

Sentinel-Times

AUTUMN 2024

DISCOVER

South Gippsland and Bass Coast



SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

Activities for
the kids | p. 12

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Walking trails
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FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA

CLASSIC GOOD SERVICE

Since 1886

For more than 130 years, Alex Scott and Staff has been proud to be part of the growth and success of our communities. As autumn approaches, we look forward to a refreshing change, a bounty of changing colours and exciting new opportunities. Interest in our beautiful region continues to grow, especially from those seeking a lifestyle change. Whether you're escaping the city, downsizing, upsizing or investing, our experienced team are here to help you realise your aspirations this autumn. If you want to make a move in Gippsland, talk to a friendly and experienced local at Alex Scott and Staff.

Melbourne (03) 8680 2545	Inverloch (03) 5674 1111	Lang Lang (03) 5997 5599	Phillip Island (03) 5952 2633	Venus Bay (03) 5663 7111
Berwick (03) 9707 2000	Koo Wee Rup (03) 5997 2133	Leongatha (03) 5662 0922	Sale (03) 5655 2480	Warragul (03) 5623 4744
Grantville (03) 5678 8433	Korumburra (03) 5655 1133	Pakenham (03) 5941 1111	San Remo (03) 5678 5408	Wonthaggi (03) 5672 1911

CLASSIC GOOD SERVICE
— SINCE —
1886

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**ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF**
Est. 1886



Whispers of wanderlust...

AUTUMN is upon us, but has summer really left yet? It feels like it's only just started...

However, that can only mean one thing – more time to enjoy what we love outdoors.

From throwing on a wetsuit, grabbing our board and going for a surf to walking the thousands of kilometres of tracks, trails and paths, there is no need to bunker down and ride out the wild Gippsland weather that is no doubt around the next corner.

Unwind from technology and bask in the sunshine over the long weekend, visit a market or show, get active – and if the weather isn't favourable Summersalt has the kids covered to run off some steam... Tick off the bucket lists with a cruise or helicopter flight or perhaps both, and pick strawberries at Maccas. Take in a round of golf or head out on the water, there is plenty to see and do.

One of my favourite things as a teenager was walking to Steve's shop on a Tuesday night, grabbing a burger, and walking home as I ate it, rain, hail or shine. You see if we are dressed for the weather, and doing something we enjoy, nothing fazes us.

So, pull out the bathers or throw on the gumboots (or perhaps both) and try one thing you've never done before. One of the most incredible parts of the world is on our doorstep – Santorini has nothing on our sunsets.

Don't forget to grab some coins and pop them in the tins as you pass our local CFA crews who will be out and about this Friday. Times are tough, so even the smallest donations add up and have changed the lives of many children in our communities who have been via The Royal Children's Hospital.

And last, but not least, please, whether you are a strong swimmer or not, only swim between the red and yellow flags at patrolled beaches. Our emergency services have seen too much devastation this summer, let's keep our community safe.

Eat lots of hot cross buns and easter eggs, spend time with loved ones and enjoy everything South Gippsland has to offer this Easter.

Chloe

TAKE TO THE SKIES AND SAVE 20%

THIS Easter walk the earth with your eyes turned skyward.

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

"We're open every day for locals and tourists to experience joy and adventure from one of the five different flights on offer," said Oli Parsons of Phillip Island Helicopters, a multi-award-winning business that has been regularly recognised as the most popular tourism attraction in Bass Coast.

"Pilots Jason, Mo and I take to the skies and showcase Phillip Island from a different perspective – one that you can only get in the air."

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

With 20 per cent off until April 29 there has never been a better time to take the once in a lifetime experience and tick off the bucket list. Enter code EASTER101.

"If you are looking to soar like a bird then book your joy flight over Bass Coast with Phillip Island Helicopters, you will not be disappointed."

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

STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

As we enjoy more beautiful weather and with Easter just around the corner, the Bass Coast region is calling all beachgoers to come and enjoy the sandy shores safely.

To help you stay safe, we encourage everyone to **download the Surf Life Saving Australia, Beach Safe app** and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



www.beachsafe.org.au

In hot weather, take steps to protect yourself and others by keeping cool, staying hydrated, planning ahead and checking in with others.

We want everyone to keep safe when exploring the amazing coastline of Bass Coast.

Phillip Island
NATURE PARKS

BASS COAST

Life Saving Victoria



THE MEN'S SHED ON TWO WHEELS

'GET your motor running, head out on the highway, looking for adventure, and whatever comes our way...'

Dubbed a men's shed on two wheels by motorcycle rider Lozz, the friendly cruise will take you riding around the sweeping bends, cruising along the scenic roads and feeling the roar of an engine between your legs.

It's time to dust off the bike and hit the open road with friendly faces as part of Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Inc's monthly motorcycle ride.

"The last Sunday of the month we organise a ride for all the club members," ride co-ordinator Peter Mattea said.

"It's an incentive to get out there and use our bikes.

"The bikes are fairly old, so I keep it small and find different little ways to get to Korumburra, where we end up for morning tea."

After a bite and coffee in Korumburra it's a gentle ride home, back in time for lunch.

The Sunday rides have slowly gained momentum since starting 12 months

ago, with new members keen to meet others in the area with similar passions.

"The more bikes we get the more events we can organise," club president Keith Tonkin added.

Members bring a variety of skills with them, and with a short course are encouraging riders to join them even if they are a bit nervous.

"We've had a couple of rides where we've had members with niggling electrical problems and on two occasions bikes have broken down, but between all of us we tend to have enough tools and

knowledge that everyone has got home. We look after each other," Peter said.

"It's good therapy – get out there and enjoy a shared interest. Rather than riding from pub to pub, we ride from coffee shop to coffee shop," Lozz laughed.

The monthly cruise meets at Fincher Street in Wonthaggi behind Artspace at 9.30am for a 10am departure on the last Sunday of the month, including this Easter Sunday, March 31.

New riders are always welcome to join.

Give generously to the Good Friday Appeal

Corinella

Between 10am - 2pm Corinella Fire Brigade members and helpers will be out and about collecting for this amazing cause.

Members will be located at the service station/McDonalds in Bass, and at the Corinella Fire Station (check Facebook for station times). The team also have QR codes available for any online transfers.

Cowes

Phillip Island Fire Brigade will be helping raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital on the corner of Thompson Avenue and Settlement Road.

Fish Creek/Walkerville/Waratah Bay

The Fish Creek & District tanker will be heading to Bear Gully at 9am then onto the Walkerville Caravan Park and Promontory Views Estate followed by Waratah Bay just after lunch.

The crew will reach Sandy Point between 2-4pm and then be onto Fish Creek and Buffalo.

The siren will be sounding to alert residents when the truck is in their street with collections also in neighbouring South Gippsland Fire Brigade Group towns including Foster, Meeniyan, Hedley, Toora and Welshpool.

QR codes will be available to pay via the phone.

Inverloch

Inverloch Fire Brigade members will be out and about this year rattling the tins. Find the crew in the usual haunts including Inverloch Boat Ramp, the main shopping area – including Foodworks, Paul the Pieman and newsagents, and camping end of The Esplanade from 9am.

Kilcunda

A fixture on the highway each year, Kilcunda Fire Brigade will be rattling the tins at an open day at the Fire Station on the corner of Bass Highway and Peppermint Road.

Members will be collecting donations from 10am - 2pm. So please drop by, make your donation, have a sausage or a hot cross bun and say 'Hi' to your local hardworking volunteers.

Korumburra

The Middle Korumburra Hotel is once again hosting their annual Good Friday Appeal with an auction kicking off at 3pm, special guests, fun and games and Easter raffle draws throughout the day including a crayfish to be won. Live music by Fatty from 12pm - 3pm and Bluey from 3pm - 4pm with colouring competition. All day food available.

Meeniyan/Stony Creek

Meeniyan-Stony Creek Fire Brigade will be selling raffle tickets out the front of Meeniyan IGA. Junior brigade members were out and about on Monday past rattling the tins.

Leongatha

Leongatha Fire Brigade will be stationed at the traffic lights between 9am and 12 noon. Donations can be made in advance by contacting Leongatha CFA.

San Remo

San Remo CFA will be collecting donations via their annual street collection with four emergency vehicles walking the streets of San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai, Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay. Please note members be putting our sirens on occasionally to notify the street they are on their way.

Tarwin Lower/Venus Bay

Tarwin Lower & District will be out and about this year with trucks making their way through the Venus Bay Caravan Park and Estates 1 and 2 between 9am and 12 noon.

The Brigades are also running a raffle with tickets (and donation tins) available and stationed out the front of Tarwin Lower IGA, Venus Bay General Store and Walkerville Caravan Park.

Wonthaggi

The Uncle Bob's Club won't be taking donations this year. Please head to Inverloch or Kilcunda (or elsewhere on your travels).



Other Good Friday Events:

Easter Fishing Competition

Jim's Bait and Tackle Australia are having their 7th Annual Easter Fishing Comp (all proceeds go to The Royal Children's Hospital) running from Good Friday until Easter Monday. Over \$5000 worth of prizes to be won. More info can be found on their Facebook page.

Raffle

San Remo Discounts is holding a raffle with all funds going to the Good Friday Appeal. There is also a bin to collect refundable cans, bottles etc. with funds going to The Good Friday Appeal.

San Remo Hotel-Motel

San Remo Hotel-Motel is hosting the George Bass Walk for the Kids with a three kilometre route around San Remo also introduced. For more information visit trybooking.com/events/landing/1189955

San Remo Hotel will also be hosting their annual Easter Raffle with tickets sold from 11am and the winners drawn at 6pm; and a silent auction that evening with plenty of live entertainment, kid's activities and goodies on offer.



A profusion of local delights

Take a journey throughout South Gippsland without leaving the fore-shore. Nestled opposite the park, San Remo IGA is a haven for the bon vivant showcasing the region's finest offerings, and many award winners.

From the creamy, rich flavors of Bassine Specialty Cheeses and milk produced with love and care on a family farm, to the golden yolks of Coronet Bay Farm Eggs, each product tells a story of local passion and dedication.

As you wander the aisles, the sweet melody of Prom Coast Ice Cream beckons, a symphony of flavours crafted from Victorian cream and Australian berries. Nearby, the robust aroma of Bean'd coffee beans fills the air, promising a perfect start to any morning.

The cheese connoisseur will revel in the selection at hand in the

gourmet cheeses fridge. Prom Country Cheese, with its organic, farm-house varieties, Tarago River Cheese, known for its Shadows of Blue, and Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese, a multi-award-winning blue cheese maker, all contribute to the rich tapestry of tastes.

But the local bounty doesn't end there. The wine and spirits section is a journey through the region's best vineyards and distilleries. Purple Hen Wine offers a sip of Phillip Island's cool climate excellence, while Silverwater Vineyard brings forth the essence of San Remo's neighbouring landscapes. From The Gurdies Winery to French Island Vineyards, each bottle is a celebration of the land, and to celebrate with.

Craft beer enthusiasts will find solace in the offerings of Ocean Reach Brewing and Grand Ridge Brewery,

while spirit lovers can indulge in the botanical nuances of Loch and Fish Creek gin's and the crisp apple notes of Gurney's Cider.

San Remo IGA also stocks a vast array of products from the Mornington Peninsula and Australian made and owned. And should you be a producer yourself of a wonderful culinary delight do not hesitate to reach out to the family-owned business as they are always on the lookout for new.

San Remo IGA is more than a supermarket; it's a community hub that proudly supports and uplifts the local economy. It's where every purchase is a direct handshake with the farmer, the winemaker, the brewer, and the artisan. This is where South Gippsland's bounty meets the heart of San Remo, creating a shopping experience that's truly unique and genuinely local.



IGA
San Remo

plus LIQUOR

OPEN 8AM – 8PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK

**For everything you
need this Easter**

Owned and operated by locals, San Remo IGA
offers local and gourmet lines

Come and shop our great range of groceries, fresh produce,
fully-stocked deli, on-site butchers and liquor

shop online sanremoiga.com.au

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San Remo IGA

HM1255

Celebrating the meaning of Easter

THE Easter Weekend is a great chance to get away camping, bike riding and bush walking but it's also an important occasion for those of the Christian faiths and at least a part of the weekend will be devoted to celebrating the most important event on the Christian calendar – the resurrection.

Here are some of the church services in your area:

St Joseph's Church, Wonthaggi

- Tuesday, March 26 Reconciliation. St. Joseph's Wonthaggi 7pm.
- Holy Thursday, March 28. St Joseph's Wonthaggi 6.30pm.
- Good Friday, March 29 Stations of the Cross. St. Joseph's Wonthaggi 10am.
- Good Friday, March 29 The Passion of the Lord. St. Joseph's Wonthaggi 3pm.
- Holy Saturday, March 30 Easter Vigil St. Joseph's Wonthaggi 6.30pm.
- Easter Sunday, March 31 St. Joseph's Wonthaggi 10.30am.

Our Lady Star of The Sea Church, Inverloch.

- Holy Thursday, March 28 Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch 6.30pm.
- Good Friday, March 29 Stations of the Cross, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch 10am.
- Good Friday, March 29, The Passion of the Lord, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch 3pm.
- Easter Sunday, March 31 Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch 9am.

St Philip's Anglican Church, Cowes:

- Maundy Thursday. March 28 10am.
- Holy Communion, Good Friday, March 29 10am.
- Holy Saturday, March 30 Easter vigil 8pm.
- Easter Sunday, March 31 Eucharist Celebration 10am.

St Laurence's Parish, Leongatha & St Joseph's Parish, Korumburra:

- Holy Thursday, March 28 7.30pm (Leongatha, Korumburra).
- Good Friday, March 29 commemoration of the Lord's passion 2.30pm (Korumburra, Leongatha), Stations of the Cross 10am (Meeniyian, Mirboo North).
- Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30 7.30pm (Korumburra, Leongatha).
- Easter Sunday, March 31 Meeniyian & Mirboo North 9am, Tarwin Lower 11am (Mechanics Institute) and Leongatha 11am.



New Bandicoot Discovery Tour

at Churchill Island for nature lovers

PHILLIP Island is famous for its 40,000 little penguins, and now tourists can experience the island's nocturnal nature party for the first time, with a new Eastern barred bandicoot tour.

Phillip Island Nature Parks will host three nightly wildlife experiences on Churchill Island over Easter from March 29 to 31, giving unique insight into how the endangered Eastern barred bandicoots live and interact in the wild.

It comes after the Nature Parks researchers, as part of a multi-agency recovery effort, helped save the Eastern barred bandicoot from extinction, reintroducing the species to the fox-free safe haven in 2017.

Mark Anderson, General Manager, Tourism at Phillip Island Nature Parks said Phillip Island was home to a strong population of bandicoots, including on Churchill Island, thanks to the dedicated conservation recovery program.

"The Eastern barred bandicoots have now been on Phillip Island for more than six years and since then have bred

and grown in numbers, expanding to several parts of the island," Mr Anderson said.

"This exciting spotlight walk will give members of the community a rare opportunity to observe Eastern barred bandicoots foraging at dark and going about their nightly adventures in the wild, as well as a hands-on role in our conservation efforts.

"Each tour guest will be asked to help count adult and juvenile bandicoots – important data that will be used to further develop our understanding of the Churchill Island bandicoot population."

Starting at sunset, the guided walking tours will spot bandicoots which start to emerge from vegetation to forage across the paddocks and lawns, digging and searching for grubs of beetles, crickets, grasshoppers, moths, earthworms, and fungi. Each night, the animals dig hundreds of small conical pits and play an important role as soil engineers.

"The new bandicoot discovery tour promises to be a magical experience,"

Mr Anderson said.

"Not only will guests spot bandicoots in their natural habitat, but they may have the opportunity to see them with young at foot.

"We do not approach any closer than about 10 metres, but bandicoots often delight guests by scampering and hopping around, and sometimes approach people up close."

Participants require reasonable fitness for the 1.5km walking tour, which traverses some uneven surfaces and some in low light and very dark conditions.

Tickets are limited and bookings are essential. The walking tour is not suitable for prams.

Closed shoes, non-reflective weather protection and warm clothing is recommended.

There is so much to experience at Phillip Island Nature Parks this Easter, from scavenger hunts, high tea, face painting, wine tasting, nature art, live music, farm activities and more!

For more information and bookings, visit penguins.org.au/whats-on

Phillip Island Nature Parks will host three nightly wildlife experiences on Churchill Island over Easter from March 29 to 31



EASTER AT CHURCHILL

Friday 29 March-Monday 1 April 10am to 5pm
Amess Drive, Churchill Island

Experience the island's nocturnal nature party at a nightly 'Bandicoot Discovery Tour'*, join a scavenger hunt and delight your tastebuds this Easter long weekend.

*From Friday 29 to Sunday 31 March.



PLUS

- High tea, wine tasting and BBQ
- Cool tunes by various artists (feat. The Voice 2023 contestant Nick Cunningham on Sunday)*
- Face painting
- Chainsaw Carving**
- Kids nature art & puppet workshops
- Farm activity sessions
- Loads more!

**Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 March.

*From 12.30pm daily.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Friday 29 March-Sunday 14 April

- Blacksmithing
- Wagon rides^
- Cow milking
- Sheep shearing
- Working dogs demo
- Whip cracking

Entry included with Churchill Island ticket or a 3 Parks Pass**

^{*}Purchased additionally at \$7.00 per person.

^{**}Daily activities, complimentary for Churchill Island ticket holders.

**Phillip Island
NATURE
PARKS**

Time Unwinds
CHURCHILL
ISLAND

For schedule and TCs please visit
[www.penguins.org.au/whats-on](http://penguins.org.au/whats-on)



Set sail this Easter

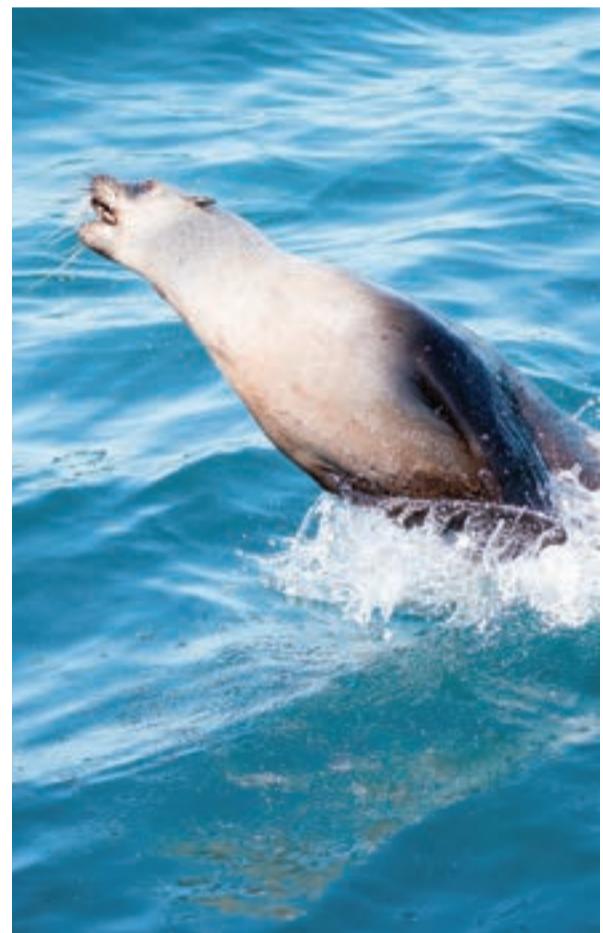
SET sail this Easter and school holidays with Wildlife Coast Cruises! From scenic voyage to wonderous wildlife there's something for everyone.

Embark on a Cape Woolamai Cruise viewing the awe-inspiring granite cliffs and turquoise waters of Cape Woolamai. As you cruise along, find local birdlife such as Pied Cormorant, Wedge Tailed Eagles and Shearwaters circling the cliffs. Keep a lookout for marine life with fur seals often popping up.

If you're looking for an ultimate wildlife experience when visiting Phillip Island then the Seal Watching Cruises is the cruise for you, departing the Cowes jetty and taking you to visit Australia's largest Fur Seal breeding colony. Home to thousands of seals, these curious mammals even come right up to the boat to get a better look at you!

As the sun begins to dip below the horizon, there's also the Sunset Cruises letting you settle into relaxation mode as we cruise the bay and take in a magnificent sunset. Onboard you can grab a refreshing beverage from the licensed bar and indulge with delicious complimentary appetisers.

So, jump on a cruise and discover a whole new perspective of Phillip Island's wonders.



Wildlife coast cruises

Jump on a boat tour these school holidays!
Daily Cruises at Phillip Island
WWW.WILDLIFEACOASTCRUISES.COM.AU

TAKE TO THE SKIES AND SAVE 20%

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PHILLIP ISLAND HELICOPTERS

www.pi-h.com.au : 5956 7316

HM11331



Organiser of the 55-member Maroondah Probus Club visit to Wonthaggi's State Coal Mine, Graeme Williams, centre, chats with guides Dave Waters and Rod McLean.

The origins of Wonthaggi there for all to see

IT represents an important part of Victoria's history and development, the State Coal Mine, located at 19 - 37 Garden Street, Wonthaggi about 25 minutes from Phillip Island.

If it wasn't for Wonthaggi's coal, to fuel Victoria's trains during the NSW coal strike, by more than 10,000 miners for upwards of three months in 1909 and 1910, Victoria would have been brought to a standstill.

As it turned out, the trains got their coal, and the town of Wonthaggi a massive kick-start.

By visiting the State Coal Mine, you can see how it all happened and when the underground mine tours are reopened soon, there'll be even more to see.

But if you are looking for a day's outing over the Easter break and term holidays, there's lots to see and do.

Offering an inexpensive day trip for the whole family, the State Coal Mine is an historic Gippsland attraction that fosters an understanding of Australia's cultural heritage. Entry to the site is free above ground where you can follow the heritage walk

among historic buildings. Underground tours have been suspended until further notice due to ongoing maintenance works but it is expected that these issues will be sorted out soon.

The State Coal Mine Café is open however, from 9am-4pm daily and is the ideal place to stop for a coffee and cake, breakfast or lunch where you'll find hosts Macy Hambrook and Nicole Pearson very obliging with your requests for food and drink and also information.

Operating from 1909 until 1968, the State Coal Mine produced almost 17 million tonnes of coal for Victoria's industries and railways.

Wonthaggi skipped a beat when the mines closed down but the town is surging ahead now with provision for an additional 5000 home sites to accommodate projected growth over the next 20 to 30 years.

Check out the State Coal Mine website for details at: parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/state-coal-mine-heritage-area/things-to-do/state-coal-mine



Discover the magic at Macca's Farm

A PLACE where the air is fresh, the grass is green, and the charm of rural life is in full bloom.

Discover the freshest produce autumn heralds using Macca's Farm's hydroponic vegetables, a cornucopia of vibrant greens that are as nutritious as they are delicious. The farm's commitment to sustainable farming practices means every bite supports not just your health, but the health of the land.

From the golden rays of the morning sun that kiss Macca's lush fields, to the cool evening breeze that whispers between the hot houses, there is a delectable treat for all tastebuds.

Indulge in the simple pleasure of picking your own strawberries with one kilometre of waist-high rows, the farm offers an accessible and enjoyable experience for all ages. The sweet,

juicy berries are perfect for an autumn picnic or as a healthy snack for the ride home.

A cut above Macca's Farm takes pride in its free-range pork and beef. The Wessex-Saddleback pigs and Angus Beef Cattle roam freely, ensuring a quality of life that translates into the superior taste of the meats. The farm's butchery offers cuts that are both ethical and exquisite with farm packs also great value.

Reduce your carbon footprint as you stock up on farm butchered bacon, ham and smallgoods too – knowing exactly where it all comes from.

Alongside their own delectable vegetables, salads and fruits, the farm's produce store is a treasure trove of local delights. From the farm's own honey to locally sourced jams

and cheeses to biscuits, garlic, cream and much more.

And whilst you're restocking your fridge, freezer and pantry, recharge your energy at the café.

The cafe is the heart of the farm, where the menu is a reflection of the season's best. Housemade cakes, delectable brunch items and sensational lunch choices and condiments are crafted from the farm's harvest, offering a taste that's truly homegrown.

Macca's Farm really does bring the finest fresh produce from their paddocks and across South Gippsland to one plate at your fingertips. Head out for the day, a couple of hours or a quick stop for your weekly fresh produce. Open Wednesday to Sunday from 9am to 5pm, your culinary adventure awaits.



delicious **100**
Best of the BEST.

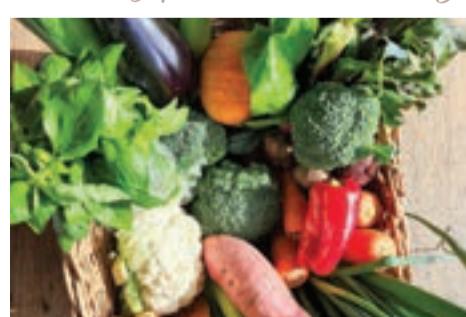
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- Fresh produce grown on the farm
- On-farm butchery offering free range beef, pork and in-house smoked small goods – all direct from the farm and locally sourced lamb
- Pick your own strawberries – delicious!
- Relax over a delicious meal from our café

OPEN 5 DAYS Wednesday to Sunday
Café 9am – 3pm • Shop 9am – 5pm

2185 Dalyston-Glen Forbes Road, Glen Forbes
(Just off Bass Highway, turn at Van Steensel Timbers)

Phone 0484 648 413 

Get inspired

at the Inverloch's premier art exhibition this Easter long weekend

THIS Easter long weekend, immerse yourself in a world of creativity at the highly anticipated 36th Inverloch Art Show. Showcasing a diverse collection of professionally curated artwork, including paintings, photography, sculptures, ceramics, and much more, this event celebrates the vibrant talent of local, regional, and Melbourne-based artists.

Among the artists featured will be Adrian Johnson from Wonthaggi.

"I began my painting journey in the early 1980's by becoming a member of our local artist's society in Wonthaggi," Mr Johnson said.

"While attending oil painting workshops by Colin Johnson and Peter Smales I was able to gain sufficient knowledge of the painting process and develop my own style of capturing the light in the landscape."

In 2017, Adrian was awarded both the Gordon Moffatt Award in the Victorian Artists Society Spring Exhibition, and the framing award in The Artist of The Year Exhibition.

"My painting subjects over the years have been inspired by the dune landscapes of South Gippsland in my preferred medium of oils. In 2021 I was the proud recipient of a Signatory Membership of the Victorian Artists Society."

Adrian has generously donated Clouds Over Bass Coast (oil on canvas) for the raffle to help raise monies.

The Pathway by Ursula Theinert (acrylic on canvas) will also be on display after

winning Best Painting Prize in the Art Society of Phillip Island Region at Berninbeit Cultural Centre in Cowes.

Young aspiring artists will also showcase their talents, featuring a linocut print by Rachel Rogers, woven work from natural fibres by Genevieve Manhal, and an upcycled surfboard by Tanya Starkey, adding to the diverse array of artwork on display.

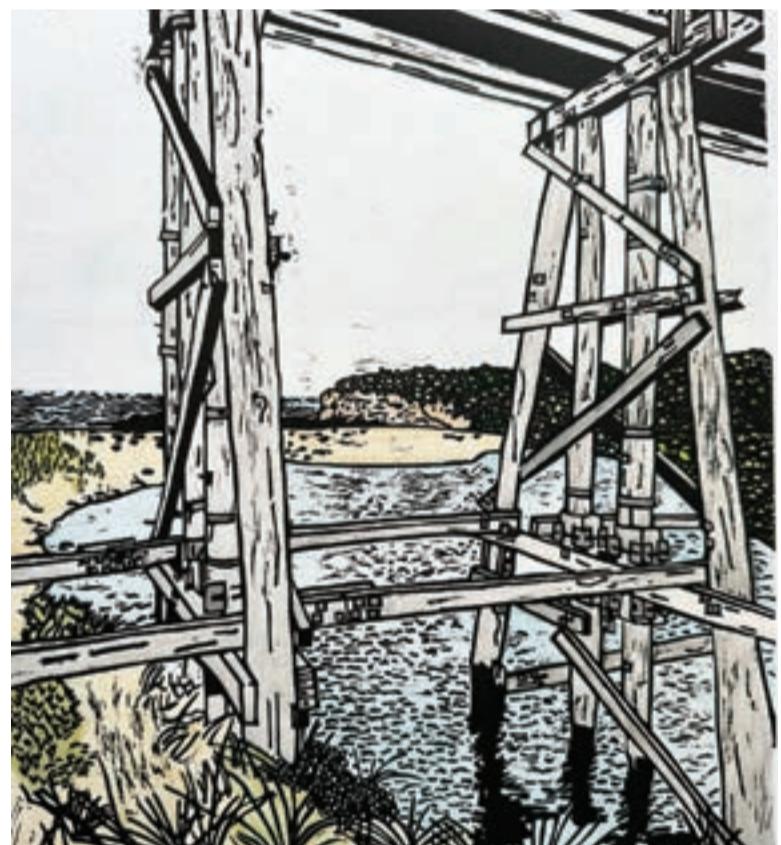
All proceeds from the exhibition fund 'The Food Box Program' which Bass Coast Heath distribute to local families experiencing short term difficulties. The Food Box program has been running since 1987 and provides over 80 boxes annually to families and those in need.

This amazing exhibition is entirely run by local artists and volunteers, plus the help of local businesses and individuals who support with fantastic prizes: ArtSpace, Bendigo Bank, Foodworks, Jordan Crugnale, RACV Inverloch, Mitre 10, Workmens Club, Miners Dispensary, Abicor Southern, Andrew Donohue's Building Design, Handley and Anderson, Logomotion, Maxima, Alex Scott Real Estate, Terry White Pharmacy – Inverloch, and Malcolm Gin Family Trust.

With \$5000 worth of prize monies, the Inverloch Art Show will not disappoint.

Come meet the team at the Opening Night celebrations at 7pm, when category winners are revealed and prizes awarded.

Inverloch Art Show | Friday March 29 - Monday April 1 | Inverloch Community Hub, open 10am daily.



EASTER WEEKEND 2024 – INVERLOCH HUB

INVERLOCH ART SHOW

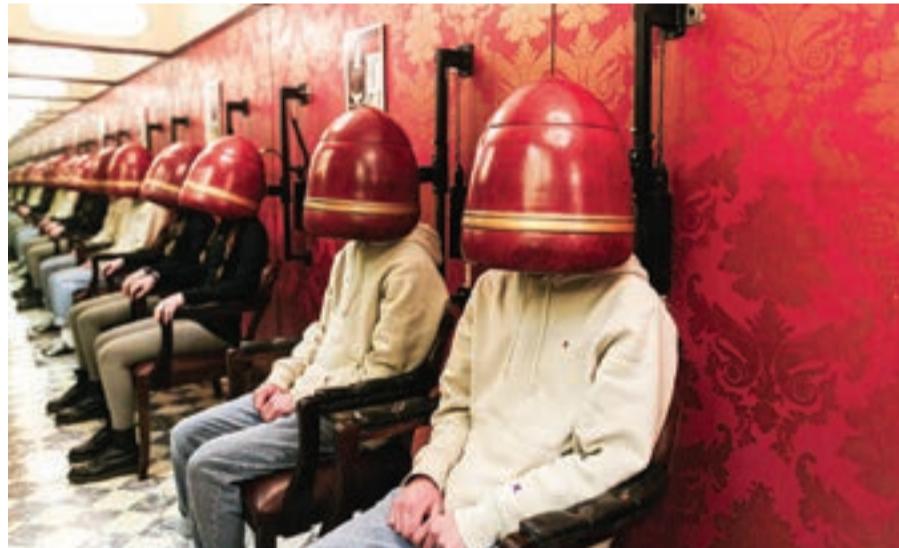
Explore professionally curated works including painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics and more, created by local, regional and Melbourne artists.

Inverloch Community Hub
Friday 29 March - Monday 1 April
FRI-SUN: 10am - 4pm, MON: 10am - 12pm

www.InverlochArtShow.org.au

  @InverlochArtShow





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



Be amazed

this Easter

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

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

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

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

For tourists and holidaymakers, A Maze'N Things provides unique experiences amidst the allure of Phillip Island. Its blend of interactive mind-

teasing activities and outdoor adventures makes it an irresistible choice for travellers seeking distinctive and memorable attractions during their vacation.

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

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

A Maze'N Things and its collection of world-class, innovative attractions guarantees an experience found nowhere else. The diverse blend of indoor and outdoor activities ensures year-round appeal.

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

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

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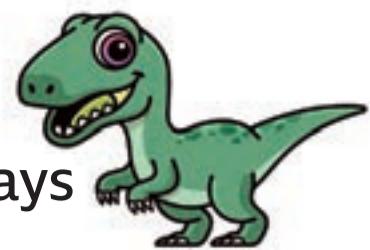


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Discover

activities for the kids these school holidays



Dinosaur Discovery at The Caves

Friday March 29 | 10am - 12pm
 Sunday March 31 | 9.30am - 11.30am
 Wednesday April 3 | 12.30pm - 2.30pm
 Saturday April 6 | 12.30pm - 2.30pm
 Tuesday April 9 | 4pm - 6pm
 Saturday April 13 | 9.30am - 11.30am
 Bunurong Environment Centre

Dinosaurs – Palaeo laboratory

Friday March 29 | 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Sunday March 31 | 12.30pm - 2.30pm
 Tuesday April 2 | 2pm - 4pm
 Monday April 8 | 1pm - 3pm
 Saturday April 13 | 1pm - 3pm
 Bunurong Environment Centre

Surf 2 Cinq

Saturday March 30
 9.45am, shotgun start 10am
 Venus Bay Beach 1
 Come down to Venus Bay on Easter Saturday for the annual Surf 2 Cinq. After the event, there will be food trucks, drinks and entertainment. Visit vbslsc.org.au/events/surf2cinq for more information and how to register.

Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club Historical Cars

Saturday, March 30 | 8am - 2pm
 Apex Park, Wonthaggi

Dinosaur Discovery – the amazing Koolasuchus

Saturday March 30 | 10am - 12pm
 Thursday April 4 | 10.30am - 12.30pm
 Bunurong Environment Centre

Beloka Easter Sheep Dog Trials

Saturday March 30 | Sunday March 31
 5845 South Gippsland Hwy, Welshpool

Native Plants and Animals

Saturday March 30 | 1pm - 2.30pm
 Friday April 5 | 3pm - 4.30pm
 Wednesday April 10 | 2.30pm - 4pm
 Bunurong Environment Centre

Coal Creek Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday, March 31
 11.30am - 3pm
 Coal Creek Community Park & Museum

Rockpool Ramble

Sunday March 31 | 10am - 12pm
 Monday April 1 | 10.30am - 12.30pm
 Thursday April 4 | 11.30am - 1.30pm
 Saturday April 6 | 2pm - 4pm
 Bunurong Environment Centre

Dinosaur Discovery at Eagles Nest

Monday April 1 | 11.30am - 1.30pm
 Friday April 5 | 11am - 1pm
 Sunday April 14, 10 am - 12 pm
 Bunurong Environment Centre

Dinosaur Discovery at Flat Rocks

Tuesday April 2 | 10am - 12pm
 Thursday April 4 | 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Monday April 8 | 3.30pm - 5.30pm
 Bunurong Environment Centre

School Holiday Story Time

Tuesday April 2 | 10.30am
 Wonthaggi Library

Egg Hunt Stories & Craft School Holiday Program with Waterline Library

Tuesday April 2 | 11am
 Corinella & District Community Centre, Smythe Street

Wildlife of the Night – Spotlighting

Tuesday April 2 | 7pm - 9pm
 Saturday April 6 | 7pm - 9pm
 Saturday April 13 | 6pm - 8pm
 Bunurong Environment Centre

Wearable art with Foster Library

Wednesday April 3 | 10am
 Toora Community Hall

Easter Crafts School Holiday Program

Wednesday April 3 | 10.30am
 Leongatha Library

Lego Build Challenge Session

Wednesday April 3 | 11am
 San Remo Library

Ocean in an Egg Carton

Wednesday April 3 | 11am
 Wonthaggi Library

Easter Egg Hunt with Waterline Library

Wednesday April 3 | 11am
 Grantville Hall

Macrame Makers

Wednesday April 3 | 11am
 San Remo Library

DIY Sticker Book

Wednesday April 3 | 2.30pm
 Korumburra Library

Discover the Secrets of The Amazon Shipwreck

Wednesday April 3 | 2.30pm
 Inverloch Library

Special Story Time with Guest Author Ian Robinson

Thursday April 4 | 10.30am
 Phillip Island Library

Disney Sing-Along-Athon

Thursday April 4 | 11am
 Foster Library

Kaleidoscope making

Thursday April 4 | 2.30 pm
 Poowong Library

BYO Tin Can Pot Planters

Friday April 5 | 10.30am
 Phillip Island Library

Junior Ranger – Shells

Friday April 5 | 11.30am - 1.30pm
 Bunurong Environment Centre

Estuarine Ecology – Screw Creek

Saturday April 6 | 3.30pm - 5.30pm
 Bunurong Environment Centre

Dinosaur Drawing Workshop with Zev Landes

Monday April 8 | 10.30am
 Inverloch Library

Disney Sing-Along-Athon

Monday April 8 | 11am
 Wonthaggi Library

Free Family Movie

Monday April 8 | 2pm
 Korumburra Library

Corinella Community Centre T-Shirt Printing with Waterline Library

Tuesday April 9 | 11am
 Corinella & District Community Centre

Tea Cosy Maker Session

Tuesday April 9 | 11am
 Foster Library

School Holiday Movie Day

Tuesday April 9 | 1.30pm
 Leongatha Library

The Rainbow Fish - Story and Craft Activity

Tuesday April 9 | 2pm
 Wonthaggi Library

Disney Sing-Along-Athon

Wednesday April 10 | 2.30pm
 Leongatha Library

Make a Wiggly Worm Puppet

Thursday April 11 | 10.30am
 Korumburra Library

Easter Bilby craft

Thursday April 11 | 10.30am
 Inverloch Library

Planks

Friday April 12 | 11am
 Korumburra Library

Cordial with a Cop!

Friday April 12 | 11am
 Wonthaggi Library

Clay Mosaics

Friday April 12 | 11am
 San Remo Library



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ONE of the most interesting things about playing at a new golf course is trying to work out the course designer's strategy for each hole and if you're a visitor, a bit of local knowledge goes a long way before starting out.

Take the 14th hole at Phillip Island for example. With its u-shaped dogleg to the left, it can really do your head in if you're intent on making the green in two. Very few club golfers are able to do it!

According to golf club manager Doug O'Keefe, most golfers will take driver off the tee and hope to hit middle, or a bit right of middle, to give themselves a chance of clearing the corner trees and covering the remaining 200m to 180m to the front of the green.

Of course, success is all on that tough second shot but the tip to remember is that they give you an extra shot here in recognition of the difficulty, or else it would be the hardest hole on the course, making it a par 5 instead of a 470m par 4, so use your shots and be happy to make the green in three.

Another hole that can play with your mind is the fifth hole at Leongatha. The temptation here is be greedy, and go for too much off the tee when a nice little shot of 150m to 180m is all you need, allowing the ball to feed downhill to the left and towards the green. It often requires a tricky little 120m lofted shot in, downhill to the green, bearing in mind it's hard to hold the green. The hole is

rated as the 16th hardest on the course, but it can leave its mental scars.

At Wonthaggi Golf Club, president Robbie Geyer acknowledges that the 12th often beats him up.

"I'm taking driver off the tee and hoping to get in the right area because your second shot in only has a small area to land and the green isn't that big either. That second shot in, of about 150 metres, can get you into trouble. That hole and the long par 3 fourth hole test me out but it's different for different players."

Just as it should be.

Robbie says Wonthaggi has just finished planning a new oncourse water storage which combined with a new drainage and irrigation system will ultimately be the making of the town's centrally-located course. And if you haven't got time for a round, pick up a bucket of balls from the pro shop and try the driving range.

At Korumburra, one of the most important things is knowing how to walk the spectacularly picturesque, but also hilly course, keeping as much to the high side as you go around, not only for the best angles into the greens but also for your enjoyment of the day.

There are some fantastic courses across the length and breadth of South Gippsland and Bass Coast, from Lang Lang and Phillip Island in the west to Yarram, with its beautiful natural setting, in the east – enjoy!

There's no better time to go golfing in South Gippsland and Bass Coast than right now and right across the region a testing time awaits.



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Explore our rail trails

Rail trail connoisseurs, Julie and Gary Love of Ringwood North, like nothing more than picking a bike trail somewhere in Australia and making plans to holiday in the that area while exploring the riding trails and everything the area has to offer.

They rate the Bass Coast Rail Trail and the Great Southern Rail Trail highly, as much for what's around them as the rides themselves.

THE Great Southern Rail Trail, stretching 108 kilometres from Nyora in the west to Port Welshpool's Long Jetty in the east is truly a 'great' trail for bike riders of all abilities.

And if it wasn't for the unseasonal deluge which hit Yarram in December last year, ironically when the Great Victorian Bike Ride passed through town, the additional section of the South Gippsland rail trail would have been going the extra 21km through to Yarram.

But according to a spokesperson from the Wellington Shire, the 300ml of rain which hit the hills above Yarram left a trail of

destruction through the new works that's only just being fixed now.

"There was some damage around the pylons on the new rail trail bridges and along the track but we've repaired our side of it now," said the Wellington Shire official.

"But there's a 2km section on the South Gippsland side that needs work. These repair works are outside the scope of the original project and we don't want to open it until we have it complete."

So, the new extension of the trail will not be open for Easter but there's still plenty of riding to do, and not just on the Great Southern Rail Trail.

HOW TO RIDE THE 'GREAT' TRAIL

The beauty of the Great Southern Rail Trail, Australia's second longest, is that it can be attempted in bits-sized pieces, while taking in the sights over Corner Inlet and Wilsons Prom or by stopping off in any of the captivating towns along the way.

Start at historic Loch for example, with its distillery, cafés and curiosity shops and simply ride the 15.4km to Korumburra and back, calling in at Kellys Bakery for lunch, or the Burra Brewery for a bevie.

Alternatively, you could make a full day of it and ride the 38.9km from Koonwarra to Foster, stopping off at delightful Meeniyan (8.2km) for morning tea, Fish Creek (18.3km) for lunch and stopping to enjoy the magnificent Prom views on the way to Foster (12.4km).

It's a town-to-town, whistlestop ride following the old South Gippsland rail line with grazing cows and rolling hills happily filling the gaps for a delightful, active outing.

Check out the website for details at gsrt.com.au/choose-your-adventure

But wait, there's more...

You can also experience unrivalled views along the Bass Coast Rail Trail, which stretches 21km from the old Wonthaggi Railway Station in Murray Street, over the historic Kilcunda trestle bridge and on to the Woolamai Racecourse.



E-Bike Sales & Bike hire store located in Meeniyan. The heart of the Great Southern Rail Trail.

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Discover Phillip Island's walking trails

Cape Woolamai

Woolamai Beach Road,
Cape Woolamai

The summit of Phillip Island offers breathtaking vistas, abundant wildlife, and a variety of scenic trails to explore. This patch is a paradise for hikers, boasting a selection of paths such as the Pinnacles Walk, Old Granite Quarry Walk, and Cape Woolamai Beacon Walk. Adventurers can opt for a full-day excursion and tackle all three trails as part of the Cape Woolamai Circuit. Cape Woolamai serves as a seasonal residence for millions of shearwaters from October to April annually.

All walks start from the Woolamai Beach Car Park at the information shelter. Walk onto the beach, turn left and follow the shore for approximately one kilometre then take the stairs up to the cliff top.

Pinnacles Walk (Green markers) 4.4kms, 2hrs return: easy/moderate.

Take in the coastal views, including the rock formations known as the Pinnacles, one of the island's most popular walks.

Old Granite Quarry Walk (Blue markers) – 6kms, 2.5hrs, return: moderate.

Relax in the tranquil cove that was a busy granite quarry in the late 1800s. This walk provides excellent views of wildlife and San Remo beaches.

Cape Woolamai Beacon Walk (Black markers) – 7.2kms loop, 4hrs return: moderate.

Located at the highest point on Phillip Island (112m), the beacon lookout provides 360-degree views of the island, San Remo and, on clear days, to Wilsons Promontory.

Cape Woolamai Circuit – 8.1kms, 4.5hrs return (pack a lunch): moderate

Combine all of Cape Woolamai's walks for great coastal views, wildlife viewing and the tranquility of the quarry cove.



Rhyll Mangrove Boardwalk

Location: McIlwraith Road, Rhyll

Nestled along the picturesque north shore of Phillip Island lies the world-renowned wetlands of Rhyll Inlet, a sanctuary for both migratory birds and nature enthusiasts alike and Ramsar-listed wetland of international significance.

Traversing the intricate network of boardwalks that meander through the mangroves, saltmarsh, and mudflats, visitors are greeted by an array of avian marvels – spoonbills, oystercatchers, herons, egrets, and cormorants gracefully adorning the landscape. For an elevated perspective, ascend the Conservation Hill Observation Tower and immerse yourself in the panoramic grandeur of the wetlands and surrounding woodland reserves.

Beyond its scenic allure, Rhyll Inlet serves as a vital ecological bridge between land and sea. The resilient mangroves provide critical habitat for a plethora of plant and animal species, while the extensive mudflats teem with life, offering a bountiful feast for waterbirds during low tide.

Lookout walk – 500m return, 20 min, easy/moderate.

Enjoy expansive views over the inlet and Western Port.

Mangrove boardwalk – 1.2km return, 45 min, easy.

Wander through coastal woodland and paperbark forest to the intertidal mudflats and mangrove boardwalks of Rhyll Inlet. Look for notched shorecrabs and listen for the snapping shrimps that live in the mud.

Conservation Hill carpark to McIlwraith Road – 4.5km return, 2h, easy/moderate.

An extended walk-through coastal woodland, mangrove boardwalks and farmland with views across Rhyll Inlet. Continue for a further two kilometres to the historic village of Rhyll.

Oswin Roberts Reserve

Embark on an adventure through diverse landscapes with the Bush to Bay walking trail, offering a captivating journey both within Oswin Roberts Reserve and beyond. Nestled just behind the Koala Conservation Reserve, Oswin Roberts presents an ideal extension for nature enthusiasts eager to explore further into native vegetation post-koala encounter.

Immerse yourself in the crisp scent of eucalyptus as you catch glimpses of koalas, wallabies, and echidnas

while being serenaded by the melodic tunes of native birds nestled within one of Phillip Island's final remnants of native woodland. By staying on designated tracks, you play a crucial role in preserving this precious habitat.

From Oswin Roberts Reserve south car park

- Melaleuca loop – 1km, 30 min, easy.
- Woodland loop – 2.8kms, 1.5h, easy/moderate.
- Oswin Roberts Circuit – 4.6km, 3h, easy/moderate.

From Oswin Roberts Reserve north car park

- Oswin Roberts south car park – 2.3km, 1h, easy/moderate.
- Conservation Hill – 1.8km one way, 1h, moderate.
- Rhyll – 4km one way, 2h, moderate.

The walks can also start your walk from the Koala Conservation Reserve – follow the signs along the path from the car park entrance. 14 km, 4 hrs return: moderate.

For a full list of walking trails in the Bass Coast region visit www.visitbasscoast.com.au



Photo: Parks Victoria.

Wilsons Prom Southern Circuit Walk

ENJOY the tranquillity and rugged rainforest, awe-inspiring vast ocean views, white sandy beaches and crystal clear waters found along the Southern Prom Circuit.

The circuit is a great weekend hike that weaves walkers through warm temperate rainforest to the pristine eastern shores of Wilsons Promontory.

It can be walked as a small or big loop, with optional detours and overnight camping, to break up distances, at the secluded and peaceful Sealers Cove and Waterloo Bay.

Only a few visitors venture to these places as they can only be accessed on foot and hikers can enjoy these often deserted and remote places of great natural beauty without the crowds.

This hike is one of the highlights of Wilsons Promontory National Park and showcases some of the most breathtaking flora and fauna of the Prom.

An array of native wildlife thrives in the area including kangaroos, emus, wombats, echidnas and vividly plumed birds like rosellas.

Spectacular displays of wildflowers, including orchids, wattle, heathland and other species can be spotted along the track at various times of the year.

On the weekends from Melbourne Cup to the Easter long weekend, a free shuttle bus takes visitors to Telegraph Saddle from Tidal River and the overnight hikers car park.

Telegraph Saddle car park is closed to all other vehicles during these times.

For a full list of walks on offer at Wilsons Prom visit www.parks.vic.gov.au



Pierce Brothers

bring their Australian tour to South Gippsland

Pierce Brothers to perform live at the Riverview Hotel in Tarwin Lower for their 'Everything Is Bigger Than Me' tour.

MELODIC and exuberant, Melbourne indie folk auteurs Pierce Brothers have unveiled their latest single, Wilder featuring LULLANAS - the fourth release from their newly announced upcoming third studio album *Everything Is Bigger Than Me*, due out March 28.

Not a pair to do things by halves, the brothers, Jack, and Pat Pierce, have also kicked off their extensive tour of Australia that will take them around the country over eight consecutive months - arriving in South Gippsland on April 13 to perform at the Riverview Hotel in Tarwin Lower for the very first time.

In an interview with the Sentinel Times, Jack shared that the brothers have grown up visiting South Gippsland.

"Wilsons Prom is our favourite place on earth and the Bass Coast have always been so incredibly good to us in music, so to play somewhere new down that way, where we haven't played before is so exciting!"

Everything Is Bigger Than Me is a record that encompasses everything the brothers have learned about their craft over the last decade, and the lyrics in the track 'Everything Is Bigger Than Me' focuses on a dream about feeling overwhelmed.

"A lot of what we write is about our personal feelings on love, loss, anxiety, and hope, and these lyrics can be taken both as a dark statement, somewhat melancholy, but also as a jubilant expression of optimism and joy in the world around us."

This is the first time the brothers have

stepped into a producer roll for an album, (co-producing with Phil Threlfall) and recorded at Jack's home studio - a very personal achievement.

"This record was recorded out at my studio in Cockatoo," said Jack.

"Produced by ourselves alongside the brilliant producer and engineer Phil Threlfall. Recording at my home not only meant that I was home for dinner every night but also that we could mull over the days takes, talk about them over evening wines, and really immerse ourselves in the process. We had an absolute blast recording this one!"

"Being able to bring the team out to us and set up shop for a month without having to do setups each day or even really travelling to the studio was so freeing!" says Pat.

"It was the best way for us to explore what we wanted to share!"

The latest single on the album, Wilder is a beautifully intense build, opening with dramatic melodic hooks in acapella, and blended perfectly with Philadelphia based singer/songwriter sister duo LULLANAS.

The intricate guitar riffs and delicately layered harmonies intertwine, mirroring the ebb and flow of the passage of time as the track builds to an eruption of wild exuberance.

"Wilder is the name of my youngest. My first-born girl, Ro, had a song for her named One from the last record. I wanted to write one for Wilder as well, and this one came together in record time, written in the span of about five minutes, but then I toyed with it for months before bringing it to Pat," said Jack.

"The build and crescendo in this track is something I'm so immensely proud of, I think it reflects the best that Pierce Brothers do live, something that we've been working to get down on a record for years!"

Joining in on the song are LULLANAS who showed interest in the track and have lifted the opening section with their incredible timbre and harmonies.

Jack shared that the brother duo 'Pierce Brothers' came from the fact that it was always easier for them to play together.

"We found we were always searching for the same thing. We both had a vision of where we wanted to go, and whether for good or ill, we both had the stubbornness to stick it out."

The fact that Jack and Pat both became multi-instrumental artists came naturally through the busking process, with Jack stating that "we'd pick up things as we go, knowing that they'd accompany the sound that we were looking for."

"Acoustic Guitar was the first instrument I learnt to play, but I love playing electric live. I never learned drums properly - that came naturally as we started busking and adding in more and more pieces, so I think I've got to say that drums are a favourite live. I play them more standing up and dancing, and I don't have to think as much about the drums as I do with a guitar or mandolin!" said Jack.

The brothers found a passion for music just before high school when they started to learn the guitar,

mostly copying their older brothers or uncle while camping.

"Lots of Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Paul Kelly were the first tracks we put down.

"We found a passion for performing by the time we were 14. We were performing at the local sports bar in Croydon called the Dorset Gardens Hotel. It was pretty rough back then; a fight broke out halfway through our first set, but the bouncers (while holding the guys) urged us to continue on," laughed Jack.

Once their passion for performing grew, the duo started singing lessons.

"We always found that harmonising came naturally to us, and when we realised that - we thought we should probably hone it up a bit and ended up in lessons until the end of school!"

Marking 10 years since their acclaimed EP *The Night Tree* threw them in to the spotlight, the brothers have toured all over the globe with some of the best indie artists in the world. During this eight month tour the Pierce Brothers will perform live with Flynn Gurry.

"He's an absolutely incredible folk musician with a massive future ahead of him!"

"We're very lucky to have him on for this one, he blows away every single audience we've shared so far!"

The 'Everything Is Bigger Than Me' tour is set to take the Australian indie-folk scene by storm again in 2024, and tickets are on sale now at piercebrothers.com

■ Photo: Dara Munnis



This is how Agnes Falls looked earlier this year after rain. While several dry months have reduced its flow, the falls are still worth a look.

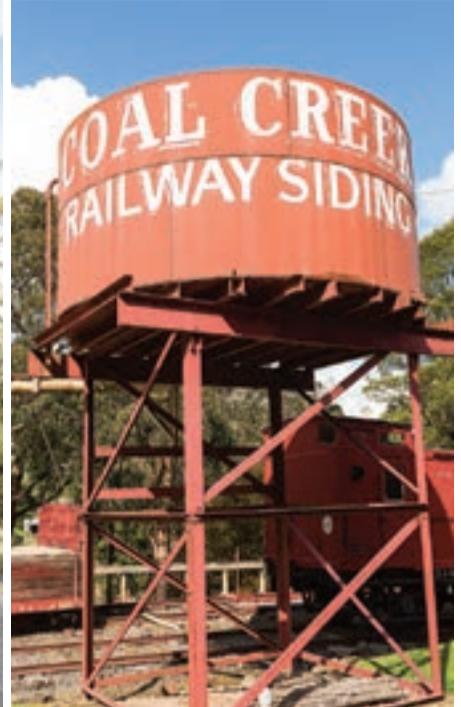
Take a day trip to Agnes Falls

LATE last year, when the Great Victorian Bike Riders were deluged in storms of epic proportions, the usually meandering Agnes River was gushing over Agnes Falls near Toora like a hydro-electric scheme.

That's when you want to see it, but over Easter, if you are looking for a day trip in the South Gippsland area, Agnes Falls is still well worth a visit, not only to see the falls but also to enjoy a nice picnic spot in the bush.

Hidden within the green, rolling hills of the Strzelecki Ranges, the falls cascade 59 metres over rocks into a deep, picturesque gorge.

Agnes Falls Scenic Reserve is home to diverse birdlife, such as honeyeaters, grey fantails, currawongs, crimson rosellas and kookaburras. Furry locals include wallabies and possums.



Coal Creek will celebrate 50 years

A QUAINt village that shows rural life from the 1870s to the 1920s, the Coal Creek Community Park and Museum gives visitors an opportunity to get immersed in the atmosphere of the old.

The park is a recreated coal mining village that depicts the history of Korumburra, from everyday life to the coalfields and the early agricultural development of the area.

Explore the museum, the Boston Works Carriage Factory, a chemist, a general store, a drapery and a miners cottage and all the antique treasures within.

This April a celebration marking

Coal Creek's 50th birthday will be held with additional activities that promise to be fun and engaging for all.

Be entertained by historical displays and demonstrations, celebrity croquet, pop up theatre, heritage rides and games.

Help the White Rabbit find the missing time at the Mad Hatters Tea Party! Catch a sneak peak of the park trains, and continuing rail works.

An exhibition, called Turning Points will offer a fascinating exploration through the collections and archives of Coal Creek.

Turning Points is a collaboration of exhibitions that captures the

concept of the past, present and future, encompassing the motion of time and the eras of coal creek and Korumburra.

The day will be rounded out with live music including Shouse, Sand Brothers, Harry Hook and Cool Out Sun to name a few.

A good variety of food and drink vendors will keep visitors energised and refreshed, and lunch and/or afternoon tea pack are available for pre-purchase. Go for a few hours or stay into the evening.

Coal Creek Birthday Celebrations will be held on Saturday April 20 from 12 – 8pm.

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SAT & SUN 8:00AM - 3:30PM



The magical talents of Mr Hawkins

THERE is an air to Denis Hawkins that makes one relax in his presence, an air that makes you trust him with some of your most prized possessions whether stunning gemstone or family heirlooms, and an air that amazes at his vast array of talents, you see Mr Hawkins is not just a jeweller and creator of stunning masterpieces but an artist, woodworker and sculpturer amongst far more talents – a multipotentiality.

"I enjoy working with my hands," Denis explained as the fresh March breeze drifted through the open door to his studio.

"I applied for an apprenticeship with Kennedy Diamond Rings in Christchurch but I had the wrong clothes on."

Undertaking a women's hairdressing apprenticeship under Hans Lunger, Denis reminisced on the days that led to life as a jeweller, and the flirtatious and glamourous women who passed through the doors of the salon.

"I carried on cutting my mother's hair and people would come around

and I'd make money, but 18 months was enough for me."

"I went on to Hume Pipe as a moulder shovelling ready mix concrete and had an accident with the ring I had on my finger and reached out to Kennedy Diamonds.

"As the story goes, the owner still has the ring that I made as a test run," Denis smiled.

Now in his 90s, Ken Blair would go on to become Denis' mentor and life-long friend.

"He put in another workshop up top, showed me where it was, and said 'this is what we can teach you'. I just absorbed it! If it wasn't for him, I don't know where I would be..."

Excelling and one of the few jewelers who can create, make and set, Denis takes every opportunity to hone his skills, learn new techniques and read about metals and gemstones – even though his raw talent flows effortlessly, making his progress seem almost innate.

Amongst his varied favourites are the family heirlooms that pass his working

desk for restoration.

"Working with old original pieces, 1850s, 1860s – 19th century, rebuilding those you've got to know what solders they possibly used because you got hard solders, medium solders and soft solders. They start off with the hard to get the main basis. You can't use hard (in the more intricate work) because that might spring open, you're going to use some slightly softer solders. Restoring old jewellery is really satisfying to see, and to wonder where it might be in 500 years."

Denis' own family lineage reads like a history book in itself with generations past marrying Spanish Portuguese women and living in Fiji before relocating to New Zealand after the passing of his great grandfather.

"There are only two or three of us that specialise in art deco pieces in Victoria – because we learnt the old trades and techniques. People don't want pieces that everyone else has."

A proud father, Denis' eye and the beauty he creates is mesmerising.

Diamonds and a breathtaking ruby

beckon to adorn the neck as a pendant, gemstones far superior to mainstream conglomerates that charge a small fortune for inferior quality gemstones subjected to heat treatment.

Opening one of the books that adorn his miniature bookshelf in the studio, Denis flicks through pages of beautiful masterpieces.

"I made a ring, it's still in the area, and it turned out near identical to a ring in this book – a golden sapphire and blue side by side near identical cut – I'd never seen this book."

There is something inspiring and magical about the trade of jewellery making and the artisans like Denis, who are happy to talk through their specialised craft.

"I don't take it for granted, I think it is quite special – we share secrets and equipment.

"It's pretty special making nice jewellery and knowing people trust me. I couldn't give up making jewellery."

"I was very lucky that I learnt to start a ring from a bar of gold and finish a ring on the finger."

Russell Broadbent MP
Federal Member for Monash

Happy Easter to you and your family.

Please stay safe on the roads this long weekend.



46C Albert Street, WARRAGUL VIC 3820
 russell.broadbent.mp@aph.gov.au
 5623 2064
 Russell Broadbent MP

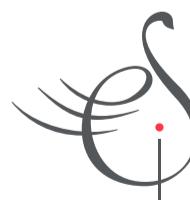
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Discover the Waterline

Corinella

CORINELLA is an idyllic seaside town blessed with panoramic and picturesque views of the water and nearby islands.

A seaside walking track connecting Corinella to Coronet Bay, allows visitors to meander among coastal banksia and she-oaks on a serene seaside bush track where beautiful blue wrens flit about and water bird species are on full display.

Walk atop the cliffs around to the Settlement Point observation platform to get incredible views of the water and French Island and to the bridge at San Remo and Phillip Island.

Continue on towards the jetty and

rotunda picnic area where tidal rock pools, sea shells and imposing cliff faces can be explored.

As well as exploring the shores, visitors can also explore the magical waterways, have boating picnics and of course catch their very own fresh seafood from the ocean fed waters surrounding Corinella in Western Port Bay.

With a long and rich history of fishing, Corinella lays claim to having some of Victoria's best and most productive fishing grounds.

Being a tidal mud flat the surrounding waters are home to many fish species including gummy sharks, elephant fish, snapper, whiting and mulloway.

Australian salmon, trevally and barracouta can also be caught and often become a welcome by-catch when whiting fishing.

The town is well set up for boating and fishing activities with a four laned concrete boat ramp, and all tides access for boats up to eight metres, with jetties alongside and a floating pontoon.

Fresh water is available and fish cleaning facilities are provided with flood lights at night for full visibility.

A 24 hour webcam keeps watch over the waters so checking current conditions and visiting has never been easier, just visit boating.vic.gov.au and select Corinella.

Coronet Bay

CORONET Bay is a beautiful fishing and beachside township overlooking Western Port Bay and French Island.

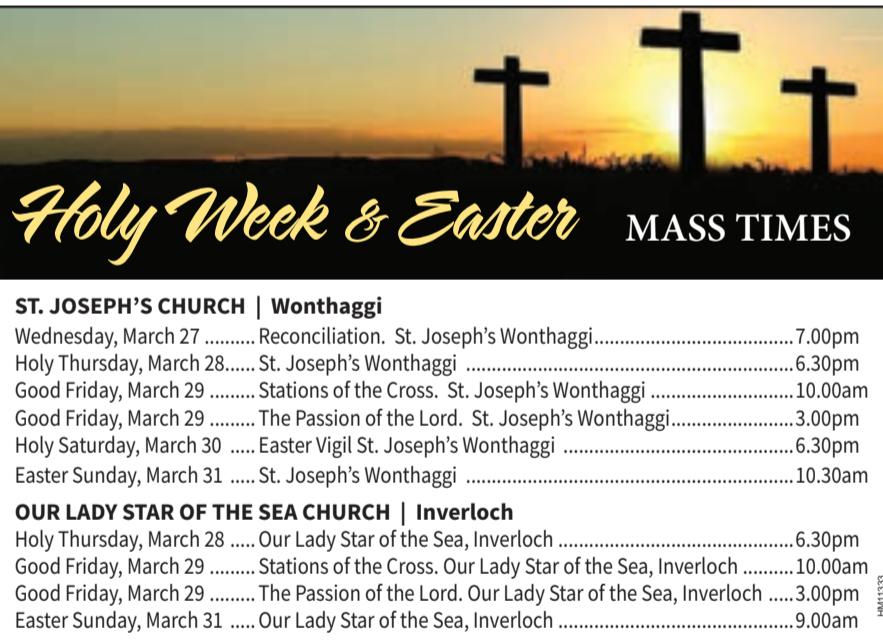
The town has a small jetty and an excellent 24-hour all-tide boat ramp for smaller vessels.

Anglers enjoy fishing for whiting which are plentiful in the waters of the bay, and along the edge at about five metres is a good starting point for those new to the area.

Although it may be weedy the whiting can be found in the sand holes.

A light berley trail will also bring fresh calamari right to the bait.

Those preferring land activities can enjoy the grassy foreshore at Coronet Bay,



Holy Week & Easter MASS TIMES

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH | Wonthaggi

Wednesday, March 27	Reconciliation. St. Joseph's Wonthaggi.....	7.00pm
Holy Thursday, March 28.....	St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	6.30pm
Good Friday, March 29	Stations of the Cross. St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	10.00am
Good Friday, March 29	The Passion of the Lord. St. Joseph's Wonthaggi.....	3.00pm
Holy Saturday, March 30	Easter Vigil St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	6.30pm
Easter Sunday, March 31	St. Joseph's Wonthaggi	10.30am

OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH | Inverloch

Holy Thursday, March 28	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch	6.30pm
Good Friday, March 29	Stations of the Cross. Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch	10.00am
Good Friday, March 29	The Passion of the Lord. Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch	3.00pm
Easter Sunday, March 31	Our Lady Star of the Sea, Inverloch	9.00am



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SATURDAY, MARCH 30
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Saturday, 10am - 2pm

A small map showing the location of Youki's Japanese Takeaway on McBride Ave, Wonthaggi. The map shows a street layout with 'Graham St' and 'McBride Ave' intersecting. Youki's is located on McBride Ave.



Photos courtesy Anna Carson • Seabrae Photos

the sparkling water and small rolling waves lapping the shore.

Take a walk on the seaside trail to Corinella and explore another quiet, yet stunning coastal town.

Browse the Coronet Bay Market on a Sunday morning with a variety of local stalls, live music from up and coming young artists and lots of fresh fare to inspire the tastebuds.

Held at the Coronet Bay Recreation Reserve, sip a coffee while taking in views of the water and enjoying the soft coastal breeze.

Grantville

GRANTVILLE marks a small town along Western Port Bay and a walk on the foreshore offers sparkling views

of the bay, nearby French Island and mangroves abundant with birdlife.

A boat ramp and jetty caters to boating and fishing enthusiasts, excepting that high tide is the only time these activities can be accessed, with snapper, shark and elephant shark taking the bait then.

A small park and adventure playground provides an area for families and stretching to the north and up into the hills above town is the large and scenic The Gurdies Nature Conservation Reserve.

This park offers adventures of varying levels for walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders though large areas of wonderful native flora and wildlife can be spotted by the careful observer.



Vintage clothing and AFL merch

WHEN Joel Wegener started reselling clothing in 2018, never in his wildest dreams did he believe he would become one of Victoria's biggest vintage clothing stockists, operating UsedGoods.

Fast forward to 2024, and the vintage expert is well-known for his incredible vintage pop ups in Lakes Entrance, Sale and Bairnsdale. Now, the Sale resident is ready to launch his most ambitious project yet, a pop-up vintage clothing stall in the heart of Cowes, Phillip Island, this Easter school holidays.

Based at 85 Thompson Avenue, Cowes – between the Cowes Post office and the Cowes Cultural Centre – the store will be open daily from Good Friday (March 29) to April 14, from 10am-5pm.

With over 1000 clothing items available, the UsedGoods store will have something for everyone, headlined by vintage surfwear, Nike, Adidas, Levi's, designer brands and more.

Joining UsedGoods at the Cowes store will be Footy Finds, Australia's best vintage and retro AFL merchandise supplier. Modern footy merchandise simply ain't what it used to be, and Footy Finds takes you back to the golden era of AFL merchandise, with high-quality, original 90s and early 2000s jackets, t-shirts, polo jumpers, sweaters, caps and guernseys. It's a nostalgic trip down memory lane for footy fans, and there's sure to be something for every footy fan to admire in store this Easter.

Check out @usedgoods and @footy.finds on Instagram for regular updates and the very best in vintage clothing and vintage AFL. Each page is running a competition to win a \$50 voucher in the lead up to the pop-up store opening.

You can also check out UsedGoods' permanent stall at the Murray Street Bazaar in Wonthaggi.

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DISCOVER | AUTUMN 2024 21



Discover the markets this Easter

Churchill Island Farmers Market

March 30 and April 6 | 8am-1pm

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

Coal Creek Farmers Market

April 13 | 8am-12.30pm

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

Photo: Singer/songwriter Sage Marie of Kardella entertains at the Lions Club of Strzelecki Loch Summer Market every second Sunday through until April.

Corinella Community Market

April 13 | 9am-1pm

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

Cowes Island Craft Market

April 13 | 9am-2pm

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

Cowes Sunday Market

April 7 and 14 | 9am-2pm

Held on the glorious Cowes Esplanade, the final Sunday market of the year will be held on December 17. The market showcases a plethora of local goods, including produce and arts. There are no Cowes Sunday markets in January, so be sure to get in quick.

Inverloch Community Farmers Market

March 31 | 9am-1pm

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

Island Foreshore Market

March 30 | 3pm-9pm

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

Jumbunna Bush Market

April 7 | 9am-1pm

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

Kongwak Market

Every Sunday | 10am-2pm

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

Koonwarra Farmers Market

April 6 | 8am-1pm

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

Loch Lions Village Market

April 14 | 8am-1pm

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

Mirboo North Farmers Market

March 30 | 8.30am-1pm

A vibrant community market celebrating a variety of growers, bakers, merchants and makers. Fresh produce, plants, artisan goods, collectables, delicious food, coffee, live music and more. Dogs welcome on a lead.

Prom Produce and Craft Market

March 31 | 8am-1pm

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

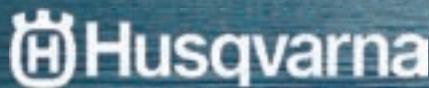
Tarwin Lower Market

April 1 | 10am to 1pm

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

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Woodcrafts for Easter in Wonthaggi

FOLLOWING the success of their 2023 Christmas Shop, Wonthaggi Woodcrafters are having an Easter Woodcrafts Sale – for two days only.

The shop will be on Saturday March 30 and Sunday March 31. Opening times are 10am to 4pm each day.

Like the Chrissy sale, the event will be held at the Woodies clubrooms/workshops at 239 White Road, Wonthaggi (the Jean Melzer Centre), adjacent to Bass Coast Adult Learning, U3A and South Coast FM studios. Look for the signs.

On display and for sale will be a broad range of quality, locally made wood crafted products including turned bowls, platters, vases, containers and pens, wall and mantle clocks, kitchenalia, chopping boards,

small furniture and more.

Children will not miss out with a variety of colourful wheeled toys to select from or choose a toy kit to enjoy assembling with kids at home. There's always something for everyone at a Woodies Shop.

As usual, everything at the Woodies Easter sale will be at very reasonable prices and great for your personal use or for gifts. There's nothing better than something locally made from beautiful, resilient, natural timber. If you would just like to call in and browse, you will always be made very welcome. Have a talk to the Woodies on duty about how they create some of their fabulous works – they love a chat.

Or ask how to become a

Woodies member. There are now 106 members, both ladies and men, participating in various aspects of wood crafting in three spacious, well-equipped workshops, as well as enjoying camaraderie, social interaction and creating friendships. The Woodies offers a broad range of woodcraft activities in skill areas include woodturning, toy-making, joinery, pyrography, scroll-sawing, and carving.

If you're interested in joining, or would just like to find out more, email the Secretary at woodiessec@gmail.com, visit the Woodies on the web at wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or find us on the socials at Facebook Wonthaggi Woodcrafters and Instagram [wonthaggiwoodcrafters](https://www.instagram.com/wonthaggiwoodcrafters/).



69th Creative Arts Exhibition

THE CWA Bass group includes seven branches – Cowes, Grantville, Glen Alvie, Loch, Phillip Island Twilight, Woodleigh Vale and Wonthaggi, and over April 13 and April 14, members will present their 69th annual Create Arts Exhibition at the Loch Public Hall.

It was decided 10 years ago to exhibit in the beautiful tourist town of Loch.

Members range from juniors to those who have been a member for over 50 years, and the group are always ready to welcome new members. You don't have to be a cook or a crafter to be part of CWA. Some of the members enjoy the company of other women while being in an organisation that supports vulnerable women and children.

The current group president is Agnes Veldhuizen with the president elect, Susan Hawker.

"I have been a member for 18 months and have enjoyed being a member. It's wonderful to meet interesting and engaging women," said Susan.

The organisation conducts wonderful charity work by supporting local charities, including Milpara House, the

Rochester flood victims and larger organisations such as the Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute which is their thanksgiving fund for 2024.

At the 69th annual event, there will be hundreds of items on display, including plants, flowers, cooking, knitting, sewing, crochet, embroidery and other needle work, hobby work, paper craft, and photography.

Family and friends are also open to enter in a separate section.

There will be a trading table with items such as jams, slices, and plants. There will be a raffle drawn on both days.

"Our famous scones jam and cream will be available with a cuppa upstairs," said Susan.

Different crafts will be demonstrated throughout the weekend. The exhibition is open from 10am till 4pm on Saturday, April 13 and 10am till 3.30pm on Sunday, April 14. There is a small entry fee of \$5 and children with an adult are admitted free.

All membership enquiries can be directed to Susan Hawker 0400 976 603 or by email: susanhawker1963@gmail.com.

The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc.

2023 CWA BASS GROUP 69th Creative Arts Exhibition



**Saturday & Sunday,
April 13 and 14, 2024**

Public Hall, Smith Street, Loch
Member's exhibits & demonstrations.
Open: Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 9.30am-3.30pm
Admission: \$5 adults, children with adults free
Contact: Jacky Dow 0410 416 805

WONTHAGGI WOODIES
Easter Sale
at the WOODIES WORKSHOPS
March 30 & 31
From 10am to 4pm Daily
239 White Road, Wonthaggi
with BCAL, U3A & South Coast FM
LOOK FOR THE SIGNS



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Striving for positive change

JO O'Reilly Stubbs shared her passion for surfing and the environment, highlighting her experiences as a Surf Judge, Photographer, and Environmental Research Scientist.

In a conversation with the Sentinel Times, Jo emphasised the importance of conservation efforts in protecting the coastline and its wildlife and discussed her efforts to enable career paths for women in historically male-dominated industries.

In chatting to Jo, it didn't take long to realise that her initiative to make positive change is inspiring to those who have the benefit of working alongside her.

Jo grew up in Inverloch surfing breaks along the coast from Wilsons Prom all the way over to Phillip Island, with the Inverloch mains still her favourite place to surf.

"My favourite board is a custom shaped 9-foot 1 inch longboard by Surf Beach shaper Chris Williams," said Jo.

Her love for the environment spurred her to move to Melbourne to study an undergrad in politics, a masters in horticulture, and begin a PhD in climate change with the University of Melbourne.

Since returning to her hometown with her husband Andrew, and children Phoenix, Wilco and Tarquin, Jo has taken up surf photography, become the Treasurer of Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC), a Progression Surf Judge with Surfing Victoria, and taken on a new two-year term as a representative on the Bass Coast College Council.

Jo's surf photography has been published online for the Australian Broadcasting Association and Phillip Island Boardriders Club, and in print in the local papers including the South Gippsland Sentinel Times and the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser.

Jo's passions include enabling career pathways for women to encourage their involvement in historically male dominated industries of STEM, scientific research, and the surf industry in competing, judging and media production.

She also consults as an Environmental Research Scientist under her own business Urban Forestry Research, which is also a level one sponsor of the Phillip Island Boardriders Club.

Using her environmental education and role as Treasurer, Jo has recently written a Victorian State Government grant application to obtain \$10,000 to revegetate 0.2 hectares of the PIBC's land, to increase bandicoot habitat and wildlife corridor connectivity in the Bass Coast Shire.

"As treasurer, this financial year I have also applied for over \$50,000 in other pending grant applications for PIBC women's surf programs, clubhouse maintenance and concreting works to enable accessibility for all users of the space."

get involved in water sports

THERE'S always an opportunity to enjoy the water in Inverloch.

The Easter holiday break is the perfect time to try out one of the great water sports available in Inverloch, whether it's to pick up a new hobby, gain a new skill or enjoy the thrill.

Inverloch is widely known for its premium locations for water sports, including kite-surfing, boating and snorkelling.

Stand up paddle boarding has taken the world by storm and Inverloch is no exception.

It is the fastest growing water sport in the world due to its inclusivity.

It is easy to pick up and people of all ages can participate.

"I offer lessons and hire services on the beachfront of Anderson Inlet. People can come in with no experience and give it a go," Inverloch SUP's Max Wells said.

"The conditions are pretty good this time of year. It can vary, but in general it's a

fantastic time to get out there. It's normally pretty settled."

Kayaking is a beloved activity on Andersons Inlet due to its calm conditions and vision of the Inverloch township from the open water.

It's a great activity to enjoy with the family, and those looking for a challenge can paddle out deeper into the inlet with open water stretching out for kilometres.

Hire options are also available for kayaks.

And, let's not forget surfing with opportunities for private and group lessons available.

Alison O'Halloran of Salty Seas Surf School runs a four-day program during the holidays.

"We get great conditions – lovely with a bit of light wind and 20-degree water," she said.

"I encourage anyone to get in and have a crack. It's not a challenging beach – it's one of the safest on our coast – so people with limited

experience can feel comfortable giving it a go."

Regardless of experience, all surfers are advised to follow all safety precautions.

"Make sure you're with someone, and don't go somewhere that's not familiar to you," Alison said.

"Don't go beyond your own abilities."

Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club patrols the surf beach during busy times and is there to provide assistance and advice.

Members of the club also get involved in water sports to hone their lifesaving skills and get the most out of their local environment and opportunities.

Those who enjoy fishing are encouraged to cast a line from the Inverloch jetty, along the coast or join a fishing charter for the day and try your luck.

New challenges and excitement awaits on the water in Inverloch.



Knowledge.

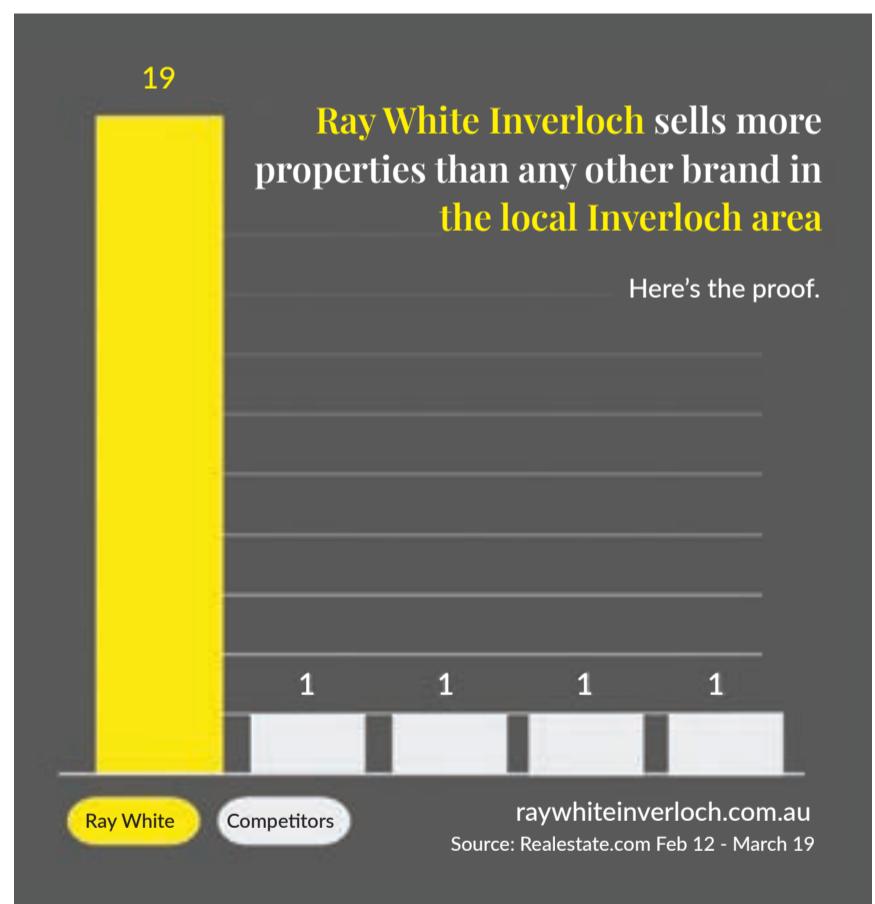
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fine dining

From fish and chips to

ROB Stenson, the head chef at Wonthaggi Club, has a culinary journey as diverse as the dishes he creates.

His love for food began in his school days when chips were hand cut and fish filleted, working at a fish and chip shop, preparing food before school and serving customers in the evening. This early exposure to the food industry sparked a passion that would lead him to become a renowned chef.

Rob's career took off when he started his apprenticeship at The Baths, Sorrento, a seafood restaurant with a focus on weddings. This experience, coupled with his move to Rosebud for an immersive hospitality experience, honed his skills and broadened his culinary perspective. After working at Peppers Moonah Links Resort, his journey led him to a traditional French restaurant in Mount Eliza, Bistro Maison, where he mastered the art of French cuisine, with dishes like confit duck and garlic snails becoming his specialties.

"I wouldn't say it was my favourite,

but we sold a lot of French snails," Rob laughed.

His career trajectory took a turn when he joined the Frankston RSL, a large venue with four kitchens and a brigade of 15 chefs. This experience sharpened his skills and gave him a taste of working within a large team. His next venture was at Beach 162, a Mediterranean restaurant in Frankston. Here, he stepped into the role of head chef for the first time, after a brief stint as sous-chef, managing the kitchen.

"I followed a mentor of mine (to Beach 162), but within about three months he said, 'right, you've got this now, I'm going to leave and you're going to be the head chef,'" Rob recalled.

After years of long hours in the kitchen, Rob side stepped to cafes, working for Barclays (where the old bank safe was converted to a cool room) and then Deoro & Co café in Clyde North, an all-day, award-winning breakfast location.

"The owners went on to purchase Hastings Marina and I became the executive

chef, managing both locations."

The desire for a work-life balance Rob's journey led him to Wonthaggi Club, where he has been the head chef for almost a year.

"It's great to be a part of the Club's strong team. The Club has such a big local presence and it's nice to be a part of that as well."

Rob's diverse culinary background is reflected in the variety of dishes he creates and brings to the menu with his fellow chefs. From mouthwatering slow cooked beef briskets and pork belly to fresh seafood, the taste sensations will delight.

And with a stint at the abattoirs between the fish and chip shop of his youth and his apprenticeship, Rob also has an incredible knowledge of cuts and how to bring even the more commonly referred to lower grade cuts to life, that are tender, juicy and flavoursome.

An exemplary instance was the slow-cooked pulled pork featured in last

week's burger, delivering an unparalleled burst of flavour as the tender meat effortlessly dissolved in one's mouth.

"Lesser cuts require time and patience. My favourite dishes are slow cooked. The meals you can pop on before you go to work in the morning and come home to the amazing, warm smells and the appetite goes crazy."

"We also use the whole cut of meat; I don't like waste. For example, the house-made beef burgers are made from the local Gippsland beef trimmings, similarly the Nasi Goreng from the roast pork cuts. We don't waste any protein."

With a wealth of knowledge and experience across a wide spectrum of cuisines it's no wonder the specials board has seen a welcomed new lease on life. As autumn hits and winter gets underway in the coming months Rob is looking forwards to bringing back the winter classics like lamb shank and hearty pasta dishes.

Up the lazy river at Tarwin Lower

You'll get a warm welcome at the Riverview Hotel at Tarwin Lower including from team member Ainsley Threadgold.



THE reopening of the Riverview Hotel at Tarwin Lower has been well received locally and the venue is now going from strength to strength with live music, a great ambience, fantastic food and a range of beers and wines.

Host Travis Krause couldn't be happier with the response and also with plans to continue refurbishment at the hotel.

"It's a great old pub and fantastic to see it filled again with people having a good time."

As well as a great menu, the food is super fresh and superbly cooked and presented with seafood and steak among the specialties. Here are a few dishes to whet the appetite:

- Moroccan spiced calamari.
- Prawn linguini.
- Bourbon glazed pork ribs.
- Scotch fillet with broccolini, green beans, chips and your choice of sauces.

There's a value kids' menu and desserts as well headed up by the ubiquitous sticky date pudding.

If you're looking for the ideal place to kick back over the Easter, for lunch or dinner, go check out the Riverview Hotel at Tarwin Lower on the banks of the Tarwin River.



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