

Sentinel-Times

SUMMER 2023/24

FREE

DISCOVER

South Gippsland and Bass Coast



SIZZLING SUMMER FUN UNVEILED

Gems of South
Gippsland | p. 28 & 29

BEAT THE HEAT AND DIVE INTO COOL WATERS

Enchanting beach
escapes | p. 27

SAVOUR SUMMER'S DELIGHTS

Irresistible food
guide | p. 48 & 49



For more than 130 years, Alex Scott and Staff has been proud to be part of the growth and success of our communities.

As summer approaches, our beautiful region is once again in the spotlight.

With enormous growth over the past two years, the outlook remains strong for property in Gippsland and The Bass Coast.

If you are keen to make a move, make sure you get the right advice. Whether you're looking to sell, or secure your slice of paradise, our friendly and experienced team are here for you.

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Take only memories, leave only footprints...

SUMMER is fast becoming one of my favourite times of the year.

As a kid growing up on Phillip Island I loved winter – there was no traffic, the beach was all yours and the storms that rolled in were spectacular, plus there was nothing better than a refreshing surf. Second to winter was February, once everyone went home!

A little older and wiser and I love the warm weather and excitement that comes with summer.

For our family this summer will be a little bit different – a little human joined us and that has slowed us down. No longer are we rushing, instead we are taking time to roll in the sand, smell the roses and look at life through younger eyes.

As the weather warms, I'm looking forward to showing him all the fantastic things there is on offer around Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

And, as you embark on your seasonal road trip or bunker down may this summer be filled with abundant adventures big or small, a new activity or visit to somewhere you have never been.

Savour the moments whether you tick off a must on the bucket list by yourself or hit a walking track with extended family in tow.

Let the wind blow through your hair, the sun warm your skin and water freshen your mind - and remember to apply sunscreen.

This year we have made a few changes within which we hope you will enjoy.

From our families to yours have a fantastic and safe new year.

Chloe

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Discover... the gateway

SAN REMO, a picturesque fishing village serves as the gateway to the stunning landscapes and coastal wonders of Phillip Island.

Its quaint harbour and vibrant foreshore, welcomes visitors with a blend of maritime history and seaside tranquillity.

From delicious fresh seafood cooked to perfection at San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op to noon pelican feeding, cast a line from the jetty or let the mind wander on a stroll around the back of San Remo – there is simply something for everyone.

And if San Remo is not your final destination for the evening, then it's over the bridge one heads after stocking up on essentials at IGA.

The iconic bridge leads to the enchanting Phillip Island, a haven for nature enthusiasts and adventure seekers alike.

Known globally for its diverse wildlife and breathtaking landscapes, the Island captivates with its pristine beaches, rugged cliffs and lush nature reserves.

A playground indoors and out, families and the solivagant have plenty of destinations waiting to be explored.

Hop into bathers and hit the beaches, or grab a

paddle and jump into water sports, but remember to swim between the flags. There are plenty of beaches to explore each with their own characteristics – explore the SS Speke at Kitty Miller Bay or carve into the waves at Woolamai.

And when the sun is high and sand scorching make memories with those around you – take a wildlife cruise, be amazed and puzzled in a maze, see the Island from new heights, set the bets for the best bowler, indulge the tastebuds alongside purple hens overlooking Swan Bay and step back in history with our Vietnam Vets.

Explore the reserves spotting a lazy koala or two and after a jam-packed day of travelling and adventure tantalise the tastebuds at Phillip Island RSL.

After you've ticked off your Island explorations pack a picnic, grab some sushi and head to French Island or the Peninsula on the ferry.

And if you forget the towels or toiletries Dimmies has you covered.

Whether you're exploring the island's history or basking in the sun on the foreshore embark on a journey that intertwines the beauty of the natural world with the warmth of coastal communities.

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Summer cruises

PHILLIP Island is a unique summer destination, find yourself surrounded by beautiful beaches and nature. One of the best ways to explore the Island is with a Wildlife Coast Cruises tour, taking you on various ocean journeys around this fantastic area.

For cute marine life, jump on a Phillip Island Seal Cruise. This amazing tour takes you up-close and personal with thousands of Australian Fur Seals at Australia's largest breeding colony, Seal Rocks. Summer at the rocks is an interesting time as pups born from Oct-Dec can be spotted finding their feet and exploring their habitat in small rockpools and bleating at their mothers. The Phillip Island Seal Cruise takes you along the north-west side of the Island, past the Nobbies and Round Island, it's an essential to do when visiting the Island.

As well as Seal Rocks, there are lots of other stunning areas of Phillip Island to visit, Cape Woolamai being

one of them. The cape is iconic for its towering granite cliffs, caves, and remnants of the old granite quarry, all surrounded by impressive turquoise waters. The Cape Cruise is a one-hour tour that takes you to view this scenic area and departs from the historic San Remo fishing village. After you return from your cruise make sure to try the delicious local Fisherman's Co-Op, fish n' chips, using fresh flake straight off the boats.

In the evenings find yourself kicking back, enjoying a local wine and some delicious appetisers aboard an evening Sunset Cruise. Taking you across the bay viewing birdlife and watching the sun set along this alluring coastline. Or if you're in the mood for live music the Bay and Beats Cruise will keep you entertained boasting some excellent local talent as you take a tour around the bay.

So, get the kids out of the house these holidays and set sail on a sea adventure with Wildlife Coast Cruises!



Phillip Island Seal Cruise



Cape Cruise



Phillip Island Sunset Cruise



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Take a scenic flight

this summer

PHILLIP Island boasts breathtaking beauty with rugged coastlines, idyllic beaches, world class motorsports and an abundance of wildlife in its' natural habitat, and Phillip Island Helicopters provide a bird's eye view of some of the most spectacular scenery in Australia.

Helicopter flights are available for all ages; allowing children to experience lift off into the skies above and take in the impressive aerial views of the renowned seal rocks - home to Australia's largest seal colony, the Grand Prix Circuit - host to Moto GP, the state-of-the-art Penguin Parade, Cape Woolamai, and Victoria's beaches along Bass Coast.

The multi-award-winning business has been regularly recognised as the most popular tourism attraction in Bass Coast, and pilots Oli Parson and Jason Edmonds share why.

Oli's passion for helicopters began as a toddler, when his parents and grandparents would take him into the city helipad just to watch the flights come in and out, but it wasn't until graduating from university and beginning a career in marketing that he made the decision to start his training and become a pilot.

"I've been in the industry for close to six years now and I only wish I had done it sooner."

"We're tested on our dedication and undergo 105 hours of flying, focusing on circuit flying and sloped landings, before becoming licensed. I feel lucky to have my passion as my career," said Oli.

With flights taking to the skies every day, locals and tourists can experience the joy and adventure from one of five different flights on offer, starting from only \$130 per person.

Jason and Oli share the love of the cove in Cape Woolamai - "a scenery overlooking breathtaking aqua seas," said Jason.

Jason too had a passion for the aviation industry and moved to a career as a pilot in 2020 after working in the marine industry for 20 years.

"My first flight was in the Sunshine Coast, and I knew this career aligned with my passion, and nothing beats the views over Phillip Island," said Jason.

Pilot Darcy Warne shared that the scenic flights showcase Phillip Island from a different perspective - one that you can only get in the air; an adventure to tick off the bucket list and enjoy with family and friends.

Grab your camera and head to Veterans Drive, Newhaven today.

To book or to find out more, visit pih.com.au or call 5956 7316 to speak to their friendly staff.

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Seaside retirement

AT 81 years old, Val Dohl continues to give back to her community. After a career in Melbourne dedicating her profession to helping others, Val chose a seaside retirement in the coastal town of Bass Coast and has been feeding the pelicans for the past 15 years.

"I work with the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op to feed the pelicans four times a week," Val says, "a daily tradition that has been ongoing for the past 40 years."

"The San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op provides a bit of fuel and a bit of bait to the local fishing boats and from that catch we take the flathead – we take the fillets off to be served in the shop and the head and the backbone is fed to the pelicans."

It is illegal to feed the wildlife, but the Fisherman's Co-Op have been provided approval from Victorian Fisheries and Wildlife to conduct the daily feeding that is a tourist attraction for many visitors to the old fishing town.

It is known that pelicans eat an average of a kilo a day, but what is provided by the Co-Op is seven kilos between all of them to ensure the pelicans are not relying on the feeder for their source of food.

"Due to the pelicans going out to get their own catch, the daily numbers of pelicans fed on the foreshore changes – particularly in the summertime when they get a better feed in the ocean," Val explained.

It is known that pelicans don't have any predators; however, as part of

the daily pelican feeding, Val and her colleagues check the pelicans for injuries. Injuries from fishing wire tangled around their legs, consumed plastic from the sea, or even fishing hooks that haven't been disposed of correctly.

The tourist attraction of feeding the pelicans is also an educational means to help the wider community better understand how to protect the wildlife on Phillip Island.

Val continues to monitor the pelicans to see if they have an injury and works coincide with Phillip Island Nature Parks when a pelican requires treatment.

"We all work together for the wildlife – if they have encountered an injury we'll work with local rangers and the local vets before they are then safely released back into the wild," said Val.

A number of the pelicans have been fitted with a green tag/tracking device, in order for Fisheries and Wildlife to identify their flight path and critical habits.

"Pelicans don't mate here on Phillip Island; they travel quite a long way to mate – flying out into the bay to a little group of sandy islands called Mud Island over near Portsea.

"The female then makes a nest out of anything she can find, and she'll lay two eggs a couple of days apart, before the first one is hatched around five weeks later," Val explained.

To see Val and her colleagues from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op feed the pelicans, head down to the San Remo foreshore daily at noon.



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Discover serenity and historic charm

CHURCHILL Island, situated off Phillip Island (Millowl), offers breathtaking panoramic views and a fascinating cultural history with many stories to be uncovered. Tucked away, this hidden island gem allows for a perfect escape this summer, where time unwinds, and the rest of the world is left behind.

The island is significant in Bunurong culture with extensive 'midden' sites along the eastern shoreline, and is named Moonar'mia for the many moonah trees (*Melaleuca lanceolata*) that grow here, some of which are hundreds of years old.

Churchill Island is the site of the first European garden in Victoria, and the first site where wheat was grown in the state. Since the 1850s this fertile 57-hectare island has been continuously farmed and in 1872 Samuel Amess, former Mayor of Melbourne, purchased the island and built a substantial

house and outbuildings. The families to follow also left their mark on the island, and their dwellings and farm buildings still stand today, a drawcard for tens of thousands of visitors a year.

Discover the historical buildings and gardens full of cottage plants and roaming chickens, while tall, heritage listed trees offer shade and dot the island, including a magnificent Norfolk Island Pine.

The open green lawns and oceanic views on Churchill Island are an ideal setting to picnic. This calming yet inspiring backdrop frames the Farmhouse kitchen, where visitors pause for a moment to relax on the deck before or after exploring. Choose from coffee, tea, brunch or a delicious lunch. You might just get a visit from 'Andrew' the curious and friendly resident peacock who loves to say hello.

Every day, the farming activities and demonstrations capture the imagination of children and adults alike. Including blacksmithing, sheep shearing, and working dog demonstrations, the farm is a chance for young children to see animals from their favourite story books up close. Some get the chance to pat a goat or Dolly the pig, while others explore the farm that's home to many baby animals like lambs or chicks in fields and stables.

The island also boasts a variety of scenic walking trails which offer sweeping bay views and windows into a variety of ecosystems. Take a seat at the bird watching huts to soak in the tranquil scenery and spot the wildlife that call the surrounding mangroves, wetland system and mudflats home. Churchill Island has a story that must be walked and discovered to be understood.



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Phillip Island
NATURE PARKS



The ultimate family destination

this summer



A Maze'N Things and its collection of world-class, innovative attractions guarantees an experience found nowhere else.



AS SUMMER holidays approach, families from all over Victoria and beyond are on the lookout for the perfect destination to create lasting memories and share unforgettable experiences.

Look no further than A Maze'N Things on Phillip Island, an extraordinary haven designed to cater to anyone seeking fun, adventure, and a touch of magic. This iconic attraction is an unparalleled escapade for all, making it the ideal choice for the perfect summer family getaway.

A Maze'N Things epitomises a versatile entertainment hub, appealing to a broad spectrum of visitors. From families with children to adventure seekers, tourists exploring the island, and groups seeking educational and team-building activities, this destination offers something exceptional for everyone.

The cornerstone of A Maze'N Things lies in its ability to cater to families. Boasting a myriad of indoor illusions, puzzles, and captivating magic shows, it's a treasure trove of entertainment for parents and children alike. The sprawling 3D outdoor maze and the engaging mini-golf course foster moments of family bonding and pure amusement, creating an environment where joy knows no bounds.

For tourists and holidaymakers, A Maze'N Things stands as a beacon of unique experiences amidst the allure of Phillip Island. Its blend of interactive mind-teasing activities and outdoor adventures makes it an irresistible choice for travellers seeking distinctive and memorable attractions during their vacation.

Conveniently situated just minutes away from Cowes, A Maze'N Things serves as an accessible haven for day trippers and weekend excursions.

Whether individuals or groups, the allure of spending a few hours immersed in entertainment and fun is an irresistible pull for those exploring Phillip Island.

The attraction isn't just for families and groups; it beckons adventure seekers and puzzle enthusiasts to indulge in the thrill of the 3D maze and unique experiences offered in Puzzle Island and Magic Manor. Meanwhile, food aficionados find delight in the offerings of Puzzle Café and Parky's Lollies & Gelato, tantalising taste buds with an array of refreshments.

A Maze'N Things and its collection of world-class, innovative attractions guarantees an experience found nowhere else. The diverse blend of indoor and outdoor activities ensures year-round appeal, while its family-friendly atmosphere and proximity to other tourist spots add to its allure.

The attraction's commitment to delivering exceptional customer service further cements its reputation as a destination of choice for leisure and entertainment.

As the summer holidays approach, A Maze'N Things stands tall as the quintessential family destination on Phillip Island. Its unparalleled blend of entertainment, education, and adventure beckons one and all to immerse themselves in an extraordinary journey of fun, learning, and cherished moments.

Coming from afar? Consider staying at the neighbouring Phillip Island Park Lane Holiday Park, where guests enjoy a 50 per cent discount on entry to A Maze'N Things, ensuring an unforgettable summer holiday experience.

Pack your bags, prepare for excitement, and head to A Maze'N Things for an unparalleled adventure that promises to redefine your summer holidays on Phillip Island!

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Pick your own strawberries

AT Macca's Farm, strawberry picking is not just an activity; it's a sensory journey of indulgence, relaxation, and a celebration of fresh air and farm vibes. The scenic route, flanked by piglets on the left and a wildlife-filled lake on the right, transports you into the heart of working farm life.

Stepping out of the car and heading inside for a bucket it's strawberry picking season. Rows of fresh strawberries yours for the taking – but beware they are delectable, and one bucket may only last the night... or even 10 minutes.

A kilometre of waist-high picking rows provides easy access for all, including wheelchairs.

After a berry-filled adventure, indulge in the paddock-to-plate restaurant, where the ambiance is as delightful as the menu. Whether seated outdoors in the shade or finding comfort indoors during unfavorable weather, seasonal specials promise a mouth-watering journey from breakfast to brunch.

Adjacent is the Produce Store. From hydroponic vegetables to farm-butchered meats and locally sourced delights, Macca's Farm provides an opportunity to stock up on weekly essentials and indulge in the joy of supporting local.



A haven for all ages

ON the lookout for the perfect destination that guarantees laughter, excitement, and a memorable time together. Look no further than the Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre, a hidden gem offering an abundance of joy for visitors of all ages and abilities.

Tucked away on the picturesque Phillip Island in Cowes, this entertainment hub is not just a bowling alley – it's a wonderland that caters to every taste.

Bowling enthusiasts will find themselves in their element. The state-of-the-art bowling lanes provide a perfect blend of fun and competition, making it an ideal activity for families and friends. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a casual player, the atmosphere is welcoming, and the staff are always ready to assist, ensuring

that everyone has a strikingly good time.

But the fun doesn't stop at bowling. Lazer tag adds an exhilarating touch to the experience, offering a thrilling and interactive adventure for participants of all abilities. The futuristic battlegrounds and strategic gameplay make it an ideal choice for those seeking an adrenaline rush. But beware, the competition may not be who you expect.

For those who prefer a different kind of competition, the centre also boasts table tennis, pool tables and an air hockey table. Gather around for friendly matches, showcase your skills or just have a good time.

A revamped and expanded range of arcade games add an extra layer of excitement to the mix, appealing to both the young and the young at



heart. From classic games to the latest releases, the arcade is a hub of entertainment where players can challenge each other and test their gaming prowess.

Including a café with a licenced bar, the entertainment complex is open daily until late with \$25 unlimited bowling each evening from 6.30pm-9.30pm between December 22 to January 27 (minimum four per lane, no bookings).

Make a beeline for Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre these holidays whether sweltering heat or bucketing rain. Whether you're rolling strikes, dodging lasers, or enjoying a game of pool, the centre promises an unforgettable experience that captures the spirit of the season – no matter your age or ability, there's something for everyone.



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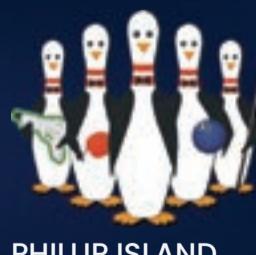
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Sip, swirl and celebrate

PURPLE HEN'S AWARD-WINNING WINES

TRAVELLING along the country road the turn to Purple Hen is a sight to behold – past the vines and appearing at the Cellar Door, there is no room for maybes, it's simply time to relax, chat with good friends and embrace the sights and sounds of nature.

The year was 2001, horticulturalist Rick Lacey was looking for a change with his wife Maira Vitols and stumbled upon the 80 acres on McFees Road in Rhyll.

"We were lucky to find the site when we did," Rick explained.

"We planted our first five acres of vines in January 2002; currently we have 30 acres under vines."

The first vintage was picked in 2004, a delectable Pinot Noir.

What has followed is over 200 trophies, awards and medals across Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Gris, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Sparkling Wines, Viognier,

Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir all produced on Phillip Island's doorstep.

In 2006 Rick and Maira opened their Cellar Door and since then families, friends and solivagant's have tasted, embraced and enjoyed sun filled days overlooking Western Port Bay a glass in hand and cheese platter on the table.

"We're incredibly lucky to live on the property, to work and grow vines here," Rick added.

Purple Hen's Pinot Noir made waves right from its first vintage (2004) with that wine winning best Pinot Noir in both the Gippsland Wine Show and the Royal Melbourne Wine Show. Since that time the Pinot Noir has won best Pinot Noir in eight of the 18 Gippsland Wine Shows. Their Shiraz has also shone, winning medals for every vintage and numerous trophies. Aromatic white wines

have also performed very strongly - the 2023 Riesling - Off Dry secured Gold in this year's Gippsland Wine Awards and the 2023 Sauvignon Blanc took home a Silver and Award for Best Sauvignon Blanc.

"We offer what you see – our wine is island grown and made. We offer seated tastings, with people able to enjoy a glass, a bottle or two between friends and wines available to take home."

And whilst there is never a better time to enjoy a vineyard when the sun is shining, don't dismiss Purple Hen when the storms are rolling in with under cover seating available, and views to revel in the darkened skies.

Don't forget to pop in for your New Year's Eve collection.

Follow Purple Hen on socials and visit purplehenwines.com.au for summer music events.





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Island Grown and Crafted



Situated on Phillip Island, Purple Hen is a beautiful location for growing and enjoying wines of distinction. A multitude of wine show medals and trophies attest to the quality of the wines. Visit our cellar door and experience our great wines and platters featuring local produce.

Music: First three Friday's in January, visit our website for details.

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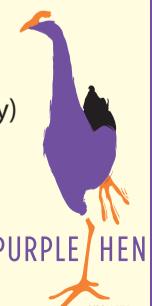
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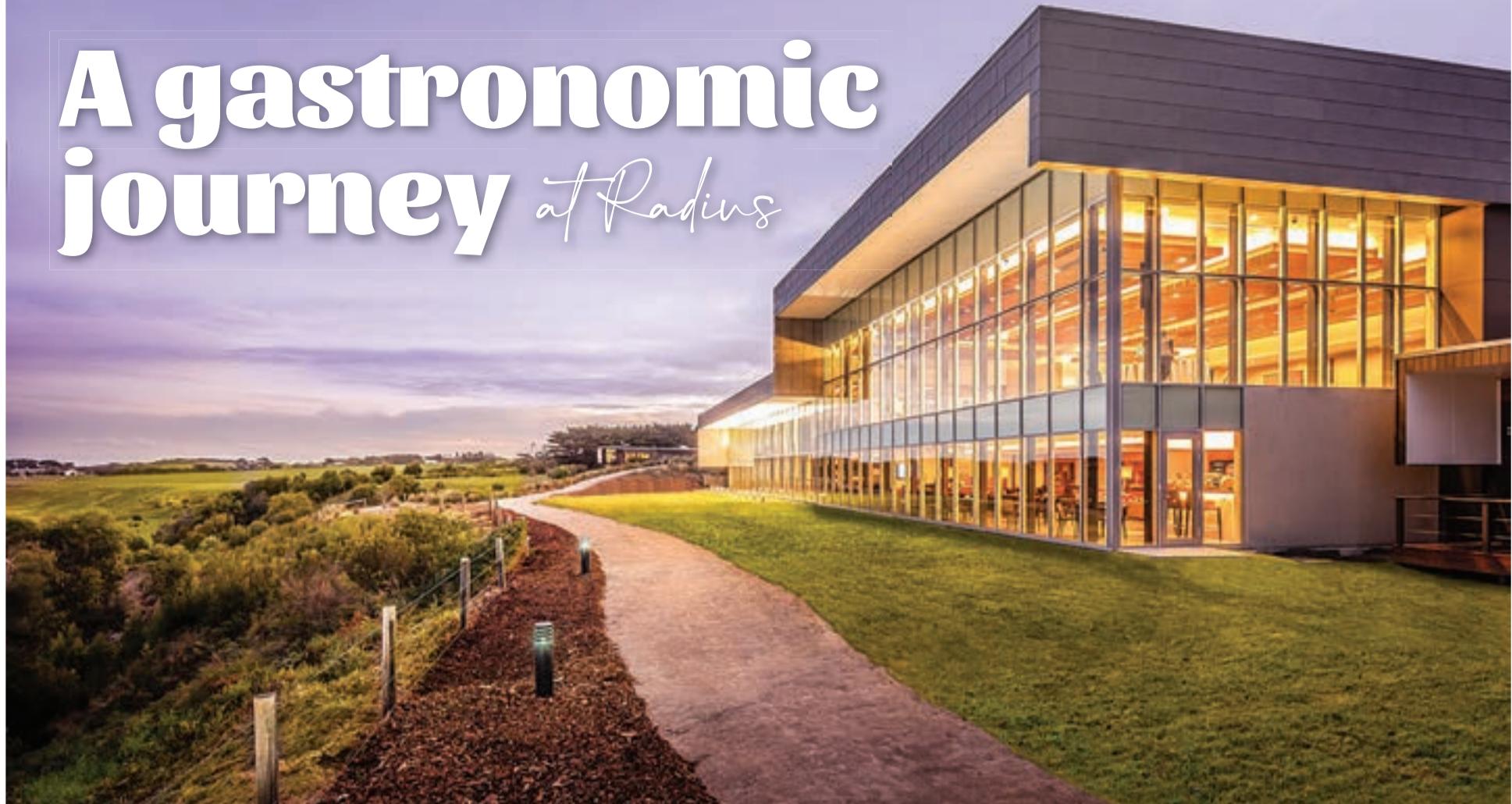
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[www.purplehenwines.com.au](http://purplehenwines.com.au)



A gastronomic journey at Radius



NESTLED within the picturesque coastal landscapes of Inverloch, RACV's Radius Restaurant emerges as a beacon of culinary excellence, offering a sophisticated dining experience that marries exquisite flavours with a breathtaking ambience.

Meander the wetlands and cross the creek there is delight to be had on every corner at RACV Inverloch Resort.

Sipping cocktails with friends on The Deck – the new alfresco area (with retractable roof) – or relaxing in the Zenith Lounge there is a variety of options this summer.

On a fine Summer's Friday, the Sentinel-Times visited this culinary haven, indulging their tastebuds overlooking the views of Eagles Nest to Wilsons Prom, and the signature mouth-watering delights served by Executive Chef Rohan McCullagh did not disappoint.

Our culinary journey began with the smoked salt and mountain pepper calamari with a goddess dressing, cucumber and finger lime placed on the table by long-time employee and connoisseur Carly.

Delicately seasoned with smoky undertones and a hint of mountain pepper, each tender bite was a symphony of taste. A delightful prelude that set the tone for a culinary indulgence at lunch.

A visual spectacle, the presentation was second to the perfect balance of textures – a zesty burst of finger lime, crisp chargrilled cucumber complementing the fresh calamari. A light golden crispness giving way to tender, succulent calamari surrounded by the tangy-citrus lime green goddess dressing.

For those who enjoy a well-rounded pairing, Carly recommends a glass of sparkling wine or light pinot grigio.

"It's a beautiful spot," Resort Manager Carey Norton explains as we look out the floor-to-ceiling glass windows.

"We are often a second thought for locals – yes we are a resort with accommodation, but we can also offer locals so much more that is not available in surrounding towns."

There is no denying the property is diverse and able to cater to a wide range of individual or group needs – from resort rooms to cabins and villas,

and even beautiful spaces to park up the caravan.

"We have our larger private function spaces that can cater weddings and large corporate events, but we also have smaller boardroom spaces, perfect for meetings or smaller family dinners that require a little bit of privacy."

Carey explained that a favourite of late has been the high tea private functions, of particular note, a lovely event for a 75th birthday celebration.

Delighting in a refreshing Sweet Sunrise mocktail, it is easy to get swept away. To forget about all the worries and embrace the birds and wildlife passing by the windows.

It's not hard to imagine the spectacular displays of mother nature that could be seen from the restaurant during the cooler months, when wild weather takes over.

Pan fried house-made gnocchi with Warrigal greens, smoked sweet potato puree, burnt butter, lemon myrtle whipped ricotta, pangrattato and slow cooked lamb shoulder is placed on the table in the moment's distraction.

An apprentice under a Michelin-starred French chef, Rohan's use of local produce, attention to detail and experience in the realm of fine dining is evident. From the picture-perfect presentation to the flavour combinations, the lamb shoulder simply melts in the mouth.

The crunch of the outer coating of the gnocchi is simply sublime against the pillow-like creaminess inside.

Paired with the 2021 Purple Hen Pinot Noir, the zest of the lemon myrtle is no stranger in the ricotta and perfectly complements the lamb. The marriage of textures and tastes dancing on the palate.

A soft chatter fills the sun-lit room – lunch is in full swing.

A masterpiece of full-flavour and finesse, the hearty meal is a must.

And if there is still room, a decadent finale will leave an indelible impression.

The dark chocolate nemesis, mint curd, chocolate mint soil, mint choc chip ice cream, peppermint gum syrup and cream is a mint lovers heaven.

Presented with artistic flare, the classic nemesis is a favourite amongst

patrons with Rohan continuously mixing up the flavour combination depending on the season.

A symphony of chocolatey indulgence the nemesis is a study in contrasts – silky and dense, cool creaminess tempering rich chocolate. A sweet revelation, showcasing the chef's mastery in the alchemy of dessert creation.

Bold, the mint curd evokes all the senses – the fresh mint leaving a sweet flavour and lingering cool sensation on the tongue. One would not be amiss for thinking Rohan had darted outside and picked the ingredients fresh from a garden.

Lemon curd tart, whipped burnt vanilla cheesecake, frozen coconut mousse and Bassine Specialty Cheese are some of the other options on the dessert menu suitably paired with dessert and fortified wines – for this sweet tooth the only thing stopping a clean sweep was the room left after the first two courses.

For those less inclined towards dessert Radius (and Zenith) offer a selection of tea and coffees including an affogato that can be topped with liqueur or for those after a nightcap a liqueur coffee with sweetened cream.

The drinks list does not disappoint either with a wide selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages including wine (by bottle and glass), beer, spirits, aperitifs, digestifs and liqueurs, soft drinks and mocktails.

It is difficult to go wrong with any of the meals at RACV Resort Inverloch, whether Zenith Lounge or Radius Restaurant takes your fancy.

And whilst we had the pleasure of indulging in delicious cuisine in Radius, Zenith Lounge is the perfect offering for those looking for a little less formality – whether a causal couple's lunch or live music on a Friday evening with friends, burgers, pizzas or seasonal delights, afternoon tea, or coffee and dessert, Zenith is open every day from 10am until 8pm (and 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays).

Savour the flavours and try it for yourself.

Radius Restaurant is open seven days. Buffet breakfast: 7am – 10am, Lunch: 12pm – 2pm and Dinner: 5.30pm – 9pm.

Joey emerges in time for

THE koalas at Maru Koala & Animal Park in Bass Coast are ambassadors for their species, they're educating their visitors and inspiring conservation of the species in their habitat.

Koala's can begin breeding from two years old and the experienced keepers at Maru have recently witnessed a new joey emerging from five-year-old mum, Grace - named after Grace Sweetman, the grandmother of one of the Maru owners Neroli Heffer.

Neroli shared that when a joey first emerges, mum produces something called pap, because the eucalyptus leaf is hard to digest.

"To digest a eucalyptus leaf they must have a specific set of microbes within the gut flora and unfortunately, Joey's don't initially have that. So, the only way they can prepare their digestive system is from mum," Neroli said.

"This is a natural process from mum to joey, in addition to nursing and is one of the ways we as keepers can tell when a joey is nearing being fully emerged from the mother's pouch."

"Our newest joey is yet to be named but our staff will be deciding this in the coming weeks," said Neroli. "No matter how many joeys we breed, it is always an exciting time witnessing a new joey emerge."

"Our other youngest joey is 11-month-old Kya - named after the species of Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus kybeanensis, which is commonly known as "Kybean Mallee Ash".

Kya is the joey to three-year-old Nicki - named after the species of Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus nicholli, which is commonly known as "narrow-leaved black peppermint" or "willow peppermint".

"A mother will nurse her joey until around 12 months before they become independent, and little Kya and Mother Nicki are

already showing signs of weaning."

Maru Koala & Animal Park also have two-year-old Rubi - named after the species of Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus rubida, which is commonly known as "candlebark" "ribbon gum" or "white gum".

"All of our animals are conditionally trained for human interaction, helping the animal encounters be stress free, but moving forward we are also offering a 'Keeper for a Day' experience.

"An honorary experience that allows our visitors to work closely with experienced park keepers and the animals directly; a special behind-the-scenes access into the animal's habitat, participating in feed preparation and access to hospital areas," said Neroli.

Maru Koala & Animal Park is both an education centre and a rescue and rehabilitation shelter, and this experience allows visitors to witness the treatment and feeding of any rescued native animals that have come into the Wildlife Shelter at Maru for care before hopeful release back into the wild, these animals are not on public display but kept in the hospital areas and usually not seen by the public.

Maru Koala & Animal Park welcome visitors to interact with the animals, including koalas, kangaroos and wallabies, dingoes, emus, parrots, wombats, a crocodile, stock animals and more.

"Join our park keepers at regular talks and presentations, including our feature wildlife presentation on weekends and holidays. View the koalas from the raised boardwalk or go inside their enclosure with the keepers."

To book an animal experience these Summer holidays go online visit marukoalapark.com.au

SUMMER



Zenith Lounge & Bar at RACV Inverloch Resort

A warm and inviting space, furnished with couches and armchairs, Zenith Lounge is the place to enjoy a drink and snacks. Take in the panoramic coastal views and enjoy live music every Friday evening.

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Grow, play, stay at Wattle Bank Farm

IMMERSE yourself into wholesome and fearless living at Wattle Bank Farm in the Gippsland region.

Owners Beatrice Imbert and Peter Bland welcome each guest to their 10-acre property to learn, play and grow. Encouraging those of all ages to engage in the technique of growing organic oyster mushrooms, harvest fresh produce from the gardens and experience natural horsemanship, or simply revel in the open space with an overnight farm stay.

There's always a backstory to a place of learning and Wattle Bank Farm began with a passion to be self-sufficient through organic farming, using gardening as a therapy, and transformational leadership and trust through equine training.

Peter has worked with horses his entire life, growing up training horses on a cattle station in Queensland and on King Island in Tasmania, before travelling to Argentina where he continued to develop and learn practices of natural horsemanship.

"Everything begins from the ground up," said Beatrice.

And at Wattle Bank Farm, day visitors and overnight guests are welcome to take part in any session, whether it be learning the process of growing oyster mushrooms in the cave and growing room, or taking part in equine

self-regulation work.

"Our natural horsemanship experience is available for beginners and experienced riders – with the option of a trail ride through the Bass Coast."

"In order to ride safely, I educate our guests to be leaders from the absolute beginning before they walk into the paddock. Too many people have missed out on connecting with the horse on the ground before jumping on. This is a critical part of the relationship process. Horses have an electro-magnetic field which goes out nine metres. As soon as you enter that field the horses are aware of you and aware of where you sit in the hierarchy. I teach guests how to be at the top of the hierarchy from the beginning so that the horses are naturally submissive to your leadership. It's powerful but not forceful," Peter explained.

Over the Christmas holidays from December to January Peter and Beatrice are offering an educational and fun school clinic, allowing young ones to reconnect with the outdoors, and from January 2024, camp stays will be available for families to immerse themselves into nature.

Peter and Beatrice will provide an experience of wholesome and fearless living and being, whether that be in the garden, or with the horses, the camp stay will allow families to unplug and create new memories together.



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The Gurdies Winery – Wine worth the detour



The 'Seahorse' farm stay is also available year-round, it is self-sufficient rustic tiny home that sits under a majestic gum tree and overlooks the rolling hills of South Gippsland with access to the vegetable patch.

"Our farm-stay is ideal for couples, or young families and we are pet-friendly. Upon request, we curate a beautiful hamper which showcases trusted Gippsland growers and makers, such as Trulli, Wild Woman Food and Dirty Three Wines.

"Guests are welcome to do as much

or as little as they like during their stay – forage in the gardens, take a natural horsemanship experience or simple stroll the property and enjoy a slow-pace stay."

The Wattle Bank Farm wholesale their homegrown oyster mushrooms to restaurants and cafés in the region and Melbourne - providing a farm to plate product. They are an integral member of Prom Coast Food Collective and have the Gippsland Trusted Provenance tick of approval from Food and Fibre Gippsland.

You can purchase direct from the farm shop whether it be fresh mushrooms, gourmet pantry products and mushroom grow kits allowing you to grow your own oyster mushrooms at home. Christmas hampers can also be organised as well as gift cards for any of their offerings valid for six months.

Visit wattlebankfarm.com.au or drop in to 85 Desmond Road, Wattle Bank Farm to truly grasp the experience that Peter and Beatrice have created for the Gippsland community.

Over the Christmas holidays from December to January Peter and Beatrice are offering an educational and fun school clinic, allowing young ones to reconnect with the outdoors.



Rock Forms, Wilsons Prom - Susan Hall



The Pathway - Ursula Theinert

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Book online www.wattlebankfarm.com.au





Walk with Bass

AN absolute 'must do' while visiting Bass Coast is the seven kilometre George Bass Coastal Walk between Punchbowl Road, San Remo and Kilcunda.

Here you will get access to stunning, world-class ocean and coastal vistas while at the same time getting some healthy exercise, up and down, between beaches and headland along the way.

It is truly one of the hidden treasures of the Bass Coast, quite literally hidden at Kilcunda end of the trail where there are no signs pointing the way to 'The George Bass Coastal Walk'.

The best place to park is near the Ocean View Hotel or outside the Kilcunda Community Centre (next to the fire station), although there is also limited parking at the Shelley Beach Carpark which is right on the edge of the trail at the western

edge of town.

Finding the Punchbowl Road end of the trail is much more obvious, although a good idea is to put a car at both ends of the trail because the seven kilometre walk is enough, especially on a hot day.

The walk offers spectacular views of the coastline and follows the route of the explorer George Bass' epic voyage of discovery along the southern edge of the Anderson Peninsula, over 200 years ago.

An average level of fitness is required for the walk as there are a couple of moderate uphill sections, take water, and a picnic if you feel like making an afternoon of it.

You get easy access to a couple of beaches along the way, however swimming is not recommended.

And yes, the trail is dog friendly, provided they're always on the lead, it makes a great outing for energetic

dogs and kids.

What a sight it must have been when the explorer George Bass first sighted the coast of what we now call Victoria, and from this narrow winding path you'll see those same cliffs rising and falling and the pounding surf that characterises what we know as Bass Strait.

Remnants of history from thousands of years of occupation by the Bunurong indigenous people are also evident with the area marked by middens, hidden in the dunes behind sandy beaches along the coast.

In 1797, George Bass set sail from Sydney Cove in an 8.7 metre whale boat to prove the existence of a strait between Tasmania and New South Wales.

During this epic voyage George Bass discovered and named the first natural harbour on the southern mainland coast, Western Port Bay.



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Matthew Flinders said of the voyage made by George Bass: "A voyage expressly undertaken for the discovery in an open boat, and in which six hundred miles of coast, mostly in a boisterous climate was explored, has not perhaps its equal in the annals of Maritime history".

William Hovell explored this coast on foot in 1826, describing the area in his diary "... the land here is high, soil light but not good, very thick of low stunted trees (She Oak) with low bush, excepting at, or near the point on the north side of the entrance, the land ends abruptly, towards the bay and the opposite side of the entrance, facing Cape Woolamai and in many parts ends in perpendicular bluffs".

Flora and fauna

Although grazing occurred on this coast for many years, remnants of native vegetation cling stubbornly to the wind-swept cliff tops. These plants include coast beard-heath, white correa, sea box

and coast tea-tree.

An attractive stand of coast banksia is thriving at Half Moon Bay and boobiallas grow along the sheltered creek gullies. Extensive tree planting has been done by volunteers. The low vegetation provides excellent opportunities for observing bird life along the coast.

Pacific gulls constantly patrol this coast exploiting the strong updraught created by the high cliffs. Black-shouldered kites and nankeen kestrels may be seen hunting in the neighbouring farmlands.

Through winter, the high cliffs provide a vantage point to view southern right whales on their annual migration to the warmer waters along the southern coastline of Australia.

Caution must be exercised when undertaking this walk. The track follows a narrow strip of public land along cliff tops, consisting of slashed track through grassland.

The track surface can be slippery, so

sturdy footwear should be worn. Beaches along the walks are unsuitable for swimming due to the presence of strong undertows, rips and steep sloping sandy bottoms.

Fishing or walking near the waters' edge can be extremely dangerous; swells and large waves can crash up against the rocky coastline with little warning.

At the Punchbowl Road end of the track, you'll pass one of the most dangerous rock shelves chosen by enthusiasts for fishing in Victoria, a regular site for fatalities.

However, since the state government made it mandatory (on a trial basis from March 1, 2022) for fishermen to wear a life jacket while visiting the top 10 most dangerous rock fishing sites in Victoria, including Pyramid Rocks (Phillip Island), San Remo (southern end of Potters Hill Road) and Punchbowl Rocks (near San Remo), it has already resulted in several lives being saved.

**George Bass
coastal walk
is one of
our hidden
treasures.**



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Where to *fish* in Western Port Bay

THERE are a few things you need to be aware of to have an enjoyable day's fishing in Western Port Bay as it can be quite different to Port Phillip Bay; we have current and lots of it.

You will need much bigger size sinkers than you are used to, if you normally fish Port Phillip Bay, you will also need to change the size of sinker as the tide changes and even different size sinkers in different parts of the bay. As a general rule when you are fishing in the shallow areas of the bay use sinkers from 1/2oz to 3oz, when you are chasing snapper or gummies you will need 4oz to 8oz in the shallower spots and 8oz to 16oz in the deeper channels with all of the above dependent on the time of the tide.

The biggest advantage we have in Western Port is the island in the middle, and although it can still get quite rough, it is a short chop which can be navigated safely. It also means there is somewhere you can go to fish most of the time. The trick is to know what stage the tide is at and the wind direction as this will determine the safest place to be. Pick a spot in the bay where the tide and wind are going in the same direction, but be wary of tide changes as this can make a huge difference in a very short time.

Where to fish? Below are some of the more popular spots in the bay which should give you a starting point for your days fishing. If you are in the shop, ask for a map with GPS marks which will give you some areas to try.

Dickies Bay - located on the eastern side of the bridge behind the police station where there are plenty of weed and sand patches in about 1m to 2m of

By Jim's Bait & Tackle

water. This is probably one of the most productive areas for whiting and garfish in the bay but if you are fishing in this area don't forget the squid jig as plenty are caught during the season as well. Size 6 long shank hook or a size 1/0 circle on either a running sinker or paternoster rig and enough lead to hold bottom. Size 12 long shank hook with silverfish or dough under a float for the garfish with a bread dough for burley. Move about 1km further ENE and you will come to **Maggie Shoal** and the Anderson peg, again a very popular spot for whiting and the same rig and baits apply but you won't find as many garfish as the water is slightly deeper. With a slightly different bottom you have a very good chance of finding a few rock flathead in this area as well as the odd grass whiting. Move another couple of km north and you will come to **Reef Island**. The whiting in this area are generally smaller than Dickies Bay but there can be plenty of them but be careful of the island itself as the rocks can be just under the surface at high tide. As you head to Reef Island there are several spots along the way that can be very productive especially over Christmas when the pinkie snapper move in; a good area for calamari and rock flathead.

From the top of the main channel at San Remo you can head towards French Island. North will take you to places like **Corinella** and **Elizabeth Island**, northwest will take you to **Ram Island** and **Tortoise Head** all very

good for bigger snapper and gummies, but you will be fishing in deeper water and this is where the 8oz to 12oz sinkers will come in useful. There are far too many to mention but generally you are fishing in either a deep hole or on the edge of the channel and it pays to spend a bit of time with your sounder to ensure you are fishing on a ledge or the bank on the channel. As well as your sinkers changing size you will need to change hook size and style with circles or octopus style hooks from 4/0 to 8/0, again dependant on the bait and rig used. Running sinker or paternoster rig is the angler's preference as we get enough reports to suggest one works as good as the other and as a rule the bigger hooks are used on a running sinker rig. Baits vary again to the angler's preference, but squid and pilchard would account for about 80 per cent of our reports. From Elizabeth Island head SSW towards Rhyll and about halfway you will come across the **Corals** about 6m deep, an area well known for snapper and gummies. This time of the year generally the fish are a bit smaller in size than the deeper areas but certainly a lot easier to fish as you can drop down to a 4oz or 6oz sinker.

If you want to stay a bit closer to the Newhaven boat ramp or the wind is coming from the NW and you want somewhere calmer, head towards **Cleeland Bight**, west of the bridge. Stay to the correct side of the channel markers in the Bight. There are several places to fish and the edge of the sand bar can be very productive for flathead on the right day, just anchor on the

side of the channel and fish back to the sand bar. The whiting can be very good further west towards the two green channel markers fishing in about 3 to 4m of water but fish on the Woolamai beach side. You can also pick up some reasonable size pinkies and gummies on the edge of the channel. Another good spot for whiting is further towards the entrance where you will see a big sand hill and fishing only a few 100m from the beach is where you need to be in about 2.5 to 3m of water. Like the rest of the bay shallower water smaller sinkers, deeper water bigger sinkers, and the rigs and baits remain the same. The bight is also a very good place for calamari - you will need to be in about 2.5m of water from the sand hill to the public mooring buoys. Anglers use either a baited jig under a float or an artificial jig and both methods work. Like all lure fishing, the colour of the jig will depend on the day, but as a general rule natural-coloured jigs work best with the better swimming more expensive ones much better.

The last place to mention is offshore and it is a place you should only head if you are confident in your ability as things can change very quickly. There is some good fishing to be had offshore, but I would suggest you drop in and see us at the shop for all the information you will need as it is very different to the bay.

To keep up with current reports just visit our Facebook page (JimsBaitAndTackle) where we will be listing reports as we get them.

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Cruise along the rugged coast, witnessing historic South Point and journey into Bass Strait, revealing the mysteries of Victoria's marine national park.

Visit The Glennis, Anderson Islands, and Anser Island, the monumental boulders of Mount Oberon and the mesmerising white quartz sands of Norman Beach. Take in the enormity of Skull Rock, surrounded by blue waters, as it reveals the hidden shapes as you cruise alongside it.

The sounds of Wilsons Promontory are equally captivating. Hear the calls of Australian Fur Seals, the White-Bellied Sea Eagle, and the splash of dolphins and migrating

whales. These sounds form the backdrop of your adventure, making it truly immersive.

Embark on a unique adventure with Wanderer Adventures – Wilsons Promontory Cruises, where exploration meets nature's untouched beauty. Step onto world first amphibious boats designed for adventure and environmental consciousness. Transition seamlessly from the sandy shores to the sea, unveiling 'The Prom's' hidden wonders.

Local guides, deeply connected to these waters, bring the stories of Wilsons Promontory to life, unveiling a new perspective as they guide you, leaving lasting memories.

Cruises leave daily from Tidal River at 11am and 2pm (November – April). Prices are \$145 for adults, \$95 for children 3-16 years and a family ticket for two adults and up to three children \$470.

Bookings are essential at wandereradventures.com.au



Photo: Tourism Australia

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DISCOVER | SUMMER 2023/24 21



On course for a great summer of golf



Major works at Wonthaggi Golf Club in the past couple of years have transformed the look of the course, but if you're time poor, grab a bucket of balls for the new driving range.

WE haven't specifically asked about Dan Andrews, but everyone is welcome at anytime at the 10 golf courses that comprise the membership of South Gippsland Golf Inc, and not far away, the superb, Yarram Golf Course in the region's east.

All of the clubs have made improvements in recent times and are well worth a visit or a revisit over the summer holidays.

A round of golf can easily be combined with other visitor activities, including a ride on the Bass Coast Rail Trail, 16km from Wonthaggi to Woolamai, over the historic trestle bridge, a stop for lunch and a gallery stroll at Meeniyan or a visit to the Prom or the Penguins.

So, extend your stay and test yourself around the golfing circuit, while trying the region's fine wine and natural produce.

Among the clubs to add improvements in recent times is Leongatha Golf Club which has completely redesigned the First Green, engaging a noted course designer to craft a bigger, entirely different challenge for players.

The club has recently scarified the fairways and cored the greens set-

ting up for a busy summer of golf, including a daily stableford competition that's open to all comers, with a Golflink number. Greens fee players are welcome every day, although Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday are the main competition days.

Wonthaggi is another of the South Gippsland clubs to make great strides with major improvements in recent years, adding a driving range, with buckets of balls available for all comers at the pro shop, improving the drainage and removing problematic trees. The club has a major water storage project in the planning and several other exciting developments on the way.

The stunningly picturesque, with its green rolling hills, Korumburra Golf Course is also a 'must visit' not only for its scenic and challenging layout but also because it has added a technologically advanced golf simulator as part of the offering to visitors and members.

The hallmark of each and everyone of these courses is the warm and friendly attitude of members, committee and staff.

So, over the summer break, or anytime... let's go golfing.



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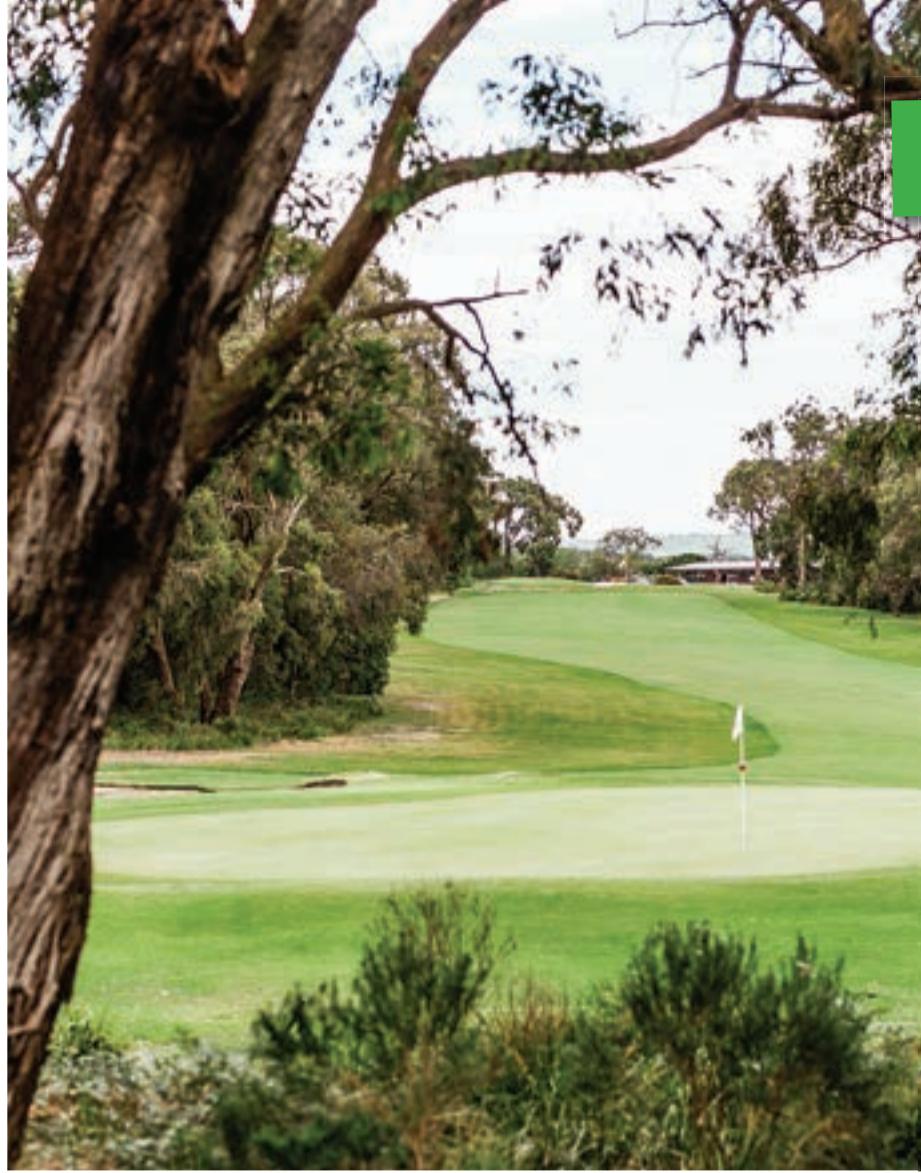


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WHERE TO GO GOLFING...



Aussie Golf Ranch

627A Settlement Road, Cowes
5952 1393 | aussiegolfranch.com

This beautifully manicured course uses Bent grass for its greens, fescue on surrounds and Santa Ana Couch grass on the fairways and tees. On site accommodation and summer pitch and putt course.

Foster Golf Club

7 Reserve Street | 5682 2272
fostergolfclub.com.au

The 18-hole Foster Golf Course features flat to undulating fairways with small greens. Relatively short in length, but still challenging for all golfing levels. Visitors welcome, fantastic bar bistro and events.

Korumburra Golf Club

250 Korumburra-Warragul Road
5655 1886 | korumburragolf.com.au

The Korumburra Golf Course hosts one of the most scenic 18-hole golf courses in all of Victoria. Visitors and guests are welcome seven days. Now home to state-of-the-art golf simulator.

Lang Lang Golf Club

90 Golf Club Road | 5659 6284
langlanggolfclub.com.au

Surrounded by scenic forest landscapes and native wildlife, the course has been described as a hidden gem. The layout is a very challenging par 70 with narrow couch fairways and slick, true putting surfaces.

Leongatha Golf Course

855 Koonwarra-Inverloch Road
5664 3314 | leongathagolf.com.au

A classic Vern Morcom design, the Leongatha Golf Course is both challenging and scenic with a layout that covers terrain from hilly to gently rolling, with wide Santa-Ana Couch fairways flanked by natural bushland.

Meeniyang Golf Club

185 Meeniyang-Promontory Road
5664 7490 | meeniyangolf.com.au

A quiet and picturesque 18-hole course with Santa Ana fairways and excellent greens, Meeniyang is a well-treed and slightly undulating course with a winding creek that traverses the layout. Wildlife such as kangaroos, koalas and varieties of birdlife abound. Has outdoor entertaining area.

Phillip Island Golf Club

33-44 Settlement Road, Cowes
5952 1121 | pigc.com.au

Regarded as one of the finest layouts in regional Victoria, the Phillip Island Golf Course is located walking distance from central Cowes and only metres from the beach. The course carves its way through a magnificent landscape.

Welshpool Golf Club

95 Port Welshpool Rd | 5688 1556
southgippslandgolf.org.au/welshpool

A 9-hole course of 5388 metres, Welshpool is lightly bunkered and has only slight undulations, but it presents a challenge that will surprise many. With its tight fairways, the course is yet to concede to an under-par score.

Wonthaggi Golf Club

Dr Sleeman Drive | 5672 3697
wonthaggigolfclub.rbh49.com

The Wonthaggi Golf Club is a beautiful country course in the heart of Wonthaggi. The course is a well-treed and testing 18-hole layout, stretching 5863 metres with a par 72.

Woorayl Golf Club

Recreation Reserve, Leongatha
5662 4187
southgippslandgolf.org.au/woorayl

This 9-hole course of 5789 metres is located within the recreation reserve. It is slightly undulating, lightly bunkered, all-weather course, which is maintained in excellent condition all year round. It presents all the challenges you'd expect of a top golf course, a great place to hone your skills.

Yarram Golf Club

42 Golf Links Road | 5182 5596
yarramgolfclub.com

Recently rated Australia's number one volunteer run and maintained golf course, Yarram Golf Course is rated in the top 10 per cent of Victorian Public Access Courses. It is located on the eastern side of town where it takes advantage of a natural sand belt and native bush setting. Comprised of 18 well-laid out holes, it has a men's par of 72 and a length of 5717 metres. For the ladies, also par 72 of 5031 metres, with a slope rating of 127. Although not part of the South Gippsland District Golf Association, Yarram Golf Club is little more than an hour away and welcomes social club groups and individuals at any time, including weekends.

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Bass Coast Summer Show calls for 2024 exhibitors

THE Bass Coast Summer Show will kick off on January 6 and organisers are welcoming exhibitors to be part of the competition in farm and garden produce with scarecrows, decorated gumboots and amateur photography, plus a backyard chook display and information for those interested in that hobby.

The Wonthaggi Garden Supplies amateur photography and Inverloch Garden Supplies Farm and Garden produce entries are free for all classes, with a children's 12 and under category available for both exhibitions.

Organisers are looking forward to hosting the 2024 Show Shed. Hoping

that gardeners and photographers will embrace going back into the competition section again this year.

All photography classes will be judged by Kilcunda local Paul Riviere with a \$50 cash prize and best Rosette for the judge's choice.

The annual show is a family friendly event at \$5 entry for adults and free entry for children 12 years and under. The grounds of the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve will host Barn Babies Mobile Farm, Sandy Creek Clydesdales and a blacksmith display, roving stilt fairy with bubbles, circus workshops and a free face painting artist.

There will also be a full equestrian

program including driven horses and ponies with carriages. The carnival will include rides, novelties, fairy floss and amusements, and lots of show bags.

Visitors are encouraged to spend the afternoon enjoying the selection of food and beverages available from vendors and at the grandstand live music will be performed by Imogen Price.

Motor enthusiasts can stroll the grounds viewing the Ute and 4x4 Show organised and hosted by Jarrod Withrow of Leongatha. The Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club will be nearby in front of the grandstand.

The show will also host an emergency vehicle display from SES and CFA

educating bystanders on their contribution to a safer community.

The committee would like to thank the sponsors for their generosity to the Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Show as well as Wonthaggi sub-branch RSL, Wonthaggi Evening View Club, Wonthaggi Angling Club, Wonthaggi Rotary Club and Inverloch CWA.

Entry forms for show shed exhibitors should be emailed to basscoastagshow@hotmail.com by Tuesday, January 2. Follow the events page on Facebook – Bass Coast – Wonthaggi Summer Show.

■ Photos: Chloe Smith Photography

Bass Coast Agricultural Show Wonthaggi

Saturday January 6th 2024 ~9am onwards

THE SHOW SHED

- Garden & Farm Produce Competition
- Scarecrows Competition
- Decorated Gumboots Competition
- Amateur Photography Competition
- Backyard Chooks & Much More

Horses, Donkeys
Animals Nursery
Street Theatre
Stilts, Clowns, Balloons
Tractors & Old Fashioned Equipment
Utes & 4X4
Carnival Side Shows
Show Bags, Show Food

VICTORIA State Government **BASS COAST** Follow us on facebook: Bass Coast - Wonthaggi Summer Show

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The master of jewels

DENIS Hawkins eyes sparkle as bright as the stones in his finest pieces as he recalls riding a few miles to a farm from his childhood home in Christchurch, to give a girl a ring.

Unfortunately, his friend got there before him, and nine-year-old Denis rode away on his bike feeling despondent.

It did however mark the beginning of another kind of love affair.

Hand crafting jewellery now for more than fifty years has been Denis's passion and he has made it his livelihood from South Gippsland, his permanent home since 1979.

"There was really nobody doing anything like this here. It's still rare because there's not many people who do it."

In his studio in Koonwarra, necklaces,

rings and bracelets are displayed on one wall, his workshop and tools of the trade take up another.

Denis sits by the window with a large white pad in front of him, scrawled with drawings, pen in hand.

"I get ideas and I'm forever drawing. There's this book of pages full of drawings. It's just all different ideas."

Denis allows creativity to flow from his hand onto the page and from the page to the metal and stones, from which his stunning masterpieces emerge.

These creations earn the jeweller work from clients from all over Australia and internationally, no need to advertise.

"I get people that want something handmade. They don't want it

made by machine," he explains.

Denis has a way of hunting down rare stones and an intuition about what clients might like, once sourcing untreated sapphires – a very rare find, and offering them to a client who couldn't resist.

Sapphires, rubies, diamonds and emeralds, with their colour and beauty charm the master's eye, and the Torrington Emerald is among his favourites.

"It is just distinct. It is greenish and has darker green stripes running through it. I've got some there - I'm very careful who I'd sell them to," said Denis, who refuses to sell his pieces if the energy of the person isn't right.

"A lot of my stones that I put out there or show people, they're not what you

see in the shops, they're quite unique quality."

Denis most enjoys creating with a blend of white gold and yellow gold and his work is painstakingly precise, intricate and stunning.

A recently finished ring of rose gold, mounted with an Argyle pink diamond and flanked by pink sapphires is breathtaking.

Now when Denis makes a ring for a girl, he never feels despondent, he gets to see the delight and awe on their faces when he presents them with their finished piece; and if he has managed to get into a state of flow while creating, it's even more satisfying.

"I'll think that was great, I really enjoyed that, and I do, I really enjoy making some of those pieces."

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GG036

Great Southern Rail Trail

Take the trail challenge in bite-sized pieces

Nyora

Loch

Korumburra

Leongatha

Koonwarra

Meeniyian

Tarwin

Stony Creek

Buffalo

Middle Tarwin

Fish Creek

Foster

Toora

Bennison

Port Franklin

21km extension between Welshpool and Alberton set to be concluded before year's end.



RAIL TRAIL CODE OF CONDUCT

- Respect other trail users.
- Respect the environment and neighbours.
- Slow down and warn when passing.
- Horses restricted to a trot.
- Keep dogs on lead.
- Do not disturb farm animals or wildlife (including birds, reptiles, etc).
- Keep to the trail.
- No fires.
- Do not drop cigarette butts.
- Take your rubbish home.
- Camp only in designated areas.
- Do not collect firewood.
- Use community toilets provided, not the trail, bush or farms.



LITERALLY the high point of the 108.8km Great Southern Rail Trail is the 12.4km section between Foster and Fish Creek where, halfway along, you'll find the sign to the Hoddle Range Lookout and the absolutely majestic views over Corner Inlet and Wilsons Promontory. But you have to work for it.

Both ways, out of Foster or coming from Fish Creek, there's a steady climb to negotiate before you can hop off and enjoy the view and somewhere along the way, you'll probably wish you had a pedal-assist e-bike to get you there.

Of course, there's a lot more to see and do along the length of the Great Southern Rail Trail, Australia's southernmost trail, and soon to be one of the longest, stretching 135km from Nyora to Yarram, with the missing link of 21km between Welshpool and Alberton set to be concluded before year's end.

Running all the way down the South Gippsland Rail Reserve, the route boasts superb rural vistas, especially overlooking Corner Inlet and Wilsons Prom and the string of delightful towns that once hosted railway stations along the way.

The new 21km section from Welshpool to Alberton, over some spectacular new bike and walking bridges, connects with a 13.8km section between Port Albert and Yarram, with the popular watering hole of the historic Alberton Hotel along the way.

The GSRT is one of the region's real treasures, having been pioneered in the late 1990s after the closure of the Great Southern Railway Line, initially as a way to retain the line for community use.

We've done that now, and who knows, in the future the line might one day host rail services again, with the rail trail running along beside it.

For now though, the Great Southern Rail Trail is there to be explored and it's best enjoyed in bite-sized pieces:

- Take the 15.4km section between Loch and Korumburra, enjoying the green rolling hills and grazing dairy cows along the way, while stopping for shopping at Loch and a pie at Kelly's Bakery or a beer at the Burra Brewing Co at the other end.
- The 8.2km section between Koonwarra and Meeniyian is another popular out-and-back route with the bridges over the Tarwin and the delights of Meeniyian's galleries and lunch spots the obvious destination.
- The Foster to Port Welshpool run, about 25km one way is a good flat ride that can also be attempted as an out-and-back ride of 50km-plus with the attraction of walking the Long Jetty at Port Welshpool and a fish'n'chip lunch for your efforts.

Wherever you go, check out the GSRT website which offers some helpful resources when planning your trip at gsrt.com.au



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South Gippsland's enchanting beach escapes

Endless stretches of immaculate sandy beaches, concealed coves, and breathtaking cliff-top trails adorned with charming coastal villages.

UNWIND and embrace the warmth of the sun on the glistening golden sands, or experience an exhilarating rush as you conquer the deep blue waves on your surfboard.

South Gippsland's beaches present a plethora of options for family-friendly swimming, featuring renowned spots like Cape Paterson, Inverloch Fore-shore, Kilcunda, Waratah Bay, Ander-son Inlet, and Port Welshpool.

The irresistible allure of these revered South Gippsland beaches is simply impossible to ignore.



Check off these beaches this summer:

- Cape Paterson
- Inverloch
- Port Welshpool
- Sandy Point
- Shallow Inlet
- Shelley Beach
- Walkerville
- Waratah Bay
- Venus Bay

Beaches of the Prom:

- Norman Beach
- Whisky Bay
- Squeaky Beach



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Walkerville Lime Kilns:

Discover the remnants of historic lime kilns along the beach at Walkerville, a fascinating glimpse into the region's industrial past.

Immerse yourself in hours of exploration along the coastline, discovering hidden rock pools and charming sandy coves. Whether you prefer leisurely walks, fishing, invigorating swims, or simply unwinding, there's something for everyone.

Gems of South Gippsland

These gems in South Gippsland promise a blend of natural beauty, history, and local charm, providing a unique and off-the-beaten-path experience for travellers.

Loch Suspension Bridge:

Suspended in the trees 12 metres above the beautiful Allsop's Creek, the Loch Suspension Bridge connects the township of Loch to the Memorial Reserve.

There's something special about the movement of a suspension bridge as you cross, which attracts people to Loch.

For a lovely short walk start at Sunnyside Park, pass through the picnic grounds, railway tunnel and past the historic railway siding.

Agnes Falls:

Explore South Gippsland's highest waterfall, Agnes Falls, nestled in a picturesque setting surrounded by lush vegetation.

A short 200 metre walking track leads from the car park to a viewing area overlooking the falls. Along the way watch for birds darting between bushes and the diverse range of vegetation present.

Rest on the seats provided and enjoy the view within the gorge.

Port Albert:

A historic fishing village with charming architecture, wharves, and maritime history, offering a peaceful escape by the water.

Blessed with extensive stretches of unspoiled coastline to the east, including the renowned Ninety Mile Beach, this town captivates the souls of those who revel in fishing, boating, and sailing pursuits as one of Victoria's first ports.

Tarra-Bulga National Park:

An enchanting rainforest with ancient ferns, towering eucalyptus trees, and scenic walking tracks. Walk under an emerald canopy of ancient myrtle beech pierced by thin shafts of sunlight.

Admire the graceful Corrigan's Suspension Bridge, stretching across the forest canopy and don't forget to pack a picnic to enjoy in one of the sheltered picnic sites.

Walks in the park vary from leisurely strolls to more difficult overnight hikes.

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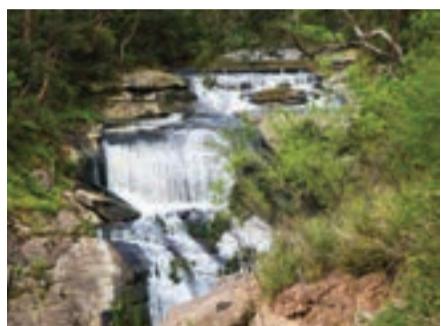
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Wilsons Promontory National Park:

Hidden gem with pristine beaches, diverse wildlife, and stunning coastal landscapes, offering hiking trails and secluded coves.

Pack a small bag for a day or hiking pack for a week escape, and don't forget all the essentials.

Cape Liptrap Coastal Park:

A less-explored coastal park with rugged cliffs, lighthouses, and hidden beaches, perfect for a peaceful coastal retreat.

Delight in the breathtaking vistas from the Cape Liptrap Lighthouse, offering panoramic views of turquoise waters. The straightforward, self-guided stroll not only showcases the scenic beauty but also provides insights into its historical importance.

Explore the mangroves bustling with unique birdlife.

Turtons Creek Reserve:

Serene reserve located between Foster and Mirboo North with walking trails, waterfall, and picnic spots, providing an off-the-beaten-path escape into nature.

Benefit both mind and body when you get outdoors to explore the giant eucalypts, mountain ash and blackwood trees.

Port Welshpool Long Jetty:

Stroll the 800m length of the Port Welshpool Long Jetty, Victoria's only curved jetty, which stretches into the waters of Corner Inlet.

It officially reopened in 2019 after major works revitalising its dilapidated structure, which had been damaged by fire and the ravages of the sea.

It's the perfect spot to cast a line and you might reel in some squid. There are ample fishing rod holders along the jetty's railing.

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EXPLORE SOUTH GIPPSLAND
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**SOUTH
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LAND**

South Gippsland is full of activities that can be enjoyed in summer by locals and visitors alike. Here are just a few suggestions of the many things there are to see and do.

Walk or cycle the Great Southern Rail Trail

The trail spans 107 km between Nyora and Port Welshpool. When you use the rail trail, don't forget to call into townships along the way to experience the friendliness and charm of country living.

Picnic at Agnes Falls Scenic Reserve

Take in the cascading falls from the viewing platform, an easy 200 metre walk from the car park (perfect for little legs). After, enjoy a packed lunch and relax in the grassy picnic ground beneath towering Eucalyptus, Blue Gums, leafy Blackwood and Silver Wattle trees.

Visit the Long Jetty in Port Welshpool

Take a walk along the Long Jetty which spans an impressive 800 metres from the shoreline to the channel. The structure is an attraction in itself but it's also a great spot to drop in a fishing line.

Explore the Walkerville Lime Kilns

Once a very important source of material for Melbourne's building industry, the Lime Kilns are now a historic relic located by the beach at Walkerville. Spend hours exploring the coastline of rock pools and little sandy coves, enjoy walking, fishing, swimming or simply relaxing.

For more ideas, please contact our friendly Visitor Information Centre team on 1800 630 704 or call in and say hello. The VIC is located in Foster (Main Street).

Or visit our website for event, accommodation, dining, touring or shopping information: www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au

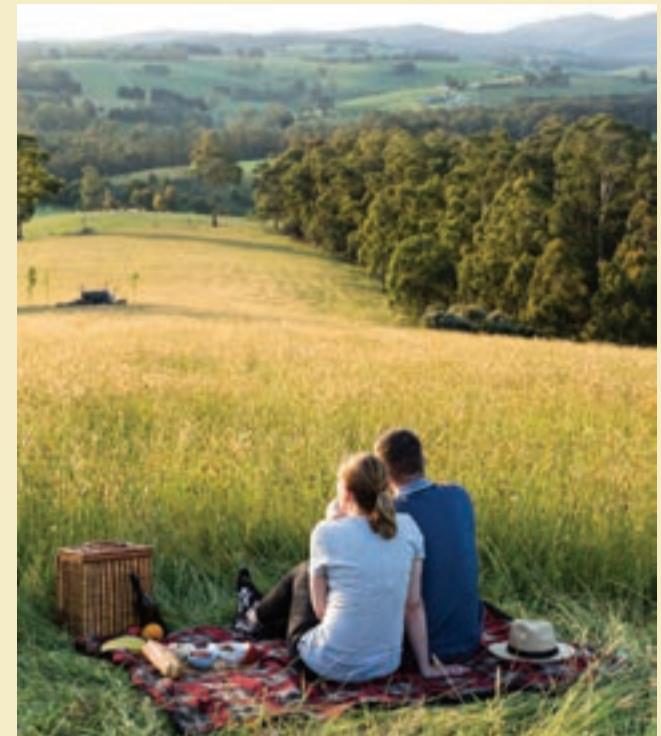
Here are some holiday ideas for the summer season. How many can you check off our to-do-list?

- 1. Visit Wilsons Promontory National Park
- 2. Experience Coal Creek (free entry)
- 3. Stroll through the Lyrebird Forest Walk
- 4. Walk to the top of Mount Nicoll
- 5. Drive the Grand Ridge Road
- 6. Discover the Walkerville lime kilns
- 7. Sample delicious boutique wine, beer, cider and spirits
- 8. Visit the Loch suspension bridge
- 9. Attend one of the regions many live performances and events
- 10. Fish along the banks of the Tarwin River
- 11. Visit our art galleries, exhibitions and events
- 12. Learn about Lennie Gwyther and his pony Ginger Mick
- 13. Explore our villages and sample amazing local produce
- 14. Walk the Point Smythe Nature Trail
- 15. Swim at our local beaches

visitsouthgippsland.com.au



Explore Cape Liptrap Coastal Park



Picnic at one of the many picturesque lookouts



Enjoy our regions warm hospitality



Discover the magic of the ArtCubes



Walk or ride the Great Southern Rail Trail



The old girl

THE memories stem to childhood, the old hot rods, rock n' roll skirts and adventures with the extended family. Sitting on Santa's lap at the Christmas party and learning to dance.

Electric cars may be the cool kid on the block, but there is still a large following where big blocks lie.

And as the summer heats up there is never a more perfect time to bring the old girls out.

Some are in perfect condition, others need some TLC, but there is no better feeling than the fresh sea air with the windows down as you drive along the Cape Paterson-Inverloch Road.

An ice-cream stop along the way with mates or fish n' chips by the beach.

Inland, the hills with sweeping views make for another spectacular cruise.

There's generally only two problems with an old girl – she doesn't like to go slow (or she overheats) and if she's still got the old drums she doesn't always stop on a dime.



SHOW N' SHINE

AFTER the roaring success of this year's Show 'N Shine and Swap Meet in Wonthaggi, the 2024 event is shaping up to be just as big on January 28.

Hundreds of classic and vintage vehicles are expected to be showcased again, with the competition and judging to be even tighter.

Over 45 stall holders will participate in the swap meet as part of the show; the biggest fundraiser for the Wonthaggi Football Netball Club.

Gates open 6am for Swap Meet stallholders, 7.30/8am gates open for car entrants and public.

Car and driver \$15 for judging /\$10 for car and driver no judging.

Everyone else (passengers and pedestrians) \$5 each.

Judging cut off 9:30am sharp!

Ten award categories including:

- Presidents Choice (best overall)
- Best Aussie Original
- Best Aussie Muscle
- Best Tuff Street
- Best Hot Rod
- Best Vintage – Pre 1950
- Best Bike
- Best Paint
- Best Interior
- Best Engine Bay



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flip'n for fun

these holidays

SUMMERSALT Gymnastics in Wonthaggi has the kid's fun covered over the school break, opening their summer holiday program from Monday, January 15.

Running programs to cater for a range of talent, owner Chelsea Caple has designed a convenient online timetable for parents to pre-register their children's gymnastics session.

With no experience required, regulars and visitors to the coast are welcome to come along and join in the flip'n good fun; a perfect indoor activity for a cold or rainy day, or a chance to keep the kids active and entertained.

Children will have access to the traditional gymnastics floor, participate in circuits and games as well as entry to the ninja course, inclusive of indoor trampolines and rock climbing.

The sessions for the lil-groms are designed to give them an opportunity to build their confidence, work on their concentration and fine-motor skills and use their imagination; all whilst having the time of their lives.

Two, one-hour sessions will run every Wednesday from 9.30am until 10.30am and 10.30am until 11.30am for children aged one-year to

pre-school; and on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, movement educators will run two, two-hour sessions for kinder to teens, from 9.30am until 11.30am and 11.30am until 1.30pm, plus a Wednesday session from 11.30am until 1.30pm.

"During our one-year to pre-school hour, parent supervision is required to help those little ones settle in and to give them a helping hand – having their parent or guardian there helps them build their confidence and enjoy their lesson," said Chelsea.

"However; the kinder to teens class will be held as a drop off session, giving parents the opportunity to drop and go; head out for a coffee or visit those local attractions that the kids just aren't up for."

Children will be supervised by Summersalt movement educators whilst they enjoy the fun of the summer program, helping them meet new friends and enjoy their summer school holidays.

The summer program will be \$17.50 for an hour session and \$32 for a two-hour session. Bookings can be made online summersaltgym.com.au. All participants are recommended to bring a drink bottle and socks for the bouncy trampolines.



"The summer holiday program gives our regular gymnasts more time on the floor over the holidays and teaches new students some fun and exciting new skills."



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Background image of a gymnasium with children performing acrobatics.



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STEVE Cousins is not just your average passionate business owning surfer, who also happens to skate and snowboard, he's also the highly skilled surfboard shaper at Vortex who started his journey as a hobbyist in his youth.

"Around 17/18 years old – we would shape boards in mates' garages," Steve smiled, recalling the early days of crafting surfboards.

After a hiatus, Steve established Vortex Surf Skate Snow in 2000.

"Running the store was a full-time job, but gradually we had the potential to shape our own, and we were frustrated with the availability and what we were paying for boards from Queensland from other brands," Steve explained.

Aiming to offer customised solutions for surfers dissatisfied with mass-produced boards, the motivation also stemmed from damaged boards during freight and the inability to cater to the specific needs of local surfers.

"We reached a point in 2015 and decided it was time. I had the staff in place in the shop to be able to spend the time to start shaping boards myself again."

Steve took a decisive step, dedicating time to handcrafting boards himself. The timing coinciding in 2020 with the

COVID boom, propelling Vortex into a period of full-time board building.

The process, from shaping to glassing, resin tints and finishing, meticulously done under one roof.

"We've found now that a majority of what we do are custom boards."

The shift towards customisation became a defining feature, constituting around 70-80 per cent of Vortex's production.

Steve engages with customers, understanding their surfing styles, preferences, and needs.

"I've been a surfer in the area since '86 – I know quite a lot of the customers in the water and I have an understanding of where they surf, how they surf and the needs of their equipment."

Sitting down and coming up with a board that will suit the individual rather than having to rely on a stock board is the level of personalisation that sets Vortex apart, empowering surfers to participate in the design process, from board shape to artwork and colour choices.

Steve's love for variety in board building is evident. From shaping young grommet boards to performance boards and longboards, the diversity keeps the craft interesting, along with surfboard

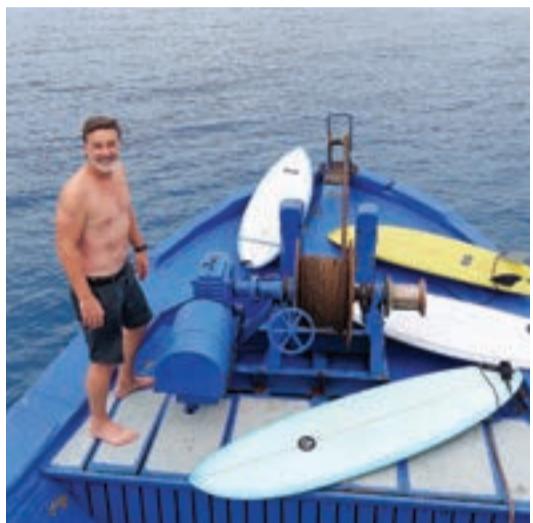
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repairs. The connection between the surfer and their board is crucial, and Steve emphasises the importance of continuous feedback for refinement.

"The creativity – to be able to create new models and boards that you can test and get the satisfaction of others using them and coming back with good feedback – it's a lot more personable than just selling a board from another company.

"Doing start to finish myself gives me complete control over the quality of my product ensuring they come out the way I want them and allows me to control all the elements. Sanding is replicating the shape of the board underneath. If it's not replicated, you end up with a completely different board than what you've spent

time and effort shaping."

Steve reveals that the time required for a board's completion varies, from approximately 14-15 hours for a standard shortboard up to 20 hours for a resin-tinted longboard. The process also includes a week for resin curing, ensuring the board is surfable and durable.

In a market flooded with commercial options, Vortex thrives on its independence and commitment to the local community with Vortex sponsoring surfers and events, nurturing local talent and contributing to the vibrant surfing culture.

Steve acknowledges the influence of community ties and the importance of local businesses in maintaining a sense

of connection and support.

"We walk down the beach a lot with the dog and some nights no matter the conditions you see kids and adults out learning to surf and they're absolutely stoked. I think sometimes we underestimate that period – it's the best surfing. As you get older and faster you don't always get the conditions and you get fussier! Yet at the start it could be a cyclone and it doesn't matter because mum is taking you to the beach!"

Steve also encourages surfers to recognise the value of working with the same shaper consistently, facilitating a nuanced understanding of individual needs and promoting a more rapid development in surfing ability.

"The beauty of surfboards is that

there's no perfect board for everyone. Everyone is individual and the perfect board changes as you progress and even as you get older. I don't think any surfer has ever said they've got too many boards," Steve laughed, noting there is always the option to trade-in if you reach that point.

And whilst pastel hues, particularly purples, are ladies' favourites this season, the men are less fussy – a white board doing the trick. The ever-changing landscape of surfboard designs reflects the diverse tastes and preferences within the surfing community.

"It doesn't matter what level you are at, it's just as much fun regardless – knowing I've built the boards that people are having a ball on, is really nice."

Venue Hours

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Thu & Fri 10am -11pm
Saturday 11am - 11pm
Sunday 11am - 10pm

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REGGIE'S



From Philippines to Phillip Island

PHILLIP Island Boardriders (PIBC) supergrom and 13-year-old Phoenix Stedman shares her passion for surfing from a young age, and her personal journey from the Philippines to Phillip Island.

Phoenix began surfing with her dad as a toddler, but really found her passion in the water at just seven years old, today riding a 5'5 Al Merrick Channel Island surfboard with Smiths Beach still her favourite break on the island.

"I love that every wave brings new excitement and a new experience," said Phoenix.

Phoenix's inspiration for surfing began with her father – a surfer from South Africa who moved to Siargao in the Philippines.

Phoenix shared that her family moved to Australia when she was only two years old. "Our family made the decision to live on Phillip Island to be close to friends and close to the surf, and Dad worked for Island Surfboards for many years after that.

"Surfing was always a part of my life and living that lifestyle I knew I wanted to be a part of a club, so I recently joined the PIBC. I love it, I've made so many friends, and everyone is really supportive of one another, plus there is always something new to learn."

Phoenix's Dad continues to work with surfboards, mainly working on ding repairs on Phillip Island and is a supportive mentor for Phoenix, with both of them sharing a passion for surfing.

"Dad and I still surf together, and he is always driving me so I can surf around the island.

"I am not sure what my future of surfing looks like, but I know that it is a sport that allows me to relax, to be myself with nothing around me and it will always be a part of my life. I'd also love to take a surf trip to the Philippines."

As well as her father, Phoenix is inspired by Australian professional surfer Sally Fitzgibbons, and hopes to one day meet her in person.



Restoration of Humber Super Snipe Series I (1959)

I BOUGHT this car for scrap value (\$150) from an associate of mine whom I thought was restoring it but, was in fact stripping the best parts from it for his own Humbers. He found the car on a property in Pakenham, where it had been used as a paddock bomb, so after the differential collapsed it was left where it stopped.

Other Humber enthusiasts came by and purchased the engine, transmission, the entire dash panel including all instruments and anything else they wanted, so by the time I got the car, all that was left was a complete body (albeit straight and rust free) with a good interior.

I chose this car to restore simply because there are no more, there are no new ones being made and, having previously owned Humbers before, I was quite comfortable

and confident in getting it done. A little of the 'Lame Duck Syndrome' may have crept in also.

Humber mechanical parts are very hard to come by and very expensive, so a few alterations have been implemented, such as a Ford XT rear end, Tri-Matic auto transmission and a Holden V8 engine. These engines have proved themselves time and again on the world stage of Bathurst, are plentiful and inexpensive to overhaul and maintain.

Another front cross member has been obtained, due to the original one being severely twisted due to bush bashing and has been fitted with later model disc brakes. All pins and bushes for the front suspension were sourced from the Netherlands, luckily most

other parts can be supplied courtesy of Ford and General Motors.

Most of the mechanical work has been done, including the wiring, and making and installation of a traditional wood dashboard.

Interior and bodywork is next with the intention of the vehicle displaying a stock standard appearance to keep the purists happy while having an upgraded performance index to allow more agility round the hills and bends of beautiful South Gippsland, which will make me very happy!

The South Gippsland branch of Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Inc are hosting their 39th annual Swap Meet on January 14 with vintage and classic car display and plenty of other goodies on offer.



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39th Annual SWAP MEET

GATES OPEN 6am

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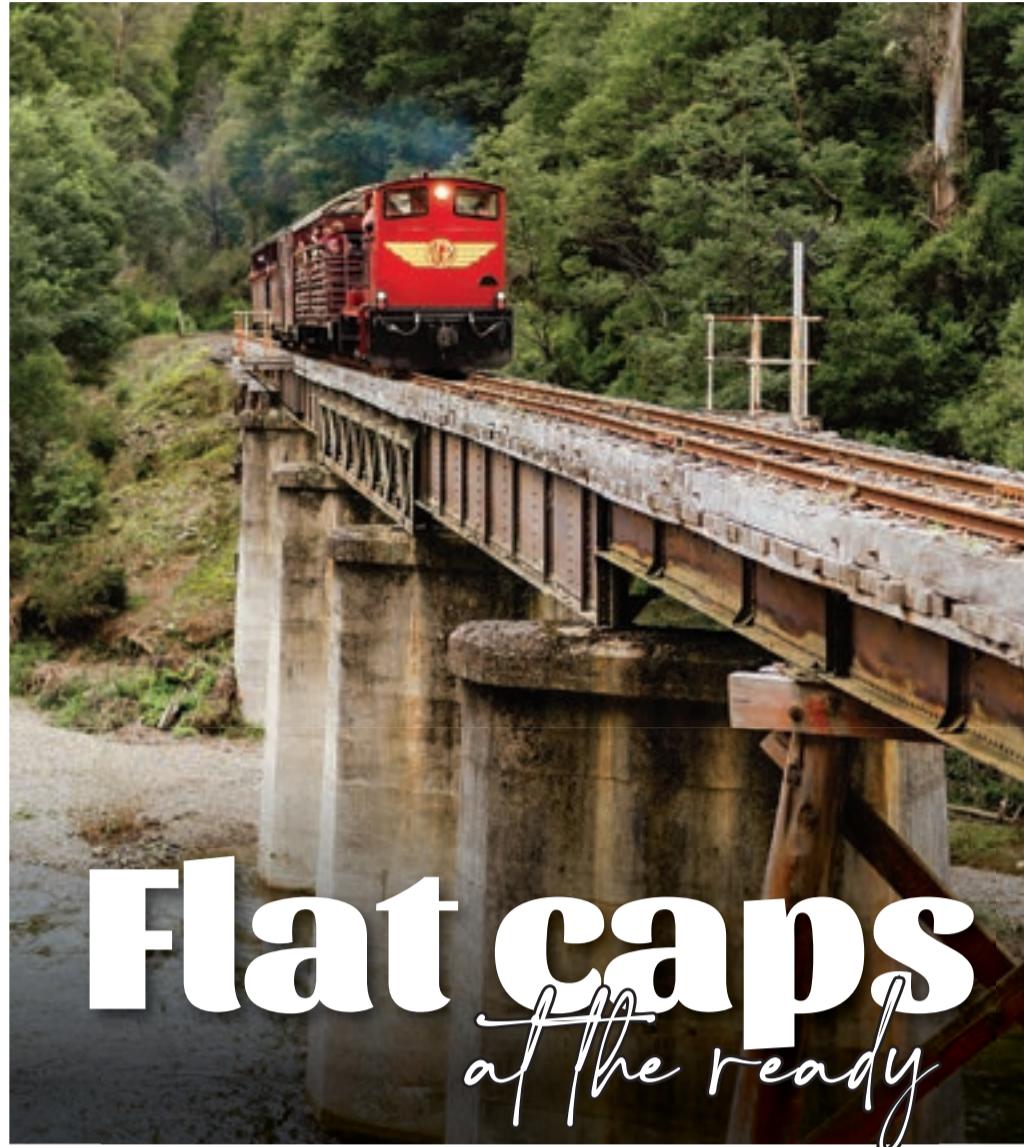
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GG930



Flat caps at the ready

THE antique whistle blew, and the wheels began to turn, I settled into my seat aboard the Walhalla Goldfields Railway, embarking on a journey through time; we were headed in search of gold.

Well perhaps not, but in our minds anything was possible.

Carrying us along the tracks, the rhythmic chugging of the locomotive and birds in the treetops fill one's ears whilst the panoramic views of Stringers Creek Valley unfolds below.

We bid farewell to the remnants of the old gold mines and hello to nature at its finest.

Descending the steep grades, pass through the old dense eucalypt forests, round bends and along the narrow-gauge tracks.

In 1862, the glittering promise of gold

first embraced Walhalla, sparking nearly five decades of prolific gold production extracted from the depths of underground mines.

The town's profound isolation imposed exorbitant transportation costs for vital mining supplies, firewood, and town provisions, and as the 1870s dawned, Walhalla pressed for their own rail connection.

A plea that went unheard for three decades until 1900 when State Government approval was finally granted.

Construction of the 44-kilometre line from Moe commence in 1904, taking shape in the narrow gauge to save money – like that of three other lines including 'Puffing Billy' in the Dandenong Ranges.

The project reached its culmination in early 1910, with the final leg extending

beyond Erica demanding a plethora of bridges and cuttings through the rugged mountains of the district.

On May 3, 1910, the railway was formally opened, and services commenced, with an expectation that it would support Walhalla to a new age of prosperity.

Unfortunately, the mines had gradually become uneconomic and only a year later the Long Tunnel Extended Mine closed with the Long Tunnel Mine following in 1914.

Special trains packed with visitors ran until 1941 before the final section of line between Moe and Erica closed in 1954.

By 1991, the former railway was eclipsed by trees, undergrowth and landslides, however, that same year the Walhalla Railway Taskforce set about reconstructing the line from

Erica to Walhalla.

The rest as they say is history...

Before one's eyes the landscape transforms to emerald green and the rhythmic clatter of the wheels on the tracks as sturdy trestle bridges span deep ravines and tracks cling to the mountainside.

As the engine slows the forest breaks and the sun permeates the carriage – the bridge into Thompson Station.

On arrival in Thompson we headed down to the river – dipping our toes in the water and snapping pictures before we clambered back on board for our onward journey home.

The Walhalla Goldfields Railway had become a time machine, transporting us back to an era of dreams and determination, where the promise of gold shimmers on the horizon.





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Ride Victoria's Most Scenic Railway



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Bring the family for an enjoyable day out.



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Ranger Dan's

THE holidays may be upon us, but whether staying for a week or day tripping, it has never been a better time to pop on the hiking shoes, grab your backpack of supplies and hit the Prom.

Millers Landing Nature Walk

Starting at the Five Mile car park meander through banksia and stringybark woodlands as you head north to Corner Inlet and Millers Landing.

Taking in the southernmost stand of white mangroves in the world, the inlet is a haven for migratory birds.

The walk is an easy grade two hike of four kilometres that should take walkers 1.5 hours return. Note there are no facilities available at either the car park (only a couple of picnic tables) or along the track and people are advised to ensure they have sufficient supplies including warm clothes should the weather change, and plenty of water.

For those looking to extend their walk head east at the junction on your return and include Vereker Outlook Walk.

Vereker Outlook Walk

Follow the trail through open banksia woodland, past unique grass trees and up the spectacularly balanced boulders of Vereker Outlook from the Five Mile car park.

A grade three, six-kilometre walk (approximately two hour return) the outlook takes in the panoramic views across Wilsons Promontory and Corner Inlet including Darby Saddle and Cotters Beach.

Similar to the Millers Landing track, ensure you have sufficient supplies and beware of unprotected cliffs.

HIDDEN PROM GEMS



"Both these locations are unique at the Prom and very different," Wilsons Promontory National Park Ranger Team Leader Dan explained.

"They provide a different context to the coastline of the national park. Most people associate the white sandy beaches, forests and granite rocky shoreline.

"Millers Landing is very much a mangrove/mudflat at the bottom end of Corner Inlet – quite sheltered. There are lots of wading and breeding birds, and the mangroves are unique in their own right providing a variety of habitats for breeding fish, seahorses, migratory birds and other plants and wildlife. There is a different species of banksia located at Millers Landing (Saw Banksia) that you would not normally see around Tidal River.

"You could also take an off-road wheelchair quite happily along the track to Millers Landing. In dry northern weather, Millers' can get pretty hot, so ensure you have plenty of water.

"Vereker Outlook offers some pretty expansive views over the top third of the park – it's a very beautiful location, and a bit more of a hike uphill therefore lends itself to those who are more able. Vereker would be easier than Mt Oberon (for those who are familiar with the summit walk) however, it is very much a walking trail (as opposed to the vehicle management track of Oberon).

"The higher you climb the more granite boulders you will encounter."

Visitors will also be able to see the new shoots and fresh foliage after ecological burns earlier this year.

Photos: Parks Victoria

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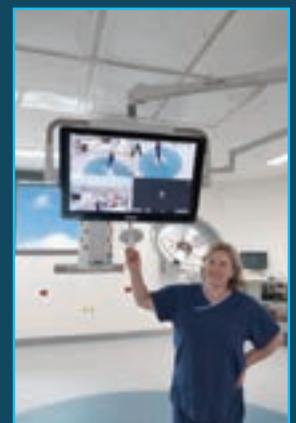
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Bass Coast Health

Nick Barker *presents* **Exoskeleton**

CARAVAN Music and the Archies Creek Hotel proudly present Nick Barker and The Fading Lights with special guests Sean McMahon and The Owls on Saturday, January 6.

Barker made the album with his good friend and producer Shane O'Mara.

"Nick is a singular musician with a unique approach," Shane says.

"The sound of the guitar and bass are remarkable – wandering, tough bass lines, and incredible angular, sinewy guitar. And, of course, the arrow-straight vocal makes you take notice and listen. This was such a rewarding album to make. I found the songs heartfelt, captivating and musically always surprising."

"If you saw us in a 17th century London Street," Barker says, "I'd be the raggedy-arsed beggar and Shane would be the well-dressed court troubadour. But he's a great producer, he just freed me up and let me do my thing."

Lyrically, the record is raw and revealing.

"The lyrics are a lot darker," Barker explains. "I wasn't joking around as much."

"You want it easy," he sings in 'Hand in The Lake', one of the album's many stand-out tracks, "but I don't do easy."

"I guess I was trying to theme the record. I was going for set pieces. To me, this album is about the lyrics – I wanted the music to match the emotion."

Exoskeleton features Barker's most personal song to date, 'Unravelling World' – the first time he's written about the passing of his mother, a seismic event that rocked

his world when he was still a teenager.

The artist frames the song as a letter.

"Dear Mum," he sings, "I got scared when you died... and I still feel like a kid feels."

"The song was a long time coming," Barker notes.

"That's what songwriting is to me now – it's confessional. You go in and you go, 'Right, if you won't tell anyone else, then tell yourself.'

"This record is a lot of that. There's a lot of shouting at the mirror. Let's face it, as you get older, that's all that's left really. Instead of being an insular, inward-gazing teenager, you're that but as a middle-aged man," the singer laughs.

"That creative midlife crisis: just shouting at your younger self."

After his mum's death, Barker left home, relocating to a squat in St Kilda.

"It was a bleak time in a lot of ways," he reflects.

"But it made me who I am, and it's a path I probably would have gone down even if I had the choice now."

Exoskeleton comes 35 years after Barker's first single with the Reptiles, 'Another Me'. It's been a long, strange trip, with many highs and lows in between, countless nights on the road, as well as writing songs with Paul Kelly, Jimmy Barnes, Mick Thomas, Felicity Urquhart and, yes, Tim Rogers.

And the artist has accumulated a few scars along the way.

Nick Barker delivers one of the finest albums of his career with tickets available at archiescreekhotel.com.au





The ARCHIES CREEK HOTEL

AND THE CARAVAN MUSIC CLUB PRESENT

Jan

- SUN 31 DEC NYE BALL FEATURING KYLIE AULDIST & 7 PIECE BAND
- MON 1 JAN NEW YEARS DAY WITH MICK THOMAS' ROVING COMMISSION, BLACKBIRDS FC • MISTY HARLOWE TRIO
- SAT 6 JAN NICK BARKER & THE FADING LIGHTS ALBUM LAUNCH
- SUN 7 JAN THE BLACK SORROWS
- SAT 13 JAN ASH GRUNWALD
- SUN 14 JAN ELLA HOOPER & BAND
- SUN 21 JAN THE MUSIC OF ENNIO MORRICONE & THE SPAGHETTI WEST
- SUN 28 JAN RICHARD CLAPTON
- SAT 3 FEB SNARSKICIRCUSLINDYBAND
- SUN 4 FEB FRANK YAMMA • DAVID BRIDIE
- SUN 4 FEB CLAYMORE & DARREN COGGAN
- SUN 18 FEB MODELS
- SAT 24 FEB CHECKERBOARD LOUNGE
- SAT 24 FEB CLAIRE ANNE TAYLOR • JETHRO PICKETT
- SUN 25 FEB LUKA BLOOM
- SAT 16 MAR GABY MORENO
- SUN 17 MAR MIA DYSON
- THU 21 MAR DON WALKER & BAND
- SUN 24 MAR STEVE POLTZ

Feb

Mar

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Look after yourself this summer

It can be a hectic time for a lot of us and sometimes our body and mind get a little neglected. Here are some little tips from Coasting SUP to keep your body and mind healthy this summer.



1. STAY HYDRATED

Summer is the sun's time to shine. It is important that you make sure your body is prepared to keep your body functioning optimally in the warmer weather.

The Victorian Government recommends 2L a day depending on your age and gender. Keep it interesting, add frozen berries or lemon/lime juice to keep you refreshed.

2. GET YOUR REST

Summertime in Australia is also our festive season. So your normal schedule may be thrown out the window. It's important to make sure that you're not only getting enough sleep, but taking the time out to look after your mind.

Set aside five minutes every day (maybe before bed) to do some deep breathing and/or meditation.

3. MOVE YOUR BODY

With the sun shining and the rain clouds keeping at bay it's the perfect time to try some new activities. Stand Up Paddleboarding is the perfect chance to make the most of the calm sea breezes and warm weather.

Coasting for women and teens session is designed to equip you with all the know how to get out on the water through a new skill and move your body.

4. CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Whether it be catching up for a morning walk and coffee with friends you've been meaning to catch up with for months or making time to spend time with family and loved ones. Make sure it's on the top of your list.

5. WEAR SUNSCREEN

The Australian sun is known for its harshness. Make sure you're looking after your skin so it can remain healthy for years to come.

SLIP - SLOP - SLAP - SEEK - SLIDE



WONTHAGGI LIFE SAVING CLUB

Home of the famous Cape Paterson Bay Beach Rock Pool

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB THIS SUMMER

NIPPERS

BEACH & LIFESAVING PROGRAM FOR 5 TO 13 YEAR OLDS

The Nipper Program is held at the Wonthaggi Life Saving Clubhouse on the following dates and times:

December 2023

Friday 29

January 2024

Monday 1, Wednesday 3, Friday 5, Monday 8, Wednesday 10, Friday 12, Monday 15, Wednesday 17, Monday 22, Wednesday 24, Friday 26

Club Champions (A fun competition for Nippers through to Masters)
Saturday, January 13 – Registration 9.30am for 10am start

Nipper sessions run from 9.30am to 11am, plus time at the conclusion of the session to pack up.

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHTS

Bring a chair or picnic rug

HELD IN THE PARK BESIDE THE WONTHAGGI LIFE SAVING CLUB HALL

Starting approx. 8.30pm

(weather permitting)

Friday nights

January 5, 12, 19, 26

(Movie TBA)

HOY

FAMILY CARD FUN NIGHTS 7.30PM - 9.30PM

Thursday, December 28

Tuesday, January 2

Thursday, January 4

Tuesday, January 9,

Thursday, January 11

Tuesday, January 16

Thursday, January 18

Tuesday, January 23

Thursday January 25

COFFEE SHOP

Wonthaggi Life Saving Club
Open daily through January
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The park radiates a calm, country vibe, contributing to its appeal as a relaxing city escape.

Everything you need at Inverloch's Big4 Holiday Park

A FAMILY friendly getaway in one of Bass Coast's premium tourism destinations – Inverloch – awaits.

Picture yourself soaking in the sun, the beach right on your doorstep, and the children completely entertained for hours on end.

All this and more are on offer at Inverloch's Big4 Ingenia Holiday Park.

Pack your bags, make the journey to the Anderson Inlet park, and leave all your worries at the gate whilst enjoying the best of the coastal experience.

Situated on 10 acres of land – offering 120 sites and 60 cabins – the Big4 Holiday Park is a hub of activity and is quickly booking out for the summer.

Its features are sure to delight the

whole family.

Children and their families can spend hours honing their skills on the basketball court, getting the adrenaline going on the BMX track, exerting energy on the jumping pillow, and making a splash at the water park and indoor heated swimming pool.

An adventure playground is also a significant feature for the little ones.

The holiday park is also excitedly awaiting the opening of its mini golf course, which is expected to be operational in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

The park radiates a calm, country vibe, contributing to its appeal as a relaxing city escape.

Stay in one of the luxurious villas with spacious bedrooms, and fully equipped bathrooms and kitchens, or spoil yourself with the "glamping" experience in one of the eco glamping tents.

Otherwise, check out the range of sites for caravans and tents to make the experience entirely your own.

Assistant park manager Kate Ferguson said children and parents alike have loved spending their summer holidays at the park.

"People like staying here because we are fully enclosed. We are a gated park, which parents appreciate," she said.

"There's plenty of entertainment, and we're close to the beach and local

amenities – differing from a lot of caravan parks that are usually located on the way out of town."

The park is fully equipped with amenities for its holidaymakers.

Cooking facilities are located on site, with barbecues scattered around the park and the foreshore.

There are six amenities blocks within the park, including disabled access bathrooms and laundries.

Kate said many park visitors take the opportunity to explore the wider area, often making day trips over to Phillip Island to catch the Penguin Parade, or to see the sights at Wilsons Promontory.

Be quick to make a booking and enjoy a summer by the sea.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY at Big4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch

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Parks**



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HM11034



Explore taste sensations at Pearl Inverloch

FOR an exquisite dining experience, Pearl Inverloch is top of the list.

Nestled in a coastal haven in Lindsey Close, Pearl offers its diners a quiet getaway within one of Bass Coast's tourism hotspots.

Pearl recently launched its summer menu – a selection of delicious meals just light enough to enjoy on a warm summer's night, paired with the perfect refreshment.

Pearl's menu includes a range of Asian fusion dishes, including the return of crowd favourite Beef Rendang.

Weekly specials offer diners tempting new delights and the chance to find a new favourite such as char-grilled scallops and morish oysters.

Professional and friendly staff are another feature of the restaurant – they are welcoming and on hand to advise diners the best way to enjoy the shared dining menu.

Entrees are served much like tapas, and two or three dishes are best enjoyed when they are shared around the table.

Finish off the stunning meal with the perfect palate cleanser – a choice from the dessert menu.

Using seasonal ingredients, the fresh desserts are playful with every bite.

The flavours at Pearl are bold, the presentation picture-perfect, and the relaxed holiday vibe will transport you to exotic destinations.

Pearl prides itself on quality and consistency throughout its menu, delivering innovative food to highly satisfied customers.

To truly enjoy the city-escape and the coastal atmosphere, Pearl offers a courtyard sitting area for its diners.

Shaded by umbrellas and surrounded by the stunning natural environment, Pearl offers a true retreat in an idyllic location.

There is more to delight than the food and dining experience, Pearl collaborates with local artists to exhibit fabulous works of art in its halls adding another dimension to the idea of the local restaurant.

A metal sculptor and two painters

display their works at the venue, offering a thought-provoking treat and an aesthetically beautiful atmosphere for diners.

Whilst Pearl is the ultimate destination for a date night, anniversary or special occasion, the establishment caters for the whole family and features a separate menu that is sure to delight the children.

Pearl is open five days a week from Tuesday to Saturday, with more time slots potentially opening through the summer.

Come along, enjoy a drink and immerse yourself in the wonders of Pearl's light and vibrant summer menu.

Asian-inspired restaurant



Pearl

HOURS // DINNER
Tuesday - Saturday:
From 5:00pm

Bookings recommended

**SO JOIN US AT THE
BEST-KEPT SECRET...**



Racing your way *at Stony Creek and Woolamai*

THE summer of racing at the popular local racecourses of Stony Creek and Woolamai really starts to gain some momentum between Christmas and New Year when Stony Creek hosts its Family Day on Friday, December 29 and Woolamai Picnic Races, it's party day on Saturday, December 30.

Stony Creek is the place to be on Friday the 29th of December, to kick off the New Year's long weekend with a big day of family-friendly fun at one of Victoria's iconic country racetracks.

The kids will be kept entertained all day with:

- Kelly Sports supervised activities,
- Funky Farm wildlife shows and encounters,
- Little Ryders Pony Rides, and
- Airy Fairy face painting.

In between races the lawn will be rocking with local duo The Times performing. And you can get lunch at your choice of food trucks cooking up a range of cuisines.

With family and group marquee packages on offer including food and drink, it's the hassle free way to enjoy one of the region's best day outs!

Following that Stony Creek has another four days to go to the races:

• **Tuesday, January 9** 'Pink Roses Day' again with fun for the kids and live music and the feature Influence Clothing 'Fashions on the Field' competition for lucrative prizes.

• **Thursday, January 18** is your answer to a day full of family-friendly entertainment for the school holidays with racing action and live music for mum and dad, and the kids catered for with some fun entertainment all day.

• **Tuesday, February 6** is Publicans' Race Day which is an important day on the Victorian racing calendar with Stony Creek hosting the main provincial race meeting on the day. It's also the annual get-together of local pubs and clubs at the Publicans' Luncheon. The highlight

of the afternoon is the friendly Punters Competition, where pubs battle it out aiming to raise money for local charities and community groups. And there's a trophy and bragging rights for the winner! There's a buffet lunch and live music by Imogen Price all for the one low price of \$40.

• **Sunday, March 10**, the Labour-Day long weekend it's the time-honoured The Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup with the Influence Clothing 'Fashions on the Field' competition a feature. There's also Funky Farm Wildlife, Airy Fairy face painting, roving entertainers, food trucks on site, live music and more. Join the celebrations in the Trackside Party marquee, or President's Luncheon - both providing a hassle-free way to enjoy one of the region's biggest days!

Woolamai Races

The Woolamai Picnic Races is off and running for the season and there's a full

program of five more meetings to come over the holidays and right through to March.

There is literally no better place to enjoy a day at the races than under the majestic old elm trees on the course, with a picnic lunch and the action right there, beside you on the rails.

It's horse racing at its best beside the spectacular Bass Hills, just a short drive from local beach locations or better yet, jump aboard the buses leaving from Phillip Island and Wonthaggi.

Upcoming dates at Woolamai:

- Holiday Weekend Races, Saturday, December 30.
- Woolamai Kids' Day Out, Saturday, January 13.
- Alex Scott & Staff Woolamai Cup, Saturday, February 3.
- Woolamai Whirlwind Race Day, Tuesday, February 13.
- Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day, Sunday, March 17.

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STONY CREEK RACES

SUMMER SERIES
FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER
TUESDAY 9 JANUARY
THURSDAY 18 JANUARY
LADBROKES STONY CREEK CUP
SUNDAY 10 MARCH

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Bus services from local & nearby coastal towns.*

STONY CREEK RACING CLUB - SOUTH GIPPSLAND HWY



wine and dine

to the sound of vinyl records

EIGHT years since stepping into their own label of Fleet wines, Justin and Lisa Jenkins are serving the community and visitors abroad in their very own Cellar Door overlooking the rolling hills of South Gippsland.

With a passion for collectable vinyl records, fine wine, and gourmet food – Justin and Lisa moved themselves back into the business of hospitality – only this time they're pouring their very own collection of Fleet wines.

Their renowned range of Fleet Rosé, Syrah, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Pinot Gris comes from their extensive experience in the hospitality industry, and from Cup Weekend 2023 Justin and Lisa opened their Cellar Door pairing their favourite drop with a sustainably sourced menu.

From paddock to plate the Jenkins have curated a charcuterie selection

of gourmet cheeses, terrine and cured meats, and patrons are welcome to dine indoors amongst the beautiful natural interior that showcases the rich history of the winemaking process, or setup outside shaded amongst the trees.

Designed to effortlessly blend into the rural landscape, the Fleet Cellar Door sits amongst the vineyard in the cool-climate wine region; a pet-friendly space on 55-acres of land with sweeping views.

“For those who aren’t necessarily wine lovers, we’re also serving gin and beers from our friends at Burra Brewery and Sailors Graves,” said Justin, “and we’re extending our opening hours over summer, open Wednesday to Sunday from December 27 until January 21.”

The Jenkins have nearly a decade of

experience producing wine; currently harvesting their grapes from a vineyard on the other side of Leongatha, that was planted in the early 90’s.

The couple have already planted 10 acres on the grounds of their South Gippsland property with the first junior vine to be ready for harvest in 2025 and have been shortlisted as the Best New Winery for the 2024 James Halliday Wine Companion Awards.

“Lisa and I are taking our skills of 30 years combined experience in hospitality and fostering local hospitality culture.”

To share in this journey with the Jenkins on Boonwurrung Country visit the Fleet Wines Cellar Door at 154 Old Korumburra Road, Leongatha from 12pm until 5pm. fleetwines.com.au

■ Photos: Cam Suttie from Know Studio



Cellar Door now open

Fleet

Fleet Wine Cellar Door –
sign up to our newsletter for
updates at fleetwines.com.au

154 Old Korumburra Rd
Leongatha 3953

EVER
^
EVE

Ranger Matt's favourite escapes

There has never been a better time to head outdoors and venture in your own backyard.

1. Wonthaggi Heathland (Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park)

The Wonthaggi Heathland is one of the area's hidden gems. It is very diverse, with a wide variety of vegetation communities, including wet and dry heath, coastal scrub, wetlands and woodland environments.

The thing I love most about the heathlands is its diversity of native plants and animals so close to the coast. You can find yourself surrounded by wildflowers and the sound of birds or tucked away in the coastal scrub listening to the sounds of the ocean.

There are many tracks and trails throughout the heathland, which can be accessed from Chisholm Road and the end of Reed Crescent in Wonthaggi. The track and trail network in the heathland is quite extensive. I'd suggest carrying plenty of food and water and using a mapping program on your phone to keep an eye on your location throughout the walk to ensure you make it back to your car safely. Dogs are permitted on the walk, but they must be always on a lead.

2. Screw Creek - Townsend Bluff Estuary Walk (Anderson Inlet Coastal Reserve)

One of the area's most popular short walks, the Screw Creek - Townsend Bluff Estuary Walk takes you along the edge of a pristine estuarine environment up to a beautiful vantage point on top of the bluff with views over Anderson Inlet, Point Smythe and Venus Bay.

This is a short walk, but sturdy footwear is recommended. Along your journey, you will encounter healthy stands of mangroves, saltmarsh, and estuarine wetland environments and notice the everchanging colours of Screw Creek and Anderson Inlet.

If you visit on a windy day, I recommend taking time to watch the grass tussocks along the southern side of the

screw bridge move in the wind.

The best location to access the walk is from the carpark located at the eastern end of the Inverloch Foreshore Caravan Park. Dogs are allowed on a lead on the designated walking track, but not on the adjoining beach, which is an important area for beach nesting birds.

3. Eagles Nest (Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park)

Eagles Nest is one of the region's most visited locations for good reason. Found within Bunurong Marine National Park, this location is home to a unique rock stack, that can be viewed from several locations along the Bunurong Coast and is popular with photographers.

The best place to view this rock stack is from the lookout at the southern point of Eagles Nest. The site is incredible at low tide, as you can explore the extensive rock platform, rock pools and look at the diverse marine life in the area.

Located within the Marine National Park, this area is a no-take zone, so nothing except your rubbish can be taken from this location. Please don't bring your furry friends - dogs are not permitted at this site.

4. Shack Bay (Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park)

Shack Bay is found within the Bunurong Marine National Park. The location is named after the site's former coastal shacks, that were built during a Wonthaggi Coalmining Strike and dismantled in 1977.

Shack Bay is home to a beautiful marine environment and beach, that is surrounded by towering, weathered cliffs. It's a great spot to view the western side of the Eagles Nest rock stack.

On your walk to the site's lookout, you will walk past some beautiful She-oaks before discovering an amazing view which looks across the protected embayment and cliffs.



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Mates Zesty Mule

60ml Zesty Mates Gin
15ml lime juice
8 little wedges of lemon
6-8 mint leaves
Mint and lemon infused ice cubes
Ginger Beer
Lemon and mint for garnish

Place Mates Zesty Gin, lime juice, wedges of lemon and mint leaves into a gin glass and muddle.

Add two ice cubes infused with mint and lemon pieces into the glass.

Top with ginger beer and garnish with a slice of lemon and mint.

FOR MATES *by Mates*

ON THE outskirts of Wonthaggi, Mates Gin is making waves, not just for its exceptional spirits but for its commitment to making a positive impact.

Founded by Kim Richardson, a visionary with a passion for giving back, Mates Gin is more than just a distillery—it's a social enterprise dedicated to supporting charitable causes.

"It all came about because I wanted to be able to do more for charities," Kim shared of the origin of the venture.

With a background in accounting, Kim sought a business that could be profitable enough to fulfill her desire to contribute to various causes, whilst still being feasible with the idea crystallising during COVID-19 lockdowns when the popularity of gin soared, and support for local businesses became crucial.

The pivotal moment came when Kim read a book by distilling expert Marcel Thompson called "Still Magic." Intrigued and filled with questions, Kim reached out to Marcel for guidance.

What unfolded was an incredible mentorship that led to Mates first two stills being lent by Marcel.

"Marcel has been very instrumental in getting us up and running," Kim

emphasised, noting that both Marcel and the industry as a whole are incredibly open to sharing what has worked, what hasn't and all the challenges in between.

Supported by skilled mates, including local pharmacist Everett O'Keeffe, Mates Gin is going from strength to strength.

Mates Gin operates on a unique principle—50 per cent of its profits go to charities, as Kim explains, "we can donate to any charity."

From local fundraisers to national initiatives including the Dream Big Australia Foundation, which provides positive experiences for underprivileged children, this approach allows them to support a variety of causes.

Fostering a sense of community, Kim highlighted one recent collaboration made possible through Berry Street has supported a child's year of music tuition on the piano.

The distillery not only crafts exceptional gins but is genuinely proud to be positively impacting the community.

"We recently donated all the gin for Timmy's fundraiser at Cape Tavern, which allowed 100 per cent of funds to go to Timmy."

The journey has been filled with challenges, from sourcing stills during COVID-19 to navigating the complexities of setting up a distillery, but it has all been possible through the hard work and connections of mates.

The recent addition of Gloria, a state-of-the-art still, marks a significant step forward, allowing for increased production and efficiency.

As Mates Gin opens its doors to the public, visitors can enjoy gin flights, cocktails, and a curated menu featuring local products. The distillery also plans to offer tours and behind-the-scenes tastings in the future, providing an immersive experience for gin enthusiasts.

There are currently three gins, the Signature Bass Dry, Zesty Mates, and Miners Pick, offering a diverse range of flavours. A fourth is exclusive to Founding Members, of which memberships are still available.

Both Kim and Everett's personal favourite, Miners Pick, is described as a complex and well-rounded gin with earthy tones.

"Our signature Bass Dry is a classic dry style gin with elderberry and lemon. It's bottled at 39.95 per cent, as that's the postcode," Kim smiled,

pointing out the motif is the State Coal Mine poppet head.

"Our second gin is our Zesty Mates – infused with lime, orange and a pepper berry finish. Bottled at 43.2 per cent – because Marcel said so!

"And our third is our Miners Pick, which has very earthy flavours – cardamom with a grapefruit and liquorice finish. It's bottled at 51.7 per cent because we wanted to have an overproof gin (50 per cent) and the 1.7 per cent is because the coal mine produced 1.7 million tonnes of coal."

At Mates it's the little nuances that matter.

The distillery also plans to experiment with new botanicals, hinting at exciting releases in the future.

Happy hours are on every Friday between 5pm-7pm and a selection of complementary local produce is also on offer – including Burra Beer, Harman and Dirty Three Wines, Bassine Cheese and Wanderlust Chefs; everyone's tastes are catered for.

With every sip, patrons not only enjoy exceptional spirits but also contribute to a greater cause, making Mates Gin a distillery with a purpose and a story worth toasting to.

Where something for you creates something for others



Locally made unique craft gin

Offering Mates Gin flights – sample each of our locally made gins, selection of cocktails, local beer, wine and food

Friday 4 – 8pm,
Saturday and Sunday 1 – 5pm

13b Inverloch Road, Wonthaggi | www.matesgin.com.au

Discover... the Waterline

Bass Coast's Waterline is home to beautiful fauna and flora, breath-taking scenic lookouts, spectacular walking trails and of course its pristine bay. There is a lot to explore, especially for the nature lover. Each of these towns has plenty to offer and are a perfect destination for a day trip!



Photos courtesy Anna Carson • Seabræ Photos

Corinella

CORINELLA is known for its fishing and for good reason. It boasts four new boat ramps, a designated area for cleaning fish and a long jetty, all of which can be accessed via Peters Street.

Bait and tackle for fishing can be purchased at the town's general store. Many find a good catch off of the jetty or by taking the boat out. As a fishing spot, in the summer months, it can get very busy.

The new area for cleaning fish has brought more pelicans to the town, as fisherman feed off cuts of fish to them. Watch as the pelicans fly in for a feed! Conveniently located up from the jetty and boat ramp, is a caravan park, ideal for that camping getaway. At the foreshore you will find picnic tables, cooking facilities and a rotunda. There are also amenities (such as public toilets) at the town's park.

The scenic lookout at Settlement Point is a must when visiting Corinella. With tables that have the bay

as their backdrop, Settlement Point is also the perfect spot for a picnic. At the lookout you will see sweeping views of the bay and surrounds, including French Island. Settlement Point can be accessed via Smythe Street. The walking track through Corinella also leads to it.

Stay until dark in Corinella (or Coronet Bay) and head to the bay, and you will see the foreshore light up with Luminous Galleries – an interactive display of art. In these displays, artistic thematic designs dazzle the foreshore illuminating bright colours. They are a delight to see with the bay behind them.

Coronet Bay

IN the summer months, the township of Coronet Bay comes alive with people flocking to the family friendly bay (regarded as a beach to the locals) for a swim, fish, kayak or a game of beach cricket. The water is crystal clear and at low tide you can see tiny fish swimming in it.

The Coronet Bay beach is accessible

via Cutty Sark Road where there are amenities such as public toilets, a rotunda (to escape the heat) and cooking facilities (for that perfect summer barbecue). Nearby there is a general store. The beach is also accessible via Norsemen's Road where the walking track to Corinella starts.

The Coronet Bay to Corinella walking track (or vice versa) is a beautiful coastal trail, set among flora and bird song where sightings of kangaroos are common in the acreage alongside the track. Enjoy spectacular views of the water as you make your way on the trail. Enrich the experience by going at daybreak or sun set and watch the sun drop or rise upon the Western Port bay's horizon.

Coronet Bay is also home to The Fred Gration Reserve. There you can enjoy a light walk on a sandy path hearing and spotting birds in trees, like galahs, parrots and kookaburras. The reserve is spacious with an oval, picnic benches and a community garden. It is a perfect quiet spot to have a picnic.

Grantville

OFF the Bass Highway is the township of Grantville. Grantville is home to the wonderful Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve. You can take a scenic drive there among views of green hills and the bush by going to the Dumbabbin entry. Make sure to stop at The Shunoff Lookout on your way.

There, on the edge of The Shunoff road, you will see panoramic views of the hills and of the bay.

There are picnic tables at both entries of the Nature Conservation Reserve; the other entry being off of the Bass Highway. The picnic tables at the Dumbabbin Road entry however are positioned with the beautiful bay in view and are just up from the beginning of the track, so you are still within proximity to lovely bird song. It's a great place to have a picnic, soaking in the views and sounds. The nature reserve itself, offers a tranquil walk, as you spot and listen to birds in the canopy and take in the wonderful delights of the plants and trees flourishing there. Make sure you bring your binoculars.



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Discover the region's local eateries



The Gurdies Winery
215 Gurdies-St Helier Rd,
The Gurdies
5997 6208
theurdieswinery.com.au

OPEN everyday from 11am to 5pm over the school holidays, The Gurdies Winery is the perfect place to pack a picnic and enjoy the winery's rustic charm and breathtaking views.

Under the guidance of Wendy Heaney and Bruce Preston the Winery produces a range of varietal and blended wines made from eight varieties of Estate-grown grapes, using traditional wine-making processes.

Typically cool climate in style, the most popular wines on offer include Riesling, Verdelho-Chardonnay, Chardonnay, Rosé, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and our new Sparkling Red.

Providing a captivating backdrop for various occasions, such as weddings, corporate retreats, private parties, and those looking to bask in the afternoon sun with a glass in their hand, head down to The Gurdies Winery – you won't be disappointed.



Wonthaggi Workmen's Club
75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
5672 1083
wonthaggiworkmens.com.au

INDULGE in a complete experience at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, where not only can you savour delightful cuisine but also retreat in comfort at the 4-star MJ McMahon Motel, seamlessly integrated into the club's offerings. Boasting 26 modern rooms, this accommodation pays homage to Wonthaggi's mining heritage while providing contemporary comforts.

The Workmen's Club's vibrant summer menu caters to diverse palates, ensuring abundant, tasty, and healthy dining options for both visitors and locals. Vegans and vegetarians are well catered for.

There's all your favourite classics from a range of steaks and parma's to salads, pizzas and pastas and much more! There's plenty of choice in finding a suitable accompaniment for your meal, with a great selection of wines by the bottle and glass. Those after a refreshing cold beer on a hot summer's day will also enjoy a top selection.

Stepping into the Workmen's Club is like entering Wonthaggi's history, with an impressive replica mine shaft greeting visitors. However, instead of coal dust, expect a warm welcome and a plethora of entertainment and dining options. Operating since 1911, the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club continues to weave its rich tapestry into the town's historical narrative.



The Middle Hotel
81 Commercial St, Korumburra
5655 1024
korumburrahotel.com.au

DISCOVER the heart of the community at The Middle Hotel Korumburra, where this local pub exceeds expectations with a touch of warmth and variety.

Whether you're catching up with friends for a casual lunch, enjoying a family meal, or celebrating a special occasion, the Middle Hotel's bistro offers an inviting space for every gathering. Open seven days a week for both lunch and dinner, the bistro ensures you can relish its offerings whenever your heart desires.

For those on the go, takeaway and delivery services are available, allowing you to enjoy the Middle Hotel experience from the comfort of your own home.

Whether starting off with an entrée or jumping straight into mains, The Middle offers all your pub favourites with delectable additions including High Country Baby Back Pork Ribs, Crestwick Fifteen Hour Lamb Shoulder, Creamy Seafood Chowder and more...

There is also a huge selection for the kids to pick from.

With a menu that caters to diverse tastes and preferences, this establishment promises a delightful culinary journey.

Bookings are recommended to secure your spot and ensure a seamless dining experience.



Connells Bakery
35 Murray St, Wonthaggi
5672 1050
connellsbakery.com.au

THE smell of freshly baked bread and delectable treats, Connells Bakery in Wonthaggi is not to be missed.

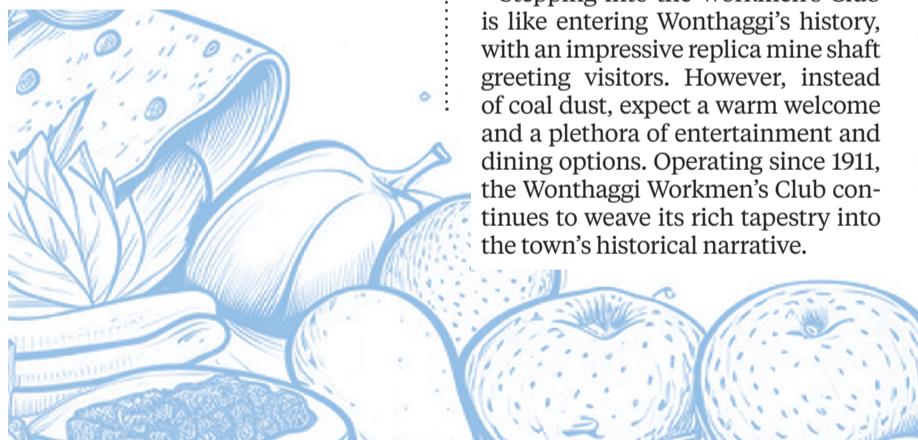
Established in the 1970s, by Barry and Robyn Connell, Connells Bakery has woven itself into the fabric of Gippsland with destinations once including Korumburra and Mirboo North. Taking residence in Wonthaggi in 1993, the Connell family legacy now thrives under the stewardship of Brad Connell and his wife Dee.

Evolving from a traditional bakery to a bustling gourmet haven in 2005, the bakery has become a cornerstone for locals and visitors alike.

Awarded Silver and Bronze medals for pies in the Great Aussie Pie competition, the store was voted the best retail spot in the 2015 Bass Coast Business Awards.

Delivering fresh, consistent delights and a warm, welcoming service, their sweets are nothing short of delicious.

Indulge in a passionfruit kiss or strawberry donut, an éclair, Miners Pie or Gippslander, New Yorker or brioche roll – the offerings delight the heart and stomach.



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THE
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Old Dalyston Church Cafe

72 Dalyston-Glen Forbes Rd,

Dalyston

0420 422 923

dalystonchurch.com.au

A PART of Daylston since 1901, the former Holy Cross Catholic Church is more than a weatherboard structure, nestled within a vast lawn reserve, surrounded by majestic Monterey Cypress.

Transformed into a fully licensed cafe and restaurant, it has become a culinary haven with owners Sharon and Molly offering a diverse menu of favourites and seasonal specials.

From delectable pizzas to parmas and burgers, risotto, ribs and steak, plus Sunday breakfasts, head along with friends or family and enjoy food, drinks and dessert.

With a charming 1900s setting, the Old Dalyston Church Cafe invites patrons to savour the gastronomic delights in a slice of Daylston's past.

Whether you are taking the family out for a bite to eat or hosting a private function, Old Dalyston Church has the perfect space for you!



Avonleigh Farm Fine Food

42 Thorsons Rd, Tarwin

5664 7264

TUCKED away in a little corner of heaven is Avonleigh Farm Fine Food.

Approaching the venue along the driveway, visitors are transported back in time as they are greeted by the magnificent Victorian home.

Diners can expect elegance and class with more delights awaiting inside, from the beautifully crafted antiques through to the exquisite food to be savoured.

Established 12 years ago, Avonleigh Farm Fine Food has become an indulgent treat for those wishing to enjoy a taste of relaxation and fine dining.

The food is baked on-site daily with the utmost care, passion and stunning presentation.

The ingredients are locally sourced and organic where possible.

Guests are welcomed with delightful service, encouraged to enjoy a bite to eat, and can take five with a cuppa by the fire or bask in the beautiful natural surroundings.

The joy of Avonleigh Farm Fine Food is the experience and the quiet ambience, whether guests are enjoying a private dinner or a high tea.

It is the perfect atmosphere in which to treat yourself for lunch with family and friends or mark a milestone occasion.

Located on Thorsons Road in Tarwin, Avonleigh Farm Fine Food is truly one of South Gippsland's hidden gems.



Phillip Island RSL

225-243 Thompson Ave, Cowes

5952 1004

pirsl.com.au

LOCATED at the gateway to Cowes, Phillip Island RSL features modern comfortable surrounds with a great range of food and beverage options.

The family friendly Lone Pine Bistro boasts a 220-seat dining area and features an alfresco balcony - The Terrace, overlooking a native plant garden.

Equipped with a children's playroom, TAB Keno and separate racing area, Sports bar and lounge with big TV screens, pool table, fireplaces and a library and much more the RSL is perfect for an evening meal, lunch stop or simply to enjoy a coffee and cake or drink.

Open Monday to Saturday from 10am to midnight and Sunday 10am to 11.30pm, bookings are recommended to avoid disappointment.



Wonthaggi Hotel

2 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

5605 0108

OFTEN referred to as the Whalebone or Taberner's, Wonthaggi Hotel, stands as a culinary gem and a historical landmark. With its rich heritage dating back to the early 20th century, this charming establishment seamlessly blends old-world charm with contemporary flair.

The Wonthaggi Hotel is a haven for food enthusiasts, offering a diverse menu that tantalises taste buds with a symphony of flavours. From succulent seafood fresh from the markets to hearty pub classics with a modern twist, the culinary offerings at this iconic hotel are a celebration of the region's finest produce.

The warm and inviting ambience creates the perfect backdrop for both casual lunches and intimate dinners, whether you're sipping on a local wine or indulging in their seasonal specials, every visit promises a gastronomic experience.



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1 Ranceby Rd, Poowong p: 5659 2351
e: admin@thepoowonghotel.com.au

GO9911



Discover the markets this season

Churchill Island Farmers Market

December 30 and January 13
8am-1pm

With more than 40 stalls, this market showcases the best of Gippsland's produce. In a unique location, marketgoers are treated to the picturesque natural environment of Churchill Island as they shop. From seasonal fruits and vegetables to specialty food products, taste sensations await.

Coal Creek Farmers Market

January 13 | 8am-12.30pm
A wonderful display of stunning food straight from the farm is on offer at Coal Creek. Formed by a community wanting to experience more of the clean foods produced locally, this market is a nod to the hard workers in the agriculture industry at one of Korumburra's premier attractions. This is a plastic bag free market.

Corinella Community Market

January 13 | 9am-1pm

From produce to crafts, the Corinella Community Market entices. It is the perfect place to spend a Saturday morning with the family. There are more than 30 stalls – both indoor and outdoor – and a sausage sizzle to enjoy. This is a pet friendly market, but dogs must be on a lead.

Cowes Island Craft Market

January 13 | 9am-2pm

Located at the St Philip's Parish Hall, the theme of this market is 'Make, Bake and Grow'. It offers more than 60 stalls from talented producers and craftspeople. Marketgoers can peruse crafts, clothes, plants, produce and more. The proceeds from this market are donated back into the local community.



Grantville Community Market

January 21 | 8am-2pm

With more than 100 stalls on site, there are plenty of wonders to explore. The drawcards for many marketgoers include the second-hand collectibles, antiques, food and clothing. The market offers plenty of great gift ideas and offers the opportunity to participate in fundraising raffles. This market is held at the Grantville Community Hall.

Inverloch Community Farmers Market

December 31, and January 3*, 10*, 17*, 24*, 28, 31*. *Twilight market.
9am-1pm (Sunday) and
3pm-8pm (twilight).

This family-friendly, pet-friendly market showcases fabulous local produce. Located in the Glade, right on the beach, marketgoers are treated to Gippsland's finest range of fruit and vegetables, seafood and meats, wines, olive oils, honeys and plants. Be sure to keep your dog on a lead.

Inverloch Farmers Market

January 20 | 8am-1pm

Located by the beach with access to the local park, the Inverloch Farmers Market provides the perfect family outing. The Glade hosts more than 50 stalls, featuring fresh Gippsland produce. Live music provides ambience as marketgoers browse.

Island Foreshore Market

December 27 and 30,
and January 6, 13, 20 and 27
3pm-9pm

This twilight market offers a fabulous range with a mix of local and international stalls. Handmade merchandise, arts and crafts, specialty food products and local produce always draw in the crowds. The outing is complete with live music, children's entertainment and food trucks.

Jumbunna Bush Market

January 7 | 9am-1pm

The emphasis is on homemade and homegrown products at this market. Fifteen stalls are open to marketgoers, with a fine range of crafts and woodwork to discover. Refreshments are available on the day.

Kongwak Market

Every Sunday, except December 24
10am-2pm

Nestled in the heart of Kongwak is the beloved market, which is open to the public every Sunday. The Kongwak market is the go-to place to find an eclectic selection of retro, vintage and second-hand items and books. A contemporary art gallery is also open for viewing and marketgoers can enjoy a sausage sizzle or Indian food as you wander the stalls. Entry is a \$1 donation.

Koonwarra Farmers Market

January 6 | 8am-1pm

This market was established to showcase its regional producers, growers and specialty food makers. Local artisans are also encouraged to be involved and often provide marketgoers with beautiful gift options. The market is held in the hall adjoining Memorial Park if the weather is not favourable. It is also a pet friendly market, with dogs to be kept on a lead.

Leongatha Community Market

December 23 and January 27
8am-12.30pm

Held at the Community College Gippsland, this market offers 20 stalls sure to tantalise foodies and tempt lovers of art. The market supports local farmers, growers, producers, makers, bakers and artists. Grab a coffee and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere.

Loch Lions Village Market

January 14 | 8am-1pm

Marketgoers are sure to be impressed with the assortment the Loch Lions Village Market has to offer. Located in the Loch Railway Station Reserve, the market offers vibrant produce and crafts. Refreshments are available on site.

Newhaven Market

January dates yet to be confirmed
8am-1pm

This market is known for its wonderful range of stallholders and food vendors. Held at Newhaven Primary School, a gold coin donation gives marketgoers access to the variety of produce, crafts, handmade merchandise, and cakes and pastries on offer. The welcoming vibe keeps people coming back.

Prom Country Farmers Market

January 20 | 8am-12pm

Bring your shopping bags along and indulge in the fine produce Gippsland has to offer. All stallholders grow and make their own products and are happy to chat with marketgoers about where their food is sourced from. Grab a coffee or enjoy brunch and take in the delights of this market.

Prom Produce and Craft Market

December 31 and January 28
8am-1pm

Known as one of the biggest and best craft markets in Gippsland, this market is the ideal place to find unique treasures. Organised by the Foster Rotary Club and Toora Lions Club, the market showcases more than 150 stalls. Please bring your own bags whilst on this shopping trip.

Rhyll Twilight Market

January 5 and 19 | 4pm-8pm

Held in Rhyll Park, this market offers more than 60 stalls for marketgoers to browse. Produce, clothing and crafts are the attraction. Live bands provide the ambience and marketgoers can also enjoy the outdoor dining area to complete the evening.

Tarwin Lower Market

January 1 and 26
10am to 1pm on January 1,
4pm to 8pm on January 26

The market offers a wide variety of stalls, ranging from food and plants through to books and bric-a-brac. It's fun for the whole family and usually includes live entertainment. The twilight market is a new addition.

KOONWARRA



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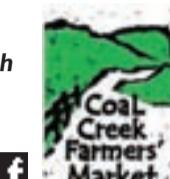
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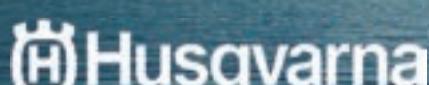


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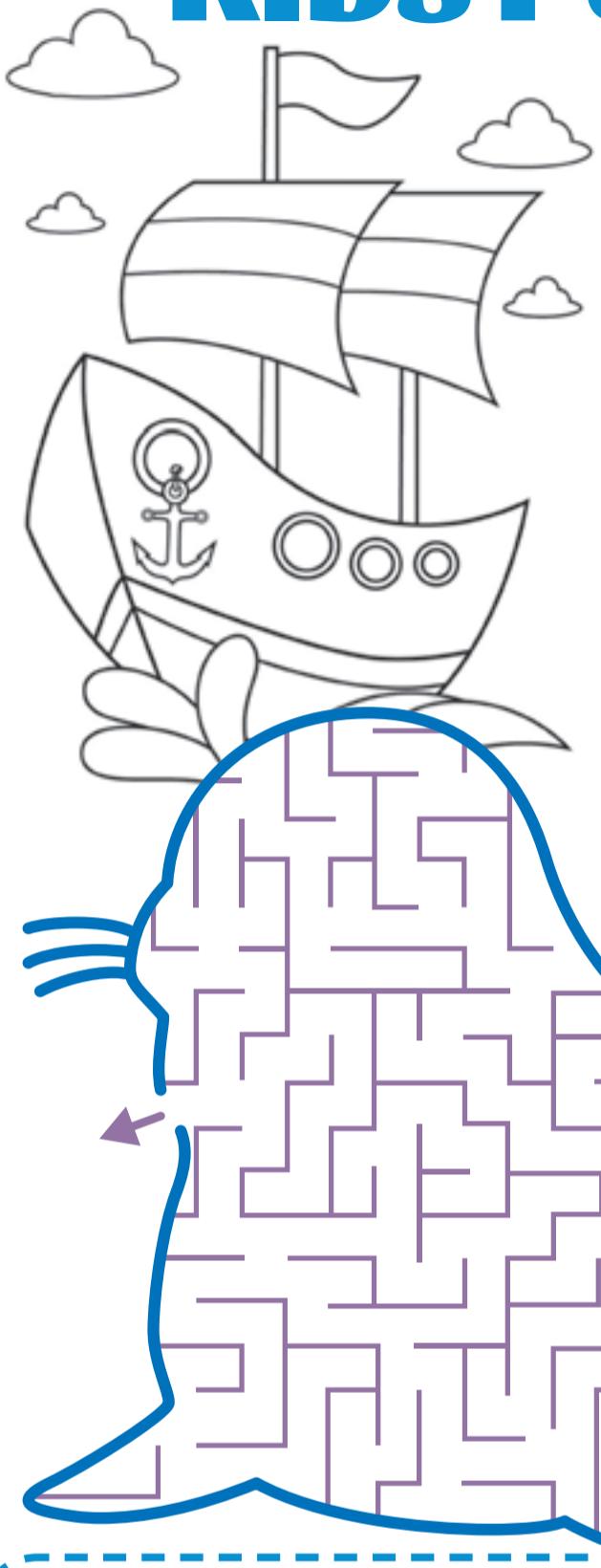
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KIDS PUZZLES CHALLENGE



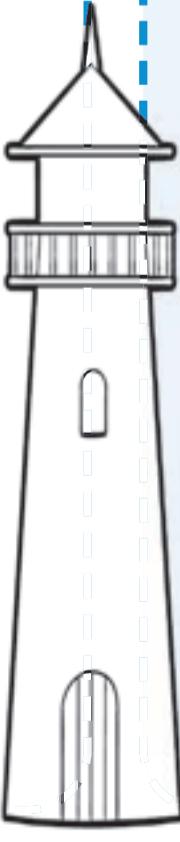
WORD SEARCH

Words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.

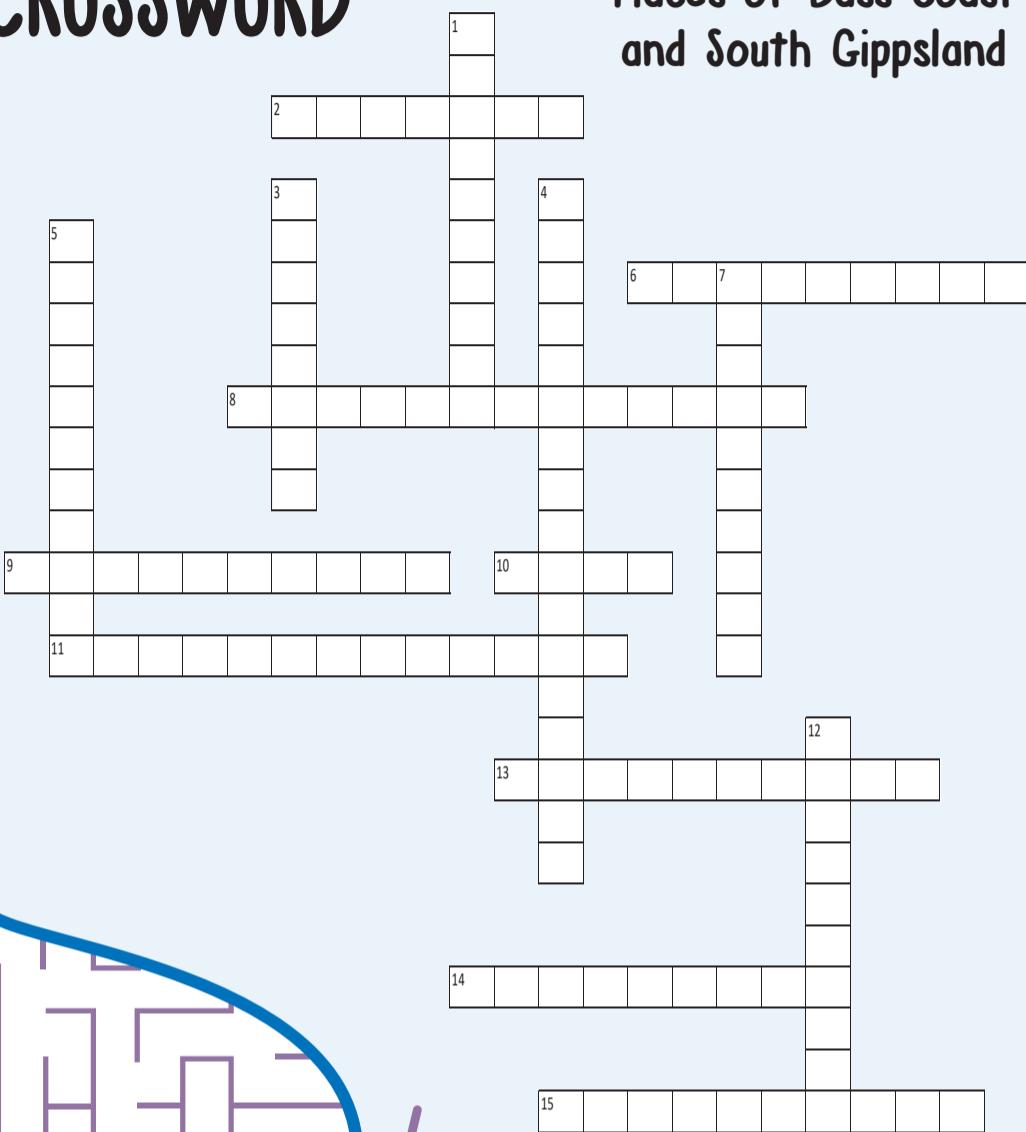
DIVING PETREL
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GREAT WHITE
GROWLING GRASS FROG
GUMMY SHARK
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HUMPBACK
KOALA
KOOKABURRA
LACE MONITOR
PENGUIN
PLATYPUS
POSSUM
SEA EAGLE
SEAL
WHALE
WHIMBREL
WOMBAT

A	H	O	O	D	E	D	P	L	O	V	E	R	C	U	G	P
S	R	C	F	Q	L	H	G	R	T	L	S	G	X	K	R	P
L	G	R	B	S	M	I	S	U	G	R	M	T	V	G	O	E
U	E	W	U	U	K	E	W	A	M	L	K	U	P	U	W	R
A	S	R	S	B	A	O	E	W	A	M	P	G	E	W	L	D
J	M	S	B	L	A	A	A	C	V	L	Y	V	X	D	I	I
W	O	N	P	M	E	K	E	L	A	E	T	S	R	J	N	Y
P	B	C	R	S	I	M	O	T	A	R	G	B	H	P	G	V
R	F	H	G	R	O	H	Y	O	J	T	R	A	N	A	G	T
F	N	Q	P	N	X	P	W	J	K	E	E	N	Z	X	R	L
N	K	J	I	P	U	Y	S	Y	E	P	A	D	N	P	A	K
C	J	T	K	S	E	L	A	H	W	G	T	I	I	E	S	J
W	O	M	B	A	T	M	N	X	X	N	W	H	K	N	S	I
R	K	C	A	B	P	M	U	H	T	I	H	C	O	G	F	B
C	V	O	Z	I	N	I	V	Z	N	V	I	E	P	U	R	P
B	K	F	J	U	S	O	W	K	Q	I	T	N	I	I	O	Z
B	L	F	Q	A	V	X	A	L	X	D	E	Y	L	N	G	K

Animals of the coast



CROSSWORD



Places of Bass Coast and South Gippsland

Use the clues to fill in the words above.

ACROSS

- Idyllic seaside town filled with fishing trawlers
- Dinosaur Dreaming fossil site
- A short walk past coastal vegetation, tidal mudflats and mangroves
- Views of the bay, French Island and mangroves abundant in birdlife
- A small town in South Gippsland 15 minutes northwest of Korumburra
- The tail end of the Great Southern Rail Trail
- Botanic Park is a hidden gem in Prom Country
- Coal Mine - Historical tale-filled tunnels
- You may be the only one on this beach in Bass Coast

DOWN

- Spectacular clifftop boardwalks and views to Seal Rocks
- The wooden trestle spans 91 metres across Bourne Creek
- The southern most tip of mainland Australia
- Lighthouse sits on a rocky outcrop overlooking the beautiful Bass Strait
- A 59-metre height over rocks into a deep picturesque gorge
- The _____ Rail Trail winds 13 picturesque kilometres between Mirboo North and Boolarra in the Strzelecki Ranges in Gippsland



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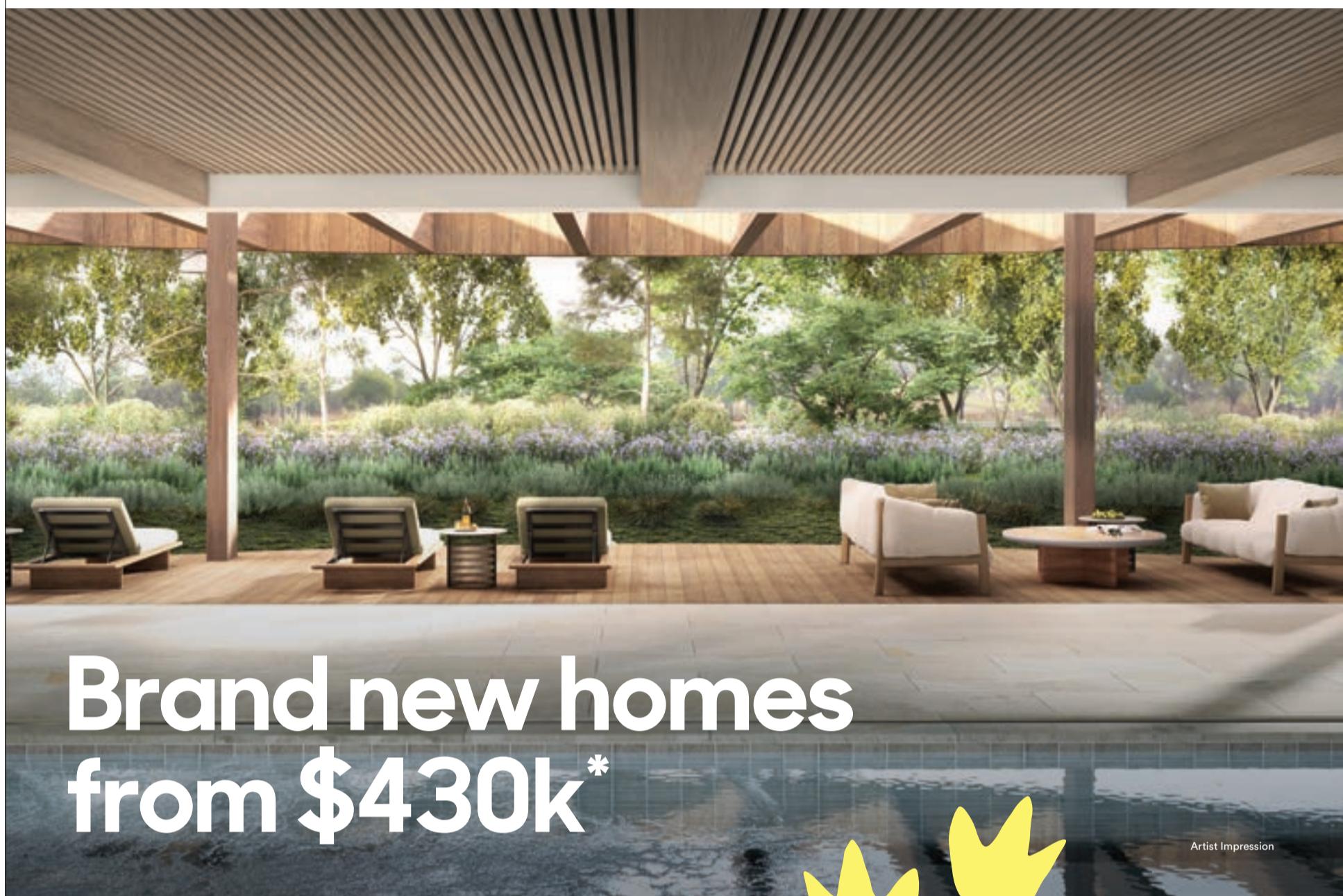
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DISCOVER | SUMMER 2023/24 53

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HM11067



Enjoy the fireworks this New Year's Eve

BASS COAST

Coronet Bay fireworks

Sunday, December 31,
9.30pm-9.45pm

Coronet Bay Foreshore,
Cutty Sark Road, Coronet Bay

Cowes fireworks

Sunday, December 31,
9.30pm-9.45pm

Cowes Jetty, The Esplanade Cowes

Inverloch fireworks

Sunday, December 31,
9.30pm-9.45pm

Inverloch Recreation Reserve,
Sandymount Ave, Inverloch

This earlier outing allows the whole family to enjoy the fireworks display. Bring a picnic and chairs, or a rug to sit on as you watch the spectacular show. This is a free event.

WELLINGTON

Port Albert fireworks

Sunday, December 31,
6pm-11pm

Bay Street, Port Albert

The New Year's Eve fireworks is a signature event in Port Albert. The fun-filled event includes live music, children's entertainment, markets, food trucks and a magnificent display to ring in 2024. This event is coordinated by the Port Albert Progress Association.



Turning trash into treasure

TRANSFORMING waste into opportunity, conserving resources, and forging a sustainable future for our planet, Victoria's new Container Deposit Scheme is up and running locally with reverse vending machines scattered throughout Bass Coast and South Gippsland, and two larger collection points in Wonthaggi and Cowes.

Operated by Can Collect, depots are located at 36 Inverloch Road, Wonthaggi, and 14 Harvey Drive, Cowes and are open seven days a week with operating hours from 8.30 am to 4.30 pm on weekdays and 9 am to 3 pm on weekends: catering to the diverse schedules of residents, visitors, community groups, and businesses.

The process is simple: purchase a drink, return the container, receive a 10-cent refund, and choose to keep or donate funds to a participating charity. Eligible containers include non-concentrated fruit or vegetable juice, flavoured milk, beer, soft drink and mixed spirits.

Exempt containers include glass wine bottles, glass spirit bottles, juice bottles over 1 litre, cordial bottles, milk (other than flavoured milk), concentrated fruit or vegetable juice and health tonics.



Experience Inverloch

AFTER a family getaway this Christmas holidays? Need more space or somewhere pet friendly?

The holiday rental team at Ray White Inverloch specialise in holiday property management, meaning they'll take the stress out of your holiday booking this Christmas, and you'll feel right at home.

Inverloch is located just two hours from Melbourne. A

picturesque coastal town with surf beaches, community parks, boutique shopping, restaurants, and cafes for all ages to enjoy.

The Inverloch holiday accommodation team have properties to suit a range of budgets and specifications; from pet-friendly properties to large private homes catering for extended family.

By visiting inverlochaccommodation.com.au you'll see a

collection of properties from inlet side Inverloch, surf side Inverloch, Cape Paterson, and Venus Bay.

The friendly team at Ray White Inverloch are available seven days a week to discuss what you're looking for this New Year and all year round, or to list your property for holiday rental accommodation call the team on 5613 9053 or visit at 6 Williams Street, Inverloch.



Coastal living - talk to the Ray White team today

"Whether you list, sell, rent or buy with us - you're getting real estate experts with a local feel."

THE water is warmer, and the cafes are bustling, which means it's summer and demand for coastal living increases – because who doesn't want to feel like they're on a holiday all year round.

The towns of Bass Coast are becoming more popular for development with visitors and those travelling abroad looking for holiday homes, a place for retirement or coastal living to raise a family, and the team at Ray White are in the centre of town to service the community.

Whether it be advice for tenants, or vendors looking to sell; Director Fiona McMahon-Hughes and her friendly team can provide expert guidance on

current property market trends.

"Our sales team are having great success with offering properties for auction, as this can help vendors achieve a timely definite result," said Fiona.

Being a large network Ray White is in a position of being able to offer both auction and private sale.

An auction process helps ensure purchasers' finances are in order or any conditions are satisfied so they are ready to make a bid or offer.

Ray White have access to great loan brokers and solicitors right through the January period making this somewhat daunting process smoother to get you into your new home sooner.

"We service the towns of Bass Coast, specialising in Inverloch, Wonthaggi, Cape Paterson, and Venus Bay, so whether you're looking at downsizing or need more space for the family, our team can help you find a new home."

The team have the knowledge, skill, and experience to maximise the value of a beachside property.

"Whether you list, sell, rent or buy with us – you're getting real estate experts with a local feel."

So, if you plan on living in Bass Coast in the new year contact Ray White for friendly, supportive advice on 5662 9533 or visit 6 Williams Street, Inverloch.



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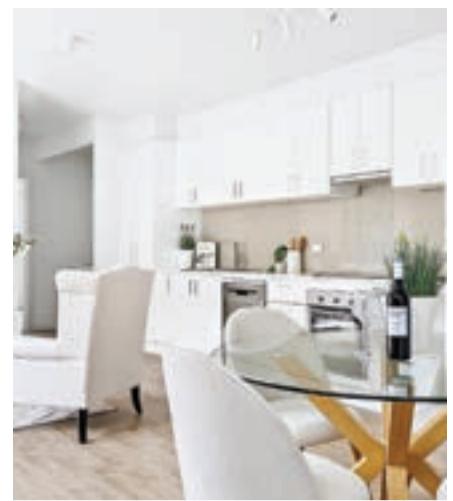
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Discover luxury lifestyle living by Riverside at Swan Reach: Perfect for downsizing and your new chapter in life.



Discover

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“There are no limitations to the sites we build on – steep blocks or flat. We have the flexibility to make your dream come true.”

OVERLOOKING the spectacular views of Inverloch lies a beautiful grand build by Brad McCormack Homes.

Sprawling approximately 67 squares, the Hamptons inspired masterpiece by renowned local draftsman Andrew Donohue boasts three-bedrooms, a master retreat, plunge pool and outdoor showers.

“It’s a real pleasure to be part of,” principal builder Brad McCormack explained.

Showcasing all the features of a modern build – open plan living and modern amenities, the home includes classic Hampton features – a coffered ceiling in the kitchen, board and batten cladding, and tall raked ceilings.

“It allows us to showcase our building talents in an incredibly modern way.”

An expansive living space with north and south wings, the home exudes opulence at every turn.

Externally adorned in board and batten style with meticulous brick-work, and stonework on the way, the home captures the essence of classical design while embracing a contemporary Hamptons aesthetic.

The interiors reveal high-pitched, raked ceilings, creating a sense of grandeur that is further accentuated by a coffered ceiling in the kitchen. This distinctive feature not only adds a touch of sophistication but also aligns seamlessly with the overall Hamptons look and VJ panelling throughout the home, showcasing attention to detail.

The second storey studio with bathroom has the ability to be divided into two additional bedrooms in the future.

The project, a labour of love for the builders, has been a delight, with no notable challenges.

“We enjoy every aspect of what we build,” Brad continued.

“Meticulously placing the battens for the board and batten cladding through to laying the tiles.”

The property offers spectacular views across Inverloch and Anderson Inlet through carefully placed windows,

remarkable decks and a blue tiled plunge pool.

“There are nine different decks connected to the house – four are paved bluestone with the remaining utilising composite decking.”

The open plan living complete with kitchen, servery window, walk-in pantry and coffee station expands onto an outdoor alfresco area with built-in fireplace – promising much fun and entertainment whether summer or winter.

To the left of the living space, separated by a VJ panelled barn door, are the guest bedrooms with walk-in linen and powder room. A huge main bathroom with freestanding bath looks out to a secluded outdoor fernery.

French pattern tiling flows past a study nook to the master retreat – floor to ceiling windows take the eye to a deck overlooking Inverloch, while the rear of the retreat incorporates a lounge with television niche and ensuite with outdoor shower and fernery.

A splash of Cape Cod and nod to pops of colour throughout, the paneling and two pack sets this home apart. Not an expense has been spared.

“We are very much about accommodating our clients and their dreams. Not everything is possible to envisage on paper at the beginning which is why we start with some base specifications and have multiple on-site meetings with our clients throughout the build, so they have the opportunity to walk through their home at various stages, get a feel for the space and adapt changes as necessary.”

With most of their new builds on stumps, there are endless possibilities for clients with difficult or steep blocks.

“There are no limitations to the sites we build on – steep blocks or flat. We have the flexibility to make your dream come true.”

Based in Wonthaggi, the family-owned business expands to the Bass Coast and South Gippsland regions, ensuring clients received a personalised service that is accommodating to their needs.



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