

# Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

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## ROAD SAFETY APPEAL

With the holiday period upon us, emergency services are urging motorists to take extreme care on the roads. Paramedic Matthew Brain, Firefighter Kevin Else, Highway Patrol member Clinton Goff and SES responder Jarrod Hargreaves don't want their faces to be the last ones you see. See full story on page 12.



# Coast clear for turbines

But government must rule out Prom and Island zones, they say

THE good news, especially for those who love the beaches of Bass Coast and South Gippsland, not to mention the pristine beauty of Wilsons Promontory, is that those areas will remain virtually untouched by Energy Minister Chris Bowen's offshore turbines.

But the fight to protect our shores from these 350-metre-high structures, and the connecting transmission lines, is far from over.

When the Federal Minister for Climate Change and Energy came to Seaspray last week to formally declare three marine zones, off the coast between Lakes Entrance and the southern tip of the Prom, as Australia's first offshore wind zone, he left the door ajar to expanding the footprint

further west.

Minister Bowen said the changes to the list of proposed development zones, including deletion of the one closest to the coast, from the Prom to the Penguins Beach on Phillip Island, were made because of concerns brought up during the consultation phase.

And if he didn't read the community submissions, he would certainly be aware Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young had put her stake in the ground, protecting the Prom, in a statement to the Senate on November 23.

"The area west of Wilsons Promontory did not receive the same level of community support as the proposal east and also there's environmental concerns with the fa-

mous Orange-bellied parrot which need to be worked through," Minister Bowen said.

So, that zone, within 5km of the coast from Cape Woolamai to Waratah Bay, and three others to the west of the Prom, have been left out or cut short for now.

However, a newly formed, South Gippsland-based lobby group 'Responsible Renewables', says they should stay out.

"Information published in Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water channels yesterday confirms that the declared area in Gippsland covers 15,000 square kilometres and runs from Lakes Entrance in the east to south of Wilsons Promontory in the west," Responsible Renewables said on its website this week.

Continued page 3



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**Emergency services responded to a serious collision at the intersection of Korumburra and Wentworth Road last Wednesday. Ns045222**

## Car crash reminder to drive safe

A SERIOUS collision occurred at the intersection of Korumburra Road and Wentworth Road in Wonthaggi on Wednesday, December 21.

It is understood that a 20-year-old female driver from Leongatha has failed to give way and collided with a Mazda utility driven by a 42-year-old man from Cape Woolamai.

The male driver escaped without injury but the female driver, whose car was extensively damaged in the collision, deploying its airbags, has been taken to hospital with, reportedly, minor injuries.

Police have issued the woman with a penalty infringement notice.

Anyone with information or dashcam footage of the incident is asked to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or to call the Wonthaggi Police on (03) 56714100.

Police have also issued a reminder for drivers to take care on the busy roads over the next few weeks, and to avoid distractions, such as driving while using your mobile phone which carries a penalty of 4 demerit points and a \$545 fine, or worse.

## IN BRIEF

### It's still about roads and rubbish

IF YOU'RE a ratepayer who'd like to see your local shire get back to the basics, then the 'contracts' report tabled at last week's Bass Coast Shire Council meeting should be good news.

There were no new contracts let but the four contracts that were extended related to roads and rubbish: \$500,000 for the supply of bitumen, 2 x \$350,000 for asphalt, and \$125,000 for landfill (tip) monitoring.

### Road racing results in crash

A YOUNG 18-year-old driver has been issued an infringement after causing an accident on Koetsveldt Road near Loch-Wonthaggi Road after their Commodore went around the corner on the wrong side hitting an oncoming vehicle.

The driver stopped and exchanged phone numbers but left the scene in a separate vehicle before providing full details.

The driver was later interviewed by police, and both vehicles were towed from the scene.

### Reminder not to leave children in cars

PARENTS are being reminded not to leave children in vehicles or leave their keys with children in vehicles.

Temperatures inside vehicles can increase exponentially in minutes even on cloudy and overcast days.

# Coast clear for turbines

## From page 1

They noted, however, that the department had also committed to working with the State Government over the coming year to consider the Gippsland coast west of Wilsons Promontory.

Laura Jennings from Responsible Renewables said these areas should simply be ruled out.

"While we have not had direct engagement with Mr Bowen's office since our initial consultation last week, we are buoyed by this update. It would seem common sense has prevailed for the moment with planners realising the level of community and scientific concern with wind turbines being located perilously close to the Prom and other pristine coastline," Ms Jennings said.

"With 15,000 square kilometres being declared along the Gippsland coast alone, it is unclear why there would need to be any consideration for extending the zone.

"Star of the South (awarded Major Project Status on the same day) which is currently proposing that 500 square kilometres can deliver 2.2GW – meaning the entire declared zone can deliver well beyond the Victorian State Government offshore wind target of 9GW by 2040.

"We call on the Government to expressly rule out wind turbines within 50km of the coast between Phillip Island and Wilsons Prom.

"All parties involved need to continue to ensure that plans to invest in renewable energy sources are not done at the expense of the environment itself," she said.

"We anticipate this will be a major issue for investors, planners and policy makers over the coming months and years as the nation attempts to reach its net-zero-by-2050, and conserve some of our country's prized national assets."

South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr Nathan Hersey, also acknowledged last Monday's announcement, saying he was pleased to note that some of the community's concerns have been addressed.

He said Council made a submission to the Federal Government in October, outlining numerous concerns about coastal and environmental impact, visual amenity, proximity to Wilsons Promontory and our coastal communities and the need for housing supply



The new map of formally declared offshore wind zones, as displayed by Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, at Seaspray on Monday, clearly leaves out the proposed zones close to Wilsons Promontory and Phillip Island.



This was the area proposed as an offshore development zone for wind turbines but so far, areas close to Wilsons Promontory and Phillip Island have not been included.



The newly declared area for offshore wind developments, off the Gippsland coast, no longer includes the investigation areas west of Wilsons Promontory.

to accommodate workers and growth associated with any future project.

"Although it is positive to see that the approved offshore wind zone is further from our coastal communities and Wilsons Promontory than originally indicated, a greater level of clear information and engagement with our Council and community is required," Cr Hersey said.

"The extent of the so called 'extensive' engagement with our South Gippsland community comprised of online engagement and one in-person information session, not held in any of our coastal communities," he said.

"We look forward to meaningful conversations and engagement following Monday's announcement.

"Wilsons Promontory, or The Prom as it is known to all Victorians, is a national treasure that attracts over 500,000 visitors each year. It offers a pristine, untouched environment and boasts one of the richest marine ecosystems off the coast of Australia – rivalling that of the Great Barrier Reef."

"Our community wasn't at all pleased to see this part of the coastline originally in scope of the proposed development areas. The change is welcome however it remains a concern as Minister Bowen has clearly not ruled out a return of the originally proposed area to the offshore wind zone in the future.

"We still need to know more about the declared zones including the proposed flyway passage to ensure that there will be no adverse impacts on this precious and sensitive marine environment.

"We also need to know how the other concerns that were outlined in our submission will be addressed.

"We would like, for example, assurances that proposed 'on land' transmission routes will be placed underground, and we seek clarification on the impacts for our local communities, especially as housing and infrastructure along our coastline is already limited or at capacity."

In officially declaring Australia's first offshore wind zone and awarding and Major Project

Status to the Star of the South project, Mr Bowen, and his Industry and Science colleague, Ed Husic, the Gippsland offshore wind projects "could support more than 3000 jobs over the next 15 years during their development and construction phases, and an additional 3000 ongoing operational jobs".

Minister Ed Husic said "the start of a domestic offshore wind industry creates tremendous opportunity for local industry and job creation".

The windy Bass Strait, he said, and the transmission grid across Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley, meant the area has the potential to support more than 10GW of year-round wind energy generation.

It was also announced that:

"The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments are committed to working together over the coming year to consider the Gippsland coast west of Wilsons Prom, including further consultation with Traditional Owners and taking into account community feedback and information on environmental risks of developing offshore electricity infrastructure in the area."

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## FEATURES

Discover South Gippsland  
and Bass Coast **LIFTOUT**

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## ADVERTISING DEADLINES

DISPLAY:	Advertising closes at 3pm on Fridays
CLASSIFIEDS:	Advertising closes at 12.30pm on Mondays

The South Gippsland Sentinel-Times  
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\*Please note changes occur as a result of public holidays.

## ONLINE

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# DEADLINE CHANGES

Due to the New Year's Day public holiday the deadlines for the next issue of the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times, to be printed Wednesday, January 4 will be as follows:

### DISPLAY ADVERTISING

**Deadline: 3pm  
Friday, December 30**

### CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**Deadline: 12 noon  
Tuesday, January 3**

## 6 Day Weather Forecast

### SOUTH GIPPSLAND

\* Please Note: This weather report was compiled on December 22 at time of printing and may have changed.



**WED | Dec 28**

Mostly sunny.

**19° 32°**



**THUR | Dec 29**

Mostly sunny.

**14° 20°**



**FRI | Dec 30**

Partly cloudy.

**15° 21°**



**SAT | Dec 31**

Mostly Sunny.

**16° 27°**



**SUN | Jan 1**

Sunny.

**15° 23°**



**MON | Jan 2**

Partly cloudy.

**16° 22°**

## IN BRIEF

### Students receive first round offers

FIRST round university and TAFE offers have been released for Victorian year 12 students.

There were 40,595 offers made for undergraduate and vocational courses across the state.

For those students who missed out on a first round offer, there are plenty of options for further study in Victoria, including further entrance rounds, alternative entrance pathways and free TAFE courses.

Students can either wait for further rounds of VTAC offers in January and February or change their VTAC preference if they meet course requirements.

In 2023, Victorians will have access to more than 70 Free TAFE courses across a range of growth industries, including early childhood education, health, construction and infrastructure, agriculture, hospitality, and community and disability services the Victorian Government states.

For the full list of Free TAFE courses, visit [vic.gov.au/free-tafe](http://vic.gov.au/free-tafe).

### Help Shylah's family

A GOFUNDME page has been set up following the sudden passing of Shylah Johnson, who passed away unexpectedly on December 15, leaving behind two beautiful young children Dustynn and Lara, and a fiancé, Jack.

Shylah was a well-known and loved individual by many in the Bass Coast community with a kind, caring and helpful personality.

The appeal was created by Bass Coast Health to support Jack and her family to cover upcoming expenses.

In excess of \$26,000 has been raised to date.

To donate visit [gofundme.com/f/shylah-johnson](http://gofundme.com/f/shylah-johnson)

### Affordable housing for Grantville

THE Bass Coast Shire Council has endorsed a revised plan of subdivision for mixed use development on the corner of Bass Highway and Grantville-Glen Alvie Road Grantville.

The development will result in 30 new allotments being provided for affordable housing and also space for a new commercial project comprising two convenience food outlets, service station, retail space and a land area able to accommodate 52 car parking spaces.

The council agreed to amendments to an earlier application subject to parking, open space and access requirements but once redrawn by the applicant, the planning application will get the go-ahead.

"We've all spoken a lot about affordable housing in this chamber and this project will give people an affordable opportunity to move into Bass Coast and anything that does that is an exciting opportunity, I believe," said Cr Rochelle Halstead.

Cr Clare Le Serve moved the motion to accept the development, saying it had been fully reviewed against the shire's planning scheme.

### Major step for SEC

PREMIER Daniel Andrews and Minister for the State Electricity Commission Lily D'Ambrosio have announced the first steps to bringing back government-owned renewable energy are underway, including the transfer of the SEC to the new Ministry, naming an interim CEO and the creation of an SEC Expert Advisory Panel.

The Government has named

Chris Miller as Interim Chief

Executive Officer of the SEC,

who will work with a special

SEC Expert Advisory Panel to

revive the Commission under

the responsibility of the Minister.

John Bradley, Secretary of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA, will chair the Panel.

Two shares in the SEC will be held by the Treasurer and Premier as a fully state-owned energy company.

The SEC will become an energy market proponent under the Government's 10-year plan to deliver cleaner, cheaper energy, with all profits invested back into the energy system.

The Government will initially invest \$1 billion towards delivering 4.5 gigawatts of power, through renewable energy projects.

The Government will also enshrine the SEC in our state's Constitution in 2023.

### Upcoming events in South Gippsland

DUMBALK: The Dumbalk Country Campdraft concludes on New Year's Eve, with the family-friendly event including live music from the band 'No Mistake' to bring in the New Year.

Action takes place at the Dumbalk Recreation Reserve. The Campdraft runs over four days, beginning on December 28, with the opportunity to see Australia's finest horsemanship and stock handling skills.

A massive \$80,000 in prize-money is up for grabs, with the Hengstberger family organising and running the Campdraft.

While action gets underway at 6am each day, there are also night-time events under lights.

Fish Creek: The Fishy Parade is a community event in the Fish Creek town centre at 11am on New Year's Eve. Participants include cabaret circus artists, (It's No) Drama theatre, the Fishy Parade choir and Invy Horn Jam.

Sarah Parkes will also feature, along with her mobile rope sculpture gang, and the Fish Creek Primary School zombie Vikings will be part of the action.

The event is run by Fish Creek Carnival, which brings the joy of circus to the town and its surrounds.

### More than 100km to explore

THOSE wanting to check out the spectacular scenery and the welcoming towns of South Gippsland over the Christmas period can now explore the whole length of the Great Southern Rail Trail.

It is open all the way from Nyora to Port Welshpool, offering more than 100 kilometres to cycle, ride a horse or walk.

### Councillors clock up \$743,000 in allowances

IN THE two years since they were elected in October 2020, the Bass Shire Councillors have between them cost the shire more than \$743,000.

Although former Deputy Mayor, Cr Leticia Laing, claims to have been criticised for it, only \$1418 of that amount related to a claim she made for childcare.

Easily the biggest component of that amount went to mayor and councillor allowances, \$608,360, to the end of September 2022.

Of that, the two councillors who served as mayor during the period, the former Mayor Cr Brett Tessari (\$112,568) and the current mayor, Cr Michael Whelan (\$106,619) received the biggest shares, with Cr Tessari adding a further \$32,849 in expense claims and Cr Whelan \$30,091.

The 'Know Your Council' website is no longer available for comparisons, but Bass Coast has previously been at the lower end of costs generated by councillors.

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# Just in time for holidays, Guide Park is ready to go!

WONTHAGGI'S brand new Guide Park and Playspace has reopened after extensive redevelopment.

"Council are incredibly excited for the young and young-at-heart to enjoy the revamped Wonthaggi Guide Park and Playspace," says Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan.

"Outdoor recreation has huge physical and mental health benefits for all, while inspiring shared spaces nurture strong community connection."

"Guide Park will deepen our community's connection to nature, while enabling socialising in safe spaces, inspire young minds with creative challenges, and encourage increased exercise for free."

The new playspace complements the changing places toilet facility, existing shelters and natural shade trees. The inviting setting and amenities cater to the needs of the whole community.

Ready for the summer holidays, the new regional scale playspace features a mine themed slide tower, flying

foxes, a trampoline, carousel, gentle exercise area and nature-based play. Additional new amenities include a drinking fountain, bike racks, pathways, fencing and an accessible barbecue has also been installed.

Other features include: water taps that lead through to different channels; extensive sand play with sand pully, sieve and tubes; young children's play area with small play tower, log steppers and balance beams; nature play with tunnels, timber representing the train line with stone pathways; and monkey bars to challenge older children. A general exercise area is designed for older adults and rehabilitation too.

The upgrade, which began in April 2022, was carried out by Planned Constructions Pty Ltd.

The total project cost is \$1.77 million. Council received support from the Victorian Government with \$700,000 funded by Sport and Recreation Victoria and \$350,000 from the Growing Suburbs Fund.



The mine themed slide tower is just one of many new prominent features of the upgraded Guide Park. Ns065222

## Women working together to make meaningful change

THE Women for Change initiative operates as part of the Bass Coast Community Foundation (BCCF).

And director and local advocate Nina Barry-Macaulay recently completed a 24km trail run as part of the 16 days of activism, to challenge gender inequality and gender-based violence.

Nina took part in the challenge to demonstrate a woman's strength and inspire people to donate to BCCF - starting from the wildlife viewing area at Wilson's Prom and taking the coastal trail along to Tidal River.

Nina said the BCCF is an effective way to connect with other like-minded people and the programs provide opportunities and better life outcomes for women and girls in the local community.

Overall, the foundation consists of community members who subsequently determine

the most impactful needs to address, including education for women, health services, childcare, aged person's care, family violence and financial hardship.

"The Women for Change initiative has been ongoing for four years and year to date we have raised \$25,000 - these funds have been distributed to initiatives for women and girls in the Bass Coast," said Nina.

"Our group uses evidence to assist its decision making and to ensure that the funded projects will make a meaningful impact. There is overwhelming evidence that investing in women and girls has a flow on effect to families, communities, and the environment."

You can support Nina and make a donation by visiting Women For Change - Bass Coast Community Fund (bccf.org.au), or to learn more about issues in our community visit [www.givew.com.au/women-forchange](http://www.givew.com.au/women-forchange).



Bass Coast Community Foundation director and chair for Women for Change, Nina Barry-Macaulay completed a 24km trail run as a part of the 16 days of Activism.



### CARING FOR SAM'S CHILDREN

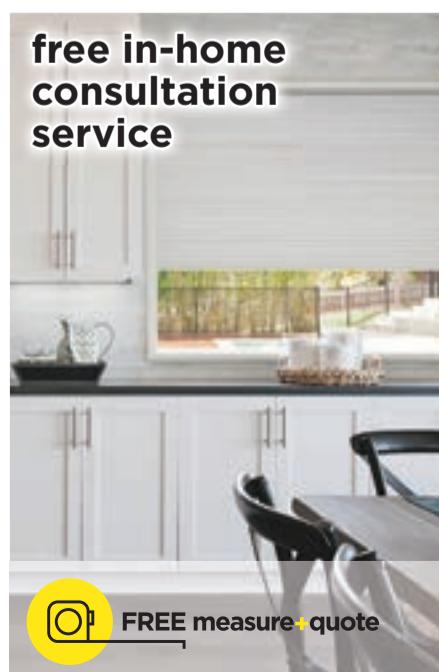
Please support the fundraiser for Sam Fraser's children, to help cover the cost of their care and education. To donate, go to [gofund.me/b6e777cb](https://gofund.me/b6e777cb), or search [gofundme.com](https://gofundme.com) for "Caring for Sams Children".

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## Have say on future of fireworks

BASS Coast Shire is seeking community feedback on the future of fireworks as part of the annual Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations, to influence future celebration plans.

Council has committed to deliver fireworks as part of the Cowes Christmas Carols and New Year's Eve celebrations for the next three years (2022-2024).

In addition to community and visitor feedback, Council is also investigating further information on the environmental and economic impacts of fireworks, plus events held around these displays.

Upcoming fireworks displays being held this summer in Bass Coast are:

- New Year's Eve in Cowes, Saturday, December 31, 9.30pm
- New Year's Eve in Inverloch, Saturday, December 31, 9.30pm
- New Year's Eve in Coronet Bay, Saturday, December 31, 9.30pm

To have your say, before the deadline of January 31, 2022, visit [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/eoycelebrations](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/eoycelebrations)

## Cowes Outdoor Pool

IN partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council and Cowes Primary School, Bass Coast YMCA welcomes members and visitors to the Cowes Outdoor Pool to use both pools and outdoor area.

Over the summer break, lap swimming and aqua play are offered.

The Cowes Outdoor Pool is supervised by qualified lifeguards at all times.

The 25 metre pool and toddler pool are open to Bass Coast YMCA members and casual visitors during December and January each year.

There is also a small kiosk along with plenty of shaded areas for families to enjoy.

Season schedule:

- Opening day: Thursday, December 22, 2022\*
- Closing day: Wednesday, January 25, 2023
- Closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- Times: Monday to Sunday 1 - 6 pm

The pool is open on days when the temperature is forecast to be 24 degrees\* and above.

## Regional Victoria leads tourism recovery

TOURISM is back, baby, and regional Victoria has posted some impressive numbers, held back only by recruitment for hospitality and retail job.

For the year ending September 2022, total tourism spend in Victoria returned to 84% of the pre-pandemic levels with visitors back to 78 per cent of the pre-pandemic activity.

And regional Victoria continues to deliver strong results, with domestic overnight spend in regional Victoria up by 35 per cent at \$9.6 billion, representing a significant increase from \$7.1 billion in the year ending September 2019.

The Roy Morgan's Travel and Tourism Survey also shows that for the second consecutive quarter, Melbourne came out on top as the most preferred destination in Australia by interstate travellers.

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## Mayor's message



Cr Michael Whelan

I HOPE you have had a fabulous Christmas. It is a very hard time of the year to not find ourselves with additional waste.

Reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill is a key action in our Climate Change Action Plan and it's one we take seriously. We are proud to the best in the State, for the third year running, in diverting kerbside waste from landfill.

Whether you live here, or are just visiting Bass Coast for the summer please help us protect our precious environment by avoiding waste if you can, using the right bin and recycling what you can.

Here's some tips to help you out:

Cardboard - Whether it's gift boxes or food packaging: Christmas generates A LOT of cardboard. Cardboard disposed of in your Bass Coast Recycling bin is turned into new cardboard products. If you have more cardboard waste than your kerbside Recycling bin can tolerate, remember that it's free to recycle cardboard at Council's waste facilities.

E-Waste - Lucky enough to get some new electronics? Don't let your old electronics go to waste - make sure to sell or donate your equipment you no longer use. If your devices or appliances are no longer good enough to be re-used, they cannot be disposed of in any kerbside bins. Instead, take your e-waste (anything with a plug, cord or battery) to be recycled at Council's waste facilities in Wonthaggi, Cowes or Grantville. Larger items are \$5.50 to dispose of or a milk-crate size container is also \$5.50: this can include a bunch of cords and items such as a mouse or keyboard.

Batteries - Don't forget batteries don't belong in the bin, take them to your nearest battery recycling point. All our Customer Service and Visitor Information Centres have dedicated battery recycling banks.

Leftovers - Get the most out of your Organics bin; leftover seafood, turkey bones, even your Christmas tree is OK in your kerbside Organics bin. Paper towel, tissues and serviettes can also go in here as they are not recyclable but are compostable. If its food or garden waste, keep it out of landfill and make sure it's turned into nutrient rich compost by putting it in the green-lidded bin.

Don't forget additional summer recycling collections are made post Boxing Day until the end of January. Bin Collection calendars are available at [bass-coast.vic.gov.au/waste](http://bass-coast.vic.gov.au/waste) or at any of our Visitor Information centres.



Bass Coast Shire has backed calls for both the State and Federal Governments to increase funding of regional councils. ns025222

# Government must bear the financial load on councils

A NATIONAL and international review of potential alternative income streams for financially strapped rural communities has found that there is no "silver bullet" that can boost council incomes.

The report - Alternative Sources of Income for Local Government - found no single idea or even group of ideas from across Australia or overseas, can generate significant alternative revenue for small councils representing small communities.

The report - by SGS Economics and Planning was commissioned by Rural Councils Victoria - examined options across Australia and similar jurisdictions, including the UK, Canada and New Zealand.

Internationally only two councils, one in Canada (City of Saint John) and one in NZ (Hauraki District Council) managed to raise more than 5 per cent of income

from "other" (non-rates, non-fines, non-government) sources.

Bass Coast Shire Council has thrown their support behind the Rural Councils Victoria commissioned report.

"Rural communities are being left behind globally, denied equitable access to the services they need or deserve," said Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr. Michael Whelan.

"In Australia today this is unacceptable. Our state and federal governments must step up."

"Here at Bass Coast we continue to explore additional financing options, such as through tourism and culture. But, as Rural Councils Victoria's report concurs, these opportunities are incredibly limited, requiring resourcing far beyond the capacity of our small country council."

"With a population of only 40,641 spread over 865.8 km<sup>2</sup>, Bass Coast has a low-rate base but

with a huge area to service. We're disproportionately disadvantaged, without the high traffic to raise funds through parking fees and fines or the population density to sustain enterprise.

"Without adequate support to equal our urban peers, the quality of life for rural communities will continue to suffer and fall. We are at ever increasing fatal risk from the climate crisis - far more so than metropolitan areas and regional cities. More extreme, unpredictable conditions are hugely impacting our environment, economy, homes and health.

"We need sufficient resources to maintain resilience in this changing world. Rural communities deserve quality roads, aged care, childcare, libraries and more. State and federal government must more equitably share the tax base that they currently enjoy."

## Smart Parking is here

COUNCIL has now introduced Smart Parking to areas of Cowes and Wonthaggi.

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Michael Whelan, said the smart-parking technology, which includes 506 in-ground sensors installed in on-street parking bays and in the Transit Centre at Cowes, would make it easier to find a park across the CBD areas of Cowes and Wonthaggi.

In Cowes, the project is also supported by digitised traffic signs to guide drivers to an available parking space, without the need to download the app.

The Smart Parking sensors will provide council with visibility around space occupancy including duration of stay, usage trends, peak usage, as well as reporting and data insights that the council can use for information-driven future planning decisions.

The app - Bass Coast Parking, is available to download for free on Apple and Android smartphones now, giving drivers real time information such as the best available areas to park and the number of available car parking spaces in each area.

For further information visit [basscoast.vic.gov.au/smart-parking](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au/smart-parking)

## Bass Coast Shire proud of climate action

BASS Coast Shire's corporate greenhouse gas emissions are down almost 10 per cent, falling for the second year in a row, new figures released reveal.

Council's latest Climate Action Snapshot report, which measures progress towards Council's Climate Change Action Plan target of net zero by 2030, shows that emissions have decreased to 11,919 tonnes in the 2021/2022 financial year.

The drop in emissions was attributable to Council's participation in the Victorian Energy Collaboration (VECO), a partnership between 51 Victorian councils that provides them with 100% renewable energy from wind farms in central and western Victoria.

VECO is the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken by the local government sector in Australia, saving 260,000 tonnes of carbon emissions each year.

By powering Council-operated facilities and streetlights with renewable energy, Bass Coast has saved almost 2,000 tonnes of carbon emissions in the last 12 months.

The major remaining sources of Council's corporate emissions are associated with landfill operations and corporate vehicle use. To address vehicle emissions, Council has received funding from the state government under its Electric Vehicle Charging for Council Fleets (EVCCF) program to install four 22kW electric vehicle (EV) chargers at the Wonthaggi Civic Centre and Wonthaggi Council Depot.

Other key climate action achievements across the last financial year included a record year for the Biolinks program, which saw over 315,000 plants to go in the ground across Bass Coast.

Council also launched the first ever round of its climate action grants in 2021/2022. Up to \$40,000 per year is now available under the Community Grants program to support community climate action projects.

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KP1010

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750mm (30")

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- > Oscillation & adjustable tilt
- > 300m<sup>3</sup>/min air delivery

KP1006

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KP1005



Phillip Island Nature Parks is urging residents and visitors to be mindful of rockfalls along fragile cliffs throughout Phillip Island's southern beaches.

## Community warned to avoid coastal cliffs this summer

PHILLIP Island Nature Parks has issued a timely warning for residents and visitors about the risk of rockfalls from fragile cliffs along the island's southern beaches this summer.

The alert comes after a geotechnical assessment earlier this year raised concerns about the potential for landslides and rockfalls along the southern coast of Phillip Island, particularly

at the Colonnades and Surf Beach.

Recent heavy rainfalls have added to the fragility of these cliffs.

Phillip Island Nature Parks Ranger in Charge Ben Thomas warned that cliffs along the island's southern coastline were made from soft rock, prone to collapse.

"While there is no immediate risk to visitor safety

or infrastructure, the cliff edges are made of soft rock which can give way without warning and pose a danger to beachgoers," Mr Thomas said. "Signage has been installed at the areas of most concern so visitors are alerted to the risks, but we urge the community to remain vigilant and take adequate steps to avoid the likelihood of an accident."

Hard barriers are not an

option at many of these sites, due to the soft rock, sandy beaches and high tides.

Mr Thomas said it was important that people using the beaches avoided being in close proximity to cliff edges, did not stand or sit under coastal cliffs and refrained from being stationary within 10m from the base of coastal cliffs on the Island.



Pat with her children, Barbara Bruning, John Boag, and Norma Logan celebrating her 100th birthday.

Pat celebrates a century of living life to the fullest

By Fay Boag

In 1976 Pat and Len retired from the farm and moved to Rhyll, Phillip Island. Gardening is Pat's love, and she wasted no time establishing a garden.

Pat was born at Hampton in 1922.

In 1940, at the age of 18, she joined the Australian Women's Land Army.

Her first posting of four months was to Lake Tyers, before being sent to Meeniyian to work for Mr and Mrs Downie.

It was at Meeniyian that she met her husband, Len. They married in 1946 and lived on a dairy farm at Stony Creek where they raised three children Barbara, John, and Norma.

They were very involved in the community, Len with bowls and Pat with craft groups, garden groups, church, and senior citizens.

They did a lot of travelling, both in Australia and overseas before Len passed away in 2004.

Pat has enjoyed a long and healthy life, and only in the last few years has she been forced to slow down.

## Summer Trading Hours are Here!

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## O'Brien gets back on the 'Road'

THE Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien says he is honoured to be re-appointed to the new Opposition Shadow Cabinet.

Mr O'Brien will again have the crucial portfolio of Roads and Road Safety as well as Casino, Gaming and Liquor Regulation.

"Of course it's disappointing that the Liberals and Nationals are not in government but I'm proud to again be re-appointed to the Shadow Cabinet to hold the Andrews Labor Government to account.

"There are few portfolios where Labor has more work to do than in Roads with years of under-investment and wet seasons leading to significant maintenance issues right across the roads network.

"The Nationals and Liberals took a \$10 billion maintenance plan over ten years to the election and we believe that is the minimum that Labor should be investing to fix our roads."

Mr O'Brien said he would be developing policy and looking at innovative developments in road building and maintenance to ensure better value for money for taxpayers.

He would also continue to pressure the government over its fumbled response to issues at Crown Casino, where it had to be dragged kicking and screaming to act on what a Royal Commission described as "disgraceful" conduct.

# Shire puts contract out on cemetery woes

IN November this year, after a disturbing visit to the cemetery on Friday, November 11, Remembrance Day, Cr Les Larke blew the whistle on the parlous state of the Wonthaggi Cemetery and now, in the last days before Christmas, the shire has taken decisive action.

In a statement published on the Bass Coast Shire Council website, the Council has acknowledged ongoing problems with the cemetery, and in so doing, thrown their contractor under a bus.

"Council recognises the importance of our cemeteries and acknowledges that their recent presentation has not been at the standard expected by the community," said the shire.

"Whilst prolonged periods of wet weather have impacted the ability to undertake works, Council has also undertaken a review of the maintenance arrangements and is now working with a new local contractor to improve the presentation of the Wonthaggi Cemetery.

"Additional measures have also been put in place for San Remo Cemetery Memorial Garden.

"Council has funded a capital project to improve the drainage at the Wonthaggi Cemetery and these works are expected to be completed during 2023."

Commenting on the issue, Bass Coast Ratepayers and



How the Wonthaggi Cemetery looked in November this year but it's been an ongoing problem.

Residents Association President Kevin Griffin has paid tribute to Cr Larke for continuing to raise the profile of the Wonthaggi cemetery.

But he's also queried how the shire's department heads are managing their contracts.

"Without doubt, if Les Larke hadn't made this a personal crusade of his to get something done about the state of the cemetery it wouldn't have happened," said Mr Griffin.

"And we'd certainly welcome a review of the maintenance arrangements and also a program of capital works there. The cemetery certainly needs it.

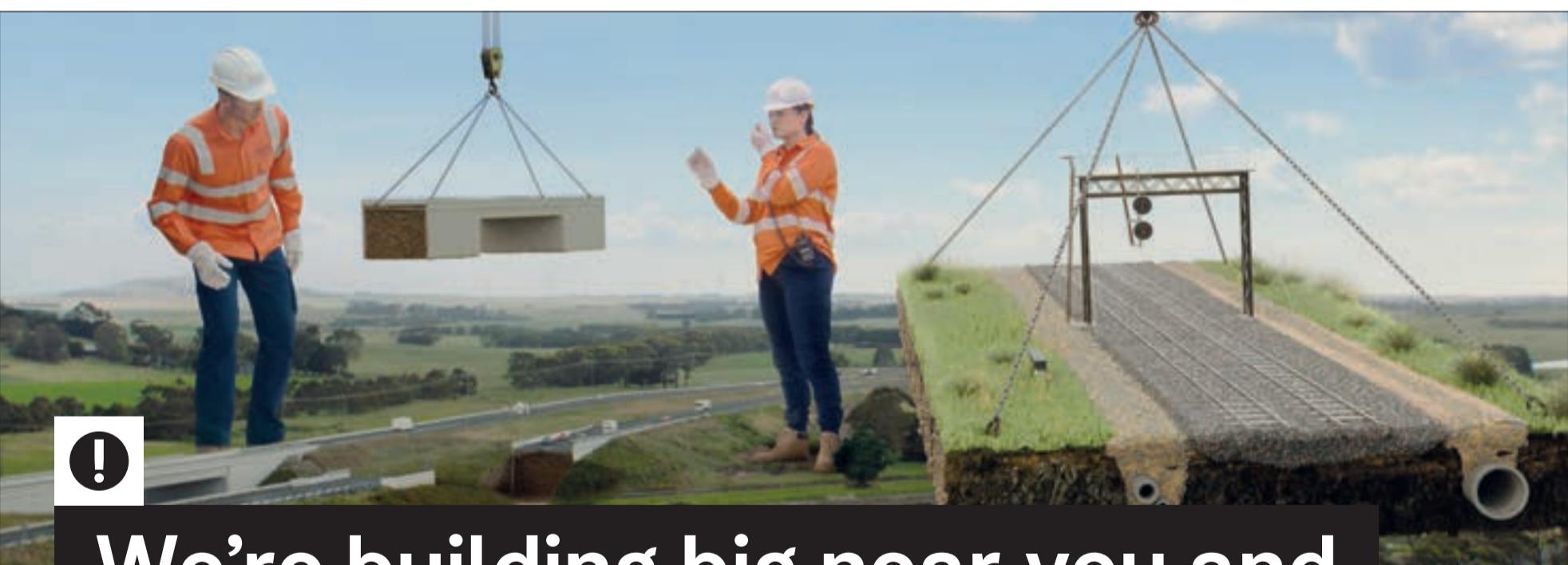
"But another concern I would have, is the shire's ability to manage contracts. It can't all be the fault of the previous contractor.

"The shire is the manager of the tip and ultimately the buck stops there," he said.

"If this is an indication of how

they manage their contracts, I'd like to see the CEO Ms Wastie call for a review of how her general managers are managing their contracts to ensure ratepayers are getting proper value for money."

COMMENT: There has also been some comment within the community about the proximity of the Wonthaggi Tip to the cemetery, and the growing town, and whether the shire needs to consider its relocation.



## We're building big near you and there will be transport disruptions

As part of Victoria's Big Build, we're upgrading the Gippsland Line and building the Metro Tunnel to provide more frequent and reliable train services for the growing communities of Gippsland.

### Coaches replace trains in both directions

Gippsland Line 4 to 31 January Southern Cross to Bairnsdale



Check before you travel at [bigbuild.vic.gov.au](http://bigbuild.vic.gov.au)



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Paramedics have received three Corpuls machines through the incredible fundraising efforts of Rotary Wonthaggi and Brett Tessari. From left, paramedics Jade, Mike, Duncan, Rotarian (previous president) Ray McCurry, Rotarian (current president) Nicky Chung, Cr Brett Tessari, Jodie, Jess and Mike. C01\_5222

# Extra hands for local paramedics

COMMUNITIES across Victoria often raise funds for additional ambulance equipment beyond what is routinely supplied, where it can be of benefit to local paramedics and residents.

The Rotary Club of Wonthaggi has done just that alongside Brett Tessari by raising \$65,000 over multiple years that has gone towards three Corpuls CPR machines.

A unique thorax compression device, the Corpuls CPR is approved for children from eight years and above with a single arm

allowing regulated CPR simulated compressions freeing paramedics hands to attend to other life pressing issues, which is especially useful given the broad area covered by local paramedics.

The three new devices have been over two years in the making stemming from a casual conversation over the back fence between Rotarian Neville and MICA paramedic Duncan about what the local ambulance stations could benefit from.

Coming into the busy season and folding down to a compact size, the three

devices will be split between Grantville, Wonthaggi and MICA units, with Cowes already having one from auxiliary funding.

All fundraised equipment must be approved by Ambulance Victoria's Community Fundraising division, and the Medical Equipment committee as being of benefit to paramedics and the communities they serve.

"While the Cor-Pulse device is not part of our standard ambulance fit out, it does provide valuable assistance in settings where the number of Ambulance personnel

on scene may be limited," MICA paramedic, Duncan explained.

"Paramedics in rural areas face challenges due to the distances between teams and these machines will help paramedics perform their life saving work, as an extra set of hands."

"A huge thank you to Rotary and Brett, they are the true stars who made this happen, and we are very grateful to the Bass Coast community for supporting their ambulance service; the devices will certainly be put to good use."



Interim CEO Chris Trotman, new CEO Louise Sparkes and Board Chair Athina Georgiou.

## New CEO for GSHS

LOUISE Sparkes has been appointed as Gippsland Southern Health Service's new CEO, bringing more than 30 years' experience in public health care to the role.

Ms Sparkes, who visited GSHS this week and met with staff, said she was looking forward to the new position starting on February 6, 2023.

"It was wonderful to visit the service, meet such welcoming staff and visit the fantastic facilities," Ms Sparkes said.

"The staff asked great questions and it's really clear how committed they are to the work they do. I'm looking forward to commencing in my new role early February."

GSHS Chair Athina Georgiou said Ms Sparkes would be a strong and committed advocate and leader in the local community.

Ms Georgiou said the appointment followed a detailed recruitment process over the past four months.

Ms Sparkes has been part of the executive team at Bass Coast Health (BCH) since 2016, initially as Executive Director of Access and Emergency and later as Executive Director for Acute Services. In 2018, she started in the role of Chief Operating Officer providing executive leadership to all clinical services during a time of significant growth and transformation.

In January 2021, Ms Sparkes became Deputy Chief Executive Officer and then undertook a secondment with Latrobe Regional Hospital as Interim Executive Director Gippsland Health Services Partnerships from March 2022-July 2022.

She returned to BCH to provide executive oversight to the commissioning of the \$115m Wonthaggi Hospital Expansion project.

Ms Sparkes will work closely with interim CEO Chris Trotman who will continue until February to ensure a smooth transition.

She replaces Mark Johnson who retired in mid-2022.



## Let us know your thoughts about our coastline.

What should be included in South Gippsland's new Coastal Strategy?

What are the greatest challenges and opportunities facing our coastal communities?

The South Gippsland coastline is a beautiful natural asset which is highly valued by our local community and the many visitors it attracts. However, it is facing a range of pressures and it's clear we need to take proactive steps to prepare our coastal communities for the future.

Let us know your thoughts at our upcoming pop-ups, via written submission or online at:

[yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)



### UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday 7 January

#### Pop-up at Port Welshpool Sea Days Festival

Come see us at the Sea Days Festival between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

#### Pop-up at Sandy Point Foodies and Artisans Market

Come say 'hello' at the Foodies and Artisans Market from 4.00pm.

More pop-ups coming soon...



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Abstract painting, *Making Music*



Portrait, *Manisha*

## A Creative Cornucopia Awaits

THE moment you step in to the wondrous gallery of Heather Towns you will be amazed at the variety of work that greets you. Creativity, especially when viewed from an artistic perspective, is often seen as being of one medium. French Acrylic, oil paintings or water colours, sculptures or fabric designs. But to Heather, aka 'Zulu', creativity embraces all of these media. And it will become abundantly clear as you view her works that you are witnessing the work of a truly creative mind.

Many visitors have been surprised when in the Gallery, that all of the work is by one artist. Heather firmly believes that her creative impulses are without boundaries. She therefore moves from one medium to another (sometimes with several different projects 'on the go'). And she loves to experiment with new resources. You won't believe that what you're looking at was once an egg carton!

You can expect to see many interpretations of 'Contemporary Art' in practice. The subject matter is as wide as the platforms Heather uses. The result is a portfolio of work that ranges from the influence of the seascapes at Cape Paterson, to the vibrancy of the land, botanical treasures or retro glass items that Heather finds as inspiration. And of course there are portraits of people that immediately evoke comment. Heather's use of colours across all of her work is exciting and vibrant.

By Zulu (Heather Towns)

The Gallery strikes you as place of activity and production with so much to see and consider.

How you see this body of work is entirely over to your own interpretation. Heather loves to talk about her art and likes nothing more than hearing how viewers respond to the design, colours and materials in use.

"I really like being able to share my art with other people, and that's why I enjoy opening my home and gallery," said Heather. "I don't expect everyone to want to buy something, but if they treat it like a visit to a regular art gallery and find something of interest that stimulates their own thinking, then that's a 'win-win' situation I believe."

Paintings, both framed and unframed are available to purchase together with a wonderful range of other artworks, from tapestries to delightful papier mache sculptures and photographic creations.

Zulu's gallery will be open from 12noon to 5pm on Monday, December 26; and from then be open on most days until January 26, 2023. If you want a stimulating start to the New Year you can do no better than kick it off with a visit to 'Zulu's' Gallery.

**2 Nardoo Street, Cape Paterson, 0418 263 264 or visit [www.heathertowns.com](http://www.heathertowns.com)**



Papier Mache Textured Bowl



Tapestry cushion, *The Garden*

CONTEMPORARY INTERPRETATIVE ART  
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[www.heathertowns.com](http://www.heathertowns.com)



Nurse Gemma Phillips prepares for a patient in the new Emergency Department at Wonthaggi Hospital.

## Summer emergencies are covered at Bass Coast Health

LOCALS and visitors to the Bass Coast region can rest assured the team at Bass Coast Health (BCH) is ready to attend to their urgent medical needs this summer.

BCH has facilities at Cowes and Wonthaggi that are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, that cater for unforeseen medical matters.

The Urgent Care Centre team at the Phillip Island Health Hub treats minor injuries and illnesses.

The Health Hub is at 50-54 Church Street in Cowes.

The Emergency Department is now within the

new Wonthaggi Hospital at 235 Graham Street.

Please enter via the Emergency entrance and present to the Emergency Reception.

In the event of an emergency, always call 000 for an ambulance.

From January 3, 2023, the Acute Ward (medical/surgical) at Wonthaggi Hospital will operate from Level 3 of the new hospital, relocating from the existing hospital.

This ward will be known as Kodowlinun Ward, pronounced Ko-dow-lin-un, in recognition of our Indigenous community and heritage.

The name means "I am a better" and was selected by elders of the Bunurong Land Council and gifted to BCH for this purpose.

Everyone needing to access Acute Ward, Pathology, Maternity and Theatre at Wonthaggi Hospital should do so via Main Reception.

For allied health and outpatient appointments, please present to Allied Health reception.

Sub-Acute (rehabilitation and palliative care) services are now in Armitage House at Wonthaggi Hospital and can be accessed via Baillieu Street West, Wonthaggi.

## Leongatha Early Learning Centre delays

IN RESPONSE to a question from ratepayer Lindsay Love, South Gippsland Shire Council acknowledged that completion of the new Leongatha childcare centre (Early Learning Centre) has been delayed, but says it is tracking close to the approved budget.

The centre is now expected to be ready to open in time for term 2, 2023, with its completion initially planned to occur late this year.

"The construction of the facility has been significantly delayed by recent issues widespread in the construction industry such as material and labour

shortages and poor weather conditions," mayor Nathan Hersey said.

Cr Hersey also outlined one reason for an increase to the initial budget for the project.

"Notably, the \$5 million budget was increased to \$5.325 million in 2021 following receipt of construction tenders," Cr Hersey said.

Mr Love also queried whether councillors are permitted to seek external advice on matters that will come before council.

Cr Hersey responded that it is the responsibility of the council CEO "to ensure

councillors receive accurate and timely advice on legal obligations and policy matters to be considered by council, from both internal and external sources".

"During our first year in office, councillors have received advice from a wide range of sources, including officers, consultants, lawyers, representatives from state and federal agencies and a range of independent experts," Cr Hersey said.

He said provision of this advice has been facilitated by the CEO, Kerryn Ellis, "as she deems necessary, and upon request from councillors".

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The shire is seeking feedback on its draft Urban Forest Strategy. Ns015222

## More trees in urban areas

BASS Coast Shire has released its draft Urban Forest Strategy which aims to grow and protect urban forest with a target of 40 per cent canopy coverage by 2040.

The plan also aims to ensure that no neighbourhood falls below 25 per cent canopy coverage.

Urban forests are made up of all trees and vegetation in an urban area, including street trees, nature strips, parks, open space as well as backyards, industrial areas and conservation sites.

Under the strategy, the council has committed to planting 1500 trees annually – an increase of approximately 1200 trees a year on the current program. The use of species that adapt well to the area's changing climate, particularly native and indigenous vegetation, will be prioritised.

In addition, the council plans to compile a tree inventory that

will continue to support tree protection mechanisms and develop a Street and Park Tree Protection and Removal Policy with protocols for tree protection.

The shire had adopted a new Local Law 30 – Significant and Protected Trees, which now requires residents to apply for a permit to cut, prune, lop or otherwise interfere with a tree protected.

Significant tree means a tree recorded on council's Significant Tree Register.

While a protected tree means a tree with a single trunk circumference or combined trunk circumference greater than 155 centimetres measured at one metre above ground level but excluding species which are noxious weeds.

Other key aspects of the strategy include:

- No net loss of vegetation on

private residential land and ensure a minimum of 25 per cent canopy coverage across all townships by 2040

- Vacant street tree planting sites will be reduced by planting 1500 trees per year
- Urban forest cover will be increased in our townships to reach an average of 40 per cent by 2040
- Increased number of Bass Coast community members participating in urban forest stewardship
- All residential planning applications are assessed for their capacity to improve tree canopy cover

Council will take public comment on the Strategy until February 20, 2023, with the final strategy to be released before June next year.

For more information visit, [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/urban-forest](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/urban-forest)

## Big summer fun at Myli!

IF YOU'RE looking for something to do with the kids during the summer holidays, why not head to your local Myli library? You'll discover free workshops, activities, author talks and more!

Bring the family along to a fun mindfulness activity in the Wonthaggi library, as we bring the great outdoors indoors and create wonderful 'nature themed' mandalas to bring some 'peace of mind'.

Make a beautiful and colourful paper mosaic coral reef a fun craft activity suited for ages 5 plus.

Learn how to make and decorate a pom pom launcher from cardboard and balloons.

Make a crafty flag to display your love and commitment to our beautiful planet and all the wonderful organisms that call it home.

Planks are back at Inverloch Library. Come along for some fun, open ended, imaginative play.

Work together to build a tower or create your own masterpiece! Fun for all ages!

Create your very own seascape in a shoebox.

Get crafty at San Remo Library build and decorate your own birdhouse.

There's more creative fun with a collage magic workshop.

Be inspired by the artwork of Jeannie Baker, and create your own masterpiece with found objects, and a variety of natural materials, papers and fabrics.

Join the puppet movie magic workshop at San Remo Library to create your very own puppet characters and make a movie to share on the big screen.

Phillip Island Library is also hosting some great events.

Join CJ and his musical

puppets in this fun-filled musical trip around the world at St John's Uniting Church and a fun story time and craft activities at Erehwon Park.

Leongatha Library is hosting a mindful session of yoga with Alison these school holidays. This will be a hugely fun activity for everyone in the family and is suitable for all fitness levels and experience.

Calling all creators! Learn the basics of stop-motion and storyboarding then go wild, making your own mini movie these school holidays at Foster Library. Pair up with a fellow visionary or go solo; your imagination is your limit.

Colour your school holidays with Bubble Art at Poowong Library. Learn how to make colourful pictures and art with bubbles.

Your local library also offers books, e-books, e-audiobooks, digital comics and lots more, and it's all free with your library membership! You can also sign up for the BIG Summer Read program and go into the draw to win amazing statewide and local prizes. The competition is open to children aged 0-18, and all you need to do is read or listen to ten books before January 31, 2023.

Chat with our friendly library team, or visit our website [myli.org.au](http://myli.org.au) for all the sign-up details!

Myli – My Community Library also hosts a wide range of free school holiday events for all ages across Baw Baw, Bass Coast, Cardinia and South Gippsland Shires.

To find out more about what's on, visit in branch, online at [myli.org.au](http://myli.org.au) or call 1800 HI MYLI (1800 44 6954) for event details and bookings.

## Danny O'BRIEN MP

State Member for Gippsland South



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

54B Cunningham St, Sale 03 5144 1987

danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au

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Emergency responders say serious injury accidents and fatalities ruin families and lives - get where you need to go these holidays safely and don't take unnecessary risks.

## Impact of road trauma felt far and wide

**The following article discusses themes that may be sensitive to some readers.**

TWO HUNDRED and forty lives have been lost on Victorian roads this year.

Two hundred and forty lives cut short, 240 people took their last breath, 240 homes received a knock at the door, and 240 families will never be the same again.

That is the immediate impact of road trauma.

Before you consider a risky overtaking manoeuvre, cut a corner short or pick up your phone to check that message, remember it could be the last breath you take.

Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police may be professional emergency services, but local SES and CFA crews are made up of volunteers.

If you are driving longer distances or feel fatigue set in, pull over - have a nap, stretch your legs, grab a bite to eat or have a (non-alcoholic) drink. Ask a family member or friend if they can take over driving.

**Bass Coast Highway Patrol, Acting Sergeant (AS) Clinton Goff**

"The biggest thing for this time of year, outside fatalities, are the serious injury collisions," Acting Sergeant Goff explained.

"It is the serious injury collisions that ruin families, destroy families, because someone may be injured and require care for the next 12 months or a lifetime. There are serious brain injuries, permanent disabilities, it's a lifetime commitment for the actual family to deal with; it is the extended family that no-one seems to think of."

With 10 years Victoria Police experience under his belt, and seven specifically in Highway, there is little AS Goff has not seen.

"You may be wanting to show

off to a friend you've got in the car or girlfriend or girl you're passing in the street, but the bigger picture is, if something happens to you, or your passenger, you've got to live with that for the rest of your life and your family has to live with that for the rest of their lives.

"If you kill or maim someone you must see that and deal with that for life. Alternatively, if something happens to you, then it's your loved ones that have to deal with it for the rest of their lives; they suffer because of your actions."

With marked, unmarked and police motorcycle vehicles on the roads daily and additional Highway Patrol members from Latrobe and Baw Baw regions in Bass Coast and South Gippsland not tolerating unsafe behaviour, due to the increase of serious injury collisions and fatal accidents, road users have been warned.

### Wonthaggi Fire Brigade, 2nd Lieutenant Kevin Else

A member of Wonthaggi Fire Brigade near on 20 years and rescue accredited, there is not much the Lieutenant hasn't seen, from fatal house fires to horrific car accidents to rescuing kittens stuck in vehicles, he is also one of the reasons members of our community are alive today.

And he is not alone, teams of fire brigade members across Gippsland can recount similar experiences.

"Very rarely will you have a complete picture of what is in front of you going to an accident," Lieutenant Else explained.

"On arrival we may face a car wrapped around a tree, a young child trapped, it could be an individual who has been thrown from a car due to the impact, it could be a shattered pelvis from being dragged down the road as the vehicle has flipped.

"It may be a straightforward extraction with SES, or it could be complicated, and we could be

performing CPR inside the vehicle.

"You could have people conscious and asking where their kids are, or you might be reviving them for the seventh time.

"Each scene is unique; each scenario is different, and each outcome is impossible to predict - we do our absolute best and often those greatest affected isn't the one behind the wheel.

"It is a miracle some individuals survive. In some cases, the injuries will be so severe it seems survival is impossible, yet they're walking down the street a month later, in others the injuries will appear less and yet that person passes away or spends months and years in rehabilitation."

Lieutenant Else also highlighted the importance of vehicles safely giving way to emergency services.

"Slow down and pull to the left if you see an emergency vehicle - trucks cannot get past if you continue at speed. Do not slam on your breaks or pull off the road in a dangerous manner - we have had to stop at new accidents people have caused and that prevents us from attending the original incident."

"And do not prevent us from getting to a scene. We face all kinds of challenges people place in our way when it's not their life at risk - imagine if it was your partner or child, your parents, your best friend we were going to, or even yourself."

### VICSES, Instructor and Wonthaggi Unit Controller (UC), Jarrod Hargreaves

Wonthaggi may be fortunate to have multiple individuals specialised in road rescue, in particular Unit Controller Jarrod who is also an accredited SME road rescue instructor, however, that doesn't provide lead way for irresponsible behaviour.

"It's such a high risk and high probability of happening we take

extra measures over this period - our members don't really get a break in that sense," UC Hargreaves said.

"We look at where our members will be on Christmas Day (for example) and position the trucks with them - they take the truck to Christmas lunch, for a faster and better response for people who need our help."

A straight shooter, UC Hargreaves message is blunt - they would prefer to be doing other things than responding to a serious injury or fatal collision.

"The bystanders and other people involved who are watching this whole event unfold, it could be a loved one, that is where the trauma is. Often the person involved is not aware of anything outside what they're experiencing."

"The onlookers and first people who arrive and try to help put themselves in harm's way - climbing through car windows with glass and jagged metal everywhere until we get there - that's a big risk."

And whilst emergency services do their absolute best, other incidences can delay response times.

"The demand on emergency services means resources are stretched to capacity at the moment - you cannot put your faith in the system. We are there to pick up the pieces, but we do not choose what pieces they are."

"And we're not just sitting there waiting for the call. We were in the middle of a tree down response the other day and we got a call to a car rollover."

"Behave yourselves - we want to spend the holidays with our families too."

### Ambulance Victoria, Acting Team Manager (TM) Wonthaggi Branch Matthew Brain

"Rural roads, especially over Christmas and the holiday season, represent a disproportionate

amount of road trauma, not only deaths, but morbidity as well, including severe hospitalisations and permanent disability," Acting Team Manager Brain stated.

"A lot is to do with not only the driver, but the passengers and bystanders, even pedestrians, people that are driving home from school, people that are driving their families around become inadvertently entangled in potentially grave circumstances. It's quite a traumatising experience for everybody - especially if you're innocently driving along, and someone who's frankly reckless or impaired in any way has caused damage to you when you've been an innocent victim as a result."

Spending most of his summers growing up down here and having resided in the region for the last six years, Acting TM Brain is frustrated by the sheer lack of care especially when high speed road accidents are 100 per cent preventable.

"It's the time of the year when people get fatigued, a lot of people are stressed, a lot of people are rushing from place to place - they might be speeding, they might be impaired from a number of different things including phones, fatigue, stress, alcohol, drugs and prescription medication."

"A small lapse in judgement can ruin lives - out here everything is far worse you could hit a truck, it could be head on, high speed, further exacerbating trauma, there are a lot of other factors that make our roads a lot more serious and devastating."

Bystanders are also reminded to be sensitive to the scene in front of them - consider if you really need to pull the camera or video out to film, especially when emergency services are working on a patient, and do not give attitude if a member of any emergency services asks you to put your recording device away.



The Cowes Primary School Choir sang a memorable version of 'Feliz Navidad'.

## Christmas went off with a bang in Cowes

WHOEVER made the decision to postpone the Carols by the Bay event in Cowes, from the wintry night of Tuesday, December 16 to be able to enjoy the glorious evening weather of Tuesday night, December 20 this week should take a bow.

There's no doubt the weather made the occasion and as many as 3000 people came out to celebrate.

Most dubbed it Cowes' best-ever carols. There were many highlights from the 80-strong Sisters and Misters choir showing some great harmonies in numerous loved Christmas carols, to the Cowes Primary School Choir with a memorable version of 'Feliz Navidad', the very talented Imogen Price and her small band with Paul Kelly's 'How to Make Gravy' and ultimately the veteran performers; Rob Watson, John Obee, Steve Gysberts and Mike Foenander of 'Rock House' bringing it home; it was a professionally run event with MCs Peter Paul and Natasha Crestani keeping the music coming.

And at the end of the night, sponsored by the Phillip Island RSL, the Bass Coast Shire Council put on a stunning fireworks display during which hundreds of bombs exploded in the air above the Cowes Jetty.

The crowd featured hundreds of family groups, couples sharing a blanket on the ground or deck chairs, kids running around excitedly in Santa hats and other festive attire... it will be the highlight of Christmas for many.



ABOVE: A big fireworks display was the perfect end to the night.

RIGHT: Members of 'Rock House' including John Obee and Rob Watson, also Steve Gysberts and Mike Foenander, at the Carols by the Bay in Cowes.



## Looking for some fun this summer?

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There'll be at least 11 bands playing at the upcoming Pearl Park Music Festival.

## Pearl Park Festival returns

FOSTER community members and visitors can look forward to the return of the Pearl Park Music Festival on January 7, 2023, with the free event featuring blues, rock, country and folk bands.

Organisers are delighted to be able to revive the event, last held in 2019.

The huge shady oak trees that line Stockyard Creek in Foster's Pearl Park ensure attendees will be comfortable as they listen to talented local musicians.

There'll be at least 11 bands playing, including Blind Cobbler's Thump, The Stony Six, The Grand Ole Factory Band, Winfield Road Experiment, The Wing-It Brothers and Midnight Possum.

The support of the Australian Government's Arts and Cultural Development Program, Regional Arts Australia and Regional Arts Victoria, along with Toora and District Community Bank and the South Gippsland Shire Council has enabled the festival to be free for all.

The event is run under the auspices of Manna Gum Community House, which assisted in securing grants.

Market stalls, an art exhibition, activities for children, a pop-up bar and food stalls ensure there is plenty for everyone to enjoy in addition to the wide variety of music.

Local musician and teacher, Rebecca Bone, the festival's creative director, is thrilled by the event's return and the government and community support that has made it possible.

Rebecca paid tribute to former festival committee member Gavin Westaway who passed away in 2020.

"I know Gav Westaway will be somewhere raising a glass to us," she said.

People are encouraged to bring a chair, a rug and their dancing shoes for a great day out in Foster.

The festival runs from 10am until 10pm.

## More fee-free TAFE in 2023

THE Australian and Victorian Governments are delivering more Fee-Free TAFE and vocational education places for Victorians.

A 12-month Skills Agreement will inject more than \$250 million into the Victorian skills and training sector, to support access to more than 55,000 Fee-Free TAFE and vocational education and training (VET) places in 2023.

Training through Fee-Free TAFE will help drive enrolments in sectors with recognised skills shortages by matching training identified through the skills priority list.

This investment will support around 26,900 places in the care sector over the next 12 months, including around 3,800 early childhood education and care places.

It also includes support for around 6,500 places in the technology and digital sectors, 6,300 in construction, 2,000 in agriculture, 1,800 in hospitality and tourism, 200 in sovereign capability including manufacturing and 11,700 in Victorian priorities including foundation skills.

The 12-month Skills agreement is the first stage of delivering on the skills commitments in the Australian Government's Future Made in Australia Skills Plan.

The agreement also includes an Australian Government commitment of \$4.2 million to immediately improve TAFE facilities in Victoria, and \$0.93 million for essential VET data infrastructure reform.

## Watchdog out and about to monitor child employment

WAGE Inspectorate Victoria has launched a campaign to check retail businesses employing kids under 15 years of age are complying with the state's child employment laws.

The child employment watchdog is putting boots on the ground, ensuring that seasonal demand and extended opening hours don't lead businesses to overlook child employment laws in a rush to fill vacant positions, potentially placing inexperienced workers in harm's way.

In Victoria, retailers can hire kids as young as 13, but they typically need a permit before employing anyone under 15.

The permit system enables the Wage Inspectorate to ensure employers have considered matters like safety, hours of work, rest breaks and supervision before employment starts.

If an employer fails to apply for a permit, the Wage Inspectorate is unable to assess the risk of employment to the child and check that their health, safety and welfare will be protected, potentially putting them at risk.

Child employment permits are free and the online application process to have one issued is straightforward.

Employers can apply online at [wageinspectorate.vic.gov.au](http://wageinspectorate.vic.gov.au).

Businesses breaking child employment laws face consequences ranging from warnings to fines of more than \$18,000.

Parents can be fined up to \$1800 for letting their child work for an employer without a permit.

The Wage Inspectorate has prosecuted six employers for breaches of child employment laws since 2020.

# Shire urging visitors and locals to stay safe this holiday period

AS THOUSANDS of visitors prepare to take a festive break in one of our state's most loved regions, Bass Coast Shire has called on locals and visitors to play their part to help ensure everyone stays safe this summer.

Bass Coast Mayor Michael Whelan said the summer holiday season was one of the busiest times for the area and it was important everyone helped maintain community safety.

"During peak holiday seasons, the Bass Coast population swells to more than 70,000 so it is imperative that the community looks out for not only themselves but each other as well to ensure everyone has a memorable break and goes home safe and sound," Cr Whelan said.

### Dogs on Beaches

Dogs love our beaches as much as we do, but it is important that pet owners check and adhere to any restrictions and the clearly detailed maps before running their pooches.

In public places across Bass Coast, dogs must be on a lead at all times unless in a designated off-leash area.

There is also a requirement for dogs within 20m of an organised sporting or practice event, a playground or a permanent barbecue or picnic area to be on a chain, cord or leash.

### Fire Season

As the fire season approaches, stakeholders have been working hard to ensure the Bass Coast is adequately prepared.

This includes the CFA, Victoria Police, Parks Victoria,



**With Bass Coast's population set to explode for the holiday period the shire is urging everyone to play their part to ensure it is a safe one, such as being aware of the dangers when swimming at the beach.**

the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council and VicRoads who work together to plan for potential bushfire emergencies in Bass Coast.

"The latest weather conditions have brought advanced grass growth to certain areas in Bass Coast, so it is vital that all property owners understand the importance of adequately maintaining their land to avert disaster.

"The fire danger can increase unexpectedly after a few hot, windy days so being organised is the best defence."

To download the VicEmergency app, visit [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au).

It is also recommended saving the VicEmergency Hotline

1800 226 226 in your mobile phone in case of an emergency.

Victoria Police will also be conducting targeted patrols during the Fire Danger Period. Anyone detected lighting fires or using illegal fireworks during the Fire Danger Period will be prosecuted.

Anyone who sees anything suspicious is encouraged to contact Police on 000 or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

### Fireworks

The townships of Inverloch, Coronet Bay and Cowes will ring in the New Year with fireworks displays on December 31.

Please remember that private use of fireworks is prohibited.

Loud and unfamiliar sounds such as fireworks can distress dogs and other pets. You may

wish to keep your pets inside. Please ensure your pets are registered and identifiable with a microchip.

### Safe Swimming

Everyone is urged to be safe by the water this summer, in particular reminding beachgoers to swim between the red and yellow flags.

Rips can be identified as darker water with no or fewer breaking waves, a rippled surface surrounded by smooth water or foamy, sandy, discoloured water, or by objects floating away from shore.

Download the Beachsafe app or visit [www.beachsafe.org.au](http://www.beachsafe.org.au) for the latest conditions and current information for every beach in Australia.

The app also shows patrol services, hazards, swell and tides.

## A life of service to Leongatha honoured

**A member of the Leongatha community all his life, Allan Beasley will go down as one of its most dedicated volunteers.**



A GREAT club like the Leongatha Football Netball Club, needs great people and the mighty Leongatha Parrots farewelled one of their very best last Tuesday, December 20, life member Allan Beasley, at a memorial service in the Leongatha Recreation Reserve Grandstand Function Rooms.

In one way or another, Allan Beasley has been involved at the club for all of its 11 premierships of the modern era, since they re-joined the main Gippsland league in 1969; as a player, coach, match committee member, social club president, fundraiser, committee man and much-loved trainer and first-aid man.

Together with his brother, Graham, and father Bill, it was noted the trio have contributed more than 100 years to the LFNC. His involvement continued

right through until the club's latest premiership, with victory over Sale in September 2022, at the end of a two-year COVID hiatus.

'Beas' played more than 200 Senior and Reserves games for the club, in his familiar No.18 guernsey, during the 1970s, including as a member of Angus Hume's 1977 Senior Premiership team, where he changed with Hume, off a half forward flank, as a ruck rover.

He coached the Leongatha Thirds to a premiership in 1978 and was made a life member of the club in 1982.

He'd played all his junior football at Leongatha, and apart from a brief stint at Stony Creek, to enhance his coaching credentials, he spent the best part of 60 years at the club.

Described as a loyal, hard-working, reliable, dedicated team player and a true gentle-

man by former club president, Terry Ginnane, who was called on to provide Beasley's extensive history with the club; Beasley continued his involvement, even after an 'end of life' renal failure diagnosis in April 2002.

After seven years of peritoneal dialysis at home, Allan received the life-extending gift of a donor kidney 13 years ago, and according to his wife of almost 47 years, Irene, his partner for more than 50, he was in generally good health until the day he died, suddenly, at home on November 29 2022, aged 71 years.

But Allan Beasley's involvement, in the Leongatha community, after he was born there on August 19, 1951, extended beyond football to the Woerayl Band where he played cornet, basketball and swimming where he competed at state level and taught local kids to

swim, before being named the Leongatha Swimming Club's first life member in 1990.

His working life ranged from butcher/slaughterman, to the Lands Department, and cleaning and maintenance at the Leongatha High School, before starting a contract cleaning and gardening business in 1993.

But it was as a dedicated family man that he really excelled; as a loving husband of Irene, proud father of Lauren and Michael, adoring grandfather of Lochlan and Ronan, and brother to Graham, John and Helen.

"The kindest man and greatest dad I could ever imagine... always willing to be of service to others," that was the late, great Allan Beasley.

His passing promoted a great outpouring on social media.

Donations to Kidney Health Australia were encouraged in lieu of flowers.

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2016 Holden VF Series II  
**22,990** DRIVE AWAY

162,732kms, 6 speed automatic ute 1GN 6LX



2018 Hyundai Tucson Trophy  
**28,990** DRIVE AWAY

107,249kms, sports automatic SUV SN: W101397



2018 Holden Astra R+ BK  
**24,990** DRIVE AWAY

32,325kms, 6 speed sports auto hatch SN: W101341



2019 Kia Cerato S  
**25,990** DRIVE AWAY

70,562kms, 6 speed sports auto hatch 1PG 4QX



2017 Ford Mondeo Ambiente MD  
**24,990** DRIVE AWAY

56,332kms, 6 speed sports auto wagon SN: W101415

# Leongatha Toyota

## USED VEHICLE SPECIALS



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**32,990** DRIVE AWAY

2,097kms, Sport CVT auto hatch SN: L100950



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18,511kms, 10 speed sport auto hatch SN: L100942



2018 Mitsubishi Pajero Sport GLX QE  
**52,990** DRIVE AWAY

40,885kms, 8 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L100955



2019 Toyota Hilux SR5  
**60,990** DRIVE AWAY

89,521kms, 6 speed auto 4x4 Double cab ute SN: L100960



2021 MG MG3 Core  
**17,990** DRIVE AWAY

18,979kms, automatic CVT hatch SN: L100971



2022 Ford Ranger PY XLS Hi-Rider  
**49,990** DRIVE AWAY

18,054kms, 10 speed CVT auto ute SN: 6Z9R



2021 Toyota Rav4 GXL  
**50,990** DRIVE AWAY

14,798kms, 10 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L100951



2018 Toyota Kluger GX  
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### OH WHAT A FEELING

## Venus Bay sewerage future looking brighter

SOUTH Gippsland Shire will advocate to the Victorian Government to provide funding for a suitable sewerage system to service commercial and community users within Venus Bay's Tourism Precinct Plan Area, voting to do so during their December 14 public meeting.

Implementation of the required system would be carried out by South Gippsland Water.

Council left open the possibility of eventually advocating for the provision of a sewerage system for all of the Venus Bay township, but that will depend on community views on whether that is necessary.

Venus Bay local, Cr Sarah Gilligan, emphasised the importance of community involvement in that decision, putting forward a motion to alter the recommendation before council to better reflect that.

"I felt it was important if we're talking about the township of Venus Bay considering sewerage, that is not necessarily something the community has voiced they want or don't want, and that consultation is important before we go ahead and advocate for it," Cr Gilligan said.

However, she is supportive of the more immediate need for council to advocate for a suitable sewerage system within the town's Tourism Precinct Plan Area, as are the other South Gippsland Shire councillors.

At their December meeting, councillors noted the findings of the Venus Bay Community Sewerage Feasibility report, which include the fact that a lack of suitable land available for the disposal of treated wastewater within property boundaries constrains the ability of local businesses to expand.

The report puts forward options for sewerage solutions, urging council to advocate to the Victorian Government for funding.

Provision of a consolidated off-site treatment and disposal system is identified as a way to allow for the expected continued growth in community and tourism activities in Venus Bay, enabling businesses to grow.

The report proposes a low-bore smart pressure sewer network consisting of small (approximately 1000 litre capacity) individual storage and pump systems on each serviced lot.

## Top tips for bin waste this summer

- Council's waste facilities will be closed on Christmas Day, re-opening on Boxing Day.
- Organics (green lid) are collected weekly
- Recycling (yellow lid) are collected weekly from Monday 26 December 2022 until Friday 27 January 2023 inclusive
- Landfill (red lid) are collected fortnightly
- The longer your bins are left out on the kerb, the higher the chance that the bin contents could be spilled by animals, weather or other causes.
- To help protect our beautiful natural environment, Bass Coast Shire Council's Local Laws state that waste bins awaiting collection must not be placed out more than 24 hours prior to collection day.
- Bass Coast's kerbside collection system is designed to suit the majority of properties. Businesses, short term accommodation providers and households of 10 people or more will usually generate waste on a commercial scale that needs to be disposed of outside of Council's kerbside collection program.

If your landfill bin is not meeting your needs, here's what you can do:

- Be a good sort! - Investigate what's going in: is everything in the right bin?
- Upsize or order another bin
- Dispose of excess waste at Council's waste facilities
- Engage a private waste contractor
- Council's public place bins are emptied at least four times a week during the summer period, and at least daily in identified high-traffic areas. Please report any full or overflowing public bins via Council's website or contact Council's Waste Services Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or 03 5671 2211.



Peter and Jay coaxing *Fast Forward* through the doldrums as they approach the Solomon Islands en route from Osaka.



Peter's life is anything but bland with yacht journeys across the world and adventures as far north and south as one dares voyage.

# Conquering the Arctic

***This article is part of a series focusing on Peter Bland's fascinating life***

PETER Bland's narrative reads like an adventure novel.

A story of survival, exploration, challenging the boundaries and overcoming the restrictions people place in front of you.

"I had a very adventurous childhood. We had a cattle station in Queensland and every school holidays we would go up there.

"I remember being picked up straight from primary school and put in the back of a Renault TS16. In those days you would sleep on the back car ledge all the way to Queensland singing 'Away in a Manger'.

"We had big Brahman cattle, we had horses, we had jungle, rainforests, and stock whips and men and dogs and ticks; and it was wild frontier country that I revelled in.

"Down the road was a little fishing village called Noosa, before Noosa was Noosa. We'd head to the surf between cattle operations."

Growing up in Gisborne/Mount Macedon in Victoria, Peter's family also had a third cattle operation on King Island.

"Mustering cattle with aeroplanes, I would be down below on a horse..."

"I went to boarding school but every school holidays I would be somewhere."

Captain of Outdoor Education during his school years, Peter teamed up with a mate from boarding school and got his first job as a skipper delivering a yacht (*Kwik Deci*



A mid-Atlantic shower on *Kwik Decision*.

sion) across the Atlantic.

"It was a quick decision!" Peter recalled.

"We picked it up in St Lucia after the shearing – literally put the handpiece down and hopped on a plane the next day.

"Initially we were to take the boat to Australia, and I said to the owner it was a six-month job to bring the boat through the Panama Canal across the Pacific, and he changed his mind to take it to England."

A shorter job, Peter and his then girlfriend secured the boat for six months and rather than head to England, headed south to Brazil.

"I ran windsurfing charters and had a great time running tourists out to Isla de Coche (off Margarita Island)..."

and says you're late!"

After rigging the boat with a windsurfing sail as a self-steering system – the team set off across the Atlantic. A journey of 36 days with stops in the Azores and then Ireland.

"My next big delivery job was to bring *Fast Forward*, an Inglis 47-foot yacht, back from Osaka.

"That was an adventure – we did diving courses in the Solomon's, and Micronesia and Kapingamarangi, and all these wonderful places. Chiefs would come out welcoming us, a sub-chief came out to guide us through the reef (in Kapingamarangi) because it was uncharted. Then we cleared customs in Townsville and worked our way down the coast to Western Port.

"'96 comes along, I'm working the shortbread business and Jay calls – he speaks quietly and goes 'mate, my backs gone out any way you can replace me?'

"The next morning, I hopped on a plane to Hobart to replace him on the *Spirit of Sydney*, a 60-foot English vessel, sailing down to the South Magnetic Pole the next day. That was my introduction to Antarctica..."

Stay tuned for part two (released January 4) of Peter's journey. From the South Magnetic Pole to major heart surgery and dragging a sled across the Arctic to The Art of Living at Wattle Bank Farm, plus your opportunity to join Peter and the team to the Arctic next year.



The 2023 Destination Phillip Island Board Jeff Webb (left), Steve Morris, Chris Kearney, Kimberley Brown, Kim Storey (GM), Ali Wastie, Catherine Basterfield, Tina Orr, Brad Phillips, John Dickie, missing David Bennett.

## 2023 New Board leadership for Destination Phillip Island

DESTINATION Phillip Island (DPI) is excited to welcome a new Board line up following its Board Meeting on December 5.

The new Board have a broad range of skills in tourism operations, marketing, financial management, ICT management, strategy and risk management and will be focused on supporting the organisation through the next phase of the destination's recovery and growth. The new Board now consists of:

- Chair – Catherine Basterfield appointed December 2021
- Deputy Chair - John Dickie – joined Board in 2021
- Secretary/Public Officer – Kimberley Brown joined Board in 2021
- Treasurer – Brad Phillips new board member
- CEO Bass Coast Shire Council – Ali Wastie

### Members:

- David Bennett – joined Board in 2021
- Tina Orr – new board member
- Steve Morris – new board member
- Jeff Webb – new board member
- Chris Kearney – new board member

The Board farewelled four



The 2023 retiring board members Tony Holland, Fergus Cameron, Michaela Salvato and Greg Harrison.

of the organisation's long serving members including Fergus Cameron, who was inaugural Chair of both the Destination Phillip Island Campaign Committee created in 2004, and the evolved restructure to a Tourism Board in 2013.

Fergus has provided endless advocacy for the region's visitor economy supporting the recognition of the Phillip Island region as a unique

and high profile tourism region of Victoria.

Tony Holland was appointed in 2013 as an independent skills-based Board member, has supported the organisation during the last 9 years, by sharing his legal expertise and local passion for the Island.

Michaela Salvato joined the Board in 2015 and has made a positive impact on the organisation's financial

planning and budget development holding the Treasurer's role, and Chair of the Audit, Finance, Governance and Risk committee during her appointment.

Local Greg Harrison, appointed in 2016 has provided leadership as Deputy Chair and Chair of the Development Committee providing valuable input and supporting the development of submissions to a wide variety of projects that impact tourism.

Chair, Catherine Basterfield acknowledged the significant contribution each of the members had made and thanked them for their energy, passion and commitment to the Phillip Island tourism industry.

The new Board Member appointments were endorsed by the former Board following an extensive recruitment process, which took place over the last few months.

Eleven high calibre applications were received for the voluntary board positions and the recruitment process focused on the skills required, to support the organisation into the future.

The final Board appointments were made following a shortlisting and interview process.

## Gippsland continues to be top tourism destination

NEW research has shown Gippsland was among the top 10 tourism regions for overnight trips according to Tourism Research Australia's National Visitor Survey (NVS) and International Visit Survey (IVS).

Survey results showed that total tourism spend in Victoria has returned to 84 per cent of the pre-pandemic level, with visitors back to 78 per cent of the pre-pandemic activity.

NVS results also show total domestic spend now exceeds the pre-pandemic year ending September 2019, by 5 per cent to reach \$24 billion, with very strong growth of 78 per cent year-on-year.

In comparison, total domestic visitors are back to 80 per cent of the pre-pandemic level, with 33 per cent year-on-year growth.

Regional Victoria continues to deliver strong results, with domestic overnight spend in regional Victoria up by 35 per cent at \$9.6 billion, representing a significant increase from \$7.1 billion in the year ending September 2019.

Gippsland was part of the top 10 regions by change in overnight trips in the year ending September 2022 compared to the year ending September 2019, with 1.5M trips, up by 119,000 or 8 per cent.

Other top regions included Snowy Mountains (NSW), Central Highlands (VIC) and Whitsundays (QLD).

For domestic overnight tourism, in regional Victoria, there were 18M visitors with \$10B in expenditure with people staying an average of three nights, spending \$192 per night.

### • FAITH FACTOR

## Science can't explain everything

Father Darren Howie, Parish Priest, St. Joseph's Parish Wonthaggi

SCIENCE has offered enormous benefits to the world we live in but unfortunately it only deals with physical realities.

Christians believe if we base our search for happiness only on what can be known by science and money can buy, we will miss out.

There are realities which science cannot explain for example how Nancy Wake the Australian - French Nazi resistance fighter could accurately sense who were double agents.

Science cannot test, like it can measure the presence of COVID, the joy and peace which comes from being a believer.

As Christians we know that countless people from all walks of life and times have come to experience the truth of Jesus words in John 10:10: I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.

Jesus himself acknowledged the difficulty of explaining the spiritual when he said God's kingdom is like treasure hidden in a field or a pearl of great price, which people are prepared to give up everything.

To sum up being part of God's kingdom is about being part of a family, in which we are loved, a family life which will not end in death.

Countless numbers since the time of Christ have been prepared to sacrifice everything, even their lives to maintain this relationship and the life it brings.

Jesus did say that this kingdom can be hidden. There are many things which can make it hard for people to grasp God's kingdom, for example the scandal caused by less than perfect followers of Jesus, or misconceptions about what Christ taught.

We believe that coming to know Christ as he really is well and truly worth it. In the words of St Paul from Philippians 3:18 "Yes, I will go further; because of the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, I count everything as loss. For him I have accepted the loss of all other things and look on them as nothing of value if only I can gain Christ."

## Community grant huge boost for BCAL

SUSTAINABLE practices and an effective response to the climate emergency are high priorities at Bass Coast Adult Learning (BCAL) in White Road Wonthaggi.

BCAL is working towards being a demonstration hub for power efficiency and a number of initiatives have been implemented.

Swapping lights over to LEDs was the start of the journey, followed by the installation of energy efficient heat-pumps to replace hot water tanks, solar panels on the roof and installing reverse cycle inverter air-

conditioning and heating throughout the site.

BCAL power bills have plummeted but one more addition was needed to enhance the experience of everyone who comes here to study, work or visit... window protection to manage internal temperatures and reduce the reliance on heating and cooling.

Fortunately, BCAL has been the recipient of a recent Bass Coast Shire Council Community Grant. This grant will fund most of the costs of installing blinds and awnings across the site,

reducing the temperature variation caused through highly exposed windows. As a consequence, this will reduce the reliance on air-conditioning and heating and further reduce the power bill.

As well as sustainability focused infrastructure projects, BCAL has developed other initiatives to support the Bass Coast community develop skills and knowledge in this important area.

The first initiative was the Open Gardens weekend as part of the Bass Coast Edible Gardens program in

February this year which will be on again February 4-5, 2023.

The other is the Sustainability Series courses and workshops covering areas such as renewable energy, permaculture, recycling and resilience.

If you would like to join BCAL on this journey, please call on 5672 3115 to get more information or visit:

Sustainability Series: [bcal.vic.edu.au/sustainability](http://bcal.vic.edu.au/sustainability)

Bass Coast Edible Gardens: [basscoastediblegardens.com/](http://basscoastediblegardens.com/)

BCAL: [bcal.vic.edu.au/](http://bcal.vic.edu.au/)

## Sentinel-Times

### COMMENT

#### Government's in a spin over turbines

IT'S madness, really.

Why would you put pressure on the power companies in the Latrobe Valley to turn off their generators before you know you have the consistent, baseload power to replace them?

And wind energy is only a fraction of the answer.

The reality is, however, that offshore wind turbines are coming and they're coming quickly to Gippsland.

Last week, the Australian Energy and Climate Change Minister Chris Bowen cleared the way for the 200-turbine 'Star of the South' project to go ahead, off the coast between Port Albert and McLoughlin's Beach.

It's probably not a bad place for it either, partly obscured by Snake Island, Sunday Island and St Margaret Island.

But the Minister didn't go far enough in declaring three marine zones for these massive structures, between Wilsons Prom and Lakes Entrance.

He should have provided immediate certainty by ruling out all marine areas west of the Prom, and made sure any offshore turbines that are approved are as far away from the coast as possible so as not to destroy the visual amenity.

And as hasty as it all seems to be, the government must leave time for proper environmental impact studies to be done, with genuine community consultation, not just on the threat to our old mate, the orange bellied parrot, but to migrating birds, whales, fish (fishers too) and all the rest.

Sure, there's an imperative to combat climate change but we don't want to be throwing the baby out with the sea water.

#### Australia's vaping story needs a reboot

The nationwide panic about youth vaping has recently dominated Australian media with daily reports of young people accessing these products. Youth vaping is a legitimate concern, however it has distracted us from the main purpose of vaping as an quitting aid for adult smokers and the huge potential benefit it brings to public health.

Australia's experience with vaping is unique. Australia is the only western country to require a doctor's prescription to vape with nicotine liquids, breaking ranks with its global counterparts.

The prescription-only model aimed to restrict youth vaping while enabling adult smokers to access the product to help them quit smoking. However, after 18 months, it is clear that it has failed on both counts. A dangerous, thriving black market has developed, happily selling dodgy disposable products to young people. Meanwhile, adult smokers — for whom vaping can be lifesaving — find it almost impossible to access nicotine vapes legally.

It's easy to get lost in the emotion here - young people should not smoke or vape.

However, the growth of youth vaping has sparked widespread alarm that has dangerously changed the perception of vaping products. We've all seen reports of so-called "health warnings" about vaping; "The new vaping epidemic". We've read anecdotal accounts of health issues sparked by vaping. We've even heard that vaping may be worse for us than smoking.

## Vox Pop

### What's your favourite holiday memory?



**Xavier Korbel**

"My favourite memories are being by the water with family and friends in the summer and just spending time together at the beach."



**Olivia Cumming**

"I don't have a favourite memory, but I love having no plans over the summer holidays, sleeping in, and having time to relax with friends."



**James Harman**

"My favourite memories are having out-of-school friends travel down to Inverloch and just hanging out at the beach together."



**Nelson Karutz**

"One of my favourite memories is having all my mates from nippers come down to Inverloch to hang out by the water."

This is all patently untrue. Vaping products are certainly not risk-free, but the science has shown vaping to be far less harmful than smoking, around 5% of the risk of deadly cigarettes. Importantly, its effectiveness as a smoking cessation aid is now undeniable.

In New Zealand, smoking rates are falling faster than ever. Since vaping was legalised in 2020, the adult smoking rate has declined by an unprecedented 33% in two years.

Just this week, the UK government released its annual report on adult smoking habits, which found that in 2021, 13.3% of adult smoked, a 5% decrease from 2020. The report concluded that "vaping devices such as e-cigarettes have played a major role in the decrease in smoking prevalence in the UK."

However, in Australia, adult smoking has declined by about 2% per year since 2013.

A recent modelling study found that Australia will fail to reach its daily adult smoking target of less than 5% by 2030 by a wide margin. The authors of that study concluded that the strict prescription-only model is a major barrier to higher rates of quitting.

Despite Australia's strict tobacco control laws and having the highest cigarette prices in the world, fewer adult smokers are quitting because there simply aren't effective alternatives that work for most people.

Clearly, Australia desperately needs to reboot its vaping story and fix the mistakes the prohibitionist model created.

Outright bans and heavy restrictions are only placing the government in a position where they can't control vaping at all. Black markets simply cannot be regulated.

Instead, the government needs to look at a fresh approach that creates a legal market for adult smokers. By drawing adult vapers into a legitimate regulated market like other adult consumer products (i.e., alcohol and even cigarettes), the black-market will become less profitable and will diminish. Severe penalties and loss of licence should apply to

retailers who sell to minors, child-proof packaging will reduce the risk of accidental exposure, and more adult smokers will quit deadly cigarettes.

The result will be a substantial acceleration in the decline of Australia's smoking rate, and protection for our young Australians to prevent them from accessing vaping products.

Australia was once a leader in tobacco control. It's not too late for it to become one again.

**Dr Colin Mendelsohn MB BS (Hons)**

#### Korumburra Christmas well received

Santa.

He enthralled and entertained our excited, eager happy, children, whom many were even face-painted, as Santa distributed lollies from his big red sack. With his jolly Ho! Ho! Ho!

He even got to conduct the Brass band and carol singers at the Burra Pizza Brewery, leading them with a loud boisterous rendition of Jingle Bells that had all bopping.

Being a cold-windy evening Santa was well padded.

Santa all year round he picks-up us old girls, taking us regularly to different outings, points out lots of places, and also to our monthly fun gatherings at the Austral pub.

This quietly spoken gentleman.

A Big thank you; Santa.

From a grateful war widow.

**Jeanette C. Morris, Korumburra**

#### Council election to be critical

As a ratepayer in Bass Coast council area, I attended a number of community meetings over the last 15 years and like many, very disappointed in attitude of council employees including the CEO, into concerns that have been raised by

#### Christmas theme for VIEW Club



**WONTHAGGI Ladies Evening VIEW Club** were invited to hold a cake, slice and craft stall at their local Bunnings Christmas Market on December 9.

**It was well supported by the community.**

**The Smith Family is a National Charity helping young Australians in need to get the most out of their education, so they can create better futures for themselves.**

this community.

Freedom of speech is a right we have only because of previous times.

Australia has won this right in two World Wars and Vietnam War, as we well know many Vietnam Veterans live in this area today.

Other parts of the world currently have this right being challenged by Communist regimes.

The last council elections were held when the State was in lockdown and with many owners in the Phillip Island/ San Remo area, living partly in the Melbourne/Gippsland area, couldn't vote. I tried and although I later received apology from VEC and Bass Coast Council the reality was I was denied a vote.

Now we have Federal and State elections, behind us the next election is council elections and it's past the time that the attitude by this council and councillors changed and those elected to represent us took actions to ensure many concerns as highlighted in articles and letters in both our local community papers, plus correspondence sent to council are followed up and responded to in a timely manner.

**Chris Day, San Remo**

#### Please explain no beach access

I am writing regarding why we have no public access to some of most amazing beaches in South Gippsland being Morgan's Beach and Maitland Beach at Cape Liptrap.

The beaches both have roads that are gated being Munilla Road and Illawong Court.

I have emailed Danny O'Brien asking the question of why we have no public access to these two amazing beaches in South Gippsland.

I am interested in what SGSC can confirm as to the access via the two roads and why they are currently a gated and community access is not allowed.

How in the future can we able to gain access to these amazing beaches.

I am willing to start a petition for the community to have their say and also utilise Swellnet website as a forum, to voice opposition to letting only a minority of user have access to our beaches.

**Brett Kruger, Sandy Point**

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.



Students have been transformed into mobile artworks, something they have clearly enjoyed. A01\_5222



A participant takes evasive action. A10-5222

## Colourful fun at Korumburra Primary

KORUMBURRA Primary School students and some staff ran a colourful gauntlet this month, having a ball as they raised funds for the school.

Young participants started out with white t-shirts, with many brightly coloured from head to toe by the end of the run and the school's coffers boosted by \$12,600.

Principal Nathan Pirouet, who was among the staff colouring pupils, said after the event that some of the money it brought in will go towards friendship seats and surrounding landscaping.

"They're seats to go to if they need somebody to play with," Nathan said of the students.

The funds will also enable seats and a plaque to be installed in memory of eight-year-old student Bane Wilson and mum Erin who lost their lives in a traffic accident on the way home from school.

While a tree was previously planted in their memory, the rest of the project hasn't advanced as far as expected due to Covid.

"We plan on putting u-shaped seats around the tree, so a teacher could take a whole class out there and talk to the kids and have a look at the view in the background," Nathan said.

As well as being a place for reflection, it is likely to

become a spot in which students can focus on positives, with the idea of creating a 'gratitude space'.

"We teach gratitude," Nathan said, noting it is an important strategy for helping achieve good mental health.

The projects funded by the colour run are likely to be undertaken early next year, with well-known local Perry Neil having offered to construct the seats.

It was the school's first colour run but given its success it is likely to be held in future.

Students looked the part, resplendent in rainbow-coloured headbands, and clearly had a ball as they

were squirted and powdered with bright colours and soaked by the local fire brigade.

The school's younger contingent went first, with those in prep to grade 2 hitting the course.

They were followed by the grade 3 to 6 brigade.

Prizes were awarded for fundraising efforts.

Teachers were slimed by students prior to the colour run.

Some staff will be a little more strategic during the next colour run, allowing for the wind after experiencing a face full of coloured powder intended for passing students this year.

## Final assembly and slime spectacular

WONTHAGGI North Primary School (WNPS) held their Final Assembly of 2022 on Friday, December 16 followed by a Slime Spectacular on the school oval.

Grade 6 students were acknowledged and farewelled at the assembly as well as given an Avenue of Honour to wish them well on their future endeavours.

School Leaders of 2022 were thanked, and new leaders were announced for 2023.

The Annual Christmas Hamper Raffle, organised by the Parents and Friends Association (PFA), was drawn with many happy winners in attendance.

Students then participated in the Slime Spectacular which consisted of an obstacle course on the oval and parents, fellow students and siblings squirting slime at participants.

What a great way to end 2022!



Sisters, Ashley and Hannah, enjoyed the Slime Spectacular at WNPS recently.



Ella crossing the finishing line of the Slime Spectacular obstacle course at WNPS.

## Sustainability at St Joseph's Wonthaggi

THE GRADE 1/2 children from St Joseph's have been learning about sustainability and being an earth ambassador this term.

All the students worked together to create a Christmas tree made entirely out of recycled plastic, with students painting and cutting plastic bottles to create decorations.

The tree skirt was created from plastic shopping bags fused together to make fabric and decorated with the bottoms of the plastic bottles.

"We hope our tree makes people consider the single use plastic waste that is generated at Christmas time," the school highlighted.

"By making small changes we can all reduce our plastic footprint."



Ms Caroline Blakely (Grade 1/2A), John Taylor (Pre-Service Teacher) and Mrs Jessie Evans (Grade 1/2B) at WNPS.

## Wonthaggi North Primary thanks John!

WONTHAGGI North Primary School (WNPS) would like to thank John Taylor for his work with students and staff during placement as a Pre-Service Teacher recently.

John completed the professional placement, his second at WNPS, with Ms Caroline Blakely and Mrs Jessie Evans in the 1/2 area this term.

He is studying second year of a four-year course online through Curtin University.

John said he found placement challenging at times, and that planning can be difficult, but it helps knowing the students as he is also working at the school as an ES (Education Support) staff member.

This placement gave him, "confidence to continue with the course... and more of an idea on what a teacher's role is".

When asked what John enjoyed most about practising being a teacher at WNPS he said, "trying to create fun, engaging lessons".

The staff and students of WNPS wish John well for his future teaching.



From back, left to right, Claire, Edyn, Matilda, Marley; front, Michaela and Evelyn enjoying being on the beach at Cape Paterson recently.

## Beach activities day finish off year

GRADE 5/6 Wonthaggi North Primary School students attended a Beach Activities Day at Cape Paterson last week.

The day was part of the final week of school for the students and a great way to mark the beginning of Summer and the upcoming holidays. Everyone enjoyed the surfing, kite flying and other activities on the sand and a fun time was had by all!



Wishing everyone a Happy New Year, Jack and Kris of Tyrepower are looking forwards to a couple of days off. C02\_5222



Man's best friend joined Sean and Hannah Main of LS Finance Broking as they tidied up loose ends ahead of the Christmas break last week. C03\_5222



Preparing for his Santa picture Hunter was all set with mum, Ebony Wheatley. C04\_5222



Normally behind the scenes, Julie and Nik Foon jumped in with Santa at Wonthaggi Plaza on Wednesday. Foons Photographics have been behind the lens this year for Santa's Photos. C05\_5222



Steve, Cade, Marlai and Taj may have been helping customers with the last-minute Christmas rush last week, but this week is all about the glorious weather and beach gear, including surfing supplies. C06\_5222



It's not just books. Librarians Sabine and Jenny showed off the surfboard available to loan from Wonthaggi Library, just in time for the warm weather. C08\_5222



Mikayla Higgins, Robyn Hill, Carolyn May, Sandra Hadrian, and Ahsien Nelson of the Phillip Island Girl Guides held a stall at the Cowes Christmas carols, selling lollies and chocolates. Z02\_5222



John Tennant and Brian Morris of Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary Club held a sausage sizzle at the Cowes Christmas carols on Tuesday evening. Z03\_5222



Natasha Crestani and Peter Paul compered the Cowes Christmas Carols on the Foreshore on Tuesday evening, welcoming Cowes Primary School and the Sisters and Misters choir. Z04\_Z04\_5222

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends Snapped around Wonthaggi, Cowes Christmas Carols on the Foreshore, Summersalt Christmas Market and St Joseph's Wonthaggi Grade 6 Graduation.



Jay, Lucy, Heidi, Neave, and Will attended the Cowes foreshore Christmas carols on Tuesday and Phillip Island CFA brought Santa along. Z01\_5222



The Wonthaggi Club's Tess and Lara are on hand to greet regulars and tourists alike for lunch and dinner. C07\_5222



Our junior model in the making, Rambo was practising his posing skills at The Sentinel on Wednesday. C10\_5222



Good mates Ava and Macey enjoy their graduation lunch together. B09\_5022



St Joseph's Primary School principal Joanne Coldebella signs the special graduation teddy bear for the graduating Rubi-Jean. B10\_5022



It was all handcrafted goods at Cynthia Walker of Wonthaggi's market stall recently at Summersalt Gymnastics including Christmas fabric books for the little ones. C122\_5022



Jumping into the Christmas spirit recently at Summersalt Gymnastics - Santas paid a special visit to Chelsea, Gemma, Isabella and Hannah. C120\_5022



Renee from Thermomix and Lizzy of Lizzy's Allergy Friendly Food were all smiles as the kids flipped, jumped and rolled their way to Summersalt's Christmas Market. C121\_5022



Gael Cresp from Kilcunda Tai Chi group handing the gift vouchers to Chantelle Aitken of the Salvation Army who is coordinator of 'Wonthaggi Doorways'.

## Community contribution

THE Kilcunda Tai Chi group is an all-inclusive group, welcoming all ages and abilities each Monday and is sponsored by Kilcunda Community Association.

Members pay two dollars per year membership - to cover insurance - and each person attending puts two dollars into the 'kitty' each session they attend. The funds are then totalled, and a donation is made to a chosen charity by the group.

This time the group recognised the difficulties being experienced by members of the community with the costs of living rising so quickly, and decided to donate the money to the Salvation Army 'Doorways' program.

The program offers a food bank service to those in need, providing them with a share of donated food.

The Salvation Army has a wonderful reputation for providing emergency relief for any one in need and the Tai Chi group decided they would provide gift vouchers to major supermarkets, so that the recipients could choose exactly what they require.

Gael Cresp of Kilcunda Tai Chi said with a voucher the shopper could choose the flour or the rolling pin, depending on what was needed.

"Due to the restrictions of COVID and various lockdowns the amount in the kitty had got quite high. "In fact, it turned out that no money had been distributed for a couple of years before that, so we were able to provide \$500 worth of gift vouchers," said Gael.

KCA offers Tai Chi on Mondays from 9:30am, table tennis on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30am, indoor bowls from 1pm on Thursdays and yoga on the third Sunday of the month.

## 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!*

# Discover the dinosaurs these school holidays

WITH the school holidays upon us, it is the perfect time to head to Inverloch and join Geologist, Mike Cleeland on his dinosaur adventures with the Bunurong Environment Centre.

When dinosaurs lived around 125 million years ago, Australia was still in the early stages of separating from Antarctica and the world was a very different place to what we see today.

Volcanoes were active around Inverloch and Cape Paterson and lava from fissure eruptions is visible today. Sadly for the dinosaurs, a massive asteroid impact 66 million years ago brought their reign to a violent end.

Today we walk the flats by the ocean, yesteryear it was a broad floodplain.

Mike's tour starts at the Bunurong Environment Centre, where one learns about the discoveries to date, the environment dinosaurs roamed in and life in general 125 million years ago.

"In 50 million years, South Gippsland will be prime real estate in Queensland," Mike explains, as he demonstrates the moving continents.

"Dinosaurs also ate ferns, there was no grass."

Dinosaur footprints, bones, teeth, and claws, ferns and wood are some of the fossils that have been discovered along our very own cretaceous coast.

"Leaves and fern fragments tell us a lot and can help us in reconstructing the environment of the time."

As we head to the beach, the group is raring to go, young and old alike are excited by the opportunity to find dinosaur bones - though there are no guarantees...

For years palaeontologists and citizen scientists



Looking for something to do these school holidays head to Inverloch and learn all about the dinosaurs that once walked the ground beneath us.

have been scouring Inverloch, and volunteer Melissa Lowery discovered dinosaur footprints and bones where others have walked for years. Citizen science is anyone's game!

Geology students from Wonthaggi Secondary College also discovered a 125-million-year-old dinosaur claw in Inverloch back in 2015.

There are four main rock types at Inverloch's dinosaur dig site that are encountered - Sandstone, Mudstone, Conglomerate and Dolerite, with most fossils found in the conglomerate and on occasion mudstone.

Over 15,000 bones from several dinosaur species have been found at Inverloch including Qantasaurus, other small herbivorous and carnivorous dinosaurs, pterosaurs, ankylosaurs, plesiosaurs, fish, turtles, mammals and birds.

Of particular note during the session is the Koolasuchus cleelandi, named after Lesley Kool and our very own host Mike Cleeland.

The species is a prehistoric amphibian that resembles a crocodile cross salamander yet was the size of a car - it also features in the BBC mini-series Walking with Dinosaurs.

In 1990 Mike found the jaw that became the holotype.

The Koolasuchus cleelandi sculpture at the Wallace Ave Community Park made up the third part of the session.

With an array of programs on offer, including rockpooling, astronomy and wildlife, the Bunurong Environment Centre is a must for fun, educational entertainment for all ages.

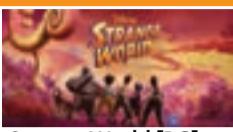
Bookings at [eventbrite.com.au/o/bunurong-coast-education-15550427317](http://eventbrite.com.au/o/bunurong-coast-education-15550427317)

## WONTHAGGI UNION COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE

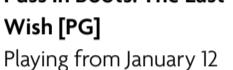
### What's On?

See all our cinema session times and pre-book tickets via our website. [www.wonthaggiartscentre.com.au](http://www.wonthaggiartscentre.com.au)

#### Summer Cinema!



Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile [G]	Wed 28 Dec 12.30pm 5.00pm
Thur 29 Dec 10.00am 3.00pm	Thur 29 Dec 5.15pm
Fri 30 Dec 12.15pm 5.15pm	Fri 30 Dec 10.00am
Sat 31 Dec 10.00am 3.00pm	Sun 1 Jan 12.15pm
Sun 1 Jan 10.00am 2.30pm	Tue 3 Jan 12.15pm
Tue 3 Jan 10.00am 2.30pm	Wed 4 Jan 10.00am
Wed 4 Jan 12.15pm 5.00pm	Thur 5 Jan 5.15pm
Thur 5 Jan 10.00am 3.00pm	Fri 6 Jan 3.00pm
Fri 6 Jan 12.45pm 5.15pm	Sat 7 Jan 12.15pm
Sat 7 Jan 10.00am 2.30pm	Continues to January 25
Sun 8 Jan 1.15pm 6.15pm	



Puss in Boots: The Last Wish [PG]	Playing from January 12
The Railway Children Return [PG]	Playing from January 20
Continues to January 25	



Armageddon Time [M]	Wed 28 Dec 7.15pm
Thur 29 Dec 12.30pm	
Tue 3 Jan 4.45pm	
Wed 4 Jan 2.30pm	



Mrs Harris Goes to Paris [PG]	Wed 28 Dec 10.00am
Thur 29 Dec 7.30pm	



Black Adam [M]	Fri 30 Dec 7.30pm
Thur 5 Jan 12.15pm	
Fri 6 Jan 7.30pm	
Sun 8 Jan 8.30pm	
Tue 10 Jan 5.15pm	



Wakanda Forever [M]	Sun 1 Jan 4.45pm
Sat 7 Jan 4.45pm	
Wed 11 Jan 10.00am	



The Woman King [M]	Fri 30 Dec 2.30pm
Sat 31 Dec 12.15pm	
Tue 3 Jan 7.15pm	
Thur 5 Jan 7.30pm	
Sat 7 Jan 4.45pm	



Avatar: The Way of Water [M]	Playing from January 12

**BOLD GREEN = Open Captions Session**

**Find the full calendar of events and sessions on our website**



# WONTHAGGI BINGO

LOCAL RADIO 3mFM 88.1 89.1 89.5

Workmen's Club Thursday nights

3mFM Bingo... Now both Wednesday & Thursday

30 Games! Volunteers needed to help make our Bingo even better!

Eyes down at 8pm

Raffles, Door prizes, Lucky number jackpot

JA19737



Lyric Theatre Youth Committee's play, *The Sound of Christmas*.



**The Sound of Christmas** performed by Lyric Theatre Youth and younger performers. Lyric Theatre aim to put on more junior productions in 2023.

## The future of Lyric Theatre

LYRIC Theatre Youth Committee held their inaugural event recently; a free community Christmas celebration held at the Lyric studio featuring a play, a sausage sizzle, and a special visit from Santa.

The play - *The Sound of Christmas*, was written and directed by Laura Muranty with a cast of 10 performers, five teenagers and five younger children.

The event proved to be an exciting experience for the community, with young children and adults in attendance to soak in the spirit of Christmas.

"The audience enjoyed what they saw and laughed heartily at the

jokes and antics from the mean caretakers of the orphanage - characters Miss Crank and Frank," said Laura.

"The performers all gave their best performances, in the melodrama styled musical, where five young orphans were forbidden to sing or celebrate Christmas."

President of Lyric Theatre Youth Committee, Chloe Stoops, who also played the infamous Miss Crank, gave a wonderful performance on stage, and commented on the whole experience, mentioning, "As a youth committee our goal is to create and provide more performance experiences for young people in our community."

"Seeing all the kid's faces in the audience be entertained and in awe of the performers, made me very proud. This is just the first production for our committee. We have many goals and plans for 2023," said Chloe.

"We want to facilitate a series of skills workshops and put on more junior productions. It is our aim to provide meaningful experiences for the youth in our community, so that the next generation are prepared to take Leongatha Lyric Theatre into the future."

If any young people are interested in getting involved in 2023, head to the theatre's website or Facebook page and express your interest.



## Increase in building non-compliance

THE Victorian Building Authority (VBA)'s targeted inspection approach has seen an increase in the compliance risk documented on worksites across Victoria.

Analysis of quarter one data from the VBA's Proactive Inspection Program's (PIP), collected from July to September 2022, showed that non-compliant building and plumbing issues had increased statewide, up by 14 per cent compared to the same time last year.

This was influenced by a shift in criteria targeting inspections of practitioners and sites of interest, so as to assess more sites that have progressed beyond early stage work.

A compliance risk is any non-compliant item observed in a building under construction which has the potential to cause an adverse effect on safety or financial loss for future occupants or loss of structural integrity.

More than 2400 proactive inspections of building and plumbing work were undertaken between July and September 2022.

Overall, in the first quarter of 2022-23, the VBA conducted 2406 inspections, comprising of 1476 building and 930 plumbing inspections across the state.

Proactive site inspections were conducted in more than 58 municipalities.

Timber framing, waterproofing and unreinforced masonry were among the top non-compliant issues found by the VBA in domestic building work. Non-compliance issues related to fire separation were particularly high in domestic dual-occupancy buildings.

In commercial building work, access for people with a disability as well as damp and weatherproofing were some of the biggest compliance issues.

Roof drainage, gas installation, cold water services and sanitary plumbing systems were a few of the compliance risks highlighted in domestic and commercial plumbing.

The builder and relevant building surveyor are notified when compliance risks are identified and are required to respond.

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## The iconic 'Len Du'

'LEN DU' is an iconic period style home that sits proudly on a large block of approx. 1201m<sup>2</sup>, and just two blocks walking distance from the shops.

Showcasing original period features typical of the era, 12ft ceilings, decorative cornices, mantel pieces, picture rails, leadlight doors and windows, dado lined walls, and sweeping verandas.

Features of the home include:

- Gorgeous master bedroom with an ornate fireplace
- Two loft style bedrooms, as well as a queen size bedroom with built in robes
- Two bathrooms, 2 toilets and a separate laundry
- A large open plan kitchen/dining/lounge area, with French doors opening up onto a decked area
- Second lounge/living area
- Recently installed reverse cycle air conditioner
- A lock up 9 x 9 metre shed with concrete, power and work benches
- Undercover single carport
- Gorgeous, established manicured gardens
- Close proximity to shops, schools and the Great Southern Rail Trail

This home is something special - Please call Kellie Thomas on 0438 647 449 to arrange your inspection.

3 | 2 | 1 1201m<sup>2</sup>

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## No rainchecks on ragwort control

WITH above average rainfall expected to continue into the New Year, Gippsland landholders are being urged to take advantage of every opportunity they have to undertake control works on declared invasive weeds.

Agriculture Victoria's Established Invasive Engagement Officer, Jenny Bell is encouraging landowners to undertake control works on declared invasive weeds such as ragwort, blackberry and thistle species.

"High rainfall years can see a large growth of noxious weeds and with continuing wet conditions, weeds are expected to flourish.

"Undertaking early control measures when there is a break in wet conditions will make a difference to the growth and spread of invasive weeds.

"In the long-term, early spraying with follow-up action is a more efficient and cost-effective approach to meeting landholder responsibilities under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994," she said.

All landholders have a responsibility to take reasonable steps to prevent the growth and spread of regionally controlled

weeds on their property, to safeguard agricultural production and the environment across Gippsland.

Agriculture Victoria Leading Biosecurity Officer Alex Pattinson said local biosecurity officers are getting the jump on noxious weeds.

"The team has been working with over 40 landowners across Bass Coast, Baw Baw and South Gippsland shires to assess noxious weed infestations, particularly ragwort.

"These visits provide an opportunity for biosecurity officers to assess infestation levels on properties and discuss control measures with landholders for the duration of the spring and summer season.

"Despite seasonal difficulties, landholders still need to actively carry out control work this season, with several prescribed measures available for these species over a range of terrain and weather conditions," she said.

Further information about weed identification and control measures can be found on the Agriculture Victoria website [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au) or by calling the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.



While pretty, ragwort is a menacing weed throughout Gippsland areas.

## Women in the industry get together to celebrate

DAIRY farmers from across Gippsland enjoyed a celebratory lunch and saw out the year in style at a recent GippsDairy event.

The Women in Dairy discussion groups across Gippsland came together to celebrate the industry at the Traralgon Vineyard in mid-December.

This fully booked event, organised by discussion group members and GippsDairy, provided Gippsland ladies with an opportunity to meet, hear from inspirational women, and network.

Celebrating the industry was the key theme to the Women in Dairy Ladies Lunch. They heard from a panel of four local dairy farming ladies, including Nicole Saunders (Macalister Irrigation District Dairy Farmer who is diversifying her dairy business), Emily Pendlebury (new dairy entrant & recently completed Certificate 3 in Agriculture), Amy Cosby (South Gippsland Dairy Farmer & Associate

Professor in Agricultural Education and Extension at CQUniversity), and Rosemary Atherton (West Gippsland Dairy Farmer & Dairy Ambassador 2022), that all had a variety of experience, age, and businesses.

The panel session was facilitated by consultant and South Gippsland dairy farmer, Gillian Hayman.

The aim of the ladies lunch was to shine a light on dairying women in Gippsland, celebrate their successes and to acknowledge the hard work they do to produce quality milk.

The amazing generosity of the industry was a standout on the day with sponsorship and also gift donations. Local businesses and dairy farming ladies donated so many beautiful lucky door prizes, hampers, and gifts, ensuring no-one left empty handed on the day.

Given the success of the lunch, GippsDairy hope to make this celebration of women in dairy an annual event.



## Preserving the beauty of native flowers

MORE than 50 tiny native orchids, including the Donkey Orchid, Flying Duck Orchid, and various greenhood orchids, grow in the Gurdies and Grantville area and are under threat from massive sandmining expansion between Nyora-Lang Lang and Grantville. Meryl and Hartley Tobin are working to save the Western Port Woodlands where the orchids grow.



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# Common summer health hazards and tips to avoid



Photo: Ethan Robertson on Unsplash

SUMMER is a time for outdoor activities, barbecues, and soaking up the sunshine.

However, the Australian Digital Health Agency is encouraging people to be aware of the potential health hazards that can come with the warmer weather.

Below are some things to watch out for and tips on how to stay safe and healthy this summer:

**Heat stroke:** When the body is unable to regulate its temperature, it can lead to heat stroke. Symptoms include dizziness, headache, rapid heartbeat, and loss of consciousness. To prevent heat stroke, stay hydrated, avoid excessive alcohol consumption, and take frequent breaks in a cool place. Heat stroke is a medical emergency.

**Sunburn:** Prolonged exposure to the sun can cause sunburn, which can increase the risk of skin cancer. To protect yourself from sunburn, apply sunscreen with at least SPF 30, wear protective clothing, and avoid the sun during the peak hours of 10 am to 4 pm. If you do get severe sunburn, your doctor can prescribe a corticosteroid cream and upload a summary of the event to your My Health Record so skin damage can be monitored and inform further skin cancer screenings.

**Insect bites:** Mosquitoes, ticks, and other insects can carry diseases and cause allergic reactions. To avoid insect bites, use insect repellent, wear long-sleeved shirts and pants, and avoid areas with standing water.

If you are bitten by an insect and experience symptoms such as swelling, redness, or difficulty breathing, immediately seek medical attention and the details in your My Health Record, like allergies, medicines and history can assist healthcare providers to best deliver care.

**Food poisoning:** Eating contaminated food can cause food poisoning, which can lead to symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. To prevent food poisoning, make sure to properly store and handle food, keep raw and cooked food separate, and cook food to the recommended temperature. If you do experience symptoms of food poisoning, seek medical attention.

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**DEATHS**

**BROWNE, Kevin John:**  
Passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family at Alchera House on Tuesday December 20, 2022, aged 65 years.  
Loved son of Alan and Nola (both dec.).  
Loving brother and brother-in-law to Alan and Sharryn, Graham (dec.) and Kate, Thomas and Raelene, Dianne and Ian, Janine and Robert and families.  
A wonderful person, so loving and kind, What beautiful memories you have left behind, Sharing and caring, always content, Loved and respected wherever you went.

**CLARKSON, Joan:**  
Many wonderful memories of an awesome friend and bowling mentor.  
Miss you already.  
-- Kathy, Sue, and Bev.

**DEATHS**

**GRIGGS, Francis John 'Frank':**  
24.12.1954 - 19.12.2022.  
Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family.  
Much loved husband of Christine.  
Loving father and father-in-law of Toni, Sam, Natalie and Richard, Katrina and Brett.  
Adored Pop of John, James, Jane, and Joshua.  
Beloved son of Rex (dec.), and Elaine (dec.).  
Admired brother of Phillip (dec.), Tony and Mandy.  
One of nature's true gentlemen, now at rest. You will be greatly missed.

**GRIGGS, Frank:**  
Long time friend and neighbour to Annie Clark and family.  
Morning coffee will never be the same!  
Sympathy to Chris and all the family.

**DEATHS**

**HODGSON, Lois:**  
Loved neighbour, and long-time family friend. We will miss our chats.  
*Rest peacefully "Mrs. H."*  
-- Robert, Beverley, Peter, Claire, Alexie, and Samantha.

**WELFORD, Boyd:**  
Peacefully passed at home on December 21, 2022.  
Loving husband of Christine.  
Devoted father of Brenton, Stacey, and Deena.  
Poppy to Jack, Thomas and Noga.  
Brother to Rowan and Jan.  
Brother-in-law to Stephen, Modesty, and Helen.  
*Rest in Peace.*

No Service.  
For gathering at family home on Friday, December 30, Contact: 0412 124 280.

**FUNERALS**

**BROWN:**  
Funeral Prayers for Mrs. Margaret Ann Brown will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Guys Road, Korumburra on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, commencing at 2pm.

A Private family burial will precede this service.  
Go to [www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au) for livestreaming link.

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Small squares, this season, good quality, \$10 per bale, free delivery.  
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**FUNERALS**

**BROWNE:**  
The Funeral of Mr. Kevin John Browne will arrive at the Meeniyian Cemetery, Royston St Meeniyian on Thursday December 29, 2022, for a Graveside Service to commence at 11am.

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**ADULT SERVICES****FIREWORKS NOTICE**

Notice to all animal owners in and around Inverloch area

**A Fireworks display will be held on December 31, 2022 NYE Approx. 9.30 pm**

Please ensure your animals are secure at this time thank you

**Further info contact 0430 021 100**

**SITUATIONS VACANT****ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:**

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns. Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

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**Return to Work Coordinator**  
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**Manager Safety & Emergency Management**  
Permanent Full Time – Closes 03/01/2023

**Associate Nurse Unit Manager – Women & Family**  
Permanent Part Time – Closes 08/01/2023

**Medical Workforce Manager**  
Permanent Full Time – Closes 03/01/2023

**Nurse Unit Manager Perioperative Service**  
Permanent Full Time – Closes 04/02/2023

**Registered Nurse – Operating Suite**  
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**Registered Nurse – Urgent Care Centre**  
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**CLARKSON, Joan:**  
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Miss you already.  
-- Kathy, Sue, and Bev.

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

**DEATHS**

**HODGSON, Lois:**  
Loved neighbour, and long-time family friend. We will miss our chats.  
*Rest peacefully "Mrs. H."*  
-- Robert, Beverley, Peter, Claire, Alexie, and Samantha.

**WELFORD, Boyd:**  
Peacefully passed at home on December 21, 2022.  
Loving husband of Christine.  
Devoted father of Brenton, Stacey, and Deena.  
Poppy to Jack, Thomas and Noga.  
Brother to Rowan and Jan.  
Brother-in-law to Stephen, Modesty, and Helen.  
*Rest in Peace.*

No Service.  
For gathering at family home on Friday, December 30, Contact: 0412 124 280.

**FUNERALS**

**BROWN:**  
Funeral Prayers for Mrs. Margaret Ann Brown will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Guys Road, Korumburra on Wednesday, January 4, 2023, commencing at 2pm.

A Private family burial will precede this service.  
Go to [www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au) for livestreaming link.

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Small squares, this season, good quality, \$10 per bale, free delivery.  
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**FUNERALS**

**BROWNE:**  
The Funeral of Mr. Kevin John Browne will arrive at the Meeniyian Cemetery, Royston St Meeniyian on Thursday December 29, 2022, for a Graveside Service to commence at 11am.

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(b) Whichever of the following is applicable...  
• If the motor car is registered, the registration number; or  
• If the motor car is unregistered, the engine number of the vehicle.

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**ADULT SERVICES****FIREWORKS NOTICE**

Notice to all animal owners in and around Inverloch area

**A Fireworks display will be held on December 31, 2022 NYE Approx. 9.30 pm**

Please ensure your animals are secure at this time thank you

**Further info contact 0430 021 100**

**Re: JOHN EDWARD HOLFORD,**  
late of 119 Cashin Street, Inverloch, Victoria, Deceased.

Creditors, next-of-kin and all others having claims in respect of the estate of the abovementioned deceased, who died on 9 June 2022, are required by the Executor, **TERRI SUZANNE GLADWELL** to send particulars of such claims to her care of the undermentioned solicitors, by 28 February 2023 after which date the Executor may convey or distribute the assets, having regard only to the claims of which she then has notice.

**DAVIS LAWYERS,**  
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Melbourne VIC 3000  
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LB0658

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# Sentinel-Times Classifieds

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LB0650

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up to 1.0 EFT

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0.63 EFT Fixed term position

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Grade 2

0.63 EFT, permanent part time

#### Podiatrist

Grade 1 or Grade 2

(depending on experience)

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#### Dietitian

Grade 2

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#### Occupational Therapist

0.42 EFT

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## SITUATIONS VACANT



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You will need to be able to multitask and prioritise your work agenda.

You will be expected to be able to work autonomously and be a helpful and courteous team member.

The successful applicant will need to have previous administrative experience and be happy to work in a friendly, fast-paced practice.

**Applications close**

Monday, January 9 2023 and only those short listed will be contacted.

Please email your application to:

[jessieb@iinet.net.au](mailto:jessieb@iinet.net.au)

LB0660

## Local news

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

### Sentinel-Times



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

## Water Treatment Plant Operator



South Gippsland Water (SGW) are currently seeking an enthusiastic, highly motivated person to join us as a Water Treatment Plant Operator. The key requirements of the role are:

- Ensure the safe and efficient operation of the assigned water treatment plants and associated assets.
- Ensure required corrective actions, plant improvements and plant operations are performed in a safe and timely manner.
- Contribute to continuous improvement of Water Treatment and Quality Department processes, systems and communications.
- Develop and maintain professional relationships with team members and key stakeholders
- Permanent/ Full Time
- SGW Western Region, Victoria
- Flexible Work Arrangements Available
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band – Level 1 T4B – Level 3 T6C (\$65,996.11 - \$84,230.26)
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At SGW diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. We strive for a workplace that is equitable and inclusive. We welcome diversity in applicants.

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply.

All SGW employees and workplace participants must have received, at minimum, their first and second doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with SGW COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements Policy. Evidence requirements will be collected or viewed and may be stored strictly in accordance with SGW's Privacy Policy.

Applications Close Friday, January 6, 2023 at 9am

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Mondays 12.30pm

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Fridays 4.30pm

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47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

**Office Hours:**  
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

**Payments accepted:**



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All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

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States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

**Sentinel-Times**

1300 851 636 | [www.sgwater.com.au](http://www.sgwater.com.au)

# South Gippsland council rates queried

RATE payer Peter Roden questioned South Gippsland Shire on its claim that its reclassification of some rural properties to 'residential' status for rating purposes hasn't increased its revenue.

"There are 1629 rural properties (between two hectares and 20 hectares) that have now been classified residential; this has cost me thousands and I suggest other rate payers have had significant rate increases," Peter said.

He noted he has been advised by council this reclassification did not increase its revenue and queried how this can be the case.

Council CEO Kerryn Ellis responded to his question during council's December public meeting.

"The differential rating system does not result in increased rate income for council; it simply redistributes the rates across all rateable properties according to the differential categories established," Kerryn said.

"If some properties are paying relatively more

rates, others will be paying relatively less."

Peter expressed his concerns to the Sentinel-Times that economic hardship created by increased fuel prices, and a rise in other costs of living is being exacerbated by the change in rating classification for many rural properties.

"We have no amenities usually associated with residential areas," he said, arguing that it is unfair to charge full residential rates on rural properties.

"The council has now abolished the rural residential rate of 70% and has changed all rural properties under 20 hectares to residential 100%," he said.

The council CEO said during November's council meeting that the change has not been an immediate jump.

"As part of the adopted 2019-2022 Rating Strategy, the Rural Residential differential rate was phased out, reducing to 80 percent in 2019/20, 90 percent in 2020/21 and General Rate in 2021/22," Kerryn said.

Peter outlined the

reason council gave him for the change.

"The reasoning behind this distinction is to ensure that the farming differential is provided to genuine farmers undertaking genuine farming activities as opposed to owning a lifestyle property and masking this as a farming enterprise," he said.

In his questions submitted prior to the November council meeting, Peter raised his concern with the lack of amenities in rural areas compared to those usually associated with residential properties, querying how the rural properties are classified as residential.

The classification of rateable properties is according to council's adopted 2022-2026 Revenue and Rating Plan using Australian Valuation Property Classification Codes," Kerryn said in response.

She said at the time that should you wish to object to the classification of your property, you are able to do so by visiting ratingvaluation-objections.vic.gov.au online.

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## TIDE GUIDE

Add Waratah Bay 13 minutes, Coves +28, Inverloch +30, Newhaven +1.03, Corinella +1.08, Port Welshpool +1.28, Tarwin Lower jetty +3 hours.

WEDNESDAY

December 28  
4.37am 1.73m  
10.06am 0.54m  
4.21pm 1.49m  
10.18pm 0.19m

THURSDAY

December 29  
5.21am 1.69m  
10.57am 0.47m  
5.15pm 1.48m  
11.08pm 0.28m

FRIDAY

December 30  
6.04am 1.65m  
11.48am 0.41m  
6.14pm 1.44m  
11.56pm 0.40m

SATURDAY

December 31  
6.47am 1.58m  
12.38pm 0.37m  
7.20pm 1.41m

SUNDAY

January 1  
12.43am 0.52m  
7.30am 1.52m  
1.28pm 0.36m  
8.30pm 1.39m

MONDAY

January 2  
1.30am 0.65m  
8.14am 1.45m  
2.18pm 0.36m  
9.34pm 1.38m

TUESDAY

January 3  
2.22am 0.76m  
9.01am 1.37m  
3.11pm 0.37m  
10.37pm 1.40m

# The war on scams: empowering locals to spot a scam

LOCALS are being urged to learn how to spot a scam after combined losses are expected to reach \$4 billion this year in Australia, significantly higher than 2021's reported \$2 billion.

The appeal comes as local police receive an increase in scam reports, with a newer scam to the region phishing individuals out of \$20,000.

"With millions of Australians more vulnerable to scams following the recent spate of large-scale data breaches, there has never been a more important time to know the tell-tale signs of a scammer," ACCC Deputy Chair Delia Rickard said.

"We know scammers are relentlessly targeting Australians. Research commissioned by the ACCC shows that 96 per cent of the population was exposed to a scam in the five years to 2021. Half of the survey's respondents were contacted weekly or daily by scammers, a figure expected to rise given current cyber security concerns."

With cyber criminals capitalising on recent data breaches by impersonating government departments and businesses to carry out identity theft and remote access scams, individuals are being urged to end phone calls that are not initiated by the individual themselves.

#### Stop

Take your time before giving money or personal information to anyone.

Scammers will offer to help you or ask you to verify who you are. They will pretend to be from organisations you know and trust like a business you deal with, police, government or fraud service.

#### Think

Ask yourself could the message or call be fake?

Never click a link in a message and ask a trusted friend or family member what they would do. Only contact businesses or government using contact information from their official website or through their secure apps. If you're not sure say no, hang up or delete.

#### Protect

Act quickly if something feels wrong.

Contact your bank immediately if you lose money or personal information or if you notice some unusual activity on your cards or accounts. Seek help from organisations like IDCARE and report online crime to ReportCyber. Help others by reporting scams to Scamwatch.

#### How to protect yourself today

- Make your accounts as safe as your home. Set up extra steps on your accounts to stop people getting in.
- Add more steps to show who you are when you log into your online services and apps. This is called Multi Factor Authentication.
- This could be a code sent to your phone, a token or secret question. Your face or fingerprint or voice can also be the key to let you into your accounts.
- Ask your banks and service providers how to add more checks so no one can pretend to be you. And don't forget to tell them if you have been in a data breach.

Ms Rickard's comments are echoed by local computer technician Mark Lamers of In2 Technology.

"Do not give anyone remote access to your files, including computer."



ACCC Chair Gina Cass-Gottlieb presented a three-pronged approach in combating scams with a goal of making Australia the world's hardest target for scammers. Photos: AAP Image.

Mark said.

"Anti-virus protection is a must, and we can help individuals set this up alongside assisting individuals who believe their computers and devices may have been compromised including virus removal."

"There are also many tips and tricks on how to check messages without opening them – for example hoovering over names from email recipients to check email addresses without opening the message. The name may appear to be from the bank but the email address itself could be far from."

If you think you have been scammed, contact your bank or financial institution immediately, if you have given personal information to a scammer contact IDCARE (idcare.org), and report scams to Scamwatch.

It is important to recognise scams falls disproportionately on older Australians, on culturally and linguistically diverse Australians, and increasingly on Indigenous Australians.

Scams come in many different forms from significant events such as the Optus data breach, Flubot, COVID-19, Medibank Private data breach to unsolicited texts and emails and the "Hi Mum" scam.

Individuals are urged to be aware of agricultural scams – particularly heavy vehicle and tractor sales; buying and selling – classifieds, false billing, online shopping, health and medical and over-payment scams; investment and private rental scams; dating and romance; jobs and employment; fake charities and unexpected monies and likewise unexpected winnings.

Remember if you are unsure or did not initiate the conversation hang up or ignore the message and call the business/individual back on a recognised number.

In line with the recent Scams Awareness Week in November, the ACCC released a series of short educational videos available on their social media channels and YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@ACCCvideos/playlists>)

For more information visit [scamwatch.gov.au](http://scamwatch.gov.au)

Email us your fishing photos  
[news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)



Wonthaggi are charging their batteries and priming for a big 2023 both on the field and the courts.

## Power charging for a surge in 2023

WONTHAGGI Power have taken a well-earned break for the holidays after a gruelling preseason training schedule that saw them reach unprecedented levels of intensity as they prepare to contend again in 2023.

In an interview with the Sentinel-Times last week, Wonthaggi Football Netball Club's (WFNC) operations manager Stuart Gilmour spoke on the positive vibes around the club during preseason.

"Numbers have been really good, we've had 48 senior players on the track before Christmas and they've done about 13 or 14 sessions, they're really pushing themselves hard, ever since Blair took over the numbers have been great," he said.

The young Power line up come off their most promising season in years, but will no doubt still be stinging from their straight-sets finals exit, which included a four-point loss to eventual premiers Leongatha in the second semi-final, and a four-goal loss to Sale in the preliminary final.

"There's a feeling that we've got some unfinished work there, but we don't call it that, we know we've got to get better, and the boys have really worked themselves hard, their work rate can't be outdone," said Gilmour.

No doubt the Power will be a formidable opponent in 2023, with a new and ever-burning fire in their bellies and some valuable finals experience as both their seniors and reserves played two finals after finishing second on their respective league ladders.

"We've given ourselves a really good launching pad, the average age of our list is 23.5 years of age and many of those guys were young and

didn't have that belief that they can go out there and compete with the best," said Gilmour.

"Now we have a really good football program in place, and we've added to our coaching group so now they all have the confidence they can compete at both levels too!"

In an excitement filled league, the Power can easily be considered to have one of the more talented young lists, and Gilmour was bullish about the direction his club is taking with its plethora of talent.

"We're really building towards something great, we've retained a lot of our young players, I think we've only lost one genuine senior listed player and kept the rest including our 30-year-old, more senior players, so this list now goes into their second year playing together, it's really exciting," he said.

Experience is invaluable in any level of football, and the Power are committed to building it into their young group and ensuring they stay together on their way to potentially producing something special.

However, they didn't go without making a move in the recruiting space, landing the signature of one exciting prospect.

"Cooper McInnes has come over from Tarwin, he came across early, he's got great athleticism and really suits the Gippsland League fast and open game style, he's elite by foot and he obviously can kick a goal, he also has a few mates here he'll enjoy playing alongside," Gilmour said.

McInnes arrives at the Power after a season with Tarwin in the Mid Gippsland League which saw him take out the league goal kicking title, bagging 71 goals as the Sharks too lost in the Prelim.

Gilmour was excited about their recruiting success and stressed the importance of player retention and opportunity.

"We really tried to recruit to our game style and Cooper really fits into the way we want to play, we also have Kyle Reid full time next year, he was with Port Melbourne this year but was instrumental in the finals series and the games he played in for us," he said.

"We've also been able to resign some of the guys like Jack Hutchinson and Ryan Sparkes who were awesome for us this year, it's just great having guys like 'Sparkesy' and 'Reidy' they're just real drivers of the standard, Tom Murray too."

The Power, along with the rest of the Gippsland League, will be in hot pursuit of Leongatha, who are the clear benchmark of the competition, going undefeated and claiming the senior premiership as well as the reserves flag too.

However, Wonthaggi look poised to contend again having ticked all the boxes so far in the preseason, only losing a couple of players.

"Steven Scott has gone to Kilcunda Bass, he was a regular senior's player, we also lost Lachlan Burns and Dean McRae who were more on the fringe, they weren't really in the senior side as much but we wish them all the best, we don't begrudge anyone that leaves, the door is always open," Gilmour said.

Despite the positivity surrounding the club's senior sides in 2022, the Power struggled for the same representation in the Saturday morning fixtures, going without an under 16s side and seeing their under 18s finish last on the table.

"We've been running an AFL

Development program for juniors, aging from top age under 14s to under 18s, it's not a Wonthaggi Power program it's just for all the kids in the region to come along and train, have fun and improve their footy.

"We've had about 52 kids involved in that and six to seven coaches which has been awesome, and we were able to finish the block before Christmas by taking 40 of them down to AIA Centre (Collingwood Football Club training facility) and Steele Sidebottom took them for a tour and training run there.

"We also had Swanny (Dane Swan) come down to training last week so that was great.

"We're real fortunate for our top age under 14s coming up, we'll definitely have an under 16s team in 2023 and Ryan Sparkes and Josh Bates are coaching our under 18s so that'll be really good for them, both of those boys are working really hard to get things going for the 18s."

The positivity doesn't end there though, as the Power have been just as competitive on the netball courts, and they do not plan to change that in 2023.

"We've competed really well, we're really young on the courts too, we've got 21-year-olds playing A grade, we've had a few coaching transitions this offseason," Gilmour said.

"They've also had a really light preseason as they found the season got quite long this year but absolutely, we want to contend again."

The Power will build towards April of 2023 when they will kick off their season with a blockbuster home date with Sale, the team that eliminated both their seniors and reserves from the finals in 2022.

## Stony Creek's Alicia takes out Gippstar award

THE September Junior Gippstar Award Winner is Alicia McGrath of Stony Creek for her achievements in her sport of Clay Target Shooting.

Alicia was the Overall Winner of the Southeast Zone of Victoria School Championships at the Frankston Clay Target Club.

Nominations for November/ December will close on January 9, 2023.

Please note that you can also nominate for the following annual categories: Team of the Year, Club of the Year, Special Achiever Award or Gippsland Sporting Champion.

These Annual awards can be nominated at any time during the current Gippstar year.

If you would like to recognise the sporting achievements of a Gippsland athlete or any of the above categories, nominations can be made online at the Gippsland Sports Academy website

<https://www.sportgippsland.org.au/gippstar-award-nomination-forms/>



Cassandra Heenan and Teresa Dau celebrate gold.

## Young stars shine at Taekwondo Nationals

RECENTLY a group of young athletes represented the region at the Taekwondo Nationals.

The group achieved great results too with Teresa Dau of Wonthaggi winning gold in poomsae (forms), Marisa Rinaldi, also of Wonthaggi, winning silver in koryogi (sparring).

Milla Hughes of Dalyston won silver in koryogi (sparring) and Alexandra Jaskula of Coronet Bay was unfortunately eliminated, but did very well.

A great effort considering Marisa (11), Milla (9) and Alli (14) are all juniors, the athletes were coached by Cassandra Heenan and Guy Livori of Heenan Taekwondo, Inverloch.

Without Cass being a supportive female mentor, the team would not have done as well.

Guy is a resident of Cardinia but was also integral for their successes.

Marisa has been training six days a week, for three hours or more a day and travelling to Pakenham three days a week.

Marisa started her Taekwondo journey in February this year and her goal is to represent Australia at the 2032 Olympics.



Marisa Rinaldi of Wonthaggi with Abi Livori and teammate Ava Reynolds, both of Cardinia.



Sprintcar 98 Shane Steenholdt from Bairnsdale.

## Christmas entertainment at Nyora Raceway

NYORA Raceway held their last event before Christmas earlier this month.

In racing, the main events were the visiting Sprintcars and the Junior Sedan Promotional Association series round.

The Sprintcars were fast, very fast and the eventual winner Shane Steenholdt scorched around the track in 13.5 seconds during the final.

Steenholdt from Bairnsdale won the feature event that originally ran seventeen laps without stoppage from Steven Horton, Alistair Bastian, Adam Greenwood, and Peter Laity.

Earlier Steenholdt won two heat races and David Dennison one.

Junior Sedan competition in the Top Star and New Star Junior Sedan series events for Speedway Sedan Australian Junior 1500cc cars was frenetic.

Alexandra and District Speedway club members Bree Simpson, River Paterson and his brother Linken Paterson won the three heat races in races that had the fastest kids getting around mostly doing low 18 second times and at their fastest in the high 17 second bracket.

In the final the Paterson brothers went at it head-to-head at the front after starting from the front row.

The Junior of the two being River at just fourteen years of age, held the lead most of the race as they worked their way through traffic on their way to an outstanding finish.

Linken passed his brother on the last lap to take the win with Bree Simpson in third spot, Karna Barton fourth and Lachie Bull in fifth.

Continuing on his dominance of the New Star class so far this season Cruz Farrell from Pak-enham took his third successive feature win in the class.

He has won both events at Nyora so far this season and the first show at Alexandra last weekend.

Farrell won the three qualifying races and then the final where Tyson Heaphy finished in second place with James Peacock, Charlotte Leerson and then Jaylen Knight rounding out the top five.

Junior competition continued into the Junior Standard Saloon class also.

Nyora members Harry Cecil from Poowong who won two heats and Chase Ingram from

By Dean Thompson,  
DMT Sports Media

Warragul won another.

Cecil in the final was given a run for the trophy from Beau Stuchbery and Jack Braz.

Eventually Cecil won from Stuchbery, Braz, Ingram, and Cooper Joynson.

Further Junior Sedan competition came from the Victorian Speedway Council Junior 1200cc Sedan class.

Braiden Webster from Wonthaggi and Bryce Leek took heat race victories before Webster picked up the win from Leek, Ella Sheedy, Xander Baxter and Chase Doherty.

Trish Dike a former two-time Victorian champion in Ladies Standard Saloons and the current back-to-back champion Ally Morrison then shared a heat race win each in before going head-to-head in the final.

A great battle between the two lasted ten laps when the chequered flag resulted in Morrison winning from Dike, Stacey Sheedy and Kylie Lansdown the last of the finishers.

Kacey Ingram, Wayne Sheerman and then Rhys Lansdown won the three Open Standard Saloon heat races with Sheerman reducing lap times to below the eighteen second mark at his fastest.

Starting from first position in the feature event Sheerman held Ingram at bay who was pressured by Lansdown for all but the last lap of the race when Brodie Ardley snatched a spot away from him.

Sheerman the winner from Ingram, Ardley, Lansdown, and Matt Leek.

Rounding out all the action was the Sports Sedan class, in the second fastest class of the night Lee Beach from Lysterfield was able to record a lap of 16.9 during the qualifiers.

Beach, then Caleb Lincoln and Beach once more, won the heat races.

In the feature event Daniel Knight and Beach began from the front of the field however it would be Lincoln, a winner last season at Nyora, who would come through from the second row and take the big win.

Lincoln beat Beach, Knight, Ray Gould, and Felicity Roycroft.

Nyora Raceway Inc wish all its members, supporters and paying public the best for the Christmas Holiday season and hope to see you all again in the new year.



Each under six athletes received a medallion and certificate from On Track coordinator, Nick Katz.

## Christmas cheer at Leongatha Little Aths

LEONGATHA Little Athletics club had 139 athletes compete in a modified program recently for their Christmas meet.

There were 113 personal bests achieved on a very heavy track and Sienna Cruickshank broke her own record in the under 17 girls' long jump, by one centimetre with a jump of 3.81 metres.

Twenty-four 'On Track' athletes graduated into our weekly program and each under six athletes received a medallion and certificate from On Track coordinator, Nick Katz.

Santa arrived in his sleigh to greet all of the athletes and siblings with a sweet treat and chat, and then made his way to the sprint track where he took charge and started the toddlers' race.

Every Christmas meet, the most popular part of the athletes' day is the parents' race, this year was no exception with three stacked heats cheered on enthusiastically by the athletes.

### Christmas meet results

Under 7 girls: Tess Baillie 100m 22.86 50m 11.37 Long Jump 1.81, Saylor Pedlow Long Jump 2.24, Tully Smith 100m 21.55.

Under 7 boys: Elijah Carmody 100m 20.92 50m 10.32, Archie Harland 100m 23.35, Maverick Hawkins 100m 20.75 Long Jump 2.55, Finn Hutchinson 200m 50.81 50m 12.16 Long Jump 2.13, Leonardo Kalapac 200m 56.72 50m 11.42 Long Jump 2.08, Angus Massaro 100m 21.25, Quinn McCarthy

200m 47.66, Camden Pavia Long Jump 2.42, Kingsley Stewart 100m 25.01 200m 55.71.

Under 8 girls: Olsen Campbell 100m 21.46, Maisy Fowkes 200m 48.08.

Under 8 boys: Gus Hemming 200m 47.21 50m 11.23, Max Hill 50m 11.18 Long Jump 2.07, Nevin Jimmy 100m 21.01 50m 9.99, Timothy Maloy 200m 47.92 50m 10.50, Dallas Marriott 200m 54.94 50m 11.80, Hunter McRae 200m 42.14 Long Jump 2.59, Chase Price 200m 46.29 50m 9.97, Haris Robins 50m 9.93, Matthew Thornby 200m 54.22 Long Jump 1.73.

Under 9 girls: Sienna Anthony Long Jump 2.44, Peyton Batterham 200m 43.50, Hannah Browne 200m 46.50, Maia Kalapac 200m 44.74 50m 10.20, Liberty Murdoch 200m 40.30 Long Jump 2.36, Felicity Percyzyk Long Jump 2.61, Annabelle Trotter 200m 47.17, Lana Verboon 200m 46.73.

Under 9 boys: Mahea Hunnam 50m 9.99 Long Jump 2.56, Archie Livingstone Long Jump 2.79, Ewan McCarthy 200m 40.10.

Under 10 girls: Aysha Best Long Jump 2.39, Jenna Kooloos Long Jump 2.49, Molly Kooloos Long Jump 2.25, Arya O'Malley Long Jump 3.08, Lexi Price 100m 18.32, Ivy Reidy 100m 19.74 200m 41.35 Long Jump 2.03, Indie Roberts Long Jump 2.92, Harriet White 100m 17.87.

Under 10 boys: Dylan Fraser 200m 40.08, Sullivan Harris 200m 40.59, Luke Payne 200m 42.78, Elijah Smith Long Jump

2.87, Tyler Stevic Long Jump 2.75, Kade White 200m 38.86.

Under 11 girls: Isabella Gilham Long Jump 3.34, Milla McCarthy Long Jump 2.85, Ava McNaughton 200m 46.41 Long Jump 2.28, Siiri Roberts 100m 17.93 Long Jump 2.63, Hazel Rowe 200m 59.11 50m 11.59 Long Jump 1.91, Reagan Van Dillen 100m 16.78 Long Jump 3.43, Amber Verboon 100m 20.08 200m 43.68 50m 10.04 Long Jump 2.09.

Under 11 boys: Hudson Beyers Long Jump 3.61, Oliver Bolge Long Jump 3.72, Fred Gannon 200m 35.39, Che Hawkins Long Jump 3.34, Mack Katz Long Jump 2.99, Archer McRae 200m 43.07 Long Jump 2.61.

Under 12 girls: Samantha Heneghan 200m 1:21.78, Ella Sellings 200m 44.93.

UNDER 12 BOYS: Cody Best 200m 40.25 50m 9.67 Long Jump 2.96, Kayden Campbell Long Jump 3.47, Nathan Jimmy Long Jump 3.03.

Under 13 girls: Imogen Cruickshank Long Jump 3.59, Charlotte Evans 50m 8.11 Long Jump 4.18, Beth McDuffie 50m 8.59 Long Jump 3.52, Lacy McNaughton Long Jump 3.08, Harper McRae Long Jump 3.00.

Under 14 girls: Alex Gannon 200m 41.89 Long Jump 3.13, Ella White 200m 36.07.

Under 15 girls: Heidi Nicholas 50m 8.12.

Under 17 girls: Paige Barry 50m 9.08 Long Jump 3.63, Sienna Cruickshank Long Jump 3.81.

## Inverloch to host Indigenous surfing over summer

THE Victorian Indigenous Surfing Program is the key initiative of Surfing Victoria's Indigenous Strategic Pillar and one of the longest running Indigenous engagement programs in the country.

And it's headed this way, at Inverloch on Tuesday, January 17.

Founded in 1998, the program uses Surfing as a way to connect Indigenous Victorians with the ocean whilst learning new skills, water safety knowledge and healthy habits.

"Strong Aboriginal community leadership and engagement in

culturally safe and engaging environments that are inclusive, respectful and flexible are they core values of the program to ensure its success," said a spokesperson for Surfing Victoria.

The program is headed up by Surfing Victoria Indigenous Aquatics Manager, Jordie Campbell, an 11-time Victorian Indigenous Surfing Champion, and utilises an extensive group of role models across the state to run programs.

In 2020/21, the program saw over 650 Indigenous Participants, and following its success,

the event has been selected as a finalist for the upcoming 2022 Victorian Health Promotion Awards.

The program kicked off on the Surf Coast and at Warrnambool on November 30 and will continue along the Surf Coast in January, before heading to Inverloch on Tuesday, January 17 and Lakes Entrance on Wednesday, January 18.

On the weekend of February 11 and 12 Surfing Victoria will host the Victorian Koori Surfing Titles at Urquharts Bluff (Woorangalook).



Alex Geyer kept the score ticking over at a crucial time for Wonthaggi Club in their 20-20 match against Inverloch.



Jesse Dugard works up a head of steam for Inverloch in the 20-20 knockout game against Wonthaggi Club.

## Club overcome late hiccup to progress in 20-20 knockout

A TARGET of 88, put on by Inverloch in their 20-20 knockout match against Wonthaggi Club at the Thompson Reserve on Tuesday evening was never really going to be enough.

But when the mainstay of the Club's reply, Alex Geyer, was out LBW on 25 with the chase figure at 7/84, still requiring five to win, Inverloch certainly had a "what if" moment.

It was left to Andot Mankhong, who'd had a stellar match in the field to bring it home.

He middled two on-drives with the pressure on but with the Inverloch fieldsmen pressing in, there was nothing doing.

However, Mankhong followed up with a text book cover drive for four, to level the scores and in the next over, Jai Williamson feathered one through the slips to bring up the winning runs.

The LDCA 20-20 competition isn't the be-all and end-all, with clubs often struggling to put

teams of players together who can be there by 5.30, but once everyone gets there, it's game on and good viewing from the sidelines.

A stiff sea breeze was in by the time the match started but the day had been fine and warm, and it was just great to get some cricket played in clear weather.

The Inverloch turf is still playing a little slow, so, while 88 wasn't a par score, it might still have been defended.

The Inverloch fielding was generally good with runouts and good catching, but the bowlers, including Josh Williams who took three wickets, not having enough to play with.

In the field, Andot Mankhong helped set up the win with two wickets from his leg spin, two catches and a hand in two runouts; a tidy evening's work, and the tying runs for good measure.

Club now go forward to the next round, in the New Year, once all Round One matches are complete.



The batsman, Stuart Beaumont, is just out of the frame as Jake Dennerley combines with Jack Butcher to force an early runout in the Wonthaggi Workers innings.

## Students taking their water safety seriously

SINCE 1998 'Play it Safe by the Water' has rung out in households around Australia, yet every year lives are unnecessarily lost due to preventable drownings.

With flooding ramped around the state water goers are reminded to be aware of the local water environment and weather conditions before entering the water, obey all water safety signs, don't drink alcohol while recreating around water, or when supervising children and make sure there's someone looking out for you.

Last term students at Wonthaggi North Primary School had been learning to swim and brushing up on their water safety and swimming skills; for some it has been an opportunity to learn skills for the first time.

*The Sentinel-Times, with the assistance of Wonthaggi North caught up with some of the Prep to Grade Two students to find out just how the lessons went.*

### Alira (Prep)

How are you enjoying swimming?

Good, because I can touch the bottom.

What have you learnt?



Max (left), Tanah, Zara, Logan and Zara prepare for their swimming lessons.

I can lay on my back. I can do somersaults in the water. Why is it important to learn to swim?

Because we get better and better. I don't know why (we learn to swim).

### Ben (Prep)

How are you enjoying swimming?

Good, because I'm a sea monster and I try to get out of the pool to escape.

What have you learnt? (I am) learning to blow bubbles in the water. Why is it important to learn to swim?

So, you know how to swim so you don't drown.

### Hannah (Grade 1)

How are you enjoying swimming?

It's fun and exciting because you don't know what you're going to do, and the deep end

is really fun. What have you learnt? Lots of things I've learned again and again. (Lessons after school at the YMCA and school lessons).

Why is it important to learn to swim?

Because you can drown and maybe die if you don't know how to swim.

### Makai F (Grade 1)

How are you enjoying swimming?

Not really. Because at the end I got really scared of the deep end.

What have you learnt?

I've already done this but...it's called a horsey ride. You get a noodle and put it between your legs and then you start swimming.

Why is it important to learn to swim?

So you don't drown when you go to the beach.

### Madison (Grade 2)

How are you enjoying swimming?

I like it 'cos it's fun.

What have you learnt? I got sinkers without goggles (from the bottom of the pool).

Why is it important to learn to swim? 'Cos then, if you accidentally fall into the ocean...I'm not going to drown!



Domenic Diciero displays the spoils of victory after winning \$7,000 in Sunday's Australian Poker League competition at Wonthaggi Golf Club.



Troy Walker and Ricky Webster won the Australian Poker League teams event on Saturday at Wonthaggi Golf Club.

## Players place their bets right from Wonthaggi

WONTHAGGI Golf Club was the setting for a busy weekend of Australian Poker League (APL) action, with a teams event and the VCG20K competition held recently.

Ricky Webster and Troy Walker won the Teams Event Championship and \$1000, having finished second and third in previous teams events.

"Ricky and Troy are two of our most successful players in our Country Gippsland Region and Ricky previously won over \$18,000 in one of our major events," APL Country Gippsland Region manager David England said.

Troy Walker recently won a major event at the APLP in Albury, picking up just over \$10,000.

Saturday's competition attracted players from Cranbourne, Pakenham, Mornington Peninsula, Latrobe Valley, as well as locals, with Ricky and Troy proving adept at handling the pressure.

Sunday's winner of the VCG20K event Domenic Diciero from Traralgon took home \$7000.

The 104 entries generated a \$20,800 cash prize pool.

The APL is the biggest poker league in Australia, with David saying he believes there are over 800 games nationally each week.

For upcoming events, visit [www.play-apl.com](http://www.play-apl.com)



Surfers across Victoria are set to help keep beaches safe this summer with the Surfers Rescue 24/7 Program skilling local surfers up in life saving techniques. Photo: Ed Sloane | Surfing Victoria

## Surfers on hand to protect beaches this summer

SURFERS across Victoria are set to help keep beaches safe this summer with the Surfers Rescue 24/7 Program skilling local surfers up in life saving techniques.

The program has been running since 2019 has had over 3000 surfers' skill up in life saving board rescue and CPR techniques.

"Surfers are at the beach all year round and frequent non-patrolled locations such as Bells Beach, Pt Addis, Flinders, Beacon at 13th Beach and Cape Woolamai on Phillip Island," said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

"Surf Life Saving Australia noted in their annual coastal safety report that 49 per cent of drownings happen more than 5km away from a life saving service."

"By training up surfers in life-saving techniques, we are increasing the level of beach users who are able to assist in an emergency situation and ultimately save lives."

Surfers who complete the course are trained in how to spot a person in trouble in the water, rescue that person using readily available floatation devices such as a surfboard and perform CPR. All courses are led by professional First Aid and Water Safety instructors.

Upcoming courses are available for free with limited spaces available in each course.

- Ocean Grove – January 18
- Torquay – January 22
- Torquay – February 5
- Phillip Island (PIBC Members only) – February 15
- Phillip Island – February 16
- Torquay – February 26

Registrations are open via [surfingvic.com/surfers-rescue-24-7](http://surfingvic.com/surfers-rescue-24-7)

# Summer drowning surge



Royal Life Saving are encouraging parents to teach water awareness this summer and to always keep watch.

A RECORD-BREAKING summer for drowning deaths last year has prompted an urgent warning from the Royal Life Saving Society Australia for people to be water safety conscious in, on, and around water over the summer break.

In 20 years of fatal drowning data, last summer (2021/22) had the highest number of deaths on record, with 145 people drowning across Australia.

More than a quarter of those who died were more than an hour away from home at the time.

Wherever you are in Australia, these are the top five tips to enjoy the water safely this summer:

- Always supervise children around water
- Avoid alcohol around water
- Wear a lifejacket when boating and fishing
- Know the conditions
- Avoid going alone

In Victoria, a total of 324 people has drowned over the summer in the past 20 years with 17 people having drowned in Victoria last summer alone.

Leading locations for drowning in summer are beaches (28%), followed by rivers (19%).

## Huge revamp for Waratah Surf Life Saving



Lifesaving members at an early December training and induction session at Life Saving Victoria headquarters in Port Melbourne.

THE Waratah Beach Surf Life Saving Club is excited that the Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) unit operations will be managed by Life Saving Victoria (LSV) from this summer.

The Club has run the unit since 2006, and a very significant benefit of the arrangement with LSV is that the unit will be separately and fully funded, which will remove the pressure on the Club to raise funds and find grants for the unit and the core Club activities.

The unit will remain very close to the Club, and everyone expects even closer cooperation in emergency situations, training and where practical to share resources.

Oversight by the LSV team will bring in people with decades of Victoria Water Police experience giving a level of oversight that did not previously exist in the Club.

The Club is very confident that standards will increase to meet the high expectations of the public and other emergency

service organisations.

Of paramount importance is the need to ensure equipment and operator capability and training to ensure everyone always come home safely.

The previous vessel gave good service but developed numerous faults and was identified as demanding replacement during winter.

LSV have negotiated a vessel with Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) which is two years old and extensively fitted out.

It is exciting that the MSAR unit will provide a readymade pathway for active members from any Surf Life Saving Club including Waratah Beach.

Interested parents and members of the public are encouraged become involved and obtain the necessary certifications to become a part of this elite group.

Please note that dialling 000 in a boating emergency will get the best resources engaged quickly.

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## How becoming a dad helped Labuschagne 'switch off' and become a better cricketer

**Marnus Labuschagne says the birth of his child has helped him switch off and improve his cricket performance.**  
Photo: AAP Image/Darren England

AUSTRALIAN Test superstar Marnus Labuschagne has admitted the birth of his child in late September has been instrumental in his recent run of form.

Labuschagne has already gotten off to a hot start in Australia's summer of cricket, smashing the West Indies for a combined 502 runs across four innings in the convincing 2-0 Test series win.

With two centuries and one double century, Labuschagne

**By Dominic Criniti**

has moved up to number one on the ICC Test batting rankings, overtaking Steve Smith and Babar Azam.

Speaking to SEN Labuschagne admitted the arrival of his child has forced him to put his focus away from cricket and has led to his improved form.

"I'm always sort of tinkering with my game trying to get better and trying to change things to make sure I'm always ready

for the challenges ahead," Labuschagne said on SEN 1170 The Run Home.

"But probably becoming a dad has helped me switch off when I'm away from the game a little bit than previously, that part has helped me when I'm away from the game to not always be thinking about cricket and not diving as deep as I do normally."

Labuschagne admitted to taking a page out of Steve Smith's book and practiced his

batting form whilst in a hotel.

"Frequently the boys will shoot up messages in the group chat and blame either Steve (Smith) or I for tapping the bat," Labuschagne said.

"I've had many messages where it's about 11 o'clock at night and Glenn Maxwell is below and he messaged me 'mate can you shut the hell up'."

"It's been documented very clearly that I'm a cricket tragic and that I love to dig deep into the game."

Why the A-Leagues grand finals in Sydney could end as a 'disaster'

**By Dominic Criniti**

AUSTRALIAN football great Matt McKay has voiced his worries about the upcoming A-Leagues Grand Finals set to take place in Sydney.

Despite a large amount of backlash from all involved in the game, the APL has re-affirmed its agreement with the NSW government to move the next three A-League's Grand Finals to Sydney.

As a player, McKay was a part of one of the greatest grand finals in A-League history where the Roar scored two goals in the final three minutes of extra-time before taking out the title on penalties.

Speaking to SEN, McKay explained why the A-Leagues shouldn't follow the AFL or NRL's traditions with having a host city for the decider.

"It's hard to process their thought behind it, obviously I completely understand, but we are not rugby league, they have it (the Grand Final) in Sydney because they have ten plus clubs there," McKay said on SEN 1170 Afternoons.

"Melbourne you have the AFL final there because you have the majority of the clubs there, we are a genuine national game."

"I can just see it being a disaster if we have a Melbourne Victory-Melbourne City final, or a Brisbane-Melbourne (final) in Sydney, it's just going to be a disaster."

The 2022 A-League Men's Grand Final saw just under 25,000 fans watch Melbourne City take on state-rivals Western United, falling 6,000 people short of filling out AAMI Park.

"I know it comes down to dollars and I guess the government has really put out to try and do something, and they're trying to create something," McKay said.

"The one thing I can give the A-Leagues credit for is they're trying hard to do new things, but they didn't think this one through well enough."

"I can get into the process behind it, they've obviously done it for a reason and they're trying to get that out there by saying they're building a culture and tradition, but I feel there could be other ways to do that."

"You have to be transparent with how these things are run."

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The surf rescue team Xavier Korbel, Nelson Karutz, Olivia Cumming, and James Harman will be on daily patrol at Inverloch Surf Beach until the end of January and on weekends until April. Z14\_5222

## Beach safety in focus for Inverloch lifesavers

THE Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club rescue team is warmed up and ready to patrol the summer holiday season.

They will be patrolling the Inverloch Surf Beach daily from December 26 until the end of January, and on weekends until April.

Volunteers Xavier Korbel, Nelson Karutz, Olivia Cumming, and James Harman together with their fellow patrollers work diligently throughout summer to protect the public and keep everyone safe over the holidays and it's important to remember to swim between the flags and keep hydrated in the warmer weather.

Whilst the beach is patrolled, the new kiosk @ invy will be open for

business, located at the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club and managed by Bruce Facey and Chris Kabay – owners of Red Brick Café in Surrey Hills.

"We're so thrilled to be open at the beach this summer, we'll be supplying hot barista made coffee and our menu selection will rotate – providing freshly made breakfasts and lunches, as well as special afternoon treats from 7am until 3pm daily," said Bruce.

Upstairs the deck bar will be open every day from December 26 until January 29 – the perfect stop-off on a summer holiday to sit back and enjoy a glass of wine with uninterrupted views over Inverloch surf beach.

Ione McKenzie of Inverloch SLSC said the deck bar is open to the public and everyone is welcome to bring their own cheese platters to accompany the beer and wine selection, that is readily available at the deck bar.

"We will also have local caterers Lime & Co serving fresh delicious Mexican food over summer."

The Nippers' seasonal program will run on the beach from December 27 until January 7, and those aged 13 years and over are welcome to join the ISLSC rescue team for the 2022/2023 season.

For more information on becoming a member or to hire out The Deck Bar for a group event visit [www.islsc.org.au](http://www.islsc.org.au)



The kiosk at Invy is now open daily at the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club. Operated by restaurant owners Bruce Facey and Chris Kabay serving Roasting Warehouse coffee, seasonal breakfast, lunches, and homemade treats. Z12\_5222

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