

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024

Sentinel-Times



Captured at 5.02pm on Friday by Loch CFA Fire and Rescue as the bushfire transformed and headed in a north easterly direction. Sitting behind the photographer is Gurdies-St Helier Road and The Gurdies Winery, who later lost two sheds. Look close enough and a ring-tail possum can be spotted escaping the fire. Photo: Loch CFA Fire and Rescue.

DISASTER AVERTED

- The Gurdies fire a near miss for residents, firefighters

THE text message that went out at around 3pm last Friday, December 20, telling the residents of the Island View Estate, Hendy Lane and Woodland Close, shared to residents along Gurdies-St Helier Road, telling them to get out, likely saved lives.

Because when the blustery south-west change hit at 4.55pm, it turned a relatively small bushfire or series of separate fires, burning mostly in The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve, into a dangerous conflagration, spotting well ahead of the fire front, threatening homes, farm

buildings and the firefighters themselves.

"We got the message from the SES to go, and we went," said a resident of Island View this week.

Flames and smoke leapt hundreds of metres into the air, in a fully-fledged emergency, where upwards of 300 firefighters from all parts of south-eastern Victoria were engaged, including dozens of tankers, ultra lights, aerial fire-bombing helicopters and fixed-wing planes including the Fire Boss aircraft capable of scooping up 3000 litres of water at every pass.

They needed all that.

Dense, hard-to-access bush, as well as the storms in February this year, which knocked down hundreds of trees or left limbs hanging precariously, made it nigh on impossible for ground crews to make much headway until the fire broke out into open ground.

Reports have been confirmed of a number of trucks which sustained fire damage, one allegedly survived a complete burn-over.

"It's not uncommon for trucks to get knocked about but they're pretty robust," said a CFA spokesperson.

Continued page 3



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This is the moment, at 4.55pm last Friday night, when the relatively sedate bushfire at The Gurdies blew up into a full-blooded emergency threatening homeowners, vigneron, farmers and firefighters as a gusty south-westerly change arrived to undo hours of painstaking work by aerial bombers including helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. This was the view from the Shutoff Lookout.



A ring-tailed possum rescued on the fire front on Friday, around 5.02pm when the wind change hit. The possum is recovering well in the hands of carers and will be released when appropriate. Photo: Loch CFA Fire and Rescue.



Firefighters from the Longwarry Fire Brigade work to make The Gurdies bushfire safe on Saturday.



One of the firebombers that worked for most of the day on The Gurdies fire dumps yet another load on the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve.

Disaster averted

From page 1

Thankfully, there were no injuries to either fire-fighters or residents.

Speaking about that moment of truth on the fire grounds, Incident Controller Peter Brick, a Senior Emergency Management Capability Specialist with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, said one house, which sustained roof damage on Gurdies-St Helier Road, would likely have been lost without the efforts of the CFA.

“A great save,” he said.

An unspecified number of other homes were singed or had near misses, including a residential property on the intersection of Kent and Gurdies-St Helier roads which lost trees and vegetation on one corner.

But with the area only open to residents, a proper assessment of property damage is yet to be undertaken.

At The Gurdies Winery on Jade Road, which escaped damage to its infrastructure, apart from a couple of singed vines and a post burnt, Wendy Heaney said they’d had a huge scare after the wind changed, sending the fire front racing up the hill towards them.

“We lost two sheds on the farm next door but the fire crews, who were here using our dam, did an amazing job of putting out spot fires. They saved us. We can’t thank them enough.”

The loss of the sheds was a blow however as they house the netting for the vines that will be needed in a couple of weeks’ time.

Shortly before 3pm on Friday, VicEmergency raised the bushfire warning level for The Gurdies fire to “take shelter” but by 8.48pm, it was back to a “watch and act” message.

After a hot, hard, dirty night fighting the fire on Friday, during which time the Bass Highway was closed as the fire reached its edge, the fire had burnt 182 hectares with breakout ‘fingers’ of burnt ground stretching out to the Hurdy Gurdy Nature Conservation Reserve, with numerous spot fires north of The Gurdies

road.

Asked if the fire had started in the area of the old quarry, as a result of chainsaw use (not by sand mining staff, we’re told) at about 3.28pm on Thursday, Mr Brick agreed it was a line of inquiry being pursued by police.

The fire then moved into the Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve, managed by Parks Victoria and the 52.2 hectare Gurdies Reserve managed by the Bass Coast Shire Council, as a Native Vegetation Offset site, where it was largely contained until the wind change on Friday evening.

The shire has been asked if they have fully complied with recommendations in an asset management report by Bushfire Management Consultants Teramatrix Pty Ltd, in June 2019, in which exactly the scenario which occurred last week was war-gamed.

“We are focusing right now on appropriate response to the situation and the people involved. Once the situation has been resolved, we will look at responding to your questions,” said a spokesperson for the shire.

Smoke was issuing from the fire, located only a few hundred metres from homes in Woodland Close, throughout the day on Friday, with aerial bombing and fire crews holding it in check until the dramatic escalation shortly before 5pm.

Among the residents keeping a close but anxious eye on the situation until mid-afternoon were Woodland Close residents Eliza and Brett Fowler who then chose to leave before the wind change.

CFA Divisional Commander Dave Breadmore confirmed the return to homes in the area at 4.30pm on Saturday. With 198 firefighters online, blacking out and cleaning up on Sunday, still with 18 tankers, 38 slip-ons and 15 pieces of heavy machinery including bulldozers, graders and excavators in action, by the time the rain arrived on Sunday night, the area was declared safe, the crisis had passed without injury or loss of life.

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Federal Member for Monash

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6 Day
Weather
Forecast

SOUTH
GIPPSLAND



TUE | Dec 24

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

13° 21°



WED | Dec 25

Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light

13° 25°



THUR | Dec 26

Sunny.
Wind AM: E-NE 15-20km/h
Wind PM: W-NW 20-30km/h

17° 37°



FRI | Dec 27

Shower or two.
Wind AM: NW-SW 25-40km/h
Wind PM: NW-SW 25-40km/h

15° 22°



SAT | Dec 28

Shower or two.
Wind AM: W-NW 20-30km/h
Wind PM: W-SW 25-35km/h

13° 24°



SUN | Dec 29

Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: W-NW 15-25km/h
Wind PM: SW 15-25km/h

14° 24°

IN BRIEF

Australia Day Photo
Competition is back

ENTRIES are now open for the South Gippsland Shire Council Australia Day photography competition for photos reflecting the theme 'Australia Day South Gippsland Our Home'.

The Australia Day film and photography competition is open to all South Gippsland residents with two prize categories, an open category with a \$500 prize and a junior category (15 and under) with a \$300 prize.

The Australia Day photography competition is funded by the National Australia Day Council and is part of a wider South Gippsland Australia Day program which features a variety of events coordinated by local community groups across the region and supported by Council.

South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor, John Schelling said he was excited to see the Australia Day Photo Competition taking place in South Gippsland once again.

"Each year brings with it new perspectives and amazing talent."

"You don't need to be a professional to be part of this competition, you just need a camera and your creativity," said Mayor Schelling.

"I encourage everyone to give it a go and look forward to seeing your entries."

Entries close Wednesday, January 15 and winners will be announced on Australia Day.

To find out more about the South Gippsland Australia Day Photography Competition, or to submit an entry go to southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadaycompetition.

New shelter planned for
Coal Creek vicinity

THE shelter near the car park at Coal Creek that was damaged following the September storm event has been assessed by insurers and a quote for a

new shelter has been accepted.

It is anticipated that the structure will be installed in the new year.

Enjoy community spirit
and a tasty meal on
Christmas Day

WHILE Christmas Day can be a lonely time, St Peter's Anglican Church in Leongatha is again bringing community members together to enjoy the occasion and a tasty roast lunch with all the trimmings.

The 12pm meal will be held in the main building, with food prepared by the same crew who serve weekly community lunches at the venue on Wednesdays.

It will be a pleasant setting with background music suited to the day.

The Christmas Day lunch is sponsored by St Peter's Op Shop, Woolworths Leongatha and the town's Rotary Club.

An attendance of around 60 to 70 people is likely.

"Christmas Day can be one of the loneliest days of the year for people and this provides an opportunity for connection," Reverend Belinda Seabrook said, adding there are many people in our community who are on their own.

She stressed that it's a community event and all are welcome

An RSVP is not essential but is encouraged by texting 0438 622 721.

Pedestrian
footbridge opens

LEONGATHA'S business district in Bair Street and the town's railway precinct car-parking area are now conveniently linked by the recently opened new pedestrian bridge.

President of the Leongatha Business Association Marty Reidy welcomed the new connection, saying it will benefit business operators.

He noted parking around town is hard to get, the bridge now making it easy to park in the railway precinct and walk into town.

"You'll probably get less employees parking closer in, which opens up the car parking for customers of businesses," Marty said.

Joe Licciardi, known as Joe the Barista, is delighted the bridge is in operation, confident it will benefit local traders.

Air Wing to the rescue

A WELL-COORDINATED emergency service response helped successfully rescue a teenage girl in Walkerville South on Tuesday afternoon.

Officers have been told a group of 18 friends and acquaintances entered waters near the Walkerville South boat ramp before 4pm on December 17.

Two 17-year-old girls and a 16-year-old girl were on inflatable paddleboards and were blown offshore.

Other members of the group attempted to rescue the girls but were unsuccessful and a number of calls to Triple Zero (000) were made.

Police were quickly on scene, the Rescue Coordination Centre was notified and the Police Air Wing were deployed.

The 17-year-olds managed to make their way back to shore but the chopper was used to retrieve the 16-year-old.

She was successfully winched onboard and returned to shore.

Fortunately no one was injured.

Motorcyclist airlifted

A MOTORCYCLIST was flown via Air Ambulance (HEMS) to Melbourne after coming off his motorcycle on Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road, near the intersection of Korumburra-Inverloch Road on Thursday morning.

The 61-year-old male rider from Wonthaggi incurred extensive lower body injuries after a driver of a motor vehicle unavoidably ran over the rider.

At this stage, Police believe the motorcyclist was travelling in an easterly direction and

appears to have fallen from his motorcycle around the left hand bend, sliding on the road for a short distance inot the path of the oncoming vehicle.

Wonthaggi Police Station are appealing for witnesses and information with investigations ongoing.

It's believed the driver of the vehicle, a 55-year-old from Korumburra, who hit the motorcyclist, is not at fault and was unable to avoid the collision.

The motorcycle rider was not speeding or driving recklessly.

Mirboo North Fire

A FIRE in a remote area of Mirboo North on Wednesday night is also under investigation with Fire Investigators on the scene the following day.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Wonthaggi Police Station (5671 4100) or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000.

Dog act

A LOCAL senior CFA officer's V8 Holden Calais was stolen from Fountain Gate Shopping Centre carpark on Sunday, December 22, between 3pm and 8pm, whilst the officer was busy on the fire front. The family were finishing Christmas shopping after being delayed due to the bushfire.

It's understood three vehicles were stolen on the day.

Police have since located the vehicle at a residential address on Aleppo Place in Cranbourne.

Police are investigating after a vehicle was stolen in Narre Warren on Sunday, 22 December.

No arrests have been made and investigations remain ongoing.

Anyone who witnessed the incident or has information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at crimestoppersvic.com.au

Merry Christmas!

Wishing our readers, advertisers and contributors
a very happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

From all at the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times

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

Publication date for the first paper in the New Year is Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Usual advertising and news deadlines apply.

Sentinel-Times

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Around the Cape again

MORE than five years after the State Government declared the entire Bass Coast Shire a distinctive area and landscape, needing urgent protection from “increasing pressure for development because of its attractiveness, accessibility and proximity to our cities” ...we’re still waiting for the final outcome.

Why is it important?
Because under new planning controls, to be introduced early-to-mid 2025, as part of the long-winded Bass Coast Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) legislation, 25 towns across Bass Coast, not including Wonthaggi, will have their settlement boundaries set in stone for the next 50 years.

Only a vote of both houses of parliament can change it.

Of those, only three draft ‘Protected Settlement Boundaries’ remain contentious – San Remo, Cape Paterson and to a lesser extent Ventnor.

Last Tuesday, after an already exhaustive process of consultation, submissions (747 in the third phase alone), public panel hearings and draft proposals, not to mention the gazetting of two 12-month extensions of time by State Parliament, until October 2025, it was revealed by Bass MP Jordan Crugnale, that there’s to be another round of consultation.

Specifically, it’s about Cape Paterson. Only about Cape Paterson.

Interested parties have until January 29, 2025, to make comment on a new draft proposal, for putting the Protected Settlement Boundary of Cape Paterson back where it was in the first place, along Seaward Drive. Technically, at least, it’s not a done deal.

At no time during the announcement, to a group of placard-waving ‘Save Cape Paterson’ supporters, that the Department of Transport and Planning was about to issue a new draft boundary for the town, did Ms Crugnale say it was guaranteed to become law. She was, however, wearing a ‘Save Cape Paterson’ t-shirt at the time.

But they certainly got that impression it was a done deal as evidenced by the raucous cheer that went up after Ms Crugnale revealed that the draft boundary was being moved from the location that went out for consultation, with the other 25 town boundaries, in March 2022.

The owners of the 97 hectares of land in question, in line to pocket hundreds of millions of dollars if the land was rezoned, also got the impression that it’s all over red rover.

In fact, they claim the whole process has been nobbled by a new round of consultation, by the way it has been presented on the Engage Vic website and by Ms Crugnale’s pre-emptive intervention.



Bass MP Jordan Crugnale met with a group of Cape Paterson residents on Seaward Drive last Tuesday to announce that Victoria’s Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) had listened and issued a new draft settlement boundary map for the town.

And they’re considering legal action.

A spokesman for the owners, planning consultant Grant Hailes of Beveridge Williams, said the property owners believed the integrity of the whole planning process had been brought into question, by the way the announcement had been made.

Asked if it opened the way to legal action, Mr Hailes said that was a matter for the owners, but he understood it was something they were considering.

It isn’t the first time the proposed expansion of Cape Paterson, northwards, has courted controversy.

In May 2011, the then State Planning Minister Matthew Guy overturned a decision of the Bass Coast Shire Council, allegedly against department advice, and agreed to the expansion of the township boundary west, to accommodate ‘The Cape’ development (230 dwellings), and north (930 dwellings).

It wasn’t his only foray into town planning that year.

There was also the short-lived decision to rezone 24 hectares of land at Ventnor on Phillip Island, from rural to residential. Known as the ‘Cadogan land’ it attracted international interest, including from the former wife of Phillip Island local, Liam Hemsworth, US singer Miley Cyrus, who tweeted her concerns to 2.5 million followers on Twitter.

It ultimately cost the state’s taxpayers more than \$3.5 million to unravel the mess.

Around the same time, Mr Guy also rezoned about 240 hectares of farmland west of Torquay.

Far from going after 900-plus dwellings on the land north of the

built-up area at Cape Paterson, the owners had more recently offered a low-density scheme, incorporating “best practices in sustainability and design”, taking a leaf out of The Cape book.

At the time the Bass Coast Shire Council voted 7:2 to support the downsizing of the settlement boundary, on February 21 this year, Bass Coast Councillor Brett Tessari said it was shortsighted by the council and selfish of the existing residents.

“It would be very easy for me to sit here with half of Cape Paterson in the public gallery and say I agree with this, but I don’t.”

Cr Tessari went on to say that while he didn’t agree with “doubling the size of Cape Paterson”, the move to completely close off further growth meant young people who had lived in the town all their lives would have little alternative but to relocate elsewhere.

He said the shire couldn’t hope to provide enough dwellings in a housing crisis if they kept shutting out developers.

He still stands by those views. “If you had asked the people of Wonthaggi, I think they’d have said they would rather their town stayed at 5000 people, than growing to 10,000, 20,000 or 30,000 people.”

Prior to making her announcement, a day ahead of the new draft town boundary going live on the Engage Vic website, Ms Crugnale congratulated the townsfolk for “being proactive, diligent and working as a collective, building that groundswell of the whole community, and it’s an absolute honour to be wearing this t-shirt today...”

“What I want to announce as part of the DAL is that tomorrow there’s

to be a new consultation that starts on Engage Vic around the draft new boundary which is here,” she said indicating Seaward Drive.

Cue the cheering crowd!

“And part of the process is, because we want to, because of your collective efforts and the council submission and everything, to bring the boundary in, we have to have that consultation process which I am sure you will all be very active in tomorrow when it opens up on Engage Vic and crash the website to actually, you know, feed in and affirm and confirm that this is the boundary you have worked for.”

More cheers.

Speaking at Tuesday’s announcement, Emeritus Professor of Public Policy and the Social Economy at RMIT University, Dr David Hayward, a Cape Paterson resident, said it was the right decision.

“The problem isn’t over there,” said Dr Hayward, pointing to the open fields and undeveloped land to the north of Seaward Drive.

“The issues are all on the other side”, he said pointing towards the coast. “The main factors are the proximity of the town to national marine and state parks and the significance of the marine life, flora and fauna in the area.

“If you had your time over again, you wouldn’t put a town here but having put one here you wouldn’t want to be compounding the mistake by allowing a significant expansion.”

He said the existing settlement was already putting pressure on the unique coastal environment, highlighted by the research brought forward by the planning panel process and underscored by the Peter Haack Consulting assessment

that followed.

He said the Cape Eco Village had since raised the standard of what was possible in a coastal settlement and the challenge was there, once this present campaign was put to bed, to raise the standard and reduce the impact of the existing settlement on the environment.

Dr Hayward is also the Chair of the Victorian Government’s Social Housing Regulation Review.

Implications for Inverloch

The final piece of Bass Coast’s town planning puzzle has dropped into place with the release of a revised draft Protected Settlement Boundary (PSB) for Cape Paterson by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on Wednesday, December 18.

General Manager Future Places at Bass Coast Shire Council, Donna Taylor said the Council welcomed the decision to revise the draft settlement boundary for Cape Paterson as in line with council policy.

“We welcome the release of the revised settlement boundary proposal for Cape Paterson and the start to the Cape Paterson protective settlement boundaries consultation process,” said Ms Taylor.

“We are pleased that the government has listened to council and would encourage the community to take the opportunity to engage in the consultation.

“And we looked forward to the release of the final Statement of Planning Policy (SPP).”

Asked if the shire intended to prosecute its position on San Remo’s Protected Settlement Boundary as well, that it extend all the way to Punch Bowl Road, instead of stopping halfway between Pottery Hill Road and Punch Bowl Road, Ms Taylor said no.

“Council is satisfied with the eastern extent of the boundary (700 metres from Punch Bowl Road) but is concerned about the landscape impact from development north of the ridgeline.”

Ms Taylor said the shire was looking forward to the SPP being finalised and being able to implement the significant landscape protection measures included.

Among the protective measures are “binding objectives” for responding to climate change, including not locating new development or “retreating existing development” from areas with significant biodiversity and/or high bushfire risk, and areas at risk of coastal or riverine flooding and coastal erosion.

Such measures, once the new SPP is in force early next year, may dictate Bass Coast Shire’s response to such things as Inverloch’s beach erosion problems.

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Animals and fireworks

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

Fireworks displays will be held on New Year's Eve (Tuesday, 31 December):

- Coronet Bay: 9.30pm, Coronet Bay Foreshore
- Cowes: 9.30pm, Cowes Jetty
- Inverloch: 9.30pm, Inverloch Recreation Reserve

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

Venus Bay beach safety equipment demonstrated

AS PART of Sunday's official launch of Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) stations on Venus Bay's five beaches, Life Saving Victoria's Grace Strugnell headed to Beach 1 to demonstrate how to use the equipment.

She explained the rescue stations are made of high-quality materials to endure harsh coastal conditions and will be rigorously monitored to ensure they are in working order.

Each unit contains a solar panel and a red strobe light that is activated when the button is pressed to connect the user to triple zero.

With the unit in 'test mode', Grace pressed its button.

"You have requested emergency assistance. A call will now be made to triple zero. For water rescue ask for police, for medical help on land ask for ambulance," the unit announced.

A sample discussion then took place with Grace being asked the nature of the emergency and detailing that and the identification code of the rescue station.

Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club member Declan Woolf then confidently demonstrated the removal and use of the rescue tube, retrieving fellow club member Rachael Walker from the water to enthusiastic applause.

Earlier, Grace stressed that only sufficiently competent swimmers should attempt a rescue, explaining the procedure for doing so is to take the tube off the unit, place the strap over your shoulder, swim out to the person in distress, extending the tube first to create distance between you and them.

If able to do so, you can then swim the person back in with the aid of the tube; otherwise, just wait side-by-side with them for emergency service personnel to arrive, the latter recommended for those lacking lifeguard skills.

Despite its lightweight nature, the tube can support up to 220 kilos.

Breaches of family violence top Bass Coast and South Gippsland crime offences

CRIMINAL INCIDENTS in Victoria to September 30 are up 15 per cent according to the latest crime statistics released last week, with family incidents up 9.5 per cent from 93,232 to 102,082.

"Family incidents have reached their highest levels ever in Victoria, exceeding 100,000 in a year for the first time. There have been increases in incidents involving serious assaults, particularly aggravated assaults against females and threats of serious injury," CSA Chief Statistician Fiona Dowsley said.

"Aggravated assaults on females frequently coincided with breaches of family violence orders, criminal damage, and common assault, contributing to the overall increase in family incident-related offences."

According to the reports, a total of 431,683 incidents were reported to police in the year to September 30 up from 375,460 in 2013.

This year has seen a spike in property and deception offences, up 19.23 per cent (2023: 278,746).

In Bass Coast, the total offence count is up 17.1 per cent. The top five offences in order were: breaches of family violence orders (645 breaches, up 46 per cent), criminal damage (336), other theft (235), steal from motor vehicle (172) and family violence common assault (168 – up 12 per cent).

Residential aggravated burglary rose 104 per cent, with 43 offences recorded this year, up from 21 last year, whilst residential non-aggravated dropped 5.4 per cent, alongside non-residential non-aggravated by 25 per cent.

Theft increased with motor vehicles rising from 73 stolen last year to 116 this year (58.9 per cent) and stealing from a motor vehicle rising by 22.8 per cent.

Crime statistics also showed a jump in drug trafficking in Bass Coast rising 175 per cent from eight recorded offences last year to 22 this year.

There were also four explosive offences recorded this year (up from one offence in 2023).

In the justice procedure offences, there were 645 breaches of family violence orders (up 46 per cent), whilst intervention order breaches rose 97.4 per cent (77 offences).

Aggravated robbery against a person is up 140 per cent (12 offences from five offences) with non-aggravated robbery sitting at 200 per cent increase (six offences this year from two last year).

Arson is also up 58.3 per cent this year.

This year also saw the greatest number of offenders in Bass Coast in the 10-17 years of age category



Senior Sergeant Hullick, Bass Coast Police Area Inspector Middleton and Senior Sergeant Muir are urging people to remain vigilant, ensure their belongings are locked appropriately and report any suspicious activity immediately to police, as extra police resources head to Bass Coast and South Gippsland for the holiday period. C05_5224

jumping to 217 offenders this year. A 145.6 per cent increase from five years ago when a low of 88 was recorded.

Offenders aged 18-24 jumped 81.6 per cent from last year to 225.

"The crime statistics validate community concern about rising crime in our region and highlight the Allan Government's failures in protecting community safety," Member for Eastern Victoria Region, Melina Bath MP said.

"Residents of Bass Coast and South Gippsland have told me they are feeling more vulnerable, which is supported by the latest statistics from the Crime Statistic Agency.

Ms Bath acknowledged that the rise in crime "is a trend that must be reversed".

"Our hardworking police officers are under resourced with over 1000 vacancies statewide. It is beyond frustrating for police members who work hard to get offenders off the street, only for bail to be granted through the court.

"It unacceptable on every level to know that in Victoria a car is being stolen every 20 minutes."

Over in South Gippsland, the rise in crime is less significant up 10.1 per cent year on year (to September 30).

There was a vast rise in residential aggravated burglaries up 1400 per cent with 15 offences recorded against one last year, with one non-residential aggravated burglary this year. Residential non-aggravated burglary dropped 8.5 per cent decreasing to 86 offences this year.

The top five offences in South

Gippsland in order were breach family violence order (391), criminal damage (195), other theft (172), breach bail conditions (157) and obtain benefit by deception.

Motor vehicle theft and steal from motor vehicle both rose 71.4 per cent and 59.5 per cent respectively with 108 vehicles stolen to September 30, 2024, and 118 thefts from motor vehicles.

"We've seen a continuation of the increase in crime in our region, with the number of offences in South Gippsland Shire up 10 per cent year-on-year and up 72 per cent in the 10 years Labor has been in office," Danny O'Brien MP, State Member for Gippsland South and Leader of The Nationals stated.

"There was a disturbing increase in the number of aggravated burglaries in the Shire, up from just one to 15 and a 71 per cent increase in motor vehicle thefts.

"We know that a large number of these offences have been committed by a small cohort who have been repeatedly bailed and have subsequently re-offended."

One of the largest jumps in criminal activity in South Gippsland was obtain benefit by deception which rose 214 per cent this year.

Six offences were recorded for cultivate or manufacture drugs.

There were significantly less breaches of justice procedures in South Gippsland compared to Bass Coast with family violence order breaches rising 1.8 per cent to 391, whilst intervention order breaches rose 34 per cent to 51 offences. Bail condition breaches

decreased by 21 per cent.

There were 13 more alleged offender incidents for those aged 10-17 years of age (128) with 18-24 years rising from 96 to 121. Offenders aged 30-34 dropped from 108 (2023) to 89 this year.

"Over the past year, Bass Coast and South Gippsland has experienced an increase in home burglaries and car thefts. Unfortunately, many of these crimes have occurred because homes and vehicles were left unlocked. Our message is simple: secure your property and remove valuables from plain sight," Bass Coast Local Area Police Commander Inspector Cath Middleton said.

"Addressing family violence is a core focus for police. Over the past year, breaches of family violence intervention orders have increased by 46 per cent across Bass Coast. This rise reflects both our proactive approach to holding offenders accountable and increased confidence of victims in reporting incidents to police.

"In the last month, we have arrested six people for alleged burglaries and car thefts across Bass Coast and South Gippsland. Police also recovered and returned \$30,000 of stolen property back to their rightful owners. Police will continue to make arrests and conduct daily patrols of the community along with regular bail compliance checks on repeat offenders. Local detectives are working tirelessly, knocking on doors of known perpetrators to ensure they are complying and held to account."

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New Public Rescue Equipment launched at Venus Bay

By Andrew Palocz

AN INITIATIVE aimed at preventing drownings is being trialled by Life Saving Victoria and Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club, with Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) stations installed on the town's five beaches.

The trial, a first for the State, was officially launched at the club on Sunday.

The stations are designed to support beach users assisting in an emergency and improve emergency response times to prevent fatal incidents.

Reducing the risk of potential rescuers becoming victims themselves is also a key focus.

Former president of Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club and a director of Life Saving Victoria, Paul Hoffman was a driving force in making the PRE stations a reality, being the lead for the project.

He explained the January 2021 drowning of a young lady attempting the rescue of two people in trouble at Venus Bay, and its tragic impact, prompted the push for safety measures to prevent such outcomes, the lady being a good swimmer but having no equipment available to aid her rescue effort.

Soon after that incident, the club put together a business case for the installation of community rescue equipment, based on a project near Coffs Harbour.

"We've done a lot of risk management, reviewing, trialling and working with triple zero," Paul said of efforts since, with numerous stakeholders involved, Paul noting the outcome well and truly exceeds what was envisaged in the initial business case.



Parks Victoria Rangers Goyo Paniagua and Daniel Cooper, Grace Strugnell and Bernadette Matthews of Life Saving Victoria, Sarah Gilligan of 'The Not so Skinny Dippers', Chris Stevens of CartGIS, former Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club president Paul Hoffman, current club president Kimberly Gee, members Rachael Walker and Declan Woolf, and co-founder of 'Wombat Walkers' Cheree Dodson. A33_5224

Each of the stations is fitted with a rescue tube and an emergency call button to contact triple zero, also featuring a guide to helping someone in distress, location codes for emergency service navigation and a QR code for language support and further information.

Venus Bay was chosen for the trial due to its status as a high-risk area for drownings, the decision to proceed with the initiative was made following a comprehensive coastal risk assessment and community consultation with the town's permanent and part-time residents.

While Life Saving Victoria Head of Research, Evaluation and Insights, Dr Bernadette

Matthews sees the PRE stations as an important initiative to reduce drownings, she stressed that not everyone is advised to attempt a rescue.

"You should only use the tube if you are an experienced swimmer in coastal waters," she advised, urging those who are not strong swimmers to push the call button, quote the emergency marker code, remain on the sand and keep eyes on the person in trouble in the water.

While ideally anyone wanting to swim in the sea would do so between the red and yellow flags at a patrolled beach, Life Saving Victoria recognises unpatrolled locations remain popular.

"This trial ensures emergency support is just a call away and

provides accessible safety equipment for those with the skills to use it, helping to reduce risks for both rescuers and those in trouble," Bernadette said.

She expressed her appreciation to community members who will monitor the PRE stations ensuring everything is in place and in good condition.

Members of the local Wombat Walkers and The Not So Skinny Dippers swimming group are being trained in the use of an app to record specific observations regarding the equipment, ensuring it is kept ready to be used if required.

Bernadette said the equipment is tailored to the remoteness of the location with consideration being given to the

types of equipment that would be appropriate in different locations.

Records will be kept of any usage of the emergency buttons at the Venus Bay stations and in what situations that has occurred, helping determine the equipment's appropriateness to the area.

Bernadette explained that combining the availability of a button to connect to triple zero with a provided rescue tube makes the Venus Bay rescue stations unique in Australia.

The effectiveness of PRE stations will be evaluated during the three-year trial to assess the potential use of such equipment in other high-risk drowning areas across Victoria.

ALWAYS OBEY THE STOP SIGNS



DOT0142/24



Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Santa flies in to give firefighters a lift

YOU can't call it yet. With 198 firefighters still online on Sunday, and 18 tankers, 38 slip-ons and nine pieces of heavy machinery on the firegrounds, plus fire bombers still in the air, and damage to sheds, fencing and houses still to be properly assessed; it's still too early.

And for those who were evacuated ahead of a massive blow-up with The Gurdies bushfire on Friday evening or who saw their lives flash in front of them as the firefront approached; they're still coming to terms with what just happened.

But with the fire danger rating reduced to 'Advice' level on Saturday for the communities of Pioneer Bay, St Helier, The Gurdies, Grantville and Woodleigh; there was certainly a sense of relief for members of the Grantville and surrounding communities as they got together at the transaction centre at 1pm for a casual debrief and a visit by Santa.

Even that was impacted by the fire, however, with Santa unable to do the usual thing on the back of the fire truck and deliver the kids' Christmas presents around the area due to the fact that some roads are still closed to all but local residents.

But it was a happy occasion all the same.

The terrific team at the Bass Coast Shire's Grantville Transaction Centre, some of whom had slept there overnight on Friday and Saturday, had the barbecue fired up and members of the Kernot-Grantville CFA Brigade, hot off the firegrounds, brought Santa in with sirens and lights going.



Some of the firefighters and their families took time out from The Gurdies bushfire on Sunday to enjoy a break and some Christmas cheer with Santa at the Grantville Transaction Centre.

Although, it must be said, some had a double take at that after the events of the past few days.

Lots of families came in, which is what you wanted to see, and also a good turnout of firefighters, mustered up from the command centre at the Grantville Hall, to lend a hand, and lots of the big wigs too.

Incident Controller Peter Brick, a Senior Emergency Management Capability Specialist with the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, was happy to provide members of the community with a status update.

"We'll still be going hard again tomorrow (Monday). We've got heavy machinery on the ground and air support, including the fixed-wing 'Fire Boss' in action. We've still got quite a few days of work ahead of us."

It's mostly about blacking out and reducing the risk of the fire re-igniting when the weather turns again on Boxing Day.

The information was also of interest to local shire councillors, including the Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and Cr Jon Temby, himself a local firefighter.

The Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale was there too, off the firegrounds for the day, and away from her Pound Creek Brigade strike team, to join the community event. Bass Coast CFA Group Officer Damien O'Connor from Wonthaggi was on hand with local knowledge, as were Bass Coast Local Area Police Commander Inspector Cath Middleton, and Sergeant Brett Muir among others.

It was a solid showing of force, both CFA and Victoria Police, and no doubt reassuring to the community ahead of the

arrival by the jolly man in red and white.

"It's just been incredible to see how far and wide the support has come from, and it must be so comforting to see, especially those in the line of the fire, to see those trucks coming up the driveway as the fire front approaches," said Cr Halstead.

"I can't imagine what it must have been like for the people directly impacted but just watching the trucks roll in from such a wide area, well beyond our own region, to do what they did... we're just so enormously grateful."

"And the Bass Coast Shire Council staff too, ready to assist wherever they can, they've been fantastic."

"Now, to be able to come together with something of a sense of relief, knowing that there's still much that needs to be done."

Santa moved around the crowd greeting the kids, the parents, the fires and the emergency service officials before taking his seat on Santa's big red chair and calling the kids up for their gifts.

Just a nice moment after days of anxiety, ahead of Christmas, knowing that there may still be dangerous days ahead including Boxing Day, Thursday, December 26 when the weather is predicted to turn hot again, 36 degrees across Bass Coast and winds "becoming northwest to northeasterly at 20km/h to 30km/h during the morning".

According to Incident Controller Peter Brick there's also the chance of a light shower or two of rain over the next few days. Wouldn't that be a nice Christmas present from Santa.

YOU CAN'T CONTROL FIRE.
BUT YOU CAN CONTROL
WHEN YOU LEAVE.

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme or Catastrophic, leaving early is your safest option. Download the Vic Emergency app or go to emergency.vic.gov.au

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW FIRE?

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



Inverloch rallies against beach erosion

TIME is running out for Inverloch's iconic surf beach and sand dunes.

A newly formed Inverloch Foreshore Action Group on Facebook has attracted hundreds of members and is committed to saving the Inverloch beach and foreshore.

"Close to four hundred members have signed up in less than a week with new members joining every day," said convenor Paul Cross.

"Four beach tracks have closed already," said Mr Cross.

"That's every track between Ozone Street and the lifesaving club. Only Ozone Street is open.

"Residents from Surf Parade and Lohr Avenue are most concerned."

Paul and his wife retired to Inverloch seven years ago and are alarmed at the rate at which the sand dunes are disappearing.

"Inverloch is one of the most beautiful beaches in Australia," said Mr Cross.

"It's greatly appreciated by local residents and dog lovers.

"When we are out walking everyone catches up with each other."

Mr Cross says in the last seven years 70 metres of beach track has been washed away.

Keith Godridge, Shire Engineer for the former Shire of Woorayl says only 53 metres of sand dunes

remain opposite Ozone Street.

"That's ten metres a year average loss.

"I remember when the dunes were 70 metres long and up to 10 metres high.

"The dunes were so big it was difficult to get to the beach with the surf coming in and the beach packed with holiday makers," said Mr Godridge.

"My grandchildren were little nippers at the lifesaving club.

"I've seen how wonderful the surf lifesaving club is for the young ones.

"If we do nothing the tide will be up to the road in five years."

"You can already see the sea from parts of Surf Parade," added Mr Cross.

"As an engineer, I can see the risk to the houses, sewers and even the pumping station," said Mr Godridge.

"If that goes, well the whole town's sewerage would be at risk."

Mr Cross said few people realise a major telecommunications link carrying data and voice traffic from Tasmania coming in at the lifesaving club is also at risk.

"It's 30 metres from being exposed," said Mr Cross.

Members of the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group say what DEECA (Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and



Keith Godridge former Shire of Woorayl engineer and Paul Cross from the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group inspect Access Track 7 on Surf Parade Inverloch. B25_5224

Climate Action) wants to do is unacceptable.

"DEECA wants to do nothing and let nature take its course," said Mr Cross.

"The last storm was the worst I've seen. You could see the trees falling from the cliff face."

Mr Cross has already witnessed children digging at the bottom of the eroded cliffs where sand can fall like an avalanche.

"Sand falling from the eroded cliffs could end up on top of beachgoers," said Mr Cross.

"It's highly dangerous."

By comparison to Apollo Bay, on the Great Ocean, which has also had its own fair share of erosion problems, DEECA agreed

for a few years then they break down, so they are not a permanent solution.

"Placing sand on the beach is clearly not a solution either as this has been done several times over recent years and within days it is gone."

Traditionally the worst storms are at Easter according to Mr Godridge.

"You can get storms anytime now.

"We're facing Bass Strait totally exposed to the S.W. winds."

Running a tape measure along the length of the access track at Ozone Street Mr Godridge and Mr Cross measured 53 metres.

"In five years, the dunes will be gone," said Mr Godridge.

On Sunday, January 5 a major public rally will be held on the beach in front of the surf lifesaving club at 2pm.

Triple Olympic gold medallist and member of Australia's oarsome foursome Drew Ginn OAM who grew up here and still surfs the local breaks will be a guest speaker.

Over a thousand holiday-makers and local residents are expected at the rally which will be chaired by former Liberal Leader and committed advocate for the protection of Inverloch foreshore Alan Brown AM.

Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club President Glenn Arnold and Inverloch

Tourism and Traders Association President Glenn Morris will also be guest speakers.

"It is unacceptable for the State Government to let nature take its course and do nothing," said Mr Cross.

"The Inverloch lifesaving club, hundreds of houses and the Bunurong coastal road linking Inverloch to Cape Paterson, the RACV Resort, Eagles Nest and Shack Bay will be lost.

"There are many options available to the State Government including rocks and digging down or pile driving to construct a permanent barrier."

"Sandbags do work but they are not permanent."

"Breakwaters and groynes should also be considered as was the case at Apollo Bay," said Mr Cross.

The Foreshore Action Group says a concrete wall was built 90 years ago by returned diggers outside the Inverloch Bowls Club and is still there to this day.

"Government needs to be forced to act. It is time for people to have their voices heard."

For more information about the rally at the Inverloch surf beach on January 5 go to the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group on Facebook facebook.com/groups/3555316291433437.

SAVE INVERLOCH FORESHORE

MAJOR PUBLIC RALLY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2025.

ON THE BEACH, IN FRONT OF

INVERLOCH SURF LIFESAVING CLUBHOUSE.

In the past eight years, 70 metres of foreshore in the locality near the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse has been lost due to erosion. After 4 years of operation, a Victorian Government Committee has not made one recommendation to address what is now a Crisis situation. The Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse and a section of the coast road between Inverloch and Cape Paterson are both in imminent danger of being lost as well as what is left of the sand dunes.

If the road is lost, hundreds of homes are also at risk in the long term.

A PUBLIC RALLY ON JANUARY 5, 2025 AT 2.00PM

has been called to demand the State Government acts as a matter of urgency and put in place permanent protective measures to save these vital assets as they have recently done at Apollo Bay and in other coastal locations.

We need your help by attending the Public Rally so that the Government gets a clear message that we require action now to save and protect the Inverloch Foreshore. People power is needed as the Government is considering an adapt and retreat policy which would decimate Inverloch and must opposed.

Come and hear prominent guest speakers including triple Olympic Gold Medalist, Drew Ginn address the Crisis which now exists in Inverloch and why it is critical the Victorian State Government acts immediately.

WE NEED YOUR HELP BY ATTENDING THE RALLY.

For more information and updates, Facebook-Inverloch Foreshore Action Group.



South Gippsland Shire Council News

Merry Christmas to Everyone

As the year draws to a close, South Gippsland Shire Council would like to extend our warmest wishes to our community. This past year has been a journey filled with both challenges and triumphs, and we are incredibly grateful for the resilience and spirit shown by each and every one of you.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

During this festive season, we encourage everyone to take the time to connect with loved ones, reflect on the past year, and look forward to the

opportunities that the new year will bring.

Throughout the Christmas/New Year period, many Council services will be closed or have different operating hours. Please read the section below as it provides a run down of the services that may be impacted.

Please remember to shop and eat local where possible and travel safely within South Gippsland and abroad. For ideas on things to see and do in our region, please visit:
www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

Australia Day Photography Competition

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

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

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadaycompetition

Entries close Wednesday 15 January 2025.

Winners will be announced 26 January 2025.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

An additional Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 January 2025 at 2.00pm. The meeting will be held virtually.

Details will be available on Council's website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/CouncilMeetings

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

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

Bin Collections: Properties scheduled to have their kerbside bins emptied on Christmas Day will be serviced on Thursday 26 December instead. This affects Bena, Loch, Mirboo North, Poowong, Dumbalk, Koowarra, Meeniyan, Nyora and Tarwin.

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

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

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

Maternal and Child Health: Centres are open (except for public holidays) but limited to Key Ages and Stages (KAS) checks. Please call 5662 9294 to make an appointment. For general support please call the Maternal and Child Health support line on 13 22 29. Council and community

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

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

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

CONTACT US
9 Smith Street, Leongatha
15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra
03 5662 9200
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Mirboo North locals to splash about again

MIRBOO North locals were thrilled with the reopening of the public swimming pool last Friday, on a day that was hot and sunny and got to a summery top of 31 degrees.

It was free entry on the day, and the pool was already full of kids, just 15 minutes after opening.

It was the first time locals have been able to use the pool after the season earlier this year got cut short following the storms in mid-February.

Contractors have been working hard to get the pool open in time for Christmas and locals are pleased.

"It's so good it's open again. We've (already) missed a couple of months and we missed a couple of months after the storms in February. So, it's really good," said pool lifeguard Logan Anders.

Early morning swims are



Mirboo North lifeguards Logan Anders and Jacob Poel are happy to have the pool open once again. ob02_5224

also now open, having started on Monday, December 23.

In another bonus for locals, the Community Bank Mirboo North and District and the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation announced that they have

partnered up to offer half-price pool season passes (both family and individual) for the 2024/25 season.

This is to provide Mirboo North residents with some extra Christmas cheer and to celebrate the re-opening of the

facility.

Under this same initiative, free season passes will be offered to a number of households in the community who have one-on-one access to recovery support workers from Windemere and Gippsland Lakes Complete Health, who are Emergency Recovery Victoria's Case managers.

These households will be contacted by the case managers and will be instructed on how to receive the free season pass.

To receive a half-price pool season pass, all locals have to do is show their driver's licence on entry to the pool, as proof of residence in postcode 3871, and staff will give the discounted price.

There remains some minor tidying-up works occurring onsite, and Council ask that people avoid those areas.

Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling



HELLO South Gippsland.

As we reach the end of the year, I am pleased to provide you with news of several exciting openings and re-openings.

Firstly, I am pleased to advise the Mirboo North pool has been re-opened and re-filled, and is ready for use when temperatures are warm. We know this is welcome news for all of South Gippsland, but in particular the Mirboo North community who are rightly proud of this important community asset.

I am also pleased to announce that the pedestrian bridge linking the Leongatha Rail Precinct with Bair Street is also now open. This infrastructure provides a shortcut to town for users of the Great Southern Rail Trail and those in the all-day car park.

And to wrap up the good news in time for Christmas, the Meeniyan Community Hub is now complete with the new public toilets now open.

A great end to a successful year for South Gippsland.

To keep the good news flowing, I'd also like to congratulate the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club for helping to make the beaches of Venus Bay safer by successfully lobbying for support to install five safety units. The units house a flotation device, instructions, and a button to press that activates a call straight to an emergency response team. The units are currently being installed and will help to keep our community, and visitors, safer this summer. I was pleased to join one of the local Venus Bay ocean swimming groups on Sunday who will be helping with the physical inspections of the units, and Deputy Mayor Gilligan was very pleased to be there for the official launch that afternoon. A great achievement - well done to all.

Speaking of safety, I would like to remind everyone to make sure they have the Vic Emergency app installed and to keep an eye out for any safety messaging this summer. It's going to be a warm one.

As we approach the end of 2024, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of Council, my fellow Councillors and myself to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. This year has had its challenges, but in typical South Gippsland fashion we have worked through them and our community spirit is stronger than ever. Have a safe one this summer and I'll see you in the new year.

Celebration of Jenni Keerie's contribution

WHILE the recent council election didn't go her way, there was a strong show of support for Jenni Keerie on Thursday with her contribution as manager of Milpara Community House celebrated at the Korumburra Community Hub, a song written and performed in her honour by the Milpara Singers.

The community-minded approach with which she served as a South Gippsland Shire councillor was also highlighted with people expressing disappointment she wasn't able to continue serving in that capacity.

Although Jenni has handed the role of Community House manager to Belinda Nicholls after a decade in the position, she will continue to contribute as a volunteer.

Arriving from Queensland 12 years ago, Jenni couldn't initially pronounce Korumburra but quickly settled into the town.

Vice president of the Milpara Community House Committee of Governance, John Davies spoke of Jenni's caring nature and her management ability.

"She's just been amazing and a huge benefit to the



Jenni Keerie cuts the cake celebrating her contribution to Milpara Community House. A15_5224

Community House," he said, adding that she has handled the regulatory changes and financial pressures it has faced superbly.

Sylvi Shayl, who has taught creative writing at Milpara for much of Jenni's time in charge, spoke of the now-retired manager's helpful nature and supportive approach to staff.

President of the Milpara Community House Committee of Governance Neil Coxon

praised Jenni's ability to take the positives that already existed at Milpara and turn it into a more professional operation while maintaining the common touch with people.

He also reflected on her impressive leadership during the testing pandemic period.

He spoke of Jenni's knack for uplifting the spirits of visitors to the Community House, even those facing tough challenges, and assisting with practical solutions and

referrals, also noting her skills in networking and promoting community houses in general.

As with many people whose contributions are greatly valued by others, Jenni was quick to shift the spotlight from herself.

"Nothing ever happens in the House without teamwork," she said.

The key mantra that drove her efforts there was, "How can we give our community a hand up rather than a hand-out?"

That philosophy centres on helping people to help themselves by building skills and strengths to enable them to move forward.

Jenni described working with Milpara and the community as "a pleasure".

She didn't sugarcoat the substantial task facing Belinda, noting community houses are all being asked to do much more with much less, but expressed confidence her successor is up to the challenge.

There's no doubt Jenni will remain heavily involved in the Korumburra community and continue helping make the town an even better place to live.

You deserve more, Monash.



Deb Leonard
INDEPENDENT

Vote 1

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha



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

2024 CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

St Joseph's Catholic Church Wonthaggi:

Christmas Eve - 6.30pm (Christmas Music from 6pm TBC)

Christmas Day - 10.30am

New Year's Day Mass - 9.30am at Wonthaggi

Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church Inverloch:

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

Christmas Day - 9am

New Year's Eve Mass - 6.30pm at Inverloch

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024 | 11



Zulu with the winning painting 'Natives & Crystal', Best in Show at the ASPI Cup Weekend Exhibition 2024

Why do people like art?

Some of these answers highlight various aspects of art appreciation, ranging from its expressive power to its impact on personal growth and societal reflection. Many respondents emphasise art's ability to communicate ideas, evoke emotions, and provide a unique form of self-expression, while others value its capacity to challenge perceptions and foster creative thinking.

You may fall into one of these categories ... or you may not, it really doesn't matter.

Emotional Connection: Art often evokes emotions, allowing individuals to feel a range of sentiments from joy to sadness. It can serve as a form of expression for both the artist and the viewer, creating a shared emotional experience.

Aesthetic Appreciation: Many people appreciate the beauty and craftsmanship of art. The visual appeal, colors, forms, and techniques used in artworks can be satisfying and engaging.

Intellectual Engagement: Art often challenges viewers to think critically and interpret meaning. It can provoke thought, inspire curiosity, and encourage discussions about various themes, including culture, politics, and identity.

Cultural Reflection: Art reflects societal values, beliefs, and experiences. Engaging with art can provide insights into different cultures and historical contexts, fostering a greater understanding of the world.

Social Connection: Enjoying art can be a communal experience, whether through visiting galleries, attending performances, or discussing artworks with others. It creates a sense of belonging and shared interest among individuals.



Mark Bagally FVAS, President, presenting Zulu with the VAS Signatory Membership, for contribution and services to the arts.

Personal Expression: For many, creating or experiencing art is a way to explore and express their identity, beliefs, and experiences. It can serve as a therapeutic outlet for emotions and thoughts.

Escapism: Art can provide an escape from everyday life, allowing individuals to immerse themselves in different worlds, stories, or perspectives.

Just because: Some people enjoy the patterns, colours and size and don't want to delve deeply into all the layers of art. That is perfectly fine too. So don't let a gallery assistant scare or intimidate you in anyway. Just go with your feelings and your eyes.

Please find some time over the holiday period and have a look at the works on display at Zulu's home/gallery/studio

Open everyday from Dec 26 - Jan 26, 2025 12-5pm each day.

School pool from 100 years ago unearthed

IN 1922, the Korumburra Primary School Committee and ladies auxiliary decided to raise money for the town's very first swimming pool, after the Department of Education refused to grant a subsidy for the work.

Over two years they furiously fundraised to cover the full cost of the pool, which was £550, equating to about \$55,000 in today's money – not bad for a small country town.

After much coordinated efforts the swimming pool at Korumburra Primary School officially opened on March 1, 1924.

Yet the pool had been forgotten for the past sixty years until excavation works for the new kindergarten recently uncovered the old relic on the grounds of the Korumburra Primary School.

Locals like the President of the Korumburra Historical Society, Bob Newton, remember attending the school as a youngster and swimming in the pool.

Some of Bob's mates also remember earning their 'Heralds' at the pool.

That referred to a learn to swim campaign run during the 1960s by The Herald, with certificates awarded to those who successfully swam the required distance.

Bob also remembers it being a popular spot in the summer that played an important role in young people



The first Korumburra swimming pool that has recently been rediscovered was built off the back of fundraising efforts by the school committee and the ladies auxiliary.

learning to swim.

The rediscovery of the pool inspired so much interest around town that Bob decided to look into the origin of the pool and that is where he found the aforementioned details.

Although, all he could initially find on Trove, were advertisements for fundraisers for the pool.

Bob then went to the book, 'Where Have the Years Gone?', written by Wilma P. Walls, for the 100th anniversary of Korumburra State School.

In this, he found details of the school committee approaching and being refused funds by the Department of Education.

"No wonder there were so many advertisements for fundraising in articles found on Trove," stated Bob.

Other details Bob unearthed were that when the pool was finally built, it was 20m x 10m, 1.37m at the deep end and 76cm at the shallow end.

It was free to swim in the pool but cost one penny for swimming lessons.

The head teacher was delegated the job of being in charge of the pool; arranging supervisors and keeping the pool clean. No chemicals were used in those days, they just drained the dirty water out and refilled it.

The children from St Joseph's had use of the pool on Monday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

When the Korumburra public pool was established forty years later in 1964, the school swimming pool was closed and filled in.

South Gippsland Council shuns local businesses

LEONGATHA café owners who operate less than 100 metres away from Council premises were shocked and dismayed when Council called in a coffee van for their Christmas breakup last Thursday.

South Gippsland Shire Council reportedly celebrated the end of the year with a morning event that was held in the outside courtyard.

Also parked on the site was a mobile coffee van, catering for the celebration.

One café owner who operates about 50 metres from the Council building expressed his astonishment at the situation.

"From the local business perspective, I'm a little bit

cheesed off with local council," the business owner said.

"I thought it was an extremely poor look that they've gone and called in an outside contractor and not even supporting their own local businesses that are so close to them. It's not funny."

The Council continually encourages others to 'Shop Local for Christmas.'

Promotional material for this campaign from Council states: 'Shopping local is the gift that keeps on giving, supporting our local businesses while boosting South Gippsland's economy.'

In this instance Council's example of supporting local businesses while boosting the local economy is questionable.

The café owner speculated that perhaps Council thought he or the other cafés may not be able to manage a catered breakfast for their event.

Could they?

"Yes," said the café owner. However, none of them had been approached by Council to do so.

"I've spoken with some of the other café owners and we all share the same sentiment. It's extremely poor form," he said.

In response to questions from the Sentinel-Times the Council stated:

This event used a Leongatha-based caterer for food and supported another South Gippsland local food business for the beverages.

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Delivering a lifetime of experience

MARK Blackburn, owner and managing director of Wonthaggi Removals and Storage and VCF Transport Services, knows a little more than most about how to do it right the first time.

After serving thirteen years with the RAF bomb disposal squad in the U.K. including two deployments to Northern Ireland Mark Blackburn knows how to deliver.

"Moving house is stressful, people don't like change," said Mark.

"All your possessions are lobbied into the back of a truck."

Mark Blackburn's time with the Royal Air Force explosive ordnance team earned him two military honours the General Service Medal for Northern Ireland and the NATO Medal for service in Yugoslavia.

Life at home with his family in Inverloch and the challenge of buying and running an established transport and removal business in Wonthaggi seems a long way from Northern Ireland and the Gulf War.

"I travelled a lot in bomb disposal with the RAF including the Falkland Islands."

"One of my worst experiences was the bombing of a shopping centre," said Mark.

"You couldn't muck around.

"It taught me empathy, kindness and how to run a team.

"A military career is great. It gives you a bit of discipline.

"You get to travel and they're big on sport."

Alpine skiing, judo, soccer,



Mark Blackburn Managing Director Wonthaggi Removals and Storage and VCF Transport. B22 5224

and cricket Mark Blackburn has played them all.

Owning Wonthaggi Removals and Storage and VCF Transport Services with his wife Dee in Carney's Road Wonthaggi is as far as you could get from working with an ASX-listed company.

"We are family-owned and operated," said Mark proudly.

"When I left the Air Force I got a job as an engineer designing and installing equipment for the food manufacturing industry.

"I worked in supply chain logistics for Premier Foods one of Britain's biggest food companies with at least one product in 99 per cent of British homes."

Emigrating to Australia with wife Dee and their baby girl in

2013 on a skilled worker visa, a booked holiday to Inverloch in the middle of winter led to employment with Murray Goulburn in Leongatha.

"We thought this place was amazing," said Mark.

Looking to purchase a local business Mark approached Alan and Russell Miller late in 2022 and soon found himself the new owner of Wonthaggi Removals and Storage which had virtually been mothballed since COVID.

"I had no staff and two vehicles," remembered Mark.

A strong and trusted brand Mark Blackburn quickly had Wonthaggi Removals and Storage back in shape with twelve staff and five vehicles ranging from a Mercedes Sprinter for light moving jobs to a Pantech

medium rigid.

"Each move is a separate solution.

"We talk to people. We take the time to care for our customers, people like that."

Mark Blackburn is passionate about good customer service.

"We say what do you need, we'll work around you."

Wonthaggi Removals and Storage has been a local business since 1980.

"Don't move without us," said Mark.

"We have loads of repeat customers, some who have moved up to five times."

"So many coincidences," said Mark.

"If there's one pool table there'll be three pool tables that week."

Mark's biggest challenge to date has been a 450kg gun safe.

"We've moved two grand pianos."

Assuming control of VCF Transport Services in November Mark now has six trucks and four forklifts ranging from five-tonne to semi-trailers.

"We provide transport services for Cement Australia, transport cardboard packaging for Kilcoy Foods and flour for local bakers and Laucke Flour Mills.

"We also do a daily delivery run to Cowes with freight for Phillip Island."

"People have been great to deal with," said Mark.

"Our clients have been so welcoming and accommodating."



John is looking forward to a Kitchen Table Conversation to identify policies applicable to youth.

Youth forum aims to influence policy

THE upcoming 2025 federal election provides an opportunity for young people to speak with their votes.

Volunteers with the local community independent campaign are planning discussions with youth in South Gippsland and Bass Coast to identify policies for federal candidates. It is built on forums that allow local people to identify policies they can support. This process – known as a Kitchen Table Conversation, or KTC – is a facilitated conversation on a theme that promotes a broad view of policy issues.

Volunteers for community independent Deb Leonard, are proposing a KTC to focus on youth issues. Following the KTC a report will be produced and distributed to anyone who puts their hand up to stand for Monash. The community independent candidate, Deb Leonard, insisted the volunteer-run process is not partisan.

"The KTC process does not need to favour any candidate. It simply provides a forum for the young voices of Monash to be heard."

The idea for the broad-based discussion came from Leonard's volunteers.

"We wanted to encourage involvement in our community and the conversation turned to young people, maybe because most of us were 60plus," laughed John Tebbutt, a volunteer co-ordinator for South Gippsland.

"But we realised that young people were often engaged in family, raising their own young. Otherwise, friends and sporting activities were uppermost in their lives as well as potential pathways to a career."

When the conversation turned to worrying developments, where a young local had been identified as being involved in criminal activity, it got animated. It became clear that generations of disadvantage were at work.

"Opportunities were not there for everyone, and entrenched disadvantage could lead to anti-social behaviour" Tebbutt noted.

Leonard expressed concern that real issues facing youth and young adults can get lost in bad news.

Currently two potential candidates have identified themselves, the Community Independent Deb Leonard and the Liberal Party's, Mary Aldred.

You can register your interest in participating in the Youth Kitchen Table Conversation which will be held Wednesday, January 29, 2025, here debleonard4monash.com.au/youth_ktc.

Secret Santa delivers joy to local aged care homes

SECRET Santa has shared the Christmas spirit with aged care residents in South Gippsland and Bass Coast Shires thanks to supportive local communities, delivering presents suited to individual recipients.

Inverloch's Brooke Smith continues to run the operation, having this year expanded the number of aged care homes visited.

Last year, Secret Santa called on Griffiths Point Lodge in San Remo, Wonthaggi's Kirrak House and Brooke's workplace Inverloch Coast Care Community, with Leongatha's Koorooman House and Woorayl Lodge added this year.

The service has also extended to some clients of both Flexihealth Home Care and Care Finders, with some of those elderly people experiencing isolation.

Brooke explained how Secret Santa works.

"I get a heap of community members onboard; I then reach out to facilities and I get resident lists," she said, explaining names are not used for privacy reasons, but rather a numbering system is implemented.

"The carers then give me hints (about the individual residents), likes, dislikes, hobbies, if they have dietary issues because the whole point of the Secret Santa was for residents to be receiving something that interests them, not just standard socks and jocks," Brooke explained.

Armed with the knowledge from carers, she assigns a specific resident to each participating community member.

"If I know the community member, I try to fit them up

with someone that may have the same sort of background, whether that be farming or any interest that might match up."

However, as the Secret Santa service has grown, there are more community members involved whom she doesn't know.

Those buying presents are given about six weeks to do so, with drop-off locations provided.

Once presents are all received, they are dropped off to the facilities and carers, the recipients enjoying a festive experience as they open their gifts, sometimes as part of a Christmas party.

Brooke is a General Services Officer at Inverloch Coast Care Community.

She was a dairy farmer for 20 years, deciding she needed a change and shifting into her aged care role.

Brooke established Secret Santa during the pandemic when everything was shut down and residents weren't seeing family.

"I just thought something was missing, so I came up with the idea," she said, having started the operation in Inverloch alone the first year.

"It's just taken off from there," she said.

Brooke issued "a massive thank you to the community" for getting behind the Secret Santa initiative.

"It's rewarding for me because I see that the residents get something out of it and they get emotional to think that someone's thinking of them, and the community members get so excited about it and it's a real feel-good for them that they've done something to make a difference."

50 Artists

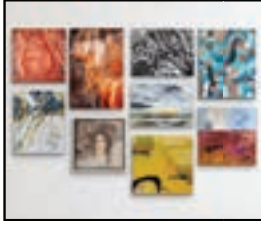
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Bringing contemporary art to the community

A step back in time... 30 years

THE same problems appear to remain, albeit in slightly different forms 30 years on. This week, The Sentinel-Times dusted off (figuratively) the December 27, 1994, edition to select one story, but was surprised to find multiple stories similar to those reported of late.

'Water boards' members shock' made front page news with the report stating 'There are many shock choices among local water and sewerage boards' commissioners, announced last week.'

Also filling the front page was a Mercedes won by one-year-old Patrick McCaughan and a Tabro Meats truck hitting the SEC pole on the corner of Radovick and Little Commercial streets in Korumburra.

It appears Wonthaggi Primary School had more luck in 1994. Announced by Alan Brown, Gippsland West MLA, a \$300,000 grant would restore the school buildings to a 'fully maintained' condition. The project would include extensive painting, replacement of floor coverings, repair and replacement of roofing; and upgrades to electrical wiring.

Also reported, the school was awaiting word on a second grant of \$14,000, two-for-one basis, to improve staffing facilities and communications.

However, the most significant are articles on pages five, seven and nine about 'Island's future, still uncertain', 'Fire season dangerous' and 'Major repairs to San Remo sand dunes respectively'.

The first piece interviews former local councillor Phil Wright, on his return for Christmas from Fiji with the subheading 'There is still no definite consensus on planning Phillip Island's future, according to a former local councillor.'

Whilst there are a number of points raised by Mr Wright, one quote stands out, "The most disappointing merger results for Phillip Island is that this former shire... with its balanced books, yet few community facilities... will help the other two areas financially."

"Those regions, however, already enjoy many of those assets."

Thirty years on, Phillip Island is still waiting on some of those community facilities.

Across on page nine, 'Victoria is facing its most dangerous wildfire season since the Ash Wednesday fires of



These Wonthaggi kindergarten pupils look the part in their Nativity play. They are Ryan Thomas (left), Lucy Robb and Kathryn Kee. About 325 children entertained their parents with a special Christmas concert last week. There were songs, poems and dress-ups. The centre's director, Gayle Kee, arranged the event.

1983, according to the CFA. Given Bass Coast has seen the first bushfire for the season in The Gurdies late last week, it's going to be more important than ever to ensure the fire plans are in place.

'Mr Potter, regional officer at Warragul, said that although the area had experienced substantial spring rain and the land appeared green, there were many potential risks this fire season.

'Mr Potter said there was plenty of growth in the bush which could act as fuel for wild fire if forecasted dry weather eventuates...

'Residents could not afford to be complacent despite mild fire seasons in the past few years, he said.'

And last by not least, 'Dangerously eroded sand dunes, 150 metres west of the jetty at San Remo, will benefit from \$20,000 of urgent repair work in the new year.' According to the report, the repairs were part of a \$1 million project by the State Government on repairs and renourishment of beaches following storm damage around Victoria's coastline in November. Monies were also set aside for Grantville, McCrae and Somers beaches which suffered serious storm damage.

Perhaps you may remember the \$12,000 art theft from Poowong Hall or the \$650,000 overtaking lane upgrade to the South Gippsland Highway at Stony Creek?

How fate fashioned a life for Judy Stone

IT'S only by chance that Leongatha institution for the past 34 years, Judy Stone's Influence Clothing, ever happened at all.

While Judy contemplates hanging her last item of stylish, contemporary women's fashion on the rack at the rear of 32-34 Bair Street, she recalls how it all came to be.

"It's been 34 years," said Judy this week, as if realising for the first time that she's devoted a lifetime to her customers in retail.

"I was just coming off the farm and thinking about trying to get some part-time work back in town at the pharmacy again when I ran into Corrie Allen.

"She'd only just open her shop a month earlier and decided it wasn't for her.

"She asked if I was interested in taking it on and here I am."

The women's fashion and casual clothing store has been a godsend for generations of local women, many of them who have started and ended their search for something just right for a special occasion or simply to provide a boost to their daily lives at Judy's.

"That was just perfect thanks Judy and all the best for your retirement," was a familiar refrain as Judy attended to customers while handling an interview for the local paper.

"The customers, many of them friends now, have been fantastically loyal over the time. People from Mornington Peninsula, Melbourne, Yarram, Warragul and everywhere in South Gippsland and Bass Coast all over.

"And of course my staff. They've really backed me all the way. Marion Pollock on a Saturday, and I've got



After 34 years in the fashion industry, operating Influence Clothing in Leongatha, Judy Stone is calling it a day at the end of January 2025, with staff member Debbie Howard.

Debbie (Howard) and Kim Cullin as well now but there's only been a handful of others.

"Luckily, I've always had some great friends to call on as the need arose."

And Judy's commitment hasn't only been in the shop during business hours.

Judy and her band of supporters have staged dozens of fundraising fashion parades for football netball clubs and others while also supporting the 'Fashions on the Field' at the Stony Creek Cup for more than 20 years.

"It's been a lot of work but I've loved doing it," she said saying the time had finally come to call it a day.

"We got through COVID and everyone was so supportive there too but I've got to say the cost-of-living is really starting to bite. You can really feel it in retail."

No doubt, online shopping has also been an issue, but Influence Clothing has been

able to weather that storm with great clothing selection and a wealth of choice.

Judy has been a South Gippsland resident her whole life, daughter of the dairy farming Perrett family of Kongwak, attending the Kongwak Primary School and then the Korumburra High School before getting her first job at the Smiths Pharmacy in the town.

"I thought I was going back into that again after I came off the beef farm but here we are!"

"We'll be finishing up here at the end of January."

The farewells have already started but there's still plenty to be done between now and then but if you're looking for something special over the holiday season, you're likely to snare yourself a bargain with some generous discounts through to the end.

"All stock must go, as they say," said Judy.

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14 | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

That man in the picture, he's my dad!

FACT is more incredible than fiction they say, and such was the life of Leongatha's favourite son, Robert Anthony Fennell, 79, who was farewelled by a proud and grateful community at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve on Thursday, December 19.

At his side, for this final tribute to a Vietnam Veteran, prodigious sporting talent, enormous community contributor and great family man was his best army mate, Stan Whitford, formerly of Wonthaggi, the man who saved his life during an eventful tour of duty in Vietnam, between April 8, 1967, and April 18, 1968.

Rob, in turn, had done the same for Stan.

According to an indebted Fennell family, a group of soldiers from 5 Platoon, B Company, 7RAR, were on patrol out of their base at Nui Dat, Stan in front of Rob carrying the 13 kilogram M60 machine gun and ammo, when a Claymore anti-personnel land mine exploded right in front of the pair.

Stan caught most of the shrapnel, sheltering Rob, and was medevacked out while Rob and the rest of his mates secured the area after an enemy ambush.

Stan sustained extensive injuries, but apart from a few floating bits of metal, made a full recovery.

The pair survived 26 major operations and numerous one-to-four-day "search and destroy" missions, as well as some eventful times on R&R in Hanoi, including one time when their regular boxing bouts came in handy during an altercation with some US Army MPs, before returning home changed men.

It was during their active service



The image of Leongatha's Rob Fennell will be forever enshrined in the Australian psyche at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Canberra. Last Thursday, he was remembered as a family man and for his great contribution to the local community.

that both men were exposed to Agent Orange, a nasty herbicide mix, linked with a range of ailments including Parkinsons disease, which Rob was diagnosed with in March 2013.

There's little doubt that the friendship these two local men struck up while training at Puckapunyal, Singleton, Canungra and Shoalwater (as the Redgum tune, played at the funeral, goes), saw both men return home, if not safely or in one piece, at least ready to try and resume their lives in civies.

Six weeks after arriving home, Rob married his teenage sweetheart, Margaret Hickey, left his bank job after only one more week back behind the teller's window and launched a new career, ultimately as a highly successful insurance agent and financial planner.

Marg's life had also been on hold for almost two years while

Rob trained and served, partly sustained by daily letters from his wife-to-be.

A family of four arrived; Scott, Travis, Brock and Bree, and subsequently nine grandchildren with plenty of twists and turns along the way.

While Rob threw himself back into work when he got home, it was sport and his family life that sustained him.

Many accolades were to follow during a life devoted to his sporting clubs, his family and the general community (see details on the Sentinel-Times' website at sgst.com.au).

Not only were the social rooms at capacity on the day, but the overflow crowd also filled half of the Leongatha grandstand, with mourners watching proceedings on the big screen.

A feature of the service was the tributes paid by family members, especially the grandchildren, and

the RSL service at the conclusion, led by Stan Whitford with a strong attendance by local and visiting Vietnam Veterans who laid poppies at the end.

In an incredible turn of events in Rob's life, his son Travis made the move to Vietnam in 2001 in his work as a tour guide for Intrepid Travel, married a North Vietnamese girl and started a family there.

He ultimately encouraged Rob to make a trip he never wanted to take, back to Vietnam, which he did with his wife Marg, Stan and his wife Robyn, an enormously cathartic experience for them all which saw the four of them sit down to dinner with Travis, his new wife and her family.

It wasn't lost on Rob and Stan that these may even have been people they crossed paths with more than 30 years earlier.

However, as highly regarded as Rob Fennell is in his own hometown and district, his image, if not



The late Robert Anthony Fennell of Leongatha, right, and his best army mate Stan Whitford, formerly of Wonthaggi.

his name, will be forever etched into the psyche of generations of Australians as part of the symbol of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War in that famous photo by war correspondent Mike Coleridge which now adorns the Vietnam Veterans War Memorial on Canberra's Anzac Parade.

Incredibly, of the more than 60,000 Australians who fought in Vietnam, who might have been pictured in that photo of seven members of 5 Platoon B Company 7RAR, waiting to board an Iroquois helicopter to take them back to Nui Dat at the end of Operation Ulmarra on August 26, 1967; two of them were from South Gippsland, best mates Rob Fennell and Stan Whitford.

"How well Rob served in Vietnam and in Australia will be known to his mates, how well he served his community is known to you all. Rest in peace my dear friend," said Stan.



Section 104(4) of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Marinus Link (EPBC 2021/9053) - Proposed undersea and underground electricity and telecommunications interconnector between North West Tasmania and the Latrobe Valley in Victoria.

NOTICE

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Overview

A delegate of the former Commonwealth Minister for Environment determined in November 2021 that the Marinus Link project (the project) (EPBC 2021/9053) required assessment under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cwth) due to the potential for significant impacts to: Listed threatened species and communities (section 18 & section 18A); Listed migratory species (section 20 & section 20A); and the environment of the Commonwealth marine area, or the environment as the proposal would take place in a Commonwealth marine area (section 23 & section 24A).

Marinus Link Pty Ltd (the proponent) prepared a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project to address the Commonwealth government's requirements under the EPBC Act combined with an Environment Effects Statement (EES) to address the Victorian government's requirements under the *Environment Effects Act 1978* (Vic). The combined draft EIS/EES was

published for comment on the Marinus Link website (marinuslink.com.au) from 31 May 2024 to 12 July 2024. During this time, submitters were invited to read and make submissions on the draft EIS under section 103(1)(c) of the EPBC Act.

Following the exhibition of the draft EIS, an Addendum has been prepared which addresses the requirements of section 104(2) of the EPBC Act including taking into account any comments received within the period for comment and provides a summary of any such comments and how these comments have been addressed. The EIS Addendum also provides a summary of additional or updated information provided to the Victorian and Tasmanian regulators to address their assessment requirements and to respond to public submissions, where relevant.

The proponent has subsequently finalised the EIS in accordance with section 104(1) of the EPBC Act. The finalised EIS comprises of the draft EIS and the Addendum to the draft EIS.

This Notice has been prepared in accordance with section 104(4) of the EPBC Act.

How to access the final EIS

The finalised EIS comprising the draft EIS and the Addendum are now available to read and download, free of charge, at marinuslink.com.au/assessments.

The Addendum will be made available in hard copy at the following locations from Friday, 20 December 2024 through to Monday, 10 February 2025.

- ♦ **State Library of Victoria** - 328 Swanston Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
- ♦ **State Library of Tasmania** - 2nd Floor, 91 Murray Street, Hobart TAS 7000
- ♦ **Sandy Point Community Centre** - Church Parade, Sandy Point VIC 3959
- ♦ **Burnie Library** - 30 Alexander Street, Burnie TAS 7320
- ♦ **Mirboo North Library** - 34 Ridgeway, Mirboo North VIC 3871

For those who may have accessibility issues, or where electronic options are impracticable, hard copies of some documents may be requested, by phoning Marinus Link on 1300 765 275 or emailing team@marinuslink.com.au.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the Marinus Link EIS including the Addendum or the EIS process in general, please contact:

Questions about the project and about the EIS documentation including the Addendum

Marinus Link Pty Ltd

Phone: **1300 765 275**

Email: team@marinuslink.com.au

Questions relating to the EIS under the EPBC Act

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Victoria and Tasmania Assessments Sections

Phone: **1800 920 528**

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Summer fun with Myli

LOOKING for ways to keep the kids entertained these school holidays?

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In collaboration with Bunings, Inverloch, Korumburra and Leongatha will be hosting exciting pot decorating events.

Explore your creativity and transform plain pots into colourful masterpieces to take home.

Bestselling author and specialist guest Andrea Rowe will be hosting a Story Time session at Phillip Island and Inverloch libraries.

Enjoy two jam-packed, leap-from-your-seat stories, where children who like to move can step into the pages of these much-loved Australian picture books.

For those who love a good movie, Leongatha, Mirboo North and Korumburra will all be hosting movie sessions, which are the perfect way to relax and enjoy some family-friendly entertainment.

The summer isn't just limited to these locations.

Myli libraries across Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Cardinia and South Gippsland shires are hosting a wide variety of events.

From creative workshops to games and everything in between, there's something for everyone.

Don't forget to sign up for the Big Summer Read.

It's a great way to keep children reading and engaged over the holidays.

Track your reading progress, take on fun challenges and go into the running for exciting prizes.

Visit your local Myli library to get started.

All events are free, but bookings are essential to secure your spot.

Visit Myli's Eventbrite page myli.au/jan2025 to see the full program and local in your family's holiday plans.

Lt Col Paterson collection may be on the move

By Andrew Palocz

THE stunning military collection amassed by Lt Col Alexander (Alex) Paterson DSO MC may be headed to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra, with a couple of representatives of the organisation recently visiting the Korumburra RSL to view the extensive range of items.

Those items cover the pre and post WWI periods as well as the involvement of Alex's 39th Battalion in the Great War.

Descendants of Alex chatted to AWM's Bryce Abraham (curator of private records) and Nick Fletcher (head of military heraldry and technology) and will consider entrusting the collection to the organisation's care.

As reported previously, those in charge at Anzac House in Melbourne were assessing whether the items could be housed there, but family member Margaret Scott explained that proved impractical due to space constraints.

Lt Col Paterson's prominence as a battalion commander and the scale and completeness of his collection made it an easy decision for the AWM to send representatives to Korumburra.

Korumburra RSLs Tony Moon provided information and photos to those at the AWM.

"I would say in this day and age it's probably unique," AWM's Nick said of the Paterson hoard.

He explained that while such



Nick Fletcher and Bryce Abraham of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra study documents in the collection of Lt Col Alexander Paterson at the Korumburra RSL. A01_5224

collections would have existed immediately after the Great War, albeit not in large numbers, the passing of time has often led to the loss of fragile documents and to items being split among family members.

By contrast, Nick described Alex's items as being "virtually an untouched collection", making it remarkable.

Nick noted assembling such

a vast hoard was in keeping with Alex's position.

"This is the sort of thing battalion commanders do; if you're in charge of 1000 men you tend to be able to administer, so this is fairly typical of a bloke who cared about his men and was deeply engaged in what he'd done," he said.

Asked if Lt Col Paterson's

collection is the most complete individual one he has seen, Nick compared it to those of WWI General Sir John Monash and WWII prisoner of war and surgeon Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, and while he has seen larger collections Alex's is the most focused.

"Lt Col Paterson's war is very much the one battalion; he goes away with the 39th and comes home with the 39th so they're his life right through the First World War," Nick said.

"People like Monash rose through the ranks, changed jobs, did new things," he explained, noting that while Monash's collection is "incredibly complete", it is therefore less focused.

'Weary' Dunlop's is divided between his prewar history, his time as a medical officer and then a prisoner of war, meaning his focus changes, while Lt Col Paterson's remains firmly on his battalion.

Bryce described Alex's collection as "incredibly comprehensive and impressive" due to the detail it provides of 39th Battalion history and Alex's military involvement prior to and after WWI.

The prospect of the collection heading to the AWM offers the chance for the family to achieve its objective of keeping the items together while ensuring they will be expertly preserved, Alex and his descendants have done an extraordinary job of keeping everything in such good condition to this point.

Noel Laing recognised for 32 years of dedicated service



On Tuesday, December 17, the Leongatha RSL committee gathered to celebrate and recognise long standing committee member Noel Laing for his invaluable 32 years of service as a committee member and volunteer to the Leongatha RSL Subbranch.

Noel performed many roles over the 32-year period, one of the most respected being Secretary for 2013, 2014 and 2021-2024. His input has been instrumental in the running of the subbranch over that extended period.

Noel, with his witty personality and sense of humour has always been a valued part of the committee and well received amongst the staff at the Subbranch.

Noel was presented with a certificate of appreciation and applauded for his hard work and dedication.

LEFT: Faye Laing and Bill Verboon (Leongatha RSL President) present Noel Laing (Past Leongatha RSL Committee Member) with a certificate of recognition for his service.

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45 years of service with the Girl Guides earns Linda a special award

POOWONG resident Linda Harvey was recently honoured for 45 years of outstanding service to the Girl Guides at the Strzlecki – Boomerang Trefoil Guild's tenth-anniversary celebrations.

On receiving the Good Service Award and the special Flowering Gum Award for her service to Girl Guides, Linda said, "It was a nice surprise, it was very nice."

Linda joined the Woorayl Region group when she was 18, and later took on roles as a Unit Leader, Support Group Member and International Co-ordinator for Baw-Baw and Gippsland, and has organised many key events and reunions.

"It took you down lots of different avenues, firstly, as a guide leader and a brownie leader. I started with the Loch Unit many years ago, as a young adult, and then I opened up the Poowong Brownie Unit way back in the late 70s, I suppose it was; and it opened up a lot of different opportunities."

The Woorayl Region later amalgamated with the Baw-Baw Region before then becoming the Gippsland Region about 15 years ago, as it is now known.

Linda has also been a key driver in establishing, fundraising and advocating for the Friends of Sangam Australia Group, which supports the Sangam World Centre in India – one of four international centres owned by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

"In more recent years I've been involved with the International Department of Guides Victoria, promoting international opportunities for young girls to take up the



Poowong resident Linda Harvey (middle) received two awards for 45 years of outstanding service with the Girl Guides. Pictured with President Roxanne Purvis (right) and State Advisor Jill Livingston.

opportunity to travel overseas with the Guides. Being involved with this, I've had the opportunity to go to India four times with the Girl Guides," explained Linda.

"It's on the outskirts of Mumbai, about three hours out of Mumbai, and it's a place where guides can meet up from all over the world for different conferences and training, and to learn about India and cultural activities. It's just a lovely, safe compound run by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts."

"And it's the fun and the friendships that you make along the way," added Linda, who will be

heading back to India this coming February to catch up with all the friends she's made over there.

The Strzlecki – Boomerang Trefoil Guild is a group for those with a history of Girl Guiding who want to stay connected.

During their tenth anniversary celebrations, the Guild also presented other members with years of service badges, amassing an impressive, combined 530 years of service.

The Guild meets monthly at different locations between Warragul and Traralgon. For information about joining contact Roxanne Purvis on 0438 348 301.



Vishmi, Maddie, Freya, Georgia and Bridget tried their hand at Barefoot Bowls on New Years Eve at Inverloch last year. C02_0124

Barefoot and bowlin' in Invy

BRING your family, grab your friends and make a fun-tastic night at Inverloch's Barefoot Bowls.

Running from Friday, December 27 to Tuesday, January 7, ditch the shoes relax with a cold drink in hand as you roll a bowl, laugh with friends and send a few bias bowls.

Those who have never tried the sport before do not fret as volunteers will guide you through every step including picking out the perfect weight bowls.

Bring out the inner Jack Simpson as you enjoy the relaxed social game. Perfect for all skill levels, barefoot bowls combines a streak of competition with a laid-back vibe.

A casual and enjoyable lawn bowling activity participants can opt to go barefoot

or keep flat soled shoes on as they send the ball down the rink with bowls provided by the club.

Having thoroughly enjoyed barefoot bowls on a few occasion now, this writer definitely recommends popping down for a few games.

If travelling solo do not fret, the friendly volunteers will pair you up with another group or jump on a rink for a few matches.

Even if the weather is less than favourable or a scorcher, head on down and give it a go.

Bookings are not essential, but after last year's overwhelming popularity there are two sessions running this year, one from 5pm to 6.30pm and a second session from 7pm to 8.30pm at Inverloch Bowls Club, The Esplanade.

Danny O'BRIEN MP State Member for Gippsland South



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Student Indy Dice and principal Heather Braden celebrate Indy's achievements for the year. A13_5224

Pride as student achievements celebrated

SOUTH Gippsland Specialist School marked the achievements of its students throughout the year, holding its Celebration Day on Friday.

Attendees heard about the highlights and interests of each pupil, the students receiving a pictorial representation of their 2024 accomplishments containing photos of them working industriously.

Some of the students are already gaining experience in workplaces, such as a tyre business, café and in the dairy industry.

Every pupil's progress this year was celebrated, both in relation to schoolwork and personal development.

Principal Heather Braden thanked all the school staff for their dedication to supporting students and their families, encouraging those staff to, "Enjoy your well-earned break."

She acknowledged those on the School Council and members of the Parents & Friends Association for their continued support and fundraising efforts, encouraging more parents to help out next year.

After the formalities, students, staff and parents enjoyed lunch and the drawing of raffle prizes.

Heather chatted to the Sentinel-Times about "an intense but thoroughly enjoyable year", with the school's building project advancing and the new administration area completed.

The principal was pleased with student numbers this year and the arrival of new staff, adding that all the staff are wonderful and the pupils love coming to school.

"We're looking forward to coming back in the new year and moving into some of our new buildings," she said.

In addition to the administration office and two classrooms, the project will feature a new staff room and an allied health area for the NDIS therapists who work with students.

A new playground and an independent living skills centre will also feature in the development.

"The staff room, the allied health area and the two new classrooms will be finished over the summer and then part of next year's building works will be the independent living skills centre and the new playground," Heather said, clearly excited about the year ahead.



Certificate I in Initial Adult Literacy and Numeracy graduates. From left, Adele (Life Skills), Sue, Marnie, Michelle, Danny, Patsy (support worker), Alison (support worker), Robert and Simon (support worker). Front: Bonnie, Gabby and Lee. C25_5224

C2A celebrates graduates

THERE were cheers, tears and loud applause on Thursday as seven participants of Connecting-2Ability graduated with Certificate I in Initial Adult Literacy and Numeracy thanks to an incredibly strong partnership with course provider Life Skills Victoria.

"It's not an easy course, and they did fantastically well," Life Skills Education and Training Coordinator Adele stated.

"They've spent near on twelve months doing this course and they've come in every Thursday with smiles on their faces."

According to coordinators, the course is no easy feat due to the volume of work, but each student excelled with one in particular even requesting more homework!

"(All the graduates) were willing to learn, and when they make small steps, it's such a fantastic achievement, and they're so excited for each other. I used to drive home on a Thursday afternoon with a huge smile on my face."

The seven graduates on Thursday included Marnie, Gabby, Robert, Sue, Danny, Lee and Michelle.

"It's incredibly rewarding teaching," course convenor Bonnie smiled.

"Students worked really hard for today, and the C2A support staff have been amazing. The students were keen and ready to learn straight up."

Each student was presented with their certificate by Bonnie and Adele with Bonnie making a few words for each student.

For Marnie, Bonnie noted: "Marnie is an exceptional and keen learner and was always asking me for homework."

Of Robert, Bonnie said, "Robert always has a smile on his face. He's always enthusiastic and always keen to be in class, and he's very fast. I always have to give him extra extension work."

Lee: "Lee has become so happy and really enjoyed her time in the class... One thing I've really admired about Lee is that she's worked really hard, even when she's been really tired, she's pushed through and worked exceptionally hard."

Michelle: "Michelle is a beautiful, positive student. She's always willing to help. Sometimes she said, 'I can't do it', and then she

could, and did such a great job. Michelle demonstrated excellent numeracy skills, which will help her in her desire to work with the op shop."

Gabby: "Gabby's got great numeracy skills and was able to use a lot of the aids in the class and was really good using her tech to assist with her learning. It was a lot of fun having her in our class."

Danny: "A really positive, happy student. He's often looking after others and considering their needs. Danny is particularly good at directions and he was really quite a standout when we did the last unit. He's a hard worker and has really put in a massive effort."

Sue: "Sue is one of the best football tippers! She's a keen learner, always happy to help others with her knowledge of reading and numbers. She's particularly good at reading out in class different information that others needed to know. She's a really independent learner, often just quietly doing her work on her own."

Adele went on to thank the support workers, Patsy, Alison and Simon, and the team at C2A who were amazing during the period

of the course.

Speaking after the presentations, Gabby's family, which included her brother Patrick who was down from Darwin and parents, Barry and Giulia were really proud of her stating "she worked hard and was a good student."

Noting she would be reading her books every night and often come home with bags of books.

Life Skills Victoria CEO Kyle Prasser also attended the graduation ceremony noting he was "enormously proud of the graduates".

"We're really proud of the program and seeing the students participants recognise each other's achievements and cheering each other on."

C2A Business Manager Wonthaggi Jenn Hockey was just as proud of the graduates.

"We have a wonderful relationship with Life Skills and the participants have thoroughly enjoyed the certificate course."

For more information about C2A and the wonderful programs they offer and also opportunities for supported employment please call Jenn Hockey on 0458 589 611.



There was a large crowd outside Mitchell House in Wonthaggi for International Day of People with Disability recently. C02_5224

Bass Coast celebrates International Day of People with Disability

A LARGE crowd gathered outside Mitchell House on Tuesday, December 3, in celebration of International Day of People with Disability.

A culminative effort, the event was hosted by New Wave Gippsland in partnership with Gippsland Disability Advocacy, GippSport and Wonthaggi Neighbourhood House. And it would be remiss not to mention Rotary

Club of Wonthaggi who cooked up a treat behind the barbeque for the event.

New Wave Gippsland is a self-advocacy group (four in fact) that is run by and for people with intellectual disability and acquired brain injuries living in Gippsland.

They ensure individuals have the same rights, choices and opportunities as anyone else in the community, as explained by

project worker Jess, and peer worker Tim.

Tim Mackie also went on to explain the events in the line up for 2025 after a successful 2024 that saw him organising and running tech training meetings.

"Teaching people how to use apps and social media and how to be aware of pitfalls such as scams," Tim said, explaining that his sessions are run in collaboration

with other organisations.

Also on hand were Gippsland Disability Advocacy, who have been championing the rights of people with disabilities since 1986, and have an office in Wonthaggi.

Tania explaining that Gippsland Disability Advocacy have a number of services that can assist individuals and is delivered at different levels.



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Melinda Licciardi will be hosting a book club for adults or parents of children with ADD/ADHD based on *Scattered Minds*, a book written by Gabor Mate.

A new book club for those impacted by ADHD

A SPECIAL book club for those with ADD/ADHD and their families is set to begin in January in South Gippsland.

The club will be based on the book, *Scattered Minds* by Gabor Mate, which provides strategies for enhancing self-regulation and fostering growth for individuals with ADD/ADHD, with an emphasis on a holistic approach.

Two local social workers who are well versed in the world of attention deficit disorder (ADD) and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) will be hosting the club, which will coincide with the school term and run for two hours a week, over ten weeks.

Melinda Licciardi is one of the hosts and has personal experience with ADHD from a family perspective and as a professional with the families and children she works with.

After reading Gabor Mate's book she realised there was an opportunity for people to share their experiences through stories, as they relate to each chapter in the book.

"They've got the opportunity to read and reflect and have a conversation about what that raised for them, what they understood of that, what they find challenging in that, what they don't agree with, what they do agree with and to process it," explained Melinda.

"It's a therapeutic book club. So, it has got some healing and support network components to it as well."

Melinda has most recently been working in the NDIS space, with families, adults and children in a therapeutic way using movement and counselling.

While Suzy Winterbottom, the other host, primarily works with children in educational settings and in the community.

Ultimately, through establishing the book club, they are seeking to support the wellbeing of local families, adults and children as they journey through the condition.

The book club is open to people who identify as having ADHD or ADD or those who have yet to be diagnosed but can relate, as well as parents who have children with the condition.

"There are so many ways it can present and affect a family or an individual. The reading of the book allows you to explore that and hear other people's experiences, but also share yours, and perhaps get some ideas about how you might be able to implement strategies and things in the home," explains Melinda.

"It's really individual, you can't take a label and have one box fit everybody. We're individuals, we're human beings. We have different needs and different circumstances."

Melinda and Suzy are currently seeking expressions of interest from people for daytime sessions or evening sessions.

Following this, dates, groups and locations will be determined and there is a cost involved for participants. There will also be more book clubs run subsequently.

For more information contact Melinda on 0412 155 146.

Locals help recover pieces of the Amazon Shipwreck

THE Amazon re-emerged in all her glory during the wild storms that battered South Gippsland on Monday, September 2, with part of the historic shipwreck shifting 60 metres along the Inverloch Surf Beach shoreline.

The exposed section was a large part of the hull, from the bow end of the vessel.

Due to the storm and greater exposure, pieces of the hull broke off and washed away.

While some artefacts will be lost forever, eleven Inverloch locals have been instrumental in finding and reporting missing pieces of the wreckage since then, with most bits seen or found on the beach or floating in the sea.

A couple of those young treasure hunters were friends Teddy and Niamh who pulled a trolley from one side of Inverloch to the other to deliver an artefact in a bucket of water to Secretary of Amazon 1863 Project, Karyn Bugeja.

Trent, a 20-year-old surfer, noticed a large piece of timber floating in the sea and dragged it to shore before notifying the Amazon 1863 Project committee.

Then there was Dennis, who found a 2.4 metre curved section of timber, weighing at least 50 kilograms. He dragged it above the high tide line and camouflaged it so well that it took the team quite some time to locate it.

"We are so fortunate to have these eagle eyes on our beach and such wonderful community interest and ownership of



A couple of young treasure hunters, Teddy and friend Niamh found an artefact from the Amazon wreckage after the September storm.

our Amazon wreck in Inverloch," said Karyn Bugeja.

"It is notable that there are many groups around Australia who are extremely envious of our community's involvement. The Amazon committee is encouraged by this support and is keen to share the stories."

The Amazon Committee investigate each artefact found, documenting the location, then measuring, photographing and cataloguing each piece.

While the hull, which is now once again blanketed in sand, was exposed, it allowed Heritage Victoria's maritime archaeologists to create a 3D

model of the section to preserve its history.

It's natural for historic shipwrecks to break up over centuries; and raising the wreck piece and conserving it would cost millions of dollars, according to Heritage Victoria; and attempts to stabilise the exposed section would be ineffective or damaging as the coastline is so dynamic.

While the upper, exposed parts of the wreckage are in poor condition, with green marine growth and deterioration, the lower sections that are buried in the beach sand remain in excellent condition.

Burial in wet sand, where there is less oxygen, is a



Dennis found a 2.4 m curved piece of timber, weighing at least 50 kilograms, dragged it above the high tide line and camouflaged it so well that it took quite some time for the committee to locate it.

natural and ideal way of preserving shipwreck material for decades.

Heritage Victoria and Parks Victoria work alongside the Amazon Project team and locals to locate and record scattered parts of the wreckage and artefacts.

A display of the shipwreck's artifacts is on now, until the end of the Summer holidays, upstairs at the Inverloch Surf Life Club.

Report any found pieces of the wreckage to Heritage Victoria to record at heritage.victoria@transport.vic.gov.au or contact the Amazon 1863 Project Team at secretary@amazon1863.org.au.

A grant for Karyn is a bonus for the Amazon

THE Amazon 1863 Project Committee is one of the many cultural institutions around the country that care for maritime items of historical and national significance – that being the historic shipwreck buried on the Inverloch Surf Beach.

Secretary of the committee, Karyn Bugeja, has been dedicated to researching, documenting and preserving the history of the wreckage since its discovery in 2019, alongside four other committee members.

This volunteer role encompasses many facets and over the years Karyn has written a children's book on the history, uncovered historical documents including lists of crew members and passengers, organised and coordinated education sessions and presentations, held displays of the ship's artifacts, created brochures, websites and signs for the wreck, among other things.

Recently, Karyn was one of ten delegates successful in receiving a grant to study for five days at the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) in Sydney.

The grant program covered all aspects of a maritime museum's role.

"The insights gained into all aspects of maritime museum operations has been



Amazon 1863 Project secretary, Karyn Bugeja received a grant to study for five days at the Australian National Maritime Museum.

extremely valuable to the Amazon 1863 Project," said Karyn.

"From collection management to creative exhibitions, engaging techniques, funding strategies, attracting new audiences, creating programs, to the challenges of protecting and maintaining historic vessels and realising their interpretation

potential."

The museum's grants program supports staff or volunteers, from remote or regional organisations to spend time learning specific skills and making valuable connections.

It also supports and encourages efforts of regional museums and organisations to conserve and display

unique local objects and those with historical maritime significance.

Karyn commented that the networking opportunities were excellent and connecting with others that she can now call on for answers, has made a world of difference.

"All the curators and the director, the deputies, they were all just so encouraging and helpful.

"A very worthwhile experience and a privilege for the Amazon 1863 Project."

While there, Karyn had the opportunity to experience an ANMM Fleet tour, museum tour, and sailed aboard the Duyfken around Sydney Harbour.

She also heard lectures from professionals across the industry, including directors, curators, maritime archaeologists, digital technologists, conservators and collections managers; and was involved in discussions on storytelling, people, audiences, members and volunteers.

The Maritime Museums of Australia Project Support Scheme (MMAPSS) is funded by the Australian Government through the Australian National Maritime Museum and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

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Get good eggs for eggnog this Christmas

IT'S that time of year again when the cheery Christmas concoction eggnog gets mixed up and consumed in greater or lesser quantities but knowing how to make a safe batch is crucial.

Eggnog has long been associated with the holiday season and is thought to be related to a medieval European drink called "posset," which later travelled across the transatlantic and saw American and Mexican adaptations.

Typically, eggnog is made with raw egg, as well as heavy cream, sugar, distilled spirits and depending on the recipe, vanilla, warm spices or coconut.

Raw egg yolks and egg whites are key ingredients in traditional recipes, as they thicken and emulsify the beverage, which is often served chilled but may be warmed up on especially cold nights.

It's this ingredient that has the potential to ruin Christmas, as raw eggs can be contaminated with salmonella, with Australia witnessing a spike of cases in September this year.

These food poisoning outbreaks can occur because of raw or undercooked eggs, poor storage, or poor handling. The Department of Health recommends using eggs that are clean, uncracked and kept cool.

Throw away any that are dirty as bacteria can contaminate the eggs and washing them can make it easier for bacteria to penetrate the porous shell or enter through cracks.

There is no way to tell by sight or smell whether an egg is contaminated with bacteria.

Other safety measures are to heat eggnog before drinking it, to a minimum temperature of 60°C and blending the egg yolks with sugar will allow the mixture to heat to 71°C, which is thought to kill off most pathogens.

Other options to ensure the eggnog is good to be chugged is to use pasteurised, or heat-treated eggs or to opt for vegan versions.

Those at greater risk of contracting salmonella from raw eggs include infants, the elderly, pregnant women and people with reduced immunity – and summer is the prime time for infection.

Other homemade recipes to be wary of this Christmas that may contain raw eggs include mayonnaise, aioli, salad dressings, hollandaise sauces, chocolate mousse, tiramisu, and other desserts.

Ultimate eggnog recipe

Try this eggnog recipe from Jamie Oliver this Christmas. It's creamy sweet and full of holiday cheer. Serves 8

Ingredients:

- 3 cups (700ml) whole milk
- 1 cup (240ml) heavy or double cream
- 3 cinnamon sticks
- 1 vanilla bean pod, split and seeds removed
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg, plus more for garnish
- 5 eggs, separated
- 2/3 (130g) cup granulated sugar
- 3/4 cup (175ml) Bacardi Dark Rum, or bourbon

Method:

In a saucepan, combine milk, cream, cinnamon, vanilla bean, vanilla seeds, and nutmeg. Bring to the boil over a medium heat. Once boiling, remove from the heat and allow to steep.

In a large bowl or stand mixer, beat egg yolks and sugar until combined and thick ribbons form when the whisk is lifted.

Slowly whisk in the milk and continue to mix until the mixture is combined and smooth.

Add bourbon or rum and stir.

Refrigerate overnight or for up to three days.

Before serving, beat the egg whites in a large bowl or stand mixer until soft peaks form. Gently fold into eggnog until combined.

Serve and garnish with freshly grated nutmeg.



Bern Carroll and Mandy Siegel entertain the crowds at the San Remo carols on Friday night.

Countdown to Christmas at San Remo's carols by the bridge



Having fun at the San Remo carols on Friday night were Rachel James, Tim James, Deb Leonard and Simon Moule.



Enjoying the carols at San Remo last Friday night were Jake and Therese Smith.



Sounds good. Anthony Jiang gives the thumbs up from the sound desk during the San Remo carols on Friday night.



The kids in the audience all got their chance to join Bern Carroll (Santa) and Mandy Siegel dancing on stage during the San Remo carols last Friday night.

A BIG crowd turned out for one of the last carols nights of the year, on the San Remo foreshore last Friday night.

And with a varied line up of talent on stage, the weather playing its part, and the backdrop of the Phillip Island Bridge and Western Port Bay, family groups, kids and couples set up on the lawn and thoroughly enjoyed the night.

The Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead was there to kick off the proceedings, making note later of one of the early highlights of the night, the choir from the San Remo Primary School.

"I'd also like to give a shout out to the team from the San Remo SES who jumped in at the last moment to make sure Santa arrived after the fire brigade was called away to fight the bushfire at The Gurdies. That's what community is all about," said an emotional mayor.

The dynamic duo of Mandy Siegel and Bern Carroll really

got the crowd going with a selection of carols, with words flashed up on the big screen and a regular visitor from Melbourne, youngster Lilly Prentice showed she's really going somewhere with a great voice.

Mandy and Bern's '12 days of a Phillip Island Christmas' was a real hit, going something like this: 12 geese a-breeding, 11,000 shearwaters flying, 10 sailors sailing, nine councillors working, eight winds a-blowing, seven surfers surfing, six tourists talking, five new cafes, four hooded plovers, three purple hens, two little penguins... and a Phillip Island wallaby!

Maybe the wind was a little stronger than you'd like, and there's little doubt the firefighters on the fire grounds just down the road felt the same, their heroic efforts not far from the thoughts of most who enjoyed the pre-Christmas celebrations at San Remo.



Ziggy the dog joins Kirk, Carolina and Paula Irvin at the carols in San Remo on Friday night.



Jordan Callow, Ben Meunier, Stacey Schonewille and Jason Jones get together for a night at the San Remo carols.

Generous community helps 200 families doing it tough this Christmas

THE Salvos Bags of Hope appeal and generous community donations have made it possible for between 150 and 200 local families who are doing it tough to have a more abundant Christmas.

With the support of individuals and communities, the Salvos have received a great response to their Bags of Hope drive, which helps provide food hampers and toys for families.

There has been an increase in families seeking assistance this year, with many people coming in for help for the first time.

"We certainly filled up our registrations a lot quicker than previous years," Amanda Hart, Corps Officer for South Coast Gippsland Salvos explained.

Church groups in Wonthaggi partnered with the Salvos to ensure as many families as possible across the Bass Coast were provided for as well.

Donated toys were set up so registered families could go and choose presents for their children to open on Christmas morning as well.

Amanda commented that they've had such a great response for presents from local donations including from the Loch drive, Wonthaggi Kmart wishing tree as well as from the material aid centre in Melbourne which come from Kmart Wishing Trees from around



The Loch community held a Christmas drive to help provide gifts for families doing it tough, with locals Frank and Paula Springer, Amanda Hart from Salvos and Amanda Odrowaz from Loch.

the state.

They were also able to offer people who missed out on registering the opportunity to go and select from some toys that were still available.

"I've just been absolutely blown away by the response. And I feel like I kind of say it every year, but this year, particularly, I thought, we won't get as much because everybody's struggling with the cost of living and we're seeing more and more families coming in for assistance. So, I really wasn't

expecting the response to be as big," said Amanda.

Organisations and communities have also been involved such as the Loch Village which had businesses collecting toys for the drive, organised by Loch local Amanda Odrowaz.

"I went to pick it up last Friday, and it pretty much filled my car. I was picking up from there and then going somewhere else to pick up and I'm like, I can't really fit much more in. It was just amazing," said Amanda.

Amanda said the Salvos are also very grateful for the help of all the volunteers and that it wouldn't be possible without those who give up their time and energy to ensure local families have a joyful Christmas.

"It's been an amazing response at an incredibly tough time for so many people. Really heartfelt. Thank you to everyone in the community. We really have an incredibly generous community who really look out for each other, so we're really blessed," said Amanda.



Local Erika Green is delighted to meet Santa during Thursday's Christmas shopping evening in Korumburra. A21_5224

Christmas shopping night in Korumburra

SANTA proved a drawcard at The Coterie in Korumburra during the town's Christmas Shopping Night on Thursday, young Erika Green his first visitor, having patiently waited after arriving early.

The shopping event was organised by the Korumburra Business Association (KBA), which expressed its appreciation to everyone who came along, with a special mention for those who said hello to Santa.

Soon after Erika shared her Christmas present wishes with the man in the red suit, the line of expectant kids stretched to the door.

Outside, locals Ayana, Hardeep and Dilan Sohi enjoyed exploring what was on offer for the festive evening, Dilan embracing the spirit of the occasion and resplendent in a Santa hat.

As always, Bluey proved a hit and it was difficult to determine which of Nenita Lacanaria and councillor Bron Beach was more excited to pose with the famous heeler.

The South Gippsland Concert Band was stationed outside the chemist, playing a mixture of carols and Christmas favourites such as 'Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer' and 'Jingle Bells', the performance appreciated by those still in town, numbers having diminished by the time the music commenced.

Performer Corie Blackley entertained the kids outside Kelly's Bakery.

Bakery staff member Riley McIntosh was a welcoming presence, with a display and samples of baked Christmas items such as shortbread, fruit cakes and plum puddings.

This scribe has earned a reputation for savouring such treats during his rounds and didn't miss the chance, samples followed by the purchase of a mince pie and coffee to enjoy while resting weary feet.

Unfortunately, with the carpark beside the bakery not closed off this year for entertainment and stalls, people weren't drawn to that precinct as much as was the case last year.

On the other side of the road, despite prophecies of doom many years ago in relation to the future of bookshops due to the evolution of technology, Hilary Sullivan's Hare & Tortoise Books proved a popular spot.

So did the Burra Brewing Co., people enjoying the chance to wind down at the local brewery in the lead-up to Christmas.

While overall an enjoyable evening, the pleasant conditions suggested a larger turnout was likely, perhaps indicating more publicity is needed for next year's Christmas shopping event.

Hopefully, seeing the joy on the faces of attendees, especially those visiting Santa, will encourage those at KBA to organise more events around town next year.

Korumburra community spirit displayed with traditional carols

THE TRUE meaning of Christmas was on show in Korumburra as the town's churches combined to host Sunday evening carols at Coleman Park.

Traditional carols and a light-hearted short play that put Christ back in Christmas were enjoyable for all regardless of religious inclination.

Local Baptist Church pastor Ian Wilkinson spoke of the many community members who have offered him support and encouragement, noting it has meant a lot to him.

"Thank you for your generosity and kindness to me," he said.

Ian reflected on the joy and sadness Christmas can bring people.

"My prayer is that you will have a joyful Christmas," he declared.

The pastor told his audience how much he enjoys singing carols with them, apologising to those sitting near him and joking that the evening's singers disappeared when it was

his turn to take the microphone.

While the town's cenotaph formed the backdrop for those performing, a large banner set the Christmas vibe with a depiction of a stable long ago.

A representation of the stable was present at the event.

A joyful rendition of We Wish You a Merry Christmas sent people on their way to reflect on a lovely night, rain having held off and conditions cool and pleasant, and there was no need for fireworks or other embellishments.

The Anglican Church of St Paul, St Joseph's Catholic Church, Southern Hills Church, Korumburra Uniting Church and Korumburra Baptist Church contributed to the experience.

"Our prayer is that you will know the comfort and joy offered by Jesus this Christmas, and find the blessings of God in the New Year," the churches' combined message said.



Tony, Stephanie and Michelle Moon are ready for Christmas. A45_5224



The cool evening at Coleman Park is perfect for Emily and Henry Hillberg to show off their Christmas jumpers. A47_5224



Helen and Don Lyon-Jones of Nyora embrace the spirit of Christmas at Coleman Park. A46_5224

Festive celebrations at Woorayl Lodge Christmas party bring joy

WHILE the recent Woorayl Lodge Fete was forced indoors by wet weather, staff and residents enjoyed glorious sunshine at Wednesday's Christmas party as they listened to Rock 'n Roll and festive songs performed by Corie Blackley.

Resident Nancy Hogan summed up the mood after the event, saying "A great time was had by all."

Faye Lyons, another who calls the Lodge home, is renowned for hitting the dance floor at any opportunity and was on her feet again during Corie's performance.

"I love dancing and he's wonderful to listen to," she said.

Residents received Christmas gifts from Secret Santa and

gave presents to the Woorayl Lodge staff, adding to the joy of the day for everyone.

An afternoon tea prepared by local catering identity Brent Sinclair was enjoyed by all.

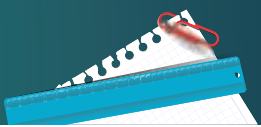
The Lodge's lifestyle coordinator Christine Beck expressed her delight at the weather and people's generosity.

"Thank you to the community for the Secret Santa because that just topped it off beautifully," she said, explaining that Secret Santa offers community members the chance to buy a present for a particular resident.

The buyer is given a card that doesn't reveal personal details of the resident but offers guidance on what to purchase.



Musician Corie Blackley joins Woorayl Lodge staff and residents after his show. A03_5224



Year 7 student, and MTB enthusiast, Kody Lewis loves participating in the mountain biking events held off campus, as well as on the custom-made MTB track located in the College grounds.

A haven of opportunity at Newhaven College

NEWHAVEN College is about hands-on sensory learning. Whether it be outdoor education, music lessons or a maths class, teachers are actively present ensuring each young person's unique learning path is enriched. Newhaven's educators are at their peak professionally, resulting in students receiving the best possible education.

With a proud academic record, many Newhaven College students go on to further education, however, the College also offers a wide range of VET subjects and unique programs to complement the school curriculum.

Some of the highlights of an education at Newhaven College include a wide range of co-curricular activities, from sports to an exceptional performing arts program. Sports include House and inter-school competitions, plus out-of-the-box opportunities such as the coveted Surfing Academy, Equestrian Team or the newly minted MTB (Mountain Biking) Academy. Some of the College's riders and surfers have achieved extraordinary results in 2024 with National Championship wins in a range of disciplines.

The Performing Arts Wing is outstanding, with one-on-one lesson spaces, a rehearsal studio, sound rooms, collaboration spaces and the Black Box theatre. This facility, along with an exceptional music teaching team, provides a nurturing and encouraging space for music students to explore their talent.

The unique learning space of the Year 9 Environmental Centre is set away from the main College campus. Looking out over Western Port Bay, the open space and healthy atmosphere help to shape a student's mindset. Wearing their special Year 9 'ranger-style' uniforms, complete with hiking boots, students are ready to move between the classroom and outdoor activities as opportunities arise. The Year 9 Environmental Centre is a busy, ever-changing place of learning. The specialised team provides professional dedication and commitment to supporting Year 9 students as they pass through the challenges of adolescence. They are singly focused on providing the best opportunities so students can thrive.

An education at Newhaven College is grounded, well-rounded and nurturing. The result is young adults armed with confidence and an open mind, ready to take on what the future holds.

Leongatha Secondary College Year 7 intake ready for secondary school



St Laurence O'Toole Primary School pupils Ava, Macey and Stella from Inverloch Kongwak Primary School, and Michaela from Leongatha Primary School get a taste of secondary school during the Science Olympics at Leongatha Secondary College.

LEONGATHA Secondary College's 2025 Year 7 intake is well prepared for the shift from primary school, having undertaken two days of transition this month in addition to other opportunities to experience elements of LSC throughout 2024.

During the transition days, the 109 young students participated in a range of activities run by Year 9 Peer Support Leaders and LSC staff.

The diverse activities incorporated a Science Olympics, Art, English, Wellbeing, Humanities, IT, and a Scavenger Hunt.

There was a presentation on the school's learning management system 'Compass', and attendees also heard about SPARK, a program that helps teach effective learning attitudes and respectful relationships.

Most of the incoming Year 7s are arriving from the adjoining Leongatha Primary School, that group accounting for approximately 85 per cent of the cohort, with around 10 per cent coming from Meeniyah Primary School and others from Tarwin Lower and Inverloch.

Assistant principal of the 'junior school' at LSC, Warwick Ford, said there was lots to do during the transition days and everybody had a positive experience.

"We do the two days so we can give students a real taste

of what secondary school is going to look like before they break for their Christmas holidays," he said.

The Science Olympics proved a winner, with the incoming students speaking highly of the activities.

"It was set up in the school gym and the kids got to rotate around different science activities over the course of a couple of hours, and at the end of it there was a competition and prizes were awarded," Warwick said.

The Peer Support Leaders also impressed next year's crop of Year 7s.

"They really enjoyed the student-led activities and (the Peer Support Leaders) looking after them at morning tea and lunchtime," Warwick said.

The transition program finished with parents joining their children and school staff for a barbecue.

Warwick explained the transition days are the culmination of LSC working with primary schools in the area throughout the year to ensure students will be ready for secondary school.

That interaction included weekly visits from Leongatha Primary School pupils for 'junior school' assemblies at LSC, while Meeniyah and Tarwin Lower Primary School students have also been given a taste of LSC over the course of the year.

'Coghlan House' honours retiring principal Dot

By Andrew Palocz

RETIRING principal Dot Coghlan is held in such high regard after 28 years of devoted service to Leongatha Primary School (LPS) and its students and staff, that 'Strzelecki House' has been renamed 'Coghlan House' in her honour.

That announcement was made at her final assembly on Thursday, a large gathering of students, staff and family hearing speeches about Dot's service as she sat on her luxuriant throne, a tribute to her royal status at the school.

"It's overwhelming," she said of the Coghlan House acknowledgement.

She was inspired to become a teacher because her mother was a committed member of the profession, and she noted her mum would be looking down with pride.

"Kids don't care how much you know until they know how much you care," Dot said of the mantra that has driven her philosophy to teaching and her role as principal.

She stressed that approach has become even more important today with the number of children who have suffered trauma and anxiety and those who have



Dot Coghlan listens to Murray Wightman speak about her career. A05_5224

struggled as a result of the pandemic.

"It's our job as teachers to show genuine concern for our students because then students flourish under our care," Dot said.

The retiring principal spoke of some of the accomplishments she is proud of over her time in the position, including the implementation of a quality out-of-home care program enabling parents to return to their jobs or complete further study.

Another highlight is the school's two support dogs,

which helped smooth the transition back to LPS for students after the COVID lockdowns.

Dot also noted the school's wellbeing inclusion program, which helps LPS pupils feel valued and accepted.

While many have suggested to her recently that she must be counting down the days to retirement, that is far from the case, having found great joy in teaching and as principal, describing the latter position as "a dream come true".

Dot acknowledged the support she has experienced,

praising the school's teachers, education support staff and everyone else who helps LPS run smoothly.

Dot expressed confidence in her successor Warwick Ford, assuring attendees that he will continue to take the school forward, having worked with him during education precinct meetings and observing he will be a wonderful leader.

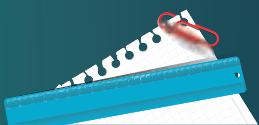
Murray Wightman, who also has an LPS House named after him, reflected on the fact Pawel Strzelecki never quite made it to Leongatha and passed away a little over 150 years ago, setting the scene for Dot to unveil the words to the Coghlan House Song.

Murray also recalled meeting Dot 40 years ago when the pair were new teachers at Mirboo North Primary School.

School council president Emma Stevic spoke glowingly of Dot's contribution and commitment, describing her career as "illustrious" and noting she refuses to accept anything but the best for the school.

Emma reflected on Dot's visionary leadership and ability to nurture the minds and hearts of countless students.

Dot looks forward to travelling with husband Graeme.



Participants of the new Accelerated Bachelor of Education (Primary) were welcomed to the program recently. Amongst the cohort are two local participants from St Joseph's Wonthaggi include Janelle Cole (sixth, front from left) and Rikki Cant (seventh, front from left).

Support staff offered sponsorships to embark on a teaching career

DIOCESE of Sale Catholic Education Limited (DOSCEL) has partnered with Swinburne University of Technology to address the pressing issue of teacher shortages through an innovative initial teacher education program specifically for current Education Support staff working in Catholic schools within the Diocese of Sale.

The program is structured as a DOSCEL sponsored study initiative. The course, which is an accredited Bachelor of Education (Primary) program has attracted significant interest. Following a rigorous application process, 29 participants are gearing up to commence their studies in 2025.

Rikki Cant and Janelle Cole both from St Joseph's Primary School in Wonthaggi have been selected.

The three-year accelerated program offers significant benefits to students, schools, and the Diocese including:

- An employment-based model, which will see students employed within schools at the beginning of year three.
- An applied learning pedagogical design, encouraging students to take their workplace experiences and link it to their university studies.
- Religious education accreditation included as part of the program design.
- A balance of online and face-to-face delivery with a focus on care, connection, and community.

Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited (DOSCEL) oversees and supports 45 Catholic schools within the Diocese of Sale, which stretches from Melbourne's outer southeastern suburbs, and Gippsland, reaching as far as Orbost in the east.

A Welcome and Induction was held for the inaugural participants greeted by Mr Paul Velten – Director of Catholic Education for the Diocese of

Sale, Ms Debra Punton – Deputy Director/Catholic Identity Learning and Teaching, and Professor Sivanes Phillipson – Chair of Education Swinburne University.

Mr Paul Velten, expressed his enthusiasm for the new initiative.

"This collaboration between Swinburne University of Technology and Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited not only addresses teacher shortages but also invests in the professional development of our dedicated support staff. We are excited to empower these individuals to take the next step in their careers and become influential educators within our Catholic schools," he said.

Professor Sivanes Phillipson – Chair of Education Swinburne University of Technology echoed Mr Velten's sentiment: "Together with Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Limited, Swinburne University of Technology sees

this initiative as an innovative way of responding to the teacher workforce crisis. This initiative offers a high-quality and bespoke teacher education program designed to value the experiences and prior learning of the Catholic support staff and positioning them to be highly skilled teachers committed to Catholic education through an employment-based design."

"Swinburne is attuned to barriers for mid-career people to access teacher education. Programs such as this, designed by the Department of Education at Swinburne, recognise the realities of balancing work, study and family, and position students to be connected to lecturers and peers in a supportive and growth-oriented manner.

This partnership developed between DOSCEL and Swinburne is an exciting new chapter in high-quality teacher education."



WNPS School Captains, Amia and Tiala, welcome families, carers and friends to the Grade 6 Graduation Night held at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club recently.

WNPS Grade 6 student graduation

THE Wonthaggi North Primary School community farewelled the Grade 6 class of 2024 at a graduation night recently. The special event was held at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club with 32 students graduating along with their families, carers and friends attending the evening. The night was hosted by two of the WNPS Student Leaders for 2024 – Linita and Chayce.

The evening began with students and staff eating dinner together and chatting about the year that was. Families and friends then arrived to watch the proceedings with the 2024 School Captains, Amia and Tiala, welcoming everyone to the event.

WNPS Principal, Mr Andrew Strickland, acknowledged all the hard work students had done this year to make it to the end of their primary schooling and expressed his gratitude for outgoing Assistant Principal, Mrs Kathy Jones, who is leaving the school to return to Inverloch Primary School.

Students received their graduating certificate and gift while guests watched the photos of their primary schooling years on the AV screen. Each student read out a 'snap-shot' of their schooling as they introduced the next graduate.

The night concluded with the traditional Grade 6 dance which was well received. After the formal proceedings, guests enjoyed reading the student banners which detailed highlights of their primary schooling and listed things they would like to do in the future. Guests also enjoyed viewing the bright and colourful Grade 6 pop-art self-portraits on display from Visual Art this year.

WNPS staff and community look forward to seeing what the Class of 2024 achieve in their futures and wish them all the best of luck for their secondary schooling next year.

The WNPS 2024 Grade 6 student award recipients are as follows:

Personal Growth for 5/6A – Nick B and Madison A, Personal Growth for 5/6B – Hannah M and Angel M, Personal Growth for 5/6C – Jamal A and Lakhisha J, Spanish Award – Jamal A, Buddy Award – Cooper C, Arts Award – Linita S, PE Award – Tyler J, English Award – Linita S, Maths Award – Chance W, Overall Academic Growth – Jedda T, Citizenship Award – Amia T.

Other exciting news at WNPS includes the placement of an additional learning specialist, Mrs Kristy Geyer who taught 3/4 students at WNPS this year. Mrs Geyer will be joining current learning specialist, Ms Caroline Blakely.

Another positive push with staff and students is the government funded Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHIPS) program which is being launched across all primary schools in Victoria in 2025. Mrs Lucy O'Reilly, 3/4 teacher at WNPS this year, has been appointed to the new role as the Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader. All these appointments mean that the school will have more support than ever before to support the academic and wellbeing needs of WNPS students and their families.

Spectacular coloured fun at Wonthaggi North

THERE was colours flying and water spraying in all directions last Thursday as students took to the oval for the final day colour fun run organised by the schools Parents and Friends Association.

The event is a highlight of the calendar and is made possible through the hard work and fundraising throughout the year of the parents association.

After throwing their hats in the air and heading through the human arch grade sixes took to the track first in a sensory lap before joining their prep buddies and subsequently the rest of the school.

The second lap saw the water turned on, a welcome in the bright sunshine and heat, and colours sprayed by alumni, parents and teachers.



Sentinel-Times COMMENT

Should we be in the forestry business?

AT THE 'Inquiry into Local Government Funding and Services' in September this year, Bass Coast Shire CEO Greg Box told a panel of State MPs, which incidentally included beleaguered Liberal MP Moira Deeming, that the shire struggled to maintain its assets with a budget smaller than the one enjoyed by Carey Grammar School.

"We have got enormous assets right across the board that we are trying to service and manage. Our capability around that in terms of finance is reducing over time," he said.

One of those assets is the 'Gurdies Reserve', a small bushland reserve of approximately 52.2 hectares, bordered by the Bass Highway to the west, private property to the north and east (including the adjacent Woodland Close residential estate), and The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve (managed by Parks Victoria) to the south.

The highly volatile Gurdies bushfire over the past few days did not start in the shire-owned reserve, we are told, but it was the first place where the fire took hold, reportedly a very difficult area for emergency services to access, made more so by storms this year which reportedly brought down trees, or left limbs hanging precariously.

In November 2019, the Bass Coast Shire Council voted to establish the Gurdies Reserve as its third Native Vegetation Offset site (although it was designated as such as early as 2007), saying it could generate around \$1.1 million annually through the sale of offset credits to permit holders.

In fact, the site is protected in perpetuity (forever) to offset the impact of three VicRoads projects, the Bass Highway duplication (Stages 5 and 6), the Westernport Highway duplication (from Cranbourne-Frankston Road to North Road), and Cranbourne-Frankston Road to North Road (Stages 1, 2, and 3).

But there's no such thing as a free lunch.

In June 2019, the shire had bushfire management consultants, Terramatrix Pty Ltd, prepare an 'Asset Protection Zone Assessment' for the shire in which there is a comprehensive list of management recommendations, specifically about how to deal with the bushfire risk, not only to the asset itself but also to the adjoining residents.

They even war-gamed almost the exact scenario that happened in the past week.

Among other notes: "The mapped APZ (Asset Protection Zone) shows that additional work is needed north of 30 Woodland Close, west of 40 and 41 Woodland Close, and south of Hendy Lane. Vegetation management in these additional areas should focus on understorey management, reducing the elevated and near-surface fuel layers, and removing dead fine fuels such as fallen branches."

Fire breaks and access tracks are to be regularly maintained.

The jury is out as to whether the shire has discharged its responsibilities in relation to the reserve and to the nearby homeowners and property owners, but as a ratepayer, I'm not sure I want an organisation that is supposed to specialise in roads, rubbish, rates and town planning to be responsible for such a complex and potentially risky venture – \$1.1 million income or not.

Other municipalities have arrangements with catchment management authorities for handling their native vegetation offset issues, but, in any case, why is a small municipality on the south-east coast getting involved in highway duplication projects that are nowhere near this area?

Talk about staying in your own lane!



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grob' Robinson.

Focus on the roads that need repairing

ON TUESDAY, a road crew of three with a vehicle carried out maintenance on barely noticeable road surface fissures in Silvereye Circuit, Wonthaggi, a road that is single lane and rarely used for traffic other than residents and visitors.

While I am sure the residents appreciate this special attention given to our small community, surely there are better ways to use resources given the disgraceful state of our roads throughout Gippsland.

Gary Beard, Wonthaggi

Yet another Bass Coast planning failure

CAN you build a three-level, 8.5+ metre high, boundary-to-boundary, 50+ square house on a 600- square metre residential lot in a Bass Coast coastal hamlet which drastically impacts views to and from the coast at just 75 metres from the Phillip Island Foreshore Reserve?

If you have deep-enough pockets, you bet you can!

Thanks to an impotent Bass Coast Planning Scheme, a weakly prepared and defended recommendation by Bass Coast Shire's statutory planning team, a Bass Coast Shire Council which happily ignores 20+ local objections, doesn't follow its own governance guidelines and doesn't understand its own planning permit-related processes and you're well on the way. Then just lawyer-up with a combative VCAT consultant combined with VCAT Planning rulings which declare the vast majority of the Bass Coast Planning Scheme's residential development provisions "irrelevant" and overwhelmingly rules in favour of development, and you're home!

It's a massive slap-down for the majority of folk who choose to live on Phillip Island largely for its low scale character and respectful sharing of its unique natural environment and is a very concerning precedent for a development free-for-all!

Surely it's not unreasonable for long-suffering ratepayers to expect that an effective Council can achieve better value from the \$3.5M+ statutory planning annual spend, stand up a Planning Scheme which "is relevant", has sufficient teeth to effectively defend against blatantly inappropriate residential development and supports recommendations which withstand subsequent VCAT scrutiny.

Manfred Decker, Cape Woolamai

Time for action

IN RESPONSE to the Australian Government on the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

We at Inverloch RSL extend our sincere appreciation for the Australian Government's comprehensive response to the final report of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The decision to agree with 104 out of the 122 recommendations is a commendable step towards addressing the critical issues faced by our Defence personnel and veterans.

We suggest that RSL Victoria seeks explicit indications on the timelines for the implementation of the 'Agree-in-Principle' recommendations; it is essential to understand the specific commitments and actions that will be undertaken to implement these recommendations. Clear timelines and detailed plans are crucial to ensure that these vital reforms are effectively executed.

Additionally, it may be prudent to seek similar clarifications from the Federal Opposition to understand their stance and planned actions regarding these recommendations. This approach would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the bipartisan commitment to addressing these important issues.

I acknowledge that Government may go into caretaker mode at some time in the new year. I do point out though that veteran suicides do not.

Lindsay Guerin, Secretary, Inverloch RSL

Dune planting will not fix the problem

I TOTALLY agree with Kevin Griffin's letter in last week's Sentinel-Times, talk about putting the cart before the horse, thinking that dune planting will fix the problem.

As I've said in this paper before, you have to push for a rock wall, followed up then with dune planting behind the wall.

If some of you don't like the colour of rock, then paint it green!!!

But just do it, otherwise, nature will keep doing what it's doing now.

Geoff Lee, Longwarry

Vox Pop

What is your takeaway message from this year?



Annie Brown
"Let's put Christ back in Christmas, worship him and find him in our hearts."



David Kennedy
"My message is hope; there are always people going through worse things than what we are and hope helps us get out of bed every day and face life."



David Jackson
"It was a sad year personally, losing friends, and we're looking forward to a happy and holy New Year."



Peter Toohey
"Hopefully we can have love and respect for all."

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



Josh Gale (Toora Lions Ken Coghlan Memorial Award), Scarlett Dubignon (S.T.E.M. Gill Dentistry Award), Noah Davis (Foster and Toora Medical Centres Award), Jemima Gill (South Gippsland Radiology Award), Lily Ann Bright (Dr Robbie Fleming Award) and Amala Liepa (Rhiannon Voros Memorial Award). B05_5224



Asher Hamlett (Foster Rotary Terry Stritch Trade Bursary Award). B03_5224

Impressive report card for Foster Secondary College

RATED against other schools in the region and across the state Foster Secondary College has scored high on learning and wellbeing giving Principal Dean Duursma the opportunity to reflect on what has been another outstanding year for the college.

Speaking at the presentation of awards for high achieving students Mr Duursma said Foster Secondary College was the highest performing government secondary school in Gippsland.

On the student attitude to school survey Foster Secondary College's approval is rated at least ten to twenty percentage points higher than the state average in most categories including 80 per cent positive for managing bullying while the state average is 48 per cent.

Mr Duursma said he was very proud of the students' academic achievements and emphasised there are many avenues to success.

Foster Secondary College is consistently rated at least fifteen to twenty points higher than the state average and last year scored 80 per cent for school safety.

"School absenteeism however remains a major issue for many



Hailey Boyd (De-Sign & Window Furnishing Art Award) and Maxx Newland (Kyocera IT Award). B12_5224

Gippsland schools," according to Mr Duursma.

Mr Duursma thanked the community and the large audience of gathered parents, friends, and school sponsors for their continuing support of the school.

"It takes a village to raise a child," said Mr Duursma.

"And this village does this better than any I know."

Student Ally County and guitarist Fiona Carrum opened the proceedings with a song.

Bhagwan Marine Awards were

presented to Mia Delany, Willem Robertson, Josh Taylor, and Will Green.

The Foster Rotary Terry Stritch Trade Bursary Award was presented to Asher Hamlett, the Martin Pilkington Memorial Award to Archer Gee, Toora Lions Ken Coghlan Memorial Award to Josh Gale, S.T.E.M. Gill Dentistry Award to Scarlett Dubignon, Foster and Toora Medical Centres Award to Noah Davis, South Gippsland Radiology Award to Jemima Gill, Dr Robbie Fleming Award

to Lily Ann Bright and the Rhiannon Voros Memorial Award to Amala Liepa.

Jasper Kennedy Watterson was presented with the Environmental Community Volunteer Award, Zoe Greenway the Paragreen Real Estate Tertiary Award, Liam Latham the ADF Future Innovators Award and Jack Schaf the ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award.

Chea Roelink won the Foster Secondary College School Council SRC Award, Levi Sacaram the South Coast FM Public Speaking Award, Lewis Armstrong the Wanderers Adventures Business Award and Gabi Dumaduag the Foster Fire Brigade Community Engagement Award.

Gypsy Gunn received the Lewis Bradbury Memorial Award, Max Johnson the Foster Pharmacy Best All Rounder Award, and Mackenzie Delaney the Inside Out Clothing Improvement Award.

Mila Dinsbergs and Lola Scott won Creative Writing Awards, Luke Hannigan the South Gippsland Shire Council Youth Award, Hailey Boyd the De-Sign & Window Furnishing Art Award, and Maxx Newland the Kyocera IT Award.



Archer Gee (Martin Pilkington Memorial Award). B04_5224



Josh Gale (Toora Lions Ken Coghlan Memorial Award). B06_5224



Jasper Kennedy Watterson (Environmental Community Volunteer Award). B07_5224



Chea Roelink (FSC School Council SRC Award), Levi Sacaram (South Coast FM Public Speaking Award), Lewis Armstrong (Wanderers Adventures Business Award) and Gabi Dumaduag (Foster Fire Brigade Community Engagement Award). B09_5224



Mia Delany, Willem Robertson, Josh Taylor and Will Green (Bhagwan Marine Award). B02_5224



Zoe Greenway (Paragreen Real Estate Tertiary Award), Liam Latham (ADF Future Innovators Award) and Jack Schaf (ADF Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award). B08_5224



Gypsy Gunn (Lewis Bradbury Memorial Award), Max Johnson (Foster Pharmacy Best All Rounder Award), Mackenzie Delaney (Inside Out Clothing Improvement Award). B10_5224



Mila Dinsbergs and Lola Scott (Creative Writing Award) and Luke Hannigan (South Gippsland Shire Council Youth Award). B11_5224

Marketta festival back again at Venus Bay

AFTER the overwhelming success of last year's Venus Bay Marketta, the popular family festival returns on Thursday, January 2 from 5pm to 10pm adjacent to the Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club. Spend time at the lovely, patrolled Venus Bay beach with food trucks and market stalls all day. Continue into the night with great live music, dinner and a pop-up gin bar. Family friendly and open to all, take advantage of the free community shuttle bus.

The road will be closed at the top of the hill all day with pedestrian access only. For more information go to vbslsc.org.au/events/marketta-2025 or search for Venus Bay Marketta festival on Instagram or Facebook.

• FAITH FACTOR

Merry Christmas!

By Rev. Graeme Liersch, Anglican Parish of Wonthaggi/Inverloch

IT'S nice to have a break and spend time relaxing with family, for many this is what Christmas is about. The exchanging of gifts during this festive period, help many to feel good about themselves. And the Holy sanctity of December 25 as Christmas Day is well, a mystery to many, but enjoyed by all, including those emergency services personnel who remain on duty. But where and when did this ritual begin? According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australia is a Christian country and has been since federation, and as such the federal and state governments adopted Christian practises from its earliest days, including the adoption of Christian Holy Days of Easter and Christmas. The practise of celebrating Christmas Day on December 25 dates to the fourth century AD (CE) when the early Church Fathers; John Chrysostom, and Augustine of Hippo, attested to this being recognised as the birth date of Christ, the Winter solstice in the northern hemisphere. As such, it is the Christ child, Jesus of Nazareth, that people sing about in Christmas Carols at events like 'Carols by Candlelight', a tradition that has occurred for centuries in countries throughout the world. With this little bit of knowledge, it is worth noting the extraordinary and significant outcomes of this one event over 2000 years ago. Thanks to the birth of Jesus Christ, we have the Christmas holidays where we do get to spend time with family and receive and give gifts. More surprisingly though is the impact he has had on society, not only is his name remembered, but we have legal and health systems based on his principles and he teaches us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Without His birth, we would have none of this and would most likely continue to work 24 hours per day, seven days per week. Perhaps there is some truth in the story of Jesus' birth. Perhaps He really did live as the Bible declares, perhaps He really is the saviour of the world. I believe who He said He was and did what He said He did, and He is my Lord and Master. Take a deep breath, look around you at the state of the world and perhaps your own environment, and ask Him to reveal Himself to you this Christmas. Merry Christmas and my prayer for you is that He will bless you in the coming year and keep you safe.

What's On these holidays

Sandy Point celebrates 40 years KIDZ KLUB (primary)

WE'RE excited to be coming back to Sandy Point Community Centre in January 2025. Two thousand and twenty-five marks 40 years of Kidz Klub! To celebrate our 40th anniversary we're hosting a birthday party on Monday, January 6 10.30am – 1.30pm featuring face painting, fairy floss, games, craft and much more! Then from Tuesday, January 7 to Friday, January 10, 2025 our program will run just like previous years from 9.30am – 12.30pm. We hope you will be able to join us. Don't forget to tell all your friends! Kidz Klub has been running in Sandy Point for the past 39 years. All activities are free and are specially designed for primary school-aged children. We offer a fun week of Bible stories, games, craft, quizzes, singing and prizes. Kidz Klub is also a great place to meet new friends! Parents are welcome to leave their children with us, or to stay and have morning tea while the kids enjoy the fun. To find out more information head to Facebook @ KIDZKLUBatSandyPoint. **genYOUTH (for kids in secondary school)** genYOUTH is a free activity for teenagers held at the Sandy Point Community Centre 7.30pm – 9pm Tuesday, January 7 to Thursday, January 9, 2025. Each night features high energy games, a positive message from the Bible, and – as in previous years – Sandy Point's best supper! Don't forget to tell your friends! Check out Facebook @

GenyouthAtSandyPoint for more information. For more details about their event visit the website sandypointkidzklub.org. To contact organisers directly email kksandypoint@gmail.com or phone 5940 0926. All Kidz Klub and genYOUTH activities are conducted in compliance with Victoria's Child Safe Standards. **History every day** INDULGE in history throughout January with a series of talks by the Wonthaggi & District Historical Society at the Railway Museum, Apex Park. Running daily at 11.30am from January 4 to 17, learn about the establishment of licenced premises in Wonthaggi through to the history of the Kongwak Butter Factory, Wonthaggi through the lens of a camera, The Wonthaggi Club, saving the State Coal Mine Rescue Station and cricket along the waterline. There's something for everyone across the 14 different talks and when the talk is finished pop into the museum and check out the fantastic display on offer. **Learn to sail** COWES Yacht Club have an array of sailing courses on offer over the festive holidays. Kicking off on Monday, December 30 is a free discover sailing day running from 10am to 1pm. A second session will run on Saturday, January 11. Like what you see? Tackers, OutThere Sailing and Start Sailing will be running from Monday, January 6 to Friday, January 10 with sessions for those 7-12 years old, 12-17 years old and 12 plus. The Discover Sailing initiative was created to

offer an affordable way for anyone interested in trying sailing. Held during the summer holidays, this program has helped many people experience the joy and excitement of being on the water. Participants don't need to have any sailing experience or club membership to participate. All the equipment, including the boats, is provided. Registration is essential – head to cowsesyachtclub.com/learn-to-sail for more information. **Have fun outdoors this summer** THERE'S plenty to see and do this summer with Bunurong Environment Centre. From the all-time favourites including Dinosaur Discovery to Rockpool Rambles, Wildlife of the Night to Dancing with the Stars and exploring Screw Creek Estuary, get outside and amongst the environment in Inverloch. Keen to ramble amongst the rockpools, expect to learn about the amazing marine life and delicate marine ecosystems of the Bunurong coast. Last summer sea stars, anemones, elephant snails, sea weeds and chitons were all spotted under the guidance of expert marine guide and paleontologist, Mike Cleeland. Perhaps discovering dinosaurs that once walked this planet is more your style. Head along to The Amazing Koolasuchus, a special activity with the latest information on Victoria's new fossil emblem Koolasuchus cleelandi, presented by none other than it's discoverer, Mike Cleeland! For more information and details for how to book head to sgcs.org.au/programs.



Welcome the New Year with a bang

- Coronet Bay** Family-friendly fireworks and entertainment on the foreshore at Cutty Sark Road from 5pm to 10pm. Fireworks start at 9.30pm.
- Cowes** Family-friendly fireworks along The Esplanade from 9.30pm.
- Inverloch** Inverloch Recreation Reserve, Sandymount Avenue, Inverloch at 9.30pm.
- Port Albert** Family fun-filled event combines markets, food trucks, live music and free kids activities from 6pm to 10pm. Fireworks start at 9.30pm.

Head along for Christmas Mass

- Christmas Eve**
- St Mary's, Cowes – 8pm
 - Our Lady Star of the Sea, San Remo – 6pm
 - St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wonthaggi – 6.30pm
 - Church of the Ascension, Inverloch – 9pm
 - Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Inverloch – 5pm
 - Uniting Church, Inverloch – 5pm
 - St Andrew's Union, Tarwin Lower – 5pm
 - St Laurence O'Toole, Leongatha – Post Carols 7.30pm
 - St Joseph's, Mirboo North – 5pm
 - St Agnes, Toora – 6.30pm
 - Church of Transfiguration, Hedley Christmas Communion – 7.30pm
- Christmas Day**
- St Johns Uniting Church, Cowes – 9am
 - St Mary's, Cowes – 9am
 - St Joseph's, Bass – 11am
 - Grace Chapel, Archies Creek – 9.30am
 - Uniting Church, Wonthaggi – 8am. Breakfast and Family Service with Nativity Play.
 - St George's, Wonthaggi – 10am
 - St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wonthaggi – 10.30am
 - Wonthaggi Baptist Church – 9.30am
 - Church of the Ascension, Inverloch – 8am
 - Connections Church, Inverloch – 9am, Christmas Day in the Glade
 - Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Inverloch – 9am
 - Uniting Church, Inverloch – 9.30am
 - Immaculate Conception, Fish Creek – 10.30am
 - St Joseph's, Korumburra – 9am
 - St Laurence O'Toole, Leongatha – 10.30am
 - St Kevin's, Meeniyah – 9am
 - Christ Church, Foster – 9am
 - St Joseph's, Foster – 9am
 - St Mary's, Yarram – 10am
- New Year's Day Mass**
- St Joseph's Catholic Church, Wonthaggi – 9.30am
- New Year's Eve Mass**
- Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Inverloch – 6.30pm

~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE NEWS ~

LEONGATHA COMMUNITY HOUSE

COMING up in 2025 our Term 1 programs are available at various outlets across Leongatha, Mirboo North and Meeniyah so keep a look out for them. Email us if you would like a copy. The House will reopen on Monday, January 13 at 9am – 3.30pm, Monday to Friday.

Some groups return in the third week of January from Monday, January 13. Zumba and exercise classes returning to the Daker Centre on Tuesday, January 21. All other classes return in the first week of February from Monday 3.

We have a special selection of art workshops happening over Summer including some that can be booked online now:

- * Summer Acrylic Painting Course – Four weeks from Friday, January 10 to February 7 (excluding Friday, January 24): \$40
- * Colour Theory Workshop – Saturday, February 8, 10am – 2.30pm: \$40

* Introduction to Watercolour – Saturday, March 22, 10am-2.30pm: \$40

Our popular bus trips will also be up and running in January and ready to book now as follows:

A Day Out - Pick fresh strawberries at Macca's Farm, San Remo, then lunch at Fisherman's Co-Op San Remo then onto Churchill Island for afternoon activities, milking, sheep shearing, working dogs and whip cracking. Friday, January 17, 9.30am-4.30pm. \$20 plus lunch.

Ashcombe Maze and Lavender Gardens – Australia's oldest and most famous hedge maze and the year-round flowering Lavender Labyrinth, all set amongst 25 acres of world-acclaimed gardens. Friday, January 24, 9am – 3.30pm. \$30 bus plus \$17 entry.

Picnic at the Prom (Tidal River) Everyone bring a salad to share (I will have the cooler) and enjoy the day at the beach, remember to bring your hat and sunscreen. Tuesday, January 31, 9am-3.30pm, \$20.

Please remember to book or submit your expressions of interest for any groups or activities in our program in Term 1, 2025. You are always welcome at Leongatha Community House.

Please call in and talk to our friendly staff. Don't forget to visit our website at leongatha.communityhouse.org.au to keep up with our current program and regular groups and activities and what is coming up.

Follow us on Facebook or Instagram and spread the word.

16 Bruce Street, Leongatha PH: (03) 5662 3962
www.leongathacommunityhouse.org.au



Mick Thomas' Roving Commission led by ARIA-winning singer-songwriter Mick Thomas is heading to Archies Creek Hotel on New Year's Day on their 'All Your Christmases 2024' tour.

Mick Thomas returns to Archies Creek for New Year's Day

MICK Thomas' Roving Commission, the hard-working band led by ARIA Award-winning singer-songwriter and former Weddings Parties Anything main man Mick Thomas, are heading to their beloved Archies Creek Hotel on New Year's Day to end their 'All Your Christmases 2024' tour.

In an interview with Mick, he shared that he has a long-standing relationship with the owner of Archies Creek Hotel, Peter Foley, praising the venue's success despite its remote location.

"This is the fifth New Year's Day at Archies Creek," said Mick.

"I've played at most of Pete's venues from when he started promoting shows around Oakleigh 15-20 years ago and initially you drive into Archies Creek and you go no way – look at this tiny town, you couldn't pick a less likely place, so the fact that they can make that work, is a testament to how good they are!

"Archies Creek Hotel really is a great example of when people get things right, they work."

Mick's career spans over 35 years in the music industry, where he'll soon release his fifteenth album in 2025. He said that overseas there are these little venues that get bands out there, ripping them up because they're set up by people who just want to make good music and have a good time.

"And this is why Archies Creek works, because it's really based on a model that might be sort of foreign to Australia, but it's a model that works. Pete always has good production, and I know he is moving forward from the industry, but I laughed last year when I stood there on the stage on New Year's Day and I said, "See you next year," Mick chuckled.

"When there are more people like him, I have a better career.

"This is how my career is sustained, I'm 64 years old making a living out of playing music because of people like that – people that put their heart and soul into the industry."

And Archies Creek Hotel is based on just that.

People talk about what streaming has done to music, and Mick said, "it has been pretty disastrous, in a lot of ways but my biggest bugbear is that I don't think there has been a time when there has been more concentration on massive acts and that's a real worry for me – the internet has pushed this real global way of experiencing music.

"I play for 50 to 400 people at a time, and I love the intimacy of it," said Mick.

"Archies Creek is one of the most quality gigs of that size in the world. The reason why they get all the internationals that will come down and play there is because they are good places to play.

"I can only speak from my experience as a performer, but every time I'm in a car driving out of town to a gig somewhere in the bush. I just feel happy because I know it's another audience, and I don't have to hop onto a plane for 24 hours to find what I can find in Gippsland. It's as simple as that."

Starting this tour in November at 'Live at the Bundy' in Sale, Mick Thomas and the band have travelled Australia full circle, concluding the tour in South Gippsland.

"I've got the same band behind me but different opening acts," Mick said. "We've got Cool Sounds who are a really great young indie rock band, and Lisa Miller Trio – Lisa Miller is a really great singer-songwriter and they'll open for a really great New Year's Day."

Following into 2025, Mick Thomas' Roving Commission will release their new album which they recently recorded in Auckland at Neil Finn's studio with award-winning producer Steve Schram.

"We'll start to release bits of the record and by the end of the year we'll have the album out," Mick explained.

"In a way, this record was knocked together in a few weeks, but in another way, it's been in the making for four to five years.

"There are a core bunch of songs that comprise this album, and funnily enough, the opening track of what will be the new album is probably the oldest song."

As a teaser to the new album, Mick said, "Does going away make an album any better?"

The first song is called First Step in a Homeward Direction."

Mick wrote this song when he was touring solo in Europe.

"I just had to get some stuff out of my system," he said.

"It's good to be excited by the prospect of 'what comes next' and we are buzzing about this one."

To spend New Year's Day with Mick Thomas' Roving Commission on the Christmas tour visit mickthomas.com and stay tuned for album updates and word on a brand new seven-song EP that will be coming out as a precursor to the album.

Decorated gumboots for Wonthaggi Show

DECORATED gumboots are always popular with children and the Wonthaggi Summer Show this year on January 4 is a great opportunity for youngsters to show their artistic talents.

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

Rosettes and card prizes are available for children's classes in decorated boots.

Containers of foliage or flowers and decorated saucers and gumboots are entered as horticulture, knitting, crochet work, toys, dolls, sewing, embroidery, and patchwork can be entered as needlecraft, and veggies, fruit, honey, eggs, herbs, hay, and green crop sheaths all go into the produce section.

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

Entries for pavilion exhibits are free and accepted up to Thursday,



Aart Renden, Manager Ag Warehouse Wonthaggi, a long time sponsor of the Wonthaggi Summer Show with some great ideas for decorated gumboots. B29_5224

January 2 with judging on Friday, January 3, entries for equestrian events are accepted on show day.

Needlework, cooking, and preserves have found a new home in the clubhouse of the Wonthaggi Angling Club where children's artwork from local schools will also be on display.

Carnival rides, showbags, fairy floss, take-away food vans, competitions, roving street theatre, clowns, a stilt walker, and sideshow alley will all be

back in 2025 making the Wonthaggi Summer Show a perfect day out for the whole family.

Circle the date on your calendar, Bass Coast Wonthaggi Show, Saturday, January 4, 9am to 4pm at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve, Wentworth Road, North Wonthaggi.

For more information and entry forms email basscoastagshow@hotmail.com or look for Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Show on Facebook.

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group

TRUE WEST

A PLAY BY SAM SHEPARD

January 17-26

WTG Shed, State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi

Tickets: wtg.org.au



The Black Snake Productions will be at the upcoming Seadays Festival in Port Welshpool with some cute critters.

Join in the fun at the 2025 Seadays Festival

THE Port Welshpool Working Group is staging the 2025 Seadays Festival on January 4 and 5. This festival is held at the Old Ferry Terminal on Lewis Street, Port Welshpool, open from 9.30am to 3.30pm.

The Seadays Festival has activities and displays to appeal to all members of the family.

The 'Come Try Fishing' will give children (five to 15 years old) the chance to catch a fish under the guidance of experienced volunteers. All bait and rods are supplied, and all children receive a rod and reel at the conclusion of the session. Numbers per session are limited to 15.

Sessions will run from 10am and 2pm each day. Bookings can be made via the seadaysfestival.com.au website. A \$2 booking fee applies to help with costs. The Black Snake Productions will have some cute critters to see up close, and even give a pat or a cuddle.

The Port Welshpool Working Group greatly appreciates the sponsorship of the Community Bbank Toora Foster and Welshpool Bendigo Community Bank for making this attraction possible.

Marine experts and divers will have touch tanks with some examples of marine life found in the local waters of Corner Inlet.

They will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the specimens that they have found.

There will be plenty of children's activities to choose from, whether it is the Welshpool Horticultural Society, Coast Care (DEECA), or MiLi libraries Welshpool/Foster, to keep the children engaged.

Educational displays from Victorian Fishing Authority, Prom Coast Eco-Link, Star of the South (Southerly Ten) along with the latest developments with E-Bikes – in conjunction with the Great Southern Rail Trail – and sea kayaks.

These are just some of the attractions at Seadays 2025. Check out the website for full details of what's happening at seadaysfestival.com.au. Entry is only \$5 per adult. Children 15 years and younger are free.

Live music in Meeniyan set to delight once again

A DIVERSE and sensational handpicked selection of acts once again graced the stage and entertained audiences at the Meeniyan Town Hall across the year, courtesy of the Lyrebird Arts Council.

The volunteer community group wrapped up its 25th year of bringing live music to Meeniyan and bringing Meeniyan to live music, last Saturday night.

AURUS aka Bastien Picot, finished off the year with a party of traditional music from his native Réunion Island, in an orchestral pop and percussive shell, at the crossroads of James Blake, Peter Gabriel or Woodkid.

It rounds up a year that began on a high with soulful melodies from Irish singer David Keenan, Calexico's (USA) unique blend of Tex Mex, soul from Thee Sacred Souls (USA), and moved through the rest of the year with Jon Cleary (UK), Grace Cummings, Chris Caine (USA), Middle Kids, Ben Ottewell and Ian Ball (UK), just to name a few.

"We've had a good mix of different genres, international, locals, strong female voices, also indigenous, so we really crossed all areas," said Rod Murray, of Lyrebird Arts Council.

"Probably the highlight of the year for many was Calexico at the start of the year," who played two very special sold-out shows at the venue.

The coming year the community organisation that is the Lyrebirds Art Council promises yet again to bring a great selection of artists and support acts to the small hall with a big audience.

There will "always be something out of the ordinary" said Rob, who has a strong string of promising shows booked for 2025.

Kicking off the year in January will be Henry Wagons and The Tennessee Studs, bringing: A Journey Through the American Recordings.

The evening show sold out



Calexico brought their unique Tex Mex rock from the USA, enrapturing Meeniyan Town Hall over two very special sold-out shows in February this year. Photos: Colin U'Ren.



Melbourne's own The Counterfeit, featuring Freya Josephine Hollick on vocals, brought to life the iconic Spaghetti Western sounds of Ennio Morricone in September at a sold-out show at Meeniyan Town Hall.

quickly, so tickets are now available for an additional matinee show on Friday.

In February, Cash Savage returns for a solo show delivering raw and reverent performances of crowd favourites from her 15-year back catalogue; with special guest Jess Ribeiro.

March will see Buck Meek (USA) lead guitarist of Big Thief, and a solo artist in his own right, hit the stage with

LA-based singer and songwriter Germaine Dunes.

In April, troubadour John Craigie (USA) returns with his wit, humour, intimate conversation and charismatic tunes, supported by Oregon folk-country singer-songwriter Kassi Valazza.

"We have a really strong lineup again. A similar sort of mix of what we usually do, nothing ever too commercial,

but sometimes there is," explained Rod.

"I think what we always try to do is (have people) come along for the shows you don't know about, but you will know about, or you wish you knew about."

Further shows for the year ahead will be announced imminently. For more information and tickets go to lyrebird-arts council.com.au.

SeaDays Festival Port Welshpool

Celebrating the Corner Inlet Environment

January 4 & 5, 2025

'Come Try Fishing'

- Prior registration via website required

Black Snake Productions

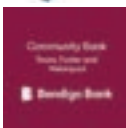
- Interactive animal display

Marine Touch Tanks'

- Hands on environmental activities

Children's Activities

... and MUCH more!



SeaDays Port Welshpool

www.seadaysfestival.com.au

ArtworkStudio757@ The Hub 27 Falls Rd Fish Creek Summer Exhibition "EARTH WOOD & WATER"



Open Dec 27 - Jan 11 2025
10.30am - 3.30pm

Works by Fish Creek Watercolour Artist

Gillian Carpenter

Who is joined by Venus Bay Artist

Norm Hanson

Sculpture & Acrylic works

Fish Creek Artisans

Anne Ormshaw & Betty Burns

Creative works with wood

WV0190



**WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm**

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

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★

JA24685



Judy and Darren Betts enjoy the Cut 360 Christmas party in Korumburra. A21_5124



Tom Bitomsky and Tarna Tadday relax at the Cut 360 Christmas party. A22_5124



Nat and Andrew get into the festive spirit at Cut 360. A23_5124



Jess Wisniewski and Dave Clark take it easy at the Cut 360 Christmas party. A24_5124



Jacquelin Caguiat and volunteers for the monthly community lunch at Manna Gum Community House in Foster. B13_5224



Jennifer from Toora and Jaro from Welshpool at the Manna Gum monthly community lunch in Foster. B14_5224



Dianne, Jill and Ron enjoying lunch at Manna Gum Community House in Foster. B15_5224



Tracie and Gill from Foster at the monthly Manna Gum community lunch. B16_5224



Jayme Olierook, Rahni Mann and Bianca Beaumont watched Wonthaggi Club's A1 side compete in the T20 match against Koonwarra L/RSL after playing in the women's competition on Saturday morning. Tk16_5224

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Cut 360 Christmas party, Manna Gum Community Lunch, Jenni Keerie celebration, Korumburra Christmas Shopping Night and T20 matches and Woolamai Races.



Bairnsdale's Maddy Fecondo went to the Woolamai Races with Bass locals Miranda and Kiani Eden on Saturday. Tk20_5224



Dilan, Hardeep and Ayana Sohi enjoy a pleasant visit to the Christmas shopping event in Korumburra on Thursday. A24_5224



Georgia, Leo and Luke Hagel relax at The Coterie in Korumburra during Thursday's Christmas shopping evening, Santa having a presence at the shared business premises. A25_5224



Mirboo North's Abby Forrester and Jakobi Eden enjoyed the Woolamai Races on Saturday afternoon. Tk18_5224



Mirboo North Football Club's Ethan Woodall and Taj Eden attended the Woolamai Races on Saturday. Tk19_5224



Phillip Island's Tegan Rose and Jaime Morris had a lovely day out at the Woolamai Races on Saturday. Tk21_5224

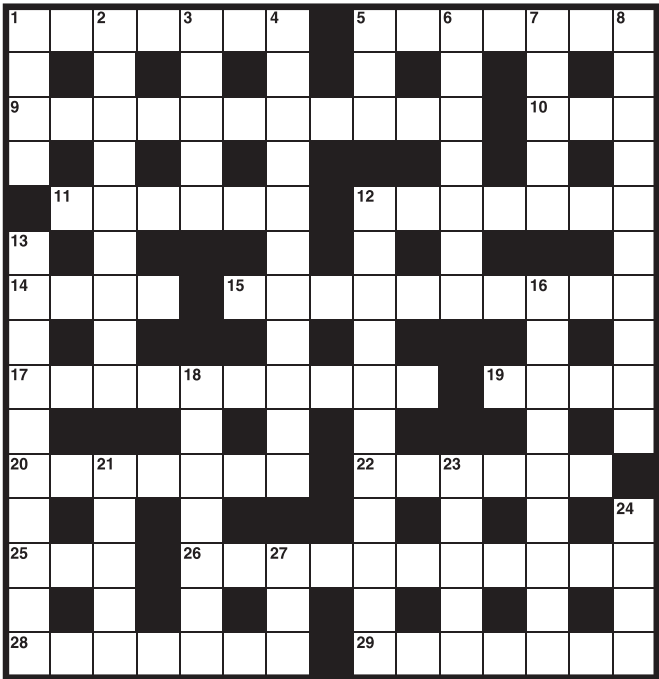
Sentinel-Times

>>> ORDER THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS 5672 1888



CROSSWORD

No. 260

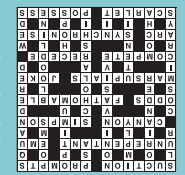


- ACROSS**
- 1 Sucking action (7)
5 Encourages (7)
9 Shameless (11)
10 Australian bird (3)
11 Deep valley (6)
12 Australian desert (7)

- 14 Chances (4)
15 Comprehensible (10)
17 Mammals with pouches (10)
19 Quip (4)
20 Vie (7)
22 Ebb (6)

- 25 Curve (3)
26 Recur together (11)
28 Bright red (7)
29 Haunt (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Aspersions (4)
2 Plant with aromatic leaves and seeds (9)
3 Insinuate (5)
4 Type of medical procedure not requiring penetration (11)
5 Message broadcast in the public's interest (1,1,1)
6 Perfect (7)
7 Lyric verses (5)
8 Wasted (10)
12 Learning (11)
13 Radiation travelling through space (6,4)
16 Ancestry (9)
18 Kitchen implement (7)
21 Type of coffee (5)
23 Cuts (wood) (5)
24 Bonds (4)
27 Egg of louse (3)

SOLUTION



9-LETTER

No. 260

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

- Today's Aim:**
- 12 words: **Good**
18 words: **Very good**
24 words: **Excellent**

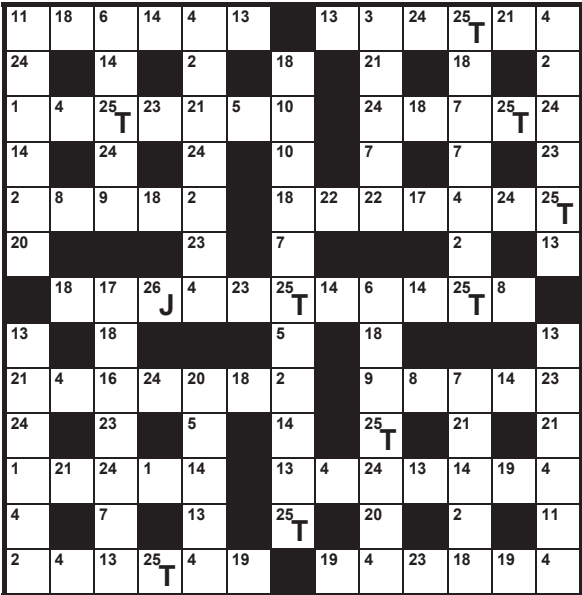


WITTINGLY, witty,
'wily, 'wily, 'wily,
t'wing, 'wilt, 'willing,
t'wig, 'twilt, 'twin, 'twit,
t'ingly, 'tint, 'tiny, 'tilling,
n'ttly, 'tilling, 'tlt, 'tling,
gilt, 'gint, 'lint, 'lying,

CODEWORD

No. 219

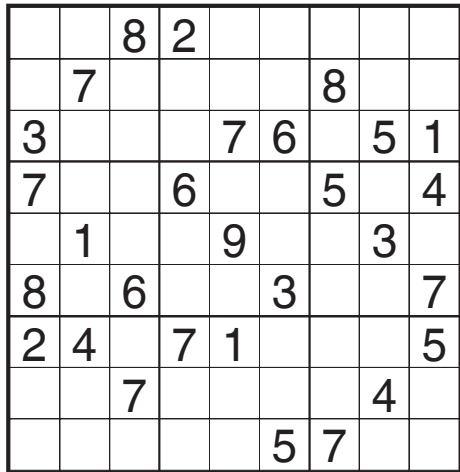
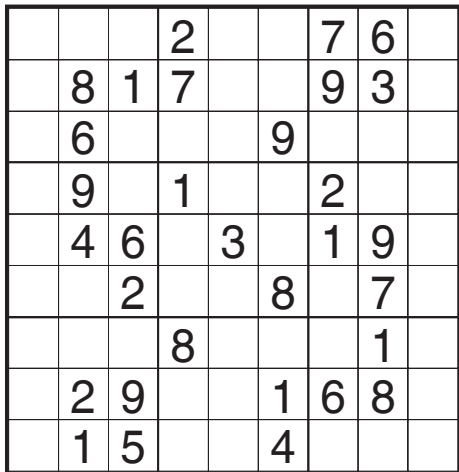
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

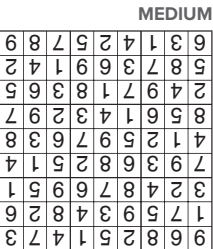
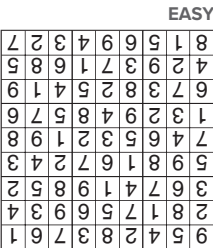
No. 259

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



2012 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © **pagemasters.**

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. Riga is the capital of which country?
2. Actor Ryan Reynolds (pictured) is co-owner of which UK soccer team?
3. Which film won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 2001?
4. Where in the human body does carpal tunnel occur?
5. How many times was England's King Henry VIII married?
6. In chess, how many different game pieces are there?
7. Which Brontë sister wrote the 1847 novel *Agnes Grey*?
8. And under what pseudonym was it published?
9. In which century was Genghis Khan born?
10. Which Chinese city is situated at the mouth of the Yangtze River?



ANSWERS: 1. Latvia 2. Wrexham FC 3. *Gladiator* 4. Wrist 5. Six 6. Six 7. Anne Brontë 8. Acton Bell 9. 13th century 10. Shanghai

WORD SEARCH

No. 170

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



- ANGLE
BALL
BEAT
CLEARING
CLEATS
CONTROL
CROSS
DISGUISE
DRAW
DRIBBLE
DUMMY
FEINTS
FIELD
FIFA
FLANK
FOUL
FREE KICK
GOAL
INDIRECT
INJURY
INSTEP
KICK-OFF
MATCH
OFFICIALS
OFFSIDE
PASS
PITCH
PLAY
RUN
SCORE
SHOT
SKILL
STEAL
SUBSTITUTION
SUPPORT
SWERVE
TACKLE
THIGH TRAP
THROW-IN
TRIPPING
WALL
WINGS

SECRET MESSAGE: Bend it like Beckham

Elegance with attention to details!

STEP through the charming wrought iron gate and be greeted by the enchanting history of this beautifully renovated home. As you step onto the verandah and through the front door you will be embraced by a world of vintage charm and modern comforts.

- The front two bedrooms are generous in size, light and bright.
- The third bedroom features built-in robes and a gorgeous ornate ceiling.
- The central hallway boasts high ceilings, stunning light fittings, polished floorboards, and double hung windows all preserving the home's historic character.
- You will find a generously sized family bathroom with a stunning walk-in shower, toilet, period style vanity.
- The passageway leads you into the breath taking open-plan kitchen, dining, and living area.
- The kitchen showcases exquisite composite stone benchtops, beautiful cabinetry and top-quality appliances.
- The spacious living area is warmed and cooled by a reverse cycle air-conditioner for your ultimate comfort all year round, with a solid wood heater for back up warmth in the winter.

- Adjacent to the living area, you'll find a separate laundry with an additional powder room.
- There are stacker doors leading to the undercover alfresco area. This outdoor space is perfect for relaxation and entertaining.
- A small workshop and a garden shed, along with parking space or room for a carport.

This home is an absolute credit to the vendor who has meticulously renovated every inch of this house from the internal insulation to the double glazing! Consisting of approximately 653m² block size, with gorgeous gardens and landscaping.

This turnkey property is ideally located just metres from The Great Southern Rail Trail in South Gippsland and perfectly situated between Meeniyah and Fish Creek, as well as a quick drive to the gorgeous beaches our coastline has to offer. Due to be titled very soon onto its own title, you have the chance to secure this stunning property where all the work has been done.

Don't miss your chance to own this exquisite home with all the modern amenities you need. Contact Kellie Thomas on 0438 647 449 to schedule a viewing and experience the timeless beauty of this remarkable home today!



3 1 2 653m²

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Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449
kellie.thomas@nh.com.au

Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha

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JUST LISTED

FOSTER 3 2 2
Brand New Modern Home

- Brand new 3 BR, 2 bathroom home on 513m².
- Fully appointed kitchen with quality appliances.
- Fantastic location close to all amenities.

\$925,000

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 1 3
Elegance in this 1910 Period-Style Home!

- Stylishly renovated 3 bedroom home.
- Dble car garage, small workshop, garden shed.
- Located just 300m from Leongatha's town centre.

\$750,000

JUST LISTED

LEONGATHA 3 2 6
Charming Country Home

- Great sized family home on approx. 2.47 acres.
- Spacious kitchen with quality appliances.
- Outdoor living, shedding, fencing & water supply.

\$925,000

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 2 2
Meticulous and Magnificent!

- Gorgeous 3BR, 2 bath home on 755m².
- Fully appointed kitchen, open plan living.
- Outdoor decking overlooking the garden.

\$730,000 - \$750,000

FOR SALE

KORUMBURRA 3 1 4
Neat & Well Maintained Home

- 3 BR, 2 bathroom family home on 673m².
- Kitchen with stone benchtops & elec cooking.
- 8m x 6m LU shed with an electric roller door.

\$525,000

FOR SALE

MEENIYAH 3 2 6
New & Luxurious!

- Stunning modern home on approx. 4.5 acres.
- Designer kitchen, oversized breakfast bar.
- Enormous LU 20m x 9m shed, concrete, power.

\$1,290,000

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 5 2 4
Stylish Executive Residence!

- Custom-built home, situated on 2048m² block.
- Master BR with WIR and a resort style ensuite.
- Kitchen with large island bench, walk in pantry.

\$1,295,000

FOR SALE

MEENIYAH 4 3 10
Luxury Lifestyle Property!

- North facing 2 storey home on approx. 7 acres.
- LU 18.5m x 15.5m LU shed with concrete, power.
- Located on the town boundary of Meeniyah.

\$1,795,000

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LEONGATHA 5 3 2
Iconic Double Storey Family Home

- Architecturally designed home on approx. 968m².
- Huge master BR with large BIR and generous WIR.
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BARRY REDMOND
Director / Estate Agent
0477 622 292

KELLIE THOMAS
Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449

MATT REDMOND
Licensed Estate Agent
0418 357 341

MONIQUE WIGHTMAN
Marketing Manager & Office Admin

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 2 2
Stylish home

- Fully renovated interior.
- Stunning kitchen and bathrooms.
- Dble carport, rumpus room and large backyard.

\$635,000

We make it possible



David Nation announces departure from Dairy Australia

AFTER seven years with Dairy Australia, David Nation has made the decision to move on from his role as Managing Director and will finish in June 2025.

With Dairy Australia's current five-year Strategic Plan concluding and a new strategy commencing in July, Dr Nation sees this as an opportunity to leave the organisation in a strong position for a future leader.

"Leading Dairy Australia has been an immense privilege, and I am proud of what I have achieved together with outstanding people in the organisation who show genuine passion for delivering outcomes for farmers each day," Dr Nation said.

The Dairy Australia Board has engaged executive recruitment firm Pacific Search Partners to manage the process of hiring Dr Nation's replacement, with the search expected to take up to six months.

Purchasing supplementary feeds – what should you consider

WHEN sourcing supplementary feed for your livestock, there are two key issues to consider before purchasing a seemingly cheaper feed: feed testing and commodity declarations.

You need to know exactly what you are getting. This will ensure that the feed value is right for the class of livestock being fed, and give you value for money and peace of mind that it's safe to feed.

When sourcing feeds, always ask for the feed analysis before you buy. If a test isn't available, it may be possible to get a sample and send the test off yourself, before deciding to purchase.

If you purchase feed without a test, it's still worth taking a sample and getting a test done so that you can fine-tune your rations and ensure that livestock nutritional requirements are being met.

It is important to note that not all companies test and report on the same nutritional components.

Ensure that you have any samples tested for the following qualities: metabolisable energy, protein, neutral detergent fibre (NDF) and dry matter.

When sourcing feeds, particularly new supplies or fodder from failed or harvested crops not originally intended for livestock, you should obtain a commodity vendor declaration form.

This will provide some background information about the feed source, including whether it has been sprayed or treated with a chemical that is still within a withholding period (WHP), export slaughter interval (ESI) or export animal feed interval (EAFI).

For more information about dry seasonal conditions and drought support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.

Some good quality cattle on offer



James Robbins sells for South Gippsland Livestock (Nutrien) at the conclusion of Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A11_5224



Sam and son Lucas of Alambee South checked out the final pre-Christmas Store Sale at Leongatha VLE. A12_5224



Terry Ginnane of South Gippsland Livestock (Nutrien) chats to the Sentinel-Times after Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A10_5224

THERE was a smaller yarding at Leongatha VLE on Thursday as Christmas approaches, approximately 1500 head available, Terry Ginnane of South Gippsland Livestock (Nutrien) saying that while there was a mixture of everything, there were a few pens of well-bred cattle.

Among the highlights were some 400-kilo calves, the Angus steers from Traralgon's Steven Conway fetching just over \$1600 a head, topping the \$4 a kilo mark.

"All the good steer calves were making \$4 and the lighter ones more," Terry said.

He mentioned the "really nice heifers" of Ross Costello that weighed in at 410 kilos and achieved \$1480 at just over 360 cents per kilo.

Terry observed that cross-breds and Friesians also sold well.

Looking ahead to the resumption of sales next year, the weather will as usual play a part, with people prepared to hold on to cattle longer and put more weight on them if there is sufficient rain.

Victorian farmers warned watch for heating hay!

EVERY hay season several hay stacks spontaneously combust across Victoria, in single moist bales or in a stack of any size.

Once the hay has been stacked it's important to regularly monitor it for heating and act quickly.

Unfortunately, even with technological advances in machinery for harvesting conserved fodder, there is still nothing cost effective to help monitor the internal temperatures of haystacks.

So, it's back to some very simple techniques to keep an eye on your hay stacks.

Watch for signs of heating. Keep an eye out for signs that haystack is heating. Steam condensation on the shed roof, mould growth, acrid fumes and hot, humid air at the top of the stack are all good indicators.

When building stacks with suspect wet hay, stack the

By Michele Jolliffe, Agriculture Victoria Dairy Extension Officer – Hamilton

bales loosely to allow air movement and spread the stack over a wider area, for example, over several bays, thereby reducing heat build-up.

Most heating will occur over the first one or two weeks but has been known to reach 'flash point' up to eight weeks after baling. Monitor the stack temperature regularly.

Determine the stack temperature?

Stack temperature can be measured using a crowbar inserted as deep as possible into the stack and left for two hours. After two hours, the crowbar can be removed and felt by hand to give you a rough guide of the internal stack temperatures.

The temperature of the bale is up to about 50C if you can hold the crowbar without

discomfort. It is up to 60C if the bar can be held for a short time only and up to 70C if the bar can only be touched briefly. If you can't hold the bar, temperature is above 70C and fire is a real possibility. Treat the stack with caution.

In the past it has been suggested to push a small pipe into the stack and lower a small thermometer to the end of the pipe to measure the temperature of warming hay.

However, this technique should not be used for severely heating hay as it may oxygenate the inner section of the stack and cause a fire to start.

What can be done if the stack heats to danger levels?

If a stack starts to get 'dangerously hot' pull it apart as quickly as possible.

Be aware that as the bales are pulled out of the stack, especially in a tightly built stack, oxygen will now get access to the hot spot and potentially

cause ignition.

Make sure that water is readily available and suitably qualified people able to assist in fire suppression if required.

Safety Warning!

Avoid walking on the stack as the extremely high temperatures may have charred the centre of the stack. Any extra weight on the stack may cause the stack to collapse into the dangerously hot centre and cause serious injury.

If there is the slightest risk of a fire starting due to wet hay, never keep machinery in the hayshed and don't allow children to play in or near heating stacks.

The Country Fire Authority website has good information about hay fire risk. Search 'hay fires' at cfa.vic.gov.au/

For more information about dry seasonal conditions and drought support visit agriculture.vic.gov.au or call 136 186.

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MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre

Final store sale for 2024

By the SGSAA

AGENTS yarded a smaller yarding of 1200 head for the final sale for 2024 at the VLE Leongatha with a good crowd in attendance.

No major feedlots operated with most competition coming from local and east Gippsland agents along with the regular commission buyer orders with prices generally holding firm for the few pens of heavier steers and yearling and weaners in a good offering.

Xbred and dairy steers were limited and attracted strong competition to be \$50 – \$100 dearer.

Starting Market dates for 2025 as follows

Monday, January 6 at 9am – Annual F1 Female sale

Tuesday, January 7 at 8.30am – Weekly bullock, trade, cows and bull sale

Tuesday, January 7 at 12pm – Lamb and Sheep sale

Thursday, January 9 at 9am – Weekly store sale

On behalf of all the South Gippsland Stock Agents Association Members, we would like to thank all our vendors/clients, buyers, carriers, the canteen girls and all the VLE staff for a big year of changes in our marketing centre at the VLE Leongatha with bigger things to come in 2025 and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year and please enjoy the break, many of you have earnt it

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024				
Steers				
Balas Holdings, 8 Angus	578kg	\$3.63	\$2100	
W & J Bullock, 10 Angus	570kg	\$3.60	\$2050	
S & D Perry, 10 Angus	512kg	\$3.22	\$1650	
Whittaker & Staton, 15 Angus	466kg	\$3.69	\$1720	
Three Boots Farming, 9 Angus	457kg	\$3.58	\$1640	
Whittaker & Staton, 13 Angus	450kg	\$3.55	\$1600	
SJ Conway, 20 Angus	407kg	\$3.93	\$1600	
S Moncrieff 9 Ang/Red Angus	403kg	\$3.45	\$1390	
JA Missen, 10 Angus	374kg	\$3.71	\$1390	
G Turner, 7 Angus	337kg	\$3.53	\$1190	
JA Missen, 28 Angus	323kg	\$4.05	\$1310	
Missen Livestock, 10 Angus	298kg	\$4.46	\$1330	
JA Missen, 23 Angus	278kg	\$4.32	\$1200	
Heifers				
Warrambine, 9 Angus/BB	413kg	\$3.46	\$1430	
Bona Vista, 16 Angus	401kg	\$3.71	\$1490	
JA Missen, 27 Angus	317kg	\$3.53	\$1120	
JA Missen, 27 Angus	266kg	\$2.93	\$780	
X/Bred & Dairy Steers				
KRG Ross, 15 Angus/FF X	434kg	\$3.82	\$1660	
Jelbart Dairy, 12 Friesian	518kg	\$3.04	\$1580	
Jelbart Dairy, 12 Friesian	483kg	\$2.86	\$1380	

Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, December 16, 2024

Jersey & Jersey x\$16 to \$39

Friesian Bulls\$44 to \$65

Friesian Heifers\$35 to \$48

Beef Bulls\$40 to \$180

Beef Heifers\$39 to \$130

Number of Calves: **54**

Number purchased to rear: **26**

Merry Christmas

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Lardner Park Calf Market throughout 2024. The Lardner Park Calf Market will return Monday, January 6, 2025.

Entry via Curries Road, Gate 5, due to road works on Burnt Store Rd for the month of January.

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Cr Brad Snell, Jenny O’Sullivan (VLE), Managing Director Brian Paynter (VLE), mayor John Schelling, councillors Sarah Gilligan and Steve Finlay, Graham Osborne (VLE), South Gippsland Shire Council’s Acting Planning Manager Nick Moore and Acting Director of Future Communities Lucas Gardiner. A09_5224

Ambitious expansion plans for Leongatha VLE

By Andrew Palocz

SOUTH Gippsland Shire councillors and council staff visited the Leongatha saleyards on Thursday, welcomed by Victorian Livestock Exchange (VLE) Managing Director Brian Paynter who spoke of ambitious plans for expansion of the facility estimated to cost in the vicinity of \$10 million.

The VLE has submitted its application for the intended project to the Department of Transport and Planning through Invest Victoria’s ‘Development Facilitation Program’.

“Our application for the Master Plan is currently with them and they’re referring issues to relevant authorities, the South Gippsland Shire Council being one of them,” Brian said, having previously outlined the plans for the Sentinel-Times.

“We’ve got a vision to build the biggest and the busiest saleyards in Australia right here in Leongatha,” he said, explaining that in terms of throughput Leongatha VLE is already up there with the number one yard, which is Roma in Queensland.

“What we’re doing now is building the infrastructure that’s required to house the numbers that we’re getting through here each week,” Brian said.

The intention is to double the size of the existing shed in which auctions are held.

“We’ve got 223 selling pens but we want to build the equivalent size in holding yards so that we can hold the cattle pre and post-sale,” the Managing Director explained.

There are also plans for a new four-bay truck wash.

“We’ve seen an increase of 50 per cent in the truck wash usage since the closure of Pakenham (saleyards) but we’re still using an old two-bay truck wash,” Brian said, noting that as well as a couple of extra bays the new wash will cater

for larger trucks.

Putting a roof over the calf or sheep pens is also intended, with the building of new offices and amenities for stock agents and a new amenities block for the truck drivers transporting cattle other planned improvements.

A new maintenance shed and a fuel depot for trucks are also on the agenda, along with a new car parking area onsite.

Brian estimates that should the saleyard plans be approved and brought to fruition, the project would lead to at least 20 additional Leongatha VLE employees, along with 40 to 50 jobs created by the stock agents and further employment through transporters and other service providers.

He stated that will deliver a huge boost to

the local economy, noting the saleyard is already an important asset for Leongatha and surrounds, and is therefore hopeful the intended project will be widely supported, including by council, particularly given the level of investment the VLE is prepared to make.

Mayor John Schelling described the Leongatha saleyards as a good central point for people to come to and welcomed the prospect of the creation of lots of new jobs.

“Today will give the councillors an understanding of what’s proposed,” he said of the saleyard visit.

Council’s Acting Planning Manager, Nick Moore, explained council is working with the Department of Transport and Planning and the VLE to ensure the appropriate approvals are in place for the expansion.

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
WARRAGUL		Dale Atherton	0428 888 300
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	PAKENHAM	
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
		Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Maree Malloy	0408 316 715
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Brian Silver	0407 347 509	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
INVERLOCH		Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	BERWICK		Angus Hall	0466 326 487
		Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898
LANG LANG		KOO WEE RUP			
Angus Hall	0466 326 487				

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The application is for a permit to: Develop land with a dwelling and to vary a restriction (**restrictive covenant**)

A permit is required under the following clauses of the planning scheme:

Clause 44.06-2: A permit is required to construct a building associated with Accommodation (Dwelling) - Bushfire Management Overlay

Clause 52.02: A permit is required to vary a restriction (restrictive covenant AF600715W). "[...] that they shall not at any time:

a) erect, place, permit, licence or authorise or allow to remain on the land hereby transferred a building other than a dwelling or dwellings together with the usual outbuildings and such dwellings and outbuildings shall be constructed of entirely new materials and shall have an exterior wall area of at least 75% brick, brick veneer, hardiplank, fibrous cement or cement rendered and having a roof of slate, clay, tile, cement tile or colorbond metal roofing only; and

b) erect or cause to be erected on the land hereby transferred firstly, any fence on the front boundary thereof, or secondly any fence along either side boundary within a distance of 4.5 metres from the said front boundary thereof (or in the case of a corner lot, any fence along the side boundary thereof within a distance of 3 metres from the said front boundary) other than a fence of a height of not more than 1 metre above ground level."

APPLICATION DETAILS

Application Number: **2024/178**

Address: **8 Forest Rise Foster VIC 3960 Being Lot 10 PS530443H**

Applicant name: **Coldon Homes**

For Further reference contact:

Tahnae McCormack Phone: 5662 9200

Email: council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

How can I find out more?

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application at the office of the South Gippsland Shire Council at 9 Smith Street, Leongatha. This can be done during office hours and is free of charge.

You can find more details or make a submission regarding this application by scanning the QR code below or by visiting the link to view more details: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/planning

How can I make a submission?

This application has not been decided. You can still make a submission before a decision has been made.

What are my options?

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to comment to the responsible authority.


An objection must:

- be made to the responsible authority in writing
- include the reasons for the objection and;
- state how the objector would be affected.


If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision.

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available for any person to inspect free of charge until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before: 13 January, 2025.



Find out more: Scan the QR code using your mobile phone



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Sentinel-Times



Local police and Wonthaggi Life Saving Club volunteers are urging the community to take extra care around water these holidays. Remember to only swim between the red and yellow flags at patrolled beaches and check the BeachSafe app before you leave home. C16_5124

Be safe around water this summer

SUMMER is well and truly here and it's more important than ever to remember to be safe by the water.

Last week the Sentinel-Times's front page focused on the Victorian State Coroner Sarah Gerbert's report following the tragic death of four visitors at Forrest Caves, and a plea from local Victoria Police members and Life Saving Victoria for individuals to be safe around water. Visit sgst.com.au to read the full story.

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

Last summer, drowning claimed 134 lives across Australia, with seven fatalities recorded in Bass Coast and South Gippsland alone. These incidents have far-reaching consequences, not only for the families involved but also for emergency responders and the wider community.

Already last week, emergency services responded to a rescue at Walkerville South when three teenagers were blown offshore on inflatable paddleboards, and on Thursday, a senior constable rescued a 53-year-old Dutch National from water near Gibson Steps along the Great Ocean Road.

Cobden Police Station Commander, Sgt Craig Jenkins said at the time that "We ask people to remember how the ocean appears on top does not always reflect what is happening with currents and rips underneath."

"Non-patrolled beaches present significant risks to those who enter the water without training, experience or the ability to manage themselves safely in that type of environment," he said.

The statement also applies to our wild and treacherous coast.

Nationals' MP Melina Bath said there is always an element of unpredictability with any water-based activity, so it is important to be mindful of any potential risks.

"Being 'water safe' through awareness, education and preparation is key to enjoying the outdoors lifestyle whether swimming, boating or land-based fishing," said Ms Bath.

"To protect the safety of yourself, your family, and your friends I encourage everyone to be vigilant around water and always look out for others.

"It pays to be aware of your surroundings, swim to the conditions and your abilities and stay up to date with weather reports, VicEmergency app, surf reports and local signs warning of dangerous currents.

"For those with young children constant supervision around water is critical, simple steps such as wearing a life jacket when out on a boat or swimming between the flags where lifeguards patrol reduces risk."

So as our firefighter and emergency services protect communities from fires across the state, and locals and visitors alike head to the beaches, lakes and rivers, authorities are calling for vigilance and proactive safety measures to ensure everyone can enjoy the season safely. Download the BeachSafe app and only swim between the red and yellow flags at patrolled beaches.

Those wanting more information on how to stay safe around water can visit vic.gov.au/water-safety

PUBLIC NOTICE

Summer holiday opening hours

We provide emergency water and wastewater services 24/7, 365 days a year. If you need to contact us about a water or wastewater emergency, please call 1800 249 090.

Our Customer Service Centre will be closed for non-emergency work on the days listed below:

Day	Date	Operating hours
Tues	24 December 2024	8.30am - 12pm
Wed	25 December 2024 (Christmas Day)	Closed
Thur	26 December 2024 (Boxing Day)	Closed
Fri	27 December 2024	Closed
Wed	1 January 2025 (New Year's Day)	Closed



Plumbers please note, there will be no water tappings or recycled water inspections from Monday 16 December 2024 to Monday 13 January 2025.



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TGA hits out at mRNA misinformation

THE THERAPEUTIC Goods Administration (TGA) says the concerns of Member for Monash Russell Broadbent about COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are ill-founded, having issued a media release some months ago refuting the issues he has raised.

“The Therapeutic Goods Administration is aware of misinformation in recent media and online reports that claim the COVID-19 mRNA vaccines are contaminated with excessive levels of DNA. This is not the case,” the release states.

The statement goes on to say such reports are based on studies conducted by a small number of laboratories that have attempted to investigate the amount of DNA in COVID-19 vaccines, arguing the studies lacked the required scientific rigour expected in pharmaceutical testing.

“As such, the results are not robust or reliable and are creating confusion and concern regarding the safety of vaccines,” the TGA said. “All COVID-19 vaccinations approved in Australia have been rigorously assessed and meet our high standards for safety, quality and efficacy.”

The TGA goes on to say vaccination against the disease is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of death and severe illness.

Mr Broadbent argues his concerns are backed by experts and disputes the TGA’s statement. The Member for Monash continues to campaign through correspondence and in Federal Parliament that independent investigation is required.

CONVERSATIONwith Claire



Looking back, moving forwards

By author Claire Chitty

AS WE step into the final month and pressure escalates as people rush to complete tasks before winding down for the year, maybe it’s time to reflect on what was. And is there room for improvement on how you do things?

Do you want to continue to live in a state of overwhelm, busyness, competition or do you want to create a more fulfilling life? Let’s face it, with all the ‘news’ and marketing that is constantly streaming, the underlying theme we are fed is power, control and ingenious ways to separate you from yourself. We’ve been entrained to look outside of ourselves for happiness and fulfilment.

Sure, connecting with liked-minded people and shared interests tends to satisfy but finding inner peace is the ultimate prize in my opinion. As a kinesiologist and facilitator of the Women’s Sacred Circle in Coronet Bay, I see a vast array of people who make the decision to change their lives, knowing something more positive is possible. And it’s not something found on supermarket shelves or online.

I wonder is it ‘material stuff’ that weighs us down and distracts us from our true core? If this is the case, maybe set yourself a challenge this holiday season to sift through the garage or storage unit, and release superfluous items which ‘one day’ may be useful. Often the simple act of clearing clutter can literally remove blockages in your life and generate freedom. Or is it ‘mental and emotional’ obstacles or fear of being authentic that prevents you from living a life of contentment?

In the lead up to Christmas, take a few minutes to reflect on the past 12 months and see it an opportunity for change; to say no to a life of overwhelm and material baggage. We’ve been led to believe we’re separate from one another, yet we’re all interconnected. Flip this belief and now imagine a world where we’re all on the same page of unity, and community is built on a firm foundation of respect, kindness and understanding. Collectively, we can transform the world, one person at a time.

(Please be mindful of Op Shops who close over the holiday break and reopen to piles of accumulated donations).

BCH joins Alfred Health to boost nursing experience

BASS Coast Health is partnering with major Melbourne health service Alfred Health in an innovative secondment program.

Registered nurses from Alfred Health have been working at Bass Coast Health’s (BCH) Wonthaggi Hospital on secondment, helping to enhance BCH’s nursing workforce and skillset by passing on their skills while also learning about nursing in a sub-regional health service.

BCH operations director Kylie Martin said the secondment program was an advantage of BCH partnering with a metropolitan health service.

“Welcoming registered nurses from Alfred Health to work on our Kodowlinun Acute Ward and in our emergency department not only provides staff with much-needed help but also allows them to learn by being exposed to different perspectives and skillsets,” she said.

“The secondment program also further enhances our partnership with Alfred Health. We currently have specialists from Alfred Health who come to BCH to see patients, as well as medical registrars who help to strengthen our existing workforce and learn from our



Alfred Health registered nurse Emily Arnold, second from right, learning in the emergency department at Wonthaggi Hospital from Bass Coast Health registered nurses Abbey Shaw, Kirby Ireland and Matthew Pearce.

senior leaders.”

Registered nurse Emily Arnold is on secondment from Alfred Health until February, coming from The Alfred’s Victorian Burns Unit, which also attends to Plastics, Ear, Nose and Throat patients.

She’s now working in the emergency department at Wonthaggi Hospital and is enjoying the experience.

“The structure of the emergency department is all new to me but on my first shift here we

had a patient with burns come through and because of my experience, I was asked to look at them,” Emily said.

“I hope that I can teach the BCH staff something while I’m learning about ED too, so the secondment program is beneficial for both health services.”

Having been nursing for six years and spending that time at The Alfred’s burns unit, Emily relished the opportunity to apply for the secondment program.

Emergency department nurse unit manager Cat Bunn said the secondment program was so successful that BCH decided to extend Emily’s time.

“We are loving having Emily. She has great attributes to offer our team and has fit in extremely well,” she said.

“We are planning to have another one or two secondments in the near future from The Alfred, who will also provide reciprocal benefits.”

GSHS welcomes new consumer representatives

GIPPSLAND Southern Health Service is fostering a more community-driven approach to quality health care with the appointment of new consumer committee representatives.

At Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS), consumer representatives play an integral role in key committees focused on areas such as infection prevention and control, medication safety, healthy ageing, and palliative care.

Best Care manager Sally Phillips said community members bring fresh perspectives, ensuring patient needs and experiences remain at the heart of care.

“These committees tackle essential topics like preventing falls and pressure injuries, ensuring effective communication between staff and patients, and improving how we care for deteriorating patients,” Ms Phillips said.

“Having consumer voices in the room helps ensure our decisions are grounded in real-life community experiences, not just clinical perspectives.”

The new representatives bring a range of interests and expertise.



Best Care manager Sally Phillips with consumer representatives Wendy Caple, Ann Kirwan, Judy Flaherty and Bron Croatto at Gippsland Southern Health Service.

Judy Flaherty, who has a background in social work, expressed her passion for opening up dialogue about palliative care and dying with dignity, emphasising the need to remove the stigma around these discussions.

“We all die – we need to let people know it’s okay to talk about it,” she said.

Wendy Caple is keen to improve patient communication, highlighting the importance of clear and compassionate interactions.

GSHS hosted a meet-and-greet for consumer representatives on December 18, encouraging them to ask questions, share ideas and raise concerns from the community, especially on topics set to impact services in 2025.

CEO Lou Sparkes said GSHS had worked hard over the past two years to strengthen feedback systems and greatly valued the input of consumer representatives.

“Whether it’s addressing specific challenges, providing another perspective or celebrating achievements, these representatives will help ensure a transparent, consumer-driven approach to healthcare,” she said.

Ms Sparkes said consumer representatives on committees drive GSHS to look at service delivery and challenges from different angles.

“We want our representatives to feel empowered to speak up, to ask questions, and to help us see things differently. That’s how we continue to grow and improve as a health service,” she said.

GSHS is continuing to recruit passionate community members to join consumer committees.

People can apply at GSHS Consumer Representative Application Form form.jotform.com/G_S_H_S/GSHS_CAC.

Stop the drop in blood donations this festive season

AUSTRALIAN Red Cross Lifeblood has launched its annual Christmas Blood Blitz to ensure blood supplies are available for patients over the festive season.

More than 850 donors are still needed every day between December 18 and January 2.

Lifeblood Executive Director of Donor Experience, Cath Stone, said there are countless reasons to roll up

a sleeve and give blood or plasma this festive season.

“People of all ages will rely on blood and blood products in the coming weeks including those with immune conditions and cancer, trauma patients, and women having babies,” Cath said.

“It is vital to have a constant stream of donors to ensure patient needs are met.

“We know it’s a busy time of year and people may be

travelling or simply out of their everyday routines, but the most meaningful item you can put on your Christmas “to do” list today is to lock in a blood or plasma donation and keep it.”

Anyone who donates this festive season will have their arms wrapped in a vibrant limited-edition bandage designed by artist and plasma recipient Kat Macleod (until Sunday, January 5).

The bandage is inspired by the generosity and kindness of Australia’s donors. It is the perfect wrapping for your lifesaving Christmas gift to those who need blood.

Lifeblood donor centres will be open throughout the holidays, including many on Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. To book a donation, call 13 14 95, book online at lifeblood.com.au or on the DonateBlood app.

Bass Valley State champions – they’ve done it again!

THIS time last year Bass Valley Primary School reported on the unbelievable success of their students, how their girls team defeated every other school in the state in three different sports. A success that was proven to be ‘no fluke’.

Phenomenally, the school has done it again. They have completed the treble, of being state champions in tee ball, softball and cricket. A little rural school of 220 students, based in the Bass Coast and servicing small coastal towns including Corinella, Coronet Bay and Grantville has defeated every state-operated and independent school in the state.

Major metropolitan schools, highly populated rural centres and schools with greater access to resources were no match for the Bass Valley Primary School teams, which were made up of students from not only grade six, but also grades five and four. Yes, the teams required the assistance of their junior grades to fill their senior teams.

The continued success of the school is starting to create some waves. With state and national sporting academies and coaches engaging with the school and asking the question ‘What is going on at Bass Valley Primary School and how do we replicate it?’

The team’s success also led to individuals being identified to play for and lead Victorian softball teams at the titles in Cairns earlier in Term 4. With Autumn Ross, Sophie Hale and Logan Magnussen being selected, Autumn was also the captain of the girl’s team.

The process hasn’t changed over the years, the teachers provide an opportunity, the students show up at recess and lunch.

Assistant Principal Ben Hallas of Bass Valley Primary School shared that, “the lesson for us all is the care and support the students show for one another. The positivity is all around, the success is celebrated, every one wants to be

involved.

“Walking into the school foyer, where the most recent state pennants hang, you are quickly in awe of their sustained success. They proudly display years of state and regional pennants, each year they seem to either win the title or are runners-up.

“As we walked through the school last week, we saw past students, now in years 8, 9 and 10 volunteering at school to support the next crop of sporting superstars. Alumni, proud of their old school, want to stay involved wherever they can.”

The PE teacher, Jon McCormick, provides a simple explanation.

“The kids want to get better; they enjoy what they do and help each other out”.

Again, we found out that Jon plays down his role. But this culture of students enjoying what they do, working together, working to their strengths and acknowledging their weaknesses could be replicated anywhere.

The school principal Sharon King, who in her 30 years of working in education has never witnessed a school who “Bats out of their crease” so much, says that her staff learn from the kids and how they interact.

“They are all amazing, the coaches, the students, you walk down to the oval or gym at recess and lunch and there they are, enjoying each other’s company whilst practising their skills”.

Sharon shared that the school is jokingly referred to as “Bass Valley Grammar” by some people.

Proud students surrounded by proud teachers.

“And proud parents” Sharon was quick to add.

“They show up to everything, we had over 300 hundred people at our concert this week, and just as many at graduation.”

Pretty incredible achievements by a little school on our doorstep. We wonder what 2025 will bring.



Bass Valley Primary School Tee Ball State Champions for 2024. Back Row – Rylee M, Emily W, Lacey R, Taylah M, Amber L, Chanel B, Ellie K. Front Row - Kalani K, Sophie H, Autumn R, and Mia L.



Bass Valley Primary School Cricket Champions for 2024. Back Row – Indy M, Chanel B, Rylee M, Lacey R, Emily W, Sway M, and Mia L. Front Row – Kalani K, Autumn R, Sophie H, and Lola M with teachers – Todd Smith, Jon McCormick, and Kylie Lansdown.



Bass Valley Primary School Softball Champions for 2024. Back Row – Lacey R, Mia L, Taylah M, Indy M, Emily W, Sway M, Chanel B, Kalani K, and Rylee M. Front Row – Sophie H, and Autumn, with teachers – Kylie Lansdown, Jon McCormick, and Todd Smith.

Stories shared at parkun

IT was a wonderful way to start the summer school holidays at parkrun this weekend.

Anne captured the festive shirts and visitors to the beloved Grand Ridge Rail Trail event, and everyone shared their favourite things about parkrun – great company, active goals and stories of travel.

Imagine leaving Ballarat before dawn on Friday, catching trains and buses, staying overnight, and hiking to arrive at the shelter in time for parkrun on Saturday.

That is just what amazing Gail Weston did.

Everyone adored hearing the stories of great communities and other parkrun experiences as she collected experiences and letters of the alphabet – Tasmania is now known for some elusive events beginning with ‘R’.

This proves that no matter where you live, there is always a friendly parkrun community to welcome you into their Saturday morning routine.

Everyone is wondering where she will complete her 250th milestone.

Thank you to this week’s volunteer crew – Julia Groves, Anne Holland, Greg Lawrence, Leon McDonald, Carmel Quirk, Helen Reeves, Peter Reeves and Marissa Shields.

Future surf stars to rock Phillip Island

SURFING’S next generation of stars will head to Phillip Island next year in the hope of booking their spot on the World Tour.

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events Steve Dimopoulos and Bass MLA Jordan Crugnale revealed the Phillip Island Pro will run at Cape Woolamai from March 17 to 22, thanks to support from the State Government’s Regional Events Fund, delivered by Visit Victoria.

“This is a fantastic addition to our packed surfing calendar, showcasing Victoria as the surfing capital of Australia while giving the next generation of talent the chance to live out their dreams and deliver major economic benefits for the Bass Coast region,” Mr Dimopoulos said.

The event will attract competitors from more than 10 countries in the Asia and Oceania region, all hoping to book a spot in the 2025 Challenge Series – which is the ultimate battleground for surfers vying to qualify for the Championship Tour in 2026.

“This event puts Phillip Island’s world-class waves on the global stage, proving once again that Victoria is the major events capital – delivering not just in Melbourne, but right here in regional gems like the Bass Coast,” Ms Crugnale said.

The event will include the 2025 Australia/Oceania Pro Junior series, with more than 100 of the region’s best 20 and under talent competing in the Phillip Island Pro Junior during the same week.

It adds to other major surfing events secured by the government, such as the recently announced Longboard Classic and the annual Rip Curl Pro at Bells over Easter – which showcases the world’s best short-board surfers and has also been secured until at least 2028.

“Victoria now plays host to four (World Surf League) events annually – from events on the Qualifying Series and Pro Junior series to the World Longboard Tour and the Championship Tour with the historic Rip Curl Pro at Bells Beach,” World Surf League APAC president Andrew Stark said.

“Phillip Island is an incredible area for surf and has a rich history of hosting competitions right up to the elite level, so it’s a great location to decide the regional representatives for the WSL Challenger Series in 2025.”

Support for the events attracts thousands of visitors to regional Victoria and showcases some of the state’s world-class surf breaks to a global audience.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY December 24

▼ 12.07am 0.55m
▲ 6.51am 1.47m
▼ 12.49pm 0.51m
▲ 7.24pm 1.27m

WEDNESDAY December 25

▼ 12.46am 0.65m
▲ 7.22am 1.41m
▼ 1.30pm 0.50m
▲ 8.25pm 1.26m

THURSDAY December 26

▼ 1.30am 0.75m
▲ 7.57am 1.36m
▼ 2.11pm 0.48m
▲ 9.27pm 1.27m

FRIDAY December 27

▼ 2.19am 0.84m
▲ 8.38am 1.30m
▼ 2.59pm 0.47m
▲ 10.27pm 1.31m

SATURDAY December 28

▼ 3.18am 0.92m
▲ 9.27am 1.26m
▼ 3.54pm 0.45m
▲ 11.27pm 1.36m

SUNDAY December 29

▼ 4.30am 0.96m
▲ 10.23am 1.23m
▼ 4.56pm 0.43m

MONDAY December 30

▲ 12.23am 1.42m
▼ 5.46am 0.96m
▲ 11.25am 1.23m
▼ 5.56pm 0.38m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au

Island and IK get Easter matches

THE new West Gippsland Football Netball League fixture is out, for season 2025, and as well as featuring the 'grand final replay' between Nar Nar Goon and Phillip Island in Round 1 on Saturday, April 5, both Inverloch-Kongwak and Phillip Island get home games on Easter Saturday.

In a thoughtful schedule, all other clubs get Easter off (including Saturday, April 19), with a full round of matches to follow over Anzac Day weekend, highlighted by a Friday, April 25 match between Warragul Industrials and Tooradin-Dalmore which is sure to pull a big crowd.

The catch-up weekend, where the Easter combatants Phillip Island v Dusties, and IK v Killy Bass get their break, is on Saturday, May 3 when only three matches are scheduled, with a bye for Korumburra-Bena.

The opening round of matches is full of interest, as follows: Saturday, April 3

Phillip Island v Nar Nar Goon
Tooradin-Dalmore v Cora Lynn
Korumburra-Bena v Kilcunda-Bass
Warragul Industrials v Garfield
Dalyston v Koo Wee Rup
Inverloch-Kongwak bye

The West Gippsland Grand Final is due on Saturday, September 20.

Netball Victoria's Gippsland showcase

NETBALL Victoria is bringing a suite of community, pre-elite and elite netball events to Traralgon with its Gippsland Showcase on the weekend of February 8-9, 2025.

This two-day event will feature a range of netball talent from Victorian, interstate, and international programs, offering netball fans a unique opportunity to witness some of the best players in the game, while honing their own skills with a coaching workshop.

The Victorian 17/U and 19/U state teams, and VNL clubs Gippsland Stars, Casey Demons and Peninsula Waves will all feature in exhibition matches across the two days. They will host an interstate and international development team set to be announced in the new year.

Suncorp Super Netball's newest franchise, the Melbourne Mavericks will also hold an open training followed by a signing session, giving local netball fans the opportunity to engage with some of the nation's best players.

Netball Victoria's coaching workshop will be hosted by pathway coach, Adrian Ballantyne providing in-depth analysis and guidance in a match day environment.

Over the last year netball participation in the Gippsland region has increased by 9.3 per cent, illustrating the local community's passion for the game, demand for netball content and focus on pathway opportunities.

Gemma selected for State team

GEMMA Meadley has been selected to play for the U17 State Netball Team with the Nationals set to be held in Sydney in April.

The Sentinel-Times will bring you the full story in the New Year.

Plenty to love about croquet

A FUN, vibrant and inclusive environment awaits at the Wonthaggi Croquet Club.

These are the characteristics that developed Tom Lacey's love for the sport.

Tom has been playing croquet for five years and has enjoyed every second.

"I was on a motorcycle trip going through Mansfield with the Ulysses Club and we stayed at a motel behind a croquet club," he said.

"They said 'Come on in, have a go'. It was a lot of fun. Five years later we moved here. I just happened to be cycling past the club and stopped to watch. Someone said to me 'Don't watch, play'.

"I came in and they gave me a mallet and I was hooked."

Tom often plays three times a week, with the club offering social games on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

"Croquet is a great game. It's fun and strategic with a bit of cunning and skill thrown in," Tom said.

"It does not require a high level of physical fitness, and this makes it an ideal sport for older members of the community and those with mobility issues. Our social games take about 45 minutes each, and players can play as many games as they wish. Women and men play the game together, often made up by a random draw of those present."

Often, Tom plays doubles with his wife Sue, who joined the club at the same time.

"The tournaments we play in generally run over two days. We've been playing Midweek Pennant against teams from Phillip Island through to Drouin," Tom said.

"Sue and I play doubles



Sue Baker and Tom Lacey with the president of the Morwell Croquet Club after Sue and Tom won a doubles tournament.

together and we have different skills. Sue wasn't as competitive as I was initially, but that has since changed.

"Together, we've won a couple of tournaments but mostly we just participate and have a lot of fun."

For Tom, one of the highlights of croquet is getting to compete against high-quality local players, interstate champions and Australian representatives.

"No matter who you're playing against, it's always fun and you're always learning something," he said.

"You could be playing an Australian representative at the headquarters of the Australian Croquet Association, and you might fluke a win against these people – more likely get beaten quite soundly – but as you walk off the court, they'll always talk to you about your game and how to improve. That, to me, is the highlight of croquet. It's playing and learning and forging really good friendships."

Tom took his passion one step further and became a qualified Golf Croquet referee three years

ago.

"I really enjoy refereeing. We didn't have a referee at our club and there aren't many in this area of Gippsland. I was just curious and the whole thing took almost a year to do all the learning and the paperwork," he said.

"It included a 12-week course and a practical element where you have to go out and try it.

"For me personally, it has given me a sense of achievement and has made me play better."

In Wonthaggi, the croquet club has grown in recent years.

The club has around 35 members with 25 who play regularly.

Of those 25, at least half compete in tournaments and in the pennant team.

This year, Wonthaggi Croquet Club entered two interclub Pennant teams in the Gippsland competition.

Both teams did very well in the Western Division, though neither went through to the finals.

Pennant tournaments will start in February.

Members are also looking forward to a tournament in Sale in mid-January, as well as the

Australia Day tournament – which is six days of croquet in the city.

Tom said members often enjoy the travel opportunities presented by playing croquet.

Members have played in Queensland, Tasmania, New Zealand and further afield.

"Distance isn't a problem for those who want to get out and play. One of our members went on a cruise around New Zealand last year and played croquet in several cities," Tom said.

Wonthaggi Croquet Club is open to any new members, regardless of age, ability or mobility. Current member ages range from mid-teens to early 90s, but most members are over 55 years old.

"Anyone who rocks up can play. They can borrow our gear and no experience is required," Tom said.

"Croquet is about the friendships and the competition – it's just something I love. You meet up with the same people you know well, and often you'll meet someone new. It's really welcoming for anyone who wants to give it a go. We would love for more people to just give it a go."

The Wonthaggi Croquet Club offers a wonderful community feel, with many members coming together to ensure the clubrooms and the grounds are kept in excellent condition to proudly host local and visiting players.

If anyone wishes to know more about playing croquet in Wonthaggi, please phone Tom – or leave a message – on 0414 616 365 or the club's secretary by email at croquetatwonthaggi@gmail.com.

Coaching is available upon request.

Beach course set for The Sands Invy Fun Run

CREATING a community event is a bold endeavour that calls for resilience, but founders of Adventure South, Samantha and Geoff Van de Lustgraaf are up for the challenge. Together they are sharing their passion for the outdoors and encouraging others to keep active with a new community event in Inverloch, which they hope will become an annual favourite.

'The Sands Invy Fun Run' is launching on January 5 and registrations are open until 11.59pm on Saturday, January 4.

The family-friendly community fun run has three different events: a two-kilometre, six-kilometre and nine-kilometre trail, catering for all ages and all fitness levels. The youngest registered participant so far is four years old.

"The Sands Invy Fun Run is all about getting active in the community," said Samantha.

"The two-kilometre course begins at The Glade, Inverloch. The first 80 metres is through coastal scrub with a firm packed track that leads directly onto the beach. From here, you'll run along the beach towards Pensioners Point, picking your own line. The turnaround point will be clearly marked for your return run to The Glade."

The six-kilometre course will follow the same trail, participants will run along the beach towards the Surf Life Saving Club, again picking their own line. The turnaround point is just prior to the

Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club (SLSC).

"You will also find an aid station here with water, fruit, and some lollies to keep you going on your run back to The Glade and onto the finish line," Samantha explained, noting they are working closely with Bass Coast Shire Council to ensure the hooded plovers are protected during the event.

The nine-kilometre course also begins at The Glade, Inverloch heads along the beach and towards the SLSC.

"You will also find an aid station (prior to the SLSC) before your run back along the beach to the Yacht Club boat ramp. At the top of the Yacht Club boat ramp, you'll turn left onto the path back towards The Glade and continue to the foreshore footpath.

"From here, you'll run along the foreshore footpath and turn around just after the Ayr Creek footbridge. Once turned around, you'll run back towards The Glade, turning right at the rotunda and back onto the beach. The last kilometre is along the beach towards the finish line at The Glade. The path will be clearly signed the whole way with marshals along the way."

In true community style, the Inverloch Lions Club will be volunteering their time cooking a BBQ breakfast and the Inverloch SLSC will be on site with a first aid tent

in case of emergency.

This is a family-friendly event, so rest assured the kids will be entertained with Airey Fairy Face-painting, and a coffee cart will be onsite with freshly brewed coffee and slushies for if it's a hot day.

"We don't have a background in the industry, but what we do have is a passion for the outdoors and what initially started as a hobby in hiking, and a desire for a healthy lifestyle turned into a small business in hiking equipment hire for the town of Inverloch, also known as Adventure South," said Samantha.

"Like most community events, The Sands Invy Fun Run can't operate without a great team of volunteers. We have a reliable group of people assisting us with the smooth running of The Sands Invy Fun Run and we hope to make this an annual event for the town of Inverloch."

Bib collection starts from 7.45am, followed by a race briefing at 8.45am for a 9am start.

Every participant will receive a medal and an official time, but entries are limited to 250 participants with 80 registered at time of print.

There are even prizes for first, second and third finishers, and a bib drawn with local vouchers to be won.

Visit adventuresouth.com.au/the-sands-invy-fun-run and register now to keep active in the new year.



Samantha and Geoff Van de Lustgraaf organisers of 'The Sands Invy Fun Run' launching on January 5, 2025.

Woolamai's Community Race Day



Ebony Dwyer, Ellie Cairns, Madeline Dunlop, Caitlin Vick, Tori Cleeland, Laura Ricardo, Dominique Wilson and Tori Passarin were preparing for the Christmas festivities at the Woolamai Races on Saturday. tk25_5224



The Fisher family with winning jockey Dylan Dean at the Woolamai and District Racing Club. The Fisher family sponsored race three – the Fisher Family Christmas Maiden Plate.



The Bendigo Bank 0-28 Handicap winner was Anything But and jockey Rowan Cox at the Woolamai and District Racing Club on Saturday. tk32_5224



Gloris Willoughby, Bendigo Bank chair Kelvin Simpson, Peter Paul, John Matthews and Luke Hill sponsored the Bendigo Bank Christmas Party Race Day at the Woolamai and District Racing Club on Saturday. tk23_5224



Caleb Mills Car 4 winner Compact Speedcars. Photo: Napier Photography, Louise Norman.

Mills, Peacock, Morrison and Beach among the winners at Nyora

NYORA Raceway's annual Christmas race meeting once again thrilled hundreds of families who made the trek into South Gippsland for some last-minute festive season sporting action.

Main event results included Caleb Mills winning the state title prelude for Compact Speedcars, James Peacock and Officer's Luke Morrison winning Junior Sedan series feature events and Lee Beach from Lysterfield winning the Sports Sedan Christmas Cup.

Other winners included Nathan Miles in Junior Standard Saloons and Bree Walker in Ladies Standard Saloons in the evening's support classes. With the Victorian title for Compact Speedcars at Nyora Raceway this season fourteen cars lined up in the pit enclosure to go racing. Each driver competes in three of the four heat races held to determine the feature race line-up.

Jesse Nicholas from north-east Victoria claimed a runaway victory in the first heat leading from the front row for ten laps straight to win. Mordialloc-based racer Michael Conway then won a green to chequer second heat leading all the way. Matt Papa then held off Conway by just .219 of a second in claiming victory in heat three.

Conway came through the field to snare the lead in the final heat on the second last lap before holding out Papa for the win. After electrical gremlins caused drama for Conway prior to the field hitting the track for the final and Conway unable to start, Caleb Mills led the feature race away with Papa and then David Hutchinson behind.

Justin Paull the New South Wales champion made a push towards the front and moved into third, four laps into the race. With Mills out front Paull reached second by lap sixteen however Mills maintained his distance and led to the finish with Paull, Papa, Bowen Donkers and Tania Hallett rounding out the top five. Koo Wee Rup racer Chris Aarts claimed a win in the first heat race in the Sports Sedan Christmas Cup with visiting Benalla racer Ken Mankey claiming a win in the second. Lee Beach no stranger to winning at Nyora then won heat number three by a massive sixteen seconds almost lapping the complete field before

by Dean Thompson, DMT Speedway Media

Robert Garlick won a short-ened fourth and final qualifier. Beach then led every lap in the final to take victory ahead of Jordan Haley, Garlick, Michael Knight and Hannah Smith.

The national Junior Sedan stars in their four-cylinder cars classed as Top Stars and New Stars also competed in their latest series round event.

James Peacock the winner the week prior at Redline Raceway started the night with a win in heat race one before Blake Beach and then Peacock rounded out the qualifying wins.

Steane Cosson began fast and out front before a left front flat tyre gifted the lead to Peacock.

Peacock was able to control the race over the rest of the fifteen laps and maintained a steady lead to win ahead of Cruz Carlin, Tyler Smith from Tasmania, Brad Marshall and Tyson Heaphy.

Luke Morrison continued his domination of the New Stars Juniors and his good run of results at Nyora.

Morrison won all three heat races with the closest margin of five seconds and the other two heats with more than ten seconds between himself and second, then going on to win the feature race by three-quarters of a lap ahead of Darcy Dannatt, Noah Basten, Jackson Heaphy and Jai Hallett.

Catani racer Nathan Miles won two of the three Junior Standard Saloon heat races with Ella Sheedy winning the other.

Miles won the final from Sheedy and John Hooten.

Trafalgar driver Bree Walker then won two of the three heat races in Ladies Standard Saloons with Caroline Allen winning the other.

A terrific final between Walker and Allen saw Walker lead the first lap before Allen led all the way until lap ten where Walker hit the front once again.

Walker then shot away to win by three seconds ahead of Allen, Stacey Sheedy, and Maddy Capon.

Nyora Raceway returns on January 18 with the Monster Truck Madness show.

Last season the event entertained a packed crowd with Monster Trucks and other novelty cars performing, a fireworks display is once again a part of the show.

Sports Sedans, Formula 500s and Unlimited Sedans will all be racing at the show.



Saturday winners at the Wonthaggi Bowls Club were Colin Binch, Kathy Heaphy, Steve Bruyen and Rob Shaw.



Ted Lee, Graham Turton (skip) and Di Selby won Thursday's social bowls at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



Inverloch Bowling Club's Monthly Triples winners were Alan Hanks (skip), Greg Hogan and Bob Graeme.



Linda Newman, Brian Newman and Helen Gladstone won the last Breakaway Bowls of the year with +11.



Rhonda Rattenbury and Pat Novak shared a win at Breakaway Bowls on Monday.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Wednesday winners Allan Ireland and Lyn Tagell.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

IT'S getting closer to the big man entering the chimneys.

The club hopes you've all been good. Rhonda Rattenbury and Pat Novak have – they won on Monday with +14 – well done, ladies.

Friday was the last meeting before Christmas with another great turn up.

The winners were Linda Newman, Brian Newman and Helen Gladstone with +11 – well done.

The club will break up and resume on January 6.

To all who showed their support, the club wishes you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stay safe and have a great break.

See you all in the new year.

FISH CREEK

THE men's Singles Championship was played on Saturday between Dave Christie and Bill Symmons with Bill winning his first Club Championship.

He got away to a good early lead, but Dave kept at it and pegged him back with Bill finally securing the win 25 to 16.

Some excellent bowls were played in front of a good crowd which was sponsored by MJA Wealth.

The Tuesday Pennant side enjoyed some great hospitality from Wonthaggi last week and narrowly went down by two shots.

Rob Poletti rink won 21/17, Bronwyn Williams drew 15 all and Wendy Watkins lost 15/21.

All rinks were very close going into the last end.

Fish Creek has had some narrow losses over the last few weeks so just keep working hard when bowls restart on January 14.

The big tournament is Saturday, January 4, and Sunday, January 5.

The Saturday is an Invitational Fours being fully catered for and sponsored by Fish Creek Quarries and Foster Garden and Gravel, and the Sunday is a Triples event sponsored by Edneys of Leongatha.

Entries and enquiries to Bill Symmons on 0448 227 272.

The barefoot bowls will start on Tuesday, January 14, and entries need to be placed with Rob McLoughlin on 0476 891 161. Spots are filling fast, so get your teams in.

The club would like to wish all bowlers a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

See you in 2025.

INVERLOCH

THE yearly offering of summer bowls will start on December 27 and run through until January 7, with the exception of January 1.

No bookings will be accepted, just roll up.

Gates open at 4.45pm.

Session one is 5pm until 6.30pm.

Session two is 7pm until 8.30pm.

The cost is \$12.

Sixteen rinks will be available, with a maximum of eight people per rink.

Flat-sole shoes or bare feet are required.

Basic training and bar refreshments will be available.

Twenty-three teams challenged each other for the Monthly Triples.

Two games of 12 ends and two games of 10 ends were played.

The winners on the day with four wins and 69 points was the team of Alan Hanks (skip), Greg Hogan and Bob Graeme. Runners-up with four wins and 65 points was the team led by Kevin Jones.

Best first game went to Ron Burge (skip), Keith Cousens and Arthur Moule.

Best second and third game went to the team led by Wayne Parks.

Honours were shared with Jim Kirks team for best second game.

Best fourth game went to George (skip), Jeff Gilbert and G. Scott.

Monthly Triples will return on January 15.

Social bowls:

Thirty-one bowlers rolled up on Thursday for social bowls in perfect bowling conditions.

A mixture of Triples and Fours were played over two games of 10 ends each.

With two wins and 33 points the team of Graham Turton (skip), Di Selby and Ted Lee took out the day's honours.

Runners-up with two wins and 31 points were Chris O'Donnell (skip), Graham Dunlop, Rob Howard and Liz Jacobs. Thursday social bowls will resume on January 16.

KORUMBURRA

THINGS have started to quieten down prior to Christmas.

The club had its last mid-week Pennant game, where Division 1 travelled to Foster and came home victorious.

Katrina Evans won 28 shots to nine, Jo Lomagno had a 21-all tie and Jenny McVeigh lost 21 shots to 18 – still a good win.

In Division 2, Korumburra hosted Lang Lang and had a good win.

Judith Nicholl went down 13 shots to 28, Jim Garnham got up 31 shots to 23 and Lena Harfield won 29 shots to 11 – a good win overall.

The club held a very successful Christmas raffle with the winners being Mike Gallagher first prize and Poppy Taylor second prize.

Thank you to all who participated.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another busy week at the club in the lead-up to Christmas.

Tuesday saw Division 1 travel to the town of Toora.

Bowlers had a strong breeze across the green to

contend with, but all rinks did well to record a solid victory.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 71, Toora 49.

A big thanks to the Toora Club for a great lunch.

Division 2 played host to Fish Creek at Wonthaggi on a fine day with a breeze present throughout.

With Wonthaggi looking to maintain its position on the ladder, all rinks played well to secure a hard-fought win.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 53, Fish Creek 51.

Division 3, also on the road, travelled to Foster to take on the top team.

All rinks performed strongly to record a solid win.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 52, Foster 37.

Tuesday night saw the final night of barefoot bowls before the Christmas break.

Despite a cool to cold evening, a great turnout of bowlers ensured the night was a success.

Barefoot bowls will resume on January 14.

Wednesday saw a smaller number of bowlers take to the greens for Triples at Inverloch.

Only one team managed to secure two wins, and that team was Allan Ireland and Lyn Tagell.

Thursday brought a good turnout for social bowls, followed by lunch – a fine way to ease into the Christmas break.

Friday was a big day with Coldon Homes holding their end-of-year breakup at the Bowls Club.

Friday night featured the members' draw, with three meat trays and a host of other prizes on offer.

Mike and Lorraine were happy winners.

Saturday saw a strong number of bowlers enjoying a fine day on the greens.

Only one team secured two wins.

Congratulations to Colin Binch, Kathy Heaphy, Steve Bruyen, and Rob Shaw.

During the week, Wonthaggi hosted the final of the Ladies' Pairs Championship.

The match was contested by Heather Blanch and Dedrie Davidson against Joy Phillips and Wendy Donohue.

Heather and Dedrie emerged victorious, claiming the title.

In more good news, Frank Seaton and Mike Raman won the Strzelecki South Men's Pairs Championship during the week. They will now face the winners from Strzelecki North for the right to compete for the State Title.

After a few days' rest, the club will be back on January 4 and 5 to host the Champion of Champions at Wonthaggi.

The club will need members to assist with manning the scoreboards again this year.

A sign-up sheet is available in the clubhouse.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, December 17.
Stableford: 39 players.
A Grade: Wayne Knights (16) 41 points.
B Grade: Max Carter (31) 40 points.
NTPs: first Mick Belvedere, seventh Steve Duffield and 13th Athol Worthy.
Thursday, December 19:
Stableford: 25 players.
A Grade: Steve Rose (9) 37 points.
B Grade: Allan Twite 43 points.
NTPs: 13th Jake Fowles.
Saturday, December 21:
Sponsor: Ian Cash.
Stableford: 55 players.
A Grade: Tim Fowles (15) 41 points.
B Grade: Simon Perks (21) 40 C/B.
NTPs: first Bob Newton, seventh Mat Wrigley, 10th Billy Wrigley and 13th Mick Belvedere.

Ladies

LAST Tuesday, Trudi Mantell (29) had a super score of 44 points to win the women's competition and was also NTP on the 13th green.
A BDTL went to Deb Wrigley (29), 34 points.
On Wednesday, the women finished off the year with a unique, modified rules Stableford game.
Christmas cheer and many laughs were heard on and off the course, along with some great scores.
It was also the Captain's and President's Day with the President's team winning this time.
The A Grade winner was Merrissa Cosson 46 points with Johanna van den Heiligenberg 45 points runner-up on a c/b.
Kim Enbom was the B Brade winner 56 points and Trudy Olden was next best 50 points.
C Grade was won by Julie Cole 54 points and runner-up was Kath Welsh 50 points.
The BDTL went to Lyn Perks 49 points, Karen Sorrell 48 points then Viv Enbom and Lyn Leppin, both with 47 points.
NTPs were all sponsored by Kelly's Bakery and the club is very grateful for its support.
First was Lyn McIvor, seventh Shelley Snooks, 10th Pam Eyers, 13th Lyn Perks and the 'special' fourth Kim Enbom.
After golf, the 2024 'Minor' trophies were presented.
Thanks to Korumburra Golf Club for providing these awards and the winners were all congratulated.
Most Consistent Wednesday: Heather Grist.
Mud Masters Saturday: Aliesha Wrigley.
Eclectic Summer Wednesdays: A: Lyn McIvor.
B: Trudi Mantell.
C: Kath Welsh.
Eclectic Summer Saturdays: A: Julie Hillberg.
B: Diarne Maskell.
Eclectic Winter Wednesdays: A: Kerri Besley.
B: Trudy Olden.
C: Pam Eyers.
Eclectic Winter Saturdays: Julie Hillberg.
Gobbles (chip-ins):
Wednesday: Lorraine Knox.
Saturday: Diarne Maskell.
Birdies: Wednesday and Saturday: Merrissa Cosson.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, December 17: Stableford.
Tuesday's Stableford round had another good field of 67 members/guests take to the

course selecting either blue or yellow tees.
Overall winner: Bob Smith (35) with the high score of the day with 41 points on a countback.
A Grade winner: Josh de Groot (14) with a score of 41 points.
A Grade runner up: John Ryan (11) with a score of 38 points.
B Grade winner: Wayne Keen (18) with a score of 40 points.
B Grade runner up: John McLennan (19) with a score of 36 points on a countback.
C Grade winner: Bob Smith (35) with a score of 41 points.
C Grade runner up: Antony Roberts (29) with a score of 37 points on a countback.
NTP fifth second shot: Christopher Leaver. NTP 14th: Donald Smith. NTP 16th: David Richards.
Thursday, December 19: Dave Brownnett Bucks Do Ambrose Event.
Thursday's event was sponsored by Leongatha Golf Club's men's captain Dave Brownnett as a buck's event for his upcoming wedding.
Congratulations Dave and all the very best for the future.
This two-ball Ambrose event had an excellent field of 84 members/guests take to the course, teeing off on the red tees as a Par plus event, with a shotgun start at 9am.
Overall winners:
1: Bob Smith and Will Norden with a score of 58.75.
2. Sean Munley and Patrick Mitchell with a score of 61.
3. Mitchell Hallahan and Ian Miller with a score of 61.25.
NTP fifth second shot: Peter Hartigan at 1.65m. NTP 14th: Will Norden at 2.87m. NTP 16th: Trevor Steer at 1.70m.
Saturday, December 21: Par.
Saturday's Par event was a brilliant December day with 92 members/guests on the course with some high scores being recorded.
Overall winner: Geald Freestone (28) with the high score of the day of +3 on a countback.
A Grade winner: Anthony Sparkes (11) with a score of +2 on a countback.
A Grade runner up: Paul Deery (11) with a score of +2 on a countback.
B Grade winner: Steven Piasente (13) with a score of +3.
B Grade runner up: Donald Smith (14) with a score of +2.
C Grade winner: Peter Brownlie (17) with a score of +3.
C Grade runner up: Ian Debenham (17) with a score of 0.
D Grade winner: Gerald Freestone (28) with a score of +3 on a countback.
D Grade runner up: Simon Kaiserman (30) with a score of +3.
NTP fifth second shot: Phil Douglass. NTP 14th: Dean Kellett. NTP 16th: Alan Black.
The Leongatha Golf Club management, staff and members send greetings to the Sentinel-Times staff and readers for a blessed Christmas season and the very best for the New Year of 2025.

MEENIYAN

TUESDAY was Whiskey Day with Brian Dewar winning with 75 net on a count back from John Hyett 75 net.
Next best was Henry Mueller 76 net and Phil Hutcheson 77 net.
NTP on eighth was Lloyd Hemphill and 11th Will Bullock.
Saturday was Singles Par with the Reg Hannay coming out on



Korumburra's 2024 Minor trophy winners were, back from left, Kerri Besley, Kath Welsh, Lorraine Knox, Pam Eyers, Diarne Maskell, Trudy Olden, Heather Grist, front from left, Aliesha Wrigley, Merrissa Cosson and Julie Hillberg. Absent: Lyn McIvor and Trudi Mantell.

top with an excellent +4.
Runner-up was Brian Erving with +3.
DTL went to Daryle Gregg +1, Brian Dewar, Shane Bright, Henry Mueller all on square, and Craig Buckland, Mat Vanboven, Pete Wilson, Will Bullock and Gavan Zerbe all on -3.
NTP on second was Brian Dewar, 11th Mat Vanboven, 14th Craig Buckland and the pro pin on the eighth with a hole-in-one Jacob Byrnes.
Also, a big congratulations to Will Bullock who become a life member at the recent annual general meeting.

Ladies

OVER the past few weeks, the club has enjoyed good weather, and the course is looking fantastic.
The December Medal winner was Dot Christie with 72 net from Susan Straw 73 net.
On December 18, golfers played a Stableford round, which saw Jan Trease winning with a fine 42 points from Tanya Thorson on 39 points.
The golf club held the annual general meeting on December 12 and the board once again has co-presidents Veronica Park and Brad Wright, with a new secretary in Jo Graeme after the retirement of Sue Hoskin after many years as club secretary. Thanks, Sue, for all your hard work for the club –hopefully now you can just enjoy playing golf.
The club also welcomed a new life member in Will Bullock.
Will has for many years been the cornerstone of the Meeniyán Golf Club, serving many years as president.
His leadership has been characterised by vision, integrity and a tireless drive to enhance the club's stature and facilities, under his leadership the club has seen significant developments and improvements.
Will has been the South Gippsland Golf Association president twice.
Will's proximity to the golf course is not a matter of geography but a testament to his commitment.
He is a constant presence always ready to lend a hand.
His involvement in working bees, not only his time and labour but also supplies his own equipment, and his hands-on approach ensures that the club facilities are always in top condition, benefiting all members.
Congratulations Will.



Grade winners of the modified Stableford event at Korumburra last Wednesday were Julie Cole, Merrissa Cosson and Kim Enbom.



Jacob Byrnes had a hole-in-one on the eighth at the Meeniyán Golf Club.



Will Bullock received a Meeniyán Golf Club life membership at the recent annual general meeting.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, December 17: Stableford.
A Grade: P Woodall (7) 41 points.
B Grade: R. Thompson (26) 42 points.
DTL: S. Beitz 40 and S. McKenzie 39.
NTP: fourth G. Shandley, sixth S. McKenzie, 13th T. Whitelaw and 16th D. Taylor.
Birdie: 13th T. Whitelaw and 16th T. Bradshaw.
Saturday, December 21: two-person Ambrose.
A Grade: E. Woodall and R Kratzat (3.25) 61.75 net.
B Grade: M. Payne and D. Taylor (8.5) 60.5 net.
DTL: S. Mills and G. Renwick 62.75, S. Hill-Smith 63.25, D. and A. Woodall 63.25, T. Whitelaw and N. Bracecamp 64, G. Shandley and J. White 64.25, and J. and S. Woodall 65.
NTP: fourth T. Bradshaw, sixth J. McFarlane, 13th P. Draper and 16th T. Baker.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: December 19, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Philip McCrimmon 42. Runner up: Joshua Kilgour 41.BDTL to 39 C/B: Martin Cox, 40, Ian Murrells 40, Warwick Judkins 40 and Chris Wilkinson 39 C/B.
Results: December 19, SR. 36. Competition: Stableford nine-hole 10 to 18.
Winner: Norm Burne 22.
BDTL to 19: Kevin Bayley 20, Paul Cornelis 20 and Ray Hender 19.
Results: December 21, S.R 71. Competition: Stableford.
A Grade: Scott Williams 40
B Grade: Peter Hanley 45.
C Grade: Bill Blanch 43.
Balls down the line to 37: Miles Foster 42, Glenn Hewlett 40, Glen Moresco 39, Graeme Campbell 39, Andy Horvath 38, Ian McDonald 38, Frank Loughran 38, Alan Wright 38, Nigel Firth 37, Kevin Loughran 37, Ben Clark 37 and Keith Ridout 37.
Eagles: Frank Huber seventh and Kevin Nicol 10th.
NTPs: Alan Sherlock second, Scott Williams fourth, Neil Edwards propin eighth, Brendon Stapleton 13th and Daniel Crellin money hole 17th.



The South Gippsland Beach Volleyball comp will be held at Inverloch in January.

Enjoy a day of fun, competition and community

SOUTH Gippsland beach volleyball competition is in its 32nd year and as one of the only continuously run beach competitions in Victoria will be back again this January.

Last year was the biggest competition ever, with well over 100 players in 27 teams, split into six divisions, competing on the beach at Inverloch.

"We're just trying to get people out and have a go at playing beach volleyball. So really, anyone can enter, because it's a social event and we're not super strict," said Lieselott Webster from the South Gippsland Volleyball Club.

Players come from the local region as well as Latrobe Valley and a few family and friend groups even come from Melbourne to play.

"I think it's just the social aspect and a lot of the players that come are indoor players and don't get a chance to play on the beach. It's a different feeling to be on the beach, as you can throw yourself and it's a bit softer and a bit harder to jump, because it takes off a bit of the bounce."

Teams of four rather than two play on the day and to create a fair competition teams are grouped into different divisions, depending on experience level and each team play to 30 points.

"We will have divisions where there are beginners playing, some years we have a junior division as well, quite often we've had a few family teams that just entered the kids, and the parents have played together," explained Lieselott.

The South Gippsland Volleyball Club (SGVC) are the ones that organise the event every year, and it will be held again at Pensioners Point in Inverloch starting from 9am, but the tide does play a factor too.

"We have a time limit because of the tides. Especially this year, it has changed so much on the beach, and a lot of the beach has been washed away. So you've really got to play when the tide is out, so that sort of sets the limits on how long we can stay on the beach," explained Lieselott.

However, since 2009 the weather has been on their side and they haven't had to cancel an event due to wind, rain or storms with Lieselott noting they feel very fortunate that it is always great weather when they play.

People can enter a team or as an individual and the SGVC will endeavour to put individuals into teams. Registration must be made prior to the day.

South Gippsland Beach Volleyball Competition will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at Inverloch Foreshore, Pensioners Point, from 9am. Juniors, social and experienced players are welcome.

For more information or to register email: inverlochbeachvolleyball@gmail.com

Mabilia shines at international men's netball tournament



Zac Mabilia (left) with teammates Will Whiteacre and Ronan Pring after winning the Fast Five World Series in Christchurch.



Zac Mabilia and Toby Fountain with the Merlion Cup. Australia competed against Fiji for the Cup in the grand final of the Men's Netball Nation Series but ultimately lost by one goal on the final buzzer.



Zac Mabilia's performance in the midcourt at the Men's Netball Nation Series saw him named first runner up most valuable player at the end of the seven-day tournament.



Zac Mabilia and the U20 Australian men's team defeated New Zealand 82 to 33 in the first game of the Men's Netball Nation Series in Singapore.

ZAC Mabilia proudly represented Australia in the recent Men's Netball Nation Series at the Jurong East Sports Centre in Singapore.

The former Wonthaggi Power player competed in Australia's U20s side through the Australian Men's and Mixed Netball Association (AMMNA) and was crowned the first runner-up most valuable player (MVP) at the end of the seven-day tournament.

Australia played off in the grand final of the series against Fiji, ultimately losing by just one goal on the buzzer.

Zac said it was an awesome week and the biggest international men's event he has competed in.

"It was really good to play against five different countries. We lost by one in the end, but it was nice to play against so many different styles of netball because it's so different between countries," he said.

Throughout the tournament, Australia faced New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong, England and Fiji.

"We played over seven days, and we had two days beforehand where we had training," Zac said.

"We played every team once and went onto the semi-final and the grand final."

Australia was up by eight during the grand final, but Fiji kept chipping away and ensured the game was close.

At three-quarter time, Australia was up by three.

The final score was 54 to 55 with the winning goal scored on the full-time buzzer.

Across the week, Australia celebrated some big wins, most notably scoring 100 goals against Singapore.

"We had a very talented side. Regardless of who was on the court, we had a really strong team," Zac said.

"Men's netball in Australia has been a little bit more developed than in some of the other countries. Some of the scorelines were fairly big, but they were always competitive games. The tournament director said if you watched the game, you wouldn't have picked the scoreline."

One game was played per day in the afternoons, so mornings were spent in team meetings and going over game analysis footage.

"I really like (reviewing the footage). We had a performance analyst from New South Wales (Erin Breaden), which was the first time a junior team has had one. It was really good to see," Zac said.

Zac said the highlight of the tournament for him was the grand final, as well as playing in front of friends and family who made the trip to Singapore to support him.

The midcourt player was proud of his performance, which saw him named first runner-up tournament MVP.

"The opposition coaches voted for the MVP. The MVP award was won by a nice midcourt player from England," Zac said.

"It was pretty cool (to be named runner-up). It wasn't expected because we have such quality players in our team. It really could've gone to anyone, and it was an honour to receive it."

As well as Singapore, Zac's netball journey has taken him to New Zealand to compete in the U17 Australian team in 2022 and Christchurch for the Fast Five World Series this year.

by Tayla Kershaw

"These were all very different experiences. The New Zealand tour was my first international event, so I was nervous for that one. This year, my approach was 'you're in this team for a reason, you might as well play as good as you can,'" he said.

"The Nations Series was definitely different to Fast Five. Fast Five was a lot bigger. They use the word 'sportainment' and it's a little more upbeat."

"Singapore was a little more serious because it was a week-long event and back to the sevens netball format with more countries competing."

For selection into the squad, Zac played in the AMMNA season and went onto trial at a selection camp.

In May, he participated in a joint training camp in Melbourne with the U17 and U20 squad hopefuls.

Once selected, a lot of work went into training for the tournament.

The players are given strength and conditioning programs.

Zac would often follow his program while going to the local gym with mates.

As a reserve for the Australian men's team the Kelpies, Zac also trained with the Diamonds.

"It was awesome to train with them and see what their environment is like," he said.

"Personally, I generally do two to three gym sessions a week, depending on the training load. Generally, we have one court fitness session a week, which you do yourself. I do that at the Wonthaggi netball courts."

Zac has also been back to his roots lately, jumping into training with Wonthaggi Power.

"I ran a clinic with Wonthaggi Power recently as part of their pre-season and I also ran a training session with Zali Anderson."

Zali is a former Wonthaggi Power player who has gone on to compete in the Victorian Netball League in the Booroondara Express side.

Zac started his netball journey at Wonthaggi Power, moving on to football once he was too old to play in the local competition.

He played football for Wonthaggi Power and Inverloch-Kongwak, but basketball and netball were always his favourite sports growing up.

"I played basketball in Korumburra and went on to play for Vic Country and for an Australian touring team in New Zealand," he said.

"When I was 16, I swapped from state development basketball trainings because I was enjoying netball a little more and found I was better at it, so I've pursued netball."

Having just graduated Year 12 at Bass Coast College, Zac plans to move to Sydney in 2025.

Zac is still waiting for his university offers but is hoping to study exercise physiology.

As well as starting his degree, Zac will be playing for the New South Wales open men's team.

"A bit of a change is exciting. I will play for New South Wales at nationals, and from there I will hopefully be re-selected into the Australian squads," he said.

"I'm looking forward to playing with New South Wales. The three midcourters there are in the Kelpies, so it'll be nice to learn from them and even to train against them because they are the best of the best."



Player of the Match Phill Higgins drives for the Gippsland Goannas.

Goannas outdone by ACS

VETERANS

THE Gippsland Goannas Over-70 cricket team travelled to Frankston to take on the Australian Cricket Society Over 70s on Tuesday, December 17.

The game was played on the ‘Trotting Track’ Oval at Jubilee Park, the home of the Frankston District Cricket team.

The oval was in excellent condition and the weather cool with a westerly breeze, the Goannas prepared to bat first.

Ian Gibson and Warren Dummett opened the innings, with Dummett bowled in the fourth over.

Goannas were 1/4.

Donald Cameron and Gibson moved the score on, both retiring after 30 balls.

Gibson for 12 and Cameron for 18.

Ian Southall and Garry Rose were next, but Southy was caught for three when the score was 43 in the 16th over.

Bob Duljas made a quick five before being run out and Rose and Phill Higgins took the score to 3/67 at the 20 over drinks break.

Rose (23) and Higgins (29) both retired after 30 balls and Gordon Cowling and Kel Bond came together.

They were going along nicely when GC strained a hammy and retired hurt.

Bond was caught for five, and Barrie Nunn for one as the score reached 5/123.



Goanna Kelvin Bond batting against ACS.

After strapping the hammy, Cowling returned, with Gibbo acting as his runner, and with Ron Milnes, 22 retired from 30, they took the score to 154.

Heather Farley joined Cowling for the last over, finishing with 1 and 31 respectively, for the Goannas to post a respectable 157 from their 40 overs.

The Mornington Peninsula/Canterbury Over 70s were hosting the Geelong side on one of the other ovals, so the four teams were together for a big ‘chinwag’ at lunchtime.

The weather stayed pleasant as Southall and Cowling, from a reduced run-up, opened the bowling for the Goannas.

Southy removed ACS opener, also Ian Gibson, caught behind by Goannas’ Ian Gibson in the first over.

New batsman Martin was badly run out by his opening partner Breheny in the next over and Breheny was well caught by Kel Bond at mid-on from Cowling’s third over.

The score was then 3/7.

After nine overs, Bond and Nunn took over, with Bond having Greg Watsford well caught by Ronny Milnes in over 12. ACS were then 4/20.

‘Keeper Mick Fogarty was Bond’s next victim, bowled on the first ball of over 20, so drinks were then taken.

ACS was in big trouble at 5/48.

However, captain Phil O’Meara – who played Sheffield Shield for Western Australia – and Graeme Anderson – who played football for Collingwood, and District Cricket – steadied the ship, with 32 and 37 runs respectively.

Both retired after facing 35 balls.

Bond bowled eight overs for 2/27 and Nunn eight overs for 31 runs.

Dummett took over the wicket-keeping duties as Ian Gibson and Ron Milnes came into the attack.

After 30 overs, the score had reached 120.

Phill Higgins bowled an over and Kim Boehm made an aggressive 38 from 28 balls.

Southall and Cowling came back on, but the horse had bolted as ACS passed the Goannas’ score in the 37th over.

Glynis Brown, another former National rep, played out an over from Donald Cameron, Southall’s figures were 1/26 from 7.2 overs, and Cowling took 1/8 from six.

The Goannas next game will be a ‘double-header’, versus the Vic Country veterans, with the Over-60 teams playing on the Toongabbie turf, and Over 70 teams playing on the Village Green at Toongabbie, on the first Sunday in January.

The Goannas will train at Duncan Cameron in Traralgon on Friday, January 3, and will have dinner with the Vic Country team on one of the weekend nights.

Goannas’ Over 50 team’s next game is on Sunday, January 19.

Over 60s Kookas narrowly go down to Bushrangers

VETERANS

THE rampaging South Gippy Kookas played at Scorpion Park home to Leongatha Town.

Special thanks to Benny Davies, Davern and Greg Goss for their hospitality.

The Kookas took the willow and the dynamic duo of Pete Miller 6, and Pete Petrou 13 got them off nicely.

Enter Dave ‘Dasher’ Tesari who made a sublime 29no with solid support from Waza Hayes 10 no, ‘Ol Grayza’ Wighty 14no, the ‘Ageless Freddy’ Debono 12no and ‘Professor’ Mike Newton 9no.

The icing on the Christmas Cake came in the form of ‘Master Blaster’ Pieter Loos who smashed a brilliant 36no to propel the Kookas up to 5/168, game on.

After a sumptuous lunch, the Bushrangers strode to the crease and proceeded to fire off a lot of early shots.

At the halfway mark the Kookas were under more pressure than the early settlers but as always fought back strongly.

The best of a very gallant list of bowlers were Freddy Forever Young Debono 2/18, Ol Grayza Wighty 1/26 and Loozy 0/16.

Finally with only eight balls to go the Ned Kellys were able to score 5/169 to win a great game of cricket.

Merry Christmas and a wonderful Christmas to all our readers and supporters for 2024.

South Gippsland Bridge Club

DECEMBER 11 at RSL Wonthaggi: seven tables.

North/South master point winners:

First: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 61.66 per cent.

Second: John French and Debbie Anglim 52.38.

Third: Ken McKenzie and Marie Sands 51.49.

East/West winners:

First: Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles 58.93.

Second: Matti Shub and John Quayle 58.04.

Third: Neville and Phillip Chapman 55.06.

December 20 at Inverloch Angling Club: nine tables.

North/South pairs:

First: Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 60.54.

Second: Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson 54.89.

Third: John French and Debbie Anglim 54.12.

Fourth: Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson 51.70.

East/West:

First: Kathy Dowd and Anne Somerville 59.67.

Second: Faye Rowlands and John Currier 53.85.

Third: Bruce Higgs and Sean Munley 52.27.

Fourth: Anna Deb Bondt and Ian Meiseleach in their first competitive game – congratulations.

Five VCC awards for local basketball association contributors

FIVE Basketball Victoria Country Commission (VCC) awards have been presented to basketball players and coaches in South Gippsland and the Bass Coast.

Former Bass Coast College student Brigitte Tack was presented with the 2024 Bob Osborne Award for Outstanding Contribution by a Female to Diversity and Inclusion.

Working with players as a referee and coach for several seasons in the All Abilities program Brigitte was warmly congratulated by Basketball Victoria.

“Congratulations on your award Brigitte, so very well deserved.”

“You’re a legend Brigitte Tack.”

“What a worthy recipient and recognition.”

Celebrating the dedication and achievements of those driving the success and growth of basketball in regional Victoria VCC award recipients included athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers.

The Ray Borner Award for Junior Male Athlete was won by Joel Robinson from the Phillip Island Basketball Association and the Judy Doye Award for Female Administrator of the Year went to Rachel Gill also from Phillip Island.

The Noel Byers Award for Small Association Referee was won by the Korumburra Basketball Association.

RIGHT: Brigitte Tack was presented with the 2024 VCC Diversity and Inclusion award.



C GRADE

DIVISION 1

OMK 3/103 d Town 9/99
Town 1st INNINGS: T Cashin 0, S Vs 2, T Strybosch 10, R Edward's 6, Fill-in 27, P J Kallookkaran 15, A Aeschlimann 1*, C Smith 2, J Cashin 0, M Hogarth 4*
Bowling: R White 2/17, S A Handley 2/6, O Fitzpatrick 1/28, J Greenwood 1/19, T Nicholas 3/11, D Elford 0/18
OMK 1st INNINGS: P Fermanis 3, R White 45*, R Quaife 31, O Fitzpatrick 11, M Nicholas 7*
Bowling: T Strybosch 1/22, C Dowling 0/27, P J Kallookkaran 0/9, S Vs 2/23, Fill-in 0/21

Korumburra 4/60 d Phillip Island 59
Phillip Island 1st INNINGS: A Williams 1, T Blackwell 17, S Angelo 0, D McCausland 0, D Ivey 21, T Hornsby 5, A O'Brien 3, A Brayley 0, T Senanayaka 1, B Marshall 1, Z Hughes 0*
Bowling: S McKinnon 2/13, G Edwards 1/17, M Foote 3/10, D Scott 2/14, P Beadel 2/3
Korumburra 1st INNINGS: T Morrison 10, G Edwards 0, D Scott 4, D Whelan 9, P Beadel 20*, R Gallagher 6*
Bowling: T Senanayaka 2/13, J Allan 1/10, A Brayley 0/10, D McCausland 0/5, T Hornsby 0/13, B Marshall 0/3

Nerrena 2/123 d Kilcunda-Bass 8/86
Nerrena 1st INNINGS: S Murphy 14, C Harrison 3, B Stein 60*, G Murphy 38*
Bowling: S Tapscott 1/12, J Papworth 0/13, J Dickson 0/26, V K Gopal 0/31, Fill-in 0/30, B Paliwal 0/11
Kilcunda-Bass 1st INNINGS: J Hockett 7, Fill-in 1, R Blacknwy 43*, V K Gopal 12, J Dickson 0, B Paliwal 1, C Bettles 0, J Papworth 7, H Hockett 2, O Leighton 3*
Bowling: J Donohue 0/22, J Renden 2/6, C Baudinette 3/18, C Marinou 0/10, D Grigg 2/13, C Salmon 0/10, R Harrison 1/7

Club – BYE

C GRADE

DIVISION 2

Inverloch 2/174 d Koon L/RSL 5/124
Inverloch 1st INNINGS: W Stewart 105*, J Rowe 27, D Harris 22, C O'Flynn 9*
Bowling: T Lund 0/30, J Geary 0/33, S Paterson 1/25, R Collins 0/34, D Yuthmika 0/29, A Piksons 1/20
Koonwarra L/RSL 1st INNINGS: S Paterson 8, K Thorne 10, G Matthies 45, N Grimes 4, R Collins 2, D Isgro 14*, S Anderson 26*
Bowling: C Butler 0/20, C O'Flynn 1/10, W Chapman 0/16, J Mottram Carter 0/15, J Smith 2/16, A Parker 1/5, I Richardson 0/26, M Woods 0/9

Glen Alvie 4/120 d OMK 6/116
OMK 1st INNINGS: T Eustace 41, M Wightman 32, M Walker 9, J Battersby 7, M Whiteside 2, C McKenzie 7, A Halliwell 6*, Private Player 0*
Bowling: W Simmons 1/18, J Hynes 1/25, O Luff 2/15, L Ton 0/16, W Bridle 1/10, K Andersen 0/13, C Andersen 1/12
Glen Alvie 1st INNINGS: C Chandler 14, D McGuirk 58*, C Stewart 4, I Thorn 31, W Simmons 0, O Luff 6*
Bowling: M Whiteside 0/20, R Wyatt 0/26, L Maskell 2/15, A Halliwell 0/15, J Battersby 0/19, T Eustace 1/22

Nyora 6/107 d Phillip Island 5/106
Phillip Island 1st INNINGS: S Niven 2, P Francis 21, M Cleary 5, S Sirirathnage 1, S Di Falco 13, J Parry 56*, J Marshall 2*
Bowling: K Maclure 2/7, Fill-in 0/10, W Dixon 1/13, T Dowel 1/19, G Alsem 0/3, J Lynch 0/24, W Dourley 1/27
Nyora 1st INNINGS: G Alsem 3, K Maclure 50, W Dixon 0, Fill-in 0, W Dourley 6, T White 23*, A Macdonald 6, R Moxon 8*
Bowling: S McMillan 1/7, J Kleverkamp 3/11, S Niven 0/28, S Sirirathnage 0/28, P Francis 0/21, M Cleary 2/10

MDU – BYE



Tim Cashin drives for Leongatha Town before falling for a duck against OMK. A29_5224



Scott Handley delivers for OMK, taking an impressive 2/6 off his four overs in the Diggers' T20 win over Leongatha Town. A31_5224

Red Caps reap the rewards in 20/20 round

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

NERRENA outplayed Kilcunda-Bass at the Bass Recreation Reserve on Saturday. The home side won the toss and chose to field first. Shem Murphy and Cohen Harrison made an unassuming start as they made 15 and three runs respectively. Murphy was run out by James Papworth and Harrison was bowled out by Shaun Tapscott. However, Ben Stein and captain Gerard Murphy ran Nerrena's innings right to the end of the 20 overs. They made 39 and 58 not out, resulting in a handy final score of 2/126.

Kilcunda-Bass stepped up to bat, but its opening partnership was swiftly dismissed by Nerrena bowler Joel Renden. Batting third in the order, Robert Blackney kept hopes alive for the Sharks with 43 not out. However, bowler Cameron Baudinette kept the run rate low as he claimed 3/18. Renden and Daniel Grigg came away with two wickets each. Ultimately, Kilcunda-Bass could not reach its target and produced a score of 8/86 at the end of 20 overs.

OMK outclasses Town

LEONGATHA Town and OMK went head-to-head at Scorpion Park on Friday night, with the win going to OMK. Town chose to bat first but stumbled early when Tim Cashin was dismissed for a duck and Sakthy Vs was caught for two runs by Owen Fitzpatrick off the bowling of Russ White. A fill-in for Town managed to produce the top score of 27, with captain Alex Aeschlimann later adding 24 runs. OMK bowler Toby Nicholas took out the bottom of the order, producing figures of 3/11. White and Scott Handley

took two wickets each. Town played out its 20 overs, resulting in a score of 9/99. With a target in sight, OMK sent in Paul Fermanis and White. Fermanis was bowled by Travis Strybosch for three runs, leaving the partnership of White and Robert Quaife to go on to make 45 and 31 runs respectively. White was not out at the end of the innings. Two wickets were taken by Vs. After 15 overs, OMK had won the game with a score of 3/103.

Burra clinches low-scoring duel

A LOW-SCORING innings from Phillip Island handed the win over to Korumburra on Saturday. Phillip Island opened the batting, which saw Thomas Blackwell make 17 runs. Sarith Angelo and Daniel McCausland were dismissed for a duck and a golden duck respectively before David Ivey could step up to the crease. Ivey top scored with 21 runs before he was caught by Lukas Gallagher off the bowling of Matt Foote. Foote had Korumburra's best bowling figures, taking 3/10. Shaun McKinnon, Darren Scott and Patrick Beadel claimed two wickets each. Phillip Island played 18 overs before it was bowled out with a score of 10/59. Korumburra also suffered a low-scoring innings but did all it needed to for a victory. Batting fifth in the order, Beadel made the top score of 20 not out. Thimira Senanayaka was Phillip Island's best bowler with 2/13 and a single wicket was taken by Jackson Allan. After just 14 overs, Korumburra had the game with a winning tally of 4/60.

Nyora nabs nailbiter

NYORA and Phillip Island closed the first half of the C2 season with a nailbiter that ultimately went to Nyora. Playing at the Nyora Recreation Reserve on Saturday, the home team won the toss and sent Phillip Island into bat first. Opening batsman Peter Francis made 21 runs to get the ball rolling, but it was Jon Parry who kept the match competitive. Parry made 56 not out. Keith Maclure had Nyora's top bowling honours, taking 2/7. Wickets also fell to William Dixon, Tristan Dowel and

Wonthaggi Club had the bye in round eight.

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Stewart leads Stingrays to the win

WARREN Stewart steered Inverloch to victory by making 105 not out on Saturday. Playing against Koonwarra L/RSL at the Koonwarra Recreation Reserve, Stewart opened the batting with Jack Rowe and refused to be moved. Rowe made 27 runs before he was caught by Dan Isgro off the bowling of Shane Paterson. Rowe's dismissal sent in David Harris, who contributed 22 runs before he was also caught by Isgro, this time off the bowling of Alvis Piksons. Callan O'Flynn finished off the innings with Stewart, making nine not out. Stewart's effort included 13 fours and one six. Inverloch closed its innings with a healthy score of 2/174. The score was beyond Koonwarra L/RSL's reach. Batting third for Koonwarra L/RSL, Glenn Matthies top-scored with 45 runs before he was bowled by Jason Smith. Steven Anderson closed the innings with 26 not out. For Inverloch, Smith was the top bowler with 2/16. Wickets were also taken by O'Flynn and Aedan Parker. Koonwarra L/RSL played out its 20 overs but fell short of success with a score of 5/124.

William Dourley. Phillip Island had made 5/106 at the end of the innings. Maclure continued his form with 50 runs before he was caught by Sonny McMillan off the bowling of captain Michael Cleary. Dixon and a fill-in player were dismissed for a duck and a golden duck respectively by Jai Kleverkamp, which cleared the way for Travis White to step in and make a handy 23 not out. Kleverkamp was Phillip Island's top bowler, taking 3/11. Two wickets were claimed by Cleary. By the time Nyora had reached its allotted 20 overs, it had crept over the line with a score of 6/107.

McGuirk's mighty 58 downs OMK

GLEN Alvie recorded a win against OMK at the Outtrim Recreation Reserve. Glen Alvie won the toss and sent OMK into bat. The opening partnership of Tom Eustace and Mark Wightman worked together well, resulting in 41 and 32 runs respectively. However, the run rate was limited thereafter. Owen Luff had the best bowling figures for Glen Alvie, taking 2/15. Single wickets were taken by William Simmons, Jarvis Hynes, Wayne Bridle and Charlie Andersen. OMK reached 6/116 at the end of its 20 overs. Daniel McGuirk opened the batting for Glen Alvie and led the team to victory with 58 not out. Batting fourth in the order, captain Ian Thorn added 31 runs. Liam Maskell was OMK's top bowler, taking 2/15. Eustace claimed one wicket – dismissing Thorn – and ran out Simmons for a golden duck. Glen Alvie maintained the upper hand, however, and won the game in the 19th over with 4/120.

MDU had the round eight bye.

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Nerrena batsman Damien Symmons prepares to smack another ball on his way to a ton. Tk13_5224

Symmons' quickfire century stuns Club

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

NERRENA batsman Damien Symmons put on an incredible show and delivered a 100-run haul in Saturday's T20 match against Wonthaggi Club.

The Red Caps travelled out to Wonthaggi's McMahon Reserve, where the home side won the toss and sent the visitors into bat.

Symmons opened the batting with Kade Berryman and could not be moved.

Berryman was bowled by captain Sean Roche at 1/14 and James Kelly made 30 runs before he was caught by Shaun Tessari off the bowling of Bailey Harvey at 2/88.

Ryan Clark saw out the innings with Symmons, making 30 not out.

Symmons made his ton after facing 62 balls, hitting 12 fours and four sixes.

After its 20 overs, Nerrena had made 2/177.

Club struggled to make an impact on its scoreboard, under the pressure of the bowling of William Croatto, until Roche stepped up midway through the innings.

Roche made 63 runs before Tyson Harris claimed his wicket.

Tessari added 22 runs towards the end of the innings.

Croatto's bowling figures were 4/13, with Clark, Jaxon Checkley and Harris claiming two wickets each.

The win went to Nerrena after Club was bowled out 10/123.

MDU snatches last-over win

MDU managed to pip Korumburra at the Meeniyar Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

MDU won the toss and sent the opposition into bat.

Trevor Allen and Caleb Turton opened Korumburra's account.

Allen was dismissed for a duck by Tyrone Zukovskis but Turton went on to make 43 not out.

MDU bowler Riley Prosser dismissed Noah Belvedere and Zachary Barrett for 16 and 10 runs respectively, and Aaron Damon saw out the innings with Turton.

Damon contributed 38 not out.

Korumburra had reached 3/120 by the end of its 20 overs.

Korumburra was quick to dismiss MDU's opening partnership of Zukovskis and Craig Hooper, but the partnership of Callum McCaughan and captain Wayne Prosser made up the difference.

McCaughan and Prosser made 35 and 30 runs respectively.

For Korumburra, Owen Maskell was the top bowler of the day, taking 2/15.

Single wickets were taken by Bryce Riddell, Jayden Douglas and Tyler Dole.

In the 19th over MDU had the win when it passed Korumburra with a score of 6/121.

Island's bowlers dominate

PHILLIP Island outclassed OMK at the Rhyll Cricket Ground on Saturday.

OMK won the toss and chose to field.

Phillip Island started well with the opening partnership of Max Arceo and Kurt Lane making 23 and 27 runs respectively.

Lane's wicket was the first to fall at 1/32, claimed by OMK captain Kris Kerr.

Tharidu Asurumuni followed on and made the top score of 28 runs.

David Womersley closed the innings with 24 not out.

Barry Wyatt gave the best bowling performance for OMK, taking 2/23.

Kerr, Nicholas Auddino and captain Adam Busana were the single wicket takers.

Phillip Island was ready to defend 5/136 after its 20 overs.

Things took a rough turn for OMK when Timothy Niven dismissed Busana for a golden duck and Kerr for one run.

Batting third in the order, Jaxon Hayes managed 10 runs before he was bowled by Harry Arceo at 3/13.

The dismissal of Hayes sent in Adam Trotto, batting fifth, who gave OMK a more uplifting score when he made 34 not out.

However, Tarryn Allan worked hard to wipe out the bottom half of OMK's batting order, forcing a swift finish.

Allan's bowling figures were 4/18 and Niven claimed 2/11.

In the 18th over, OMK was bowled out with a score of 10/75.

Inverloch had the round eight bye.

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Cougars snag a win

KOONWARRA L/RSL snatched a win from Kilcunda-Bass in the T20 B2 match on Saturday.

Playing at the Koonwarra Recreation Reserve, the toss was Kilcunda-Bass' win for the day and the Sharks elected to bat first.

Brett Joseph gave the Sharks hope as he opened the account and went on to make 43 runs before he was bowled by Britney Thomas.

Joseph had top-scored for Kilcunda-Bass, with Gregory Miller and Allan Bedford later adding 17 and 16 runs respectively.

Thomas and Spencer Chadwick were Koonwarra L/RSL's top bowlers, taking 2/21 and 2/17.

Single wickets were claimed by Glenn Boxall, Matthew Boswell and Nick Arnup.

At the end of 20 overs, Kilcunda-Bass had made 7/116.

Boxall and Darren Read opened the batting for Koonwarra L/RSL.

Boxall's wicket was claimed by Bedford for one run, but Read went on to make 30 runs before he was caught by Andrew Leighton off the bowling of Alister McBride.

Benjamin Heppell led his team to victory by making 53 not out.

Leighton and McBride claimed two wickets each, with the only other wicket taken by Bedford.

Koonwarra L/RSL played out its 20 overs and just made it across the line with a score of 5/120.

Late contributions secure 5/89 victory

THE Imperials went into the mid-season break on a happy note after claiming the win from Nyora.

Nyora batted first, sending in Colin and Jordan Knox.

The pair made 16 and 10 runs respectively, which unfortunately looked to be the top scores for some time.

Lincoln Brock kept Nyora competitive with 21 runs late in the innings.

Adam White contributed 17 not out.

For the Imperials, James Jeffery led the bowling campaign with 3/20.

Two wickets were taken by Kane Maskell.

Nyora came to the end of its 20 overs with 9/86.

Maskell and captain Kristian Gray opened for the Imperials, with Maskell making 12 runs and Gray 22.

The top scores were delivered at the end of the innings when a private player and Francois Botha made 24 runs each.

The private player was bowled out by Tyler Perkins and Botha was not out.

Ryan White claimed two wickets for Nyora, with single wickets taken by Sam Henry, Tully Bernaldo and Perkins.

The Imperials won with a score of 5/89 in the 19th over.

Hickey and Carter shine

LEONGATHA Town enjoyed a comfortable win over Glen Alvie to see out the first half of the 2024/25 season.

Leongatha won the toss at Scorpion Park and made a great start to its innings when Mark Hardy and Trent McRae made 31 and 69 runs respectively.

A further 31 runs was added by Luke Bowman.

Jack Brown and Gaby Hynes shared Glen Alvie's bowling honours, taking 3/19 and 3/25 respectively.

Town finished its innings with 6/145.

However, Glen Alvie could not match Town's high-scoring efforts.

Opening batsman Glenn Moore was dismissed for a golden duck off the bowling of captain Levi Hickey.

Archie Donohue had opened the batting with Moore and went on to make 19 not out.

The top score went to Ned Brown with 21 runs, batting fourth in the order.

Max Carter had Town's best bowling figures, taking 2/9.

Single wickets fell to Hickey and Kohen Gilliatte.

After its 20 overs, Glen Alvie only managed to reach 5/74.

Foster had the round eight bye.

B GRADE DIVISION 1

Nerrena 2/177 d Club 123
Nerrena 1st INNINGS: D Symmons 100*, K Berryman 5, J Kelly 30, R Clark 30*
Bowling: J Williamson 0/25, S Roche 1/37, S Tessari 0/19, B Harvey 1/35, S Liddle 0/21, L McRae 0/23, M Sharp 0/12
Club 1st INNINGS: J O'Reilly 2, D Britt 5, H West 10, B Harvey 0, K Allison 11, M A Mohamed Nizar 5, Sean Roche 63, J Williamson 2, S Tessari 22, M Sharp 0, L McRae 2*
Bowling: W Croatto 4/13, R Clark 2/26, J Checkley 2/36, C Dougherty 0/7, T Harris 2/7, D Symmons 0/17, M Croatto 0/7, E Berryman 0/9

MDU 6/121 d Korumburra 3/120
Korumburra 1st INNINGS: T M Allen 0, C Turton 43*, N Belvedere 16, Z Barrett 10, A Damon 38*
Bowling: T Zukovskis 1/8, D Zuidema 0/16, C McCaughan 0/16, D Field 0/16, R Prosser 2/25, L Webb 0/18, C Hooper 0/20
MDU 1st INNINGS: T Zukovskis 10, C Hooper 2, C McCaughan 35, W Prosser 30, R Henry 13, D Zuidema 11, D Field 4*, D Thomas 7*
Bowling: B Riddell 1/24, J Douglas 1/23, J Jorgensen 0/20, O Maskell 2/15, N Belvedere 0/21, T Dole 1/6, A Damon 0/8

Phillip Island 5/136 d OMK 75
Phillip Island 1st INNINGS: M Arceo 23, K Lane 27, T Asurumuni 28, L Ferrari 4, D Womersley 24*, A Finlayson 15, K Wilkinson-Ioines 6*
Bowling: A Trotto 0/17, K Kerr 1/26, D Jeffries 0/19, N Auddino 1/22, B Wyatt 2/23, A Busana 1/22
OMK 1st INNINGS: A Busana 0, K Kerr 1, J Hayes 10, N Wylie 2, A Trotto 34*, D Jeffries 9, B Wyatt 3, N Auddino 1, B Maguire 1, B Furness 7, H Sorensen 3
Bowling: T Niven 2/11, H Arceo 1/14, K Lane 1/20, T Allan 4/18, J Tran 0/9, L Ferrari 1/0

Inverloch - BYE

B GRADE DIVISION 2

Imperials 5/89 d Nyora 9/86
Nyora 1st INNINGS: C Knox 16, J Knox 10, D Esler 2, L Row 2, R White 0, S Henry 5, T Bernaldo 1, L Brock 21, A White 17*, T Perkins 2, J MacDonald 0*
Bowling: N McLennan 0/13, J Jeffery 3/20, Z Price 1/8, L Maskell 2/19, J Forrester 1/16, K Gray 1/8
Imperials 1st INNINGS: K Maskell 12, K Gray 22, C Honeysett 4, D Davis 1, Private Player 24, F Botha 24*, J Forrester 0*
Bowling: R White 2/13, S Henry 1/20, L Brock 0/17, T Bernaldo 1/18, L Row 0/9, T Perkins 1/3, J McDonald 0/9

Town 6/145 d Glen Alvie 5/74
Town 1st INNINGS: M Hardy 31, T McRae 69, R Gilliatte 2, L Bowman 31, C Bruce 4, L Hickey 0, M Carter 2*
Bowling: L McRae 0/12, A Donohue 0/28, L Scholz 0/28, D Williams 0/30, J Brown 3/19, G Hynes 3/25
Glen Alvie 1st INNINGS: G Moore 0, A Donohue 19*, T Bals 14, N Brown 21, J Brown 3, D Tiziani 8, A Brown 2*
Bowling: L Hickey 1/7, L Gill 0/3, T McRae 0/13, F Livingstone 0/19, K Gilliatte 1/16, C Bruce 0/6, M Carter 2/9

Koonwarra L/RSL 5/120 d K-Bass 7/116
Kilcunda-Bass 1st INNINGS: B Joseph 43, Z Crow 2, G Miller 17, R Gardiner 14, A Leighton 1, A Bedford 16, A McBride 8*, Fill-in 2, C Peckett 2*
Bowling: G Boxall 1/14, M Boswell 1/26, N Arnup 1/36, S Chadwick 2/17, B Thomas 2/21
Koonwarra L/RSL 1st INNINGS: G Boxall 1, D Read 30, S Hughes 9, B Heppell 53*, J Pickersgill 10, M Boswell 1, B Anderson 11*
Bowling: R Duff 0/22, A Bedford 1/35, C Peckett 0/18, A Leighton 2/13, Z Crow 0/14, A McBride 2/18

Foster - BYE

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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION	
A1: Mitchell Clark (Nerrena) 40* ; Timothy Wightman (Nerrena) 4/12	
A2: Brad Wright (Kilcunda-Bass) 80 ; Ty Debono (Inverloch) 4/9	
B1: Damien Symmons (Nerrena) 100* ; William Croatto (Nerrena) 4/13	
B2: Trent McRae (Town) 69 ; Jack Brown (Glen Alvie) 3/19	
C1: Ben Stein (Nerrena) 60* ; Matt Foote (Korumburra) 3/10	
C2: Warren Stewart (Inverloch) 105* ; Jai Kleverkamp (Phillip Island) 3/11	

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Wonthaggi Club bowler Fraser West sends one down in the A1 match against Koonwarra L/RSL. tk01_5224

LADDERSRD 8

Team	Points	%
A GRADE, Division 1		
Nerrena	72	2.310
Phillip Island	66	1.866
Town	60	0.843
Club	54	1.322
OMK	42	0.968
Imperials	42	0.784
Korumburra	30	0.779
Koonwarra L/RSL	18	0.407

A GRADE, Division 2		
Inverloch	66	1.407
Nyora	66	1.346
Foster	42	1.141
MDU	42	0.955
Kilcunda-Bass	42	0.546
Glen Alvie	30	0.742

B GRADE, Division 1		
Nerrena	60	1.938
Phillip Island	54	1.976
Club	54	0.934
OMK	36	0.804
Inverloch	30	0.727
MDU	24	0.528
Korumburra	18	0.486

B GRADE, Division 2		
Koonwarra L/RSL	72	1.569
Town	60	0.970
Nyora	56	1.620
Imperials	42	1.033
Glen Alvie	30	0.739
Kilcunda-Bass	18	0.795
Foster	18	0.555

LADDERSRD 6

Team	Points	%
C GRADE, Division 1		
OMK	48	1.845
Nerrena	42	1.677
Club	42	1.460
Kilcunda-Bass	30	1.222
Korumburra	30	0.920
Phillip Island	18	0.504
Town	6	0.215

C GRADE, Division 2		
No ladder available		



Club wicketkeeper Jack Sheerin was at the ready as Koonwarra L/RSL's Kayden Scrimshaw received a delivery. Tk03_5224

Red Caps on top after eclipsing the Sharks

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

T20 matches were played on Saturday as Leongatha and District Cricket Association heads into its mid-season break.

Nerrena sits atop of the A1 ladder ahead of the break, now a game clear of its competition after a comfortable win over Phillip Island.

Phillip Island travelled to play the Red Caps in the top of the table clash at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve, where it won the toss and chose to bat.

Nerrena bowler Timothy Wightman controlled the game early as he took out the top of Phillip Island's batting order.

Batsmen Brodie Johnston and Lachlan Cleeland opened Phillip Island's account, but Wightman bowled Johnston for seven runs at 1/11.

Wightman then claimed captain Daniel Mock's wicket for one run after he was caught by Mitchell Clark.

Cleeland went on to top score with 24 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Wightman.

At that point, the score was 5/52.

Thirteen runs from Kohen Beaumont and 12 each from Max Royal and Zac Brown gave Phillip Island a small boost.

Brown was not out at the end of the 20 overs.

Wightman ultimately recorded bowling figures of 4/12, while Clark and Jarrod Hoy took two wickets each.

Phillip Island made 9/95.

Nerrena sent in Jack Curtis and captain Thomas Cameron to open, but Phillip Island was quick to dismiss them.

Brown took a catch to dismiss Curtis for one run off the bowling of Royal, and Jobe Williams claimed Cameron's wicket for 14 off a catch from Cleeland.

Clark set his team back on course and made 40 not out.

He was backed by Tadgh Gannon, who was caught by Beaumont off Brown's bowling for 14 runs.

Clark and Hoy wrapped up the innings with Hoy making 18 not out.

After playing 19 overs, Nerrena had won with 3/97.

Club crush Koonwarra with Brann's brilliant 3/7

WONTHAGGI Club also had a decisive victory over Koonwarra L/RSL.

Playing at home, Club won the toss and sent the opposition into bat.

Koonwarra L/RSL struggled to put runs on the board under the pressure of bowlers Fraser West, Heath Dobbie and Mark McCall.

Club captain Joel Brann was the top bowler of the day, taking 3/7.

Koonwarra L/RSL captain James Rushton top scored for the Cougars with 19 runs, while Mitchell Scrimshaw and William Cashin added 11 and 10 runs respectively.

Koonwarra L/RSL was bowled out with 10/74.

Mitch Thomas and Alex Geyer opened the batting for Club.

Thomas made 16 runs before his wicket was claimed by Joshua Thomas.

Brann stepped up to join Geyer but was dismissed by Jason Kennedy for nine runs.

Geyer and Ryan Thomas sealed

the victory with 24 and 20 runs respectively, both not out.

The final score was 2/75 after just 13 overs.

OMK triumphs in thriller

A COMPETITIVE match was played out between OMK and the Imperials at the Outtrim Recreation Reserve.

The Imperials chose to bat first, sending in Nick Eddy and Rowan McLennan.

Travis Pickering bowled Eddy for nine runs, which saw Timothy Sauvarin step up.

Sauvarin kept the Imperials in the hunt with 25 runs before his wicket was also claimed by Pickering at 2/36.

The run average slowed for the Imperials, but vice-captain Lachie Wright brought back a bit of momentum with a top score of 28 runs.

Pickering was OMK's top bowler, taking 3/19, with Ryan Williams the only other multiple wicket taker.

The Imperials made 8/105 at the end of the 20 overs.

OMK ran into trouble early when it lost opening batsman Williams for a duck off the bowling of Wright.

Wright also dismissed Ethan Lamers for six runs.

However, captain Koby Brann led his team to the win with 36 runs before becoming Wright's third victim of the day.

Noel Creed added a further 35 runs later in the innings, ensuring a win for OMK.

Wright's bowling figures were 3/15 and two wickets were taken by Eddy.

OMK's winning tally was 6/108.

Town storms into break

LEONGATHA Town went into the mid-season break on a high note after a solid win over Korumburra.

Korumburra hosted Town and decided to field first.

This proved to be a beneficial decision for Town, which opened its innings with a strong and consistent batting performance.

The opening partnership of Ron Abeysinghe and captain Jesse Giardina made 21 and 35 runs respectively.

Abeysinghe was bowled by Harry McNeil at 1/50, which led to Madura Madusanka stepping up to the crease.

Madusanka added 33 runs to the tally.

Korumburra picked up the pace and managed to restrain the rest of the batting order, led by Tom Crocker, who claimed 3/16.

Town set the target at 6/154 after its 20 overs.

This proved to be out of Korumburra's reach.

Andy Millar opened well for the Cobras, making 21 runs, but this turned out to be the top score.

Batting third in the order, captain Ben Spicer made 17 runs and another 10 runs was added by Gayathra Shehan Amarasinghe Mudalige later in the innings.

Madusanka dominated Town's bowling statistics, taking 4/23.

Buwaneka Wakista and Dulaj Lakshitha Mendis Polwaththa Gallage took two wickets each.

Korumburra surrendered the points to Town with a score of 9/85.

Play will resume after the Christmas break on January 11.

A GRADE	DIVISION 1
Club 2/75 d Koonwarra L/RSL 74	
Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS	
Anthony Hunt b: H Dobbie	8
Mitchell Scrimshaw b: H Dobbie	11
Kayden Scrimshaw c: J Sheerin b: R Thomas	7
Callum Buckland c: J Sheerin b: J Brann	3
James Rushton c: J Harvey b: M McCall	19
Jason Kennedy c&b: J Brann	4
Harry Scrimshaw b: J Brann	0
Adam Drury b: F West	2
William Cashin c&b: F West	10
Joshua Thomas c: J Sheerin b: M McCall	4
Blake Smith not out	1*
Extras (2w, 3lb)	5
Total 10 / 74 (19.4 Overs)	
Bowling: J Brann 4-2-7-3 (1w), F West 4-0-23-2 (1w), R Thomas 4-0-11-1, H Dobbie 4-0-13-2, M McCall 3.4-0-17-2	
Club – 1st INNINGS	
Mitch Thomas c: H Scrimshaw b: J Thomas	16
Alexander Geyer not out	24*
Joel Brann c: J Thomas b: J Kennedy	9
Ryan Thomas not out	20*
Extras (5w, 1lb)	6
Total 2 / 75 (13 Overs)	
Bowling: J Thomas 3-0-14-1, W Cashin 2-0-17-0 (1w), B Smith 2-0-14-0, J Kennedy 4-0-22-1 (4w), J Rushton 2-0-7-0	
Nerrena 3/97 d Phillip Island 9/95	
Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS	
Brodie Johnston b: T Wightman	7
Lachlan Cleeland lbw: T Wightman	24
Daniel Mock c: M Clark b: T Wightman	1
Connor Epifano c: H Funnell b: A Gannon	6
Kohen Beaumont lbw: J Hoy	13
Thomas Niven c&b: M Clark	5
Max Royal b: J Hoy	12
Heath Womersley c: L Roberts b: M Clark	4
Jobe Williams c: A Gannon b: T Wightman	1
Zac Brown not out	12*
George McCausland not out	2*
Extras (2w, 1nb, 1lb, 4b)	8
Total 9 / 95 (20 Overs)	
Bowling: J Trease 4-0-20-0, T Wightman 4-0-12-4, M Clark 4-1-24-2 (1w, 1nb), A Gannon 3-0-23-1 (1w), D Berryman 1-0-5-0, J Hoy 4-1-6-2	
Nerrena – 1st INNINGS	
Jack Curtis c: Z Brown b: M Royal	1
Thomas Cameron c: L Cleeland b: J Williams	14
Mitchell Allott not out	40*
Tadhg Gannon c: K Beaumont b: Z Brown	14
Jarrold Hoy not out	18*
Extras (3w, 7lb)	10
Total 3 / 97 (19 Overs)	
Bowling: M Royal 4-0-20-1, Z Brown 4-0-16-1, G McCausland 3-0-10-0, J Williams 3-0-12-1, T Niven 1-0-9-0 (2w), H Womersley 2-0-15-0 (1w), D Mock 2-0-8-0	
Town 6/154 d Korumburra 9/85	
Town – 1st INNINGS	
Ron Abeyesinghe b: H McNeil	21
Jesse Giardina b: M Nader	35
Madura Madusanka c: GSA Mudalige b: T Crocker	33
Buwaneka Wakishta b: T Crocker	12
DLMP Gallage b: T Crocker	9
Birendra De Saram b: GSA Mudalige	14
Jack Hume not out	11*
Rhett Hume not out	5*
Extras (9w, 3lb, 2b)	14
Total 6 / 154 (20 Overs)	
Bowling: GSA Mudalige 4-0-41-1 (8w), B Spicer 3-0-23-0, H McNeil 3-0-27-1 (1w), M Nader 4-0-20-1, T Crocker 4-0-16-3, A Millar 2-0-22-0	
Korumburra – 1st INNINGS	
Mustafa Nader b: R Hume	9
Andy Millar b: DLMP Gallage	21
Ben Spicer b: M Madusanka	17
Tom Crocker c&b: M Madusanka	4
Rumesh Ranganana b: DLMP Gallage	4
GSA Mudalige lbw: M Madusanka	10
Matthew Allen c: S Clark b: M Madusanka	3
Jason Richards not out	6*
Mitch Young c: A Fixter b: B Wakishta	3
James Dunn b: B Wakishta	0
Extras (4w, 4b)	8
Total 9 / 85 (20 Overs)	
Bowling: R Hume 4-0-13-1 (1w), J Hume 4-0-17-0 (2w), B Wakishta 3-0-6-2, DLMP Gallage 4-0-22-2 (1w), M Madusanka 5-0-23-4	
OMK 6/108 d Imperials 8/105	
Imperials – 1st INNINGS	
Nick Eddy b: T Pickering	9
Rowen McLennan b: R Williams	3
Timothy Sauvarin c: J Lamers b: T Pickering	25
Jack Ginnane b: T Pickering	0
Luke Rogers c: J Cochrane b: J Lamers	11
Mark Lafferty lbw: R Williams	6
Lachie Wright run out: Z Lamers, E Lamers	28
Campbell Reid c: J Cochrane b: Z Lamers	3
Cooper Rickard not out	4*
Archie Casey not out	4*
Extras (6w, 2nb, 3lb, 1b)	12
Total 8 / 105 (20 Overs)	
Bowling: T Pickering 4-0-19-3, E Lamers 4-0-30-0 (2w), J Lamers 3-0-18-1 (2nb), R Williams 4-0-9-2 (3w), T McGeachin 2-0-19-0, Z Lamers 3-1-6-1 (1w)	
OMK – 1st INNINGS	
Ryan Williams c: C Reid b: L Wright	0
Ethan Lamers b: L Wright	6
Koby Brann c: C Bruce b: L Wright	36
Thomas Wyatt c: L Wright b: N Eddy	9
Jake Cochrane c&b: N Eddy	8
Noel Creed c: C Bruce b: I Bolge	35
Jacob Lamers not out	2*
Clayton Quaife not out	4*
Extras (5w, 3lb)	8
Total 6 / 108 (18.5 Overs)	
Bowling: L Wright 4-1-15-3 (3w), N Eddy 4-0-18-2 (1w), I Bolge 3.5-0-22-1, T Sauvarin 4-0-26-0, C Bruce 2-0-12-0, A Casey 1-0-12-0 (1w)	



MDU captain Joel Sinclair in action against Kilcunda-Bass.

Nyora prove too strong

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

NYORA delivered a strong performance to head into the mid-season break with a convincing win over Foster.

Playing in Nyora, Foster won the toss and chose to send the home team into bat.

Henry Dolphin and Jy Hull was Nyora’s opening partnership, but Hull was dismissed for 12 by a catch from Tex Dyson off the bowling of Andrew Pattie at 1/17.

This sent in Aaron Thompson, who got the ball rolling for Nyora with a handy haul of 38 runs.

Batting fifth in the order, it was Aaron Kaddatz who ensured a Nyora victory with the top score of 50 runs.

Seeing the win slipping away, the Foster fielding side stepped it up and limited scoring opportunities for the second half of the batting order.

A fill-in player delivered Foster’s best bowling scores, taking 3/25.

Dyson claimed 2/27, with singles shared between five other bowlers.

Nyora was set to defend 10/168.

Nyora bowlers Reece Cordeux and Thompson restricted opportunities for Foster to hit the scoreboard by claiming 3 wickets each.

For Foster, Pattie top scored with 27 runs.

Brad Cripps contributed 15 not out to round out

the innings.

Single wickets were taken by Nyora bowlers captain Jake Henry, Michael Lynch and Hull.

Foster was unable to catch up to Nyora and finished the game with a score of 9/103.

Kilcunda-Bass seals the win

DESPITE a fairly consistent innings from MDU, Kilcunda-Bass proved to be too strong on Saturday.

MDU chose to bat first, sending in Sembakuttige Chathura Lakshan and Paul Le Page.

The partnership made a good start to the innings, making 27 and 15 runs respectively.

Captain Joel Sinclair and vice-captain Mitch McGrath made 18 runs each, and Matt Martin polished off the innings with 21 not out.

Kilcunda-Bass bowler Brad Wright caused the most headaches for MDU, taking 3/27, including the dismissal of Zak Bright for a duck.

Single wickets were taken by Harrison Berry, Ben Rookes and Jayden Tregear.

MDU finished its allotted overs with a respectable score of 7/125.

However, Wright’s form continued on into Kilcunda-Bass’ innings and the opening batsman drove his team to victory with an impressive 80-run haul.

His run was ultimately stopped by a catch from Scott Browne off the

bowling of Bright.

MDU bowler Tharindu Nuwan took 3/14, which ensured Kilcunda-Bass had to fight to the end to reach its target within 20 overs.

Kilcunda-Bass won with a final score of 4/126.

Captain Clark’s 38

INVERLOCH successfully defended its total against Glen Alvie at Inverloch’s Thompson Reserve.

Glen Alvie bowler Zak Scholz was quick to dismiss the opening partnership, but captain Dylan Clark kept Inverloch’s spirits going with 38 runs.

Archie Luke went on to take 3/22, upsetting Inverloch’s batting order, but the Stingrays still managed to reach 8/113 at the end of its 20 overs.

Matthew Donohue opened the batting for Glen Alvie, and that’s where he stayed for the entirety of the innings.

Donohue’s 43 not out certainly lifted Glen Alvie’s final score, but his teammates failed to hold up the other end leaving the result firmly in Inverloch’s control.

Ty Debono ran through Glen Alvie’s batting order, taking 4/9, including the dismissal of captain Ben McRae for a golden duck and Harvey Smith for a duck.

Jesse Dugard was also a multiple-wicket taker.

The game was claimed by Inverloch when Glen Alvie finished its 20 overs with 7/74.



Kilcunda-Bass bowler Ryan Brown sends a delivery to MDU batsman Joel Sinclair. Tk08_5224

A GRADE	DIVISION 2
Nyora 168 d Foster 9/103	
Nyora – 1st INNINGS	
Henry Dolphin c: H Griggs b: E Smith	14
Jy Hull c: T Dyson b: A Pattie	12
Aaron Thompson c: M Jones b: M Allott	38
Reece Cordeux b: Fill-in	13
Aaron Kaddatz c: M Jones b: T Dyson	50
Bailey Henderson b: Fill-in	1
Fill-in c: T Dyson b: Fill-in	8
Jake Henry c: M Jones b: T Dyson	1
Benn Hayes st: M Jones b: O Rook	0
Mitch Rowe c: J Toner b: M Jones	9
Michael Lynch not out	7*
Extras (10w, 2nb, 2lb)	15
Total 10 / 168 (20 Overs)	
Bowling: A Pattie 2-0-18-1 (1nb), O Rook 3-0-22-1, E Smith 2-0-19-1, L Moon 2-0-26-0 (1nb), Fill-in 4-0-25-3 (1nb), M Allott 2-0-20-1 (3w), T Dyson 3-0-27-2 (7w), B Cripps 1-0-5-0, M Jones 1-0-4-1	
Foster – 1st INNINGS	
Ollie Rook b: R Cordeux	14
Mitchell Jones b: R Cordeux	5
Fill-in c: B Henderson b: R Cordeux	1
Eddie Smith c: B Henderson b: A Thompson	8
Andrew Pattie c: J Henry b: A Thompson	27
Tex Dyson b: A Thompson	4
Josh Toner c: B Henderson b: J Henry	1
Harvey Griggs c: B Henderson b: J Hull	6
Lance Moon b: M Lynch	1
Brad Cripps not out	15*
Mitchell Allott not out	3*
Extras (13w, 1nb, 3lb, 1b)	18
Total 9 / 103 (20 Overs)	
Bowling: M Rowe 4-0-20-0 (4w, 1nb), R Cordeux 4-0-13-3, A Thompson 4-1-16-3, B Hayes 1-0-13-0, J Henry 3-0-16-1 (8w), M Lynch 2-0-6-1, H Dolphin 1-0-11-0, J Hull 1-0-4-1 (1w)	
Kilcunda-Bass 4/126 d MDU 7/125	
MDU – 1st INNINGS	
SC Lakshan run out	27
Paul Le Page c: J Tregear b: H Berry	15
Joel Sinclair c: ? b: J Tregear	18
Tharindu Nuwan c: ? b: B Rookes	3
Mitch McGrath b: B Wright	18
Zak Bright c: ? b: B Wright	0
Matt Martin not out	21*
Scott Browne c: B Rookes b: B Wright	7
Sam Bright not out	0*
Extras (13w, 3lb)	16
Total 7 / 125 (20 Overs)	
Bowling: H Berry 4-0-19-1 (1w), T Smith 2-0-20-0 (1w), B Rookes 4-0-19-1 (5w), R Brown 4-0-22-0 (4w), B Wright 4-0-27-3 (2w), J Tregear 2-0-15-1	
Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS	
Brad Wright c: S Browne b: Z Bright	80
Aaron Conron c: ? b: T Nuwan	11
Fill-in c: J Sinclair b: T Nuwan	16
Matthew Grayson not out	8*
Todd Smith c: ? b: T Nuwan	0
Jaydan Tregear not out	5*
Extras (4w, 2b)	6
Total 4 / 126 (19.5 Overs)	
Bowling: S Bright 4-0-19-0, S Browne 2-0-15-0, T Nuwan 3.5-0-14-3, A Richardson 2-0-20-0 (1w), SC Lakshan 4-0-14-0, M McGrath 1-0-18-0 (1w), Z Bright 3-0-24-1 (2w)	
Inverloch 8/113 d Glen Alvie 7/74	
Inverloch – 1st INNINGS	
Riley Harris c: M Dakin b: Z Scholz	3
Callum Asbury c: H Smith b: Z Scholz	5
Dylan Clark c: ? b: A Luke	38
Jack Butcher c: H Smith b: A Luke	2
Jake Dennerley c: Z Scholz b: B McRae	12
Walter Taberner b: A Luke	1
Rhys Newman b: M Dakin	11
Ty Debono c: ? b: R Sinclair	6
Jesse Dugard not out	8*
Cooper Newman not out	3*
Extras (16w, 1nb, 7lb)	24
Total 8 / 113 (20 Overs)	
Bowling: M Dakin 4-0-20-1 (5w), Z Scholz 4-0-21-2 (3w, 1nb), B McRae 4-0-23-1 (3w), A Luke 4-0-22-3 (1w), R Sinclair 2-0-9-1 (3w), W Luke 2-0-11-0 (1w)	
Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS	
Matthew Donohue not out	43*
Matthew Dakin c: ? b: J Dugard	0
Wayne Luke c: D Clark b: J Dugard	4
Archie Moore b: R Newman	4
Darcy Hale b: T Debono	9
Zack Scholz b: T Debono	4
Ben McRae b: T Debono	0
Harvey Smith b: T Debono	0
Ryan Sinclair not out	2*
Extras (6w, 1lb, 1b)	8
Total 7 / 74 (20 Overs)	
Bowling: C Asbury 4-3-1-0 (1w), J Dugard 3-0-14-2 (2w), R Newman 3-0-26-1, L Rankin 2-0-4-0 (3w), C Newman 4-0-17-0, T Debono 3-0-9-4, W Taberner 1-0-1-0	



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Woolamai's Community Race Day

WOOLAMAI and District Racing Club held its second successful race meeting of the season on Saturday.

The Bendigo Bank Christmas Party Race Day gave racegoers the opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere of the picnic races before winding down for Christmas.

Race four was the inaugural Bendigo Bank 0-28 Handicap, which was won by Anything But.

"We are pleased to acknowledge all the good things the community bank does for the local community and for us," race secretary Abby Boyle said.

"They do a lot for us in sponsorships and in grants."

Bendigo Bank chair Kelvin Simpson – who is also the vice president of the Woolamai and District Racing Club committee – was one of the representatives who enjoyed the day and was interviewed by Alex Scott and Staff's Greg Price on the track prior to race four.

In the last 20 and half years, the Bendigo Community Bank San Remo, Grantville and Cowes have put \$5.2 million back into the community and have been responsible for many community groups.

"We see the Woolamai Racing Club also supports the community and we are happy to support them," Mr Simpson said.

"The Bendigo Bank Race Day is just another way we can do that, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with all community groups."

"That's the whole reason for the setup of the bank – it's for the community to give back to the community. Everyone wins."

Mr Simpson said the representatives of the bank were thrilled with the turnout on race day, given Christmas was fast approaching.

The Bendigo Bank was also rattling tins, with donations going to the Cowes Hospital oncology unit.

"We've donated \$200,000 to the Cowes Hospital oncology unit, which will be opening in June next year. It's another area where we help the community give back to the community," Mr Simpson said.

As well as the Bendigo Bank Handicap, the racing club also ran the Mickey Gordon Island Dash, now in its sixth year.

It was a day for families to enjoy, with face painting around the grounds for the children, Punters' Club, and kiosks run by Archies Creek and the Kilcunda-Bass Cricket Club.

Dalyston Football Netball Club also volunteered its time behind the bar, and mobile bar the Topsy Pony was available for the first time.

The next race meeting will be this Saturday, December 28.

The feature is the "Woolamai Whirlwind" over 888 metres, which is Victoria's annual shortest Thoroughbred race.

This race is again being sponsored by trainer Dean Binaisse's 888 Racing brand.

The club is looking forward to a good holiday crowd relaxing after the whirlwind of Christmas.

To join the happy crowd, the club encourages racegoers to just roll up at the gate from 11am on or book tickets and group sites via the website: woolamairaces.com.au.

In the new year, Kids' Day Out will be on January 11, the Alex Scott and Staff Woolamai Cup will be on February 8, and March 1 will be the Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day.

More photos on page 43

RIGHT: Winning jockey Dylan Dean and Rivers Reward after a triumphant win at the Woolamai Racing Club. tk48_5226



Country racing at its finest *at Woolamai*

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