health Services Plan "to meaningfully support health outcomes".

An announcement about the establishment of five Local Health Service Networks in regional areas and six in Melbourne metro areas, as part of the biggest-ever shake-up of hospital management, is expected early in the New Year.

## Foster Hospital celebrates but more still to do

South Gippsland Hospital chair Damon Stynes reported on a "spectacularly successful year" for the Foster Hospital at its annual general meeting last Thursday, following on from the previous year when it won the Victorian Premier's Award for the Best Small Health Service of the Year.

He said the health service had made progress on its strategic plan, attracting \$600,000 to replace switchboards (\$138,943) and three generators (\$369,637), to refresh Community Health Centre amenities, Banksia Centre and some hospital equipment.

A highlight of the year was achieving full accreditation for

the quality of its aged care services, on all 45 standards, with an excellent safety and care culture, strong financial performance, exceeding vaccination targets and being a finalist in the Gippsland health service awards.

"When we walked around the hospital with the Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas recently it wasn't hard to feel proud of what we have achieved here and the people in this room need to be congratulated for that," said Mr Stynes.

But there's still more to do.

"We may not have funding for our buildings in the short term but what makes our hospital great is the people, the nursing staff, hospitality staff, cleaners everyone pulling together as a team, many of whom have made a long-term commitment to the hospital."

Ms Stynes was referring to the bid by the hospital to secure funding for the rebuilding of its inpatient ward, in the meantime attending to incremental improvements to make patient amenities more contemporary.

Mr Stynes handed over to the health service's finance director Jan Fitzgerald to continue the glowing report on Foster's finances and improved throughput in the past financial year.

She said the health service recorded an operating deficit of \$228,622 as compared to a surplus last year of \$101,365, there was a growth in service

and income from the Home Care Package Program up from \$1.5m to \$2.2m, a reduction in employee costs of \$156,813 despite a successful recruitment program, and an asset revaluation from \$10.9m to \$24.2m.

There were 829 admissions, 46 births, 126 surgical sessions, 805 surgical cases, 2813 urgent care presentations and 1434 bed days as part of the Transition Care Program, 1816 hours of positive aging care (100 clients), 19,143 hours of home care support (120 clients) and 1610 hours of community health, home and community care for younger people in the community.

A feature of the meeting was the acknowledgement of the positive community and staff feedback, the generous support of volunteers and auxiliaries and the presentation of honorary life governorships to seven long-term contributors to the hospital including Graeme Baxter, Peter Rushen (dec) represented by Liz Rushen, Carol Barker, Trish Shee, Professor Jim Buttery, Professor Priscilla Robinson and Dr David Pollard.

Donations and fundraising included \$37,000 from the SGH Auxiliary towards equipment upgrades, \$25,000 from the SG Community Health Foundation, \$20,000 from the annual appeal and \$12,000 from the Murray to Moyne ride (new 3000-litre fuel tank).

## Police issue farm safety warning after accident

POLICE have issued a warning to farmers, especially those engaged in the busy hay-making season, to be alert to any dangers as they go about their work.

Their plea follows attendance at the scene of a farm accident, along Old Korumburra Road, south of Leongatha last Wednesday where it was reported a man in his 50s was caught in a piece of farm machinery.

Bass Coast Police Area Eyewatch posted a report of the incident and a warning to farmers.

"Yesterday (December 10, 2024), at about 2.47pm, your local police from the Leongatha Police Station, the Korumburra Police Station, the Meeniyian Police Station and the Wonthaggi Police Station, along with paramedics from Ambulance Victoria and volunteer rescuers from SES Leongatha Unit responded to an incident where a person was injured by machinery whilst undertaking work on a farm at Leongatha."

The man was successfully extricated and flown to hospital.

"Farms can be one of the most dangerous workplaces around, so please take care when working on farms, as even the simplest of jobs can turn into something life-threatening," said police.

"With a heap of silage still being done, and hay about to commence, please take care and be safe."

"The patient was transported by the Ambulance Victoria Air Ambulance (callsign 'HEMS01') to Melbourne for treatment."

Anyone with information about the incident is encouraged to contact Leongatha Police on 5662 2285.

## Single vehicle accident

POLICE are appealing for witnesses on Inverloch-Venus Bay Road, near Tarwin after a single vehicle carrying a 36-year-old male from Inverloch left the road, hit a tree and rolled on Tuesday, December 10.

Police were alerted to the accident around 5.30am by two witnesses.

The vehicle was extensively damaged, and the driver was airlifted to the Royal Melbourne with critical injuries.

The road was closed for 1.5 hours.

Anyone with information please contact Wonthaggi Uniform on 5671 4100 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or you can submit information including CCTV and dashcam footage anonymously at [crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime).

## Melina Bath MP THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon VIC 3844

melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au

5174 7066

MelinaBathMLC

## Christmas Office Hours

Council offices and Customer Service Centres will close at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 24 December and will re-open on Friday, 27 December.

We will also be closed on Wednesday, 1 January for the New Year's Day public holiday.

Our normal emergency after hours service will continue to operate on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 during this time.



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## Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead

AS THE holiday season approaches, I have been reflecting on the incredible spirit of our Bass Coast community. Our community carols are underway, and our towns are busy with visitors, events and shoppers preparing for Christmas.

In the final council meeting for 2024, Councillors unanimously agreed that our communities need urgent action from Government in response to coastal erosion and inundation. It was fantastic to see recognition of the work that Council has been doing as well as give some certainty to our community of actions that will be taken in future. One of these is a delegation to the Minister for Environment, The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos to advocate for funding.

Keeping the community informed of the work underway, safe beach tracks and our advocacy efforts will be a priority for council. During this busy season, please take care on our roads. Let's look out for one another, drive to the conditions and be mindful of pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife. For those enjoying our beautiful coastline and natural environment, remember to swim between flags.

Bass Coast beaches can be dangerous, however, our patrolled beaches keep us safe. Remember to follow the safety signage at all times. The 'Beach-Safe' app is a great source for up-to-date information on beach conditions and patrols.

As you prepare for Christmas, I encourage you to shop locally wherever possible. Supporting our businesses strengthens our economy and makes our towns vibrant. I've been inspired by the efforts of local businesses to decorate their shopfronts for the season. These festive displays highlight passion, creativity and a commitment to community. Shopping, eating, and loving local is a way we can all say thank you. Don't forget to vote for your favourite festive facade in our competition!

To those celebrating Christmas, may it be filled with love, laughter, and joy. This time of year feels and looks different for people. It can be about family and celebration but also can be about loss, stress, anxiety, and uncertainty.

However you celebrate or spend this time of year, I extend my warmest wishes for peace and happiness to you all. On behalf of my fellow Councillors, I wish you all a safe and joyous festive season. We look forward to continuing our work together in 2025.

# Easter tipping point for Inverloch erosion

THE new Bass Coast Shire Council has injected a sense of urgency into the looming coastal erosion disaster at Inverloch, flagging Easter high tides, in April next year, as the potential tipping point for the beleaguered surf club, nearby houses and infrastructure including Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road.

In a unanimous decision by the council last week, they've called on the State Government and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to finally accept their responsibility for what's happening at Inverloch and immediately to stump up some serious cash for protection measures before it's too late.

Specifically, they want DEECA to bring forward dune stabilisation works as a matter of urgency to ensure adequate protection from storms and the Easter high tides and to give serious thought to other engineering options for medium and long-term protection of the surf beach, allowing time to develop the best long-term erosion protection strategies.

After a visit by councillors to see the extent of the problems first-hand, in the week prior to last Wednesday's council meeting, including speaking with local community representatives, they've also undertaken to implement a community engagement plan.

And not forgetting the serious erosion problems at Silverleaves on Phillip Island, the council has promised to advocate for urgent funding for the emergency protection of the Silverleaves foreshore, while committing to having a long-term plan in place by June 25, 2025.

Both Federal and State governments will be the targets of their advocacy efforts, with council



The Bass Coast Shire Council including Cr Jon Temby, Cr Mat Morgan, Cr Brett Tessari, Cr Ron Bauer and Cr Jan Thompson voted unanimously last week to increase the pressure on the state government over the Inverloch erosion crisis.

nominating a delegation to meet with the Victorian Minister for the Environment, The Hon. Steve Dimopoulos, as soon as possible.

In moving the motion, calling for more urgent action by government, Cr Tim O'Brien said respective community groups "have been watching with growing alarm the degradation of their coastlines by stronger and more frequent storms, higher tidal surges, and deepening and potentially more catastrophic impacts".

"We have spoken with residents who are genuinely anguished by the prospect of property loss, unsaleable properties, uncertainty and helplessness, while waiting for action by DEECA, by Government, and, yes, by Council. They want to see the reports, consultants' findings and recommendations turned into effective action," he said at council last week.

"Of course, many residents are unaware of the way the different layers of government dovetail on these complex matters of coastal erosion, but we have to remind ourselves that these residents, whom we

represent, they are like the residents in a valley watching a bushfire approaching.

"They just want something done. They don't want to hear about "why it's difficult". They expect their council to see them, to hear them, to recognise the emergency and to help."

Cr Meg Edwards, who brought the Urgent Motion to council last month which initiated the officer's report, tabled at the December meeting also spoke saying council had a better understanding of what the community needed to see at Inverloch, also saying that councillors were frankly shocked at the extent of the gouging beyond the end of the revetment at Silverleaves and the threat there to residents' homes.

She said any state government investment in protecting Inverloch and Silverleaves would be far less than the cost of not protecting property and assets in the firing line.

Councillor Mat Morgan thanked officers for the quick turnaround on the report and for the work he has seen on the beach in recent weeks but stressed it was DEECA's

responsibility to fund works not council.

"I can't say this more clearly. We need the state government to listen to our community. We are in a climate crisis, and sticking your head in the ever-eroding sand is not a solution," said Cr Morgan.

"People's insurance premiums are through the roof. There is zero compensation strategy being developed for literally stranded assets, and people are understandably worried and frustrated.

"At the end of the day, this council has a tiny budget. It is DEECA's responsibility to fund the dune nourishment or any alternative strategies," he said.

He said there needed to be a nationally coordinated response to the impact of climate change on coastal communities.

Crs Temby, Tessari and Bauer also spoke in support of stepping up the pressure on the government with Cr Tessari noting that 70 per cent of the Bass Coast border was coastline, presenting a potentially huge problem for a local council with a tiny budget by comparison.

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### Defects at Berninneit

THE problem with the Bass Coast Council being unable to close off on the construction of its \$32 million cultural centre project at Cowes, more than 12 months after its opening, reared its head at the December meeting.

Local resident Philip Davy queried the council at question time last week, asking if the council had contingency funds to complete rectification works on Berninneit after the 12-month liability period if the company could not fix those

deficiencies.

"Yes, the contract includes retention of funds to cover the cost of repairing defects."

It was not clear if the failure to meet Passivhaus standards was included.

### No public access to briefings

THE Bass Coast Shire Council isn't planning on opening up its briefing sessions to the public anytime soon.

Local resident Philip Davy queried council last week about whether it would

livestream the briefing session, prior to the monthly council meeting, allegedly where all the discussion and decision-making takes place, in line with the "unanimous agreement of prospective councillors" at a meeting in the Cowes RSL before the October elections.

"Council has no plans to livestream informal meetings of Council," was the response.

Informal Meetings of Council, including topics of discussion and attendees, are published in the Council agenda.

### Planning overlays nothing new

THE existence of Cultural Heritage and Flora and Fauna Overlays along The Esplanade and a large portion of Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach properties is nothing new according to the Bass Coast Shire Council.

Answering a query from a local resident at last week's council meeting it was revealed that the Aboriginal Heritage Act came into effect on May 28, 2007 and the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO) before 2000.

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ME0119-V3

# Protect our kids from traffic accidents, they say

THE deaths of five people outside a Daylesford pub in November last year and the fatal crash at the Auburn South Primary School in October this year, in which an 11-year-old student was killed, is having implications for developers in the Bass Coast Shire.

Last Wednesday, December 11, Cr Jon Temby called on council to expand conditions on a proposed commercial development at Grantville, which includes a childcare centre, as well as a service station, convenience restaurant and retail premises by adding collision barriers to the front of the centre.

He successfully moved an alternative motion, granting developers a planning permit on the following condition:

\* That fencing along the frontage to Grantville-Glen Alvie Road be altered to withstand vehicle collision or other alternative solution to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Cr Temby spoke passionately about the added condition and was supported by Crs Morgan, Bauer, Thompson and the rest of the council.

"Being a childcare centre, I believe we have a greater responsibility to ensure the safety of the kids, particularly playing between the fence line and the building," said Cr Temby.

"The childcare facility is on the intersection of the highway and Glen Alvie Road and



Cr Jon Temby successfully moved for roadside barriers to be introduced in front of a proposed Grantville Childcare Centre, supported by Cr Mat Morgan and all other councillors.

there's a foreseeable likelihood of incidents occurring, whether they're single or multiple vehicle incidents through medical conditions of the driver or a teacher, whatever.

"Where there is a history of vehicles leaving the road and crashing into buildings, I think that it's incumbent upon us to ensure that there are sufficient

barriers between the intersection and the childcare centre to ensure the safety of the kids."

Cr Mat Morgan agreed.

"At the end of the day, I'm thrilled to be supporting any proposal of new early childcare and education in Bass Coast. We have childcare deserts all over regional Victoria, stopping so many parents and carers

from returning to work, with waiting lists through the roof. The early childhood education sector is in absolute crisis and will remain in crisis until all levels of government start treating early childhood education like they do primary and secondary school. It should be free and universal and properly funded for every kid in this state."

## Back to policy for acknowledgement

LAST month, at the November meeting of the Bass Coast Shire Council, there was an 88-word Statement of Acknowledgement to the traditional owners.

But, in a sign of a social re-set at the council table last Wednesday, December 11, there was a 23-word statement, in line with the council policy, which has been in place since March 21, 2012.

"We acknowledge the Bunurong as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands and waters, and pay respect to their Elders past, present and emerging," said the Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead in a clear departure from the approach taken by the previous council.

At the November meeting, the CEO Greg Box read out the following acknowledgment:

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

Despite making a significant change to a key part of the meeting preamble, there was no explanation about how the longer-form acknowledgement was adopted by the last council against council policy.

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**Police will be visible on the roads with Operation Roadwise up and running across Victoria. C18\_5124**

## 'Tis the season to be Roadwise

POLICE are pleading with motorists to prioritise road safety over the Christmas and New Year period as Operation Roadwise kicks off.

The statewide road policing operation, which launched on Friday, will run for an extended 20-day period and will see police highly visible across the state's major roads and arterials, particularly around coastal areas and popular holiday hotspots.

There will be a significant focus on impaired driving with police conducting widespread alcohol and drug testing every day throughout the operation.

"As we head towards the end of the year, we're urging everyone to make road safety a priority," Road Policing Assistant Commissioner, Glenn Weir said.

"The last place you want to end up this Christmas is in a hospital, or worse, as a result of road trauma.

"December is a high-risk period on our roads – we know there is a significant risk associated with impaired driving and we also see an influx of traffic as people head on holidays to regional areas.

"It's been another devastating year on our roads, and we make no apologies for doing all we can to prevent further serious injuries and deaths."

Police conducted more than 300,000 preliminary breath tests and almost 9000 roadside drug tests during last year's Operation Roadwise.

With Boxing Day one of the busiest days for travel across the state, police are urging those hitting the roads to be patient, avoid distractions and take regular breaks to prevent fatigue.

To avoid receiving an infringement and having a costly Christmas, motorists are advised to obey the road rules and stick to the speed limits.

Police issued more than 19,000 traffic infringements during last year's Operation Roadwise including 7631 speeding offences.

There were 17 lives lost on Victorian roads last year between December 15 and January 1.

There have been 273 lives lost on Victoria roads to date, which is slightly below 276 at the same time last year.

Operation Roadwise commenced at 00:01 hours on Friday, December 13 and concludes at 23:59 hours on Wednesday, January 1, 2025.

For more information and tips for staying safe on the roads during the festive period visit the Road Safety page on the Victoria Police website.

# Queries about shire's 'urban forest' strategy

THERE has been little discussion around the council table to date about the Bass Coast Shire Council's Urban Forest Strategy and its aim of increasing the canopy coverage across all of the shire's townships to 40 per cent by 2040.

It took a question from local resident Joe Waralow to put the issue on the agenda at last week's council meeting.

"Council's fourth quarterly ending 30 June 2024 provides a listing of Operating Carryover to 2024/25. One listing is for "Urban Forest Fund \$156,000". What is this going to be expensed towards?" asked Mr Waralow.

Response: "The Urban Forest Fund allocation for 2024/25 is funding the coordinated delivery of actions under Council's Urban Forest Strategy. This includes the launch of Bass Coast's first Significant Tree Register, and the planting of more than 1400 new advanced street trees in townships this year."

As part of its Urban Forest Strategy, council aims to:

- Have no net loss of vegetation on private residential land.
- To plant 1500 mature trees in urban areas each year.
- Increased number of community members participating in



**The choice of fast-growing coastal banksias by the shire, for planting in new residential areas, has not always been welcomed.**

Urban Forest stewardship, and

- Ensuring all residential planning applications are assessed for their capacity to improve tree canopy cover.

It's far from clear how the shire intends to achieve 40 per cent canopy coverage in its towns, if that's even possible given the almost complete denuding of residential blocks for new housing projects.

However, if residents want

to have a say over the sorts of trees and scrubs that will be planted, especially where they've paid a premium for a view, they'll have to raise it with the council themselves.

"The selection of trees planted by our contractors stem from Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVC), native trees existing and thriving within Bass Coast, and species that will diversify the shire's existing stock and are also compatible

with the soils, temperatures and other factors we're familiar with across Bass Coast.

"We also carefully consider a variety of factors in tree selection, including potential impacts on views, suitability for nature strips, proximity to utilities, and fruiting or nut-dropping habits.

"For instance, Council recently planted grafted varieties of Corymbia ficifolia to minimise the size of nuts, therefore reducing potential slip hazards.

"If residents raise concerns about specific plantings, we will try to accommodate their preferences by offering alternate species available through our contractors."

In a recent quarter progress report, for the period ending September 30, 2024 implementation of the annual Urban Forest Planting Program was on target at 25 per cent, but elsewhere in the report, it's noted that carrying forward of initiatives including San Remo and Wonthaggi North-East Structure Plans, the Urban Forest Program, and the Integrated Transport Strategy was leading to a projection that the shire will post a \$1.3 million deficit by the end of the financial year.

## Knock off drinks? Knock off safely. Don't drink and drive



**Local Victoria Police officers caught up with Anthony and Jaxon of Plumbers Now Contracting on Friday to spread the word of Operation Knock Off.**

Bass Coast Police Sergeant Ryan Burns stated.

"Motorists can expect to be tested anywhere, any time this festive season, with additional police resources

heading our way to assist with Operation Knock Off."

Local police are keen to see everybody return safely home to their families or to their holiday destination this

year and into the next.

So before you jump behind the wheel after knocking off this Friday, call a mate, call a partner, or sleep it off, and don't risk it this festive season.

### Gotcha

THREE unsuspecting drivers were caught out over the weekend drink driving.

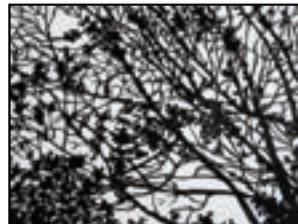
A 64-year-old male and 73-year-old female both from Cape Woolamai, and a 73-year-old male from Venus Bay were each issued with an infringement notice and have had their licences cancelled and disqualified. They will appear at Korumburra Magistrates Court at a later date. All three believed they were under the limit.

Two other drivers tested positive to drugs during the three-day booze bus blitz.

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# Success for local VCE students

STUDENTS across Victoria woke up to their VCE results last Thursday, December 12, after an exam period marred with errors, but amidst the controversy, there have been some fantastic results by local students.

Eight students at Bass Coast College received results over 90 with 90 per cent of students expected to receive first-round offers on their first three tertiary preferences.

Raphael Spiteri-Stevens was named Dux with an ATAR of 97.85.

"I'm very happy," Raphael said.

"I expected 98 plus but I'll take the 97.85," he laughed, noting he was looking to go to Monash University to study engineering.

"My favourite subject was specialist maths."

Fellow high achievers Dillen Andrighetto and Dylan Cleary both achieved what they had imagined, with plans to attend Monash University for biomedicine and engineering respectively.

Louisa Poll's family were "surprised, but happy".

"It's the best anyone in our family has ever done," Louisa remarked.

Year 12 coordinator, Vaughan Gleeson was proud of the students.

"They've been a great group all year from the tertiary camp at the beginning through. Everyone has their own ideas of success and it's been great to see some kids do better than they anticipated," Mr Gleeson said.

Bass Coast College Campus Principal Ross Bramley echoed Mr Gleeson's comments.

"I'm most pleased that we are meeting the needs of such a variety of different students," Mr Bramley said.

"Our results in vocational major



**Bass Coast College's high achievers include Tate Rigby, Zac Mabilia, Dillen Andrighetto, Dylan Cleary, Kira Mascaros, Raphael Spiteri-Stevens, Brodie Mitchell and Louisa Poll. Pictured with Campus Principal Ross Bramley and Year 12 Coordinator Vaughan Gleeson. Absent: Ciara McCraw and Katie Fisher. CO1\_5124**

(VM) just keep improving and the amount of subjects we are able to offer both VCE and VM students - we can offer most things that kids want to study, which is fantastic!

"I'd also like to thank our teaching staff, all our ES staff, Year 12 Coordinators Vaughan Gleeson and Tim Hooper, Senior Programs Principal Aaron Coyle, and Assistant Campus Principal Alison Gill, and our parent community, who have all supported this year's year 12 class to achieve the wonderful results we've seen.

"We've seen an increase in 90 plus scores and an increase in 80 plus ATAR scores, and had some fantastic results in other areas that don't necessarily contribute to ATAR scores but contribute to their achievements this year."

Three students have also been shortlisted by Top Arts and Top Screen for 2024.

On Phillip Island, Dux of Newhaven College, Sienna Michie, celebrated with an exceptional ATAR of 98.65.

Newhaven College's Finn Leary was close on her tail with an ATAR of 97.7.

"Other high achieving students with ATAR scores above 90 were Tilia Pires-Andersen, Ella Berry, Leo Savona, Niamh O'Connell, Max Arceo, Dion Pires-Andersen, David O'Neill and Alice Mabilia," Newhaven College Principal Tony Corr said.

"Special recognition to Year 11 student Cecily de Gooyer who achieved the perfect Study Score of 50 in Music Industry VET. To achieve a study score of 50 is the highest possible result in a subject and an exceptional performance."

Ten Newhaven College students received an ATAR above 90, whilst 30 per cent received an ATAR

above 80 (top 20 per cent in the state).

Leongatha Secondary College are also celebrating excellence across both VCE and VM with Alana Lopez-Freeman named Dux of 2024 achieving an ATAR of 94.15, amongst the top 17 per cent in the state.

Alana had some sound advice for fellow and future students saying, "When you are trying to work really hard, it is easy to get caught up with comparing yourself to others, but focusing on yourself is the most important thing."

"My plan next year is to attend La Trobe University to complete Biological Science," she said.

Lucy Patterson and Luke Murphy were fellow Leongatha Secondary College high achievers earning impressive ATARs of 88.34 and 86.1 respectively.

One hundred and forty study

scores were above 30 at Leongatha with a mean study score of 28.7 (out of 50).

## Exam bungle

According to a Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority the total number of exams impacted by the blunder this year is 65, with an expert panel finding 69 students across five subjects have shown 'anomalous results'.

"None of these students were clustered by school or any other relationship that could be determined, suggesting that there was no co-ordinated behaviour to access examination material," Interim Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority chief executive Marcia Devlin said.

"To avoid any consequent disadvantage for other students, the Panel recommended that those 69 students were removed from the standard study score calculation, including the distribution of study scores."

"The scores of the 69 students were then inserted into the overall distribution at a matched point, after the study scores had been distributed."

No students had marks deducted from exam results.

Statewide 61,998 students completed their VCE this year with a four per cent increase in schools offering VCE VM on last year.

More than 22,700 VCE graduates have received study scores of 40 or higher, more than 688 have received the maximum study score of 50, and 3,160 students have been awarded the VCE Baccalaureate.

**For all the VCE results this year turn to pages 26 and 27.**

## YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE, BUT YOU CAN PREPARE FOR IT.

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**South Gippsland  
Shire Council**

## South Gippsland Shire Council News

### Is your property ready for the summer season?

Summer is here and for most, it is a busy time of year. However, it is important to have your property prepared for the ongoing season.

Summer brings with it potential danger and risk to your property.

Sometimes we let the grass get a bit long or the hedges overgrow, but if we remember to **RUSTLE**, it makes the cleaning job a breeze!

**R** - Remove dead plants. They can become a hazard.

**U** - Use protective gear like gloves, earmuffs, hats, long sleeved clothes and glasses.

**S** - Short lawns are good lawns. Get the whipper snipper and lawn mower out regularly to stay on top of the grass growth.

**T** - Trim your hedges, bushes and overhanging trees.

**L** - Learn what is and is not a weed - some make you think they are pretty flowers, but they can overrun your property.

**E** - Enjoy the fruits of your labour now you've got your property cleaned up!

To help, South Gippsland Shire Council is offering free green waste disposal at any Transfer Station in the Shire until 31 December 2024. Most of your green waste should be accepted, however there are a number of plant species excluded from the Green Waste Amnesty as they require a different mulching process. Check the list out at [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/greenwasteamnesty](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/greenwasteamnesty). Happy summer!

#### SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL Australia Day Photography Competition



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

The theme of the competition is Australia Day: South Gippsland – Our Home.

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](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadaycompetition)

Entries close Wednesday 15 January 2025.

Winners will be announced 26 January 2025.

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council will be in recess for January 2025, there will be no Meetings conducted.

The first meeting of the year is scheduled for Wednesday 19 February 2025 at 2.00pm.

#### 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. Please call 5662 9294 to make an appointment. For general support please call the Maternal and Child Health support line on 13 22 29. Council and community

playgroups do not run during school holidays. Go to [www.playgroup.org.au](http://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](http://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](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

#### CONTACT US

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# Emotional tribute to outgoing CEO Kerryn Ellis

WEDNESDAY'S largely uneventful South Gippsland Shire Council meeting, free from debate and procedural in nature, took on a different complexion when attention turned to outgoing CEO Kerryn Ellis.

When it came her turn to speak after glowing tributes from councillors and a hug from Mayor John Schelling, it was clear how much her time with South Gippsland Shire Council has meant to her.

She described her resignation letter to the mayor as "probably the hardest letter I have written".

"It has been the privilege of a lifetime to do this job and I've loved it and I've given it everything I had, but it's such an important job and this is such an amazing place that I think you need someone that's got the energy that I've had, and I'm ready for something new and I think South Gippsland's ready for something new," Kerryn said.

Emotion came to the fore as she spoke.

Kerryn noted she'll still be a Gippsland resident and will be working closely with local government through her new role with the Office of the Victorian Ombudsman, Marlo Baragwanath.

"It's been 27 years for me in local government and it's been an amazing journey and a real privilege to work with the communities that I've had the chance to work with," she said.

Mayor Schelling said Kerryn's resignation brought him to tears, but acknowledged she



South Gippsland Shire mayor John Schelling speaks highly of CEO Kerryn Ellis. A01\_5124

needs another challenge after having done a great job, praising her work with staff and councillors.

"I'm sure everyone in the community appreciates what she's given to South Gippsland to make our council stable," he declared, suggesting that stability has ensured the Sentinel-Times hasn't had too much to report.

"I wish you all the best with your new job and you leave

huge shoes to fill," he told the outgoing CEO, inviting people to stand and applaud.

Deputy Mayor Sarah Gilligan said Kerryn leaves "a legacy of strength" that includes a strong shire, noting the CEO's emphasis on developing leaders who can then mentor others.

"As much as it is devastating to see you go, I'm very happy as to where you're going and that you are still going to have an impact in the (local government)

sector and that our relationship can still be strong," Sarah said.

Having reflected on the legacy Kerryn will leave, she looked to the future.

"Now the job for all of us is to find the next CEO for this council to ensure that strength is ongoing," Sarah said.

While Kerryn is sticking around until early February before starting her new position, this was her last public council meeting.

## Works cause for concern in the centre of Korumburra

WITH traffic forced into a single lane on the South Gippsland Highway in the centre of Korumburra, due to upgrades, nearby businesses and residents are concerned for the safety of road users.

Works to improve Korumburra's streetscape began earlier this year and were anticipated to be completed in stages, by the end of this year, according to shire documents, however, they are far from being finished.

According to the South Gippsland Shire Council (SGSC), works are only 65 per cent complete and Commercial Street works are not expected to be finished until mid-2025.

"I know I'm not alone with concerns about the roads project. I believe several businesses on the main street are also worried about congestion and safety, though they are hoping and remaining positive their business will improve with a Korumburra facelift," said Korumburra resident Derek Roberts.

The Southbound lanes of Commercial Street have only recently been completed, with dual lanes being forced into one, which is now occurring on the northbound lanes as the pedestrian access at the top of Radovick Street undergoes an upgrade.

"It's dangerous forcing traffic into not only a single lane, but also a hazard for motorists trying to turn right from Radovick Street onto South Gippsland Highway, or should it be called



Traffic is being forced into a single lane in the middle of Korumburra, creating congestion and safety concerns. ob12\_5124

South Gippsland Lane now?" said Mr Roberts.

Upgrades to the town are extensive and include replacing footpaths with concrete; changing Commercial Street/South Gippsland Highway to a single lane of traffic in each direction, to allow for the inclusion of a manoeuvring lane for parallel parking, constructing kerbs and kerb extensions and improvements on sections of Radovick and Bridge streets.

Mr Roberts said that while it's great to see money invested in Korumburra, he believes more will need to be spent on fixing the traffic flow and parking issues in the near future.

He also wonders if appropriate consultations were sought from local businesses, residents and road governing bodies and would be interested to see any recommendations made and anticipated outcomes.

More transparency, information and updates from the council would also be welcomed, believes Mr Roberts.

"I think setting up a council page for feedback, sharing the project plans, progress, costings and expected outcomes may alleviate some of the concerns," he said.

According to a staff member at "T" For Tyres on Commercial

Street, the business has had very little information or updates directly from the Council about the works and have had to rely on contractors to let them know what is happening.

SGSC are also being coy about the entire cost of the project.

As far as the Sentinel-Times can ascertain from public documents on the Shire's website, \$5 million is funded from the Victorian Government's Community Infrastructure Loan Scheme, and potentially \$3 million is being funded by Council, but that is unconfirmed.

"The total project budget for this stage of the works is \$4 million. Works are proceeding within budget," stated SGSC.

Updates on other work are also lacking, the latest information on SGSC's website (as of last week) about the Korumburra Railway Precinct works stated that stage one has been completed.

However, SGSC has informed The Sentinel Times that, "The new public toilet block and shelter are underway and expected to be complete during early 2025. The new skatepark is planned for construction in 2025, subject to approvals."

Which have been listed as being part of Stage One.

It might prove difficult for SGSC to provide public transparency and updates if there is confusion about project plans, progress and budget internally, as there appears to be.

## Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling

HELLO South Gippsland.

Last week's Council meeting was the last for our CEO Kerryn Ellis and a sad one for Councillors as we thanked her for contribution to South Gippsland. The process for selecting an interim CEO is already progressing with a full recruitment process to commence in the new year.

### 30th Anniversary of council amalgamation

This December marks 30 years since council amalgamations occurred in South Gippsland.

In 1994 many councils were merged in Victoria and as part of this process the new Shire of South Gippsland was created. I look forward to speaking more about this milestone at a future Council meeting in the new year.

### Traffic Engagements

Council is currently seeking community feedback on Princes Street in Korumburra and Victoria Road and Roy Street in Loch. If you are a regular user of these roads, we would love to hear from you. The Princes Street engagement is seeking your thoughts on possible treatments to reduce traffic speed in the education precinct, while the Loch engagement is seeking feedback on how the area is used and what safety concerns might be present. You can participate at: [yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

### Arts Committees

Council has two opportunities now open for local creatives to be a part of future planning and decision making for South Gippsland art projects. Expressions of interest are now being accepted for the Arts Advisory Committee and the Public Art Installation Panel. You can find out more on Council's website.

### Advocating for South Gippsland

With a Federal Election occurring sometime soon in the new year, Council has been busy discussing our advocacy priorities with candidates for the Monash electorate. I have had some very productive meetings with some of the candidates already and look forward to meeting with others in the coming weeks. It's important during this time that we speak up and talk about the opportunities and challenges for our region and to see how our priorities align.

### Christmas Events

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of the volunteers who have been adding Christmas cheer to South Gippsland over the coming weeks. Thank you to the business groups and individuals who have been decorating townships and the organising committees for Christmas markets and carol events. This includes my fellow Councillor, Clare Williams, who helped coordinate the very successful Leongatha Community Carols last Friday.

Well done to all.

## Feedback for traffic treatment

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is keen to hear from regular users of Princes Street, Korumburra regarding a range of possible treatment options to help address traffic concerns.

The options proposed are in response to the first round of engagement which asked people to highlight any concerns they had regarding traffic flow around the education precinct.

Eighty-four people responded with many saying they felt unsafe using Princes Street, particularly around school drop off times, and that there were too many speeding vehicles, poor visibility at existing crossings, and a lack of safe parking. Some of the treatment options under consideration include a permanent 40km/h speed limit on all approaches, adding speed cushions on the approach to the Princes Street/Guys Road roundabout and raising pedestrian crossings. Several treatments are subject to Department of Transport and Planning approval.

After the engagement period closes, a final report will be produced and presented to Council, and a TAC funding application will be investigated.

"A lot of valuable feedback was provided during the last engagement which has helped to inform many of the treatment options that are being considered now," Kerryn Ellis, CEO South Gippsland Shire Council said.

"We would like to encourage people to review the plans and provide feedback on the treatments to help us lock down the final design which will then be presented to Council."

You can provide feedback on the treatment options at [yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au).

# Small towns suffer from deliberate destruction alongside our larger ones

CRIMINAL activity in South Gippsland is up 8.5 per cent from last year, the largest increase seen in property offences, and our smallest towns are not going unscathed by these incidents.

Locals in Poowong have been disappointed and disheartened by deliberate acts of destruction that have occurred within the town recently.

The historical Butter Factory opened in Poowong in 1892 and subsequently closed in 1986 and has sat empty for 38 years without being vandalised until recently when windows were smashed in and the door forced in a shocking break-and-enter.

According to locals, everything inside the building has been smashed, paint has been thrown over everything, and a car has even been driven in and set on fire, in a series of senseless and highly destructive acts.

The damage is so extensive that, "it will need to be demolished," according to one local, who was not prepared to speak on record, for fear of having their own property targeted.

Other minor incidents in the town have occurred, with the Poowong Pub's Christmas lights cut, which have since been replaced with no further incidents.

While the hotel owners put it down to kids simply playing a prank, another local also reported having his Christmas lights cut twice now, to the



The Poowong Butter Factory has been empty for 38 years with no vandalism occurring, until recently. ob07\_5124

dismay of the community.

Other minor acts of vandalism such as damage to locks, gates and fences have also been noted by locals, causing headaches for farmers.

While Poowong hasn't previously been represented in the Crime Statistics Agency (CSA) numbers, small towns such as Nyora, Mirboo North and Foster have had relatively high numbers of offences recorded over the last year (from June 2024).

Nyora recorded 158 offences, Mirboo North 70 offences – which is a decrease on the previous year, and Foster 136 offences, alongside our larger towns of Korumburra, recording 582 offences and Leongatha 780 – more than two offences every day.

Property offence was the largest increase in the last 12 months, up 14.4 per cent with 311,963 offences committed in total across Victoria, according to the CSA.

"There has been a 14 per cent increase in property and deception offences recorded in the last 12 months, driven by theft, burglary/break and enter and property damage," said Fiona Dowsley, Chief Statistician at CSA.

For the year ending June 2024, the total offences recorded in South Gippsland increased by 20.3 per cent up from 1978 to 2379 with 386 of these relating to property damage and theft.

## NO ONE'S UNSINKABLE

To all those Unsinkable Guys out there –

You might think it's safe to have a few drinks around water, skip the life jacket when you're out on the boat or go for a swim without checking the conditions.

But statistics prove that 4 out of 5 drownings are men.

Just remember that no one's unsinkable.

Q UNSINKABLE GUY

RETHINK  
TAKING RISKS  
AROUND  
WATER



VICTORIA  
State  
Government



People enjoying the Preserve our Forests guided walk in the scarce and precious IPA forest in Mirboo North.

## Mirboo North forest protection on slo-mo mode

IN 2022 the Victorian State Government was given recommendations regarding the management and classification of the precious Immediate Protection Area forest area in Mirboo North, but nearly three years later are no closer to a resolution.

The Eminent Panel for Community Engagement (EPCE), made the recommendations about the Immediate Protection Area (IPA), to the Government, but they are still no closer to a permanent classification or an appropriate management plan for this important forest.

As it is one of the few Mirboo North forests remaining largely intact after the February 13 storm, the appropriate and balanced protection of the IPA is urgent.

"The Minister for Tourism and Environment, Steve Dimopoulos is in 'slo-mo' mode to commit to permanently protect the IPA, despite repeated requests by Preserve our Forests (PoF) since 2022, based on the EPCE recommendations, and after

nearly eight years of community advocacy. It is urgent that the Minister acts promptly so an adequate management plan can be implemented", PoF Convenor, Marg Thomas, explained.

Mirboo North forest suffered high-impact destruction with 50 per cent of tree canopy loss over 95 hectares and 9000 cubic metres of woody debris. This has increased pressure on the IPA and increased the scarcity of the valuable natural features found there.

Survival of wildlife, including multiple threatened species, are vulnerable to this disruption. They have been severely impacted due to injuries, fatalities, and loss of habitat.

Feed resources and vegetation corridors have been seriously affected. The IPA forest has become a critical wildlife refuge for mammal, bird, reptile, and invertebrate species, and as a seed bank for vegetative regeneration of damaged land.

The urgent declaration

of a conservation park will guarantee the future of many native species, critical habitats, and threatened ecological communities.

PoF sees it as important that people have accurate information about the natural values of the area and why the simple protections offered by a conservation park are appropriate, and not overly restrictive.

There is no intention to 'lock up' this forest from users.

In light of the Victorian Government's current turmoil in the environmental space, PoF were delighted to take a group of 40 people on a guided walk in the IPA as a component of the 'Healing in our Community' storm recovery program.

Participants commented on the healing they felt walking in such a lush forest, largely untouched by the storm. However, many were disappointed that track degradation had been allowed to continue because of the lack of management to guide motorised vehicle users.

## Three water leaks and counting in Mirboo North

GIPPSLAND Water was calling on Mirboo North residents to help find a mysterious water leak in the town last week.

"We know there is a leak somewhere in town, but we need your help locating it. Have you seen a puddle that never seems to go away? A patch of soggy ground? Water on the ground even though it hasn't rained in days?", the authority posted on Facebook.

Many comments were made by locals with a number of potential sites named, including Baths Road Reserve, the bottom of Jordan Way, Scarlett Street, and Wells Road;

many of which had already been reported.

Gippsland Water later stated they had found three different leaks in the town's water system, thanks to the help from locals.

"We're asking the community to continue to keep an eye out for any other leaks – things to look for include small puddles in unusual places, damp areas on footpaths, spongy areas of grass or areas that are much greener than surrounding areas," said a Gippsland Water spokesperson.

Meanwhile, other locals commented that 'half the town is a water bowl'.

Another resident questioned the origin of all the water asking if it was 'due to the excessive large, uprooted trees having left sinkholes?' and another replied that, 'No, it's due to lack of annual maintenance'.

Anyone who finds a suspected leak can call Gippsland Water on 1800 057 057 or visit [gipswa.com.au/leak](http://gipswa.com.au/leak).

## • A LEGAL LIFE

# The trail that remains

By Daniel Prior, Partner, Prior Law

THIS week was an exciting week for a history tragic lawyer. On Tuesday I received working drawings for the contract to build the rail line between Dandenong and Leongatha and Leongatha to Port Albert. The documents, prepared for the contractor who was building the railway in 1888, are truly remarkable. The level of detail exquisite, showing the country in the time before the rail extended through and put many towns on the map for the first time.

I will save an intimate examination of the plans for another day – I need some time and an ability to display them before I start waxing lyrical about them too much.

However, as I held the original plans, which are over 136 years old, I wondered what around me would survive that long. Sure, the pigeon hole document holder in the reception of our office might last another century or two, mainly because it is so damn substantial. The safe door, a foot thick, one of the more timeless remnants of the Westpac branch, will also be around one suspects.

However, not much else will last that long. The contract for the farm just sold will only remain in hard copy for a brief moment in time, if it ever becomes hard copy at all. Computers are great at storing voluminous amounts of data – but you need to know that it is there to start looking and the person looking needs to know that they can find it.

I was recently provided a CD rom with images on it for a case, only to realise that no-one really has CD rom drives anymore – who was going to download it? The friend with the Betamax understood the issue. Keeping everything is great – but, who is going to keep it, how are you going to access it and who is going to know it is there?

It's a sad reality that the computer on which you kept your life's work, or the cloud drive with 14 photos of the same

birthday cake trying to find just the right "shot", will likely not be reviewed by those you leave behind. Or, they may wish to access it but can't, stymied by passwords and protocols. Your family photos and your bitcoin, safe for eternity.

More people are considering what they want to do with their electronic life, but the truth is that if it is something you wish to share with those you leave behind, you should share it electronically and perhaps even in hard copy before you leave this mortal coil. This becomes even more important when you have become the family repository of the family history.

So, when you are considering your mortality, preparing to give instructions for your Will, or lying awake at night realising that the end is nearer than the start, think about what it is that you want to leave behind. You need not be too indulgent, a photo book of you with your nearest and dearest is fine. I am often discussing with people about leaving something meaningful in their Will so that the person receiving it knows you have thought about them and that you want that connection to live on.

A bit like the train line. It may be gone, but we all know it was there. As Aesop might say: It's ok to have been a train in your life, but when the train has left the station it's ok to leave a trail when your done.



As we look back upon the past year, we would like to thank our clients and local community who have helped shape our practice.

Thank you for a great year, and we wish you all the best as we all embark on the new year ahead.

Prior Law's Leongatha office will close on December 20 and reopen January 2. For urgent matters, our team members working from our other offices over the Christmas period will be happy to assist.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all the team at Prior Law.**

**PRIOR LAW**



## SOUTH GIPPSLAND'S PROPERTY LAW EXPERTS

Book your appointment today with Daniel Prior, a Partner of Prior Law and an Accredited Specialist in Property Law.

**Call (03) 5662 3401**

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[www.priorlaw.com.au](http://www.priorlaw.com.au)

FMI2027-V3

## Maximise your private health fund benefits before they expire

AS WE approach the end of the year, it's time to take a closer look at your private health fund benefits. In most cases, unclaimed optical benefits expire on December 31st, which means that unused entitlements vanish when the new year rolls in. Whether you're due for a check-up or in need of some new specs, now's the perfect time to make use of your remaining benefits and maximise your investment.

### Why you should act now

Many health funds offer optical benefits on an annual "use-it-or-lose-it" basis. This means if you don't claim them by year's end, you may miss out on entitlements you've paid for, effectively leaving money on the table. By using your benefits now, you can save on prescription glasses, sunglasses, and contact lenses, while also ensuring your eye health is in top shape heading into the new year.

### An exclusive New Year's gift for you

To help you start 2025 with even more value, we're excited to offer a \$100 voucher to everyone who redeems benefits before December 24 to be used in the new year. Terms and conditions apply, see in-store for more information.

Don't let your benefits expire! Make the most of your private health cover by booking an appointment today. As we wrap up the year, let us help you see and look your best in 2024.

Head to our website [leongathaoptometrists.com.au](http://leongathaoptometrists.com.au) or give us a call on 5662 3485 to book an eye test.

## Continuing a legacy of community support

AT CARDELL Accountants, giving back to the community has always been a cornerstone of our philosophy, established many years ago by the firm's founder, Bob Cardell and continued by the current partners.

Each year our team and clients are encouraged to contribute the names of one local and one national organisation into a donation box. Recently the selected charities for 2024 were drawn, and we are proud to announce donations of \$1,000 each to South Gippsland Animal Aid and the Royal Children's Hospital.

Over the past 13 years, Cardell Accountants has contributed more than \$61,000 to various local and national charities. This is in addition to numerous annual sponsorships of local clubs and discounted fees provided to not-for-profit organisations.

As a firm we value being able to give back to the community and make a difference to the lives of others and we are honoured to play a small role in making a difference.

Thank you to our clients and team for enabling us to continue this journey of generosity.

Together, we can achieve even more for our community in the years to come.

# CARDELL CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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and trusted business advisors**

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SUPERANNUATION**

# Mental Health and youth suicide must be a priority

INDEPENDENT candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard is advocating for improved mental health services and suicide prevention strategies in the region, following many conversations with community members.

Deb Leonard recently met with Donna Kerr from Daniel's Wings of Pride to explore solutions for bridging the gaps in mental health services.

Donna's son Daniel struggled with mental health issues throughout his teenage years. Although he was proactive in reaching out for help, the necessary supports were not available, and tragically he took his own life.

Donna believes Daniel's death could have been prevented with proper interventions. She is now committed to ensuring others do not experience similar gaps in the system.

"I don't want the same thing to happen to any other child, parent or person ever again," said Donna.

Donna has plans to facilitate a welcoming, judgment-free space in Leongatha for those seeking connection and support, offering a bereavement group and a safe place to talk.

Daniel's Wing of Pride is holding its first Bereavement Group on Thursday, January 23 from 7.30pm at Deb Leonard's campaign office at 40B Bair Street, Leongatha.

This group is free to attend and open for all those who have lost a loved one.

"Everyone is welcome to come for a confidential chat, a cuppa and some supper,"



Independent candidate for Monash Deb Leonard and Donna Kerr of Daniel's Wings of Pride are exploring solutions to bridge the mental health gap in Bass Coast and South Gippsland with the first bereavement group to be held on January 23.

explained Donna.

Daniel's Wings of Pride will help people connect with the support and services that is appropriate for them.

"We listen, without judgment, everyone is welcome."

Deb highlighted the success of a similar initiative in Traralgon run by Jason and Kerri Rantall of Better Mental, where they have created an open space for people to drop in and have a chat. This voluntary service also helps people connect with the professional supports they need.

"There are significant gaps in mental health care - from acute care to early intervention" Deb stated.

"The system is failing our community - we face higher rates of mental health issues

and suicides in regional and rural areas, yet we lack the supports that are available in city areas."

Currently, individuals with an acute mental health episode in Bass Coast must be transported to Traralgon for treatment.

"This isolates them from the supports they may have in their local area, and puts incredible strain on family members trying to support their loved one," Deb pointed out.

The situation is even more dire for those not severe enough for immediate intervention but still in need of help.

"The system does not cater for those that are on the edge but not in a serious enough state for acute care," said Deb.

She has spoken with people who have attempted to seek help at

early stage, but the closest prevention and recovery program is in Bairnsdale. This is often out of reach for those struggling, which can compound their condition and may lead to far more serious consequences including suicide.

Donna urges those experiencing mental health issues to speak up.

"If you're uncomfortable, reach out to me - I can connect you with help. It's what Daniel would have wanted."

Services need to be free Donna says, as money pressures cause situational stress and should not be a factor in people getting the help they need.

Deb Leonard says over the years she has seen the trauma caused to people and families in the community from mental health and suicide, both personally and through her work as a lawyer.

"We need to be able to provide these services at no cost and them easily accessible - it makes sense to invest in the health of our community."

If you or someone you know needs support, talk to a GP or health professional or contact:

- Beyond Blue on 1300 22 46 36 or [beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au).
- Lifeline on 13 11 14 or [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au).
- MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978 or [mensline.org.au](http://mensline.org.au).
- Kids' Helpline on 1800 551 800 or [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au).
- SuicideLine Victoria 1300 651 251, [suicideline.org.au](http://suicideline.org.au) offers free professional, confidential support, 24 hours a day, seven days a week across Victoria.

## Deb Leonard's campaign Christmas Volunteers Get Together



Neroli Raff, Jenny Leonard, Neralie Hoadley, Cait McMahon and Samiro Douglas.



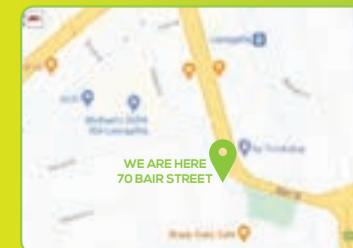
Annie Maggs, Glenda Minty, Ted Minty, Grant Maggs and Iggy the pup.

Claim your unused optical benefits before Dec 24th and we'll give you a

**\$100 GIFT VOUCHER**

to use in the new year!

Terms & Conditions apply, give us a call or visit our practice for more information.



BOOK ONLINE



# Underground transmission too expensive, they say

THE transmission lines, running from Gippsland's proposed offshore wind energy facilities, will not go underground from Giffard, near Yarram, to the Latrobe Valley.

VicGrid chief executive Alistair Parker has ruled that out as simply too expensive and unsustainable on customers' electricity bills.

Speaking on ABC Radio last Friday, Mr Parker said it would cost \$4.5 billion to put the transmission line underground, as against \$1.5 billion to run the line across farmland, on 50-metre to 76-metre-high lattice towers.

"What we find is, if we were to do it underground, it would really increase the cost, it would have a couple of other issues, but really increase the cost of the project," Mr Parker said.

"We estimate it will cost about one and a half billion, but if we were to do it underground it would be four and a half billion. And obviously that goes through the electricity bills, and we've had a lot of feedback, obviously, in the cost-of-living crisis, that people are more generally worried about electricity in terms of that longer-term offshore wind target."

Mr Parker also revealed a



**The development of offshore wind energy facilities will ultimately need two 500kV transmission lines, constructed across farming land between Giffard, near Yarram, and Loy Yang in the Latrobe Valley.**

couple of other things about the transmission of power from Gippsland's offshore wind energy facilities, the first of the transmission lines will be 500kV, not 300kV, and there has been a refinement in the transmission route study area, ruling out Holy Plains Park (near Sale) and an area west of the Loy Yang Power Station.

He also revealed that there would ultimately need to be

two 500kV transmission lines coming up from an area, six kilometres from the coast at Giffard to Loy Yang.

## New REZ map soon?

While VicGrid has announced a refinement to the offshore power connection route, it is yet to reveal details of any refinement to its renewable energy zone (REZ) study area map. That is,

areas in Victoria considered worthy of additional investigation for hosting renewable energy infrastructure including wind turbines, solar panels, batteries, and transmission lines.

Several of these 'Tier 1' study areas, viewed as most suitable for renewable energy infrastructure, are located in Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

A comprehensive final engagement report including detailed summaries of the study area feedback, and how it will help inform decisions, was to have been published by October 31, 2024.

A spokesperson for VicGrid said last month that, owing to the fact that they had received more than 930 study area feedback responses, the report was taking longer to compile.

"The comprehensive final engagement report including detailed summaries of the study area feedback, and how it will help shape the process to identify draft proposed renewable energy zones, will now be published in December."

With only a few days left until the Christmas shutdown, we have asked VicGrid to say when the report would be released.

## Man threatens Leongatha IGA staff with a cleaver

STAFF at Michael's IGA are being praised for their actions on Wednesday night (December 11) after a male produced a meat cleaver and threatened staff in an armed robbery.

It's understood the 46-year-old male from Leongatha entered the store around 8.50pm and headed straight for the liquor department.

demanded staff pay for the alcohol and provide cash, producing the cleaver when the request was denied.

Fortunately, the staff working were experienced, remained calm throughout the ordeal, and handled the situation quite well, according to IGA Manager Chris O'Leary.

"He was basically requesting for the police to be called.

He wanted to be locked up because he had nowhere to sleep for the night. He was claiming he was homeless, and he was under the influence of something as well," said Mr O'Leary.

Staff calmly asked the man to leave without handing over any cash. The man complied and left the store with a couple of bottles of beer.

Staff reported the matter

directly to police, who have since identified the male offender.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the armed robbery, with those in the store or nearby asked to contact Leading Senior Constable Mathers at Leongatha Police Station 5662 2285 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or [crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime).

## Travelling safe on extreme heat days

PASSENGERS travelling on the V/Line network this summer are encouraged to plan ahead and familiarise themselves with extreme heat timetables.

V/Line Executive Director Operations Rochelle Reynolds said there were extra precautions in place on days forecast to be above 36 degrees.

"Safety is our top priority and on those really hot days, steel tracks can expand in the heat which is why trains may run at slower speeds, or be replaced by coaches when necessary," Rochelle said.

"Passengers can plan their trip with confidence using extreme heat timetables on those really hot days, when temperatures reach 36 degrees and above."

"Information about these timetables can be accessed on the V/Line website, or passengers can speak with our staff."

It's commonplace around the world for trains to slow down as a safety precaution on days of extreme heat. No V/Line train, scheduled coach or replacement coach services will operate in a fire district while a catastrophic fire danger rating is in place.

Passengers can download a copy of the extreme heat timetable for their corridor at [vline.com.au](http://vline.com.au).

## COUNCIL BRIEFS

### Still talking to us?

BASS Coast Council watcher, John Trigt, asked council last week if it intended to recommence Monthly Community Connection Sessions after they were discontinued during COVID.

Response: Additional community engagement opportunities are being considered. There are a variety of ways for the community to connect with Council including via Engage Bass Coast, at community pop-ups and events, social media or customer requests. Community members with concerns are also welcome to contact customer service or reach out to their Ward Councillors directly.

There is some doubt, however, about all councillors being prepared to answer their council-supplied mobile phone.

### Climate change member to 2028

IN ANSWER to a query from Kevin Griffin, the Bass Coast Shire Council has revealed that it renewed its MOU with the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance Inc until June 30, 2028.

The 2019 Memorandum of Understanding was due to expire on June 30, 2024 but has been renewed.

## Bin collection changes for Christmas

- There are no kerbside bin collections on Christmas Day (Wednesday, 25 December)
- If you're in Bass, Grantville, Pioneer Bay, Jam Jerrup, The Gurdies, Lang Lang, Silverleaves and Cowes please put your Recycling and Organics bins out on Christmas Night (Wednesday night) for collection on Boxing Day (Thursday morning)
- If you're in Inverloch please put your Landfill and Organics bins out on Christmas Night (Wednesday night) for collection on Boxing Day (Thursday morning)
- Boxing Day collections will start earlier than usual – please make sure your bins are out before 5.00am for residential properties and 4.30am for commercial properties
- Trucks may be labelled differently to the bins they are collecting, but please rest assured all waste is being disposed of appropriately
- Weekly Recycling bin collections start on Friday, 27 December until Friday, 24 January 2025.

For a copy of the bin collection calendar scan the QR code, visit [basscoast.vic.gov.au/bincalendar](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au/bincalendar) or contact Council's Waste Services Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211



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# Go headhunting this summer

DESTINATION Gippsland have announced a new partnership with Goheadhunt – a recruitment platform designed to help Gippsland businesses streamline their hiring processes.

Destination Gippsland's partnership with Goheadhunt is an extension of the broader Victorian Tourism Industry Council (VTIC) alignment, which solidifies the platform as the go-to jobs board for candidates ranging from graduates, professionals and those returning to work, through to working holiday makers or those moving to Australia.

Employers set up a company profile to easily search from a pool of candidates. They can then view applicant profiles and pre-recorded interviews to evaluate, connect and make hiring decisions.

From the candidate's perspective, applicants can streamline their job search by loading one application and one interview on Goheadhunt, then waiting as employers find and reach out to connect all via the platform on goheadhunt.com.au.

"Finding the right staff can be a challenge for tourism and hospitality operators, particularly when we take seasonal fluctuations into account," Destination Gippsland CEO Terry Robinson said.

"This partnership with Goheadhunt acts as a streamlined virtual job board for Gippsland's tourism and hospitality businesses. Our aim is to help industry find the staff they need. Tourism employs over 12,000 people in Gippsland and provides services and experiences to over seven million visitors per year. This initiative is one of many that Destination Gippsland provides to support the visitor economy in Gippsland."



Professor Ben Rubenstein, University of Melbourne and Rafael Munilla, Chief Business Development Officer, Ocean Winds sign the Memorandum of Understanding.

## Ocean Winds teams with University of Melbourne for offshore wind energy opportunities

OCEAN Winds (OW) has formalised a partnership with the University of Melbourne by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU marks a determined commitment to drive offshore wind projects within the country while exchanging insights between University of Melbourne experts and Ocean Winds specialists.

The purpose of this collaboration is to advance offshore wind energy through pioneering research and innovation, with a particular emphasis on minimising environmental and measurement constraints.

Key areas of focus include

marine science, climate impacts, transmission, environmental considerations and technological advancements relevant to offshore wind in Australia, aligned with key priorities such as developing enhanced environmental assessment methodologies, monitoring strategies and predictive tools to ensure optimal outcomes for both energy transition and wildlife conservation.

This agreement is a critical step toward the development of High Sea Wind, Ocean Winds' offshore wind project off the coast of Gippsland. Ocean Winds holds a feasibility license for this project, which

will provide an installed capacity of 1.28 GW – sufficient to power one million Victorian households annually and prevent up to 5.3 million tonnes of CO2 emissions per year. This initiative aligns closely with Victoria's ambitious offshore wind targets.

To support the emerging offshore wind industry in Australia, the University of Melbourne has partnered with several universities to establish the Australian Centre for Offshore Wind Energy (ACOWE). This national, interdisciplinary initiative aims to deliver evidence-based solutions and a new, skilled workforce to

enable sustainable offshore wind development for the benefit of Australia.

"A collaborative approach is crucial to meeting Victoria's offshore wind targets in a socially, culturally and environmentally responsible manner," Associate Professor Shiao Huey Chow, Director of ACOWE said.

"We are delighted to take steps in shaping the Australian offshore wind industry, hand-in-hand with one of the key stakeholders in the renewables energy research field: the University of Melbourne," Rafael Munilla, Chief Business Development Officer of Ocean Winds added.

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#### 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

#### 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

**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](mailto:basscoastagshow@hotmail.com) for a program or any enquiries



Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve Korumburra Rd Wonthaggi



Follow us on facebook:  
Bass Coast - Wonthaggi Summer Show

# Community groups benefit from Delburn Windfarm grants

THE DELBURN Wind Farm has awarded \$15,000 in grants to assist local community groups in delivering meaningful projects that make a difference to their communities.

OSMI received \$80,000 in applications and grants have been awarded to a diverse range of groups including five in Mirboo North.

"We have allocated the grants to groups that will deliver community-focused projects boosting local connections, health and wellbeing, and the environment," said Mr Peter Marriott, Executive Director Development at OSMI Australia.

Grants were delivered to:

- Mirboo North Pony Club to purchase an arena rake to assist volunteers with the maintenance of the surface of their two arenas. Using the rake will ensure the arena surface remains level and safe for riding, as well as reduce the number of weeds growing on the surfaces. Pony club members come from a variety of localities surrounding Mirboo North.

- Friends of the Lyrebird Forrest Walk will purchase a whipper snipper and motor-driven pole-saw to provide ongoing maintenance of the Lyrebird Walk and Grand Ridge Rail Trail, between Mirboo North and Boolarra. The tools will help the team in managing the amenity of both areas for



The Mirboo North Market Committee was one of the community groups awarded a grant from the Delburn Wind Farm. ob06\_5124

the enjoyment and safety of locals and tourists.

- Gippsland Writers Network will host two workshops for emerging writers. Experienced tutors will deliver education sessions by assisting participants to write freely without self-imposed barriers that often plague writers. The workshops will boost the writing skills and wellbeing of participants.

- Mirboo North Market Committee will fund musicians to perform at the Mirboo North Market, enhancing the atmosphere so people can stay and enjoy the music. It will create new opportunities for talented

local musicians to perform, as they do not always receive the exposure and volume of work that metropolitan performers get.

- Mirboo North United Football Club will receive funding to purchase a set of mobile senior-sized goals. The mobile goals posts will boost health and wellbeing, and support members to develop excellent training skills so they can be their best as a team and as individuals.

Mr Marriott said the community benefits grants would increase when construction commences, currently planned for mid-2025.

"Once construction is

underway, the Delburn Wind Farm Community Development Fund will increase to around \$150,000 per year. This will provide more opportunities for the community to bring their more ambitious ideas to life.

"Since the project was announced in 2019, the Delburn Wind Farm has awarded over \$60,000 in pre-development funding grants to assist local groups to deliver vital community projects.

"We will continue to support near neighbours and local residents surrounding the Delburn Wind Farm to provide direct value to local communities," Mr Marriott said.

Don't let your campfire become a bushfire this Summer

FIRE authorities and public land managers have called on anyone camping in Victorian parks, reserves and forests this summer to check the conditions and brush up on campfire safety.

The Conservation Regulator, Parks Victoria, and Forest Fire Management Victoria are reminding campers to act responsibly and be campfire-safe to prevent bushfires, particularly as the weather warms up.

Many people try to put out campfires incorrectly with soil, or not enough water to extinguish them completely. Fires that haven't been properly extinguished can smoulder under soil for days and reignite in the right conditions.

Before you light a fire check fire restrictions and for any Total Fire Ban restrictions. Download the VicEmergency app to stay informed.

People who breach campfire regulations on public land face fines of \$577 or a maximum penalty of \$19,231 if the matter is prosecuted in court. The maximum penalty for lighting or maintaining a fire during a Total Fire Ban is \$46,154 and/or two years in jail.

Report unattended campfires to 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire. For more on campfire skills go to [vic.gov.au/campfires-stoves-and-bbqs](http://vic.gov.au/campfires-stoves-and-bbqs).



## OFFSHORE GAS DRILLING CONSULTATION

Emperor Energy is an Australian explorer searching for new gas supplies in the **Bass Strait** to help improve the current and projected shortage of gas in eastern Australia.

While drilling activities will be focussed around 40kms offshore Marlo, oil spill modelling suggests in the unlikely event of a loss of well control, coastal and marine areas off **southern NSW, east and south-east Victoria, and north-east Tasmania** could be affected.

If you are an individual or organisation that has functions, interests or activities in these areas, please contact us at [Stakeholder@emperorenergy.com.au](mailto:Stakeholder@emperorenergy.com.au) and we will send you further information that will help you determine how you may be affected.

You can then advise how you would like us to consult with you to mitigate any potential impacts and risks from our proposed activities

For more information, please download our information sheet from the following link or via the QR code:  
<https://emperorenergy.com.au/exploration-well-environment-plan-stakeholder-consultation/>



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and 6.45pm for 2nd session

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\*Closed New Years Day: Wednesday, January 1, 2025  
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It's a family affair for Ray Mackay and family of Lakes Entrance with grandchildren Ava, four-year-old Colby and Lilly all involved as well as son Ashley a former Australian champion.



Nathan Peter of Metcalfe near Kyneton with his KTM 250 powered lawn mower but there's little beyond the look of a ride-on mower that remains in this specially built racing machine.



Estella Tang of Leongatha with Keanu Atkins giving one of the racing lawnmowers a try at the Welshpool Recreation Reserve on Saturday.



Glen Ford of Malmsbury with his racing lawnmower powered by a KTM 250 SXF racing engine, ready for action at Welshpool on Saturday.



Ray Mackay of Lakes Entrance dictates terms from the front in a heat of the C Class lawn mower racing at Welshpool last Saturday.

## Thrilling action at Welshpool as lawnmowers race

IT HAS taken the organisers of the lawnmower racing event at Welshpool six years to get back to where they were after running their first race days in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

And it was a delighted secretary of the Welshpool Recreation Reserve Committee of Management Madeline Mason who declared last Saturday's event a roaring success.

"Our first three events in 2016, 2017 and 2018 were great, raising important funds for the upkeep of the reserve and the basketball stadium.

"But we've been hit by the weather and COVID since then and it seems like forever since we've had a day like this."

And the members of the Australian Ride-On Lawn Mower Racing Association really came out in force with upwards of 30 entries across four classes of racing; A Grade, B Grade, C Grade and Juniors.

"It's been great today, with the weather and the exciting racing and the



A popular visitor to the Welshpool Lawnmower Racing was Father Christmas.

local community has really come out and supported it," Mrs Mason said.

"It's a real family sport and we've added some rides for the kids and plenty to eat and drink. We're really grateful for the support."

The action on the track was fast and furious. A roar went up from the lawnmowers and the crowd as they started each event, and there

was plenty of interest as the skilled drivers drifted into the corners and attempted risky passes while sending the grass and dust flying behind the wheels of their powerful machines.

"The only thing about these mowers that comes from a lawnmower are the back, the bonnet and the side steps. Everything else is about racing," said Nathan Peter of Metcalfe

near Kyneton.

"How fast, I couldn't tell you. Quick enough when you have up to a 450cc engine in a ride-on lawnmower. It's a lot of fun."

The fans thought so too, with many of them crowding the safety rope for a closer look at the action.

After finally making a successful return last weekend, expect to see it back again in December next year... don't miss it!



*Wishing everyone a very happy and safe Christmas from all at St. Joseph's Parish Wonthaggi.*

### 2024 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

#### St Joseph's Catholic Church Wonthaggi:

Christmas Eve - 6.30pm (Christmas Music from 6pm TBC)  
Christmas Day - 10.30am

New Year's Day Mass - 9.30am at Wonthaggi

#### Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church Inverloch:

Christmas Eve - 5pm (Christmas Music from 4.30pm)

Christmas Day - 9am

New Year's Eve Mass - 6.30pm at Inverloch

## Meenyan Community Carols

**MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 23**

Tanderra Park, Meenyan

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

*Sponsored by the local community and church.*

**ALL WELCOME**

# New-look Quiet Room for GSHS

A NEW-look Quiet Room at Gippsland Southern Health's Leongatha hospital is giving visitors a more inviting place to rest and reflect.

The room was formerly designated as a multi-faith prayer room but has a new name and a new look designed to be more inclusive.

The revamp has happened following suggestions from the GSHS Community Advisory Committee.

Committee member Lyn Yeomans said the room needed to be more friendly and inviting.

"Committee members were asked to have a look at the room and we thought it wasn't really functional," Mrs Yeomans said.

"It was just a plain room with a bit of furniture and a small kitchen, and it didn't invite anyone to come in."

Members of the committee rearranged some of the furniture, changed the chairs so they were facing into the room, added cushions, some extra artwork, plants and a basket with rugs, and added a small water feature.

More resources have been included in the cupboards if people want something to do or read. There are existing prayer books in the room and other reading material has been added to the mix.

"People can pray if they want, but it is a quiet room for anyone," Mrs Yeomans said.

The kitchen has also been better stocked with supplies.

Mrs Yeomans said every hospital needed a quiet space for people to use, especially if they



Lyn Yeomans and Marion Dewar reflect on the new Quiet Room created at Gippsland Southern Health's Leongatha hospital.

were emotional or stressed.

"It needs to be a spot for someone to sit if they are using the hospital and feel like they are in a space that's really comforting," she said.

"We made it look less clinical."

Fellow committee member Marion Dewar said people had been storing things in the room and it wasn't being used as much as it should.

"I'm a practising Christian

and it would have been lovely to use the room to visit with a patient, but it was not very inviting," Mrs Dewar said.

"It was named as a multi-faith room but didn't look that way with a cross that invited only one faith. The book that people can write in was on display so that anyone could see it and that is not appropriate."

She notes that the resources cupboard includes prayer mats and shawls amongst other

items that will aid people of all faiths in their time of reflection.

While the room was built for religious purposes as a multi-faith room, Mrs Dewar added that people with no religious affiliation should feel welcome to use the facilities, which are wheelchair accessible.

The room can be used by visitors, patients and staff.

"We feel now that's it's much more inviting and friendly," Mrs Dewar added.

Two weeks free, all for a heart check

LATROBE Health Services last week announced it is giving members two weeks free\* on completion of a free Shane Warne Legacy Health Check this holiday season.

Ian Whitehead, CEO of Latrobe Health Services, said, "We are committed to giving back to our members through community initiatives that improve health outcomes and facilitate preventative care. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Australia, with regional and rural areas disproportionately affected. We are committed to supporting ongoing community programs and investing in our members' health and wellbeing."

To apply head to your nearest Shane Warne Legacy health station between December 9, 2024 and January 23, 2025. To find a location in your local area, please visit [shanewarnelegacy.com/pages/heart-test](http://shanewarnelegacy.com/pages/heart-test).

- Complete a free Shane Warne Legacy Health Check.
- Submit a screenshot of your post-check SISU Health email as proof of your health check via [latrobehealth.com.au/two-weeks-free](http://latrobehealth.com.au/two-weeks-free) by 11.59pm, January 23, 2025 (no health data will be shared).

A Shane Warne Legacy Health Check is available to anyone over the age of 18 and provides instant insights into your cardiovascular risk factors such as heart rate, blood pressure, heart age, BMI and risk of diabetes.

Important information: This promotion is not available to corporate members or those holding a membership for less than 30 days due to existing discounts. T&Cs and further information are available at [latrobehealth.com.au/two-weeks-free](http://latrobehealth.com.au/two-weeks-free).



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# Cut 360 offers revolutionary approach



**A new machine means no more waiting for Hepatitis C results at Latrobe Community Health.**

## A new machine that tests for Hepatitis C expected to save lives

GIPPSLANDERS at risk of Hepatitis C can now get results within an hour of testing for the bloodborne virus.

A new machine at Latrobe Community Health Service has drastically reduced the time and invasiveness of former Hepatitis C testing, and opens the door for more people to test for the infection.

"Where results may have previously taken up to a week and multiple appointments to confirm, this test can confirm the infection within 60 minutes," ISHY Community Health Nurse Neal Daly said.

The new machine works by taking a small prick of blood from the finger, instead of requiring a blood test. The quick results mean we can support people when they receive their diagnosis, and we can get their treatment started sooner."

Hepatitis C is a bloodborne virus that affects the liver. Sharing injecting equipment and getting a tattoo or body piercing with unsterile equipment are common ways you can get the infection. Hepatitis C is curable, but without treatment it can cause liver disease and liver cancer.

The new machine at Latrobe Community Health Service is part of the Federal Government's National Hepatitis C Point of Care Testing program, which aims to eliminate the infection by 2030.

"Hepatitis C is very much treatable, but people are reluctant to seek testing or care for the infection due to stigma, shame, or not believing there's a possibility of having it. But Hepatitis C is out there, and testing and treatment is important to minimise the risk of transmission within the community, and to reduce the potential of liver damage or liver cancer for those who have it," Mr Daly said.

Anyone seeking help for Hepatitis C can phone 1800 242 696 for free, non-judgemental care and ask to be referred to the Liverwise or Hepatitis C nurse. You can also drop into The Hub at 81-87 Buckley Street Morwell, from Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm to be referred.

## Probus members blossom on Bendigo adventure

MEMBERS of Wonthaggi-Inverloch Probus, and friends, recently enjoyed a bus tour with 'Tour Local' to Bendigo and surrounds. This tour included so many beautiful places including the Lotus Statue at the Bendigo Chinese Museum. With plenty of fun to be had reach out to Wonthaggi-Inverloch Probus for details on how to join and upcoming events.

KORUMBURRA business Cut 360 continues to live up to its mantra of 'revolutionary tree services' with more new equipment arriving early next year.

An American-made Timber-Pro highlights the additions and will be ideal for large tree felling operations, able to handle substantial tonnage and complement Cut 360's existing chipping operations.

A new miniature tree handler will be perfect for backyard jobs and other suburban work such as council cleanups.

"It's making the business more efficient and producing better outcomes for the customer," owner Andrew Buchanan said of the upcoming arrivals.

He ventures overseas every year scouting out what is new and on the way.

Cut 360 is adding a variety of services in 2025, including woodchip spreading, plantation harvesting, and large pine and cypress removal in steep country, as well as full stump and root grinding that is ideal for paddock recovery.

The TimberPro, arriving in January, is self-leveling in steep country.

Cut 360 already offers safe tree dismantling and removals.

The business provides bulk woodchip sales including high-quality chips for farming purposes such as calf sheds and animal bedding, having previously invested in an impressive Albach machine featuring a drum engineered to produce the quality of woodchips farmers desire.

Cut 360 offers free quotes.

Friday's Cut 360 Christmas party proved a drawcard for other business operators from the local area and customers.

Josh Almond of Burra Car & 4x4 was one of the attendees, having had trees removed by Cut 360 and praising the work ethic of Andrew and his crew. Josh noted his business partner went out with a broom to tidy up after they left, happily finding nothing left to do.

Andrew's laid-back personality and sense of humour and the generous hospitality on offer made for a great night for those at Friday's party.

Despite his relaxed demeanour, the Cut 360 owner is committed to providing professional service.



**Cut 360 owner Andrew Buchanan makes a gregarious host at the business' Christmas party.** A18\_5124



**Josh and Julia Almond of Burra Car & 4x4 enjoy the festive hospitality at Cut 360.** A19\_5124

## HVP Plantations prepare for a long hot summer

IN RECENT months, HVP Plantations (HVP) has ramped up its preparations for the fast-approaching fire season. With forecasts of increased bushfire risks across parts of Victoria this summer, HVP is working alongside the Country Fire Authority (CFA), to protect its plantations and local regional communities.

HVP is responsible for significant land across Victoria and its staff play a vital role in fire preparedness and community protection.

HVP's Fire Management Forester for the Gippsland region, Gaby Mitchell, said that HVP has taken proactive steps to prepare for the increased fire risk.

"Seasonal conditions have changed in recent weeks and the fire season is shaping up to be hot. We need to be well prepared, especially as we have already attended a couple of fires," Ms Mitchell said.



**HVP Plantations (HVP) has ramped up its preparations for the fast-approaching fire season working alongside the Country Fire Authority (CFA), to protect its plantations and local regional communities.**

"In addition to our annual maintenance on our fire tankers and slip-on units, we have also added a new medium fire tanker unit to our fleet to bolster our ability to respond to fire threats. Alongside

enhancing our equipment resources, we also have three new crew members. Critically, all staff and contractors attended our annual fire training day."

Within the Gippsland region,

HVP has more than 110 active firefighters, 45 firefighting vehicles, including 10 fire tankers and a water-bombing helicopter.

"It's important to be ready early. Our staff are prepared to respond wherever our resources are needed across the Gippsland region," said Ms Mitchell.

"Our priority over the coming months is to ensure community safety and protect our plantations. We will continue to work closely with the CFA to ensure we are as prepared as possible for any upcoming fire threat."

With more than 200 trained firefighters and seven Foresty Industry Brigades across the state, HVP's commitment to safety and preparedness is a year-round effort, with significant resources dedicated to clearing and maintaining hundreds of kilometres of roads, tracks and firebreaks.

## The Inverloch VIEW Club ends 2024 on a high note



**Heather (Club President) and new Inverloch VIEW members Jenny and Stephanie.**

that makes Inverloch such a wonderful place to live; and a successful Bunnings BBQ fundraiser with proceeds going to the Smith Family to support disadvantaged children.

The Inverloch View club has just inducted two new members, Jenny and Stephanie. The club has now added 14 new members for the year and is presently sponsoring eight

students under the Smith Family program.

VIEW club members were also proud to see their club President receive the Community Gem Award from the local state member Jordan Crugnale which was recognition for all the hard work that President Heather has put in during her presidency and of the work of the VIEW club more generally.

Wish to discover more about the VIEW Club, its connection with the Smith Family and how you can participate in or support the Inverloch club?

Contact President Heather on 0412 463344.

General information about the Smith Family and VIEW club is available at the following websites: [view.org.au](http://view.org.au), [thesmithfamily.com.au](http://thesmithfamily.com.au) and [thesmithfamily.com.au/get-involved/view-club](http://thesmithfamily.com.au/get-involved/view-club).



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## New tech and safety for 300 series

TOYOTA'S LandCruiser 300 Series SUV range is set to gain the latest generation safety and multimedia technologies across the six-variant line-up when the refreshed range arrives in Australian showrooms in the second quarter of 2025.

The legendary off-roader will also be augmented with additional comfort and convenience features to further improve its appeal to off-roaders, adventurers and families alike.

All LandCruiser 300 Series variants from the entry-level GX grade to the top-of-the-range Sahara ZX gain an enhanced range of Toyota Safety Sense active safety technologies.

This latest generation driver assistance technology now includes lane trace assist with steering wheel vibration, and emergency steering assist – functions that were previously only offered on VX grade and above – and emergency driving stop system, all standard across the range.<sup>1</sup>

All GXL and above grades that are fitted with blind spot monitor also gain additional functionality with the addition of Toyota's safe exit assist feature that warns of vehicles or cyclists approaching from the rear while the GXL grade also gains rear parking support brake, which can help avoid collisions with objects and vehicles when reversing.

Toyota Connected Services safety and convenience functionality has also been expanded with new features for all LandCruiser 300 Series variants including remote air conditioning operation, vehicle and recent trip information, and additional alerts, through the myToyota Connect smartphone app.

In addition to the safety and multimedia technology upgrades across the range, several variants gain additional equipment to improve comfort and convenience with the GX grade benefitting from new power adjustment for the tilt and telescopic steering wheel, front LED interior lighting and guidelines for the reversing camera.

The GXL steps up the luxury with new suede-like fabric upholstery, eight-way powered driver's seat adjustment with lumbar support, four-zone automatic climate control (previously dual-zone), a centre console cool box and 40/20/40 split-folding second-row seats with a centre armrest.

The mid-spec VX gains eight-way power adjustment for the front passenger seat, while access to the cargo area is made easier with a powered tailgate. Specification for the Sahara and luxurious Sahara ZX carries over unchanged, while the off-road flagship GR Sport adds a puddle lamp on the inside of the tailgate to improve visibility when unloading at night.

Further details on the LandCruiser 300 Series range including pricing and full specification will be announced closer to its Australian arrival in the second quarter of 2025.

## Test drive the new-generation Prado today

THE new-generation LandCruiser Prado SUV, launched last month, offers a bold redesign paired with significant improvements in drivability, off-road capability, safety, technology, and functionality. Built on the robust TNGA-F architecture shared with the larger LandCruiser 300 Series, the Prado introduces Toyota's latest driver assistance, multimedia, and active safety technologies, as well as the innovative 48-volt V-Active powertrain combined with a new eight-speed automatic transmission.

Toyota's Vice President of Sales, Marketing, and Franchise Operations, Sean Hanley, highlighted the model's appeal, stating, "Australians love the LandCruiser Prado for its family-friendly amenity, supreme off-road ability, and the durability and reliability that makes it worthy of the LandCruiser nameplate. The all-new model elevates these qualities, offering stylish design, enhanced technology, and greater comfort."

The Prado's five-variant lineup includes GX, GXL, VX, the off-road-focused Altitude, and the top-tier Kakadu. Each model features the new V-Active powertrain and full-time all-wheel drive. The upgraded TNGA-F ladder-frame chassis provides a 60mm longer wheelbase, wider front and rear tracks, and increased overall dimensions, resulting in improved interior space and stability.



Advanced TNGA-F architecture enhances stability, comfort, and performance for urban and off-road adventures.

The exterior design, inspired by classic LandCruisers, blends retro aesthetics with functional benefits, while the interior boasts advanced technology, improved comfort, and space for five or seven passengers, depending on the variant. All models include Toyota's latest multimedia system with a 12.3-inch touchscreen, wireless Apple CarPlay®, Android Auto™, and cloud-based satellite navigation.

Powering the Prado is a 2.8-litre turbo-diesel four-cylinder engine, augmented by the 48-volt system for smoother performance and better fuel efficiency. Generating 150kW and 500Nm, the engine is paired with an

eight-speed automatic transmission, dual-range transfer case, and Torsen® limited-slip centre differential. The Altitude variant further enhances off-road capability with a rear differential lock and front stabilizer disconnect mechanism for increased wheel articulation.

Driver assistance features include vehicle stability control, downhill assist, crawl control, and multi-terrain systems tailored to different surfaces like dirt, mud, and sand. Safety is paramount, with Toyota Safety Sense technologies offering adaptive cruise control, autonomous emergency braking, lane-keeping assist, blind spot monitoring, and a driver monitor camera.

Inside, the Prado caters to varying needs. Priced from \$72,500, the GX features durable fabric upholstery, manual front seat adjustments, and a 7.0-inch digital instrument cluster. Moving up to the GXL adds third-row seating, synthetic leather upholstery, a powered tailgate, and rear air conditioning. The VX offers leather-accented upholstery, a refrigerated centre console, and a premium 14-speaker JBL® audio system. The off-road-oriented Altitude gains additional conveniences like a head-up display and heated steering wheel, while the flagship Kakadu includes luxury touches such as a panoramic moonroof, illuminated side steps, and second-row heated seats.

Toyota backs the Prado with a five-year, unlimited-kilometre warranty and capped-price servicing at \$390 per service for the first 10 services. Customers can also opt for a full-service lease, bundling maintenance, repairs, insurance, and more into a single monthly payment.

With a choice of eight exterior colours, including unique options like Ningaloo Blue and Tanami Taupe for the Altitude grade, the new LandCruiser Prado combines style, capability, and practicality for urban commutes and off-road adventures alike.

Test drive the all-new Prado at Wonthaggi Toyota today. Head in store to 346 Bass Highway.

## Inaugural Car Club Apprenticeship Awardees named



Alix Veale and Max Slinger were announced as this years recipients of the Rob Cowie and Vin Slinger Awards respectively.

MONDAY, November 25 witnessed the G.H.A.C. South Gippsland Branch inaugural "Apprentice of the Year" program launched in conjunction with TAFE Gippsland (Leongatha).

As we all know, there is a desperate shortage of new apprentices, particularly the "Motor Trades". This is a five-year program and is South Gippsland Branch's attempt to encourage people to take up trades.

The awareness program is divided into two categories and named after two of our branches more popular (and sadly missed members).

• The Rob Cowie encouragement award: This is aimed at first year apprentices who demonstrate a high level of potential and enthusiasm for their trade.

- The Vin Slinger award for trade excellence: This is for the final year apprentice who has demonstrated the highest academic and trade knowledge.

Nominations are made by the trade lecturers from TAFE and each award winner receives a purchased voucher from a local tool supply outlet (in this instance Repco Leongatha), a certificate and 12-month membership for our car club.

We are proud to announce that this year (and our inaugural winners) are.

- Rob Cowie Award: Alix Veale
- Vin Slinger Award: Max Slinger

Many thanks to TAFE Gippsland for putting on a great day for us, not to mention a BBQ lunch for all who attended. Thanks to our members who attended and brought their cars for the morning.

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93,137kms, 6 speed manual SUV SN: W1014590

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**40,990 DRIVE AWAY**

2,044kms, 10 speed CVT auto SUV SN: 11634963



**2020 Ford Ranger Wildtrak PX MkIII**  
**47,990 DRIVE AWAY**

90,531kms, 6 speed CVT auto double cab SN: L101268



**2016 Ford Ranger XLT PX Mk II**  
**26,990 DRIVE AWAY**

171,862kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 double cab SN: L101244



**2020 Toyota Hiace LWB**  
**33,990 DRIVE AWAY**

189,262kms, 6 speed CVT auto van SN: L101265



**2021 Hyundai i30**  
**23,990 DRIVE AWAY**

50,407kms, 6 speed CVT auto hatch SN: L101266



**2020 Toyota Hilux SR5**  
**50,990 DRIVE AWAY**

91,932kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 double cab SN: L101248



**2017 Toyota Landcruiser Prado Kakadu**  
**46,990 DRIVE AWAY**

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Leongatha VIC 3953  
T (03) 5662 2302  
LMCT 8179  
leongathatoyota.com.au



**OH WHAT A FEELING**

## Sentinel-Times

### COMMENT

#### Abuse of power not helping anyone

SUCH is the stress that's already impacting the electricity network on the eastern side of Australia that it would have been a miracle if we got through Monday's intense heat without widespread blackouts.

But it's a picnic compared to what's looming in this country unless the political parties stop brawling over an issue that's far too important for political point-scoring.

And that goes for both major parties, the Greens, the Teals and the independents.

Imagine, for example, the bloody-mindedness that had to be brought to bear on the science for the Federal and State governments to initially produce an energy transition plan that didn't include a role for gas.

Equally, on the other side, you've got to be cynical about the Coalition's assessment that the cost of nuclear-based electricity will be cheaper in the long run than Chris Bowen's mainly renewables plan when it doesn't compare apples with apples.

Surely, it's got to be about the science, right?

Most people support a system with as much renewable energy generation as is practicable, affordable, sustainable and deliverable in the timeframe. It should be an easy calculation to set limits on how hard and fast you can go in transition based on available technology, and if necessary, with some hard decision to be made about how long you need to keep coal in the mix and what role gas and possibly nuclear might play to keep the system stable.

Take the South Gippsland Hospital at Foster, for example, they've added three new generators to the energy mix at their hospital, to combat the impact of power outages. You'll see a lot more of that in anticipation of the system becoming more unstable with too much reliance on renewables. Have they factored that in?

What the community wants and is entitled to is the truth.

Are we on track to meet both our targets for transition to renewables and our target for emissions? And will Chris Bowen's plan, already in progress, really deliver competitively priced and reliable power?

Why not hand over both the government's energy plan and the Opposition's plan to an independent authority that can produce an assessment of both plans and potentially identify a combination of the two that works best?

And it will need to be done quickly with an announcement to be made soon on sites in South Gippsland to be offered up to wind turbine developers and for high-voltage transmission lines, as well as the looming Federal election, likely between March and May next year.

Coal-powered generation companies are also making plans to shut down power stations that we might still need. Perhaps it's a good thing the election is coming up soon. There's no time to waste.

#### Christmas wishes

AS CHRISTMAS and for many, the holidays rapidly approach, may I take this opportunity to thank you for the contribution you make to our beautiful eastern Victoria region.

Our streets are a hive of activity. It is good to see our small businesses busy as Christmas events draw people to our town hubs and CBDs to shop and

## Vox Pop

### What do you want for Christmas?



**Bruce Witton**

Korumburra  
"Happiness."



**Jordan Cleator**

Meeniyan  
"To spend more time with the people around me. I don't really need anything else to be honest."



**Lisa Monson**

Krowera  
"A throw over beach dress for after work."



**Tom Walker**

Outtrim  
"Some good footy boots."

dine locally.

The holiday season is a wonderful opportunity to touch base with neighbours and friends and spend time with loved ones.

Kindness and compassion are ever present in our region with many examples of locals helping locals.

It has been heartwarming to see charities receiving donations of toys, clothing, and food hampers to share with households where budgets are especially tight.

To all those who have donated, looked in on a neighbour or gone out of your way to show kindness, I thank you for your generosity.

This year signalled my ninth representing eastern Victoria in state parliament, and it is an honour that I continue to cherish and never take for granted.

I am deeply committed to our region's prosperity and the wonderful people and communities making up our rich fabric.

Remaining focused on advocating for those in need and fighting for our fair share, it is time for a short break, a reset and return renewed for the new year.

The roads will be busy as tourists flock to our coastal towns over the summer break. If you are travelling on our roads, please take care, be patient and always drive to the conditions.

May you celebrate Christmas with love in the way of your choice and may peace, good health and happiness be your foundation to begin 2025.

**Melina Bath MP, The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria Region**

#### Don't go at it alone this festive season

THE festive season can be a joyous time for many people, as they take a well-earned break from work and school and spend time with family and friends. It's a time to rest and reset for the new year.

Yet for others, this time of year can be particularly difficult, and the holidays may not feel "jolly" at all. It can bring additional financial pressures, relationship strain, or pressure to host the perfect Christmas. The season to be merry can also amplify feelings of isolation and loneliness, especially for those who are separated from family or have lost a loved one.

So, as we head into the holiday break, regardless of what you're dealing with, please know that you don't have to face this time alone.

The Beyond Blue Support Service is free, confidential, and available around the clock, including on Christmas day.

You can call 1300 22 46 36 or chat online to us at [beyondblue.org.au/get-support](http://beyondblue.org.au/get-support).

It's really common to put off seeking help because we can't quite find the words to express our needs.

But when you contact us, you don't have to know what to say. Our skilled counsellors will meet you where you're at and guide you towards where you need to be.

And finally, a big thank you to everyone who has donated to Beyond Blue this year. Our support service is run purely on donations, so your kindness and generosity allow us to always be there when people need us the most.

**Georgie Harman, CEO of Beyond Blue**

#### A safe and festive Christmas

ANOTHER year has flown by, and as I take a moment to reflect on the year that was, I would like to express my gratitude for another year as the Member for Gippsland South.

Thank you to each and every person who helps make Gippsland South the wonderful place that it is to work and live.

As we approach the holiday season, I would also like to convey my gratefulness to those who will sacrifice time with their loved ones in service to our community. Please know that you are appreciated and thought of warmly.

Please help ease the burden on our emergency workers by obeying road rules, playing safe by the water, drinking responsibly and showing care for one another.

I extend my sincerest wishes for a safe and festive Christmas and New Year to all.

May we all enter the New Year with peace, love and hope in our hearts.

**Danny O'Brien MP, The Nationals Member for Gippsland South**

#### Less backslapping, more action at Inverloch

BASS Coast Shire Council's latest response to calls for urgent action to stop erosion at Inverloch surf beach is utterly inadequate.

I was shocked to see that while some councillors were falling over each other in the rush to congratulate officers for the reports being produced, all councillors seem to have missed the fact that they have been sold a pup in the response to the call for urgent action.

The Council report is largely a regurgitation of DEECA's C2CRP talkfest. And the officers' recommendation to Council was so tepid that Cr. Tim O'Brien offered a stronger recommendation, which was unanimously supported by councillors.

As I read it, Council's major plan now

is for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to meet with the minister, and to press him to build bigger sandcastles more quickly.

And then there's "dune stabilisation". To suggest that planting native vegetation will stabilise the dunes is preposterous.

Are councillors and CEO Greg Box blind to the amount of mature vegetation that has been washed aside in recent years?

Or are they simply willing to continue throwing good money after bad by squandering yet more hard-earned ratepayer monies on ineffective solutions to the problem?

Despite the report advising that the extension of the Geobag wall in front of the surf club would cost \$350K - \$450K, our councillors are not pushing for it to be included in the budget! Why not? That is a trifling amount in the scheme of things.

The simple reality is that a seawall needs to be constructed urgently as a last line of defence to stop the erosion devouring more of the foreshore and consuming the Inverloch SLSC clubhouse and subsequently the houses and other assets in the areas around Surf Parade.

Good grief Councillors!

**Kevin Griffin, Inverloch/Wonthaggi**

#### Hard waste must be reconsidered

WHILE driving around Wonnie and to the island I couldn't help noticing how many car tyres and general backyard and trade rubbish there is on the roadsides, and on the weekend I found out why.

My brother took a medium sized load of mainly recyclable rubbish to the 'Transfer Station' and was charged \$88.

My friends in Richmond get two free hard waste collections a year and their rates are about the same as ours. Surely the cost of retrieving rubbish dumped by the roadside will eventually outweigh the cost of giving ratepayers what metropolitan communities get.

And, with all due respect to the nice blokes who work at the transfer stations it shouldn't be left to them to have to estimate the cost of dumping your rubbish there; shire engineers should be able to come up with a fair system of determining the fee.

**Name and address supplied**

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

## WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

WELL now, it's reached that time of year when the social calendar gets a work over and time speeds up to a certain eventful week and then, for some, the summer stretches out in great anticipation for those hazy lazy sunny days.

We here at the WNC will be winding down this week. Our groups and programs are finishing up this Friday, December 20 and look to have a bit of a rest and regroup over the festive season and start again when schools return for 2025. We are re-opening on Wednesday, January 29.

Our WNC community hope that however you celebrate the festive season, may it be a convivial one with those you cherish ... Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



6 Murray St, Wonthaggi  
PH: (03) 5672 3731   
wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com



## MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

THIS is our final week of Term for 2025, and our regular classes and social groups are wrapping up.

We would like to thank the many volunteers and tutors who give their time to serve the community in so many ways.

Our Emergency Food Bank is continually restocked by the volunteers with groceries generously donated by individuals and local community organisations including St Vincent De Paul, CWA and Lions Club of Strzelecki. Fresh produce grown by Grow Lightly, quiches made by Frankies Community Kitchen, plus frozen meals cooked by a number of regular local community members and organisations including

Korinal Women's Services Club, members of the Baptist Church, Milpara Men's Shed Community Garden group.

The Men's Shed have been busy, labouring away, renovating their new Shed in the Korumburra Station complex. They are converting the existing old loco storage shed on the corner of Bridge and Station Streets. Their building works are progressing well, with the internal wall framing completed and wall linings now going up. Work is on track to be finished by Easter. The Men's Shed are winding down for the summer break and have just celebrated the end of their year with a festive Christmas Lunch, held in

the Korumburra Community Hub, which was catered by the Korinal Women's Service Club.

Milpara Community House is currently putting together our 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 Resume writing and many other new and exciting events. If you would like to receive our Term Program for 2025 via email, please head to [milparacommunityhouse.org.au](http://milparacommunityhouse.org.au) to join our email list.

Milpara Community House will be closed from December 20. We will be returning with

our regular classes, social groups and new courses on January 28.

The Korumburra Community Hub, our Emergency Food Bank & Services Australia Agency will close on Christmas day and reopen on January 2.

Our Services Australia agent is at the house Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 1pm, Tuesdays and Wednesday 9:30 to 2pm; and the Emergency Food Bank is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm or by appointment.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 [www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au](http://www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au)

## BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit [bcal.vic.edu.au](http://bcal.vic.edu.au) or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

### ■ WONTHAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

There was plenty of activity at the garden last week despite most folk winding down towards a festive season break.

Garden work is unending. We can't down tools, slide the chair under the desk and walk away! So dedicated volunteers will continue to visit the garden through December and January, to monitor and maintain the garden's growth.

2024 has been a productive year for the garden: new plots, new people, interested visitors, and best of all lots of local, home-grown vegetables, fruit, flowers and herbs to share.

Thanks, as always, to the core group of helpers who front up each week, rain, hail or shine, to keep the garden growing. Contact [tgorodn@westnet.com.au](mailto:tgorodn@westnet.com.au) for more information about getting involved.

### ■ U3A WONTAGGI

U3A will be presenting Mixed Media and Papercraft workshops in January. Join Marg Byrne for a series of summer workshops including Concertina Books and Printing with a gel plate. Each class will run from 10am to 3pm on a Tuesday. Participants will be required to bring their own supplies, but Marg will also have items to share, and students might also like to bring items to share.

As 2024 draws to a close, U3A extends heartfelt thanks to their incredible tutors and volunteers. Their dedication and effort in creating activities for seniors across the Bass Coast have made U3A Wonthaggi a thriving and vibrant community.

To U3A wonderful members, thank you for your enthusiasm and support throughout the year. Together, we've created a space where learning never stops and friendships flourish.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. May 2025 bring more opportunities

to connect, grow, and enjoy life together.

Join U3A Wonthaggi in 2025 — where learning never retires! [u3awonthaggi.org.au](http://u3awonthaggi.org.au)

### ■ WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

The annual Christmas store is regularly restocked with more wonderful and unique items, all locally made.

Some of the items hold things, some of them do things like write or tell the time. Some of them don't do anything except look beautiful, which is sometimes the most important thing an object can do, especially at Christmas time.

The shop will be open until 1pm on Christmas Eve and no later, so don't leave your last-minute shopping to the very last minute.

For more information, visit [wonthaggewoodcrafters.com.au](http://wonthaggewoodcrafters.com.au) or visit the store at the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 [www.bcal.vic.edu.au](http://www.bcal.vic.edu.au)

## 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, LGBTIQ+ people and regional Victorians.

The inaugural eight community members of the committee are appointed for a term of up to three years.

### • FAITH FACTOR

## Joy to the World!

By Janet Snashall-Woodhams, Ministry Team: Uniting Church Wonthaggi-Inverloch

THE other day I was driving home from work, and something caught my attention out of the corner of my eye.

I slowed down and flashed my lights at the oncoming cars. I was relieved to see them stop too.

We sat there, our cars quietly idling as we waited for a very slow-moving echidna to amble across the road.

A huge smile made its way across my face. It had been a busy day in the parish but in that moment my heart felt light. We held up the traffic until we knew the little fella was safely across the road.

Joy! It can feel like it's in short supply these days. At times you have to look hard to see it.

From my experience, joy comes from living a life that acknowledges that we are part of something much bigger than just ourselves. Like noticing that echidna trying to make its way across the road or the child trying to get your attention with a flip on the trampoline. Or maybe it's noticing that the neighbour is struggling to bring the bins in and you go to help.

Joy is one of the motifs of Christmas, along with Hope, Peace and Love.

Joy is about noticing and engaging in the good news of the world. The good news that says it is better to build not destroy, love not hate, notice not ignore, feed not stave, and be kind, not hurtful.

In the Bible (Galatians 5:22-23) we read that ... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

That's right – do all these in abundance and it will never get you in trouble!

May the joy and anticipation of Christmas draw you in and be the greatest gift you receive this season.



April Reeves earned Dux for Korumburra Secondary College.

## April earns Dux for Korumburra

APRIL Reeves earned the title of Dux for the Korumburra Secondary College (KSC) this year and is hoping to secure a place in Science and/or Law at Deakin or Melbourne University in 2025.

April studied English, Mathematical Methods, Chemistry, Legal Studies, Psychology and Physical Education.

April was also a School Captain in 2025 and has been a strong advocate and positive influence for the study body at KSC.

Other students achieved great results and will aim to pursue their pathways at university in 2025 in areas including Nursing, Allied Health, Psychology and Science.

The school's VCE /VM program was also very strong this year, with many students gaining employment from their work placements, or transitioning to apprenticeships following their studies.

"As a school, we are very proud of all of our Year 12 students' achievements, but most importantly their kindness, positivity and gratitude. We are sure they will all go on to be wonderful citizens," said KSC senior school co-ordinator, Nicole Creaser.



Gabrielle Buissink was named dux of Mirboo North Secondary College last week.

## Gabrielle's dux for Mirboo North

GABRIELLE Buissink worked hard all year and achieved dux of Mirboo North Secondary College for 2024, with plans to go on to become a midwife.

"It's lovely to see some consistent high performance," said Vaya Dauphin, Mirboo North Secondary College Principal.

Three students achieved ATAR scores in the 80's which Ms Dauphin was very happy with.

"We've seen an increase in our study score, so that's great. We're pleased about that, we're building it back up."

The school had a small cohort this year with 16 students completing VCE and 22 students completing the VCE/VM program.

# Boolarra student named Dux at St Paul's

THE 2024 Dux of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School is Indily Francis of Boolarra, who received an ATAR of 98.65. Close behind were: India Van Berkel of Traralgon with an ATAR of 97.8 and a perfect study score of 50 in Cert III Sport and Recreation and Annalisa Baxter of Warragul on 96.25 including a perfect study score of 50 in Visual Communication and Design.

Other very high achievers included: Ann-Maria Thomas of Warragul on 94.35, Oliver Haberl of Traralgon on 94.05, Codey Jackson of Warragul with 93.85, Lucinda Waller of Buln Buln on 93.25, Sienna Christian of Warragul on 93.10, Max O'Connor of Mountain View on 92.65 and Angela Mirkovic of Warragul on 91.50.

In addition to the two perfect study scores of 50 achieved by the Class of 2024, Year 10 student Asmi Pathania also achieved a 50 in General Mathematics.

The School is incredibly proud of the way our class of 2024 embraced every opportunity they were presented with both in and outside of the classroom. They have applied themselves to their studies in a dedicated and enthusiastic manner and balanced this with involvement in a wide array of co-curricular pursuits. The Class of 2024 approached this year with maturity and good humour and have consistently responded to situations in a way which fills the broader community with pride.

In all, 10 per cent of students achieved an ATAR over 90 and 44 per cent of students achieved an ATAR over 70. The fact that St Paul's does not stream students out of Year 12, or offer a VCE Vocational Major stream, means that these results are truly indicative of the quality environment of learning and teaching that St Paul's offers.

This year's cohort have a variety of plans for the



Indily Francis of Boolarra was awarded the title of Dux of St Paul's Anglican Grammar School for 2024 after achieving an incredible ATAR of 98.65.

immediate future from tertiary study in areas such as health, commerce and law, as well as employment opportunities such as apprenticeships and Australian Defence Force traineeships. We are pleased to note the increasing number of students who have already secured conditional places in tertiary institutions prior to the completion of Year 12. We look forward to continuing to

work with the Class of 2024 and helping them find a post-school pathway which allows them to pursue their potential.

We are incredibly proud of the Class of 2024 and wish them the very best for the future.

For more information please call Paula Walland on 5175 0133 or email [pwalland@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au](mailto:pwalland@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au)

## Magnificent 98.55 score for Mary MacKillop Dux

By John M. Freeman, Principal

- Median Study Score: 28
- Percentage of students with Overall Study Scores of 40 or above: 6.5 per cent
- 15.38 per cent of our students achieved at least one study score of 40 or above
- 9.62 per cent of ATAR scores were above 90
- 25.0 per cent of ATAR scores were above 80
- 28.3 per cent of ATARs are in the top quarter
- 38.46 per cent of ATAR scores were above 70

A very big thank you to the teachers who have worked so well to get the most out of their students over the last six years. This success is the result of strong, effective teaching over an extended period.

There are a number of classes where multiple students

have achieved a study score of 40 or more. This is a testament to the hard work and expertise of the teachers who truly know their subject matter and have dedicated themselves to helping their students succeed.

Our Vocational Major learners have also done very well. There were 14 students pursuing applied pathways, and they have had notable success. Of the 14:

- Four have secured places in their preferred TAFE courses
- One has gained a traineeship
- Six have begun employment
- Three are seeking TAFE placements or employment

Congratulations to all students, as well as our staff, for the outstanding results of 2024. Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College is proud of you and your achievements.

## Local students win University of Melbourne scholarships

FOURTEEN Year 12 students from Bass Coast and South Gippsland have won prestigious Narrm scholarships to study at the University of Melbourne.

Narrm scholarships are awarded to eligible undergraduate students right across Victoria to provide financial, academic and wellbeing support as well as a place at Melbourne University.

Newhaven College scored seven Narrm scholarships, Bass Coast College four and Foster, Mary McKillop and Korumburra Secondary Colleges one each for their highest achieving students opening the door to a world-class education and life-changing career opportunities.

Narrm scholars also benefit from a generous annual allowance for the duration of their undergraduate studies and the offer of a Melbourne Global Scholars Award of up to \$2500 to study overseas through an exchange or study abroad program.

The Narrm scholarship program is offered to students who have traditionally faced barriers to tertiary study providing financial support and enrichment opportunities throughout their time at the university.

This program is the cornerstone of Melbourne University's commitment to providing opportunities to a broad range of students through access and equity.

University of Melbourne Interim Vice-Chancellor Professor Nicola Phillips congratulated the local scholarship recipients.

"We are excited to welcome the latest intake of uniquely talented and inspiring young scholars to our University community," Professor Phillips said.

"These students have set a high standard of achievement, which has now given them unique opportunities to study at one of the world's great universities."

Now in its second year, the Narrm scholarship program aims to attract talented students to the University who may otherwise not have pursued a Melbourne degree, significantly increasing the number of students who might have faced traditional barriers to study and who meet the criteria for the Access Melbourne program.

Narrm Scholars come from a variety of backgrounds and will be welcomed to the Melbourne campus at a pre-orientation camp early in 2025.

Inaugural Narrm Scholars have already made a significant contribution to the University through a variety of employment and engagement opportunities.

"By increasing the number of scholarships we can offer, particularly through philanthropic support of the Narrm Scholarship Program, we're able to unlock significantly greater opportunity for students to pursue their academic interests and aspirations, making sure that a University of Melbourne is open to talented students from all backgrounds," said Professor Phillips.

Narrm is the traditional name for Melbourne and comes from Woi Wurrung the language spoken by the traditional owners of the city.



Newhaven College students who achieved 90 or above for their 2024 ATAR score. From left, David O'Neill, Principal Tony Corr, Dion Pires-Andersen, Leo Savona, Max Arceo, Finn Leary, Tilia Pires-Andersen and Niamh O'Connell. Front: Alice Mabilia and Sienna Michie. Absent: Ella Berry.

## Newhaven College celebrates incredible 2024 VCE results

DUX of Newhaven College, Sienna Michie, celebrated an exceptional ATAR of 98.65, placing her in the top 1.5 per cent of Victoria at the announcement of VCE results last Thursday, December 12. Sienna was closely followed by Finn Leary, who received the exceptional ATAR of 97.7.

Newhaven College Principal, Tony Corr, congratulated all this year's VCE students on an incredible result.

"We are thrilled to announce that ten of our students (11.5 per cent) achieved an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Entrance Rank) above 90, placing them in the top 10 per cent of the state, whilst 30 per cent per cent achieved an ATAR of above 80, placing them in the

top 20 per cent of the state. In addition, more than half of our students ranked in the top one-third of Victoria.

"Other high achieving students with ATAR scores above 90 were Tilia Pires-Andersen, Ella Berry, Leo Savona, Niamh O'Connell, Max Arceo, Dion Pires-Andersen, David O'Neill and Alice Mabilia.

"Special recognition to Year 11 student Cecily de Gooyer who achieved the perfect Study Score of 50 in Music Industry VET. To achieve a study score of 50 is the highest possible result in a subject and an exceptional performance.

"Newhaven College congratulates our Class of 2024 on their outstanding VCE results. The Year 12 class of 2024 has

been a delightful group of students in every facet of school life demonstrating effort, initiative and a positive mindset in all they have done. This approach has been reflected in their excellent VCE results."

Students who achieved study scores of 40 or above, placing them in the top eight per cent of the state, were:

Biology: Isaac Savona\*, Maisie McMurray\*, Lara Smyth\*, Niamh O'Connell

Business Management: Gabriel Winterson, Belinda Baird

English: Finn Leary, Sienna Michie, Max Arceo

Health and Human Development: Max Arceo

English Literature: Finn Leary

General Mathematics: Charlie

Deery, Jazz Mau\*, Alice Mabilia  
Music Industry VET: Cecily de Gooyer\*

Physical Education: Lara Smyth\*, Leo Savona

Psychology: Finn Leary, Rosalie Spencer\*, Charlotte Derrham\*, Grace Howlett\*, X Kesterton, Amelia White

Visual Communication and Design: Jasmine Turton

\*Denotes Year 11 doing a Unit 3 & 4 subject

"We are very proud of the achievements of each Year 12 student and thank them for the contributions that they have made in their time at Newhaven College. We wish them the very best of luck as they set off on the next chapter of their lives," concluded Tony Corr.

## Leongatha Secondary College celebrates excellence

LEONGATHA Secondary College is proud to honour the exceptional achievements of our Year 12 students in the 2024 Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE and VCE VM) results. These outcomes are a testament to the hard work, perseverance, and dedication displayed by our students, as well as the outstanding support and commitment of our staff and school community.

This year's cohort has demonstrated excellence across a wide range of subjects, with remarkable individual and collective accomplishments. From outstanding ATARs and study scores to completing VET qualifications and securing apprenticeships, our students have excelled, setting benchmarks for future success.

### Highlights of the 2024 results

- Dux of 2024 Alana Lopez-Freeman, achieved an ATAR of 94.15, placing her among the top 17% of students statewide. Alana's unwavering dedication and focus throughout her VCE journey have truly yielded outstanding results.

- High achiever Lucy Patterson earned an impressive ATAR of 88.34, while Luke Murphy celebrated a very strong result with an ATAR of 86.1.

- Leongatha Secondary College students celebrated 140 study scores above 30 and the mean study score of 28.7 reflects consistent improvements in academic performance.

We are equally proud of our VCE VM students, all of whom successfully completed their VCE VM. This year, twelve Year 12 students and six Year 11 students secured apprenticeships within the local community, while others have accepted traineeships or transitioned into full-time employment. These achievements highlight the diverse opportunities available through VCE VM and the strong ties between our college and the local workforce.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our educators, who inspire and guide our students every step of the way. We also extend our gratitude to parents and families for their unwavering support and trust in our college. Together, we have fostered a community that champions excellence and nurtures success.

To the Class of 2024: your hard work and achievements have left an indelible mark on our college. As you embark on the next chapter of your lives, whether in further study, work, or other endeavours, we know you will continue to thrive and inspire.

Leongatha Secondary College looks forward to building on this success as we continue to strive for excellence in education, embracing innovation, and celebrating the achievements of all our students. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2024!

## Q&A with Leongatha Secondary College Dux Alana Lopez Freeman

**Q: What routines and study strategies did you use to achieve your results?**

"I think prioritising each subject equally is really important. Maths was a big struggle for me, but I tried my best to not give up when things were going a bit poorly and also asking questions. That is a big thing that a lot of students shy away from in class. I'm that person that always has a question, especially in science subjects. Not overworking yourself. You need to keep a healthy balance. As I was also a College leader, the balance between friendship, schoolwork, work and my College leader's duties proved to be busy, but I always tried to keep a good balance."

**Q: If you had to thank someone in your household, who and how did they help you?**

"Mum and Dad – They're the best people who I could have possibly asked for. If I was feeling overwhelmed, they would support me and bring me back to reality. A lot of people in my family treated me with kindness. Having people who loved you unconditionally and supported you each and every day."

**Q: What are your aspirations for the future?**

"Next year I plan to attend La Trobe University to complete Biological Science. I'm excited to be heading into an area that I am extremely passionate about and from there will let it shape my future career direction. Also,

I would love to continue to travel as I am thoroughly enjoying Florence, Italy and visiting some friends at the moment."

**Q: What advice would you give to other students aspiring to achieve academic excellence?**

"Probably one of the most important things, when you are trying to work really hard, it is easy to get caught up with comparing yourself to others, but focusing on yourself is the most important thing."

"It's easy to get disappointed sometimes when your marks for assessments are lower than your peers, but just stay committed to your studies, focus on yourself and be committed to improving your own skills."



Leongatha Secondary College Dux Alana Lopez-Freeman, who achieved an ATAR of 94.15, wants to pursue a degree in biological science.

## Bungled school bonus rollout a shambles

A ONE-OFF school bonus from the State Government appears to be turning sour causing headaches for Gippsland schools, businesses and families.

The claim comes after The Nationals' Melina Bath was contacted by parents and a school principal speaking anonymously about the bungled scheme.

Ms Bath said despite Labor announcing the bonus back in July a lack of departmental support has left schools scrambling to manage the funds when they finally arrived last week.

One Leongatha parent said she was aware of the scheme because her family had been approved to receive the bonus, but she was not sure where to shop or what she can buy.

A Leongatha stationery supplier also admitted he wasn't sure if stationery was eligible to be purchased under the scheme.

"The criteria is not clear," said the store manager.

"Unfortunately, it seems the bonus doesn't cover stationery on school book lists."

Ms Bath claims parents are aggrieved that the scheme is inflexible as their local newsagent or shoe and uniform shop is not on the government's preferred supplier list and they cannot use the bonus to pay for textbooks and uniforms locally.

"There's been little to no information given to regional businesses about registering for the scheme," said Ms Bath.

Eligible families are being notified often by email that a one-off school-saving bonus is available to Victorian families to help cover the cost of uniforms, textbooks, excursions and school activities.

Emails from the Department of Education link to an online system with a separate email for each child enrolled in a government school.

A family with three school-age children could receive a total of \$1200.

Totally Workwear says the Wonthaggi store is an eligible supplier of school uniforms under the bonus scheme for Bass Coast College and hundreds of parents have already made purchases.

Ms Bath says schools across the region are triaging dozens of calls daily from frustrated parents who understandably just want cost of living relief.

"The lack of planning and understanding by Labor in facilitating local procurement in the regions has left our country schools, parents and suppliers bewildered," said Ms Bath.

"Labor's made schools look unprofessional and unprepared when it is not their fault."

According to Ms Bath one principal said schools in regional Victoria are again feeling like second-hand citizens and described the Allan Government's scheme roll out as demoralising putting everyone on the back foot.

"Regional businesses are required to jump through hoops to get on the supplier list otherwise they miss out," said Ms Bath.

"Many local families do not have the option to travel distances to purchase school supplies and prefer to shop locally."

"This bonus should be making life easier but it's weighing down our regional schools with more red tape, upsetting families and causing economic disadvantage for local businesses."

## What a great year at Wonthaggi North PS!

STUDENTS, families and staff at Wonthaggi North Primary School (WNPS) have been thrilled with the events and outcomes during 2024.

Students participated in a number of academic activities at school as well as a range of extra-curricular events to enhance their confidence and learning at Wonthaggi North this year.

Camp Rumbug, Melbourne Urban Camp and the Grade 2 sleepover were just some of the highlights. Excursions to local galleries and performances not to mention numerous incursions held at school such as 'Wild City' and 'My body is an instrument' have kept students entertained and engaged with their learning throughout the year. Students have also been involved in many sporting events and community-based projects which will continue next year.

New enrolments for 2025 at WNPS are already strong which is largely due to the Ready Set Prep! Transition program run by current Prep teacher, Mrs Michelle Inness. The program helps the current kinder students with the transition from kinder to primary school through the 1-2 hours of activities on Friday mornings in Term 4. Having the regular program run by Mrs Inness also means the new students and families are well prepared for the start of their schooling the following year.

Mrs Inness said, "The students have engaged in building positive relationships with their peers and teachers in their new learning spaces. Students explored a variety of fun and hands-on learning activities throughout the 10-week program which provides a strong foundation in guiding them towards their first year of schooling."

On another positive note, and with the potential to increase future school enrolments, the WNPS community has been eagerly watching the new kindergarten space being built on the school grounds.



The Ready Set Prep! Program, run by Mrs Michelle Inness, is giving future WNPS students a head start with engaging activities every Friday morning during term 4.

Uniting Vic. Tas. has formally entered into an agreement with the Victorian School Building Association to take on the management of the new kinder which will commence in Term 1, 2025. The service will be known as Wonthaggi North Uniting Kindergarten and they are already taking new enrolments. Visit the following website for more information and expressions of interest [basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/children-and-parents/register-your-child-for-3-or-4-year-old-kindergarten/programs/wonthaggi-north-kinder](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au/community-support-services/children-and-parents/register-your-child-for-3-or-4-year-old-kindergarten/programs/wonthaggi-north-kinder).

The recent WNPS Art Show, organised by Art/Drama teacher 'Miss Mac' (aka Ms Kerry McGinniskin) was the culmination of the amazing student work this year in the Art and Drama room.

Artworks included line drawings inspired by Indigenous artworks, self-portraits and a range of different puppets. Many of the puppets and artworks are currently on display in the front window of Jordan Crugnale MP in McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi who officially opened the Art Show in November.

The opening night, and a second viewing night which was

a new addition this year, gave many excited families and visitors the opportunity to view the work and witness what students can do creatively at WNPS.

"Students really enjoyed showing off their artworks and puppets to their friends and families," Miss Mac said.

"It's always wonderful to show the community what our students can do but to also encourage the students to celebrate their work and be proud of their creative achievements. Every student is unique, and I believe part of our job, as teachers, is to give them a range of possibilities and to guide them into developing their own unique place at school whether that be creatively, academically or in a sporting sense. Everyone has the right to find their own happy and individual place."

Exciting changes for 2025 include the announcement of Mr Toby Mahoney being appointed as the Assistant Principal for Wonthaggi North PS. Mr Mahoney's appointment comes after Assistant Principal, Mrs Kathy Jones, returned to her previous role at Inverloch Kongwak PS.

Staff, students and families of WNPS are all very grateful

for the leadership and support that Mrs Jones has given the school over the past 18 months in both Acting Principal and Assistant Principal roles and wish her all the best for her new journey in 2025.

To finish off a great year, WNPS Grade 6 students were involved in transition activities at local secondary schools and participated in the official graduation night held at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club recently.

The majority of the students spent the two days becoming more familiar with Bass Coast College in readiness for the transition into year seven next year. Good luck to all WNPS Grade 6's for their educational futures!

The end of the school year at WNPS was marked by a final assembly on Monday with Student Leaders for 2025 being announced and the famous PFA Annual Christmas Raffle tickets being drawn. The PFA will also be running the exciting Colour Fun Run on the last day of term for students. Thursday, December 19. The school would like to thank all students, families, carers and staff for their contributions this year and a safe and happy holiday season.

## Enjoyable end to year with a 'party on the oval' at Chairo



The Senior Worship Band led the singing at the recent Chairo Leongatha presentation evening.

By Darryl Martin

FAMILIES from Chairo Christian School in Leongatha wrapped up the school year with a fun 'party on the oval'.

There was an excellent attendance for this annual event, people of all ages enjoying games, paella and icy poles, and face painting was popular.

It concluded with everyone saying their goodbyes as they moved into holiday mode and prepare to celebrate Christmas.

Other end-of-year events included a whole-campus presentation evening and a special dinner for Year 6 students graduating from primary school.

Chairo Leongatha caters for boys and girls from three-year-old kindergarten through to Year 12, all situated on one site in Horn Street, and delivers education from a Christian worldview perspective in close partnership with families.

## Inaugural Korumburra S.C. Martin Carlson Foundation award winners

TWO Korumburra Secondary College students are the first to receive achievement awards from the Martin Carlson Foundation to further their education and training.

Year 11 students Lily Canavan and Lukas Gallagher will each receive a cash amount to assist with education expenses and workplace tools.

The Korumburra-based Martin Carlson Foundation was formed at the request of Martin Carlson OAM to advance the education, welfare and health of children residing in rural cities or towns.

Martin Carlson was a lifelong philanthropist and former resident of Korumburra's Hillside Lodge and Koorooman House in Leongatha.

The Trust places significant importance on sustainable technologies, aiming to enhance skills and knowledge in various trades and industries through a strong focus on apprenticeships.

Seventeen-year-old Lukas Gallagher is undertaking a school-based Certificate III in Electrotechnology through the Vocational Major (VM) program at Korumburra Secondary College working two days a week with PJ Dixon Electrical in Korumburra, studying two days a week at school and attending TAFE one day a week at Apprenticeships Group Australia (AGA).

Lukas was impressed with employer PJ Dixon Electrical while doing work placement.

"I enjoy X-Box and cricket," said Lukas.

A handy all-rounder for the Korumburra Cricket Club



**Martin Carlson Foundation trustees Gary Brittle and Darren Polglaise with award winners Lukas Gallagher and Lily Canavan and Julie Johnstone Technical Support Leader Korumburra S.C. B35\_5124**

Lukas Gallagher's best result to date is 2/2 off one over against Inverloch U17's.

Growing up on a beef cattle farm Lily Canavan has a passion for horses.

Studying animal science Lily attends Gippsland TAFE in Leongatha one day a week, studies three days a week at Korumburra Secondary College and attends work placement one day a week working with horse trainers at McLaren Dressage in Loch.

Lily has two horses of her own and is currently breaking in four-year-old Darla.

"Darla is quite young and can become a bit nervous and stressed," said Lily.

First-year for the Martin Carlson Achievement Awards at Korumburra Secondary College trustee Gary Brittle

said the Martin Carlson Foundation aims to assist young people grow and align with new technologies, trade skills, knowledge and opportunities.

The Martin Carlson Foundation has also assisted with scholarships for disadvantaged and disengaged youth in a logistics and warehousing program in the western suburbs of Melbourne.

"Twelve young people are currently working and training in partnership with Wyndham City Council," said Mr Brittle.

Another apprentice is being assisted with pattern-making training in Queensland.

Gary Brittle said the Martin Carlson Foundation eventually wants to sponsor young people to upskill in the United Kingdom and return to

Australia with enhanced skills.

"As a foundation, we have an emphasis on excellence in good communication practices, but the purpose of the foundation is to upskill young people enabling them to access support from the Martin Carlson Foundation to train overseas with organisations such as The Kings Foundation that provides training programs at Highgrove House and Dumfries House in The United Kingdom."

"We hope they then bring their skills and knowledge back to Australia," said Trustee Treasurer for the Martin Carlson Foundation Darren Polglaise.

For more information on the Martin Carlson scholarship program go to [martincarlson-foundation.com.au](http://martincarlson-foundation.com.au).



**South Gippsland Specialist School students enjoy Tuesday's colour run. A03\_5124**

### Colour for a cause in Leongatha

SOUTH Gippsland Specialist School students were blessed with pleasant sunny conditions for the Foodbank Colour Run at Leongatha's Scorpion Park, that doubles as the school oval.

The event raised \$475 for Foodbank, with plenty of fun in the process.

Principal Heather Braden was prepared for her run, dressed like she was heading into a nuclear plant, but promptly discovered that despite its impressive appearance the outfit wasn't waterproof.

### NAPLAN test results help drive successful outcomes

FOLLOWING the 2024 National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results released last Thursday with Dr Venessa Fernandes, Senior Lecturer and Associate Head of Monash's School of Education, Culture and Society stating that NAPLAN results become a series of litmus tests to see if schools are indeed moving in the right direction or not.

Newhaven College was pleased to receive the results students achieved in the 2024 NAPLAN tests with a high proportion of students placed in the strong or exceeding category.

Director of Learning, Karen Milkins-Henry said, "whilst we congratulate the 20 per cent of Year 9 students recognised for their excellent results in a variety of tests, we are also so appreciative of all our students giving their best during the testing period in order for our analysis to be authentic."

"The NAPLAN test results sit within a broader data plan which enables these results to support our Learning Ambition to 'Know each student deeply, honouring and enriching their unique learning path,' said Karen.

The recently updated Victorian Teaching and Learning Model that emphasises explicit teaching and is grounded in evidence-based practices was announced earlier in the year by The Minister of Education and this model, based on the Science of Reading, has already been integrated into the Newhaven College Junior School.

"It represents more than just a program; it is a commitment to research-backed best practices that drive successful outcomes. We are excited to continue implementing this model, believing it marks an exciting era in education for both students and teachers," said Karen.

"Our internal assessment using multiple approaches has already shown significant growth patterns for many of our students. This approach has been adopted into our Middle School at Grade 5 and 6 levels with Year 7 and 8 following in 2025."

This is an intense, longitudinal and targeted approach to delivering multiple options for all young people as they ultimately complete their schooling at the College.

"We look forward to the first set of NAPLAN results which allow an analysis of relative growth in 2025."

## Newhaven College AFL SportsReady Traineeship



**2024 Newhaven College AFL SportsReady Trainee Lucas Chihotski took great pleasure in supporting students of all ages.**

strength to strength throughout the year.

Lucas reflected on his time as an AFL Trainee stating, "This year has been incredibly fulfilling, providing me with invaluable life experiences and insights that I know will benefit me in the future. The support and camaraderie of the staff and teachers at Newhaven have

made this journey even more enjoyable. I will always cherish the memories and opportunities this role has provided."

Jenna Harman who held the role in 2023, returned to Newhaven College in 2024 in the part-time role of college nurse. This opportunity provided Jenna with some invaluable experience as part of her

nursing training.

In 2025, there will be two ALF Trainee placements at the College. One will assist in sports/PE and the other will be located in the Year 9 Environmental Centre, assisting with the extensive outdoor education and camps program, as well as being a support educator in the Year 9 Centre.

# SHOP LOCAL

## Last minute gifts



World renowned Giulio Marcolongo's pieces are available for sale at the Woodies Christmas Shop. Find the perfect gift this Christmas.

### Giulio Marcolongo at the Woodies Christmas Shop

WORLD renowned wood turner Giulio Marcolongo has added some of his work for sale at the Wonthaggi Woodcrafters Christmas Shop.

Giulio is one of Australia's pre-eminent woodturners and until recently retiring, spent much of his time travelling the world presenting and demonstrating at symposiums, wood shows and Woodcrafting Guilds in America, UK and NZ, as well as turnabouts and clubs around Australia.

Living in Wonthaggi Giulio was one of the inaugural members of Wonthaggi Woodcrafters when the Club was formed back in 1989.

Giulio is a truly accomplished

and entertaining demonstrator, amongst the best in the world. He especially likes making lidded boxes which have his own flair.

Giulio's work is highly sought after, so here's a chance to pick up something special.

He has quite a number of items for sale at the Woodies Shop, which is open daily – but only until Tuesday, December 24, at the Wonthaggi Woodcrafters workshops, 239 White Road.

There are still hundreds of other woodcrafted items for sale for that special Christmas gift and stock is being supplemented daily. Drop in and have a look around.



Festive fun all year-round Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead stepped into Santa's Little Helper and Colletables to spread the word for the Festive Facades Christmas Competition and to shop local.



Creating a stylish dress this Christmas or needing the perfect supplies for the crafty person, check out the spectacular window at Wonthaggi Fabrics and Beads.



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our wonderful  
clients a safe  
and festive  
season



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ABOUT BASS COAST HEARING

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- Independent, local** and not aligned to any manufacturer so you can be assured of the best advice and a complete choice of devices with the latest hearing technology and comprehensive service
  - Our clinicians are not paid a commission or incentive on sales
  - Accredited to provide the Australian Government Hearing Services Program
  - Braden and Grant are WorkSafe accredited
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\* Conditions apply to clients under the Commonwealth Hearing Services Program

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# SHOP LOCAL

## Last minute gifts



Bass Coast Shire Councillors were getting into the Christmas spirit recently as the final push for voting in this year's Festive Facades ramps up. It's not too late to register for businesses or for the community to cast their vote. Head to the Bass Coast Shire Council Festive Facades Competition page for more information.



'Tis the season to stock up on local produce and gifts. From milk for tea, coffee and delicious milkshakes on Christmas Eve, to cheese and cream for Christmas Day, don't forget to pop into Bassine Specialty Cheese at 2125 Bass Highway, Glen Forbes.



Whether a quick revamp of the garden before Christmas Day or looking for a gift, Townsend Nursery has you covered. Garden ornaments and sculptures, indoor and outdoor plants, stone benches and wooden chairs, the small and large are at Townsend Nursery. Open six days a week from 9am to 5pm (closed Tuesdays).

## Festive facades ramp up

THE cost of living might have most watching their purse strings this year, but did you know supporting local goes so much further? Not only do many local businesses support local organisations, from sports to emergency services, primary schools and everything in between, but by spending your money locally it stays in the community, employs local people and creates a circular economy.

And whilst you are out and about spending your money with small business owners, why not cast your vote in this year's festive facades competition? There are many businesses across Bass Coast participating – check out the list below!

Cowes: Anerie Bistro, Brinnie T Home, Cowes Country Women's Association, Cowes Island Vintage, Ded4eva Designs and Desd4eva Tattooing, Fig & Olive, Flowers of Phillip Island, Her. Day Spa, Island Thyme, Pino's Trattoria, Price-line Cowes, Salvos Store Cowes, Shima Salon, and



Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead has been visiting local businesses and encouraging everyone to explore our local shopping precincts in the lead up to Christmas.

Stockdale and Leggo Phillip Island.

Grantville: Alex Scott and Staff Grantville

Inverloch: Bliss in Inverloch, Mookah, Red Cross Shop Inverloch, and Salt & Sand Clothing.

San Remo: Beachside Bakehouse, Jim's Bait and Tackle, San Remo Pharmacy, San Remo Nails by Nina, Shampoo Avenue, and Wing Sheon

Chinese Restaurant.

Wonthaggi: A Garden of Thoughts, Foons Photographic/Foons for Gifts, Home Cook and BBQ, IN2 Technology, Intersport Wonthaggi, Julie Wade, Little Wren Café, Miners Dental Clinic, Mitchell & Co Butchers, Myli Library Wonthaggi, Repco, Robs Takeaway, Vortex Surf Skate Snow, and Wonthaggi Fabrics and Beads.

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## OUR SUMMER HOLIDAY TRADING HOURS

Closed Tuesday, Christmas Eve – Friday, December 27  
and Wednesday, January 1

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# SHOP LOCAL

## Last minute gifts

### Santa, songs and holiday cheer light up Wonthaggi carols

WISHART Reserve came alive with holiday cheer on Sunday evening as a large crowd gathered for Wonthaggi's Community Carols. Families and friends of all ages enjoyed the festive cheer organised by the combined local churches.

The evening kicked off in style with the talented students from Bass Coast Specialist School delivering a heartwarming performance of Brand New Life. The Wonthaggi Citizen's Band, local choirs, and St Joseph's Primary School followed, filling the air with beautiful harmonies and holiday classics.

Adding a touch of drama to the festivities, Santa Claus made a grand entrance on a motorbike! Despite a slight delay due to some mechanical hiccups, his arrival brought delighted cheers from the crowd as he passed out bags of lollies and shook hands alongside Bass Coast Police and event organisers.

There was a line up of children for the petting zoo, fairy floss, and popcorn, whilst Rotary cooked the BBQ, with thanks to the Lions for the loan of their equipment.

Prayers were read and the spirit of Christmas discussed.

Perfect weather, with plenty of space to see from on the hill, it was a great way to usher in the festive cheer in Wonthaggi.



Billie (right) was looking forwards to petting the baby ducklings and getting a baby doll for Christmas, joined by Willow and Aspen. C31\_5124



Members of the Good News Community Choir were ready to perform on Sunday, from left, back, Nathalie, John, John, Kerrin, Peter and Hess, front, Cathy and Lorraine. C39\_5124



It wasn't hard to guess who was dragged along for the carols on Sunday. Pictured Richard, Matheo and Ricky. C33\_5124



Evie and Jason were supporting mum Kylee who was set to perform alongside Alex and Tahlia of Wonthaggi Citizen's Band. C40\_5124

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# SHOP LOCAL

## Last minute gifts



### Christmas a little easier thanks to Korumburra

EVERY year St Joseph Korumburra Conference, St Vincent de Paul, assists many people in the Korumburra area who are doing it tough throughout the year and especially at Christmas when money and food is scarce. This year their efforts have been boosted by several donations from within the community including the Korumburra Lions, Luscious Cafe, Korumburra IGA, The Middle Hotel, St. Joseph's Primary School, and many locals who wish to remain anonymous and of course, not forgetting their fabulous volunteers who pack and distribute the hampers. "We thank you all and bless you for being so very generous."



Thank you for supporting our business and shopping locally this festive season; we truly appreciate your support! Merry Christmas from South Gippsland Caravans and Camping Centre. A13\_5124



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# SHOP LOCAL

## *Last minute gifts*



Members of the Inverloch Primary School Choir belt out some popular Christmas tunes, complete with gestures for the crowd at Inverloch's Carols in the Glade on Saturday night.



Part of the big crowd assembled in the Glade at Inverloch last Saturday night, in ideal weather, Helen Carter and Debra Cochrane get set for the annual Carols in the Glade event.



Mother and daughter, Hayley Tregidga and Trish Stevens enjoy the weather and the music at Inverloch's Carols in the Glade on Saturday night.



Sue from Inverloch Church Connections, organisers of the Carols in the Glade night, takes up the collection during the event.



Dressed to impress at the Inverloch carols last Saturday night were Rhani, Ila, Norah and Immi.



Trent Hardcastle shares a night at Inverloch's Carols in the Glade with new pooch 'Sadie'.



Former convenor of Wonthaggi's U3A Choir Jackie Brennan sings out during Carols in the Glade at Inverloch on Saturday night.

## Perfect night for Inverloch carols

THE was a big crowd assembled in the Glade at Inverloch last Saturday night for the annual Carols in the Glade and why not, with conditions perfect for an outside event.

The highlight of the night was the performance of the Inverloch Primary School choir, singing a number of popular carols with well-practised hand gestures to go with the lyrics.

The Wonthaggi U3A choir, soloists Stephanie and Ben, other guest performances, plenty of food and drink supplied by local community groups and a message of hope and joy from organisers of the Inverloch Church Connections made for a fantastic family occasion.

And everyone came out in response.

## Festive carols

AN EVENING of Christmas carols at Coleman Park on Sunday, December 22 is being hosted by the Combined Churches of Korumburra, the family-friendly alcohol-free event begins at 6pm and runs until 8pm. Terry Lay and his group of carol singers will ensure it is a festive atmosphere. As well as singing along with your favourite carols, there'll be a Christmas reading involving children and gift packs for the kids. People are encouraged to bring rugs, chairs and a picnic or takeaway from a local business. Should the weather not play its part, the event will move inside the Scout Hall.

### Other carols still to come:

#### 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)

#### Meenyan: Monday, December

#### 23, 6.30pm

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# SHOP LOCAL

## Last minute gifts



It was the first Christmas here for Bronwen, Jye and little Teddy. C32\_5124



Enjoying the teacups at Carols By The Bay was Molly, Ruby, Edwina and Ciara. C13\_5124



Island Voice volunteers were manning the glow stick sales, from left, Cheryl, Glenyce, Linda and Andrew. C10\_5124



Connie, Jed, Eleanor and Olive wait patiently for their turn in the petting zoo. C30\_5124



Ruby was enjoying the animals, particularly the rabbits in the petting zoo at Carols By The Bay with mum Rhyanna. C15\_5124



Phillip Island Fire Brigade firefighters were on hand for festive cheer. Tayla Fox, Robyn Bateup and Carly Wilson. C14\_5124

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# SHOP LOCAL

## Last minute gifts

Head along for Christmas Mass

### Christmas Eve

- St Mary's, Cowes – 8pm
- Our Lady Star of the Sea, San Remo – 6pm
- St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wonthaggi – 6.30pm
- Church of the Ascension, Inverloch – 9pm
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Inverloch – 5pm
- Uniting Church, Inverloch – 5pm
- St Andrew's Union, Tarwin Lower – 5pm
- St Laurence O'Toole, Leongatha – Post Carols 7.30pm
- St Joseph's, Mirboo North – 5 pm
- St Agnes, Toora – 6.30pm
- Church of Transfiguration, Hedley Christmas Communion – 7.30pm

### Christmas Day

- St Johns Uniting Church, Cowes – 9am
- St Mary's, Cowes – 9am
- St Joseph's, Bass – 11am
- Uniting Church, Wonthaggi – 8am. Breakfast and Family Service with Nativity Play.
- St George's, Wonthaggi – 10am
- St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wonthaggi – 10.30am
- Church of the Ascension, Inverloch – 8am
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Inverloch – 9am
- Immaculate Conception, Fish Creek – 10.30am
- St Joseph's, Korumburra – 9am
- St Laurence O'Toole, Leongatha – 10.30am
- St Kevin's, Meeniyian – 9am
- Christ Church, Foster – 9am
- St Joseph's, Foster – 9am
- St Mary's, Yarram – 10am

### New Year's Day Mass

- St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wonthaggi – 9.30am

### New Year's Eve Mass

- Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Inverloch – 6.30pm



Andrew and Trish at The Vintage Spirit & Soul Emporium offer a huge range of unique, one of a kind gifts and treasures, and are open from Friday to Sunday for the entire holiday period. ob18\_5124



Julie at Shan's Lingerie has a great range of nightwear that would make a great gift for the ladies, as well as swimwear and sleepwear. ob17\_5124



Our prayer at New Beginnings is for a safe and blessed Christmas season for all as we celebrate Jesus' birthday, whose message of love and forgiveness is just as relevant today as ever. A07\_5124



Kim Cullen at Influence Clothing has a great range of women's wear for all occasions including, weddings, parties and great New Year's Eve outfits. ob16\_5124

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# SHOP LOCAL

## Last minute gifts



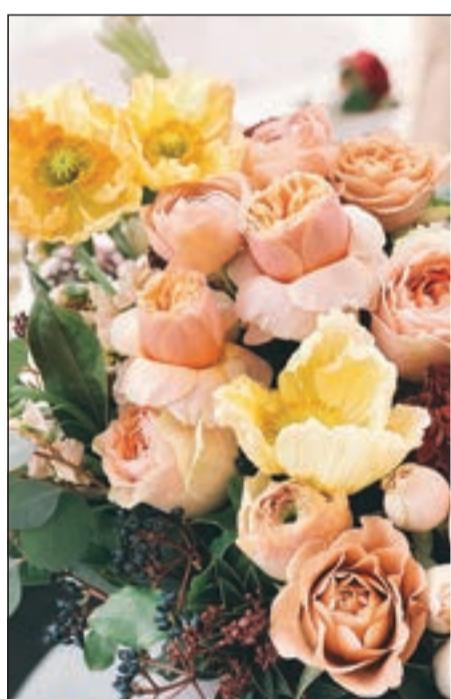
Thank you for your loyalty and trust this year; it has been a pleasure serving you. Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a New Year filled with health, happiness, and continued success, from the team at Nextra Leongatha Newsagency. A08\_5124



A very merry Christmas to all and a happy and safe New Year from Cheryl and all the team at Jorgia Kate. A06\_5124



President Leah Montebello with fellow Rotarians Jenny Milkins and Elio Piasente were cooking up a storm. C29\_5124



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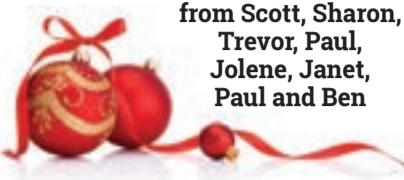
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ME12255

**Merry Christmas and happy New Year from Keith, Doreen, David and Shane at Korumburra and Glenn at Wonthaggi.**

**T FOR TYRES**  
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**Merry Christmas  
And Happy New Year**



Members of the 'Sisters and Misters' choir get the show started at Carols By The Bay in Cowes last Tuesday night.

## 'Best ever' Cowes carols, they say

THE Island Voice's Carols By The Bay event at Cowes last Tuesday, December 10 was "the best ever", they said.

No argument there! The weather was superb, the musical entertainment varied, highlighted by the Cowes Primary School Choir, plenty of action for the kids off-stage and Santa arriving on cue via the historic Phillip Island Fire Brigade fire truck.

And the fireworks, wow! Not only could you see them from any vantage point in Cowes, they were also visible, as they lit up the summer sky, from San Remo and elevated locations on the Island.

"We had a terrific line-up of local talent on stage, along with rides, face-painting, hair colourist, photo-booth and

animal nursery to amuse the younger members of the community," said one of the organisers Linda Marston of Island Voice.

She also thanked the night's sponsors including the Bendigo Bank, the Phillip Island RSL, Bass Coast Shire Council, Panny's Chocolates, Archisign, The Phillip Island Advertiser, COG AudioVisual, Westernport Water, Rotary and North Pier Hotel "for their ongoing support of this wonderful community event".

"Without their support, we could not run a free event of this standard for the community," she said, noting the group had received plenty of wonderful feedback from the authorities including the police, and from the community.



Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochell Halstead gets into the spirit of the Carols by the Bay occasion on the Cowes foreshore meeting with Father Christmas and two of his helpers Deb Fry and Sue Dibley.

**Best wishes for a safe and happy holiday season from everyone at Westernport Water**

Westernport Water's Customer Service Centre at Newhaven will be closed on the following days:

- 24 December 2024 (from 12pm)
- 25 December 2024
- 26 December 2024
- 27 December 2024
- 1 January 2025

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**Season's Greetings**

# Merry Christmas

And Happy New Year



Ready to enjoy a night of carols, music and fireworks at the Cowes' Carols by the Bay are Max Brown, Brinn Hanley, Jonah Keys and Chloe Goss.



Jacky King, Jack Curphey, Cr Ron Bauer, and one of the volunteers at the Cowes' carols, Bruce Procter, a former Bass Coast Citizen of the Year in 2004.



Among those enjoying the entertainment and the fine weather at the Cowes Carols by the bay last week were Marie, Lauren and Ava.



The Price and Ruddell families head down to the Cowes' foreshore last Tuesday night for the Carols by the Bay.



Taking the opportunity of some free face painting at the Cowes' carols with Ariel of Airy Fairy Faces are Laiken, Aria and Shania.

Wishing you all a Joyous Festive Season



Photo @Aussie Santa Koo Wee Rup

and a year filled with Kindness & Good Health

As the year draws to a close, I want to thank our amazing community for showing your continued generosity of spirit, valuing all our volunteers; as to our first responders and health care workers, supporting local fundraisers, our local clubs, groups and organisations and checking in with those you love and cherish.

The collective kindness exemplifies our community is at the heart and our true community colours keep on shining through.

Sadly, we have community members doing it tough or facing the first Christmas without that beautiful someone by their side. If this is you, please reach out and let others know - you are not alone. My team and I are here to help too.

This is the true spirit of Christmas.

As we reconnect with family and friends to celebrate the festive season, please look out for each other, support your local businesses, show appreciation for our retail and hospitality workers and please take care on the roads and in our waters. A reminder to also be bush fire prepared and download the VicEmergency app.

My family and I wish you and those you cherish a joyous reuniting season and a year filled with kindness, positive experiences and good health.

T: 5672 4755 jordan.crugnale@parliament.vic.gov.au 9 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi 3995

**jordan  
crugnale mp**  
STATE MEMBER FOR BASS

**Danny O'BRIEN MP**  
State Member for Gippsland South



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas*

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**NATIONALS** for Regional Victoria

# Merry Christmas

And Happy New Year

## Helping others have a Merry Christmas

DONATIONS received at the office of The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien have been passed on to local charities to help ease the burden for vulnerable Gippslanders at Christmas time.

Mr O'Brien highlighted that while Christmas is a time for celebration, it is also an extremely difficult time for many who are financially struggling or find themselves away from loved ones.

"I have been collecting donations at my office throughout the year to pass on to local charities and was delighted to be able to hand over such wonderful contributions on behalf of the electorate this week," Mr O'Brien said.

"We received extremely generous donations of toys and gifts for children who find themselves in out-of-home care over Christmas to pass on to Heather Baird and her team of volunteers at A Better Life for Foster Kids as well as hundreds of nappies and various



The Nationals Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien with Founder Heather Baird and Crisis Care Coordinator Bernadette Kent from A Better Life for Foster Kids along with Uniting's Senior Manager, Child, Youth and Families Tracey Donaldson and Division Assistant Becky Van Baalen.

hygiene products to donate to Uniting's Emergency Relief Program.

"I am confident that these wonderful charitable organisations will ensure that these donations go a long way to ensuring even our

most vulnerable Victorians are able to have a Merry Christmas this year."

Mr O'Brien said he continues to be astounded by the generosity of the people of Gippsland South and is extremely grateful to the

selfless contributors who made this donation possible.

"Even in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, the people of Gippsland never cease to amaze me with their ability to think of others," Mr O'Brien said.



We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year and hope to see everyone back at the rail in early January - Nutrien Ag Solutions.



We thank all the local farmers, VLE staff, truck drivers, vendors, buyers and processors and wish everyone a Merry Christmas - Phelan & Henderson.

## Share in the merry

From silent nights to loud Christmas lunches, may your festive season be a special one.

During the festive season our branch will close on Wednesday 25 December, and reopen Friday 27 December.

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## Merry Christmas from your Community Banks!

Your local Community Banks of **San Remo, Cowes and Grantville** wish you a wonderful Christmas and a safe, happy and healthy 2025.

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# Merry Christmas

## And Happy New Year



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone in the industry**  
- Alex Scott & Staff.



We are pleased to have consolidated our business interests into South Gippsland at the Victorian Livestock Exchange, Leongatha. The move has been well received by our clientele and we look forward to a continued involvement in the local industry. Seasons Greetings to all from the team at Everitt Seeley & Bennetts.



**A Merry Christmas to all our clients and a happy and safe New Year. We look forward to seeing what 2025 holds - Elders.**

## T&G Mechanical Repairs

**Terry, Clint and Team would like to wish all their valued customers a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.**

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All staff at Elders Korumburra & Leongatha wish all of our clients a very

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a safe and happy 2025!

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## Season's Greetings

**The Team at JPA would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.**

Please note our office will be closed from 12 noon on Tuesday, December 24, 2024 and will re-open 8.30am Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

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ME0206



Best Wishes for Christmas and a happy New year to all my valued customers over the past 28 years.

Thank you for your support.

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## Almost everyone in the Christmas spirit at Leongatha Carols



Warren and Michelle Turner look the part for the Leongatha Carols despite Warren's lack of enthusiasm for Christmas. A16\_5124



Callum Jorgensen and Kane Horvath enjoy the carols evening in Leongatha. A17\_5124



Jim and James Pickersgill celebrate the festive season at the Leongatha Carols. A18\_5124



Lacey McRae and Zara Gannon look the part for Christmas at the Leongatha Carols. A25\_5124



Kirsty Armstrong and daughter Elena are ready for Christmas at the Leongatha Carols. A24\_5124

A LARGE audience enjoyed pleasant conditions and the festive atmosphere of the Leongatha Carols on Friday evening.

Even Warren Turner, a self-confessed Christmas grinch, obliged by putting on his Christmas jumper for a Sentinel-Times photo, the jumper spotted draped on his chair a 'gift' from his wife Michelle.

"A lot of people will get a big kick out of this because they know that I hate Christmas," Warren declared.

However, most people appeared to be in the Christmas spirit, children in particular, along with some adults, happily wearing festive outfits and savouring the carol singing and the music of the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

Young Eevee Coleman relished the chance to take to the stage with her kindergarten group from Allora, pleased to be up the front, perhaps having a future in show business.

Former navy performer Jen Holm struck all the right notes as she sang songs of the season such as Grown Up Christmas List, while Kerryn Lockhart delivered a moving rendition of O Holy Night.

Past Mary MacKillop College student Ashley Geary impressed with the First Noel, and Angels We Have Heard on High.

The night wouldn't have been possible without the time devoted by volunteers and the support the event enjoys.

One of the organisers, Clare Williams, said preparations began in February and noted the tremendous support of local businesses and churches.

Fellow organiser Trudy Murphy described the carols evening as "a great community event".

That applies on and off stage.

Local kinder attendees and school students delivered bright performances and a combined churches group also sang, providing a spiritual element to the night.

Young hosts Phillip Smith and Vincent Trease set the mood with their relaxed style and introduction of performers and their backgrounds.

All too soon it was time for the fireworks, everyone then heading home filled with Christmas joy, perhaps even Warren.

Thank you to our valued customers for your continued support

From Eddie, Colin,  
Hayden and Jason

**GOOD YEAR**  
AUTOCARE *Good to go*

54 Graham Street, Wonthaggi  
5672 1311

HM12256

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
and a safe and happy New Year

Thank you to our valued customers for your continued support

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From Eddie, Colin,<br

# Merry Christmas

## And Happy New Year

**Merry Christmas**

John, Donna, Scott and Jai would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas

**OPENING HOURS**

Christmas eve Tues, Dec. 24 open till 12noon  
Christmas Day and Boxing day-Closed  
Reopen Friday, December 27  
New Year's Day - Closed

**SG HIRE & SALES**  
COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • AGRICULTURAL • DIY

17 Anderson Street, Leongatha  
5662 3783 • [www.sghire.com.au](http://www.sghire.com.au)

**Burra Barber**  
TRADING SINCE 1981

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year. From Rick, Shirley & Family.

Closed from Chrismas Eve & reopening Thursday, January 2, 2025

**SAARIO'S GARAGE & WHEEL SAFE MOBILE MECHANICAL**

wishing all our customers a safe and Merry Christmas and New Year

• Car services & tunes  
• Tyres  
• Batteries  
• Major & minor repairs & more

Tom 5658 1043  
Terry 0411 115 854  
33 Mine Road, Korumburra

**ENGINE RECO SPECIALIST**

We would like to thank our customers and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year in 2025

Closing Friday, December 20, reopening Monday, January 13, 2025

**South Gippsland Engine Reconditioning**

Factory 2, 37 Sanders Street, Korumburra | Phone 5655 2913  
PROP: Ross Harris

**LEONGATHA MENS SHED**

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECOGNITION & APPRECIATION

On behalf of the citizens of the South Gippsland Shire the Leongatha Men's Shed recognise the immense sacrifice and contribution to community life by our Police, Ambulance and

#### Volunteer first responders

from the  
The Country Fire Authority  
The State Emergency Services  
The Good Samaritans

The Community Emergency Response Team

Your time, commitment, compassion and self-sacrifice – and that of your families when attending emergencies – does not go unnoticed and is never taken for granted.

Each and every day it earns our respect and gratitude.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL 'FIRST RESPONDERS'

**South Gippsland Water**

**MERRY**  
**christmas**  
and  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Wishing all of our customers a safe and happy Christmas

We're looking forward to seeing you all again in the New Year. In the meantime, all our faults and out-of-hours services will operate 24/7 across the holiday period

For service faults, issues or emergencies ring  
**1300 851 636**  
We're always here to help

1300 851 636 | [www.sgwater.com.au](http://www.sgwater.com.au)

**Celebrate Christmas with AMCAL**

**Holiday Trading Hours**  
Christmas day **Closed** • Boxing Day **10am-1pm**  
New Years Eve **8.30am-6pm** • New Years Day **10am-1pm**

**Normal Trading Hours**  
Monday-Friday **8.30am-6pm** • Saturday **8.30am-12.30pm** • Sunday **10am-1pm**

Brett, Kerryn & staff wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Amcal**

**Nagel's Pharmacy**  
10-14 Bair St, Leongatha 5662 2297



Damien Crowe and Jake Joyce at the Dennis Vague sporting alumni launch at Bass Coast College. B07\_5124



Jenny Milkins, the onion queen, with fellow Rotary volunteers, Garry Sharrock and President Leah Montebello were in charge of the BBQ. C02\_5124



Disability Services Commission's Rebecca joined Tania of Gippsland Disability Advocacy and Tim of New Wave Gippsland Self Advocacy at Mitchell House. C04\_5124



Gippsland Disability Advocacy's Lauren was deep in conversation with PICAL Centre Manager David Rooks about the work they do. C06\_5124



Joyce Leausa and Bass Coast Secondary College Principal Ross Bramley at the sporting alumni launch. B09\_5124



Mark Owen and Tim Burrggraaff at the Dennis Vague sporting alumni launch. B13\_5124



Marg Churchill, Sue Canders and long serving Dudley campus canteen manager Kylie Nation at the Bass Coast SC sporting alumni launch. B14\_5124



Aaron Coyle, Jim Lees and Travis Osmond at Bass Coast College for the Dennis Vague launch. B10\_5124



Janice Follett, Lyn Mitchard and Annie Brown were making sure everything was running smoothly at the Poowong Christmas Carols. ob01\_5124

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the Dennis Vague Sporting Alumni Launch, Poowong Christmas Carols, Shack Bay Fish Count, International Day of People with Disability and Carols by the Bay



Allyce Tack, Wayne Luke, Nathan and Felicity Tack and Barb Luke at the Dennis Vague sporting alumni launch. B08\_5124



Marie and Lauren, each of Coves, were looking forward to a nice evening out at the carols. C08\_5124



It was Stephanie and Bobby of San Remo's first Carols by the Bay and they were thoroughly looking forward to it. C09\_5124



Gayle Kiteley and Nicole Mertens from Melbourne at the Shack Bay fish count. B44\_5024



Ivan Leong and Julianne Stuart from Melbourne at Shack Bay. B49\_5024



Sean and Graham were having a laugh while handing out hymn books. ob02\_5124



Catching up at the Poowong Christmas Carols were all the local clergy, Reverend David Atkinson, Reverend Judy McLeod and Reverend Arnie Wierenga. ob03\_5124



Faye and Bill Loughridge were looking forward to listening to and signing the carols as they love them all. ob04\_5124

### Stockyard Creek ready for Pearl Park music festival

GRAB a partner, pack a picnic, slap on a hat and don your dancing shoes for the free Pearl Park music festival at Stockyard Creek in Foster.

One hundred musicians are expected to hit the stage under the beautiful canopy of Stockyard Creek's Pearl Park on Saturday, January 4.

A fun day out is promised for all with food and market stalls, open cafes, al-fresco bar, art exhibitions and continual live music from 10am to 10pm.

Whether it be lazing on the lush lawns in one of the deck chairs provided, nattering loudly with friends, or better still wildly throwing your arms around on the open dance floor Pearl Park has something for everyone.

Large grants which helped cover the costs of previous festivals in 2023 and 2019 are not available this time around so volunteer organisers have been hard at work fundraising for the event since August.

To date close to \$7000 has been raised almost half of their

\$15,000 goal.

Major supporters include the Community Bank Toora and Foster, South Gippsland Shire Council, Foster Foodworks and the Teskey Brothers band.

Further financial support has also been gratefully received from Qube, Foster Exchange Hotel, Toora Lions, Foster Garden and Gravel, Southerly Ten, Foster Cars and Off Road, Tyre-power Foster and Paragreen Real Estate.

Manna Gum Community House is the major auspicing partner.

Organisers welcome volunteers to help set up and pack down the event, work behind the bar or help with many of the odd jobs needed to ensure the event runs smoothly.

For more information on volunteering or providing support for the festival email [pearlparkmusicfestival@mgch.org.au](mailto:pearlparkmusicfestival@mgch.org.au) follow [pearlparkmusicfestival](#) on Facebook or go to the GiveNow campaign at [givewow.com.au/pearlparkmusicfestival2025](http://givewow.com.au/pearlparkmusicfestival2025)



Pearl Park music festival at Stockyard Creek, Foster.

### True West comes to State Coal Mine this January

WONTHAGGI Theatrical Group presents True West, a play, by celebrated American playwright Sam Shepard.

True West is a societal observation of its time with the WTG production faithfully honouring Sam Shepard's brilliant script.

Consumed by sibling rivalry and envy, brothers Lee and Austin embark on a volatile journey of personal revelation and self-destruction.

The stamina and sustained excellence of the leads, Corey Green and Joel Stevenson, who have 100 per cent stage time, as they live the smouldering jealousy, latent envy and toxic relationship of brothers Lee and Austin, will have you ride the gamut of emotions and be left in a state of wonderment having witnessed theatre unlike anything before.

"I wanted to write a play about double nature, one that wouldn't be symbolic or metaphorical or any of that stuff," Sam Shepard said.

"I just wanted to give a taste of what it feels like to be



Joel Stevenson and Corey Green star as Austen and Lee respectively. Photo: Trevor Foon.

two-sided. It's a real thing, double nature. I think we're split in a much more devastating way than psychology can ever reveal. It's not so cute. Not some little thing we can get over. It's something we've got to live with."

True West was first performed at the Magic Theatre in San Francisco with the

world premiere on July 10, 1980. In 1983, it was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Whilst True West has seen many productions since its premiere it was most notably turned into a filmed version of the play and broadcast on Showtime in August 2002, starring Bruce Willis and Chad Smith.

In 2019, it was revived on Broadway at the American Airlines Theatre by the Roundabout Theatre Company, directed by James Macdonald it starred Ethan Hawke as Lee and Paul Dano as Austin.

Six shows only from January 17 – 26, so don't miss out! Tickets on sale now at [wtg.org.au](http://wtg.org.au).

#### 2025 major production cast announced

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group proudly announced the Addams Family cast for the May 23 – June 8 musical comedy.

Jay Nelson and Kerryn Lockhart will star in the lead roles as Gomez and Morticia respectively whilst Asha McMahon, Scott Lawrence and Jude Fisher star as Wednesday, Fester and Pugsley.

Hamish Trumble will take to the stage as Lurch, Ronan Harris as Lucas, Nina Barry-Macaulay as Alice and Andrew Newton as Mal. There is also a fantastic lineup of Dancers and Vocal Ensemble cast.



### Cold poached salmon with green mayonnaise

By Meg Viney

FOR folk who don't want a hot turkey Christmas, this is a real winner. You don't need a whole salmon, just a side, depending on how many people are eating.

#### Ingredients

- 1½ salmon
- 3 cups water
- 1 cup white wine
- 1 onion
- 1 carrot
- Bayleaf
- Thyme sprig
- 6 peppercorns
- 1 tbsp salt

#### Green Mayonnaise

- Egg yolk
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- ¾ cup vegetable oil
- Lemon juice or white wine vinegar
- 1 cup spinach, stems removed
- ½ cup watercress, stems removed
- ½ cup parsley, stems removed
- ¼ cup dill, stems removed
- ¼ cup water
- Salt, pinch
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- Salt and pepper, to taste

#### Method

For a 1½ kg piece of salmon, bring to the boil water and white wine, plus a piece each of onion and carrot, a bayleaf, a sprig of thyme, six peppercorns and a tablespoon salt.

You will need an oblong or a large pot, or better still a fish kettle (lucky people with one of those).

Wrap the salmon in cheesecloth (old tea towel will do), with a few slices of lemon and a sprig of dill inside.

Poach for 25 minutes over a low flame and cool in the liquid.

#### Baking Method

Wrap in buttered foil with the same lemon and dill and bake on 180 for 35 to 40 minutes. Remove from oven and cool, still wrapped.

#### Green Mayonnaise

Making your own is so easy and so much better.

Place an egg yolk in a small bowl and add Dijon mustard.

With beaters on low, beat until it goes thick then start adding a few drops at a time of vegetable oil (olive oil is too strong a flavour).

It will thicken (an emulsion) – keep adding gradually until all used up, then add a couple of tablespoons of lemon juice or white wine vinegar, tasting to ensure it is the right flavour. Set aside.

Place spinach, watercress, parsley, dill – all with stems removed – in a pot with ¼ cup water and a pinch of salt.

Cook for two minutes, then drain and squeeze excess water out.

In a blender place the herbs, sour cream and mayonnaise and gently blend to a puree. Add salt and white pepper to taste.

This dish is a real treat!

## Send us your photos

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

**Sentinel-Times**

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



**WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm**  
**THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm**

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

**★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★**

JA21486





## The pine forest with views

LOCATED on 10 acres, this charming three-bedroom, two-bathroom home offers a tranquil lifestyle with water views of Western Port Bay and across to Bunyip State Park. The northwest-facing deck allows you to soak in the natural beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Working improvements include a stock race, shed that consists of a wood heater, water supply, sink, stove and shower.

The property has approximately three acres of a large pine plantation, providing a serene woodland ambience that enhances the sense of privacy and peace. Ideal for hobby farming or outdoor enthusiasts, the land includes six paddocks, two dams, and fencing suitable for sheep or goats. Whether you're looking to create a sustainable lifestyle or simply enjoy the rural surroundings, this property offers endless possibilities.

With ample space for your animals and gardens, this unique property combines comfort and country living. Located in a peaceful setting, yet within easy reach of amenities, this is a rare opportunity to secure a versatile and beautiful piece of land.

For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487 or Sharon Turton on 0447 604 796.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist.

3 | 2 | 4

10 acres

120 Forrest Drive, **Nyora**

**For Sale** \$1.05 Million

**Agent** Elders

Ben Townsend 0400 594 487

Sharon Turton 0447 604 796



Real Estate

Over 40 years' experience

[eldersrealestate.com.au](http://eldersrealestate.com.au)



**Mt Eccles**

181 Acres

**Grazing / Turnout Block**

- Grazing/turnout block
- 13 paddocks with central laneway
- Stockyards & Race

Web ID: 300P174263

**\$1.495 Million**



**Ryanston**

3.05 Acres

**Coastal Views**

- 4-bed, 3-bath home
- Converted cottage
- 8x12 shed with workshop area

Web ID: 300P126444 **\$1.1 - \$1.2 Million**



**Strezlecki**

137 Acres

**Charming Farm**

- 137-acre beef cattle farm
- 4-bed, 2-bath home



**Trida**

75 Acres

**Expansive Sanctuary**

- Ultimate weekend retreat
- Picturesque countryside



**Elders Korumburra**  
11 Commercial Street  
Ph 5658 1894

**BEN TOWNSEND**  
Licensed Estate Agent  
0400 594 487

**SHARON TURTON**  
Sales Consultant  
0447 604 796

**HELEN ARRESTIA**  
Sales Support  
03 5662 3523

**NATALIE RES**  
Property Manager  
0439 383 091

**Elders Leongatha**  
37 Bair Street  
Ph 5662 3523



5 | 2 | 9 10.52 ha

134 Hairs Road, **Kongwak**  
**For Sale** \$1,500,000-\$1,599,000  
**Agent** Ray White Leongatha  
 Dave Trotman 0418 589 805

## Motivated vendors: priced to sell

THIS stunning property offers a unique opportunity to own a spacious and luxurious home on a vast land area of approx. 26 acres with an abundance of infrastructure to suit any or all of your needs.

With four bedrooms and two bathrooms, the home is perfect for large families or those who enjoy hosting guests. Wake up to amazing views in the master bedroom which boasts walk-in-robe, ensuite and ceiling fan. The three remaining bedrooms all have built-in-robies, two with ceiling fans and provide ample space for relaxation and privacy.

The two living areas provide space for everyone and the kitchen is well set up with plenty of cupboard space and modern appliances including a dishwasher. Heating and cooling is taken care of by two reverse cycle units. Step from the family/dining area straight into the fully enclosed alfresco area with solid fuel heater that provides a third living area all year round.

Outside is where this property really goes to another level with a heated, self-cleaning salt water pool surrounded by timber deck and a four person undercover spa that overlooks the rolling hills. There is a separate office/studio with a reverse cycle unit and built-in-robies that could become

a fifth bedroom or short stay accommodation.

Continuing outside this property boasts double carport with automatic roller door, four bay American style barn with mezzanine, double garage; and large machinery shed with truck wash and work pit at the front.

The infrastructure outside also includes:

- Stockyards with enclosed stable and loading race
- Chicken coop and aviary
- Four large rainwater tanks
- Total of 8kw of solar with a feed-in tariff still at 66c per kw
- Flood lighting to yards, work areas and sheds
- Well fenced paddocks with troughs
- Three large dams, one of which is spring fed

Situated in a peaceful and serene location, this home offers a tranquil escape from the hustle and bustle of city life. The expansive land area provides endless possibilities; whether you wish to run your business from home, create your own private oasis, start a hobby farm, or simply enjoy the freedom of space.

The asking price has recently been adjusted so don't miss out on the opportunity to own this remarkable home and expansive land. Contact us today to arrange a viewing and make this property your dream home.



### For Sale

7 Cahills Outlet Rd, **Kardella South**

#### HOUSE ON THE HILL

- Luxury 4 bedroom home with 3 living zones
- Outdoor entertaining area with kitchen
- Ducted rev cycle & solar power with batteries
- 4.7 acres with 4 paddocks & a dam

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$1.5 - \$1.6m 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 |



### For Sale

102 Brown Street, **Leongatha**

#### WHEN QUALITY & LOCATION MATTER!

- Ultra contemporary home, short walk to shops
- Open plan layout with solid fuel heater & A/C
- Outdoor entertaining deck & firepit area
- Blackbutt timber floors, dbl glazing, dbl garage

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$865,000-\$895,000 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |



### For Sale

32 Bellingham Street, **Leongatha**

#### CAN'T BEAT POSITION

- Excellent value BV home short walk to shops
- Deceptively spacious with 2 living areas
- Ducted heating plus reverse cycle A/C
- Single carport & secure yard

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$495,000 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

**Ray White**



### For Sale

50 Farmers Road, **Dumbalk**

#### TIME FOR A CHANGE

- 11.7 acres with 2 paddocks & a central dam
- Renovated home with features of yesteryear
- Dbl glazed windows plus large decking area
- Orchard, vegie garden, chook pen, shedding

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$895,000 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |



### For Sale

33 Chamberlain Drive, **Leongatha**

#### GREAT FAMILY HOME

- 1251m<sup>2</sup> allotment with rural views at the rear
- Spacious living areas with reverse cycle A/C
- Covered outdoor entertaining, dbl garage
- Short walk to Primary & Secondary Schools

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$675,000 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |



### For Sale

235 Racecourse Road, **Leongatha**

#### BOTANIC WONDERLAND

- 3.65 acres of stunning gardens & orchard
- Country homestead with 2 living areas
- 2 bungalows plus home office/studio
- Dog run, chook enclosure & a number of sheds

Mick Hanily 0417 311 756

\$1.19 - \$1.25m 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

Michael Hanily



Dave Trotman



Kasey Bowman



**Ray White Leongatha**  
 03 5662 5800  
 15 Bair Street, Leongatha  
 raywhitelongatha.com.au



## Love where you live

**Superbly constructed modern home with picturesque outlook**

SET on approximately one hectare of useable fenced land in the popular Golden Creek area at the base of the Hoddle range, just eight mins from Foster, 10 minutes from beautiful Waratah Bay beach, 15 minutes to Wilson's Prom gateway, this appealing property has been fastidiously maintained inside and out.

Cleverly designed to maximise the outlook over the surrounding countryside and glimpses of Wilsons Prom. Offering the perfect alternative to a new build.

Energy saving features include double glazing, solar power on a high feed in, zoned RC/AC for heating and cooling in living areas, office and main bedroom. Stunning polished jarrah flooring complements the neutral décor and every living space opens out onto a deck – perfect for entertaining.

Light filled living room with stylish Jotul wood heater. Superbly appointed central kitchen with rich timber cabinetry, stainless steel appliances and a large breakfast bar to the dining room. Master bedroom

with walk in robe and ensuite bathroom plus a light filled home office or fourth bedroom with perfectly placed picture windows. Upstairs to a spacious family room with raked ceilings, extensive glazing and balcony with pastoral views. Two further fitted bedrooms are serviced by a central family bathroom.

The interior layout is ideal for accommodating a growing or extended family, or even to utilise part as a BnB.

There are so many thoughtful inclusions – a large light filled laundry with stone bench, extra-large double garage with auto doors, storage area and direct access to the home. Additional garage/shed/workshop/studio with concrete floor, lights, power and water plus gravelled parking area for a boat/caravan. Established vegetable beds and 60,000L of static water. Fenced paddock with room for a few sheep, alpacas or a pony. Sure to delight even the most fastidious buyer this is a property you will love to come home to.



4 2 10 1 ha

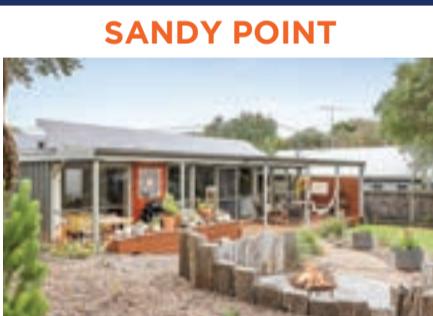
23 Powells Road, **Foster**  
**For Sale** \$1,185,000  
**Agent** SEJ Real Estate Foster  
Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



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[aadams@sej.com.au](mailto:aadams@sej.com.au)  
FOSTER  
Ph 5682 2800

IRENE WALKER  
0429 045 632  
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LEONGATHA  
Ph 5662 4033

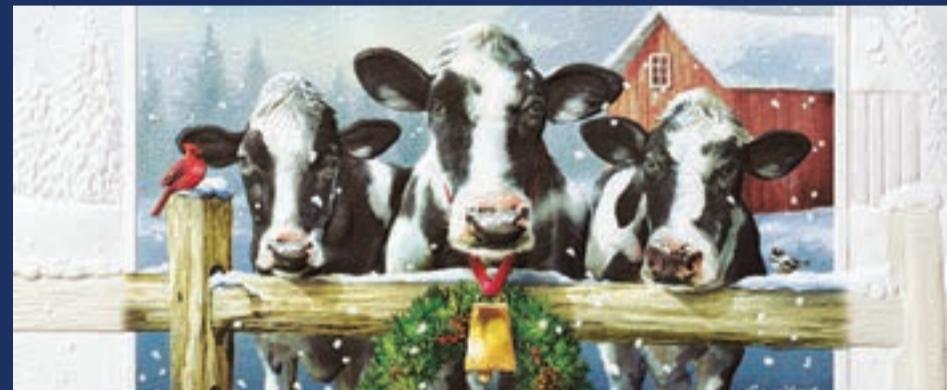


### SANDY POINT

- 200m walk to the sand
- Modern design, luxury finishes
- Lined garage with storage, boat parking
- Solar mains and battery, solar hws

**\$915,000**

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



The team at SEJ Livestock & Real Estate would like to wish everyone  
*A Merry Christmas and a Safe & Prosperous 2025*

### FOSTER



- 1105m<sup>2</sup> with creek frontage
- Separate dining, covered patio
- Two BRs, modernised bathroom
- Single carport, garage with side access

**\$495,000**

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



### LEONGATHA

- Family home on spacious block
- 4 bed, 2 bath, 2 car & open plan
- Separate formal lounge room
- Rear deck with views
- Side access, options galore

**\$649,000**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



### LEONGATHA SOUTH

- Experience the best of Coast & Country living on 27 HA / 68 AC (approx.)
- Situated just 15 min. from Leongatha & the beaches of Inverloch
- Exceptionally built 3 bed, 2 bath, open plan living, second living & sunroom
- 9ft ceilings, double glazed windows, solar & spotted gum hard wood floors
- Excellent shedding, spring fed dam (s) well fenced, stock yards

**\$1,650,000**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



### FISH CREEK

- Highly productive dairy operation
- 101 HA / 251 AC
- 22 S/O HB Dairy
- 4 bed, 2 bath home

**SOLD**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



## A golf course getaway: Your perfect island retreat



DISCOVER the epitome of coastal luxury in this stunning four-bedroom home, nestled on the prestigious Phillip Island Golf Course. This exquisite property offers breathtaking views of the fairways and easy access to the pristine sands of Silverleaves Beach.

- Prime Location: Enjoy the tranquillity of a golf course setting, just a short stroll from the serene Silverleaves Beach.
- Spacious Accommodation: The home features four generously sized bedrooms, plus a study, providing ample space for family and guests.
- Versatile Layout: Two self-contained areas offer flexibility for visiting family.
- Panoramic Views: Immerse yourself in the beauty of the golf course with sweeping views from the comfort of your home.
- Low-Maintenance Living: Spend more time enjoying the island lifestyle with low-maintenance established landscaped gardens.
- Convenient Location: Within easy walking distance to the Silverleaves General Store and Anerie Cafe.

This is an incredible opportunity to own a piece of paradise on Phillip Island. Contact Alex Scott & Staff today on 5952 2633 to arrange a private inspection.

4 | 2 | 2

333 Coghlan Road, **Cowes**  
**For Sale** \$1,290,000  
**Agent** Alex Scott & Staff  
Cowes Office 5952 2633

### The charm of yesteryear with comforts of today

WITH many comforts of today, this historic residence built in the early 1900s showcases a stunning array of period features blended harmoniously to meet the needs of the modern family. Period features include soaring rosette ceilings, lead light windows, timber floors, a bullnose veranda, an elegant sitting room and extensive living zones at the front of the home.

At the rear is a renovated kitchen with an electric stove, dishwasher and informal cosy lounge and dining area. There are three large bedrooms complete with built-in robes plus a wonderful family bathroom located central to the bedrooms with a second toilet off the large laundry.

Seasonal comforts are taken care of by split system heating and cooling. There is also gas log fire and gas ducted heating available once the gas is reconnected. The rear undercover entertaining deck has dual access from the rear lounge and laundry and rear access to the property is via the remote garage.

Outstanding established gardens both front and rear all with the shortest of walks to the main street, schools, shopping, cafes, hotel and other amenities. This property is a landmark to locals, and though it does need some cosmetic work overall it is well maintained and is now presented for sale.

3 | 1 | 2 | 648m<sup>2</sup>

23 Bridge Street, **Korumburra**  
**For Sale** \$695,000  
**Agent** Alex Scott & Staff  
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898



**LEONGATHA**



**10 Roughead Street**

- Zoned mixed use providing multiple options
- Unique updated brick cottage, 3 bed 1 bath
- Very close walk to centre of town

**\$435,000**

Contact: Leongatha Office

**KORUMBURRA**



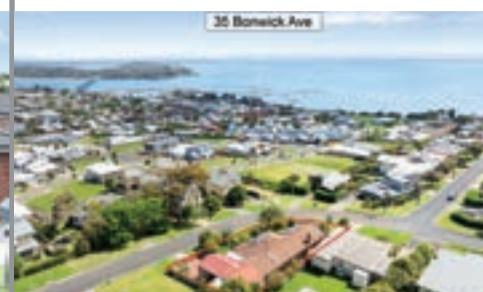
**11 Riflebutts Road**

- Spacious family home
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Corner block

**\$635,000**

Contact: Korumburra Office

**SAN REMO**



**35 Bonwick Avenue**

- Panoramic views over the bay and beyond
- 998m<sup>2</sup> (approx.) allotment, close to town
- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car

**\$880,000 - \$920,000**

Contact: Cowes Office

**WONTHAGGI**



**3/52 Merrin Crescent**

- 2 bedroom unit
- No body corp
- Solar panels

**Sold \$385,000**

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

**LEONGATHA**



**8 Silverback Place**

- Sizeable brick home, 5 bed, 2 bath, 9 car
- Walking distance to school and main street
- Dual living design, quality and craftsmanship

**\$1,195,000**

Contact: Leongatha Office

**ARAWATA**



**Coming Soon**

- 43 acres (approx.)
- 3-4 bedroom brick home
- Various shedding

**Contact Agent**

Contact: Korumburra Office

**CORINELLA**



**24 McRae Avenue**

- Absolute foreshore frontage with views
- Open plan living to entertainers' deck
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom

**\$1,700,000 - \$1,850,000**

Contact: Cowes Office

**WONTHAGGI**



**1/17 Poplar Street**

- 2 bedroom unit
- Close to town centre
- Large open plan living

**Sold \$450,000**

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

**FISH CREEK**



**39 Old Waratah Road**

- Charming restored cottage, 2 bed, 1 bath
- Wonderful views across farmland
- Close to Fish Creek's shopping precinct

**\$590,000**

Contact: Leongatha Office

**KORUMBURRA**



**5/49 Guys Road**

- Perfect downsizer
- Central location
- 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom

**\$390,000**

Contact: Korumburra Office

**COWES**



**333 Coghlan Road**

- Prime location adjoining Cowes Golf Club
- Beautifully landscaped gardens
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car

**\$1,290,000**

Contact: Cowes Office

**WONTHAGGI**



**2 Bent Street**

- 2 bedroom home
- Easy flat walk to shops
- Large double garage

**\$450,000**

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

**ST CLAIR**



**46 Lynnes Road**

- Ultimate lifestyle on 4.2 acres, 4 bed, 2 bath
- Just minutes' drive to Wonthaggi township
- Lock up shed, open bay machinery shed

**\$925,000**

Contact: Leongatha Office

**LOCH**



**335 Henrys Road**

- Unique architect designed home
- 5 acres plus 2 acres river lease
- 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms

**\$1,385,000 - \$1,420,000**

Contact: Korumburra Office

**VENTNOR**



**17 Hastings Street**

- Self-contained cottage
- Gas log fire, separate workshop, 645m<sup>2</sup>
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2 car

**\$1,290,000**

Contact: Cowes Office

**WONTHAGGI**



**147A Reed Crescent**

- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Over 2000m<sup>2</sup> block
- Great outdoor areas

**\$979,000**

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

**LEONGATHA**

**5662 0922**

41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320  
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299  
Tony Giles 0407 528 192  
Dan Huther 0418 334 801

**KORUMBURRA**

**5655 1133**

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

**COWES**

**5952 2633**

113a Thompson Avenue

Greg Price 0419 337 441  
Brian Silver 0407 347 509  
Chase Waters 0423 272 819  
Maree Malloy 0408 316 715

**WONTHAGGI**

**5672 1911**

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163  
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783  
Phil Hanley 0417 140 508



## Healthy prices at Leongatha Store Sale

FRED Jonkers and son Nathan had steers and heifers from their Yinnar and Hazelwood properties on the market at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, Fred happy with the outcome.

"The Angus steers made \$3.80 a kilo," Fred said, declaring that a pretty good price, Speckle Park and Simmental Cross were also among the close to 90 cattle sold.

The heifers brought around \$3.30 per kilo.

Fred observed that prices across the board are up from a month ago, attributing that to plentiful rain and grass growth.

"I heard there are not many cows coming from up North into Victoria because they've had rain up there as well," he said, believing people up that way are now more inclined to hold onto cattle as they have sufficient feed.

All up, just over 3200 head of cattle were sold at Thursday's Store Sale, Livestock Manager at Alex Scott & Staff Pakenham, Dave Setches, describing the sale as "very buoyant".

"There was a lot of cattle going back to the paddock," he said, adding there was also feedlot demand for steers in the high 400 to low 500-kilo bracket.

Weaner sales also impressed. "A lot of the weaner calves today went north of \$4 a kilo, which was great, and the best of the calves made into the low \$4.30s a kilo," David said.

He observed the fat market has lifted in the last few weeks.

"A bit of rain in the North has slowed cattle numbers down, so a lot of processors have now got more kill space available, and a lot of our clients were able to shift a few bullocks and buy a few



Dave Setches of Alex Scott & Staff in Pakenham is pleased with the current strength of the cattle market and sees positive signs for the near future. A12\_5124



Jayden Ferrari sells for Baw Baw Livestock. A25\_5124

more replacement calves and it helps the market along on weaner cattle," David said.

"I thought the weaner heifers today sold exceptionally well and some made up to \$4 a kilo, so that heifer portion could be a good 40 cents firmer than it has been in recent weeks."

The current availability of

feed locally has encouraged people to buy cattle to put in the paddock ahead of Christmas.

David is hopeful weaner sales will continue to go well in January, saying rain in the north and confidence in the export market moving forward suggest a positive outlook for beef prices.

Reinstatement of exports from Australian abattoirs into China, and the ongoing demand from the United States are driving confidence in the export market.

David noted a lot of cattle sold across Victoria on Thursday, including 5500 head at Mortlake, and 2400 in Wodonga.

## MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre 

### Solid store sale result

By SGSA

ANOTHER good quality yarding by agents of 3300 cattle at the VLE Leongatha store sale last Thursday.

The yarding lacked the lines of extra heavy weighted cattle compared to the previous five sales with only a few pens over 520kg yarded with most of the grown types in the 400 to 520kg bracket along with some nice drafts of angus steer and heifer weaners and a mixed offering of Xbred and dairy types.

The market generally held steady in line with the previous couple of sales with most of the regular buyers, agents and graziers competing strongly.

The final store sale for 2024 is Thursday, December 19 and will recommence on Thursday, January 9.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Dec. 12, 2024 Steers

T O'Leary 10 Angus	671kg	\$3.63	\$2440
PC & JT Siby Pastoral 14 Ang	525kg	\$3.72	\$1950
B. Paulet 13 Angus	522kg	\$3.84	\$2010
LJ & LJ McCorey 11 Angus	510kg	\$3.72	\$1950
H Parth Nom. P/L 14 Hereford	497kg	\$3.76	\$1870
Dh Collins Farm P/L 14 Angus	494kg	\$3.78	\$1870
T Comerford 11 Angus	480kg	\$3.77	\$1780
PC & JT Siby Pastoral 15 Ang	452kg	\$4.06	\$1840
Dh Collins Farm P/L 14 Angus	443kg	\$3.94	\$1750
Crockfield Pastoral 14 Angus	441kg	\$4.10	\$1810
H & M Mawhinney 20 Angus	440kg	\$4.04	\$1780
Greenwald Pastoral Co. 17 Ang	439kg	\$3.95	\$1740
Bass Coast Contracting 12 Ang	439kg	\$3.70	\$1630
L Shepherd 11 Angus	433kg	\$4.10	\$1780
Greenwald Pastoral Co 40 Ang	402kg	\$3.70	\$1490
The Bend L/Stock 11 Angus	396kg	\$3.71	\$1470
A & G Simonis 11 Angus	395kg	\$3.54	\$1400
R. Stivey 10 Angus	391kg	\$3.32	\$1300
Wiltshaw Farming 10 Ang	386kg	\$3.75	\$1450
Troptrans Holdings P/L 15 Hfd	383kg	\$3.68	\$1410
J. Giardina 10 Lim	379kg	\$3.47	\$1320
GL & YM Humphrey 10 Angus	378kg	\$3.32	\$1260
MS & SL Reedy 12 Angus	372kg	\$3.57	\$1330
W. Powell & Summit Farms			
11 Angus	371kg	\$3.82	\$1420
Greenwald Pastoral Co. 20 Ang	361kg	\$3.98	\$1440
DJ Sawyer 13 Angus	359kg	\$3.39	\$1220
DB & TA Jeffery 21 Angus	356kg	\$4.14	\$1480
N. Ireland 13 Angus	355kg	\$3.87	\$1380
DC McGrath 19 Angus	355kg	\$3.94	\$1360
B & L Rayner 14 Angus	355kg	\$3.76	\$1340
Greenwald Pastoral Co. 22 Ang	353kg	\$4.05	\$1430
S Waterson 10 Angus	350kg	\$3.77	\$1320
L Bond 20 Angus	345kg	\$3.65	\$1260
Greenwald Pastoral Co. 22 Ang	344kg	\$4.09	\$1410
JW & MJ Davies 20 BB	344kg	\$3.77	\$1300
Pepperhill Trading Co 20 Angus	341kg	\$3.98	\$1360
Greenwald Pastoral Co. 20 Ang	341kg	\$3.87	\$1320
P. Beattie 12 Angus	341kg	\$3.80	\$1300
ML & LM Wilms 10 Angus	331kg	\$3.86	\$1280
Greenwald Pastoral Co. 20 Ang	324kg	\$4.01	\$1300
Pepperhill Trading Co 22 Angus	317kg	\$4.19	\$1330
JTB Family Trust 18 Angus	316kg	\$4.17	\$1320
Cash & Co Ft 11 Angus	313kg	\$3.99	\$1250
Greenwald Pastoral Co. 18 Ang	312kg	\$3.58	\$1120
Wiltshaw Farm 10 Angus	304kg	\$3.91	\$1190
M, D, J, A Henry 12 Angus	299kg	\$3.07	\$920
Curtz Pty Ltd 14 Angus	298kg	\$4.28	\$1280

### SMALL ACREAGE CULTIVATION

- Pasture mulching
- Slashing
- Hoeing & ripping
- Seeding
- Spraying
- Fertiliser spreading
- 10m<sup>2</sup> Tipper hire



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### Phelan & Henderson & Co.

Specialists in Livestock and Rural Real Estate sales

- Operating at VLE Leongatha
- Auctions Plus sales
- Direct and private sales of Livestock
- Personal professional service



Simon Henderson 0428 740 750  
Jake Anthony 0467 297 794  
David Phelan 0429 050 349

### ELECTRIC FENCE ENERGIZER REPAIRS

Paul Vassil  
(Formerly Vassil Electronics)  
38 Lower Gordon St, Korumburra  
0408 515 184

36 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA PH: 5655 1133 FAX: 5655 2480

### Livestock Sales

#### KORUMBURRA

David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
LEONGATHA		Brian Vuillermi	0429 436 040
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
WARRAGUL		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	Dale Atherton	0428 888 300
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

#### LEONGATHA

Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320
WONTHAGGI		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			
Brian Silver	0407 347 509	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822
Angus Hall	0466 326 487		
INVERLOCH			
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472
BERWICK			
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898
LANG LANG			

#### MELBOURNE LAND

Matt Koster	0474 781 711
COWES	
Greg Price	0419 337 441
Maree Malloy	0408 316 715
Chase Watters	0423 272 819

#### VENUS BAY

Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489

#### KOO WEE RUP

Angus Hall	0466 326 487
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SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE



## Breeding Australia's top dairy herds

THE LATEST bull and cow rankings for December 2024 have put Gippsland breeders from Biggara, Willow Grove and Wonthaggi at the top of the index.

What dairy farmers want according to DataGene, an initiative of Dairy Australia and the herd improvement industry is a specific breeding tool to provide the best return on investment for their genetics.

That was one of the early findings from a two-year national breeding objective review by DataGene designed to ensure the industry continues to deliver the herd improvement resources dairy farmers need to breed their future herds.

DataGene's latest Australian Breeding Values (ABV) release reveals a rise of about 75 per cent in the number of Holstein bulls in the Good Bulls Guide with a Balanced Performance Index (BPI) of more than 500.

DataGene CEO Dr Matt Shaffer said dairy farmers now have more and better bulls available that are proven to perform well under Australian conditions.

"The most recent ABVs are an efficient way to understand how each sire performs and would work on-farm," said Dr Shaffer.

"It's easier than ever to compare bulls and find genetics to suit individual breeding objectives, so it's not surprising that 90 per cent of farmer and herd improvement industry representatives told the National



Top bred cow and Holstein calf.

Breeding Objective Review they use DataGene tools," Matt said.

"The most popular tool for survey respondents was the BPI, but they also used DataGene's Health Weighted Index (HWI), Australian Selection Index (ASI) and other ABVs to inform breeding decisions.

"Although there was interest in the seasonal/pasture index and possibly a hot regions index, DataGene also received the strong message to 'keep it simple' and avoid unnecessary complexity to the many decisions dairy farmers make in their businesses."

Other findings from the National Breeding Objective Review showed there was not a strong demand for a Jersey breed-specific index as current indices met Jersey respondents' needs.

DataGene is an independent, industry-owned organisation responsible for driving genetic gain and herd improvement in the Australian dairy industry by performing many pre-competitive herd improvement functions such as genetic evaluation, herd testing and herd improvement software development and data systems.

The most recent bull and cow rankings have identified Adlejama Lastin Shauna 3699 GP83 as the new number 1 Holstein BPI cow, bred and owned by the Hogg Family of Biggara.

Carenda Jeronimo Vida, the former number 1 BPI Holstein cow, is now ranked fourth.

Classified VG87 as a three-year old Vida is a polled daughter of the high-ranking bull ABS Jeronimo (29HO18698), her son Carenda AUSTRALIND is the number 2 BPI Holstein bull.

The number 1 Jersey BPI cow is again Araluen Park Jiggy Sandra EX-90 bred by Trevor Saunders and Anthea Day of Shady Creek near Willow Grove.

Jiggy Sandra is also the Jersey breed's top Sustainability Index cow at 1163 SI.

In second spot with a BPI of 513 is two-year old Beulah Gislev H Bouy 83 bred and owned by Daryl and Lani Hoey of Wonthaggi.

The Hoey's are also the breeders of the top BPI and HWI Jersey heifer Beulah Star D Fairy 2 with a BPI of 432 and a HWI of 441.

Trevor Saunders and Anthea Day of Shady Creek scored the top BPI and Sustainability Index Ayrshire herd.

For more information about DataGene phone 1800 841 848, email [abv@datagene.com.au](mailto:abv@datagene.com.au) or go to [datagene.com.au](http://datagene.com.au).

## Rain, humidity and rising risks for local graziers

RECENT rain and humid weather have provided ideal conditions for a suite of issues that can impact animal health, including Barber's pole worm, flystrike and an associated increase in toxic weeds.

Agriculture Victoria Senior Veterinary Officer Dr Jeff Cave said during warm humid conditions Barbers pole worm eggs hatch into larvae and are consumed by sheep during grazing.

"Barber's pole worm is a potentially harmful roundworm parasite of sheep that sucks blood from the lining of the stomach, causing anaemia.

"Often the sheep go from looking fat and healthy to dead very quickly with few symptoms."

"The adult female worms are prolific egg producers leading rapidly to heavy pasture

contamination," he said.

Dr Cave said as with other internal parasites, drench resistance to Barber's pole worm is becoming increasingly common.

"Producers need to look out for sheep going down during mustering with pale eyelids and gums."

"Sheep don't scour with Barber's pole worm as they do with other worm burdens – often the first sign is sheep dying."

"It takes about 21 days for the lifecycle of the worm, so around three – six weeks after the rain event is when we expect to see clinical signs in sheep," he said.

Dr Cave said Barber's pole worm outbreaks can lead to high mortalities in a short space of time.

"The best way to be sure

your worm control program is working is to have faecal egg counts done.

"After recent rains and humid conditions, sheep producers need to check their stock more regularly than normal in order to detect health problems early."

"Flystrike is also a major problem when you have these humid conditions and needs to be identified and treated swiftly."

"If a fly-struck sheep is found, the affected area should be immediately treated by clipping close to the skin, dressed to prevent a re-strike, and the sheep should be moved to a hospital paddock to reduce the risk to the rest of the flock."

"Any maggots should be collected and killed to help reduce the build-up of fly numbers."

By contrast Heliotrope is one of the toxic weeds that grow

with summer rains, along with panic grass which can lead to liver damage.

Dr Cave said panic grasses will thrive in some crop stubbles and other pastures with recent summer storms.

"The best prevention is to avoid grazing risky paddocks. If this isn't possible never put hungry sheep straight out onto risky pastures but give them a good feed of hay first. Lambs are particularly vulnerable to panic grass toxicity."

For further advice and information on fly strike visit websites [flyboss.com.au/](http://flyboss.com.au/) and [wool.com/sheep/welfare/breath-flystrike](http://wool.com/sheep/welfare/breath-flystrike).

For further information or advice please contact your local veterinarian, Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer.

## Economic blueprint needed to protect agricultural land

THE Victorian Government's recognition of farming as a priority sector has been welcomed by the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) as a boost to the state's productivity.

VFF President Emma Germano wants a balanced approach to land use between competing priority sectors of the economy and a clear strategy to protect important agricultural land.

"The acknowledgment that agribusiness is a priority for the state's economic growth and competitiveness is very welcome and builds off the

VFF's conversations with government."

"Cutting red tape to drive productivity is a key focus for the VFF and we have already made it a priority for our policy work next year," said Ms Germano.

Ms Germano said it was positive to see the State Government sharing the VFF's commitment to agribusiness however the Economic Growth Statement for Victoria is missing a key strategy required to protect and strengthen Victoria's food and fibre production.

"Whilst the statement

recognises agribusiness as a priority, it overlooks the inherent conflict between agricultural land use and the demands of other priority sectors, such as critical minerals and renewable energy development.

"The statement is very heavy on seeing mining and renewable energy development."

"We are a huge economic contributor and can do more if we commit to protecting our most valuable agricultural farmland."

"Victoria produces 30 per cent of the nation's food from just 1.5 per cent of Australia's land mass."

"Agricultural land is a finite resource and the government must prioritise its long-term viability in any strategy aimed at growing the state's economy."

"At the end of the day, solar panels and wind turbines have an end-life and mines get filled in."

"Farming is forever," said Ms Germano.

The VFF claims it has been consistent in calling on the Victorian Government to implement a clear and robust strategy to identify and protect strategic agricultural land from inappropriate development.

### Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, December 9, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x	\$12 to \$40
Friesian Bulls	\$32 to \$96
Friesian Heifers	\$39 to \$100
Beef Bulls	\$36 to \$100
Beef Heifers	\$44 to \$215

Number of Calves: 139

Number purchased to rear: 45

### Lardner Park Store Sale Report

Beef Bulls	\$140 to \$1030
Beef Heifers	\$125 to \$875
Number of Calves: 74	

## STORE SALE

VLE - LEONGATHA

1500 CATTLE 1500

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024  
Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

### GROWN STEERS

A/c "Kyle Custom Building", Bena (SEJ)

70 Angus steers, 14-16 mths

A/c P & G Johnston, Leongatha South (SEJ)

50 Angus steers, 16-17 mths

A/c S & L Campbell, Mardon (SEJ)

25 Angus steers, 16-17 mths, Leewood blood,

2 x 5 in 1

A/c S Perry, Yinnar (NUTRIEN)

10 Angus steers, 16 mths

A/c Balas Holdings P/L, Welshpool (NUTRIEN)

7 Angus steers, 16-18 mths

### GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Camphill Past, Delegate (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus heifers, 15-18 mths, Millah Murrah &

Rennylea blood, PTE

A/c Bona Vista Pastoral (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus heifers, 16 mths, Leewood & Bowman

blood, NE Accred

A/c Warrambine, Walkerville (NUTRIEN)

16 Angus & BB heifers, 16 mths

### WEANERS

A/c Katelea Past, Glen Alvie (SEJ)

60 Angus steers, 10-11 mths, Banquet & Anvil

blood, weaned, VB, GF, ABF

A/c Doonagatha, Sandy Point (SEJ)

42 Angus heifers, 12-14 mths, VB, GF & ABF,

NE Accred, Harris Farms blood, Cydectin LA, Copper & B12 + Sel on the 18/11/24

A/c J & D Sebalt, Fish Creek (SEJ)

25 Angus & Angus Hereford mixed sex weaners,

8-10 mths, Harris Farms blood

A/c C Stafford, Nayook (SEJ)

25 Angus steers, 12-13 mths, Bowman blood,

weaned, VB, NE Accred, GF, ABF, very quiet

A/c N & J Stringer, Foster (SEJ)

12 Angus steers,

11 Angus heifers,

13-14 mths, By Harris Farm Bulls, Drenched Moxxi

LA injectable & Multimin 23/11/24

A/c SJ Conway, Traralgon (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 11-13 mths, weaned, By Latrobe

Park & Pinora Bulls

A/c R & D Collins, Waratah North (SEJ)

15 Angus steers, 10 mths, Harris Farms blood

A/c G Turner, Toora (NUTRIEN)

6 Angus steers

6 Angus heifers

8-10 mths

A/c H & J Bland, Yarram (NUTRIEN)

5 Charo steers

7 Charo heifers

12-13 mths

### XBRED & DAIRY

A/c P Broadbent, Maffra (NUTRIEN)

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### COWS & CALVES

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**DORLING:**  
Gary and Kelly welcome with love their sixth grandchild.  
Zoe Violet.  
On December 10, 2024.  
Congratulations Jake, Jess and big brothers Lucas and Mason.  
14th great grandchild for Toby and Georgia Bolding.

**DEATHS**

**ALLAN, Shirley Mae:**  
13.02.1930 - 11.12.2024.  
Loving wife of Stan (dec.).

Loved and loving mother of Graeme, Lorraine and Neil, mother-in-law of Brenda and Titch.

Cherished Nana of Brian, Wendy, Paul, Shane, Naomi, Marcus and Kim.

Great Nana of 18.

Thank you Mum for your unconditional love, kindness and support.

Mum and Dad reunited.

**ALLAN, Shirley:**

Much loved mum of Graeme, mother-in-law of Brenda, nanna and great nanna of Brian, Tracy, Bridie, Sophie, Wendy, Caitlyn, Jasmin, Paul, Samara, Arleye, Zahli and Tarkyn.

Died peacefully with family by her side.

She will remain in our hearts forever.

-- Love Always.

**DEATHS**

**ALLAN (Beech), Shirley Mae:**  
13.02.1930 - 11.12.2024.

Beloved mum of Lorraine and mother-in-law of Titch.

Cheeky, loving, caring and witty nan of Shane and Russell, Naomi and Mick and Marcus and Karin.

She loved and always brought a smile to her great grandchildren Ella, Molly, Lucy, Ryan, Jayde, Meg, Macey, Lily and Zali.

They loved her in return and will miss her so much.

We hope there are enough jigsaws and crossword puzzles in Heaven to keep you busy.

More than a mum, but also best friend and confidant for more than seventy years. I'll be lost without our daily cuppa's.

The rest of my days will be spent thinking of you.

Sleep peacefully Mum.

Your loving daughter "Sissy".

Our beautiful cheeky nanna will be missed more than words can say.

Loved nanna and great nanna of Shane, Russell, Ella, Molly, Lucy and Ryan.

Now resting peacefully with Pop.

**DEATHS**

**ALLAN (Beech), Shirley Mae:**

You taught us all how to enjoy the simple things in life and never failed to put a smile on our faces.

Your sense of humour and cheeky remarks will be missed, it was these traits that made you more than our nan but our greatest friend.

Thank you for the cherished memories, your love and kindness will always be with us.

Sadly missed but forever in our hearts.

Love Naomi, (Pip) and Michael, Jayde and Jai, Meg, Macey and Rohan.

The dearest most caring nanna to Marcus and Karin.

Great granddaughter's Lily and Zali will always remember her sense of humour and jokes that were half a century old, but still caused us to laugh.

Nanna always stayed young and loved to chat with us, even though she was nearly ninety five.

**DEATHS**

**BELL (nee Wardle), Joan Lorraine:**

Passed away peacefully on December 11, 2024. Aged 90 years.

Loved wife of Ken (dec.).

Loving mum and mother-in-law of Robert, Ian and Di, Trevor and Jayne, Mooth and Norm, Steven and Jenny.

Adored nanny/nanny/G-Banger to her 15 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

**Rest Peacefully.**

**DEATHS**

**FARAGHER, Thelma:**

11.06.1944 - 12.12.2024.

Passed away peacefully after a short illness at the Frankston Hospital.

Aged 80 Years.

Dearly loved wife of Ron.

Loved mum to Ricky and Sandra, Colin, Graham and Karyn.

Step mum to John and Marion.

Adored nanna to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**'So dearly loved, so sadly missed'**

**DEATHS**

**RICHARDSON, Josephine Mary 'Josie':**

Passed away peacefully on December 8, 2024. Aged 82 years.

Loved wife of Patrick Joseph (dec.).

Cherished mum of Andrew and Maryanne, Patricia (dec.) and Ray.

Adored nan of Nathan, Damien and Jess, Taylor and Jordan.

Reunited with her beloved Patrick.

Josie's family would like to thank all the doctors and nurses for the care given to Josie at Bass Coast Health.

**FUNERALS**

**BELL:**

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Joan Lorraine Bell, will be held at the graveside, Inverloch Cemetery, Bass Highway, Inverloch on Friday December 20, 2024, commencing at 11am.

**Handley & Anderson**  
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**BEREAVEMENT THANKS**

**BORDIGNON:**  
On behalf of the Bordignon family, we wish to thank everyone for your beautiful thoughts/prayers, flowers/cards and phone calls/visits which were greatly appreciated.

Words cannot express enough gratitude to Dr. Roger Chamoun and the staff of Rose Lodge for the exceptional care provided to Dad over the past three years, especially his last week where he was treated with such love and dignity. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

**BOSTON:**

Doug and Dorothy Boston and family along with Maureen, Christopher, Sarah and Jack and families would sincerely like to thank you all for the beautiful cards and flowers sent to us all following the recent death of Graeme (Bosto) Boston on the 9.11.2024.

Please accept this with our heartfelt thanks.

**Handley**

Phone: (03) 5662 2717

**RICHARDSON:**

Requiem Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Mrs Josephine Mary Richardson will be offered at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Scarborough Street, Inverloch **TODAY** TUESDAY December 17, 2024, commencing at 11am.

At the conclusion of Mass, the funeral will leave for the Inverloch Cemetery.

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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

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See you later tonight Daniel.  
-- From Ramsey.

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**WATTS:**

A Graveside Funeral Service for Mrs. Edna May Watts will be held at the Leongatha Cemetery, Cnr McCartin St, and Begg St, Leongatha on Monday, December 23, 2024, commencing 11am.

**Handley**

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**IN MEMORIAM****CHAMBERS:**

Father Sam 22.12.1979.  
Mother Mary 02.02.1989.  
Sister Frances 19.12.2010.

Today, tomorrow, our whole life through, we will always love and remember you.

-- Blanche and James.

**MATTHIES:**

In loving memory of our brother and uncle Neville John.

20 years have passed, on December 17, since we said good-bye to you Neville.

The years have gone but memories of you will never fade.

Remembering all the achievements you made in 45 years. Love you always.

-- Glenice, Don, Val, Ian, Colin, Tracey and their families.

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Support local this festive season

By author Claire Chitty

WE DON'T do Christmas; the gifts, that is. We came to the conclusion that this special occasion was hijacked by big business, intensified when the teenage years kicked in. It became all too hard with fussy receivers, grumpiness and excessive expectations. One thing they understood was getting a pet for Christmas was never an option. We waited till the new year when animal rescue centres were inundated with unwanted cats and dogs, in desperate need of loving homes for life.

Gift giving then shifted to gift cards enabling the recipients to buy what they wanted. It was not very personal, yet the results were more resourceful. However, what really changed my perspective was society's addiction for consumption.

Fast forward to the last two years, and we made the conscious choice to implement experiences rather than presents. It has been the best decision and serves several purposes; the children are living in the city so we don't see them as often. Experiences create the opportunity to make memories and spend quality time together. And the best part is, everyone loves it.

There's an incredible array of activities on the Bass Coast, too numerous to mention. If you're stuck for ideas, how about exploring the Koala Conservation Reserve, Penguin Parade, local wineries, State Coal Mine, A Maze N Things, Maru Koala and Animal Park and sightseeing cruises. And of course, there's surfing lessons, wine and food hampers, and local markets offering an array of hand-crafted gifts.

There's also no obligation to buy. The gift of giving can be time. How about enjoying the stunning coastal and nature walks? Or further afield, hiking and bike riding through bushland along the rail trail into East Gippsland. Hearing the sounds of delight as people immerse themselves in nature, live music or a cultural experience is confirmation in itself that Christmas doesn't need to be about the presents. It is about presence. This year we've decided to do a community Orphan's Christmas lunch and organise a BYO in a park for those who find themselves alone for various reasons.

Whatever you decide, think outside the square this festive season. Think local, think small business. Maybe gather family and friends together, buy produce from nearby stores, spread a picnic blanket overlooking the ocean and embrace the moment.

Remember to stay well hydrated with water and make sun protection a habit and stay safe this festive season. Happy Holidays.

## Telstra upgrades for Mirboo North

TELSTRA are proposing to upgrade the mobile phone infrastructure at the existing Old Thorpdale Road site in Mirboo North to allow for the introduction of 5G on the network.

Locals are invited to provide feedback to Telstra about the proposal, which consists of installing six new panel antennas, six tower-mounted amplifiers, three remote radio units and ancillary works.

Redundant equipment, including six antenna's will also be removed.

"We have plans in the pipeline to bring 5G to Mirboo North for the first time," said Telstra Regional General Manager Jenny Gray, with works expected to be completed by next year.

"There may be some temporary disruptions while the works are occurring, but we'll give customers the heads up ahead of time."

# Rising and experienced musical theatre talent recognised



Cecily De Gooyer and Colin Mitchell OAM hold their awards on Saturday, surrounded by cast and crew of Leongatha Lyric Theatre's production of *Into the Woods*.

LEONGATHA Lyric Theatre performed at the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria's 'Bruce Awards' on Saturday and collected some of the evening's honours for this year's production of *Into the Woods*, those awards going to a vastly experienced creative talent and an actress on the rise.

Retiring director Colin Mitchell OAM won the 2024 Edith Harrhy Award for Outstanding Contribution to Musical Theatre, having long contributed to Leongatha Lyric Theatre and other companies including Wonthaggi Theatrical Group, his set and costume design complementing his directing.

He received a standing ovation when accepting his award at the Gippsland Performing Arts Centre in Traralgon.

"I, of course, am very honoured and deem myself fortunate to be acknowledged with an award for doing what I love," Colin told the *Sentinel-Times*.

He also received the Hazel Rogers Award for costumes.

The Award for an Open Supporting Performer in a Female Presenting Role went to Lyric Theatre's Cecily De Gooyer for her part as Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, and she also

earned the Anna Marinelli Award for a Junior Performer in an Open Production.

Colin reflected on Cecily's success.

"Every now and then I am privileged to work with young performers that have natural talent and Cecily is definitely one of them; she makes the job of directing a lot easier," he said.

Colin elaborated that such talented actors "innately know what to do and can slip into another person's skin with ease".

"We were lucky to have three of these young talents in *Into the Woods*, the other two being Taine Lowe and Aoife O'Connell," Colin said, the pair having played Jack and Little Red Riding Hood

respectively.

Colin is pleased to have played a small part in the journey of those young performers.

His recognised outstanding contribution to musical theatre no doubt includes his vast influence as a mentor to such rising talent over many years, having found his place in theatre, and being delighted to share its magic with others.

## Swag of honours for Leongatha Lyric Theatre

LEONGATHA Lyric Theatre not only hosted the recent Gippsland Associated Theatre Awards but collected a swag of honours for its popular production of *Into the Woods*, Colin Mitchell OAM's final show as director.

*Into the Woods* won Most Outstanding Production (Musical), Colin going out in style as Most Outstanding Director and being recognised for the best set design and best costume design, also picking up the Alby Fisher Memorial Award for Creative Design.

Other awards won by those involved with the production were:

- Judges Certificate to Yas Tough - Milky White
- Most Outstanding Technical Design - Puppetry
- Most Outstanding Props - Don Devonshire, tied with Pixie Jones from FAMDA
- Most Outstanding Lighting Design - Will McCarthy and Matt Saario
- Most Outstanding Sound Design - Brett van Hoorn
- Most Outstanding Makeup



Members of Leongatha Lyric Theatre had a ball hosting the Gippsland Associated Theatre Awards at which the theatre group picked up a host of awards for 'Into the Woods'.

and Hair Design - Emily Chadwick

- Most Outstanding Youth Performance (Over 13) - Taine Lowe (Jack)
- Most Outstanding Small Ensemble - Forest Spirits
- Most Outstanding Male Support Actor - Jonah van

Stekelenburg (Cinderella's Prince)

- Most Outstanding Female Lead Actor - Kerryn Lockhart (Baker's Wife)
- Most Outstanding Musical Director - Carmel Slater and Malcolm McCaffery
- Leongatha Lyric Theatre

president Bron Beach was delighted with the evening's success.

"There were 200 people here from all across Gippsland," she said of the Leongatha Memorial Hall gathering, observing, "We've obviously got a lot of talent here."

## FAMDA and Wonthaggi Theatrical Group savour awards success

FOSTER Arts Music & Drama Association (FAMDA) enjoyed great success at the recent Gippsland Associated Theatre Awards, taking out all 12 categories in which it was nominated, with Wonthaggi Theatrical Group also collecting awards.

FAMDA's production of *The Architect* claimed the Most Outstanding Drama/Comedy, the hard-hitting show fitting more into the former category but sprinkled with moments of humour.

The production's director

Bernadette Grainger picked up Most Outstanding Director for Drama/Comedy, while Most Outstanding Female Lead Actor for that category of production went to Susie Sparkes for her role as the terminally ill Helen, with Dan Lawrie who played Lennie getting Most Outstanding Male Lead Actor.

Bruce Grainger claimed Most Outstanding Support Actor for his part as John.

Judy Barnard received Most Outstanding Costume Design for Drama/Comedy, with Tania Pell grabbing Most Outstanding

Makeup & Hair Design for that production type.

Chris Gale claimed Most Outstanding Sound Design, and Most Outstanding Lighting Design in that category.

FAMDA's Pixie Jones tied with Don Devonshire of Leongatha Lyric Theatre for Most Outstanding Props.

Ben Cooper claimed Most Outstanding Set Design for Drama/Comedy, with FAMDA rounding out its honours by winning Most Outstanding Program for Drama/Comedy.

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group's

Kayla Precht was Most Outstanding Choreographer for *Seussical the Musical*, Kayley Lockhart named Most Outstanding Youth Performance Under 13 for her role as Jo Jo in that show.

That production was also awarded Most Outstanding Program for a Musical.

Jonah van Stekelenburg was Most Outstanding Lead Actor for a Musical for his part as Jimmy Ray in the company's production of *Bright Star*, that show taking out Most Outstanding Large Ensemble.

# Lifetime achievement award for surfing legend

VETERAN Inverloch surfer Max Wells has been honoured by Surfing Australia with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Australian Surfing Hall of Fame on the Gold Coast.

Max Wells was presented with the Peter Troy Lifetime Achievement Award by Surfing World as part of the Surfer of the Year Awards in Surfer's Paradise.

"To be recognised by your peers over a lifetime in the sport is a great honour," said Max.

The lifetime achievement award was presented to the 68-year-old former CEO of Surfing Victoria by two-time world surfing champion Damien 'Iceman' Hardman.

Jordie Campbell a former student of Foster Secondary College won the Indigenous Surfing Community Celebration Award presented by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC).

A spectacular celebration of Australian surfing the Surfer of the Year Awards celebrated not only surfing champions but also individuals excelling in media, business, and innovation, highlighting the depth of talent and dedication within Australian surfing.

Max Wells began his long association with Surfing Victoria in 1993 while working as a secondary school teacher and managing both the Victorian



Inverloch surfer Max Wells presented with a lifetime achievement award at the Home of the Arts in Surfer's Paradise by two-time world surfing champion Damien Hardman.

surfing team in 1994 and the Australian junior surfing team from 1995 to 2001.

A key member of the Play It Safe Water Campaign Max also established a girl's participation program that utilised positive female role models to deliver water safety messages and help female surfers of all ages become more competent in the open ocean.

The program was funded

by surf brand Roxy for many years with the Roxy surf team passing on their skills and knowledge to the next generation of female surfers.

Max established the Roxy Surf Festival at Phillip Island which saw a World Qualifying Series ASP tour event held in conjunction with the ASP Pro Junior series and was event director of the Rip Curl Pro from 2002 until his retirement

in 2015.

Max earned a Hall of Fame Award in 2003 for services to female surfing and in 2014 received a Medal in the Order of Australia (OAM).

Jordie Campbell, a Muna Muna man, grew up on Boonwurrung Country at Sandy Point.

In his role as Indigenous Aquatics Manager for Surfing Victoria Jordie worked to enrich Indigenous communities across Victoria through surfing and stand-up paddleboarding in the Victorian Indigenous surfing program.

Jordie built strong relationships with key communities state-wide with programs modelled off the Indigenous surfing program now being delivered to the disability sector and multicultural communities.

A strong competitor Jordie was crowned Victorian Indigenous Open Men's Champion 12 times and has represented the Indigenous Community at the Rip Curl Pro Trials at Bells Beach.

The Victorian Indigenous Surfing Program is now moving into its 27th year and sees 800 participants annually.

For a full list of award winners go to [surfingaustralia.com/2024-australian-surfing-awards-winners-revealed](http://surfingaustralia.com/2024-australian-surfing-awards-winners-revealed).

## Funding boost for local clubs

THE State Government is backing sport clubs across the state with grants to help more people get involved in the sports they love.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence announced that 875 grants will go to more than 740 clubs, who will share in more than \$1.2 million from the Sporting Club Grants Program.

These grants support clubs to purchase uniforms and equipment, upskill volunteers, coaches and officials, and improve their accessibility and engagement with local communities.

Surfing Victoria has scored \$5000 to boost their Surfers Rescue 24/7 Boardriders Club Program, which provides board rescue, first aid and CPR courses in Torquay, Phillip Island and the Mornington Peninsula.

"This is an amazing opportunity for local surfers and boardriders clubs to receive life-saving board rescue and CPR training for free," Surfing Victoria's head of programs Jordie Campbell said.

"Surfers are too often the first responders when it comes to ocean rescues, and ensuring they are well equipped to perform a rescue safely will lead to fewer drownings and a safer coastline."

Other successful local organisations were the 1st Inverloch Scout Group, the Anderson Inlet Angling Club, the Baromi Tennis Club, the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club, the Gippsland Football Netball League, Gippsland Swimming Inc, Gippsland United Football Club (soccer), Glen Alvie Cricket Club, Inverloch Bowling Club, Inverloch Stars Soccer Club, Korumburra Badminton Association, Korumburra City Soccer Club, Korumburra Scout Group, Korumburra Volleyball Incorporated, Meeniyani Pony Club, MDU Cricket Club, Mirboo North Bowling Club, Mirboo North Cricket Club, Phillip Island Cricket Club, Phillip Island Golf Club, Phillip Island Indoor Outdoor Soccer Association, Poowong and District Amateur Basketball Association, Poowong Football Netball Club, Toora Football Netball Club, Wonthaggi Pony Club, Boofit Inc, South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club, Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club and the Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club.

The latest grants are also backing local athletes to go even further with Victorian International Optimist Dinghy Association scoring \$4500 for travel, accommodation and registrations costs for six athletes to compete in a sailing championship in Queensland next year – the Australian Optimist Championships.

"This is a major boost for clubs across the state – we're making sure clubs have the skills and equipment they need to thrive, and get more people involved," Ms Spence said.

"We want our local sporting clubs to be backing the next generation of local champions – and these grants provide them the chance to do just that."

For more information on the grants and a full list of recipients [sport.vic.gov.au](http://sport.vic.gov.au).

## Victorian Mattioli Swimming Championships

THIRTY-FOUR local swimmers competed against 1500 swimmers from across the state in the Victorian Mattioli Championships at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre.

Staged over two days qualifying swimmers raced not only against the best in the state in their age group but also against swimmers from interstate and overseas.

Heats on Saturday and Sunday saw some sizzling performances with many PBs and a number of swimmers returning for finals that night.

Racing continues for five days until Wednesday, December 18.

The coaches were pleased with their swimmers' efforts with Dylan, Caiden and Lorri all poolside to assist.

"They have done so well," the coaches agreed.

"Great results with improved times and some so close to a national time."

"It sets them all up well for a summer of race championships."

### Results:

Gemma Cook 12, 3rd 50m backstroke and 2nd 50m breaststroke

Claudia Croatto 15, 4th 100m breaststroke

Levi Jarrett 12, 2nd 50m backstroke and 2nd 50m breaststroke

Rahni Matheson, 2nd 100m breaststroke

Archie Smyth 12, 1st 200m backstroke

Zac Sherar, 5th 800m freestyle

Miah Roberts, 3rd 100m backstroke

Sunday Finals: Archie Smyth, 7th 200m IM



Archie Smyth wins the 200m backstroke at the Victorian Mattioli Swimming Championships.



Rahni Matheson and Levi Jarrett celebrate their success at the Victorian Mattioli Swimming Championships.

## TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
December 17	December 18	December 19	December 20	December 21	December 22	December 23
2.09am 1.70m 7.33am 0.78m 1.34pm 1.41m 7.44pm 0.16m	3.00am 1.73m 8.25am 0.71m 2.28pm 1.43m 8.35pm 0.17m	3.47am 1.72m 9.14am 0.65m 3.18pm 1.44m 9.23pm 0.21m	4.30am 1.69m 10.00am 0.60m 4.06pm 1.42m 10.07pm 0.28m	5.10am 1.64m 10.45am 0.57m 4.52pm 1.39m 10.49pm 0.36m	5.46am 1.59m 11.29am 0.54m 5.39pm 1.34m 11.29pm 0.45m	6.19am 1.53m 12.10pm 0.52m 6.29pm 1.30m

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[news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)

## Christmas racing at Woolamai

RACING resumes with two meetings a week apart at Woolamai over Christmas. This coming Saturday will see a six-race program with a mixture of sprint and staying events on the card and the picnic circuit returns again on Saturday, December 28 for one of the season highlights, the Woolamai Whirlwind over 888 metres in fact Victoria's shortest thoroughbred race.

The anticipated clash in the sprint between two last start winners, Bunyip trainer Paul Kramer's Chanting Rhythm and the redoubtable Robbie Laing's Bluebelle will have punters scratching their heads trying to separate them pre-post.

The picnic jockeys premiership is at a very competitive stage with Grant Seccombe one ahead of Shaun Cooper and two ahead of Leigh Taylor. The latter two will be hoping to capitalise on Seccombe having to miss this week and recent form suggests they are knocking on the door.

Roll up on the day or book tickets or group packages via the club website: [woolamairaces.com.au](http://woolamairaces.com.au)

## Improved race day experience at Stony

STONY Creek Racing Club's new race day office is almost complete and will be in operation for the December 30 start to the season, with other improvements at the course also progressing.

The new office is located in the upgraded former TAB building, club president John Schuijers highlighting its more central presence.

"It's right in the middle of where the race crowds will be," he said, meaning anyone with enquiries can easily find the race day office.

Still relatively new CEO Jason Benbow, who has been working tirelessly on several projects started by predecessor Adam Olszanski to improve the facilities, will soon settle into his new office within the building.

The revamp has created a warm feeling with wooden cladding and glass replacing roller doors.

A change to how TAB will operate at country clubs means that on many race days it won't be present at racecourses, although there will still be betting options at the track.

"It gave us an opportunity to look at how we could better utilise the space, and relocation of the race day office, which is the hub of the track on race day, seemed to be a no-brainer," John said.

Members of the Meenyan Men's Shed have worked industriously to create more wooden seating for race patrons.

Other work at the track has included the creation of a pre-race parade area.

New shade umbrellas near the winning post are another addition, an initiative to improve facilities for owners and trainers.

"There will be decking around the umbrellas and a window opening to the bar," John said of further plans to improve the race day experience for that group, with that project not set to be finished by the season's opening meeting.

As previously reported, the club's new irrigation system will help ensure a consistent track and is a crucial addition for a racing venue used during the summer months.

As well as praising Benbow's hard work, Schuijers commended the foresight of previous CEO Olszanski who led a lot of the initial applications and planning, also noting projects like these would not be possible without government support through the Victorian Racing Infrastructure Fund program.

For those looking forward to the upcoming season, memberships offer great value, starting at just \$50 for seniors and \$55 for others, providing access to the five race days, discounts on beverages and race day packages, and free access to the season launch cocktail party at which beer, wine, champagne and food will be provided.

For more information, please visit [stonycreek.com.au](http://stonycreek.com.au).

# A Grand Ridge Christmas visit from St Nicholas



Merry Christmas for Grand Ridge Parkrun!



Women's ProMX action from Wonthaggi in 2024. Photo: Foremost Media.

## Women's Motocross Cup coming to Wonthaggi in 2025

THE one-year-old FIM Oceania Women's Motocross Cup is already expanding into exciting new frontiers, with the 2025 edition to add teams from America and Africa to join founding members Australia and New Zealand.

To be held alongside round one of the 2025 Penrite ProMX Championship presented by AMX Superstores (ProMX) in Wonthaggi (Vic) on March 22-23, the FIM Oceania Women's Motocross Cup will feature five-

rider teams from three FIM federations – Australia, New Zealand and America – as well as FIM Africa.

"We are thrilled to again participate in the FIM Oceania Women's Motocross Cup. As the winner of the inaugural event, we obviously want to back that up here in Australia in front of a home crowd," Team Australia representative Mark Luksich said.

Twenty riders will contest three motos over the weekend –

the first one a standalone shoot-out on Saturday and on Sunday as part of the two televised ProMX Championship MXW battles.

The best 14 results from each team – a team can drop its worst result – will determine the final standings.

The event will kickstart a huge year for women's motocross in Australia, which will also include the nation hosting its first-ever round of the FIM Women's Motocross World Champion-

ship as part of the inaugural FIM Oceania Women's Motocross Cup held in Woodville, New Zealand in January 2024, with Team Australia – Charli Cannon, Emma Milesevic, Madison Brown, Taylor Thompson, Tayla McCutcheon and Madi Healey – defeating New Zealand in a hard-fought battle.

In early 2025, all selected teams will be announced by each federation and FIM Africa of the MXGP of Australia in Darwin from September 19-21.

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the town, bells could be heard - Santa was found! He rode into parkrun to wave everyone off.

What a beautiful morning! The sun was shining aloft.

Fifty-eight parkrunners tuned into to the RD's speech.

Lots of tourists - Heidelberg, Geelong and Airley Beach.

St Alban's, Koonwarra, the long list goes on.

Lots of cheerful faces ready for Christmas fun.

We sped down the track and puffed our way back.

The young and the old(er) gave it their best crack.

Lots of smiles and waves, encouragement and cheers.

Christmas carols, festive outfits, grins from ear to ear.

Then off to the park with our weary legs.

Ready for coffee, mince pies, bacon and eggs.

Some sneaky milestones tried to hide under the radar.

No can do! We'll just celebrate them later!

Fifty volunteers for Linda, and for Jodie – 50 runs!

What fantastic achievements. A huge well done!!

Big thanks to the volunteers – today you outdid yourselves.

You really brought the spirit of Christmas – thank you parkrun elves!

So as we head towards the end of another wonderful year,

We hope you enjoyed the festive cheer.

My biggest apologies for my terrible rhyme.

See you later parkrunners – see you next time!

## Allambee Mirboo & District Tennis Association

THIS week was the first 'Gatha round where all teams came to play in Leon-gatha.

It was a terrific social day of tennis with all the courts and car park full.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the weather, the tennis and the success of the day.

Westernport Red vs Korumburra was a close match, with Red winning by just six games, the other two games in Section 1 were not so close with Koonwarra and Inverloch the clear winners.

Outtrim and Korumburra were level on games with Outtrim winning the five sets.

Korumburra rallied to level the games but couldn't quite get that extra set.

Baromi were winners over Leongatha with Avery and Archer Hughes and Declan Russell all playing for Leongatha, well done to them all for taking the big step from juniors not only tennis-wise but socially as well.

A raffle was conducted on the day which wouldn't have been possible without the work of Mary Jepson, congratulations to Aisla Wines, Noelene Cosson and Glenn Kleevan on winning the Christmas prize.

Thank you to all the clubs who supported the day and participated in the social aspects of the event and thankyou also to the Mirboo North and District Community Bank for lending us some great outdoor games for the kids to play with.

There will be another 'Gatha round in the new year on January 25.

The Allambee Mirboo and District Tennis Association would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

See you all again on January 18.

### AM&DTA Section 1 Results

Westernport Red 5.39 defeated Korumburra 3.33

Koonwarra 6.41 defeated Westernport White 2.30

Inverloch 5.44 defeated Leongatha 3.29

**Ladder:** Inverloch 68, Koonwarra 51, Westernport White 46, Leongatha 41, Korumburra 38 and Westernport Red 24.

### Section 2 Results

Outtrim 5.53 defeated Korumburra 4.53

Baromi 6.63 defeated Leongatha 3.47

**Ladder:** Outtrim 51, Korumburra 50, Baromi 46 and Leongatha 45.

## Riverside Tennis Association

### ROUND 10:

#### Section 1/2 Doubles

Neerim District 7-48 def Warragul Blue 2-27

Drouin Gold 2-28 def by Warragul White 7-46

Drouin Maroon 7-53 def Moe 2-37

Poowong 5-46 def Trafalgar 4-41

Hallora-Bye

**Ladder:** Drouin Maroon 83.5, Moe 70, Warragul White 67, Hallora 64.5, Neerim District 57.5, Warragul Blue 49, Drouin Gold 39.5, Trafalgar 32 and Poowong 32.

#### Section 1 Singles

Moe Red 1-3-28 def by Drouin Gold 2-4-30

Moe Blue 3-6-36 def Drouin White 0-0-9

Moe White 3-6-33 def Trafalgar 0-2-22

Drouin Maroon-Bye

**Ladder:** Moe White 39, Moe Blue 35, Moe Red 26, Drouin Gold 26, Trafalgar 17.5, Drouin Maroon 17 and Drouin White 14.5.

#### Section 2 Singles

Warragul 2-34 def by Neerim District 4-47

Drouin Gold 5-45 def Drouin Maroon 1-28

Trafalgar 6-48 def Moe 0-16

**Ladder:** Trafalgar 58, Drouin Gold 47.5, Neerim District 47, Warragul 46.5, Drouin Maroon 26 and Moe 15.



The Under 6 Little Athletes at Wonthaggi, with a couple of parents and dedicated committee members Terra Plumb, Mark Rowe and Brenton Taber. ob19\_5124

## Family fun and fitness is what it's all about at Wonthaggi Little Athletics

IT WAS a last-minute scramble to get the Wonthaggi Little Athletics off the ground this year, with a committee only coming together in September, just weeks before the start of the season.

For a club that's been running since 1967 and being the twelfth in Victoria to start a club, it was almost unthinkable.

President Mark Rowe put the call out that they needed volunteers to run and with the help of Terra Plumb as Secretary and six other parents willing to take on a volunteer role, scraped it in.

It worked out in the end. But instead of doing a little bit in July, August and September and then being ready to go in October, it was a bit frantic for six weeks, trying to get people accustomed to what they have

to do and what's involved with LA Vic and then trying to start the season as well," said Mark Rowe.

It was a steep learning curve for some, but you wouldn't know it looking around the Bass Coast College on a Saturday morning where everything seemed to be running like clockwork.

Kids gathered at various stations or starting lines, ready to take off, jump hurdles, bars or into sandy long jump pits.

Others leapt through the grass launching javelins or sending discus spinning or even skittering while others released shotput through the air to land with a thud.

Parents marshalled start and finish lines, and scanned bibs for times, others like Reg, yelled out from behind

the laptop, "Hey, you just got your personal best", others raked sand, measured jumps or kept records.

Coach and committee member Brenton Taber helped the kids with their events and commented that this was the first time in a few years they've been able to run all the events.

Everyone had smiles on their faces and with 80 kids registered this year, it's a jump of about 30 from last year, which is no mean feat.

"Everyone on the committee works hard to make sure this happens every Saturday and we all get on so well and work together as a great team," said Secretary Terra Plumb.

"Parents outside the committee have been very helpful. They've all put their hands up and stepped up to help with

this every Saturday morning."

The Wonthaggi Little Athletics have a strong philosophy around family fun fitness.

"Everyone gets along and cheers for everyone's kids and we do it for them," explained Terra.

"Seeing them participate, get out there, being active is great. We focus on them doing their personal best and that's what we want the kids to achieve; because it's not just athletics, it's any sport they are doing and that's what we should be focusing on – and in life and school and work in general."

With a solid committee on board and great help from many of the parents the WLA are hoping to increase their numbers next year to give families and kids the chance to see just how much fun Little Athletics can be.



Discus in the hands of the under six's can go flying – anywhere. ob37\_5124



Vera, in under 11's, makes the hurdling event at little aths' look easy. ob23\_5124



Under 11's boy, Rory flies through the air to land a long jump. ob30\_5124

## Wonthaggi Night Tennis Competition crowns its champions



The Section 1 runner up in the Wonthaggi Tennis Club night competition John Hackett with winner Will Joplin.



Wonthaggi Tennis Club's night competition Section 2 runner up Annette McRae with equal winners Kerrie Beckett and Jesse Orchard.



Section 3 runner up Elisha Lindsay and winner Sue Marcolongo in Wonthaggi Tennis Club's night competition.



**Foster's Jack Attack Section A premiers Hospital Facilities, Andrew, Harriet and Travis.**

## BREAKAWAY BOWLS

IT WAS another great day of bowling.

The winners on +6 was the team of Linda Newman, Marj Ford and Helen Gladstone – well done ladies, a very good win.

The winners on Friday were Brian Newman, Linda Newman and John Stewart with +12 – well done to you all.

Breakaway Bowls will continue next Monday and Friday, and then the club will take a break.

The club hopes you and your family have a great Christmas and New Year, and also look forward to seeing you in the new year.

## FISH CREEK

WELCOME readers to the Fish Creek Bowls Club news.

The club has had a lot of action over the last couple of weeks.

Bronwyn Williams defeated Robyn Napier in a very close match for the Ladies' Singles Club Championships whilst the men's title will be held on Saturday, December 21, between Bill Symmons and Dave Christie at 2pm.

This will be sponsored by MJA Wealth with thanks to Greg Welsford and Panu Kuhne.

The club encourages all members and supporters to come along and have a look at some great bowling.

In the weekend Pennant, Division 2 travelled to Loch and after a close tussle drew away to win by 23 shots with a narrow loss by two shots on one rink.

This now puts Fish Creek fourth on the ladder and well-placed going into the Christmas break.

Division 4 welcomed Port Welshpool in a very important game and came away with a great victory 79 to 43, winning all three rinks. Division 4 is now sitting in fourth and need to keep winning to look at finals action.

In Division 6, Fish Creek was also at home and went down to San Remo, losing both rinks.

Thanks to bowlers who filled in, as the club had a few regulars away.

The Christmas party held last Friday was a great night with a full house and lovely meal.

There were plenty of good raffles also on offer.

The regular Turkey Triple Day has been moved forward to Monday, December 23.

Anyone looking for a game, please contact Graham Hoskin 0429 832 467.

Fish Creek also has its big tournament coming up on January 4 and 5.

The Saturday is fully catered for with a fours event sponsored by Fish Creek Quarries and Foster Garden and Gravel with big prizes on offer.

The Sunday is an invitationals triples event sponsored by

Edneys of Leongatha.

Please contact Bill Symmons 0448 227 272 for entry.

On January 14, the club will start its barefoot bowls, which is always a great evening/ night.

People need to get in quick with their teams as the rinks fill up very quickly.

Rob McLaughlin on 0476 891161 can be contacted for entries.

## FOSTER

THE Ladies' and Men's Club Championship finals were played last Sunday.

Conditions were a little trying wind-wise, which seemed to even up the competition.

Both matches saw some great play by all competitors with the scores fluctuating either way throughout the games, with very close finishes in the end.

After a gruelling battle over three hours and scores at 23 all, Judy Prain fought on and was victorious over last year's Club Champion Bev Tyers.

The men's game was almost as long. Ian McLeod was in front most of the game and victoriously closed off the win in the end.

Ray Prain played a great game and didn't give up and was hot on his tail right to the end. Both were fantastic matches to watch.

Congratulations to Judy and Ian who will now go on and play the Champion of Champions the first weekend in January.

The club had an absolute ripper of a night for the finish of the Jack Attack competition.

Lots of people got into the Christmas spirit and dressed up.

It was a great night out on the green with everyone having a ball.

The club even had Christmas tunes playing.

Winners for the night were the BMF's, Stew, Jen and Dion. Prizes were sponsored by Bohny's Cafe.

The runners-up were the Crows, Lochie – his first night filling in –, Corey and Ash, with chockys sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

The main competition results as follows: Section A Premiers: Hospital Facilities, Andrew, Harriet and Travis (fill-ins for Tony and Martin). Prizes were sponsored by Paragreen Real Estate.

Runners up: the BMF's, Jen, Stew and Dion. Prizes were sponsored by Mark and Maureen Taylor.

Wooden Spooners: Not Kaboodle, Nicole, Ben and Tania.

The club sponsored the prizes.

Section B Premiers: Robble-cocks, Leigh, Vanessa and Rod. Prizes were sponsored by Foster Pharmacy.

Runners up: Crackerjack, Ros, Lyndon and Kylie (fill-in for Scott). Prizes were sponsored by Mark and Maureen Taylor.

There ended up being only four

teams in this section, so a third place was given to the Wheels, Ross and Karen.

Wooden Spooners were Les's Maidens, with Cheryl holding the fort for Helen and Kevin being absent.

The club sponsored the prizes.

A very big thank you goes out to all the sponsors for this competition. Your support has been awesome.

It was another very successful competition thanks to all the teams, because if it wasn't for you all there wouldn't be a competition.

Thank you also to the club members and crew that run the nights – you are all awesome.

The club is looking forward to the next competition, starting January 15.

See you all then.

## INVERLOCH

FINE weather saw 28 bowlers take to the greens with two teams each winning two games.

The team of Terry Seaward, Graeme Dunlop, George Scott and Jenny Haydon were the winners with 33 points, closely followed by runners-up John Duthie, Di Selby, Marg Griffin and Shaun Lee on 31 points.

## KORUMBURRA

THIS week was a bit quieter starting with Midweek Pennant.

Korumburra hosted Inverloch in Division 1 and although two rinks got up it was not enough to take the points.

Charlie Edgerton won 18 shots to 15, Jo Lomagno won 22 shots to 17 and Katrina Evans went down 11 shots to 34.

In Division 2, Korumburra travelled to Inverloch with the only bright light being Jim Garnham who won 19 shots to 16.

Lena Harfield went down 21 shots to nine and Judith Nicholl went down 15 shots to 19.

On Friday night, the club held its Christmas break up with 93 people enjoying a Christmas meal.

Saturday Pennant saw Division 1 hosting Corinella and had a good win.

Robin Provan won 23 shots to 14, Charlie Edgerton had a 22-all draw and Kevin Beecroft went down 19 shots to 21.

In Division 3, with all rinks went down.

Ross Lomagno lost 21 shots to 14, Geoff Barber lost 25 shots to 19 and Les Davis lost 26 shots to seven.

Division 4 hosted Foster with the only winning rink Rob Sund, who won 18 shots to 15.

Jim Garnham went down 18 shots to 22 and Alan Cherrett went down 15 shots to 23 – not a good result.

## LEONGATHA

LEONGATHA Division 2 side in the Midweek Pennant competition travelled to Lang Lang on Tuesday and returned happily after recording an overall winning score of 47/68 points.

Individual rink scores were as follows: John Williams skip Lang Lang defeated Susan Crouch skip Leongatha 20/11 shots.

Vicki Barns skip Lang Lang was defeated by Rosa James skip Leongatha 8/40 shots.

Judy Prowd skip Lang Lang defeated Dot Chandley skip Leongatha 19/17 shots.

Round 10 of the weekend Pennant competition was played in ideal conditions for bowls.

Leongatha's Division 1 side had a close tussle with Toora

and came out winners with a final score of 61/59 shots.

Individual rink cores were as follows: Jenny Miller skip Leongatha was defeated by Sebastian Blancato skip Toora 15/27 shots.

Antony Collier skip Leongatha defeated Brett Garrow skip Toora 23/20 shots.

John Hall skip Leongatha defeated Terry Corcoran skip Toora 23/12 shots.

Leongatha's Division 2 side played host to Inverloch, who arrived in winning form, which resulted in an overall win to the visitors with a final result of 60/46 shots.

Individual rink scores were as follows: Vito Serafino skip Leongatha was defeated by John Sutcliffe skip Inverloch 12/20 shots.

Ron Simmons skip Leongatha was defeated by Neil Everitt skip Inverloch 15/19 shots.

Les Wilson skip Leongatha was defeated by Bill Selby skip Inverloch 19/21 shots.

Another loss was a disappointing result to the Leongatha Division 4 side, which went down to the Tarwin Lower side.

The overall result was 70/49 shots in favour of Tarwin Lower.

Individual rink scores were as follows: Steven McPherson skip Tarwin Lower defeated John White skip Leongatha 21/19 shots.

Synden Bontorno skip Tarwin Lower defeated Janice Sing skip Leongatha 25/15 shots.

Peter Tainton skip Tarwin Lower defeated Susan Wakefield skip Leongatha 24/15 shots.

Social bowls will be played on Wednesday, December 18.

Midweek Pennant starts on January 14 and weekend Pennant is on January 18.

Merry Christmas to the bowling fraternity.

## MIDWEEK BOWLS

WHAT a great day it was for the family of bowlers for the final game of the year. Fifty-five turned up at Corinella to once again fight it out for team of the week. They were signed in by Pauline and John as Peter and Claire prepared the teams. The quality of the bowling was once again excellent.

One or two wrong bias shots but that did not detract from the overall quality.

Being the final days play for the year, the club does not have any prize winners as the format was altered somewhat for the day.

This resulted in everyone being winners.

The administrators arranged a free day's play and also supplied a free lunch for the players as well as an afternoon tea following the day's games.

Helen and Jill worked feverishly to keep everyone fed with what can only be described as a feast.

Chris and Dave looked after the thirsty drinkers, which was a busy job.

The club would like to thank Phil for setting up the green for the games as well as all the players who helped clean up the hall as well as the kitchen.

Phil and all the volunteers are so much appreciated and if the club apologises if it forgets to mention everyone's wonderful assistance.

The club is taking a few weeks off for Christmas but will be returning on January 9 at Loch and District Bowls Club to once again begin the weekly challenge for the members.

Meanwhile, the club wishes all its players great days on Saturday and Tuesday with their pennant teams.

It would also like to wish all

the players and their families health, happiness, peace and prosperity this Christmas and in the coming New Year. Until next year, have fun and stay safe.

## WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another busy week at the club.

Sunday was the Christmas lunch. This year it was held at the Wonthaggi Club.

Seventy-six people enjoyed a wonderful meal and in general had a very good day.

During the day, the club presented Fred Kellow with a life membership.

John Duscher noted some of Fred's work for the club in the past and the present – an award well deserved.

Tuesday saw Division 1 play host to Phillip Island at Wonthaggi on a fine mild day, perfect for bowls.

Once again, Wonthaggi showed why they are on top of the ladder with all three rinks playing well to record a solid win.

The final scores Wonthaggi 67 Phillip Island 52.

Division 2 travelled to Phillip Island looking for a win.

They were a little unlucky to just go down at the end of the day.

The final scores Wonthaggi 55 Phillip Island 59.

Division 3 also played Phillip Island at Wonthaggi.

Once again, all three rinks played well, to just fall short at the end of the day.

The final scores Wonthaggi 48 Phillip Island 59.

Wednesday social bowls had fewer numbers, with two Turkey Triples at other local clubs.

The winners on the day were John Hill, Ray Hin, Frank Tagell and Hans Bischofberger with a score of two wins and 29 points.

Thursday social bowls went off well with the help of good weather.

Saturday saw Division 1 venture down the road to Inverloch.

On a fine, but cool day, the team was looking for a win in the run-up to the break.

All rinks played well to record a solid win.

The final scores Wonthaggi 76 Inverloch 42.

Division 2 went to Tarwin looking for a win.

Once again, the club had a little trouble with the slower green.

The final scores Wonthaggi 45 Tarwin 76.

Division 4 travelled to Phillip Island looking for another win before Christmas.

Once again, all rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores Wonthaggi 75 Phillip Island 50.

Division 5, also at Phillip Island, looked for a win to keep top spot on the ladder.

Phillip Island was also looking for a win and put up a fight.

The final scores Wonthaggi 54 Phillip Island 54.

Bowls this week: Tuesday Pennant and Tuesday night is barefoot bowls.

Wednesday is social bowls at 1pm.

Thursday is social bowls at 10am.

Friday is coaching at 10am and Saturday is social bowls at 1pm.

Friday night is going

**KORUMBURRA**

TUESDAY, December 10: No competition.

Thursday, December 12: Stableford: 27 players.

A Grade: John Payne (9) 41 points.

B Grade: Brian Clasby 41 points.

NTPs: first Brian Clasby, seventh John Payne, 10th Robert Litchfield and 10th Greg Wilson.

Saturday, December 14: Sponsors: MJA Accounting. Par: 50 players.

A Grade: Billy Wrigley (5) +7.

B Grade: John Wilson (31) +8.

NTPs: first Iain Riddell, seventh Greg Jones, 10th Steve McNamara and 13th Paul Hopkins.

**Ladies**

THE Korumburra golf course greens were cored and sanded over a couple of days last week and the club thanks all those who assisted with the work.

As a result, no golf was able to be played on Wednesday.

The club appreciates the Meenyan Golf Club members for allowing the Korumburra golfers to have a competition on their course and enjoy some catchups after golf.

Beryl Brown (30) had a lovely round to win with 38 points and runner-up was Maree Wittingslow (42) with a nice 35 points. BDTL went to Judy Webb (26) with 33 points.

Gail Beer and Simon Perks were Thursday's twilight winners 28 points after a c/b with Viv and David Enbom.

Colette Pearl and Tim O'Neill were the NTP winners on the 13th green.

Saturday's winner was Karen Sorrell (38) with three up and Johanna van den Heiligenberg (11) was runner up, one up. Colette Pearl (37) won a BDTL, finishing square.

Judy Webb won the Kelly's Bakery voucher with a NTP on the first.

**LEONGATHA**

TUESDAY, December 12: Stableford.

Tuesday's Stableford round had a fine field of 68 members/guests take to the course, selecting either blue or yellow tees.

It was another spectacular Bass Coast weather day for golf.

Overall winner: Leongatha Golf Club veteran Doug Clemann (15) with the high score of the day with 39 points.

A Grade winner: Craig Hams (10) with a score of 36 points on a countback.

A Grade runner up: Gordon Morrison (14) with a score of 36 points.

B Grade winner: Doug Clemann (15) with a score of 39 points.

B Grade runner up: David Child (19) with a score of 37 points.

C Grade winner: Colin Martin (20) with a score of 37 points.

C Grade runner up: Hugh Goodman (26) with a score of 36 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Christopher Leaver. NTP 14th: Mark Dykes. NTP 16th: Bernard Skerys.

Thursday, December 12: Mulligans 4BBB Stableford event.

Thursday's event is a favourite on the Leongatha Golf Club calendar with an excellent field of 90 members/guests taking to the course in a Mulligans 4BBB Stableford competition, teeing off either the blue or yellow markers, with a shotgun start at 9am.

It was great to have so many women players involved in the day.

Overall winners:

1: Michael Street and George Hendry with a score of 49 on a countback.

2. Paul Deery and Jeremy de Silva with a score of 49 on a countback.

3. Henry Sedelies and Rene Zeller with a score of 49.

NTP fifth second shot: Rod MacKenzie at .82m. NTP 14th: Nicholas Byrne at 1.74m. NTP 16th: Rod MacKenzie at 1.10m.

Saturday, December 14: Stableford.

Saturday's Stableford event was another fine weather day with a massive 112 members/guests on the course teeing off the blue markers with some high scores being recorded.

The Leongatha Golf Club course is looking peach at this time of the year thanks to the excellent ground staff.

Overall winner: Ian Blencowe (18) with the high score of the day of 41 points.

A Grade winner: Jamie Grenville (14) with a score of 38 points.

A Grade runner up: Stuart Smith (12) with a score of 37 points.

B Grade winner: Dave Brownnett (15) with a score of 39 points.

B Grade runner up: Garry Rotteveel (15) with a score of 38 points.

C Grade winner: Ian Blencowe (18) with a score of 41 points.

C Grade runner up: Wayne Keen (18) with a score of 38 points on a countback.

D Grade winner: Russell Miller (30) with a score of 39 points.

D Grade runner up: Jenny Teasdale (37) with a score of 37 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Martin Fuller. NTP 14th: Mark Lindsay. NTP 16th: Alan Starkey.

**Ladies**

TO CELEBRATE the end of the year, the women played a 12-hole Ambrose with many decked out in Christmas 'bling' stored away since last year.

Eight new players were warmly welcomed to the club, two of whom were among the winners.

Chris Lay (acting captain), Lynda Bassett, Else Gedye and Kim Harris combined well to finish with a nett 33.5.

Just a tad behind were life member Dot Stubbs, Karen Castledine Briggs, Joy O'Sullivan and Martine Shrives with 35 net.

In third spot were Marianne Leaver, Jan Brownlie, Barb Miller and Marie Sands, and fourth were Kay Dumbleton, Helen Mackenzie, Nan Meagher and Deb Williams.

Nearest the pin on the 16th was won by Chris Lay and

Glenyce McRobert was closest on the 14th.

**MIRBOO NORTH**

SATURDAY, December 14: Stableford.

A Grade: T. Bradshaw (8) 42 points.

B Grade: A. McCarthy (20) 41 points.

DTL: W. Reynolds 40, S. Hill-Smith, T. Baker and T. Whitelaw 39.

NTP: fourth J. Kus, sixth T. Bradshaw, 13th G. Shandley and 16th W. Reynolds.

Birdies: fourth S. Woodall and M. Payne, and 16th W. Reynolds.

**WONTHAGGI**

RESULTS: December 12, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Stephen Kane 43.

Runner up: Rod Walker 42.

Ball sweep: Graeme Campbell 40, Chris Wilkinson 40, Gary Youlten 38 and Ian Johnson 38 C/B.

Results: December 12, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.

Winner: Norm Burne 22.

Ball sweep: Blake Cornelis 20, Bob Cornelis 20 and Graham Ryan 19.

Results: December 14, S.R. 71.

Competition: Stableford.

A Grade: Peter Dell 41.

B Grade: Graeme Crawford 43.

C Grade: Joshua Kilgour 41.

Balls down the line to 38 points on C/B: Connor Ireland 41, Ian Johnson 40, Alan Jones 40, Ross Lovett 39, Rodney McMullen 39, Francis Loughran 39, Glen Moresco 39, Peter Liddle 38, Robert Geyer 38, Jim Jordan 38, John Geyer 38 and Miles Foster 38 C/B.

NTPs: Glenn Hewlett second, Shaun Stirton fourth, Bruce Betts propin eighth, Jason King 13th and Inoke Baudromo money hole 17th.

**Ladies**

THAT'S a wrap for 2024 syllabus events and into summer golf timetable for the Wonthaggi ladies.

A wonderful final day of Canadian Foursomes followed by a great Christmas lunch celebration.

A huge thank you to The Cape Tavern for its very generous and sought-after meal vouchers out at Cape Patterson.

A Grade winners were Pam Hanley and Catherine Bolding 69.625 net from Anne Poulton and Merryn Dear 71.125.

The B Grade winners were Irene Walsh and Jane Baudromo 75.75, from Jan Beaumont and Sharon Patullo 76.625.

NTP on second was Marg Ryan, fourth Wendy Cross, eighth Pam Hanley, 13th Marg Johnson and 17th Jan Beaumont.

BDL went to Bev Sloan and Yvonne Everitt 72.75, Marg Ryan and Marg Johnson 76.625, Kathy Geyer and Karen Sheerin 77.25, and Dot Garry and Judy Berry 78.5.



Back from left, Wonthaggi Golf Club's Canadian Foursomes B Grade winners and runners-up Sharon Patullo, Jan Beaumont, Irene Walsh and Jane Baudromo with A Grade winners and runners-up, front from left, Pam Hanley, Catherine Bolding, Anne Poulton and Merryn Dear.



Korumburra Golf Club's A Grade winner Billy Wrigley with men's captain Ian Cash.



Men's captain Ian Cash congratulates B Grade winner John Wilson at the Korumburra Golf Club.



Winners of the 12-hole Christmas Ambrose were Else Gedye, Lynda Bassett, Chris Lay and Kim Harris at Leongatha Golf Club.



Australian Cricketer Glenn Maxwell playing Blitz Golf.

Blitz golf set to light up Phillip Island

BLITZ GOLF is partnering with the Red Rocks Golf Club Phillip Island to stage the second of the Blitz Golf League series this Saturday, December 21.

Pro-golfers, Australian cricketers, AFL Footballers, NRL players, a supermodel and a Melbourne Cup-winning jockey are all lining up for the Blitz Golf League event at Cowes.

With its unique and high-octane knockout format the Blitz Golf League has been dubbed the T20 of golf with professional athletes from other fields and celebrities from stage and screen taking on professional golfers from the Australian PGA Tour.

Centred around a stadium hole, Blitz Golf features three progressively shorter rounds, each cut more challenging than the last culminating in the ultimate sudden-death hole.

The first day of the series tees off in Adelaide at the North Adelaide Golf Course on Friday, December 21 followed the very next day with the first ever Blitz event on Phillip Island at the Red Rocks Golf Club.

After a break for Christmas and New Year the Blitz Golf League returns to the Oxley Golf Club in Brisbane on January 3 with the final event held at the Western Australian Golf Club in Perth on January 5.

A combination of high-energy golf, entertainment for the kids, live music and plentiful food and beverages for the adults Blitz Golf is a non-stop golf event run and won in three hours.

Get along to the Red Rocks Golf Club in Phillip Island Victoria on Saturday, December 21 to watch the stars in action Glenn Maxwell (Australian cricketer), Jake Fraser-McGurk (Australian cricketer), Ryan Papenhuyzen (Melbourne Storm), Steven May (Melbourne Demons), Rhys Uhlich (supermodel), Damien Oliver (jockey), Jye Pickin and Matias Sanchez (pro-golfers).

Fans can roam the course with the players with tickets from just \$10 and kids admitted free, or you can enjoy prime viewing right on the stadium hole with the Red Rocks VIP experience or a guaranteed seat undercover in Club Blitz.

Gates open at 3pm with the first official ball crushed off the tee at 4.30pm.

Tickets are available from blitzgolf.net.



Bristol Palace won the U14 Mixed competition.

## Excited finish for Go Fives Summer Tournament

LEONGATHA Knights Football Club concluded its third annual Go Fives Summer Tournament on Wednesday, December 11, and Thursday, December 12.

The competition continues to grow with this year's tournament consisting of seven competitions, 38 teams, over 260 players and 160 games – and one visit from Santa.

The Go Fives competition for-

mat is designed to encourage multiple touches on the ball and a relaxed, fun environment to play in teams with friends.

With grand finals for all competitions taking place over the two nights with wonderful weather and a free barbecue, there were plenty of spectators cheering on the teams.

Congratulations to all the competition winners.

A massive thank you to the volunteers and referee team who ensure the competition runs smoothly and is enjoyed by all. Leongatha Knights Football Club looks forward to seeing everyone again next year.

**Grand final results:**  
U10s: Kookaburras defeated Invy Superstars 7-2.

U12s: Spika FC defeated Mirboo North Allstars 3-1.

U14s Mixed: Bristol Palace defeated FFF United 3-2.

U14 Girls: Burra City defeated The Pink Ladies 7-5.

Women's: Red Hot Oompa Loompa's defeated Mighty Ladies 8-5.

Senior Social: Lang Lang United defeated Mirboo North Five 9-4.

Senior Competitive: Mighty Migrants defeated Bubble Bath Blasters 7-3.

## Second place honours for U13 Girls in Summer Cup



The Gippsland Soccer League's U13 Girls team were runners-up in the Football Victoria Summer Cup.

THE Gippsland Soccer League's U13 Girls team has been playing in Football Victoria's Summer Cup over the last three weekends.

They played magnificently under the expert guidance of coaches Gines Satchithanandam and Paul Goodwin, finishing top of their group to head into the semi-final against Box Hill United in the final weekend.

The Summer Cup finals weekend was hosted at the newly crowned "Home of the Matildas" in Bundoora.

The Gippsland Soccer League's U13 Girls team were runners-up in the Football Victoria Summer Cup.

The Gippsland Soccer League's U13 Girls team were runners-up in the Football Victoria Summer Cup.

Whilst they went down three-nil in the grand final, they played a strong, competitive game and finished a fantastic cup campaign as runners-up.

A big thank you to their coaches Paul and Gines for their time and commitment.

Well done Gippsland Soccer League's U13 Girls team.

## Bench Warmers take on Y Knots for charity netball event



Bench Warmers standing, Kirra Durling (r/up best girl), Libby Barton, Mitch Foon, Fiona Foon, Fiona Mills, Dan and Dave Johnson (equal impressive male on court) in front Y Knots, Chris (most spectacular interceptor), Kim Chetland, Jessie, Beau (most improved beginner), Krystal, Mel, Carly, Hayley (best girl in final), Myles (equal impressive male on court) and Jess.

THE Warragul and District Netball Association hosted its 18th mixed netball charity event grand final with plenty of laughter and learning.

Bench Warmers were on top of the game from the beginning not letting Y Knots find their usual form but still an enjoyable game ensued with some great passes of play.

It is always good to see a big improvement from the first to the last games.

Bench Warmers finished 28 to the Y Knots 24.

All players were congratulated on the fun and contribution to a good cause with the Warragul and District Netball Association wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas.



Launching the Dennis Vague sporting alumni honour wall Nick Aitken's mother Leanne Aitken, Archer and Zachary Reid's mother Megan Reid, Paul Golby representing his son Mitchell Golby, Hunter Marks, Phillip DeSalvo, Bass Coast S.C. Principal Darren Parker, Darren Berry, Alumni Coordinator Ange Williams, Brett Lovett, Kelly O'Neill, Amanda Drennan, Tamara Luke and Zali Anderson. Photo: Anthony Dal Masetto.

## Sporting alumni greats pay tribute to Dennis Vague

A SPORTING alumni honour wall paying tribute to Wonthaggi Secondary School teacher and sporting mentor Dennis Vague has been unveiled at Bass Coast College.

Bass Coast sporting alumni who have gone on to compete at the highest level in their respective sports gathered in the senior campus gymnasium with former students from Wonthaggi Technical School, Wonthaggi High School, and Wonthaggi Secondary College.

Bass Coast College acknowledged Dennis Vague's vital role in the alumni honour wall project and his long association with the school.

Guest speakers included current Melbourne Cricket Club coach Ben Vague and former Victorian cricket captain, all-time leading run-scorer for Melbourne grade cricket and Australian cricket coach Darren Berry.

The 1997 Ashes tour veteran spoke of Dennis Vague's guiding role in the success of many former students.

"I am thrilled that we're getting to unveil Dennis Vague's honour wall," said Darren Berry.

"It is a wonderful celebration of past students and Dennis Vague who was so connected to the school community."

"Dennis Vague was not only synonymous with the College, but he was also a significant community member, passionate about local sports. He was a true and genuine character with an exceptional sense of humour and was valued for his outstanding ability to connect with all his dedication to students extending over forty years, and he is remembered for the significant impact he had on so many young people's lives."

Members of the Vague family were welcomed by Bass Coast S.C. Principal Darren Parker



Ben and Kara Vague unveiled the Dennis Vague sporting alumni Honour Wall at Bass Coast Secondary College. B30\_5124

who said Dennis Vague had worked for 37 years at the college.

"It seems most appropriate we can celebrate Dennis and success," said Mr Parker, "to show just how proud we are of past students."

"Dennis' contribution to local sport was renown."

Anecdotes shared at the launch included Dennis Vague once telling a student that he was a much better footballer than his Dad was."

AFL footballer Brett Lovett, who played for Hawthorn U19s at the time, remembered Dennis Vague telling him, "If you want to be great at something you have to work a little harder. You can make it in sport no matter how small a country town you come from."

Mr Lovett told the gathered alumni he had ambition and a dream he wanted to chase.

"I have wonderful memories of growing up in Wonthaggi."

"These people were inspirational teachers and mentors and

helped me chase my dreams."

"Between High School and Tech there was a bit of rivalry.

"Rovers versus Blues, High School versus Tech, times have changed."

"What hasn't changed is the opportunity to chase your dream."

"Don't let the numbers dwindle for junior sport," said Mr Lovett.

Darren Berry recalled coming down to Wonthaggi in 1997 to visit Dennis Vague.

Just back from the Ashes Tour, Dennis Vague asked a class of students who Darren Berry was.

"No one knew," said Darren.

"I'm proud to be here today supporting the Vague family."

Ben Vague said he was so grateful for the love and support given to his family.

"To the inductees, congratulations."

"The coach was really proud of all the students and had a real connection with the students and their sporting

careers."

"Thank you for honouring my father in such a wonderful way."

The 2024 inductees to the Dennis Vague sporting alumni honour wall are first-class cricketer Darren Berry, AFL footballer and former co-captain of the Carlton Football Club Sam Docherty, professional road racing cyclist Nick Aitken, West Coast Eagles AFL forward Archer Reid, Essendon AFL defender Zachary Reid, Hawthorn Hawks NCAA basketballer Hunter Marks, world volleyball player Phillip DeSalvo, Collingwood Magpies netballer Zali Anderson, St Kilda AFL women's footballer Kelly O'Neill, St Kilda, Hawthorn and Richmond AFL women's footballer Tamara Luke, Victorian Teal Cup footballer and Melbourne half-back Brett Lovett, Brisbane Lions defender Mitchell Golby and Paralympic swimmer Amanda 'Mandy' Drennan.



Australian first class cricketer Darren Berry was honoured as part of the Dennis Vague sporting alumni. B17\_5124



Collingwood Magpies netballer Zali Anderson honoured as a Dennis Vague sporting alumni at Bass Coast S.C. B24\_5124



Professional road racing cyclist Nick Aitken represented by his mother Leanne Aitken as a Dennis Vague sporting alumni. B19\_5124



AFL footballer and former co-captain of the Carlton Football Club Sam Docherty was recognised as a Dennis Vague sporting alumni. B18\_5124

# Goannas thrive at Nationals

## VETERANS

**GIPPSLAND** Goannas cricketers represented Victoria at the five different National Over Age Championships, held in various parts of Australia over the last 10 weeks.

The format was each division of eight teams is divided into two pools, where each team plays the other three.

The best-performed teams in each pool playoff for the Division Championship.

It is interesting to note that teams with Goannas all, except one, played in the Championship Final, with three wins and four losses.

The other team, Division 2 in Over 65, won their third/fourth place playoff match.

The Over-50 Division 2 side won its Championship, Division 3 won its third/fourth place playoff, and Division 4 won its fifth/sixth place playoff.

### Over-50 Newcastle, November 3 to 7:

- Anthony Bloomfield: Division 1, allrounder. Batting: 3 innings, 51 runs, 27 overs Best: 43 (25) in final, Bowling: 6/86, Best: 3/34, Fielding: 1c, 1ro, Result: first.
- Chris Anders: Division 2, wicket-keeper. Batting: 2 innings, 4 runs, Fielding: 2c, 1s, Result: first.
- Craig O'Brien: Division 2, bat, Batting: 3 innings, 43 runs, Best: 34x, in final, Bowling: 2 overs, 1/4.
- Steve Rogers: Division 3, allrounder. Batting: 4 innings, 68 runs, Best: 42x, Bowling: 28 overs, 7/47, Best: 4/11, Fielding: 2c, Result: Third.
- Steve Webley: Division 3: Batting: 3 innings, 18 runs, Bowling: 5 overs, 1/23.
- David Nobels: Division 4, opening bowler: Batting: 4 innings, 12 runs, Bowling: 32 overs, 4/124, Best: 2/25. Result: fifth.

### Over-55 ACT, December 1 to 5:

- Graeme Rankin: Division 1, bat, Batting: 4 innings, 53 runs, Best: 28 (25), Fielding: 2c, 1roa, Result: Second.
- Geoff Wells: Division 1, bat, Batting: 3 innings, 49 runs, Best: 20 (21).
- Geoff Kinnish: Division 2, bat, Batting: 4 innings, 61 runs, Best: 35. Result: Second.
- John Daddo: Division 2, bat, Batting: 4 innings, 37 runs, Best: 14x, Over-60 Brisbane, November 11 to 15:
- Rob Taylor: Division 3, bat, Batting: 1 innings, 11x, then injured, Result: First, Over-65 Mackay, September 30 to October 4:
- Ray Smith: Division 1, bat, Batting: 168 runs, 3x 50s (ret), Best: 53x (28), Bowling: 2 overs, 1/20, Fielding: 1c, Result: Second.
- Rino Metlikovec: Division 1, allrounder, Batting: 3 innings, 60 runs, Best: 30. Bowling: 23 overs, 6/67, Best: 3/22 in final, Fielding: 1c.
- Peter Anton: Division 2, bowler. Batting: 2 innings, 17 runs, Bowling: 3 overs, Fielding: 2c, Result: third.
- Ken Bailey: Division 2, bat, Batting: 4 innings, 43 runs, Best: 28x (39). Fielding: 1c, Over-70 Dubbo, November 21 to 26:
- Ian Gibson: Division 1, wicketkeeper, Batting: dnb, Fielding: 2c, 3s, Result: first.
- Ian Southall: Division 1, opening bowler, Batting: 2 innings, 39 runs, Best: 30x (16), Bowling: 25 overs, 2/90, Best: (1/17), Fielding: 1ro.
- Gordon Cowling: Division 2, opening bowler, Batting: 3 innings, 32 runs, Best: 25x (20) in final, Bowling: 27 overs, 9/51, Best: 5/16, Fielding: 1c, 1roa, Result: Second



Gippsland's Ray Floyd plays to leg.



Mark Brown cuts for the Goannas.

## Gippsland Goannas over 60 outfit wins

### VETERANS

IT WAS a beautiful Sunday morning, with plenty of sun and a light easterly breeze as the Iona/KooWeeRup Over 60 cricket team arrived at the Bundalaguah Cricket Club to play the Goannas Over 60's.

The ground was in magnificent condition as acting captain, Ray Floyd, won the toss and decided the Goannas would bat first, the Gippsland side going on to set a strong total the opposition couldn't reach.

Floyd and Rob Bacchetti opened the Gippsland innings and set the tone for the day with 12 runs from the first over.

Floyd retired for 42 from 27 balls, after eight overs, when the score was 54.

Mark Brown joined Bacchetti and they took the score to 83, when Bacchetti was brilliantly caught in the covers by Andrew

Patterson, for 20 runs.

Col Carmody joined Brown and they kept the score ticking over.

At the 20 over drinks break these two both retired, Brown for 37 from 40 balls and Carmody for 12 from 19.

The score was then 1/118.

Graeme Ingle and Bernie Symons took up the attack, with Ingle scoring 10 runs from his first two balls.

He was eventually stumped for 23, from 18 balls when the score was 154.

This led to a mini collapse as Andrew Smith, Barrie Nunn, then Symons (17 from 19) were out in quick succession as the score reached 5/166 in the 29th over.

Chris Devent (15 from 12), and Gordon Cowling (22 from 21) advanced the score to 7/206 after 35 overs.

Ian Gibson (20 not out from

21), and Peter Anton (33 not out from 22) completed the innings safely, with the Goannas scoring 7/255 after their 40 overs.

Graeme Davey for Iona/KWR had good figures of 4/32 from eight overs.

Davey then opened the innings with Ron Wernke, as Symons and Anton bowled the first six overs for 13 runs.

Bacchetti and Cowling then came on, with Wernke well caught by Ingle from Cowling's bowling.

The score after 10 overs was 1/38.

Davey retired for 11 from 30 balls and Bacchetti bowled the number three batsman Eric Ohlson.

Smith and Devent then came on and took the side through to the 20 over drinks break, when the score was 4 for 89.

These two had both claimed a wicket.

Nunn and Ingle entered the attack, with Nunn bowling Steven Nadj for 27 from 15 balls, the fifth wicket falling in the 23rd over at 102.

These two plus Floyd and Anton bowled the rest of the overs without any further wickets as the Iona/KWR innings finished at 5/161 from 40 overs.

Five bowlers each claimed one wicket, with Devent also taking a catch.

The Goannas Over-70 team play at Frankston against the ACS team on Tuesday, while the Vic Country veterans will come to Gippsland on the first weekend in January for a double-header against the Goannas Over-60 and Over-70 teams. The Goannas Over-50 team will resume their season on January 19 with a game at Geelong.

The Goannas will next train at Traralgon on Friday, January 3.

## Goannas share a victory against the South East Veterans

### VETERANS

THE Gippsland Goanna's Over-50 cricketers were up against the highly regarded South East Vets combination on Sunday, December 8, at the Moe Racecourse in a game that would define the Goanna's season.

After winning the toss the South East Vets skipper Steve Rando had no hesitation in announcing that his team would bat first on what looked to be a wonderful cricket wicket.

The visitors were off to an incredible start, scoring at 4.5 runs per over in the first 10.

Assistance was provided when Geoff Wells put down a sharp chance at first slip off the bowling of Anthony Bloomfield, which didn't even see the big slipper get a hand to the ball with it rebounding off his midriff.

There was some speculation that had it been a meat pie, he would have swallowed it.

Wells then moved himself to a floating slip a few overs later, which then saw another genuine edge go begging which would have been swallowed had he been at first slip.

Steve Rogers and Paul Hennessey were bowling well without luck.

Both bowlers should have had breakthroughs, however, Bloomfield short-armed one, choosing not to get a hand on it and when Chris Anders, the debutant, Simon Forbes, and

Wells all ran around in circles hoping that someone else would try to catch a skied ball before nobody attempted to get a hand to it, leaving Hennessey a little nonplussed with the outcome.

With two batsmen retiring on 50, the Goannas didn't get their first taste of success until the 24th over when the debutant in Forbes picked up the wicket of Mason after a sharp catch from Anders who was keeping up to the stumps.

From this point on, the wickets began to fall in quick succession with Forbes claiming another two wickets including the prized scalp of Australian over 50's batsman Andrew Sharp.

All bowlers applied the screws with scoring becoming difficult, except for Wells who bowled a Brad McDonald-style over where he tried to land a few on the adjacent wickets.

Pat Spiteri recovered from his first over dance moves while fielding to pick up a couple of wickets with his wily low-release leg spinners.

Chris Malone snared one in a good spell of medium-pace bowling and Bloomfield, who had bowled without any luck early in the innings, picked up the hard-hitting Ritchie Sanaga.

A run-out closed out the innings with the visitors all out in 38th over finishing on 174.

The Goannas fielded extremely well apart from the several dropped catches including the one from Wells, Graeme Rankin who tripped on some chewing

game while trying to take a high ball at long off and Forbes who dropped a sharp caught and bowled in self-preservation.

Geoff Kinnish looked all at sea while playing in his sixth game of cricket in seven days and resembled a player who had just returned from a Victorian over 70's tournament rather than someone returning from over 55's representative duties.

Anders kept magnificently to finish with two catches and a stumping to round out what was an impressive recovery from the local lads.

Wells and Bloomfield started the Goannas' innings with some nice shots before Wells was the first to go being caught on the fence for eight with the score on 24.

Rankin joined Bloomfield.

The skipper didn't offer a lot, handing a simple caught and bowled chance to Sharp, departing for seven with the score on 49. Bloomfield was next to go and was told to tell his story, walking by the opposition after

Saniga pulled in an amazing sprinting one-handed screamer with the score on 63 after a quick-fire 43.

This left Spiteri and Malone at the crease and the team in a spot of bother, still requiring 111 for victory with 22 overs remaining.

Malone popped a hamstring before departing with the score on 94, trying to hit one into the wind and onto the racetrack, the rookie of the side with the

yellow lid probably just needs to calm his enthusiasm a little and think his way through the situation that is presented.

The team is confident he will get there with a little more experience under his belt.

The heroes of the last outing against Sunbury joined one another at the crease with Spiteri and Rogers picking up where they left off in the last outing.

Spiteri made his way to an incredible 51 and retired yet again.

This brought Hennessey to the wicket and together with Rogers took the score to 161 before Hennessey went for six.

Forbes in his first game strode to the crease and then watched on as Rogers blasted a six and two fours to ice the game with an over to spare.

Rogers yet again was pivotal to the outcome, finishing on a hard-hitting 43 not out to bring home the Gippsland Goannas' first-ever success against the highly fancied South East Vets side.

A great job was done by the Moe Cricket Club in hosting the game at late notice with a special mention to Pat Spiteri and his band of helpers for putting together what was described by the opposition as potentially the best deck they have ever played on in over 50's cricket.

The Goannas have turned at the Christmas break in second position and look well-placed to push for a finals berth in the back half of the season.

# Phillip Island remain undefeated

## WOMEN'S – ROUND 6

THE sun was shining and Rhyll oval looked superb as the Women's Cricket team faced Nyora for their Round 6 game.

Captain Bec lost the toss and the Sharks were sent into bat.

Grace opened the batting in stunning form, quickly clocking up four boundaries, while Sienna kept the strike turning over. A great 28 run partnership.

Jess and Claudia continued the run of boundaries, with Jess smashing a breathtaking seven fours, to top score for the Island with 34 runs. The Island, 68 at the change. Jay and Stacey ran smoothly between the wickets, and a big congratulations to Stacey for making her first runs for PIDCC!

The Island were on 86 as Jane and Bec made their way to the crease. The pair ran on everything, only taking a breath when Jane strategically placed



Sienna (left) player of the match and Stacey, on debut for PIDCC Women's Cricket Team.

the ball to get three boundaries. The Island 112, and Katie and Rosanna were ready to close the innings. Both women consistently found the boundary with powerful, well-placed shots (Rosanna three fours and Katie two fours). The Is-

land finished their innings on 153 runs. Congratulations to top scorers Jess (34), Grace (22) and Rosanna (22) runs.

Sienna opened the bowling for the Sharks and achieved success quickly, clean bowling the opposition twice in three

balls. She then continued her stunning form, clean bowling the opposition two more times. Together with a run out, Sienna achieved a sensational 4/9 (3).

Grace, Jane and Bec bowled with great line and length, restricting the scoring, while Katie and Jess bowled with pure power. Jess got a wicket with a perfectly pitched ball that split the stumps apart. Claudia bowled a tight spell, creating scoring pressure which led to a run out. Meanwhile Jay bowled with precision, resulting in Jane taking a beautiful catch at mid-wicket. Stacey fielded like a true champion and Rosanna worked tirelessly behind the stumps keeping Nyora to a total of 90 runs. Congratulations to bowling sensations Sienna 4/9 (3), Jay 1/3 (2) and Jess 1/18 (3).

Congratulations to Phillip Island Ten Pin Bowling and Entertainment Centre Player of the Match: Sienna! PIDCC Women's cricket side remain undefeated for the season.

South Gippsland Over 60s Kookas take down Ballarat in thriller

## VETERANS

THE SOUTH Gippsland Kookas embarked on their annual Christmas road trip to Ballarat last weekend.

After winning the toss, Skipper Robbie, a Burra Cricket Club legend, inserted the Ballarat Badgers.

A bit like the Famous Eureka Stockade, the game developed into an epic battle but this time the good guys won.

The Kookas in furnace-like conditions were golden nuggets in all ways and held the Diggers to 8/170.

Best of a fine unit of soldier bowlers were Ol Grayza Wighty 3/21, Cricket Gaza Adams 2/25, Master Blaster Loos 2/30. Neil Supa Calves White 1/11 and Mike Isaac Newton 1/15, the Badgers held to 8/170.

### Battle On!

After our star wives provided magnificent tucker at lunch, The Kookas started to launch a counterattack, Waza Hayes making 9, and President White firing on 26 not out.

Enter Mr Cricket Adams, who smashed 37 not out off a lazy 30 balls and Master Blaster Loos who blasted 25 off 20.

The Battle of Eureka was evenly poised.

The last eight overs saw Ol Grayza Wighty 31 not out, and the ultimate clubman Peter Ballarat Falls 16 not out, the Kookas winning the battle by a run with three overs to spare.

Man of the Match in an even team performance was Ol Grayza Wighty, who just edged out Mr Cricket.

Well, that's it for 2024, the rampaging Kookas and their superstar partners and supporters (like Tiga Boy Trev Wilson) wish all a very merry Christmas, and the mighty Kookas will be back better than ever in 2025.



Luke Hiddle, Warren Wilson, Dirk Holwerda, Trish Denier, Justin Lici, Sven Von Viking, Fred Debono, Brad Andrew and Michael Steenbergen reaped the rewards of Wonthaggi Table Tennis Club's presentation night.



Wonthaggi Table Tennis' Handicap Singles Champion Alana and Open Singles Champion Bellamy.

## Justin clean sweeps the field to be crowned Club Champion

THE advent of summer signals the closure of another Wonthaggi Table Tennis season. Sunshine replaced by more sunshine.

The year concluded with the annual Club Championship and presentation night.

The Club Championship is mate v mate, lightweight v heavyweight, fox v bull.

Justin, part bull and fox, dominated his matches to become 2024 Club Champion.

Qualifying final: v Michael 3

to 1, Bang. Semi-final: v David 3 to 1, Crash. Grand final: v Brad, 3 to 0, Ouch.

If you can imagine a matador defending against 1000 pounds of bovine grouch and gore with meagre red cloth, then you know that meagre red rubber versus this titan of table tennis is nigh impossible.

When Justin crouches low, rakes his feet, lifts his brow, whistles his nostrils and ominously stares so deadly that

the sun blinks, you know the bull is ready and your red is just a paddle.

When Hemingway said that sport is only a sport when your life is at risk, such as bullfighting, he most assuredly would have included table tennis if he had seen Justin across the net.

A cornerstone of any sporting organisation are juniors.

Big salute to David, Sam and Trish for tirelessly nurturing the nursery of future stars.

Big congratulations to the Open Singles and Big Ball Champion Bellamy and Handicap Singles Champion Alana.

Presentation night awarded the autumn and spring premiership teams, Club Championship and junior victors.

All members celebrated with sausages and sweets, and a salad.

Thanks to all who played, organised, spectated and umpired making 2024 a year to remember.

## Team Five deserve all the accolades at Inverloch Tennis Club finals



Kristy, Aaron, Allen, Wes, Jono, Sebastian, Tom and Donna competed in the grand final of the spring night doubles competition at the Inverloch Tennis Club.

One to an eight-five victory at the end of the set.

On the first court, Aaron and Alan battled hard but found themselves 4-0 down before a marathon service game from Aaron ended with him falling just short, slipping to a 5-0 deficit.

With the finish line beckoning, Team Five wasn't to be denied, closing it out 8-0 despite some

spirited opposition.

At the break, it was one set all with Team Five leading on games.

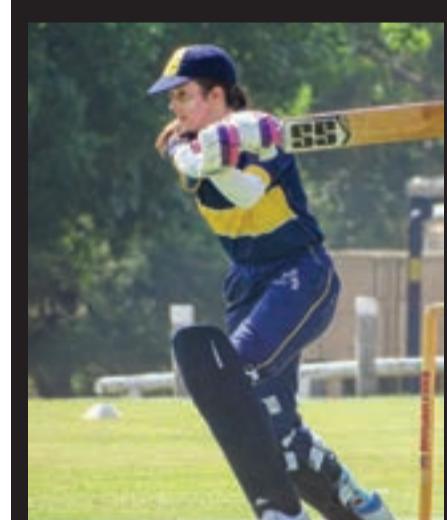
The early running during the second sets saw both courts holding even.

Despite their best efforts, Team One couldn't pull back the deficit, leaving Team Five to slip away at the end for 3-1 victory on sets, with the

much-coveted coffee mugs going to the competition's newcomers.

The next night doubles season starts in February, with the club looking to consolidate its recent influx of both new talent and raw potential.

Anyone interested in joining this vibrant competition, catering for all skill levels, is welcome to contact via email at inytennis@gmail.com.



Koonwarra Leongatha RSL's Brit Thomas shows off her batting skill against Kilcunda-Bass. Photo: Jodie Arnup.



Mel Gheller starred with the bat for Koonwarra Leongatha RSL against Kilcunda-Bass. Photo: Jodie Arnup.



Leongatha Town's Sakthy Vs sends one down the pitch during their game against Kilcunda-Bass. ob48\_5124



Stephen Leman nicks the ball directly into the wicketkeeper's gloves only to bounce back out. ob45\_5124

## C GRADE DIVISION 1

### Club 8/154d OMK 5/150

OMK 1st INNINGS: R Quaife 39, R White 44, B Hayes 0, M Walker 54, G Hart 1, J Myors 1\*, M Whiteside 0\*. Bowling: S Tessari 0/33, C Fraser 0/18, A Babu 1/38, J Licens 1/14, S Liddle 3/46. Club 1st INNINGS: W Speed 10, J Caddy 40, T Dudas-Jacobs 22, J Licens 28, A Quilty 0, M Chisholm 21, C Fraser 8, L Borne 14\*, S Tessari 0, C Prosser 0\*. Bowling: R White 3/27, M Whiteside 1/46, L Maskell 1/24, J Myors 2/23, R Quaife 0/29.

### Nerrena 5/143 d Phillip Island 103

Phillip Island 1st INNINGS: B Marshall 16, D Fusinato 0, T Senanayaka 10, T Hornsby 40, D McCausland 5, D Ivey 2, J Marshall 3, S Sirirathnage 7, A O'Brien 0, R Hughes 1, J Allen 0\*. Bowling: B Salmon 1/14, S Murphy 1/7, T Harris 1/22, Fill-in 0/22, G Murphy 2/15, C Baudinette 4/18, J Donohue 0/1.

Nerrena 1st INNINGS: B Gannon 3, T Harris 19, G Murphy 48, C Marinou 22, C Baudinette 16, W Cocksedge 24\*, S Murphy 4\*. Bowling: T Senanayaka 0/22, J Allan 1/14, D McCausland 1/8, J Marshall 0/20, T Hornsby 3/31, S Sirirathnage 0/46.

### Kilcunda-Bass 2/262 d Town 9/59

Kilcunda-Bass 1st INNINGS: J Huckett 25, G Miller 157\*, S Leman 13, V Gopal 43\*, M Gold 5\*. Bowling: C Dowling 0/26, N Shepard 0/23, A Aeschlimann 0/21, D Wilson 0/27, S Vs 1/39, PJ Kallokkaran 0/15, T Cashin 0/44, M Hogarth 0/35, J Aeschlimann 0/16, J Cashin 0/1. Town 1st INNINGS: S Vs 11, T Cashin 9, J Aeschlimann 11, D Wilson 0, A Aeschlimann 4, PJ Kallokkaran 6, M Hogarth 3, J Cashin 0, C Dowling 0, R Edwards 9\*. Bowling: S Tapscott 2/24, S Leman 4/17, E Magnussen 0/4, M Gold 2/10, T Gold 0/0, C Henderson 1/1.

### Korumburra - BYE

## C GRADE DIVISION 2

### MDU 7/140 d Glen Alvie 6/139

Glen Alvie 1st INNINGS: D Hayes 37, C Chandler 11, C Stewart 2, D McGuirk 16, I Thorn 64\*, W Simmons 1, K Anderson 1, C Anderson 4\*. Bowling: K Brown 2/16, S McRae 0/20, S Riley 1/11, G Casey 0/24, G Cocksedge 2/47, D Thomas 1/20. MDU 1st INNINGS: G Webster 0, T Bright 13, D Thomas 47, S McRae 1, C Graeme 20, G Cocksedge 31\*, G Casey 0, S Riley 0, T McGrath 1\*. Bowling: W Simmons 1/26, C Andersen 0/17, O Luff 3/9, J Hynes 1/17, K Andersen 1/24, N Luff 0/20, W Bidle 1/22.

### Phillip Island 2/203 d Koon L/RSL 8/189

Phillip Island 1st INNINGS: P Francis 118\*, Fill-in 44, S DiFalco 19, S Carville 8\*. Bowling: T Lund 0/38, J Brocklebank 1/26, A Piksons 0/23, Private player 0/13, R Collins 0/19, S Paterson 0/14, T Collins 0/30, G Mathies 0/15, D Yuthmika 1/19. Koonwarra L/RSL 1st INNINGS: A Boxall 3, S Anderson 8, T Collins 6, G Mathies 16, Private player 0, R Collins 54, S Paterson 34, J Brocklebank 39\*, A Piksons 2, D Yuthmika 10\*.

Bowling: S McMillan 1/37, M Cleary 4/44, P Francis 1/21, Fill-in 0/32, K Campbell 1/26, S Fi Falco 1/17, M Carville 0/7.

### Nyora d OMK

Nyora won by forfeit

### Inverloch - BYE

## C GRADE, DIVISION 1

GREG Miller ensured a convincing win for Kilcunda-Bass over Leongatha Town with 157 runs on Saturday.

Playing at Scorpion Park, Kilcunda-Bass began their domination over Town by winning the toss and choosing to bat.

Miller opened with Joel Huckett, who was dismissed LBW by Sakthy Vs for 25 runs.

Stephen Leman followed Huckett and made 13 runs before he was run out by Julian Aeschlimann.

Miller made his whopping 157-run haul during his partnership with Vijai Kumar Gopal and retired not out.

Gopal and Millie Gold closed the innings and made 43 and five runs respectively, both not out.

Kilcunda-Bass amassed a score of 2/262.

Town went into bat but struggled to make any inroads on the scoreboard.

Vs opened the batting and made 11 runs.

This turned out to be the top score, only matched by Aeschlimann, who batted third in the order.

Leman tore through the top of Town's order, including the dismissal of Dean Wilson for a duck.

Leman claimed 4/17.

Shaun Tapscott and Gold claimed two wickets each.

Gold dismissed both Jack Cashin and Cameron Dowling for ducks.

Town conceded defeat with a score of 9/59.

### Club holds nerve

IN THE top-of-the-table clash between Wonthaggi Club and OMK, Club was ultimately victorious.

Playing at Wonthaggi's McMahons Reserve, the visitors won the toss.

OMK's opening partnership of Robert Quaife and Russ

White started well with 39 and 44 runs respectively.

Quaife was caught by Aidan Caddy off the bowling of Justin Licens at 1/59.

Brad Hayes faced 13 balls but was bowled for a duck by Alan Babu.

His dismissal saw the entry of Mathew Walker, who top-scored with 54 runs.

Sam Liddle was Club's best bowler, claiming 3/46.

OMK was tasked with defending 5/150 at the end of its 35 overs.

Club managed to pip OMK with a four-run win.

Jed Caddy top scored for Club early with 40 runs.

Trae Dudas-Jacobs, Licens and Matrix Chisholm offered a steady run rate, which would be enough to claim the points, with 22, 28 and 21 runs respectively.

Russ White claimed the most wickets for OMK with 3/27.

Jordan Myors took two wickets, including the dismissal of Quilty for a golden duck.

Club claimed its win with a final score of 8/154.

### Island crumbles to Nerrena

PHILLIP Island was unable to keep up with Nerrena at the Rhyll Cricket Ground.

Nerrena won the toss and had a slow start.

Batting third, vice-captain Gerard Murphy turned things around with the top score of 48 runs.

Christos Marinou contributed 22 runs and Wayne Cocksedge closed the innings with 24 not out.

Phillip Island bowler Tony Hornsby held his own, claiming 3/31.

Singles were taken by Jackson Allan and Daniel McCloud.

Nerrena set the target at 5/143.

Hornsby continued his fine form in Phillip Island's innings when he made 40 runs.

However, Nerrena bowler Cameron Baudinette kept Phillip Island's scores low as he swept through the middle of the batting order.

Baudinette claimed 4/18.

Murphy took 2/15 and single wickets fell to Brendan Salmon, Shem Murphy, Tyson Harris and Jack Donohue.

Phillip Island was bowled out 10/103.

### Korumburra had the bye.

## C GRADE, DIVISION 2

### Francis leads the Sharks to victory

AN opening 118-run haul from Peter Francis saw Phillip Island cruise towards a win against Koonwarra L/RSL.

Francis was formidable and could not be removed by the Koonwarra L/RSL fielding side.

A fill-in opened the batting with Francis and made 44 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Jai Brocklebank.

Sebastian Di Falco contributed 19 runs but was bowled by Dihen Yuthmika, and Shane Carville ended the innings with Francis with eight not out.

Phillip Island played out its allotted overs, resulting in a score of 2/203.

A low-scoring start spelt trouble for the Cougars.

Rhett Collins stepped up to the crease midway through the innings and salvaged the score with 54 runs before he was caught by Michael Cleary off the bowling of Francis.

Shane Paterson and Brocklebank added 34 and 39 runs respectively.

Brocklebank was not out at stumps.

Cleary dominated Phillip Island's bowling efforts, claiming 4/44.

The rest of the wickets were taken by Sonny McMillan, Francis, Katie Campbell and Di Falco.

At the end of the innings, Koonwarra L/RSL surrendered the win to Phillip Island with a score of 8/189.

### MDU prevails in tight clash

MDU nabbed a win from Glen Alvie at the Meenian Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

The visitors won the toss and chose to bat.

David Hynes opened well with 37 runs, but MDU bowlers Keiran Brown and Stephen Riley worked their way through the top of Glen Alvie's batting order.

Captain Ian Thorn stepped up fifth in the order and hit 64 not out to ensure a defendable score for Glen Alvie.

Glen Cocksedge wiped out Glen Alvie's last two batsmen quickly.

MDU's top bowlers were Brown and Cocksedge, who took 2/16 and 2/47 respectively.

Glen Alvie played out its 35 overs, resulting in a score of 6/139.

MDU got off to a rocky start when opening batsman Gary Webster was sent off for a golden duck by William Simmons.

However, his dismissal saw the entry of captain Dale Thomas, who hit the top score of 47 runs.

Colin Graeme and Cocksedge added 20 and 31 runs respectively.

Cocksedge was not out at the end of the innings.

Owen Luff was Glen Alvie's star bowler, taking 3/9.

Singles were claimed by Simmons, Jarvis Hynes, Kent Andersen and Wayne Bridle.

MDU still got over the line with a score of 7/140 in the 33rd over.

The match between OMK and Nyora was abandoned when OMK forfeited.

### Inverloch had the bye.



Brad Anderson plays a late cut for Koonwarra Leongatha RSL against Glen Alvie. Photos: Jodie Arnup.

## Red Caps fight back to sink the Sharks

### B GRADE, DIVISION 1

DESPITE a strong start from Phillip Island as it bowled out Nerrena 10/119, the Red Caps were able to flip the script and send the Sharks to third place on the ladder.

Sharks' opening batsman Tharidu Asurumuni managed to scrape together 24 runs, but this was ultimately the top score of the day.

David Womersley contributed 19 runs midway through the innings, but Nerrena's onslaught was too much to contend with.

Nerrena bowler Mitchell Croatto led the charge, taking 4/32, as well as taking the catch that dismissed Asurumuni.

Ryan Clark claimed three wickets and two wickets fell to William Croatto.

Phillip Island was bowled out 10/95 in the 48th over.

Nerrena launched its second innings with a slow start due to the bowling of Asurumuni and Jobe Williams.

Batting fifth in the order, Charlie Dougherty added plenty of ink to the scorecard with 56 not out.

Phillip Island bowler Tarryn Allan swept up the bottom of Nerrena's batting order, claiming 4/22.

Asurumuni took three wickets and Williams claimed two.

Nerrena finished the day with a score of 9/141 and has settled into second place on the ladder.

### Stingrays strike

INVERLOCH stormed its way to victory against MDU on Saturday.

The Stingrays bowled MDU out 10/175 in the first day of

the two-day match and were fired up to earn the points.

David Harris and Captain Warren Stewart opened Inverloch's account.

Harris was bowled LBW by Tyrone Zukovskis for nine runs, sending in Dylan Clark.

Stewart and Clark made 63 and 67 respectively, before Clark was bowled by Callum McCaughan.

Leigh Cole stepped up to the crease and finished the innings off with Stewart.

Cole made 21 runs, and both he and Stewart were not out at stumps.

Inverloch won the day with a score of 2/177.

### Top of the ladder for Club

WITH a score of 10/209, Wonthaggi Club managed to hold onto the win against OMK.

The third win of the season sent Club to the top of the ladder.

OMK captain Adam Busana kickstarted the innings with 24, and David Jefferies – batting third in the order – top scored with 53 runs.

Twenty-two runs were also contributed by Nicholas Audino.

Club bowler Heath Dobbie caused the most headaches for OMK, taking 3/36.

Two wickets were claimed by Lucas McRae, with captain Sean Roche, Jai Williamson and Bryce Evans taking singles.

OMK fell short with a score of 9/162.

### Korumburra had a bye in round seven.

### B GRADE, DIVISION 2

#### Nyora outplays Foster

NYORA enjoyed an outright win against Foster on Saturday.

After bowling Foster out 10/99, Nyora led by 75 after the first innings.

Nyora continued its first innings with Jordan Knox reaching 43 runs and Ryan White hitting 52.

Knox was caught by Brandon Busuttil off the bowling of Neil Henry.

Henry also dismissed White.

Captain Lochie Row made 36 not out when Nyora opted to declare with a score of 4/174.

Foster was sent back into bat with little improvement.

Billy Davy opened and made 23 runs, which was the top score for Foster.

Brett Gay contributed a further 20 runs.

White demolished Foster's batting order and claimed an impressive 6/32.

Sam Henry and Lincoln Brock also took out two wickets each.

Foster found itself bowled out once more with a score of 10/83.

With three overs left in it, Nyora began its second innings.

Knox was bowled for a duck by Ryan Jorgensen.

A fill in batsman and Daniel Esler made five not out.

Nyora made 1/15 and took the points.

#### Cougars crush Glen Alvie

KOONWARRA L/RSL claimed a win after bowling Glen Alvie out for a score of 10/76.

The Cougars had reached 1/51 by stumps during the first day.

Picking up where they left off, Nick Arnup made 15 runs and Darren Read retired not out with 23 runs.

Captain Brad Anderson later top-scored with 35 runs and was not out at the end of the match.

Vice-captain Adam Drury capped it off with 17 runs.

For Glen Alvie, Lachlan McRae, Luke Scholz and Archie Donohue claimed two wickets each.

Koonwarra/LRSL won with a score of 8/140.

#### Town nicks a win

LEONGATHA Town snatched a win from Kilcunda-Bass.

Kilcunda-Bass was on the ropes when it was bowled out 10/85.

However, some impressive bowling from Alan Bedford and Rohan Duff saw the dismissal of Luke Bowman, Colin Bruce, Max Carter and Davern Goss for ducks in succession, leaving the game up to anyone.

Rory Gilliatte saved it for Town, making 50 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Zac Crow.

Duff took 4/11 and Crow took 3/12 for Kilcunda-Bass.

Leongatha Town just got itself over the line with a score of 10/99.

#### The Imperials had the bye.



Adam Drury drives for Koonwarra Leongatha RSL in its B2 match against Glen Alvie, the vice captain making 17.

### B GRADE

### DIVISION 1

#### Nerrena 119 & 9/141 d Phillip Island 95

Phillip Island 1st INNINGS: T Asurumuni 24, L Ferrari 3, S Angelo 0, J Williams 10, C Epifano 6, D Womersley 19, K Wilkinson-loines 0, A Finlayson 5, Z Hughes 0, H Arceo 0\*, T Allan 4

Bowling: W Croatto 2/18, M Croatto 4/32, R Clark 3/20, C Dougherty 0/13, D Symmons 0/4

Nerrena 2nd INNINGS: K Berryman 14, B Trotman 11, E Berryman 7, M Croatto 23, C Dougherty 56\*, J Kelly 3, W Croatto 4, D Symmons 0, R Clark 3, J Checkley 5, M Croatto 1\*

Bowling: J Williams 2/17, H Areco 0/33, T Asurumuni 3/31, C Epifano 0/17, T Allan 4/22, L Ferrari 0/13

#### Inverloch 2/177 d MDU 175

Inverloch 1st INNINGS: D Harris 9, W Stewart 63\*, D Clark 67, L Cole 21\* Bowling: D Zuidema 0/28, T Zukovskis 1/35, C McCaughan 1/32, C Hooper 0/33, L Webb 0/27, R Prosser 0/13

#### Club 209 d OMK 9/162

OMK 1st INNINGS: A Busana 24, M Sawyers 15, D Jeffries 53, D McMeekin 0, T Nicholas 13, P Harper 1, N Auddin 22, M Nicholas 12, B Maguire 3\*, D Wylie 0

Bowling: S Roche 1/24, M Sharp 0/24, H Dobbie 3/36, J Williamson 1/19, B Evans 1/34, L McRae 2/14

#### Korumburra – Bye

### B GRADE

### DIVISION 2

#### Nyora 4/174 & 1/15 d Foster 99 & 83

Nyora 1st INNINGS: D Esler 16, J Knox 43, K Linford 10, R White 52, L Row 36\*

Bowling: N Henry 2/51, L Moon 1/21, R Jorgensen 1/35, B Cripps 0/20, A Gibson 0/14, B Gay 0/32

Foster 2nd INNINGS: B Davy 23, B Busuttil 2, N Henry 1, B Gay 20, S Embuldeniya 6, A Gibson 0, N Samat 2, L Moon 0, L Welsh 7, R Jorgensen 4\*, B Cripps 0

Bowling: S Henry 2/11, L Brock 2/6, T Bernaldo 0/8, R White 6/32, L Row 0/2, T Perkins 0/8, D Esler 0/15

Nyora 2nd INNINGS: J Knox 0, Fill-in 5\*, D Esler 5\*

Bowling: L Moon 0/7, R Jorgensen 1/0, B Cripps 0/7

#### Town 99 d Kilcunda-Bass 85

Town 1st INNINGS: T McRae 13, L Ashton 7, L Bowman 0, C Bruce 0, M Carter 0, D Goss 0, R Gilliatte 50, M Hardy 8, T Strybosch 11, F Livingstone 0\*, L Gill 0

Bowling: R Duff 4/11, A Bedford 2/36, A Leighton 0/23, A McBride 1/15, Z Crow 3/12

#### Koonwarra L/RSL 8/140 d Glen Alvie 76

Koonwarra L/RSL 1st INNINGS: G Boxall 12, D Read 23\*, N Arnup 15, G Perry 4, B Anderson 35\*, L Read 8, A Drury 17, N Grimes 0, B Thomas 4, S Chadwick 5

Bowling: L McRae 2/34, G Hynes 1/18, L Scholz 2/40, A Donohue 2/26, R Spiteri-Stevens 0/4, J Brown 1/9

#### Imperials – Bye

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## LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Daniel Mock (Phillip Island) **116** ; Ben Spicer (Korumburra) **4/19**

A2: Aaron Conron (Kilcunda-Bass) **48** ; Ben McRae (Glen Alvie) **3/34**

B1: Dylan Clark (Inverloch) **67** ; Tarryn Allan (Phillip Island) **4/22**

B2: Ryan White (Nyora) **52** ; Ryan White (Nyora) **6/32**

C1: Gregory Miller (K-Bass) **157** ; Stephen Leman (K-Bass) **4/17**

C2: Peter Francis (Phillip Island) **118\*** ; Michael Cleary (Phillip Island) **4/44**

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### LADDERS

RD 7

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
<b>A GRADE, Division 1</b>					
Phillip Island	66	2.493	Inverloch	54	1.436
Nerrena	60	2.233	Nyora	54	1.339
Town	48	0.707	Foster	42	1.262
Club	42	1.104	MDU	42	1.029
Imperials	42	0.790	Glen Alvie	30	0.649
OMK	30	0.899	Kilcunda-Bass	30	0.456
Korumburra	30	0.873			
Koonwarra L/RSL	18	0.449			

### B GRADE, Division 1

### B GRADE, Division 2

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
<b>B GRADE, Division 1</b>					
Club	54	1.281	Koonwarra L/RSL	60	1.633
Nerrena	48	1.601	Nyora	56	1.913
Phillip Island	42	1.798	Town	48	0.883
OMK	36	0.979	Imperials	30	0.936
Inverloch	30	0.727	Glen Alvie	30	0.772
Korumburra	18	0.329	Kilcunda-Bass	18	0.819
MDU	12	0.531	Foster	18	0.555

### LADDERS

RD 5

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%	
<b>C GRADE, Division 1</b>						
Club	42	1.460	<b>C GRADE, Division 2</b>			
OMK	36	1.670	No ladder available			
Kilcunda-Bass	30	1.749	<b>Local cricket</b>			
Nerrena	18	0.966	<a href="http://www.sgst.com.au">www.sgst.com.au</a>			
Phillip Island	18	0.749				
Korumburra	18	0.695				
Town	6	0.192				

### NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 8 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21  
T20 MATCHES COMMENCING AT 1PM

#### A GRADE, Division 1

Korumburra v Town	Korumburra	Shane Moore
Club v Koon L/RSL	Wonthaggi Turf	Ozzie Williams
OMK v Imperials	Outtrim - 2.30pm	Ashleigh Stride
Nerrena v P-Island	Leongatha Turf	Ken Scrimshaw

#### A Grade, Division 2

Kilcunda-Bass v MDU	Bass 1	Brad Phillips
Nyora v Foster	Nyora	Geoff Parkinson
Inverloch v Glen Alvie	Inverloch Turf	Graham Wightman

#### B GRADE, Division 1

MDU v Korumburra	Meeniyana	Michael Thomas
Club v Nerrena	McMahon	Les White
Phillip Island v OMK	Newhaven	Steve Williamson
Inverloch - BYE		

#### B GRADE, Division 2

Koon L/RSL v K-Bass	Koonwarra	Tyson Tootell
Imperials v Nyora	East Campus	Geoff Wyatt
Town v Glen Alvie	Scorpion Park 1	Neil Grabham
Foster - BYE		

ROUND 6 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21  
T20 MATCHES COMMENCING AT 1PM

#### C GRADE, Division 1

P-Island v Korumburra	Rhyll	TBA
Town v OMK (Fri 5.30pm)	Scorpion Park 1	Graham Wightman
K-Bass v Nerrena	Bass 2	TBA
Club - BYE		

#### C GRADE, Division 2

Koon L/RSL v Inverloch	Leongatha Vel	Paul Gardiner
OMK v Glen Alvie	Outtrim - 11.30am	TBA
Nyora v Phillip Island	Poowong	TBA
MDU - BYE		

Subject to Confirmation. Any prospective umpires can contact Geoff Wyatt 0413 081 136 or Doug Pell 0404 301 333



Town's Jesse Giardina slugs the ball on his way to an important captain's knock of 63. ob49\_5124

## Commanding win for Sharks thanks to two-ton partnership

### A GRADE, DIVISION 1

Rowen McLennan opened the batting for the Imperials, making 15 and 13 runs respectively.

McLennan's wicket was claimed by Timothy Wightman at 1/125, sending in Timothy Sauvarin.

Cleeland's campaign saw him reach 104, while Mock made the top score of 116 runs.

Both batsmen had their time at the crease ended by OMK's Zavier Lamers.

Phillip Island easily reached OMK's score of 10/105 but continued to play out the innings.

Brodie Johnston made 38 not out and Jarrod Black made 24 runs.

Lamers and captain Koby Brann took the bowling honours for OMK, claiming 2/40 and 2/3 respectively.

Single wickets were taken by Pickering, Dell and Cochrane.

Phillip Island called it a day and declared at 7/313.

Nerrena won the game on first innings points.

### Koonwarra crumbles under Spicer

KOONWARRA L/RSL was unable to match Korumburra's dominating score of 10/353.

After stumbling early, Koonwarra L/RSL's innings started to pick up when Kayden Scrimshaw made 17 runs and Callum Buckland top-scored with 34 runs.

Campbell Reid and

captain James Rushton hit 26 runs, but little more was recorded for the rest of the innings.

Between the bowling prowess of Korumburra captain Ben Spicer and Gayathra Shehan Amarasinghe Mudalige, Koonwarra L/RSL struggled to make any headway on the scoreboard.

Spicer claimed 4/26 – including two ducks late in the innings – and Amarasinghe Mudalige claimed 4/32.

The remaining two wickets were taken by Mustafa Nader.

Koonwarra L/RSL was bowled out 10/112 in the 40th over.

Korumburra decided to go for an outright win, sending Koonwarra L/RSL back in for a second innings.

The partnership of Anthony Hunt and Mitchell Scrimshaw opened for the Cougars.

Spicer continued his impressive run by bowling Hunt for one run.

He then took out Kayden Scrimshaw and Callum Buckland for ducks.

The partnership of Mitchell Scrimshaw and Rushton combined well to make 28 and 45 runs respectively.

Rushton was not out at stumps, but Mitchell Scrimshaw also fell victim to Spicer.

Benjamin Heppell and

Harry Scrimshaw were the last ones to step up to the crease but only managed to add six and four runs respectively.

Their wickets were taken by Andy Millar and Amarasinghe Mudalige.

Spicer's figures at the end of the second innings were 4/19.

Koonwarra L/RSL had made 6/87 at stumps and Korumburra won on first innings points.

### Giardina guides Town to victory

IN A thriller, Leongatha Town managed to pip Wonthaggi Club.

Club had set the target at 10/254, which Town proved was within reach.

Town captain Jesse Giardina led the charge when he opened the batting and made 63 runs.



Dugard delivers for Inverloch, landing a wicket for the day.

## MDU's team fielding efforts hold Foster's batters in check

### A GRADE, DIVISION 2

MDU'S fielding side reaped the rewards of its efforts as it successfully defended its score of 10/133 against Foster.

Josh Toner and Jake Best continued their partnership for Foster, with Best bowled for 12 runs by Scott Browne.

Toner made a handy 35 runs, but this turned out to be the best score of the day.

MDU bowlers Sam Bright and vice-captain Mitch McGrath made it a tough day for Foster, taking 3/49 and 3/29 respectively.

Two wickets were taken by Browne.

Jake Staley and Andrew Pattie attempted to up Foster's score

late in the innings but only managed to add 18 and 14 runs respectively.

Foster was bowled out in the 52nd over with a score of 10/103.

#### Donohue and Dakin deliver for Glen Alvie

GLEN Alvie showed it was too strong for Kilcunda-Bass.

Glen Alvie set the pace of the match when it made 3/298, thanks to a dominating innings from batsmen Matthew Donohue and Matthew Dakin.

Cameron Davidson and Aaron Conron opened the batting for Kilcunda-Bass on Saturday.

Davidson was bowled by the in-form Dakin for seven runs.

Conron was joined by Jaydan

Tregeear and went on to make 48 and 26 runs respectively.

Tregeear's wicket was claimed by Ben McRae, which saw Brad Wright step up.

Wright contributed another 37 runs, but Kilcunda-Bass was unable to catch up to Glen Alvie.

McRae was Glen Alvie's top bowler, taking 3/34.

Dakin claimed 2/44.

Kilcunda-Bass conceded defeat with a score of 5/145.

#### Nyora shines in comfortable win

NYORA claimed a victory over Inverloch.

Inverloch was bowled out 10/96 in its innings, allowing Nyora to play 21 overs on

day one.

Nyora picked up where it left off with a score of 2/26.

The partnership of Bailey Henderson and captain Jake Henry continued their campaign and made the top scores of 24 and 29 respectively.

Henry was not out when Nyora won the game.

These scores were enough to defeat Inverloch, with a slower run rate from the rest of the order.

Callum Asbury was Inverloch's best bowler, taking 2/28.

Jesse Dugard, Rhys Newman and Ty Debano claimed one wicket each.

After playing 68 overs, Nyora celebrated the win with a final score of 6/107.

### A GRADE, DIVISION 2

#### DIVISION 2

##### Nyora 6/107 d Inverloch 96

###### Nyora – 1st INNINGS

Henry Dolphin run out: D Newman	11
Colin Knox c: J Butcher b: C Asbury	6
Bailey Henderson c: C Newman b: J Dugard	24
Michael Lynch b: C Asbury	6
Jake Henry not out	29*
Benn Hayes c: R Harris b: R Newman	9
Mitch Rowe lbw: T Debano	12
Reece Cordeau not out	3*
Extras (2w, 2nb, 2lb)	7
<b>Total 6 / 107 (68 Overs)</b>	

Bowling: C Asbury 24-10-28-2 (2nb), J Dugard 12-3-20-1 (1w), C Newman 18-7-32-0 (1w), J Dennerley 4-2-5-0, R Newman 7-4-8-1, T Debano 3-0-11-1

##### MDU 133 d Foster 103

###### Foster – 1st INNINGS

Jack Gay c: SCh Lakshan b: M Cantwell	2
Josh Toner c: Z Bright b: M McGrath	35
Mitchell Allott c: P Le Page b: S Bright	0
Jake Best b: S Browne	12
Ollie Rook c: P Le Page b: M McGrath	12
Tex Dyson c: M McGrath b: S Browne	0
Mitchell Jones st: J Sinclair b: M McGrath	3
Jake Staley c&b: SC Lakshan	18
Andrew Pattie c: J Sinclair b: S Bright	14
Richard Johnston lbw: S Bright	4
Eddie Smith not out	0*
Extras (2nb, 1b)	3
<b>Total 10 / 103 (51.3 Overs)</b>	

Bowling: S Bright 17.3-3-49-3, M Cantwell 4-1-4-1, S Browne 15-9-9-2, M McGrath 10-2-29-3 (2nb), SC Lakshan 5-2-11-1

##### Glen Alvie 3/298 d Kilcunda-Bass 5/145

###### Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS

Cameron Davidson b: M Dakin	7
Aaron Conron lbw: B McRae	48
Jaydan Tregeear c: ? b: B McRae	26
Brad Wright c: ? b: M Dakin	37
Ash Larcombe c: ? b: B McRae	4
Matthew Grayson not out	6*
Robert Wallace not out	0*
Extras	0
<b>Total 5 / 145 (50 Overs)</b>	

Bowling: M Dakin 15-2-44-2 (1w), Z Scholz 5-0-18-0, A Luke 8-1-16-0, B McRae 18-4-34-3, R Sinclair 4-018-0



Nyora Captain Jake Henry secured 29 not out during Saturday's match against Inverloch.



Bailey Henderson delivered 24 runs before being dismissed by a Cooper Newman catch.

### A GRADE

### DIVISION 1

#### Korumburra 353 d

##### Koon L/RSL 112 & 6/87

Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS	
Anthony Hunt b: GSA Mudalige	.....7
Mitchell Scrimshaw c: T Crocker	
b: GSA Mudalige	8
Kayden Scrimshaw lbw: Ben Spicer	17
Callum Buckland	
c: J Richards b: M Nader	34
James Rushton c: A Damon b: M Nader	26
Benjamin Heppell b: B Spicer	6
Harry Scrimshaw b: GSA Mudalige	5
Matthew Boswell lbw: Ben Spicer	0
William Cashin lbw: Ben Spicer	0
Joshua Thomas not out	0*
Blake Smith b: GSA Mudalige	2
Extras (3w, 2nb, 2lb)	7
<b>Total 10 / 112 (39.3 Overs)</b>	

Bowling: GSA Mudalige 8.3-2-32-4 (2w, 2nb), M Nader 12-4-33-2, A Millar 7-3-19-0 (1w), B Spicer 12-4-26-4

##### Koonwarra L/RSL – 2nd INNINGS

Anthony Hunt b: B Spicer	1
Mitchell Scrimshaw b: B Spicer	28
Kayden Scrimshaw	
c: R Rangana b: B Spicer	0
Callum Buckland c&b: B Spicer	0
James Rushton not out	45*
Benjamin Heppell	
c: R Rangana b: A Millar	6
Harry Scrimshaw c: ? b: GSA Mudalige	4
Joshua Thomas not out	0*
Extras (1w, 1lb, 1b)	3
<b>Total 6 / 87 (35 Overs)</b>	

Bowling: GSA Mudalige 8-2-25-1, B Spicer 17-9-19-4, M Nader 6-0-31-0, A Millar 4-1-10-1 (1w)

### Town 9/256 d Club 254

#### Town – 1st INNINGS

Ron Abeysinghe c: G Britt b: F West	19
Jesse Giardina b: M McCall	63
DLMP Gallage c: F West b: R Thomas	13
Madura Madusanka	
c: F West b: M McCall	22
Jack Hume c: J Harvey b: M McCall	32
Buwaneka Wakishta	
c: M McCall b: J Brann	0
Rhett Hume not out	45*
Birendra De Saram c: G Britt b: F West	7
Ethan Smith b: F West	3
Archie Fixter c: M Thomas b: J Brann	16
Samuel Clark not out	18*
Extras (4nb, 6lb, 8b)	18
<b>Total 9 / 256 (74.3 Overs)</b>	

Bowling: Joel Brann 21-3-80-2 (4nb), F West 19.3-5-57-3, J Harvey 2-0-23-0, R Thomas 9-2-25-1, M McCall 23-7-57-3

### Phillip Island 7/313 d OMK 105

#### Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS

Lachlan Cleland c: K Brann b: Z Lamers	104
Kohen Beaumont c: ? b: P Dell	11
Daniel Mock c: K Brann b: Z Lamers	116
Brodie Johnston not out	38*
Thomas Niven c: K Brann b: J Cochrane	5
Jarrod Black b: T Pickering	24
Max Royal c&b: K Brann	6
Kurt Lane c: T Pickering b: K Brann	0
Heath Womersley not out	0*
Extras (3w, 4nb, 2lb)	9
<b>Total 7 / 313 (74 Overs)</b>	

Bowling: T Pickering 17-0-71-1 (1w), P Dell 12-2-57-1, J Lamers 8-1-34-0, R Williams 8-0-27-0 (3nb), J Cochrane 13-0-58-1, E Lamers 5-0-21-0, Z Lamers 9-1-40-2 (1w, 1nb), K Brann 2-0-3-2 (1w)

### Nerrena d-4/122 d

#### Imperials 60 & 6/153

##### Imperials – 2nd INNINGS

Campbell Reid	
c: D Berryman b: A Gannon	15
Rowen McLennan	
c: J Curtis b: T Wightman	13
Timothy Sauvarin lbw: T Wightman	26
Aydan Williams c: J Trease b	

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Russell's cricket career is supported by his wife and kids who follow him to most games.

## Russ notches 400 senior games

RUSSELL White began playing cricket for Outtrim when he was just 12 years old and notched his 400th game for the Outtrim Moyarra Kongwak (OMK) seniors on Saturday, December 7.

Showing his talent on the day as a decent batsman and bowler, Russell made a solid 35 runs and took 1/17 for C1, playing against Korumburra.

Final scores on the day were OMK 6/175 to Korumburra 10/95.

Russell has also played over 60 junior games, so is likely getting close to 500 games of cricket altogether.

"As a 12-year-old you're just keen to play cricket and it just keeps on going from there I suppose."

He followed his dad around playing cricket and it became a way of life for Russell, whose family now support him at most games.

"Dad played about 250 or 300 games at Outtrim as well, so he was there. You just keep on rolling, you go

cruising with Dad and you come through the system."

"It's a good family club, and that's why I'm probably still there," said Russell who has also been President of the club for about 17 years.

Winning back-to-back Premierships in 2013/14 when he was Captain of the B Grade is a stand-out memory from over the years for Russell, as well as the year he made a 100 in a losing grand final.

"It was good to get a hundred, but it was disappointing to lose," Russell remembers.

The best bowler Russell reckons he has come up against over the years is Scott Williams from Wonthaggi.

"He used to get me out," laughs Russell.

While the best batsman he's faced as a bowler is Craig Harvey from Wonthaggi.

"He was hard to get out, used to whack you around."

On the same day that

Russell played his 400th game, he came up against rival Darren Scott who was playing his 350th game for Korumburra.

"It's quite funny actually, Darren used to coach me in the under 18's footy, and then he played his 350th on the same day. We've been good mates since Under 17's footy and (there's) a bit of rivalry between us and Korumburra and we stir each other up a bit."

Does Russell think Darren is any good at cricket?

"He's only a hack," laughed Russell.

The mateship with teammates is the best part of the game for Russell and he doesn't know how many, but he reckons he's got a few more games left in him yet.

"I don't know. The body is starting to feel it, but I still enjoy playing."

"I don't know about another few hundred but, I'll just keep rolling and see how the years tick by."



Russell made 35 runs in his 400th game to score a win against Korumburra.



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