

Sentinel-Times

SUMMER 2024/25

FREE

DISCOVER

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

ART ADVENTURES

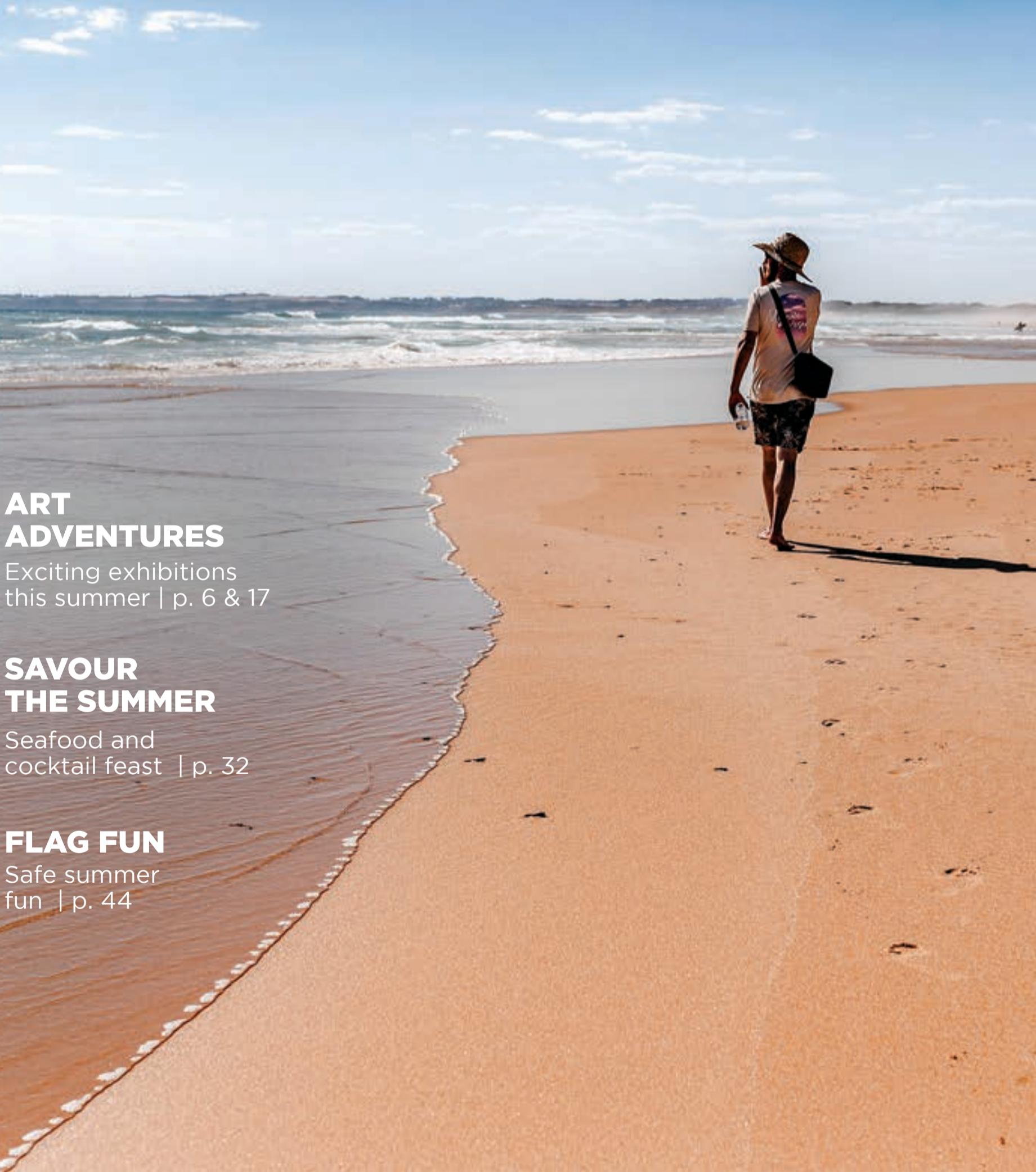
Exciting exhibitions
this summer | p. 6 & 17

SAVOUR THE SUMMER

Seafood and
cocktail feast | p. 32

FLAG FUN

Safe summer
fun | p. 44





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

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

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Sunshine, sand and summer magic...

WHAT a spectacular start to summer and the festive period.

Beautiful blue skies, warm days, grass swaying in the breeze, the fresh scents of salty ocean air, BBQs and summer flowers.

In our fast-paced lives it's easy to get caught up. When was the last time you read a book, enjoyed a magazine (front to back), walked barefoot along the sand, splashed in the waves, people watched.

Last Discover I shared that our summer would be a little different to those past. Well, this year those two little feet are running around. It's chaos but cathartic.

Picking strawberries of an evening before the snails come out, reading books, making memories, learning new things.

We're ticking off a different bucket list, bucket in hand.

Patting animals, taking a walk in nature, visiting the beach, picnicking in the park, watching the sunsets, heading to the library,

baking, tackling little human sized adventures, dining out across Bass Coast and South Gippsland, visiting markets... the list is endless.

What's on your bucket list this summer?

And, as we embark on our summer adventures, whether enjoying the blue waves by the ocean or the clear waters camping by a river, please do remember to take all safety precautions by the water.

Last year was devastating locally and nationally, and if I may take a moment to be selfish, I don't ever want to report that someone's loved ones won't be returning home again. Swim between the flags, swim within your capabilities and remember, our wild coast is spectacular but also dangerous and unforgiving.

Have a festive Christmas with those special to you, hug them tightly and enjoy a safe new year.



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STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

As we enjoy more beautiful weather, 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, Beachsafe app** and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website (lsv.com.au) and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



beachsafe.org.au

Always swim at patrolled locations whenever possible, and 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.





No such thing as a free feed!

FISHHOOKS, fishing lines and waste plastic are the bane of seabirds the world over, but San Remo's famous pelicans, at least, have a friend in the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op.

Certainly, the co-op feeds the pelicans every day (except Christmas Day) but as the organisation's representative Robyne Young pointed out recently, there's no such thing as a free lunch.

"We don't feed them because they're hungry it's just a way of getting them together so we can check on their health.

Feeding the pelicans has been going on for more than 80 years, from the time fishermen used to clean their catch here and the pelicans got used to hanging around. We took over in the 1980s and it's been a tradition all that time.

"We've got approval to feed them but we don't give them a lot, just a small amount of flathead, mainly the heads and tails. They still have to go fishing."

As Robyne explained to the crowd of onlookers, at up to 10 kilograms in weight, pelicans take a bit of feeding,

needing up to two kilograms of fish a day to keep them going.

Speaking on ABC Gippsland Radio recently, Robyne said feeding time gives the co-op the opportunity to check on the pelicans' health, and if they do have a fishhook in their mouth or fishing line wrapped around a leg, they have the opportunity to catch them and to call Phillip Island Nature Parks' vets in to help.

"We count the pelicans every day, male, female and juveniles, where we give them the food. It's only like morning tea. We don't want the pelicans to be reliant on us. It's really checking on their health. And this has been going for a long time in San Remo. We just continued the tradition.

"Pelicans can be a bit bossy and we've got one we call the 'Bully Bird'. He doesn't really hurt anyone but he does love his food.

"We can have anything from one pelican to 70 odd pelicans. We rope off the beach. We have the gear that we wear, fishing boots, big red gloves, hat, and

we take a trolley down, and we have a speaker down on the beach as well so we give a talk, and I've got to say, the pelicans can get very excited when they get fed.

"They're very competitive. They'll try and get a fish out of another pelican's bill, which is interesting to watch. But once they've got their fish, they might go out to the water, or sometimes some walkthrough, just straight through the crowd to the other side, because they need to turn that fish around so they swallow the fish head first.

"I grew up near the Gippsland Lakes and spending time around there you see a pelican catch a fish, and they do kind of throw it up around in that big beak of theirs. Sometimes they're trying to swallow it head first. When they're being greedy or competitive, they'll be in the water. They'll sit in the water, and you'll see the fish sideways in their neck, and so they need to bring that backup, turn it around in their bills.

"To do that they'll often put it back

into the water. So, the bill will take about 12 litres of water, turn that fish around, and then swallow it head first. That's the only way they can swallow a fish. There's no table manners and no chewing.

Robyne has been feeding pelicans most days for the past six years.

"It's just so nice. Number one, to be out in the fresh air. We do it every day, rain, hail or shine, to speak to the visitors and to just be amongst the bird life. The bird life is beautiful, and you see them flying in. We call them mini-jumbo jets as they fly in, it's just lovely to see, and they're often waiting for us in the morning."

Watching the pelicans being fed, looking for koalas at Phillip Island's Koala Conservation Reserve, going to the penguins, learning to surf at Smiths Beach and seeing thousands of seal pups on a Seal Rocks Cruise are 'right of passage' experiences for any young visitor to the Island.

No wonder Phillip Island is so popular, especially at this time of the year.

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San Remo IGA offers local and gourmet lines
Come and shop our great range of groceries, fresh produce,
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Set sail for Summer

PHILLIP Island is a fantastic summer destination to find yourself surrounded by beautiful beaches and nature.

To truly immerse yourself in its wonders, hop aboard a Wildlife Coast Cruises tour and explore the island's vibrant marine and coastal life through various ocean journeys.

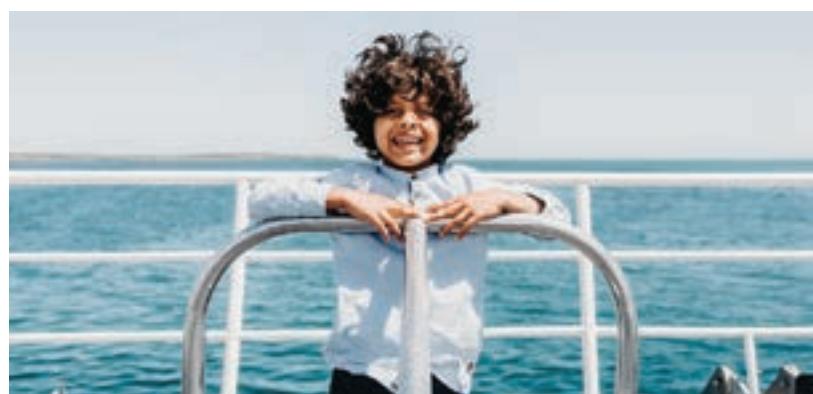
For an up-close encounter with marine life, the Phillip Island Seal Cruise is an absolute must. This incredible tour takes you to Seal Rocks, Australia's largest breeding colony for Australian Fur Seals. Summer is an especially exciting time to visit, as seal pups born between October and December can be seen venturing into rock pools, calling out to their mothers, and discovering their environment. The cruise also treats you to scenic views of Phillip Island's northwest coast, including landmarks like The Nobbies and Round Island, making it an essential activity for visitors.

Beyond Seal Rocks, there's no shortage of stunning areas to explore on Phillip Island, with Cape Woolamai being a standout. Known for its majestic granite cliffs, hidden caves, and remnants of an old

granite quarry, the cape is surrounded by dazzling turquoise waters. You can admire this iconic landmark on the Cape Cruise, a one-hour journey departing from the San Remo fishing village. Afterwards, indulge in fresh fish and chips from the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op, where local flake comes straight from the fishing boats.

For a relaxed evening on the water, the Island Sunset Cruise offers the perfect escape. Departing from San Remo, this leisurely cruise pairs beautiful scenery with a delightful experience. Sip on local wines, savour a grazing board and unwind to the sound of live music as you glide across the bay, enjoying birdlife and a spectacular sunset along Phillip Island's picturesque coastline.

With so many exciting options, getting out on the water is one of the best ways to experience the magic of Phillip Island this summer. Whether you're marvelling at playful seal pups, exploring Cape Woolamai's rugged beauty, or enjoying the sunset over Western Port, Wildlife Coast Cruises offers a unique showcase of the region.



Phillip Island Seal Cruise



Cape Cruise



Phillip Island Sunset Cruise



BOOKINGS CALL **1300 763 739** OR VISIT WWW.WILDLIFECOASTCRUISES.COM.AU

“We are thrilled with this year’s Summer Series line-up which will be our biggest yet and continues to demonstrate our on-going commitment to bringing contemporary art to our community,”



Pop in for pop up as art pops this summer

THIS summer, Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space (PICES), in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council, is presenting its sixth Summer Exhibition Series at Berninnett Art Gallery, Cowes on Phillip Island.

Following the success of PICES new 50x50 exhibition which debuted December 14 to January 1, and put the spotlight on works from 50 artists, PICES returns with its acclaimed Pop Up Exhibition from January 4 – 27 which includes two consecutively curated exhibitions featuring 22 talented artists. At this exhibition visitors can explore a rich variety of art media, including painting, photography, pottery, printmaking, sculpture, and textiles, created by artists from Bass Coast, Gippsland, and beyond.

Pop Up ‘One’ Art Exhibition runs from January 4 – 14, 2025 and features Rob Barron (pottery), Lana de Jager (printmaking), Silvi Glattauer (printmaking), Jenny Jackson (painting), Julie Lundgren Coulter (painting), Anne Mestitz (painting), Lindy Patterson (painting), Karen Preston (painting), Linda Shaw (painting), Liz Tyler (printmaking); Kim Wood (painting), Martine Zajacek (collage)

Whilst Pop Up ‘Two’ Art Exhibition will run January 16 – 27, 2025 and feature Peter Brook (painting), Stephen Glover (painting), Wendy Habraken-Flack (drawing), Melinda Holt (painting), Carolyne Jane (painting), Jillian Mitchell (photography), Kate Stuart (pottery), Candida van Rood (painting), Kylie Watson (printmaking), and

Rain White (painting)

“We are thrilled with this year’s Summer Series line-up which will be our biggest yet and continues to demonstrate our on-going commitment to bringing contemporary art to our community,” said Sandra Peeters, PICES President

“PICES plays an important role as a bridge between artists and art lovers, collaborating with the new Berninnett Art Gallery in Cowes, Phillip Island to promote contemporary art and provide artists with a prestigious, purpose-built space to showcase their work. This exhibition series promises an engaging celebration of regional creativity and talent.”

For more information visit pices.com.au and socials@picesartspace.

22

Artists

PICES POP UP Art Exhibition

**22 Contemporary Artists
2 Exhibitions over 4 weeks**

Showing the works of 22 exciting artists from Bass Coast, Gippsland and Melbourne whose diverse styles bring a vibrant energy to the exhibition, making this a must see for art lovers.



**Pop Up One Art Exhibition:
4-14 Jan, 2025**

**Pop Up Two Art Exhibition:
16-27 Jan, 2025**

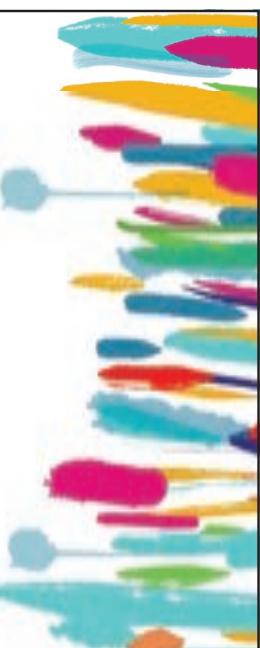
PICES
PHILLIP ISLAND CONTEMPORARY EXHIBITION SPACE

www.pices.com.au

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January 4 - 27, 2025. Open Daily 10am - 4pm
Berninnett Art Gallery, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes Vic 3922

Bringing contemporary art to the community



Discover Australia's most southern tip

Journey to the heart of Wilsons Promontory's natural beauty on a full day of adventure with Wanderer Adventures – Wilsons Promontory Cruises.

TRAVEL from land to sea in specially designed amphibious boats that roll from the beach into the inviting waters of the National Park.

The Ultimate Day Cruise includes close encounters with local wildlife including birds, local seal colonies, iconic natural landmarks and the unique sights of South Point, Australia's most southern mainland lighthouse and the pristine beaches of Waterloo Bay.

Travel to secluded parts of the Prom that few get to see with lunch at the incredibly beautiful Sealers Cove beach.

This tour is an invitation to explore the unspoiled corners of one of Australia's most beautiful national parks. It's the perfect day out for nature lovers and intrepid explorers.

A tour highlight is seeing the granite monolith of Skull Rock which has been sculpted by wind and waves and is surrounded by crystal blue waters.

The Ultimate Day Cruise departs every Wednesday from Tidal River at 10.30am and returns around 4pm.

Wanderer Adventures offers the lowest price cruises at The Prom. Jump on board the Ultimate Day Cruise for just \$295 per person.

With Wilderness and Sunset Cruises also a delight, there has never been a better time than now to explore the Prom from the sea.

Visit wandereradventures.com.au for more information or to book.



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Whirl and twirl at the Island Summer Carnival

READY for a season filled with fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories at the Phillip Island Summer Carnival? Amusement Services Australia has a rich history of over 50 years operating on Phillip Island and the company began with a vision to provide fun and entertainment for families, growing from a small family operation to a well-known name in the amusement industry.

Watkins Amusements have been an integral part of the Phillip Island Summer Carnival for decades, consistently evolving their rides and attractions to enhance the experience for visitors.

Amanda Watkins said they introduce new rides while keeping the beloved classics that families have enjoyed for generations.

"We are known as the big event specialist hosting some of Australia's largest events including Santas Wonderland Adelaide and the Island Summer Carnival to name a few," Amanda said.

"Our diverse range of rides cater to all ages, from children's attractions to extreme thrill rides and our commitment to safety, quality, and creating memorable family experiences sets us apart from other operators."

Some of the staple attractions include Kiddies Kingdom, Dodgem Cars, Space Roller, Cha Cha, and Midnight Madness, which have become favourites for all ages.

This year's carnival will run from December 31, 2024, to January 26, 2025. Open from 6pm until late every night, weather permitting.

"We recommend attending on Australia Day for the spectacular



fireworks display, which is always a crowd favourite," Amanda said.

"This year, we are excited to introduce a new family ride direct from Sartori, Italy. Stay tuned for more details!"

Carnival coupons are the best value and are accepted on all rides and games. You can also purchase showbags and carnival food treats including fairy floss, dagwood dogs, twisted chips on a stick, hot dogs, and slushies as well as some healthier choices - available with cash or EFTPOS.

The Island Carnival sprawls over 8000 square metres, providing plenty of room to enjoy the atmosphere and free parking is available. There is a \$2 entry fee (under twos are free) and there will be portable toilets and wheelchair-friendly facilities. Remember that dogs are welcome if they are on a leash and safe to the public.

"We have established crowd control

measures, including capacity limits and an organised entry system, to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone," said Amanda.

Over the last 50 years, the Island Summer Carnival has sponsored many community groups and activities, including the carols, Little Nippers, Cowes Primary School Fete, Newhaven Primary, Phillip Island Football Club, and the Channel Challenge.

"And as a fourth-generation family business that has spent 50 summers in Cowes, we hope to continue the Island Summer Carnival in Cowes for another 50 years," said Amanda.

"We have been working closely with the new master plan on the carnival site to establish an event precinct that ensures the continued delivery of the carnival for visitors to continue to enjoy each summer."

Be ready to have some holiday fun on Phillip Island this summer!



Take a stroll along Marine Parade

SAN Remo has its hand up for the best seaside commercial centre along the south-east coast of Victoria.

Where else can you stop for a coffee, a snack or lunch where every coast-facing venue has a sheltered vista of the sea?

Take your choice of pubs with a view at the Westernport Hotel or San Remo Hotel, with the Sanny Bakehouse and a couple of other likely candidates in between including Beand Café, which is great for breakfast, lunch and coffee.

Walk to the jetty next for a stroll out to see the fishing boats or if it's the right time of the day, to see the pelicans being fed at 12 noon.

Getting the obligatory feed of fish and chips from the Fisherman's Co-Op and eating them in the park on the foreshore is always a worthy option for visitors and locals alike. Or you can head back the other way to a generous spread of cafés, coffee shops and restaurants all of them with a view of the bridge and Western Port.

Start at The Little Pizza Shop, The Spicy Duck or Kelp Bar and Eatery; stop off at the terrific San Remo IGA Supermarket for your supplies and then move on to the Beachside Bakehouse for great pies and coffee, 'Sanny Side' Brews Food & Tunes or Saint Jules Coffee Tucker and Larder.

There's a lot on offer, all facing the bay with a view.

Down past the butcher shop, the post office and the Bendigo Bank you'll come to the very popular Mario's Italian Restaurant, also offering takeaways, next to San Remo Nails and Shorelec Electrical.

Around the corner you'll find Jim's Bait and Tackle and the word from Craig Edmonds is the fish are really biting well in the bay.

San Remo is a great destination on its own, or for a stopping off point on the way to and from Phillip Island, for everyone including retirees who want some sea air and a travel break, surfers stoking the furnace ahead of their next session or families on their way to the beach.

It's an altogether a great little town and the views of the water from every vantage point are to die for.

A guided walk with our unique marsupials!

Connect with nature in an immersive guided walk and discover the unique species that call Phillip Island home.

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Join the
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Koala Conservation Reserve
and get up close to this
Australian bush icon!



Summer fun awaits

GET ready for a summer packed with adventure, laughter, and memories at A Maze'N Things, Phillip Island's ultimate family-fun destination! These school holidays, the award-winning attraction is pulling out all the stops to keep kids – and grown-ups – entertained from start to finish.

Dive into a world of wonder with puzzles, illusions, and brain-bending activities in the Puzzle Island zone. Watch as your kids shrink, grow, and giggle their way through mind-tricking rooms. The whole family will laugh as they try to figure out what's up and what's down!

Outside, the adventure kicks up a notch in the iconic maze. Who will conquer its twists and turns first? Team up or challenge each other to see who can emerge victorious. But the fun doesn't stop there – Parky's Mini Golf is a must-do for the whole family. With 19 holes of quirky, fun-filled putting, it's guaranteed to bring out everyone's competitive streak.

For thrill-seekers, SkyTrail offers a high-altitude challenge that's as exhilarating as it is safe. Watch as the kids (and maybe even brave adults!) navigate the rope course high above the ground, conquering obstacles and fears alike.

And when it's time to refuel, the on-site café is ready to serve up tasty treats to keep the energy levels high. Don't forget to stop by the gift shop for a memento of your day – perhaps a puzzle to keep the fun going at home.

This summer, A Maze'N Things promises something for everyone. Whether you're solving puzzles, putting your way to glory, or mastering the maze, there's endless entertainment waiting. So grab the family, slap on some sunscreen, and make your way to Phillip Island – fun times are guaranteed!

Skip the queue and book online via amazenthings.com.au.



This summer, A Maze'N Things promises something for everyone. Whether you're solving puzzles, putting your way to glory, or mastering the maze, there's endless entertainment waiting.



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Scrumptious strawberries

THERE'S a new journey to be had at Macca's Farm each visit, whether a rosella guides your path along the driveway or the ladybirds flutter amongst the strawberries, and the pigs follow at your feet, there's always a special moment.

Open seven days this January there has never been a better time to take in the peace and tranquillity. Whether walking amongst the rows of strawberries, with new rows added this year, feasting in the café, or delighting at the Strawberry Bar, brimming with strawberry soft serve, sundaes, milkshakes, smoothies and the absolute must-haves, strawberries and cream.

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

After a berry-filled adventure, indulge in the paddock-to-plate restaurant, where the ambience is as delightful as the menu. Seasonal specials promise a mouth-watering journey from breakfast to brunch.

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



New adventures, new encounters

FERN the forest fairy is on a quest to help her friend Kaia Koala find a tree to live in.

Along the way Fern and Kaia Koala meet Giddy the Growling Grass Frog and together the three go on an adventure exploring endangered species and the special roles they play in the environment.

Head on a fresh new adventure these school holidays at Maru Koala and Animal Park, with Fern, Kaia, Giddy and friends, singing, dancing and learning along the way in the brand-new children's show Forest Fairy and Friends.

Running daily from December 26 over the school holiday between

11.30am and 12 noon, the show is sure to delight young and old, and you never know you might even learn something new along the way!

Sheep shearing returns on December 27 under the freshly renovated roof of the Shearing Shed. Both Forest Fairy and Friends and the Sheep Shearing are included in the cost of entry along with a range of fabulous keeper talks, all happening daily.

As you go on your own adventure through Maru learn about the new animals that have joined the park this summer including the echidnas, quokkas and the female lace monitor – watch out Mo there's a new chick in town!

And make sure you don't miss the renowned koala keeper talk. It's been an exciting season with not one, but three baby koala joeys born! The oldest Nova is out and exploring, though she doesn't mind a cuddle still with mum, whilst the youngest Rain is peaking out of the pouch, and spending moments in the outside world clinging on.

Looking for a day out and a chance to step behind the scenes, speak to Maru about becoming a Keeper for a Day, and have the opportunity to get up and personal.

Head to marukoalapark.com.au for more information and to book your tickets today!



EXPERIENCE SUMMER TIME ON MACCA'S FARM

Try our new Strawberry menu

Milkshakes, smoothies, soft serve and sundaes all made with strawberries!

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- View our roaming farm animals
- Relax over a delicious meal from our café
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Toast 24 years of maritime magic

TWELVE hectares under vine, growing nine varieties, Rick Lacey and his wife Maira Vitols run Purple Hen Wines on Phillip Island. An annual wine production of around 4000 cases all coming from the estate vineyard and all made on site, their success continues 24 years on.

The venture began in 2000 when Rick and Maira decided that they would like to move out of corporate and academic careers and get back into something more rural. Both were raised on farm enterprises in peri-urban regions near Adelaide. From the outset, it was envisaged that the venture would be a vineyard winery with an emphasis on cellar door and local regional sales.

But after a year spent looking at alternate regions and sites, in late 2000 Rick met a viticultural stalwart, Denise Miller, who suggested Phillip Island as an ideal location provided, they found a site located in one of the more protected areas on the island.

"As she said at the time, the Mornington boasts sea on three sides – you'll have it on all sides," Rick shared.

Purple Hen has one of the most maritime climates of any vineyard in Australia, being just 500 metres from the

bay of Western Port and a little over two kilometres from Bass Strait.

"Many people are surprised to find that the soils are not sandy, but clay loam over clay subsoils. Again, very similar to much of the Mornington and more general part of the Western Victorian igneous geology. The strongly maritime climate is ideal for aromatic white wines and for red wines with supple tannins. Equally importantly, average temperatures during the ripening period are ideal for Pinot Noir, a variety that to look its best, needs cool moderate temperatures during ripening."

Currently, 16 different wines are made at Purple Hen – four sparkling wines and 12 still wines (six red and six white).

"One of the outstanding features of the site is that it produces wines that are varietally expressive. This varietal clarity stands out in the excellent results achieved in wine shows. Since our first show in 2006, our wines have won nearly 200 medals and 20 trophies," said Rick.

The key challenge they face and the industry around the world faces is human-induced climate change.

"In our first vintage, we began harvesting Pinot Noir on April 6. In 2024 we had

all but finished the Pinot Noir harvest by the end of February," Rick explained.

"The grapevine is very responsive to the climatic temperature trends. Our experience over the last twenty years clearly shows the impact of global warming.

"Our maritime climate will give us a relatively large buffer against the impact of global warming, but it will gradually impact all aspects of production including varietal mix."

Optimising the timing of harvest is the most important management decision in winemaking. After harvest the handling of the grapes and wine-making varies between the different varieties and styles.

"For example, grape crushing and skin contact are important for expressive Sauvignon Blanc but to be avoided for Chardonnay. A reasonable amount of trial and error is involved in getting the best out of your site, but the industry is quite collegiate and through wine shows, industry bodies and general professional interaction there is a lot of knowledge sharing and advice," he said.

"Local patronage is key to our success, both in terms of direct patronage at the cellar door and patronage by local restaurants and bottle shops."

Discover the stories of our Vietnam Vets

THE National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island offers a profound journey into the history and experiences of those who served during the Vietnam War. Home to an internationally significant collection of artifacts and memorabilia, the museum is a place of remembrance, education, and respect, dedicated to telling the stories of service and sacrifice by Vietnam veterans.

Visitors can explore a diverse range of exhibits, including military equipment, photographs, letters, and personal belongings that provide a deeply human perspective on the war. The museum's interactive displays and audiovisual presentations create a vivid connection to the past, helping visitors understand the complex realities faced by those who served.

Beyond the exhibits, the museum's café provides a welcoming space to pause and reflect. Operating from 10am to 3pm, it serves light lunches, coffee, and cakes, offering a tranquil spot to recharge.

Whether you're a history enthusiast or simply seeking a meaningful experience, the museum invites you to learn, honour, and remember.

Plan your visit and discover the stories that shaped a generation and continue to resonate today.

Island Grown and Crafted



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

Music In January: First 4 Friday evenings, visit our website for details.

Cellar Door 11am - 5pm (4:30pm Sundays):

School Holidays: Open 7 days a week

Other times: Open 5 days a week (closed Tues and Wed)

Public Holidays: Closed for most public holidays

96 McFees Road, Rhyll, Phillip Island

T. 5956 9244

www.purplehenwines.com.au



National Vietnam Veterans Museum and Café

Open 7 days
10am – last entry 4pm
Ph: 5956 6400

- Holographic light & sound show.
- Audio visual interactive devices.
- Aircraft, helicopters & Centurion Tank.
- Nui Dat Café for coffee and snacks.

FASCINATING FOR ALL AGES



25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven, Phillip Island - vietnamvetsmuseum.org

Information is your starting point

WHETHER it's information about the safest beaches for swimming, tickets to the penguins or information about your ongoing journey through Bass Coast and the Greater Gippsland area, the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) at Newhaven has you covered.

The same goes for the visitor information centres in The Hub at Inverloch and also at Berninneit in Cowes.

Likewise, South Gippsland's visitor information centre at Foster is open 10am to 4pm daily while the Citizens Advice Bureau, in the Memorial Hall at Leongatha, is open Monday to Saturday.

The award-winning VIC at Newhaven, in particular, provides a great starting point for any holiday in the region offering not only information on local attractions, natural and commercial, but also an easy booking service for a wide range of accommodation and activities, including tickets to the world-famous Phillip Island Penguin Parade, but hurry, the whole summer season at the penguins is selling out fast.

They offer the Phillip Island Nature Parks '3 Parks Pass' providing admission to the Penguin Parade General Viewing stands, the Koala



Conservation Reserve and Churchill Island. While you can book to see the penguins once in the following six months, the pass is valid at the Koala Reserve and Churchill Island for the next six months.

recently, a family visiting from Melbourne's western suburbs gained a wealth of knowledge from the helpful staff.

"You've got the Chocolate Factory just over the road, there's Churchill Island nearby as well, a working farm where you can have lunch and coffee, there's the Vietnam Veterans Museum and further along the Koala Conservation Reserve where you can see koalas from the elevated boardwalks," they said

"Across the road is A Maze'N Things, which offers all sorts of activities and

further on into Cowes, there's tenpin bowling, Clip 'n Climb and Grumpy's mini golf and we also have tickets here to the Penguin Parade.

here to the Penguin Parade. "If you're looking for a safe place to swim, the Cowes beach is best. You need to be very careful when visiting the beaches on the ocean side of Phillip Island and only swim at the patrolled beaches.

"There are cruises on the water, including a cruise to Seal Rocks and once again we have the tickets for those here as well."

With literally hundreds of pamphlets, some of them making special offers and a range of souvenirs, the visitor information centres really are the ideal place to start your holiday, or day trip to Phillip Island, Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

*The award
winning Visitor
Information Centre
at Newhaven,
in particular,
provides a great
starting point for
any holiday in
the region*



We're All In This Together!

Locals, Visitors, Wildlife & Tourism



Scan to
learn more

www.visitphillipisland.com.au

DESTINATION
PHILLIP
ISLAND





Grill, smoke, bake or braise

GET THOSE culinary juices flowing by grilling, smoking, baking or braising this season with the best products around and expert advice from Home Cook & BBQ, a family-owned business, who've been around for over three decades.

With the enticing smells of the humble Aussie BBQ wafting through the air these summer months, Home Cook & BBQ in Wonthaggi are proud to help out those inspired to try new recipes, gadgets or products to feed and entertain.

Throw a shrimp on the barbie with one of the exclusive models of Weber that are available, try out that traditional pizza recipe with a versatile

Ooni pizza oven; or cook the best cuts of meat to perfection with Traeger, one of the most popular and versatile pellet smoker brands around.

As well as stocking a wide range of the best BBQs, pizza ovens, and smokers, also available are BBQ rubs and sauces, pots and pans, and a huge range of outdoor cooking accessories.

All indoor cooking and baking needs are taken care of by Home Cook & BBQ too, with trays, tins, bowls, kitchen appliances and much more.

Add a touch of style and sophistication to the kitchen with cookware and tableware from some of the best

and biggest brands like Maxwell & Williams, Krosno, Global, Anolon, Esteele, Bamix, and MasterCraft.

Unwind at the end of the day using the best glassware and get prepared for the festive season with cocktail shakers and mixers, decanters, ice trays and mixology books; or up the coffee game in the new year with a coffee grinder and new accessories.

Home Cook & BBQ was born from the owner's love of food, homewares and sustainability, trying many of the products themselves before they hit the showroom floor. Confident in the items they sell, the team enjoy finding affordable and quality wares to make cooking easier.

This summer, Home Cook & BBQ is the one-stop shop for providing the equipment needed to see the MasterChef within emerge, make life easier with a range of gadgets, or simply supply gorgeous homewares to add style to spaces or to share as gifts.

They also offer a competitive commercial section where they can source the best brands in the industry for professionals.

"We appreciate the support of the community shopping with us, as it allows us to give back where we can to the community which we have done for 30 years," said store owners, Kanen and Leanne Dicker and their daughter Lucy Sharpe.

SUMMER ENTERTAINING STARTS HERE

Shop our large range of BBQs, smokers and accessories including rubs, sauces and spices



Treager smokers



Weber Genesis



Weber Kettle



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SPECIALIST
DEALER

HM12167



The view, the wines, the Gurdies...

IF YOU haven't yet visited The Gurdies Winery, then, as they say, do yourself a favour over the summer holidays and take a drive to 215 Gurdies-St Helier Road, The Gurdies.

Your first impression as you arrive is spectacular, with lush green vines stretching away from the driveway and magnificent views of the surrounding countryside on one side, and the magnificent vista of Western Port and French Island on the other.

From this unique knoll in the Bass Hills, you can see it all and that's before you park and experience the rustic charm of the cellar door building, and patio, its breathtaking views and the wine.

It's absolutely superb and while they do offer 'Grazing Platters' of cheese and local produce, you're also welcome to bring a picnic or nibbles with you. The Gurdies does however cater for weddings and special events, and they offer a superb selection of wine.

The Winery produces a range of

varietal and blended wines made from eight varieties of estate-grown grapes, using traditional wine-making processes. The wines are typically cool climate in style, the most popular being Riesling, Verdelho Chardonnay, Chardonnay, Rose, Pinot Noir, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Shiraz and a new Sparkling Red.

The best way to discover your favourite is by ordering a selection of the likely candidates for tasting at a modest price, and enjoying the view while you discuss wine, and whatever else takes your fancy.

It's the perfect scenario for a relaxing hour or two... and the view, what a view!

The Gurdies Winery at 215 Gurdies-St Helier Road, The Gurdies is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday (and school/public holidays every day) from 11am-5pm. Phone 5997 6208, email info@thegurdieswinery.com.au or website thegurdieswinery.com.au.



**THE
GURDIES
WINERY**

Stunning Views & Exceptional Wine

VISIT OUR HIDDEN GEM

**All our wines are produced from estate grown
grapes, and complemented with all the local
charm and hospitality that our region has to offer.**

Art is a gift

ARTSPACE Gallery is buzzing with creative energy this summer, inviting visitors and locals to immerse themselves in a vibrant showcase of talent.

The current exhibition, open to all artists, runs until January 26 and promises a feast for the senses with its diverse and inspiring collection.

Shining a light on highly talented and accomplished professional artists from across Bass Coast and Gippsland, many boasting accolades, their styles and mediums span an impressive range, from traditional techniques to bold contemporary expressions, including 2D and 3D works such as paintings, printmaking, drawings, ceramics, wood, glass, and jewellery.

Phil Hendhall, Marlene Abela, Janet Budge, Ursula Theinert, Marj Reni, Deb Watson, Lisa Buckley, Linda Shaw and Susan Hall are just some of the artists on display.

Environmentally conscious, the artists have exhibited and sold nationally and internationally with a large selection featured in the Bass Coast Shire Council Collection.

ArtSpace is renowned for their expertly curated exhibitions, which change every six weeks, allowing a wide range of artists to exhibit and keeping the experience fresh and engaging for visitors.

Not for profit, their professional curatorial team, all artists themselves, lend their creative expertise to each installation both within the walls of the Centennial Centre and outside with highlights including the Inverloch Art Show and Save Westernport Woodlands Exhibition at the Goods Shed in Wonthaggi to name but two.

A hub, ArtSpace is more than an exhibition space filled with artwork and gift shop items available for sale; the venue also doubles as an information centre. Volunteers with a wealth of knowledge and experience can share maps and brochures, information of walking trails and coastal cruises, music and live performances.

Friendly and knowledgeable, the team of volunteers ensures every visitor feels welcome.

For those seeking a unique artisan gift, especially last minute, the gallery's boutique selection features beautiful original textiles, ceramics, jewellery, glassware, cards and wood-work.

The only major art gallery in Wonthaggi with ample parking and wheelchair friendly, it's a must visit destination this summer. Open daily from 11am to 3pm (closed Christmas Day and Good Friday).

Supporting arts for artists and art lovers pop into ArtSpace today.



GROW, PLAY, STAY!

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85 Desmond Road, Wattle Bank



Excavation, Lisa Buckley acrylic



Fruit Salad, Deb Watson, glass

ART is a GIFT

Open to the public until
Sunday 26 Jan 2025

Our Summer Selection of a diverse range of art and artisan gifts created by our talented and award winning Bass Coast and Gippsland artists.

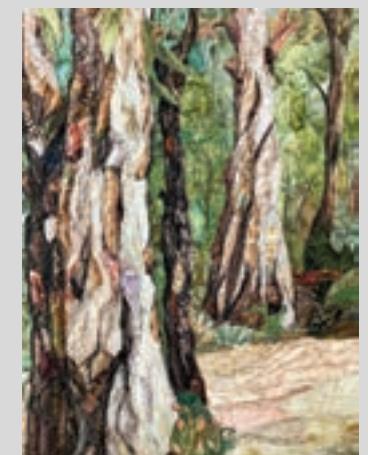
Paintings, Prints, Photography,
Glass Art, Ceramics, Sculpture, Textiles,
Jewellery, Literature, Artist cards.

Artworks and artisan gifts are for sale.

Information and maps on sight seeing,
walks, bike tracks, tours, activities, wine
and food brochures also available.

Friendly service.

FREE ENTRY
All Welcome



Forest Beauty, Janet Budge, fabric collage

Visit us The Centennial Centre,
1 Bent Street, Wonthaggi
ONLINE www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au
BY PHONE 5672 5767
BY EMAIL artspacexhibiting@gmail.com
OPEN Daily 11am - 3pm

Wonthaggi
ArtSpace
GALLERY

ArtSpaceWonthaggi

HM12/22



Show n' Shine roars back to life

AFTER the high success of this year's Show 'N Shine and Swap Meet in Wonthaggi, the 2025 event is shaping up to be just as big on Sunday, January 26.

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

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

Gates open 6am for Swap Meet stallholders, then 8am for the public.

Car and driver \$15, everyone else (passengers and pedestrians) \$5 each.

Judging cut off 9.30am sharp!

Award categories will once again include Presidents Choice (best overall), Best Aussie Original, Best Aussie Muscle, Best Tuff Street, Best Hot Rod, Best Vintage - Pre 1950, Best Bike, Best Paint, Best Interior and Best Engine Bay.



The ultimate all abilities playground

ARE you searching for the perfect spot that guarantees laughter, excitement, and unforgettable memories? Look no further than the Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre, a hidden gem brimming with joy for visitors of all ages and abilities.

Nestled in Cowes on Phillip Island, the entertainment hub is a wonderland that covers every taste.

Bowling enthusiasts will be in their element with state-of-the-art lanes that blend fun and competition. Whether you're a seasoned pro or a casual player, the welcoming atmosphere and helpful staff ensure everyone has a strikingly good time.

For those younger there are ramps on hand, and for those requiring a little extra assistance retractable handle bowling balls are available.

After a couple of rounds down the lane, dive into the exhilarating world of lazer tag. A futuristic battleground and strategic gameplay offer a thrilling adventure for all abilities. But watch out - the competition might surprise you!

If you prefer different kinds of competition, the centre also features table tennis, pool tables, and an air hockey table. Gather your friends for friendly matches, showcase your skills, or simply enjoy the fun. The expanded arcade offers a mix of classic and

new games, appealing to both the young and the young at heart. Challenge each other and test your gaming prowess.

With a café and licensed bar, the entertainment complex is open daily until late. Enjoy \$25 unlimited bowling each evening from 6.30pm to 9.30pm during the school holidays (minimum four per lane, no bookings required).

Whether it's sweltering heat or pouring rain, make a beeline for Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre these holidays.

Strike it lucky, score a turkey, dodge the lazers and race against the clock!

No matter your age or ability, there's something for everyone!

AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND

SUNDAY 26TH JANUARY 2025

SHOW'N SHINE & SWAP MEET

WONTHAGGI POWER FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB

WONTHAGGI RCC RESERVE

GATES OPEN 6AM STALL HOLDERS \$15 CAR & DRIVER

8AM PUBLIC ENTRY \$5 // U15 FREE

JUDGING CLOSES 9.30AM SHARP

FOR MORE INFORMATION KRIS BAKER 0400 899 991

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\$25 UNLIMITED BOWLING, LAZER TAG & TABLE TENNIS

6:30PM - 9:30PM

EVERY NIGHT THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

MINIMUM 4 PER LANE

Excludes New Years Eve

PHILLIP ISLAND TENPIN BOWLING & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE

5952 3977

www.pitenpin.com.au

91-97 Settlement Rd Cowes

Whether it's flat water and wind on Anderson Inlet or the waves rolling in at the Surf Beach, Inverloch is a great holiday destination or permanent home.



What's good about Inverloch?

Strategically located between two of Gippsland's favourite destinations, Phillip Island, with its world-famous Penguin Parade, and Wilsons Promontory, Inverloch has much to offer as a holiday destination and permanent lifestyle location for families and retirees.

Its natural attractions are the highlight of course, whether it's great vantage points for whale watching in the winter, including Eagles Nest, fishing and surfing all year round or windsurfing and sailing on Anderson Inlet and swimming at the safe Inverloch Surf Beach in the summer... any day is a great day to be at Inverloch.

There are plenty of activities too from the annual Dinosaur Discovery Tours, starting at the Bunurong Coast

Education Centre in the middle of the town, to the regular Farmers' Markets, music events in The Glade and the wide range of dining and refreshment options.

Worth a special note is Paul The Pieman Bakery on A'Beckett Street.

Winners of a multitude of awards and family-owned and run for over 20 years, Paul the Pieman has a delicious array of pies, pastries, cakes, bread and delights to satisfy hunger whether breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea.

With awards stretching from their plain pie to smokey beef, jalapeno and cheese, this scribe is rather favourable to the award-winning smoked brisket and mac n' cheese. But there is something for everyone including gold medal award-winning pepper steak

and Korean BBQ pork pies, through to butter chicken, chicken and leek and chunky beef pies, not to mention the sausage rolls have also taken out their own fair share of awards.

Paired with an éclair, long john or slice, you will be delightfully sated.

Throughout the year, Inverloch hosts a variety of events that cater to every interest including the Inverloch Jazz Festival, Inverloch Classic Wooden Dinghy Regatta and Bass Coast Cycle Challenge.

As well as what's on offer right on your doorstep, Inverloch is also well located to everything that the South Gippsland and Bass Coast area has to offer and your best starting point is the Visitor Information Centre at The Community Hub Inverloch.



Try our awarding winning pies!

Established in 1994, Paul the Pieman's pies are a must try!

A variety of flavours to satisfy your taste buds.



Not only do we have the best pies, we have a large range of freshly baked cakes, biscuits, doughnuts, sandwiches, wraps, and your all your bakery favourites.

PAUL THE PIERMAN INVERLOCH

Bakery/Cafe open: 7 days from 7.30am | 5 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch | Ph. 5674 1722 | Paul The Pieman

HM12187

Discover French Island

A pristine, off-the-grid, eco-destination and a hidden treasure of natural wilderness and wildlife only a short fast catamaran ride from Phillip Island.



NATURALISTE Tours operates 4WD and guided walking tours that offer a glimpse into the diverse isle that is French Island.

The 4WD tours are a wonderful introduction to the Island. Explore the National Park and wilderness environment with ease and comfort in Naturaliste's very own 4WD vehicle. Experienced, local guides offer personalised, authentic touring bringing to life the stories, history and lifestyle that is French Island. They will share their knowledge of island life, history and the treasure trove of flora and, of course, the wildlife, including the iconic koala and echidna.

Go off the beaten track and experience an up close and personal encounter with all of French Island's natural beauty. Take in the silence and pristine beauty of this unique, off-the-grid, eco destination.

For food and wine lovers visit French Island Vineyard, a historic estate situated on the water's edge with a maritime, cool climate, pristine environment and handmade wines. Sail for a day of wine tasting, charcuterie and

cheese plate, estate walk, and a guided 4WD tour. Learn how this small, boutique producer creates pinot gris, pinot noir and shiraz in an off-the-grid and isolated environment which contributes an adventurous character to the wines. The tour includes stops at historical sites, lookout points and koalas in the wild.

For those who enjoy walking try Naturaliste Tours' newest tour – French Island Nature Walk. Embark on a captivating walking tour of French Island, a haven for nature enthusiasts. The island's vast National Park, larger than Phillip Island, beckons visitors intrigued by its untouched beauty. While most of the park remains remote, accessible only to confident hikers, the French Island Nature Walk offers a safe and informative introduction to its diverse habitats. Don't miss the opportunity to witness the closest natural Koala habitat to the ferry. This low-impact tour ensures minimal impact on the island and its community, preserving its pristine allure.

To book a tour visit naturalsitetours.com.au.



Get OFF GRID, take yourself OFF LINE & venture OFF ROAD.

Discover this unique, unspoilt, remote destination.... French Island.



naturalsitetours.com.au or call 03 5257 4570





A ute-beaut pampering

FROM a Mr Magic automatic touch-free car wash to the Tru-Blu K9000® dog wash Inverloch Car and Boat Wash is the convenient place to go for all your car and boat wash needs.

Add to your driving and boating pleasure with a clean motor vehicle and spotlessly clean boat or personal watercraft (PWC).

The Mr Magic automatic carwash at Inverloch Car and Boat Wash is the highest quality touch-free car wash available constructed from the highest-quality components and high-pressure water jets for a sparkling clean finish.

Mr Magic features a pre-soak system, oscillating high-pressure nozzles and onboard rocker panel blasters with no physical contact between the equipment and the vehicle during the wash process.

Inverloch Car and Boat Wash has DIY bays, an automatic touch-free bay, vacuum bays, and a warm-water dog wash to pamper your pooch with loving care.

The wash bays are economical, environmentally friendly, and very easy to use.

Clean your vehicle or boat just the way you like it with a range of different wash options.

The boat and car washing facilities



at Inverloch Car and Boat Wash are eco-friendly with environmentally sustainable collection pits to ensure waste is taken care of responsibly.

For best results use a high-pressure soaker before washing to loosen soil, grit and greasy build-up around the engine and tyres, then a soft brush and spot-free final rinse.

TURBO vacuum facilities will ensure your vehicle is perfectly clean inside and out.

The K9000® Dog Wash is so simple any dog owner can use it.

The dog wash at Inverloch Car and Boat Wash, shampoos, conditions,

and blow-dries in just ten minutes.

Select from a range of wash options on the control panel or extend your dog washing time with extra credit.

Lead your dog into the tub, secure with the simple catch chain and start the wash cycle.

Using a soft-touch adjustable wash gun, premium washing products, fresh, temperature-controlled water and two-speed drying your dog will love it.

Look for Inverloch Carwash & Laundrette on Facebook or you can find Inverloch Car and Boat Wash at 56 Dixon Street, Inverloch.



Protect Phillip Island's wildlife this summer

PHILLIP Island Nature Parks is asking the community to join local conservation efforts this summer and help protect wildlife.

Nature Parks is partnering with Bass Coast Shire Council, the Department of Transport and Planning, Phillip Island Conservation Society and Wildlife Victoria to encourage the community to do their bit to keep wildlife safe as summer approaches.

Kim Noy, Wildlife Ranger at Phillip Island Nature Parks, said community vigilance was important to safeguard local wildlife this summer.

"The wildlife and coastlines of Millowl are part of what makes the island such a special place," Ms Noy said.

"We encourage residents and visitors to be our eyes and ears on the ground so rangers and rescue volunteers can respond to concerns as quickly as possible."

Wildlife affected by extreme heat events may display unusual behaviours. Penguins wandering or lying in the open during hot days is not normal behaviour and may indicate signs of heat stress. If you see this please urgently report this to Authorities.

The Nature Parks is asking motorists to be on the lookout for Eastern barred bandicoots by looking for movement and eye-shine on the verges.

Long-neck turtles can be found crossing roads in summer, particularly near marshy areas, as they move during breeding season trying to find mates and an ideal nesting habitat. If you find them uninjured place them off the road in nearby vegetation.

Residents can help by placing bowls of water in quiet, shady parts of gardens away from people, pets and roads to help wildlife stay hydrated. Using the garden hose to spray mist into trees and shrubs can create cooler niches that wildlife can use to escape the heat.

Take care when driving, especially at dawn, dusk and at night when animals are most active. Newly installed "Care for Wildlife" signs can also help to identify wildlife hotspots.

To report sick, injured, or orphaned wildlife, call Wildlife Victoria's Emergency Response Service on 03 8400 7300 available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

INVERLOCH CAR WASH AND LAUNDRETTE

Car Wash

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- Mr Magic Storm (auto car wash)
- Manual wash ■ Marine flush
- High quality wax and soap
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- Extra large washing machines
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6.00AM - 10PM, 7 DAYS

56 DIXON STREET, INVERLOCH

Cash & PayWave available

HM12150

Chasing light and nature's fury



© Anna Carson

BOLTS of lightning break across the sky, the layers of cloud illuminated. A mesocyclone nicely defined.

It's a stunning ominous supercell thunderstorm captured by Anna Carson, production designer by day and photographer by night. It's also August in the Bureau of Meteorology's 2025 Australian Weather Calendar.

"My family had had an emotional day the night I took that photo. We had to have our 14-year-old pooch put down," Anna recalled.

"I could see lightning flashes off in the distance, so headed out the door and took myself to the end of our road.

"The storm front was in the distance, moving over. I didn't mind just standing there in peace, watching it come across and catching the strikes on camera.

"It just felt like one of those lucky shots... right place, right time!"

It may have been one of those lucky shots, but there are years of experience behind the stunning photographs that fill Anna's portfolio.

"I don't remember picking up a

camera, it's just something that has always been there.

"My grandparents loved their photography, so I guess at some point I was just handed a camera to have a go. I can remember coming home from family holidays and having my film developed, and then my Nanna would offer constructive feedback.

"You didn't quite capture that at the right time of day", or "Your horizon is a bit crooked love"... I still struggle with that!" Anna laughs.

But that guidance steered Anna to find a passion she loves and a world of aurora, storm and astro photography.

"Auroras weren't something I knew anything about until I stumbled across the concept one day on my social media feed. The night I captured my first aurora my youngest daughter was six months old, and I was actually sitting on the bedroom floor of my 18-month-old daughter's room waiting for her to go to sleep. I was scrolling Facebook and there was a suggestion the aurora could be seen that night.

"Not knowing anything about it, my partner convinced me to go for a drive to the end of Punchbowl Road and see what I could get.

"I figured I would go out get a photo of the aurora and that would be it – ticked off the bucket list. Here I am now, nine years later still photographing them!"

It was mid-October when Anna shot her first aurora and at that time the Galactic Core of the Milky Way was low on the western horizon; creeping into her photos.

Thus, her astrophotography passion was founded.

"Most auroras and the intricate details of the stars aren't something the human eye can always see, so I think for me it comes back to that magical feeling you get and that "wow" moment when you see an image appear on the LCD screen on the back of the camera – much like the image appearing on the photo paper in the dark room. It's the same feeling for lightning strikes and storms too. They happen so fast, and it's a buzz when you

nail capturing it on camera."

And whilst film and days spent in a dark room fill Anna's memories of learning the trade, and still hold a special place in her heart, digital also has its home.

"I started out learning on my grandparent's 20-year-old SLR camera which was fully manual. I would shoot mostly black and white film and complete my own processing and development in the dark room. This process is what really drew me in. There was something magical about watching your images gradually appear on the photo paper while floating in the developer tray under a red light."

Inspired by black and white landscape master Ansel Adams whilst studying, Anna now takes inspiration and learnings from fellow photographers.

"(Adams) would have a final image in his mind as he pressed the shutter, and he knew while on location exactly what he was going to do in the darkroom to achieve his final image, and he knew how to push the limits of the medium.

Influence clothing

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Beautiful clothes/top brands. Evening and casual wear

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ANZ Arcade, 32-34 Bair street, Leongatha (opposite IGA carpark) **5662 5111 or 0409 742 186**

“Most auroras and the intricate details of the stars aren’t something the human eye can always see, so for me it comes back to that magical feeling you get and that “wow” moment when you see an image appear on the back of the camera.”



There is a lot of stigma in today's world about "photoshopping" our images, but in reality, all we have done is swap the darkroom for a computer screen.

"Adams manipulated his images in the darkroom through processing techniques, filters, dodging and burning to achieve his results, now we do that inside a computer program."

And whilst Anna shudders at some of her early work, it has all built her into the competent skilled photographer she is today, though a few black and white landscapes developed by hand still hold a special place in her heart.

"I have many stories to tell from my (photography) adventures. A few dropped and broken lenses, I've been chased by herds of cattle, scared by an echidna rustling in the bushes at night and ankle-deep in freezing water to name but a few.

"I (also) took a bad fall one night at the wreck of SS Speke, ended up pretty bruised and sore, but most importantly, I saved my camera!"

Whilst wild weather has most hunkered down inside, Anna recalls the storm that would eventuate into the Grantville bushfire, bringing down a huge tree 10 metres from where she sat in the car on her way home from work.

"It was a timely reminder to always respect Mother Nature."

On the other hand, there are also the moments of sheer beauty.

"The Mother's Day Aurora 2024 was one of those unforgettable experiences that you just pinch yourself and ask, "Did that actually happen?"

"There had been a number of Coronal Mass Ejections launched from the sun in the direction of Earth. In the early hours of May 11, we had our first CME impact here on Earth.

"I was up around 6am, as my daughter had to play netball, but we were covered in pretty thick cloud. I spent a good part of the day at the local netball and football, and my phone was non-stop pinging with notifications and alerts. I remember checking the space weather live charts at one point – I had never seen the

numbers look anything like it, so I knew something special was happening.

"I arrived home around 5.30pm and had an hour to get myself fed and out the door ready for darkness. My two girls, who after nine years are no stranger to me running out into the dark, asked if they could come – curious about the auroras. My partner agreed to bring them out once I could confirm the conditions.

"I headed to the Mouth of the Powlett. Even during the twilight, the aurora was clearly visible, and the cloud situation was clearing. I sent my partner a back-of-camera shot with the message "It's on" to which I got a response "We aren't going anywhere until they've brushed their teeth!"

"My partner and two girls came out to meet me. Being able to share this moment with my family and hear the absolute awe and amazement in my girls' voices is what made this night even more special.

"They then went home to bed, and I continued on my merry way through

the night.

"I headed out to Eagles Nest, back home in San Remo to pop a battery on charge, over to Pyramid Rock, back to San Remo beach stopping briefly at Cape Woolamai on my way. I didn't get home until 4am.

"One thing I have learnt is that events like this are very rare and when presented with the opportunity you have to make the most of it, and pulling an all-nighter with no sleep was a small price to pay.

"Some of the naked eye aurora that night was just jaw-dropping, and not something I'm likely to forget in a hurry."

And whilst life has kept Anna busy and unable to produce her annual calendar for the last two years (here's hoping it makes a comeback for 2026!), fans can grab a copy of the BOM 2025 calendar by visiting shop.bom.gov.au/calendars.

For those looking to purchase specific works reach out to Anna on her Seabraise Photos social sites: facebook.com/seabraise or instagram.com/seabraisephotos.

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Leongatha Golf Course 'never looked better'

THE Leongatha Golf Club is number 60 in the list of the best 100 public access golf courses in Australia, but you get the impression that they are determined to climb further up that list if at all possible.

And, following the appointment of course superintendent Cal Gray in February 2024, the course has never looked better and it's at its very best right now ahead of what is expected to be a busy summer of greens fees paying visitors and scheduled competitions and events.

And that's no disrespect to previous administrations.

After 14 years at Lang Lang, Cal came in with a wealth of knowledge about course maintenance and some firm goals around making the Vern Morcom-designed course the best it could be and nine months later, it looks a picture from first tee to 18th green.

So, what have you been concentrating on?

"Just trying to get the course back to its best condition, back to where it was some years ago. We're rated 60th among the top 100 public access courses in Australia and we want to stay in that position, if not better.

"We've been working to get the playing surface back to how it's looking now, our greens, our fairways, I'd say 80 to 90 per cent back to where they should be. We've been doing a heavy renovation program. We'll do that twice a year. Get the soil correct, and then the grass follows.

"The course is looking fantastic, it's awesome."

General Manager Kate Rowe agrees.

"The other thing is that we've bought the equipment to do coring in-house. So, we did our first in-house coring, completely coring a month ago and it's really come back well. Delighted."

The other main development is the upgrading of the popular driving range with concreted and synthetic grass practice bays and a newly sown grass verge, still in the growth phase, but the driving range is already open and fully operational.

So, if you want to hit a bucket of balls, play a round or two, check out the pro shop or simply call by to take a look; there's never been a better time to visit the Leongatha Golf Club.



Giving golf a future in



In a good sign for the future of golf, more and more young sportsmen are taking up the challenge including Wonthaggi locals Blake Cornelis, Cooper Lindsay, Brodie Mabilia and Ethan Dickison playing in the Saturday comp recently.



THE green rolling hills of South Gippsland and Bass Coast are the byproduct of the region's consistent rainfall and moderate climate.

And the region's golf courses and golfers are a direct recipient of that.

The local area boasts a number of Victoria's best public access golf courses with the Leongatha Golf Course ranked 60th best course in Australia and Yarram Golf Course rated Australia's No. 1 Volunteer Run and Maintained Golf Course.

But equally, Phillip Island, Wonthaggi, Lang Lang and Korumburra are all quality golf courses which present different challenges and features while local courses at Mirboo North, Meenyan, Foster, Woorayl in Leongatha, Red Rocks Golf Course on Phillip Island and Welshpool are all worthy of a visit.

And a holiday, weekend or day trip to the region could easily have one or more of these well-maintained courses on the agenda.

A noticeable trend in golf in recent years has been the popularity of the game with young sportsmen from other codes especially football, initially using it as passive exercise before applying their competitive instincts and driving their handicaps down.

As well as rounds of 9 nine holes and 18 holes, most of the local clubs offer practice facilities including putting greens and some with driving ranges. Enjoy.

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South Gippsland



The locals are very friendly at the Wonthaggi Golf Club with plenty of kangaroos coming out later in the day and into the evening, usually after the golf has concluded.



WHERE TO GO GOLFING

Lang Lang Golf Club

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

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

Meeniyan Golf Club

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

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

Foster Golf Club

7 Reserve Street | 5682 2272
fostergolfclub.com.au

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

Korumburra Golf Club

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

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

Leongatha Golf Course

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

A classic Vern Morcom design that has been a hidden treasure for far too long. It is a scenic layout that covers terrain from hilly to gently rolling with wide Santa Ana couch fairways flanked by natural bushland.

Phillip Island Golf Club

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

Regarded as one of the finest layouts in regional Victoria. Located walking distance from central Cowes and only metres from the beach, the course carves its way through magnificent landscape.

Welshpool Golf Club

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

A nine-hole course of 5388 metres is lightly bunkered and has only slight undulations, will surprise the visitor. With its tight fairways, the course is yet to concede to an under-par score.

Red Rocks Golf Course

(formerly Aussie Golf Ranch)
627A Settlement Road, Cowes
5919 0019 | redrocksgolf.com.au

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

Wonthaggi Golf Club

McKenzie Street
(11 Dr Sleeman Drive) | 5672 3697
wonthaggigolfclub.rbh49.com

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

Woorayl Golf Club

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

The nine-hole course of 5789 metres is slightly undulating and lightly bunkered. It is an all-weather course, which is in excellent condition all year round. Located approximately one kilometre from the Leongatha town centre.

Yarram Golf Club

42 Golf Links Road | 5182 5596
yarramgolfclub.com

Mirboo North Golf Club

18 Galvins Rd, Mirboo North, 5668
1515 | mirboonorthgolfclub.com.au

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Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Agricultural Show

RETURNING bigger and better than ever the Bass Coast Wonthaggi Show has plenty to offer holidaymakers and visitors to the region.

Thousands are expected through the gates at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve for a spectacular line-up of events and attractions from 9am onwards on Saturday, January 4.

Farm and garden produce will be on display along with beautiful needlecraft. A trophy, \$50 cash prize and rosette will be awarded for the judge's choice 'overall' in memory of Margaret Rixon, whilst the needlecraft section includes a 'judge's choice' in memory of Judy Conn.

Collections of homegrown garden vegetables and fruit will be displayed in bowls and baskets, and on plates and boards, alongside home produce

and baked goods.

There are also categories for honey and honeycomb from a hive, local eggs, fresh herbs, veggies growing in a container and decorated saucers of foliage and flowers.

Decorated boots and decorated recycled items are always a crowd pleaser, alongside the children's classic sections.

Horse fanciers will be impressed by a full program of equestrian events, harness horses, Clydesdales and blacksmithing demonstrations including horseshoeing.

A highlight of the 2025 show will be the return of the flyball dog trials.

Flyball consists of a relay race between teams of dogs with each dog jumping over four hurdles, retrieving a ball by triggering a flyball box pedal

then returning over the hurdles to the start line.

Flyball is pure fun for the dogs, handlers and spectators and any dog can enter regardless of breed, size, shape, or formal training.

The first team to have all four of their racing dogs complete a run wins the heat.

Paul Macphail and his much-prized Beloka working kelpies will also be back.

The Bass Coast Wonthaggi Best Ute and 4X4 Show is sure to attract plenty of interest as well as tractors and old-fashioned farm equipment.

Children's artwork will also be on display.

Lots of fun for the whole family with live music, clowns, stilt walkers,

carnival rides, showbags, fairy floss, sideshow alley and a wide variety of food and refreshments.

Children twelve years and under are admitted free and entry for adults and young adults aged thirteen and older remains at \$5.

Entries for pavilion exhibits are free and accepted up to Thursday, January 2 with judging on Friday, January 3, entries for equestrian events are accepted on show day.

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 email basscoastagshow@hotmail.com or look for Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Show on Facebook.

Bass Coast Wonthaggi Show

Saturday January 4th 2025 ~ 9am onwards

- Garden & Farm Produce
- Cookery Jams & Preserves
- Needlecraft Plus Much More
- Equestrian & Harness Horses
- Clydesdales & Blacksmithing
- Dog Flyball
- Working Dogs
- Live Music
- Utes & 4x4
- Animals Nursery
- Stilts, Clowns, Balloons
- Tractors & Old Fashioned Equipment
- Carnival Side Shows
- Show Bags And Novelties
- A Wide Variety Of Food And Refreshments

Admission - Children 12 years and under free
- 13 years and over \$5.00
E: basscoastagshow@hotmail.com

Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve Korumburra Rd Wonthaggi

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Timeless artistry, boundless imagination

THERE is something magical inside Denis Hawkins' studio. His voice, his presence, his artistic suave are part and parcel to the alluring trust one feels in his presence.

Unique creations that shimmer in the sunlight, reworked family heirlooms that have found a new life, and purpose, and those who have been treasured beyond all else and require a little TLC.

The talents of Mr Hawkins see no bounds, for his hands create tiny masterpieces in gold, pigment, wood and metal. You see Mr Hawkins is not just a jeweller, he is an artist, a woodworker and sculptor, amongst other talents – a multipotentiality.

"As long as my hands are working, I'll be right here creating," Denis smiled, explaining that he enjoys working with his hands.

"I am not going anywhere, anytime soon!"

In Denis' world there is no

retirement, and that makes sense when you do something that you love, that makes you thrive and drives your creativity every day.

"Others walk through the forest and see logs and rocks. As I walk I see the potential – the sculptures, the beauty..."

Denis is currently carving the head and bust of a woman in Japanese Cedar.

Black walnut and redgum are other favourite woods of Denis' – with pieces often sitting as ideas form and develop. There is no such thing as just a table.

Back in the artisan jewellery sphere Mr Hawkins stands among the rare jewellers who can masterfully create, craft, and set. And whilst his raw talent flows effortlessly, he is always reading and learning. Honing his skills, learning new techniques and reading about metals and gemstones.

Denis' handmade creations tell a story – a story of artistry, dedication, and individuality.

Each twist of metal, every gemstone placement, and every polished surface reflects the unique vision of Mr Hawkins and his recipient. It's the next level of craftsmanship.

Denis' eye and the beauty he creates is mesmerising.

"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."

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

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

Priceless family heirloom restoration, reimagined adornments or new creations, Denis Hawkins' creations will outlive our lifetime. Jewellery as unique as the one who wears it.

Phillip Island Winery

414 Berrys Beach Rd,
Summerlands | 8595 2155
phillipislandwinery.com.au

Food is made to be shared. Whether it's a catch of the day or locally grown cut of meat, the menu at Phillip Island Winery is more than just the sum of its parts – it's about creating moments to remember.

Tucked away on Phillip Island, this boutique winery offers an unforgettable experience that celebrates the best of Gippsland. Whether you're drawn by the exceptional wine, fresh local produce, or vibrant live music, Phillip Island Winery is a must-visit.

The heart of the experience lies at The Yards, a charming cellar door that combines wine tastings, a provodore filled with local delicacies, and thoughtfully curated gifts to take home. For just \$15, guests can savour a tasting paddle featuring six of the region's finest wines – a fee redeemable with the purchase of two or more bottles.

The warm hospitality and relaxed atmosphere make this winery feel like a home away from home. Whether you're seeking a peaceful afternoon or a lively gathering with friends, Phillip Island Winery's "something special" truly shines.

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 Denis Hawkins

ME125

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66 Koonwarra Road, Leongatha

ME125



On the trail of food, fun and adventure

SPANNING three local government areas, 14 towns and 129 kilometres, the Great Southern Rail Trail, stretching from Nyora in the west to Yarram in the east, is one of the state's best bike riding and walking trails.

The trail, which boasts stunning views of Wilsons Promontory and Corner Inlet from the Hoddle Ranges between Foster and Fish Creek, several major bridges over the Tarwin River and a chance to visit the Long Jetty at Port Welshpool was extended by a further 21 kilometres in August this year.

The trail is best tackled in bite-sized sections, for example, the 15.8-kilometre trail from the picturesque village of Loch to Korumburra with "the mesmerising Hilda Falls" along the way. The easy 8.2-kilometre run between Koonwarra and Meeniyan or the must-do 12.4-kilometre section between Fish Creek and Foster, for those amazing views.

All along the way, you can stop off for breakfast, coffee, lunch or dinner at one of the 14 towns which aside from the scenery are the real secrets to the success of the trail, running the length of the old South Gippsland Railway Line.

And don't miss the Bass Coast Rail Trail, soon to be connected to the Great Southern Rail Trail at Nyora, as the train lines were back in the day.

The trail covers 21 kilometres from the old Wonthaggi Railway Station in Murray Street Wonthaggi and runs to the Woolamai Racecourse. A Bass Coast Rail Trail brochure with further details and a map can be found at basscoast.vic.gov.au/assets/general-downloads/Recreation-and-Culture/Rail-Trail-Brochure.pdf

The Grand Ridge Rail Trail which winds its way over 13 picturesque kilometres between Mirboo North and Boolarra in the Strzelecki Ranges is another great option but if you're only going one way, take the downhill trip from Mirboo North to Boolarra.

As a rail trail, it is unique in being continuously along the site of the railway track and having endpoints easily accessible within the two towns, and also having easy access along the track at the township of Darlimurla. Enjoy.



How international visitors are finding our rail trails

ONE day there'll be a system of 1100 kilometres of rail trails, across the length and breadth of Gippsland, from Mt Hotham in the north-east to Wonthaggi, Cowes, Stony Point and Koo Wee Rup in the west.

Ultimately, they say, it will cost \$55m to \$60m to connect up the whole network, with a pitch already made to government for \$7.9m for immediate works.

Called the Gippsland Odyssey trail, it will be one of the biggest systems of interconnected bike trails anywhere in the world and there are plans to market it to the world as such.

But, the fact is, internationals are already finding Gippsland's rail trails, including the spectacular sections of the Great Southern Rail Trail through South Gippsland from Yarram to Nyora and the Bass Coast Rail Trail running from Wonthaggi to Woolamai, across the iconic trestle bridge over Bourne Creek at Kilcunda.

Recently, the Sentinel-Times caught up with Spanish travellers Mark and his partner Sol who had just done that.

Riding down from Sydney, over the course of three weeks, to be with family on the Mornington Peninsula ahead of Christmas, they were full of

praise for the Gippsland bike trails, especially those in South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

"We came across the hills at Mt Hotham and joined the first trail at Bruthen and we've taken all the trails we could find since then," said Mark, who lives in the south of Spain.

"We came along the Ninety Mile Beach and picked up the Great Southern Rail Trail at Yarram and detoured off to Wilsons Promontory.

"If we could have found some more comfortable accommodation we'd have stayed longer but two days in the tent with the wind blowing a hooley was enough for us. Great scenery

though."

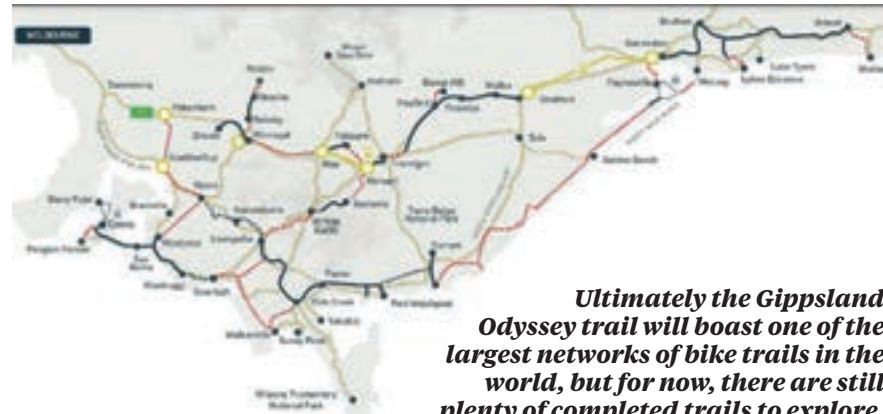
The duo rode over the Foster hills all the way to Nyora where they crossed over to the Bass Rail Trail before joining the bike path to San Remo and Phillip Island.

"We've got a night here to see the penguins and then we'll be off on the ferry in the morning," said Sol.

"It's been brilliant," she said.

And they plan to take their knowledge of the Gippsland trails back with them to their cycling friends back in Europe.

"There's just so much to see and the rail trails in particular are fantastic," said Mark.



Ultimately the Gippsland Odyssey trail will boast one of the largest networks of bike trails in the world, but for now, there are still plenty of completed trails to explore.



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MEE043

Reclaiming stand-up

STEPHEN Fullarton's strength is nothing short of inspiring, especially considering the challenges he faced in June 2021 after he was rescued from the ocean on Phillip Island after suffering from a stroke.

Growing up surfing on the Island, Stephen has a good understanding of the ocean and the conditions, but after a shoulder accident some years before, he moved from a surfboard to stand-up paddleboard (SUP) – learning to adapt then and now three and half years on from his stroke, Stephen said he has learnt to adapt to his limitations so he is able to get back out into the water.

"I'll probably never get into the surf again, not on a surfboard or surf on a stand-up paddleboard but I'm certainly paddling on flat water, and I'm doing a few kilometres at a time," said Stephen.

It took near 18 months of recovery for Stephen to SUP again; however, despite this challenge, Stephen has shown remarkable resilience; a time that required both patience and perseverance.

His next big goal is an ambitious multi-leg paddle around Phillip Island from Cat Bay, past Rhyll over to Newhaven and back to the starting point in Cape Woolamai, contingent on favourable weather conditions.

"I'll do that in four to five different legs," Stephen explained. "Now that we're getting more favourable weather, I'll head out more with my two sons."

Stephen's sons, Sam (33) and Scott (29), share his passion for surfing but enjoy the stand-up paddleboard, often joining him on the water and paddling three to four kilometres at a time.

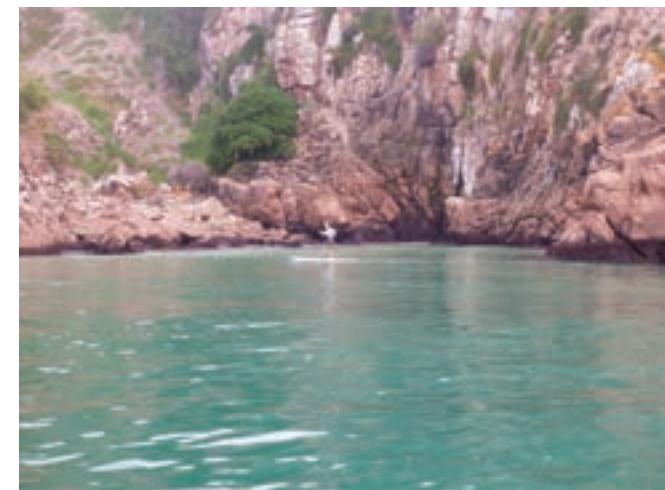
"I tend to paddle locally now, from Cowes out to Ventnor, or the other way, depending on the tide," said Stephen. "I do want to go out to the Penguin Parade from around Cape Woolamai, I've done this before, but I'd like to do it continuously."

These goals are a testament to Stephen's strength and the progress he has made since his recovery. "The longest paddle we've done was 13 kilometres and that took three hours," said Stephen. "Four weeks prior to my stroke, three of us went to Orbost, and we paddled 35 kilometres down the Snowy River from up in the mountains and back to Orbost and that was just magnificent – taking us nearly seven and a half hours."

Stephen shared that having the knowledge of the tide and the wind, he has paddled at Wilson's Prom and several rivers and estuaries in Gippsland, he just loves taking in the untouched scenery.

"Stand-up paddleboarding is a fabulous way to experience the waterway."

the water with paddleboarding





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Why Wonthaggi is a destination town

WONTHAGGI'S role as a business, commercial, retail, health, education and government-services centre is its main game.

The town has several of the 'big box' stores including Bunnings, Kmart, Harvey Norman, Big W, Forty Winks and Cheap as Chips with BCF and Supercheap on the way.

Of course, there's also McDonalds and KFC and a wide selection of retail and other services in a busy commercial centre.

But a broad range of other attractions have turned Wonthaggi into a destination town as well.

Whether it's going underground at the State Coal Mine, setting off on the Bass Coast Rail Trail to spectacular Kilcunda, racing at the motocross track located on West Area Road, the cinema, the art galleries and more; there really is a lot to do in the regional centre.

Another plus has been the \$1.77 million redevelopment of Wonthaggi Guide Park on the western entrance to town, an awesome play space not only offering a mine-themed slide tower, flying foxes, a trampoline, carousel, gentle exercise area and nature-based play but also drinking fountain, bike racks, pathways, fencing, BBQs and picnic tables.

Make Wonthaggi your 'must stop' place on your visit to the Bass Coast and South Gippsland area.



Books to cure wet weather cabin fever

TOO cold and wet for the beach?

Look no further than the Ramalama Book Exchange in McBride Avenue Wonthaggi for a time-honoured cure to wet weather cabin fever.

"We've been in the book business for eighteen years," said Nitjawan Norton.

Any day during the holidays can be perfect for sitting down with a good book.

Family members of all ages can enjoy spending quality time sorting through ten thousand book titles on the Ramalama Book Exchange shelves.

You can also find long-forgotten

film titles on DVD or popular music on CD's.

In between heat waves, wet weather can last several days on the Bass Coast.

What you buy today from Ramalama you can exchange tomorrow and earn up to fifty per cent off your next purchase.

Discover out-of-print books that you can no longer purchase new to complete your collection from a favourite author.

Classic titles are a specialty at Ramalama particularly hard to find Stephen King novels.

Summer holidays are the perfect

time for the whole family to catch up with their reading.

Illustrated books for children, young adult reading for teenagers, crime, romance, horror, mystery, military, art, cooking, craft and a large Australian section are all catered for at the Ramalama Book Exchange.

Ask Nitjawan or David Norton to help with your selection.

Ramalama Book Exchange, the little bookshop in Wonthaggi where everyone gets a bargain.

Follow Ramalama Book Exchange Wonthaggi on Facebook or go to Ramalama Book Exchange on eBay.



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EVERY summer, the Leongatha Memorial Hall transforms into a dazzling kaleidoscope of creativity, pulling the strings of imagination like a maestro conducting an orchestra.

Capturing the creative souls over 48 years, this 21-day spectacle has grown from humble beginnings into one of the region's premier artistic showcases, and this January is no different.

The 2025 Leongatha Art & Photography Show promises to be as vibrant as ever, with entries flooding in from every corner of Victoria, interstate, and beyond. Artists and photographers – seasoned professionals and eager amateurs alike – vie for recognition in an impressive array of 22 award categories. From the delicate dance of light and shadow in monochrome photography to the tactile beauty of 3D creations, the show celebrates the

boundless forms of artistic expression.

This year's event is set to dazzle with its hallmark awards, including the coveted Best in Show, valued at \$1500 – a nod to the most outstanding piece in the competition.

Meander through the exhibition and be treated to a sensory feast with categories for all ages and abilities. Paintings in rich oil hues capture Gippsland scenery; intricate pencil sketches seem to whisper the stories of their subjects. Photographs – some unaltered, others digitally transformed – freeze moments in time, their depth and beauty evoking gasps of admiration. The sculptural 3D pieces, meanwhile, demand to be touched with the eyes, offering a tactile intimacy that invites prolonged wonder.

Renowned and highly regarded, the

Leongatha Art & Photography Show in 2024 saw one in five guests travel from metropolitan Melbourne, while others wove their way from across the Australian mainland and Tasmania and even overseas.

Funds raised through commissions, entry fees, and raffle sales ripple outwards, aiding Leongatha Rotary Club projects locally and globally. Inspiring creativity, inspiring change.

For the 2025 edition, surprises await – perhaps in the form of an ink-drenched masterpiece that captures the essence of Gippsland's gum trees or a young artist's mixed medium that reframes the ordinary into the extraordinary. The People's Choice Award, with its \$300 prize, promises to excite.

So jump in the car, or stroll into town, the Memorial Hall in Leongatha is where it's all at.



Riverview Hotel

11-15 River Drive, Tarwin Lower
5663 5211 | riverviewhotel.au

SITUATED in the serene riverside town of Tarwin Lower, the Riverview Hotel is the perfect place to sit back, take in the live music and satisfy the tastebuds.

With weekly menu specials that cater to every craving, diners can enjoy hearty favourites like \$25 steaks on Mondays, \$22 parmas on Tuesdays, and \$20 burgers on Thursdays.

Outside of the specials, indulge in Moroccan spiced calamari, bourbon glazed ribs, kingfish ceviche or freshly shucked oysters, amongst a list of entrees and shared plates, salads, mains, dinner specials and desserts.

The hotel truly comes alive on weekends with live music every Friday, Saturday night, and Sunday afternoon. Whether you're unwinding after a long week or gathering with friends, the lively atmosphere and talented local musicians make every visit unforgettable.

Open seven days a week from 11am to late, Riverview Hotel offers the perfect blend of delicious food, good vibes, and warm hospitality. Plus, with a convenient courtesy bus service, it's never been easier to make it your go-to in Tarwin Lower.

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Something for you, something for others

THE ethos at Mates Gin is pretty special. Over 50 per cent of their profits each year goes to charities to help better our communities.

Founded by Kim Richardson, the social enterprise's distillery door is open Fridays from 4-8pm and weekends from 1-5pm, and is the bee's knees.

Sun shining this summer surrender to the bold cardamom base blended lightly with notes of liquorice and lemon, finished with a carefully curated drop of Bass Coast honey for a Sweet Surrender – the 2024 addition to the collection.

And favourites are on hand with the Signature Bass Dry, Zesty Mates and Miners Pick gins also guaranteed to satisfy.

Offering cocktails and gin flights, alongside local beers, wine, ciders, soft drinks and food pop in this weekend.

Where something for you creates something for others.

Indulge in The Bees Knees

Ingredients

- 60ml Sweet Surrender Gin
- 10ml Honeycomb syrup
- Dash lime
- Dark soda
- Ice
- Sugar and lime to garnish

Method

1. Rim your cocktail glass with the sugar and add a ball or cube of ice into the glass.
2. In a cocktail shaker add ice, gin, honeycomb and lime. Shake it up!
3. Pour into your glass and top with dark soda.
4. Garnish with a wedge of lime.



Subhajit's Signature Fusion Lobster Mornay

- 1 whole cooked Lobster cut in half
- 15 grams unsalted butter
- 20 grams garlic cloves, minced
- 40 ml white wine
- 100ml milk

Poppy Seed and Cashew Pesto

- 30 grams cashew nuts
- 10 grams poppy seed
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard

Pistachio Crumble

- 1 tsp pistachios, crushed
- 1/4 salt
- 1 tbsp finely chopped parsley

Method

Preheat the oven grill or broiler to high heat.

Gently separate the lobster meat from its shell, ensuring the shell remains intact. Divide the lobster meat into bite-sized portions.

In a saucepan, melt butter over medium heat, then add garlic and sauté for 30 seconds or until fragrant, avoiding burning.

Add flour, stirring rapidly for one minute.

Pour in wine and half of the milk, stirring quickly. Add the remaining milk, continuing to stir until the mixture appears smooth and thick.

Incorporate poppy seed and cashew pesto.

Although the mixture may initially appear lumpy, it will smooth out with continued stirring.

Fill the shells with the lobster and sauce, topping with the remaining cheese. Grill (broil) for 3 to 5 minutes or until the cheese has melted and turned golden brown.

Garnish with chopped parsley and pistachio's crumble.

Serve immediately, accompanied by salad and hot chips (fries).

Seafood feast

... with Executive Chef Subhajit

I WAS born in Kolkata, a city renowned for its vibrant culture and variety of seafood. Growing up in a joint family of over 20 individuals, I was exposed to the art of cooking from a tender age.

At four years old, I would often watch my mother cook, and it was during one such instance that I accidentally burned my hand. This incident, however, sparked a passion for cooking within me, and I began learning the fundamentals of home cooking under my mother's guidance.

By the age of fourteen, I had developed a profound interest in cooking and started volunteering in our family's Indian dessert wholesale and retail business. Following this, I attended the International Institute of Hotel Management in Kolkata, where I specialised in Culinary Arts.

Upon completing my studies, I embarked on a journey to work in high-end restaurants, country clubs, and hotels across the globe, including India, Malaysia, Italy, Australia, and more, accumulating over 12 years of experience.

As a professional member of the Australian Culinary Federation and a young chef Olympic mentor, I have had the privilege of contributing to the culinary world. My accomplishments include being a TripAdvisor People's Choice winner for the number one seafood restaurant.

Currently, I hold the position of Executive Chef at The Wonthaggi Club, where I strive to provide the community with exceptional multi-cuisine dining experiences. I invite you to visit us and indulge in our signature dishes at The Wonthaggi Club, located at 16 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi.

Where something for you creates something for others



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South Gippsland Garlic Festival is back in 2025

Indulge in the aroma, savour the taste, take home a rare varietal, learn about its potent prowess, and meet the proud growers of the revered culinary delight that is garlic, at the South Gippsland Garlic Festival.

HELD over the long weekend in March, Saturday 8 is when garlic lovers are invited to come along, wander down Garlic Street and meet the dedicated, local growers proffering their freshly harvested and cured garlic crops.

These are small, passionate growers who put their hearts into every clove, producing hard-to-grow and rare cultivars that can't be found on supermarket shelves.

Find creole varieties such as Rojo de Castro and Spanish Roja, renowned for their superb blend of spicy and complex flavours, hot and zingy when eaten raw and mellowed to deliciousness when cooked.

Among others, Monaro Purple, Tasmanian Purple, Purple Stripe and Italian Late varieties will be on offer, with a milder hit while raw and a wonderfully nutty flavour when cooked.

Home gardeners can learn how to grow garlic at home and with what varietals, from the doyen of Australian garlic Penny Woodward, who will be presenting as part of The Garlic Institute Sessions.

Other expert growers will be sharing their secrets of success in the Institute's series of talks and education sessions throughout the day.

A spotlight will be on growers who are relatively new to the industry, and who will share their experiences and encourage others to start or keep

growing garlic at home or commercially too.

Home cooks can get inspired and elevate their culinary game at the festival kitchen.

Simon Toohey, a contestant from Season 11 of MasterChef, will be the host of the festival kitchen and he'll be keeping four local chefs in line while they hold demonstrations of cooking and preserving with garlic.

Mouths will be watering before too long and a great range of food vendors will satisfy appetites, each offering a dish with Australian garlic as the hero.

A garlic food passport will be available for those more adventurous and wanting to try a few novelty dishes, think garlic beer or garlic ice cream, (which may or may not sate the appetite).

A festival bar will exclusively showcase local distillers, wineries and brewers and will be set up close to the stage, so punters can enjoy the live music from a range of great artists.

A dedicated entertainment space for the kids will have the little ones laughing along with Dinkum Dinosaurs, alongside other great acts and activities.

For those visiting from Melbourne and further afield who wish to further explore the region a village display will have a range of tourist information available.



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EXPLORE SOUTH GIPPSLAND

where life draws you in



**SOUTH
GIPPS
LAND**

South Gippsland is full of activities that can be enjoyed in the summer season. Here are just a few of the many things to see and do in our region.

Great Southern Rail Trail

The Trail spans 130 kilometres between Nyora and Yarram. When you use the Rail Trail, don't forget to call into the various townships along the route to experience the friendliness and charm of country living.

Coal Creek

Coal Creek offers visitors a unique experience to step back in time and immerse yourself in life of the early 1900s.

Throughout the year, the Park also becomes a hub for live entertainment and exhibitions, hosting artists from around the globe. Whether you're after a historic experience or contemporary event, Coal Creek offers a little something for everyone.

Markets

From fresh produce to local crafts, South Gippsland boasts a number of farmers and artisanal markets. Every weekend is an opportunity to explore a new town and community hospitality. Support local and enjoy all the region has to offer at our many markets.

Beaches

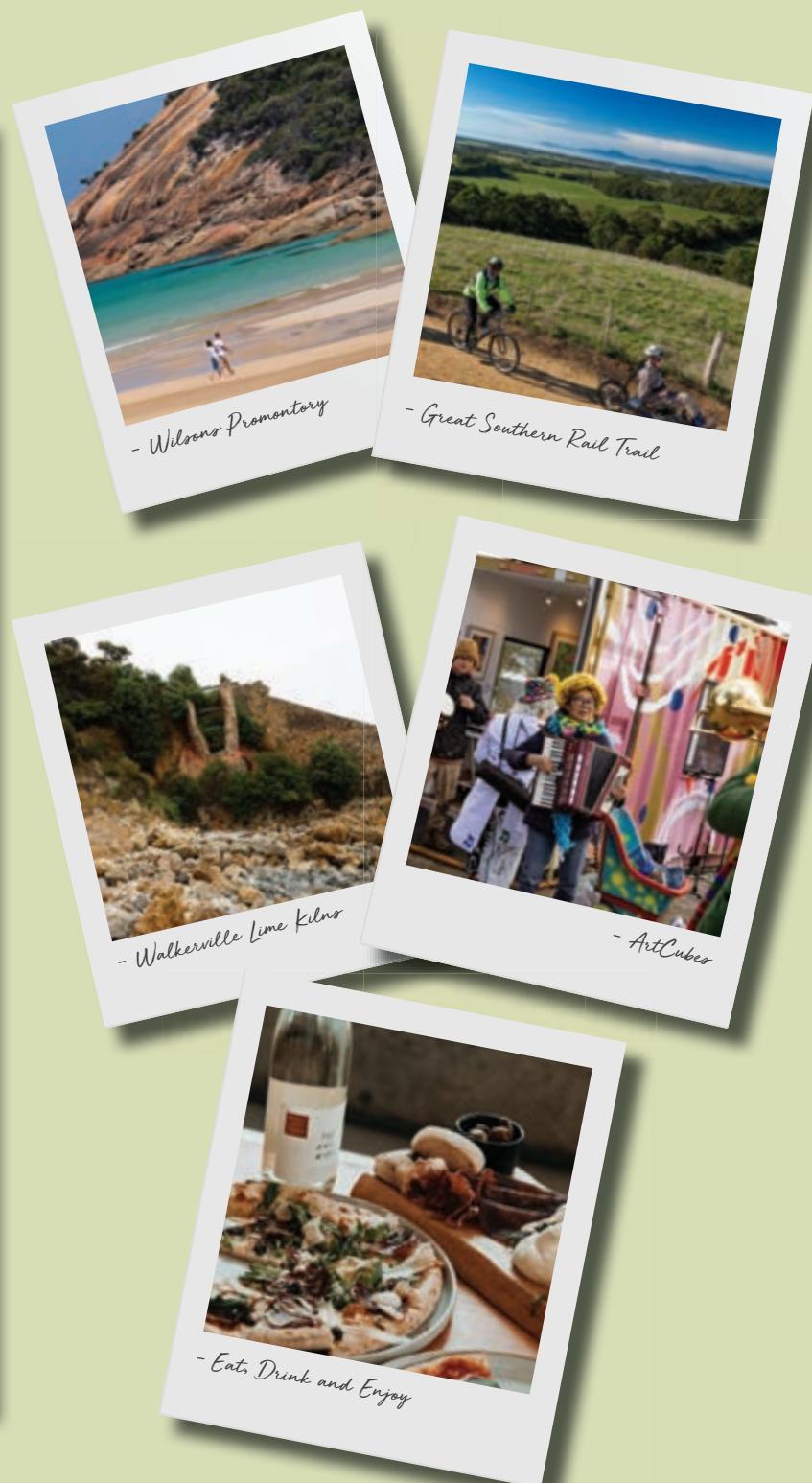
Summer is synonymous with the beach so it's only fitting that a visit to the coast is on your summer checklist. From Venus Bay to Wilsons Promontory and all the swimming spots in between, South Gippsland offers a myriad of beach activities. Walk, swim, surf, fish, paddleboard, kayak the list goes on.

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

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

Summer in South Gippsland Checklist

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





Cakes, pastries, and breakfast fit for a King

"CREAM and jam with your scones Ma'am?"

Graze Deli and Bakehouse in McBride Avenue Wonthaggi will place a dollop of cream on your scone first with lashings of jam to follow if you prefer scones in the royal tradition.

How would they know?

Chef Alan Earle would know.

Having started his career at the Savoy Hotel in London Alan will neither confirm nor deny he has cooked for the Queen or King, royal etiquette requiring the utmost discretion.

Chef Earle and his wife and business partner, Karen, refuse to cut corners on quality ingredients.

"I only use butter in my cooking," said Alan.

"Lard and shortening may be much cheaper but they are not good for you."

Located in the heart of Wonthaggi,

Graze Deli and Bakehouse serves great sandwiches, burgers and the finest quality delicatessen cheeses and meats sourced locally and overseas.

"We have an extensive range of fresh meats and cheeses along with dry produce such as pasta, sauces and stocks."

The range of cakes at Graze Deli and Bakehouse is awesome and delicious.

For a Sunday treat try Graze Deli's classic egg custard tart made in the time-tested tradition of the Channel Islands.

A chef for over thirty years working in some of the world's finest Michelin-rated restaurants Alan brought his young family to Kilcunda for a better lifestyle. Sponsored by the Killy Pub, Alan and Karen quickly fell in love with the Bass Coast.

"The Savoy Hotel was a long time ago, but, at the time, it was one of the most prestigious hotels in the world – you

did everything."

Including preparing food for Buckingham Palace it seems.

Alan Earle sticks to traditional recipes and makes his own bread.

Breakfast can include Spanish, Italian or Turkish eggs cooked to perfection.

Surprise yourself with French toast 'pain perdu' so authentic you could be sitting in Jersey or Calais overlooking the English Channel if not for the Bass Coast's warm summer weather.

Graze Deli and Bakehouse also make their own cheeses.

Chef Earle is coy about his signature dish.

"The family eats everything I cook, as long as they're not doing the cooking."

Our advice would be to try Alan's Cheesy Bun Baxter Burger or a smashing meat pie or sausage roll hot from the oven.

"We have an extensive range of fresh meats and cheeses along with dry produce such as pasta, sauces and stocks."

COME IN RELAX AND ENJOY



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Flip out this summer

KID'S fun is covered this January with Summersalt Gymnastics Summer Holiday Program back from Monday, January 13!

With no experience required, regulars and visitors to the coast are welcome to come along and join in the flipping good fun; a perfect indoor activity to escape the sweltering heat or a cold, rainy day; keep the kids active and entertained.

Burn off lil-groms energy as they build confidence, develop fine motor skills and confidence, whilst having the time of their lives and letting their imagination run wild.

For those school-aged let their imagination thrive as they create, innovate and learn through play. Practising their ninja and trampoline skills, amongst an array of others.

Catering for a range of ages and talents, owner Chelsea Caple has designed a convenient online timetable for parents to pre-register their children's holiday session.

Two, one-hour sessions will run every Wednesday from 9.30am until 10.30am and 10.30am until 11.30am for children aged one year to preschool; and on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, movement educators will run two, two-hour sessions for kinder to teens, from 9.30am until



11.30am and 11.30am until 1.30pm, plus a Wednesday session from 11.30am until 1.30pm.

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

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

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

Celebrating a special occasion in January? Don't miss out with birthday party slots available between 2.30pm – 4pm between January 13 and 24.

And the fun doesn't stop when the holidays finish. Flipping Freestyle is the newest addition to the term timetable, allowing those six to ninety-nine years to pop in on a Tuesday between 5.30pm – 6.30pm for a casual class. Plus, all the favourite regular classes will be back.

So why wait! Jump on in for a flipping good time.

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



Town with a view looks better than ever

EVEN after you've driven along the Bass Highway towards Wonthaggi thousands of times, the view across the spectacular shoreline at Kilcunda, as you crest the hill on the western side of town never ceases to delight.

But there are even more reasons now to pull over and take in the view, stop for a beer on the deck of the iconic Killy Pub, call in at the reimagined Kilcunda General Store or enjoy lunch at the fabulous delicatessen in Udder & Hoe.

The highway stop with the killer view has had a real makeover in the past year with the State Government investing \$7.8 million to improve traffic flow, safety and accessibility. Traffic lights, service lane and better-defined parking have transformed the town which is continuing to grow as a residential option.

There's a terrific skatepark beside the Oceanview Holiday Park on the ocean side of the road where the Bass Coast Rail Trail heads off towards the Trestle Bridge and near where you'll find access to the George Bass Walk access, both offering equally spectacular ways to enjoy the magnificent scenery.

You've probably seen more and more people sitting out there on a sunny day, at the pub or in front of The Sticks, enjoying a coffee, lunch, a beer and the view and that's especially likely to be the case when the summer hits its peak this year.

SUMMERSALT
13TH JAN - 24TH JAN

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School Age 9:30- 11:30 11:30 - 1:30	School Age 9:30- 11:30 11:30 - 1:30	1yr - Pre school 9:30 - 10:30 10:30 - 11:30	School Age 9:30- 11:30 11:30 - 1:30	School Age 9:30- 11:30 11:30 - 1:30

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THERE'S nothing better than good pub food done well, live music and a place where thongs, boat shoes and Blundstones come together.

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It's unashamedly cracking parmas made from real chicken breast and homemade napolis. Fish straight from the boat and a James Squire beer batter. Gippsland beef, or the best pork ribs getting around.

And, it's always been about the music at The Westernport, where stars are made, and mind-blowing gigs happen.

When an impromptu sleep-over beckons, when you've danced the night away, there's great pub accommodation upstairs.

To top it off, not only do The Westernport love throwing a party, but they love throwing your party – contact them today about functions and events of any size or description.

The perfect spot to unwind after a day at the races.



Off and racing at Woolamai and Stony Creek

WHETHER it's under the spreading shade of the huge elm trees at the Woolamai Racetrack or enjoying the family fun at Stony Creek, you can experience country racing at its best at these two popular racecourses over the summer.

The local racing season has already kicked off at Woolamai on November 30 and December 21 and we're all set for the end-of-year celebrations at Woolamai on Saturday, December 28 and at Stony Creek on Monday, December 30.

Racing dates are as follows:

- Saturday, December 28 Woolamai Whirlwind Race Day
- Monday, December 30 Brandt Family Fun Day at Stony Creek
- Saturday, January 4 Saturday Racing at Stony Creek
- Saturday, January 11 Woolamai Kids Day Out

- Sunday, January 12 School Holiday Racing at Stony Creek
- Saturday, February 8 Alex Scott & Staff Woolamai Cup
- Sunday, February 9 Publicans Day at Stony Creek
- Saturday, March 1 Phillip Island Health Hub Day at Woolamai
- Sunday, March 9 Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup

Woolamai and District Race Club Secretary Abby Boyle said the club is as popular as ever with racegoers, trainers and jockeys.

"We've been making regular improvements at the racecourse, removing our old toilets and erecting a new toilet block and concreting all the sheds and pavilions which is good news for the customers and also for our staff," said Ms Boyle recently.

"We're booked out for hospitality sites this Saturday but we certainly

welcome everyone to come along through general admission."

Not to be left out, Stony Creek Racing Club is also officially launching its season this Monday, December 30, well and truly in the festive season with their Brandt Family Fun Day, followed up on Saturday, January 4 with the club's big School Holiday Race Meeting.

Thanks to further funding from the State Government, announced in September by Minister for Racing Anthony Carbines, customer services have received a major makeover including upgrades to the public bar, the TAB area that will feature a new customer service hub, and the race day office. There will also be a new alfresco deck and shade sail.

See you at Stony Creek... or for picnic racing at its best at Woolamai over the summer.



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STONY CREEK RACES

RACE DATES



MONDAY 30 DEC 24
Brandt FAMILY FUN DAY

SATURDAY 4 JAN 25
SATURDAY RACES

SUNDAY 12 JAN 25
SCHOOL HOLIDAY RACING

SUNDAY 9 FEB 25
PUBLICANS DAY

SUNDAY 9 MAR 25
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Walk your way to a special piece of The Prom

WILSON'S Promontory is one of Australia's best-loved and most accessible National Parks.

And everyone who comes to 'The Prom' finds their own special place, their own reason for loving the Prom.

Whether it's the sense of arrival that the first rugged view of Whisky Bay and Picnic Bay provides as you travel along Wilsons Promontory Road full of expectation.

Or maybe it's the looming spectre of Mt Oberon, the wide expanse of the beach at Norman Bay, the 350-million-year-old granite rock formations, the crystal-clear water, the quick camaraderie of the camping ground, the convict-built lighthouse or the bush as far as the eye can see...

There'll be something in particular about the Prom that will take on a

special significance for every visitor and the best way to find your piece of the Prom is by walking.

And that's the beauty of the Prom. It's just as good on a cool autumn day or a sunny summer afternoon when you have the choice between overnight walks and easy day strolls, or simply reading a book in a shady campsite or a glorious beach day at Whisky Bay.

The walks, though, are the best way to introduce yourself to the Prom, or to revive past memories and among the best are two walks close to home at Tidal River:

1. The Loo-Errn Track to Tidal River and Squeaky Beach walk:

The Squeaky Beach walk of four kilometres takes about 1.5 hours. Winding along the Tidal River banks towards the coastline, this two-part walk

connects Loo-Errn track with Squeaky Beach walk. Loo-Errn is an easy 30-minute walk and, with wheelchair access, it's perfect for people with limited mobility. Start at Tidal River's information centre and wander the boardwalks through swamp paperbark forest and over delicate wetlands to the river. Walk over the footbridge, where you can fish or watch for birds. Here, you can also take a short detour to Pillar Point, where the lookout offers awe-inspiring views over Norman Bay and the islands. Back on the Tidal River footbridge, follow the Squeaky Beach Track (for one hour) to stroll along white quartz sand that squeaks beneath your feet.

2. Mount Oberon Nature Walk:

This seven kilometre walk takes two hours and is rated at moderate to

difficult. Watch the vegetation change on this steady two-hour return climb to Mount Oberon's summit. Start at the Telegraph Saddle car park and follow the short series of steps to the rocky outcrops on the mountaintop. At the summit, you'll be rewarded with panoramic views over Tidal River, the coast and offshore islands. Be sure to pack warm clothing as the summit can be cool and windy even during summer.

The Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk is another walk close to Tidal River that's well worth an hour and a half of your time.

Overnight walks to the Lighthouse and other Wilsons Promontory landmarks are others worth pursuing.

Check out the Wilsons Promontory day walks at parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/wilsons-promontory-national-park/things-to-do/day-walks.



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Discover the underground

PERFECT all year round. That's the temperature of the State Coal Mine and we were surely glad when we visited on a sweltering hot day to experience the slightly varied mine tour. It's also perfect for those over five years of age on wet days!

Not for the faint hearted, the underground mine tours are back at the State Coal Mine after a hiatus. There's only one catch: It's a walking tour, and that means descending the steep tunnel gradient, following in the footsteps of the miners themselves. It's a spectacular way to experience the mine.

Our journey starts above ground with Parks Victoria Ranger Elio Piasente. Explaining how the State Coal Mine came to be in 1909, we were filled with fun facts and information.

Did you know that red stone, a by-product of the mine, was used for the 1956 Melbourne Olympic running track?

With coal estimated to be more than 150 million years old and tunnels encompassing nearly 5000 kilometres, almost 17 million tonnes of coal was produced in the 59 years of operation.

Hard hats on it was time to head underground.

Fellow visitors reminisced on their first visits to the mine, which included the late pit pony 'Copper' and cart transporting them underground, for others, it was the open carriages.

As the heat picked up outside, the mine was perfect. According to Elio and the team, underground is the perfect temperature all year round, rain, hail, or shine.

Whilst a team of volunteers work

underground once a week, ensuring the safety, upkeep and preservation, the authentic nature of the mine provides the perfect step back in time, a time when one can experience the primitive conditions of black coal mining.

Kicking the thunderbox to shoo the rat away, to miners' lunchboxes being tin, Elio and the team of guides are filled with fascinating stories and information.

Did you know – For years at Wonthaggi the question was: "How long will the mines last?" The reply was: "As long as Dr Sleeman".

The very day that the last mine closed Dr Sleeman died. (Wonthaggi Express, December 21, 1968)

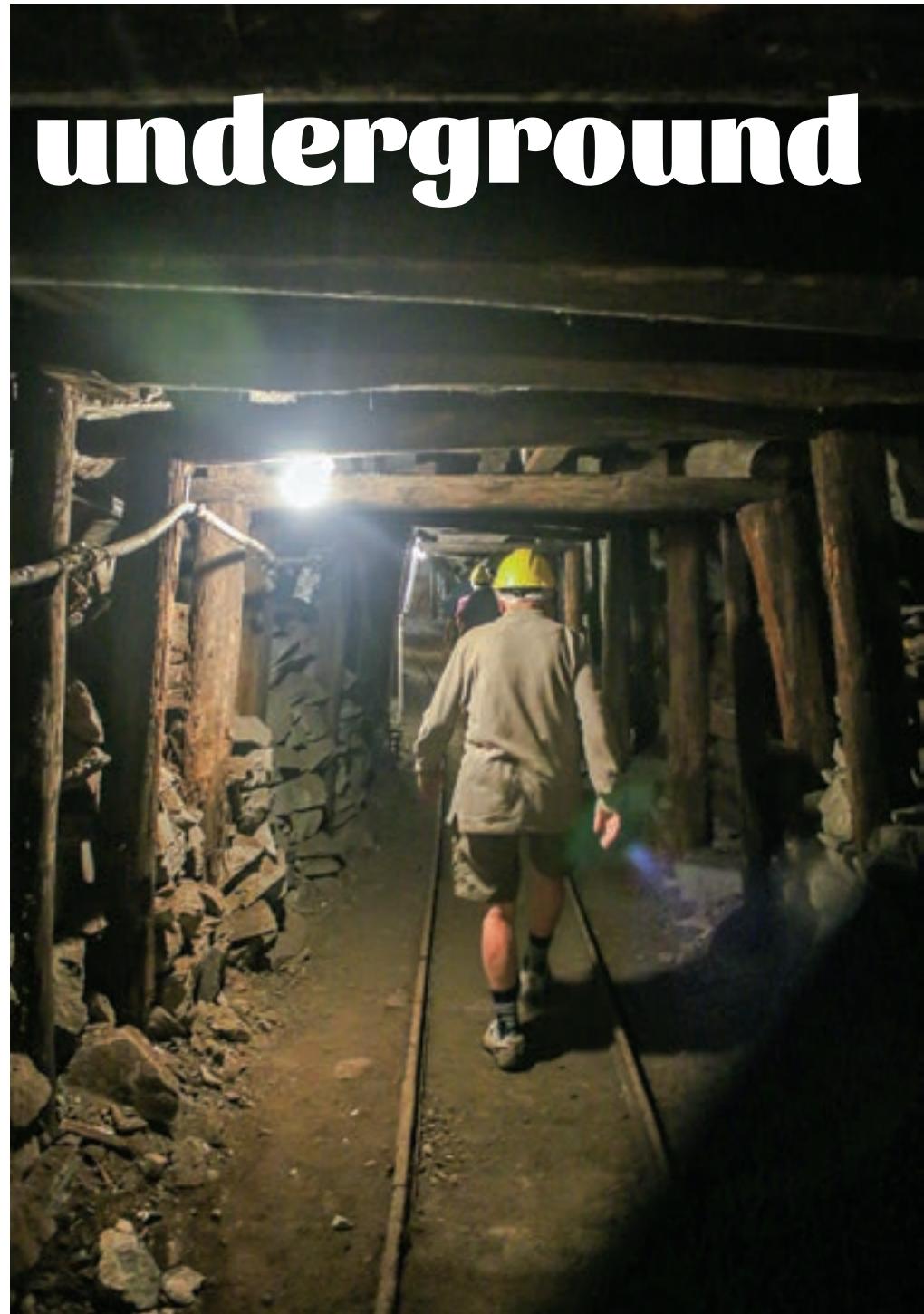
Above ground, there is plenty to see and do. Say hi to the canaries, peep inside an old Miners Cottage, learn about the miners tokens and when your feet are weary head into the café for a bite to eat and drink.

Refuelled and ready for the next adventure, pop by the Friends of the State Coal Mine shop.

And whilst the mine prophecy may have come true, it certainly is a mine supported by a passionate group of people who will never give up telling the history of the 'tent town' and State Coal Mine.

Wonthaggi State Coal Mine is open 10am – 4pm daily (closed Christmas Day) with free entry.

Underground tours run daily at 11.30am and 2pm with additional tours during holiday periods. The tour takes 60-90 minutes, closed-toe shoes must be worn. For prices and to book the tour visit bookings.parks.vic.gov.au/state-coal-mine.



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Underwater world

THE enchanting coastline is synonymous with local tourism.

Local diver Steve Dunn helps the community and tourists alike discover the magic of the underwater world along Bass Coast and South Gippsland through his fascinating marine life videos posted online.

Growing up with the influences of his father – a lifelong member of the Royal Brighton Yacht Club – and his mother – a swimming teacher at Brighton Baths Health Club – it is no wonder Steve developed a love for the water from a young age.

His water-based adventures started when he swam around the rocks with goggles on while holidaying in Flinders, on the Mornington Peninsula, at the age of six.

It developed into an affinity for spearfishing at the age 13 and he was given his first diving course when he was 18 – he's been diving ever since.

Steve came to the area in 1978 to take on his first teaching job in Outtrim.

In 1979, he ran the South Gippsland Dive Club, which attracted divers from Inverloch, Cape Paterson, Wonthaggi and Phillip Island.

The club ran through to the mid-90s.

Steve also started the Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club in 1980 and retired from the sport in 2017, winning awards along the way for his contribution to the sport.

“Since retiring from hockey, I completed a freediving course. I've only dived on tanks once in the last eight years,” he said.

Steve completed his course through Adreno near Southland.

In 2016, he decided to start filming the wonders he was seeing along the local coast.

“GoPros are fantastic. With the housing on it, you can go down 50 metres. It's meant to be waterproof up to 10 metres without the housing,” Steve said.



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"I film with a long stick and the housing on the GoPro, usually to about 15 metres."

"As kids, we would dive off Elwood and Brighton Beaches, and there'd be lots of stingrays, flounders, flatheads and dusky morwong."

"My grandfather had a holiday place in Flinders, and the fishlife is very similar across the Southern Ocean. We are starting to see some blue groper in the ocean here. They're probably coming down from New South Wales as the weather has gotten warmer."

One of the most magnificent experiences of his life was witnessing a Southern Right Whale up close at Cape Paterson's Undertow Bay in 1987.

Steve said he has dived locally many, many times, and the reef fish that live in the area tend to stay in the area; he can recognise fish each time he dives.

"I've also seen a lot of stuff disappear. In the 1980s, I would dive with the club at Bicheno on the east coast of Tasmania and there used to be kelp forests. Since the 80s, 95 per cent of them are gone," he said.

"A reason for that is the sea urchins – they've exploded near Tasmania. Also, in the 80s, the current in Tasmania used to be the Southern Ocean cold current and it was very nutrient-rich. Since climate change, the East Australian current is getting warmer. It hasn't got as much nutrients in it and the east coast of Tasmania is three degrees warmer, which is a real extreme."

Locally, Steve has spent time diving right along Inverloch, Cape Paterson and Harmers Haven, and has tank-dived in the San Remo Channel, Smiths Beach, Pyramid Rock and near the Pinnacles on Phillip Island.

He has also dived off Arch Rock in Cape Liptrap and at Wilsons Promontory.

Steve hopes the vision he captures around these areas will help educate others.

"As a young bloke, I was more of a hunter. Now it's very much about conservation," Steve said.

"I post a lot of videos on Facebook. I've given some videos to the South

Gippsland Conservation Society and to schoolteachers. If ever the schools are doing things on Inverloch beach, they'll give me a ring and I'll show them the footage. I've gotten a lot of good feedback – most people seem to enjoy seeing it."

Steve has shared his footage with Inverloch and Kongwak primary schools, and Bass Coast College, as well as community groups like the Cape Paterson Residents and Ratepayers Association, and local social media groups.

For interested divers this summer season, Steve advised becoming familiar with the conditions.

"You have to allow for no swell and the wind direction. If it's easterly, you have to go between Cape Paterson and Harmers Haven, because east is offshore. If you've got a north westerly, you can go between Cape Paterson and back into Inverloch," he said.

"Don't go when it's not suitable. As long as there's offshore wind, no swell and clear water, you're all good. If there's swell, it's just not safe."



Locally, Steve has spent time diving right along Inverloch, Cape Paterson and Harmers Haven, and has tank-dived in the San Remo Channel, Smiths Beach, Pyramid Rock and near the Pinnacles on Phillip Island.





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Beat the heat and stay well

WHILE hot days may entice you to head to the beach, remember that heat poses real risks to your health and safety.

The Department of Health's Better Health Channel website states that heat kills more Australians than any other natural disaster.

"Extreme heat can affect anybody. Those more at-risk include people over the age of 65, babies and young children, pregnant women, people with acute or chronic health problems and people who are socially isolated," the website states.

"Heat-related health problems occur when our bodies can't cool down well enough to maintain a healthy temperature, or become dehydrated through sweating.

"Heat can cause serious and potentially fatal health problems such as heat exhaustion and heatstroke, trigger sudden events like heart attack or stroke, or worsen existing medical conditions like kidney or lung disease."

To help protect yourself and others from extreme heat, stay cool and hydrated, and remain inside during the hottest parts of the day.

For first aid tips for heat-related illness, go to: betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/heat-stress-and-heat-related-illness.

If you need urgent medical attention come to the Emergency Department at Wonthaggi Hospital, 235 Graham Street, Wonthaggi or the Urgent Care Centre at the Phillip Island Health Hub, 50-54 Church Street, Cowes. Bass Coast Health operates both facilities 24/7.

In South Gippsland, head to Gippsland Southern Health Service's Urgent Care Centres – located at both Leongatha (66 Koonwarra Road) and Korumburra (65 Bridge Street).

**COME AND TRY
OPEN DAY**
Friday, December 27
10am – 5pm



Safe summer fun

LOOKING for a fun way to entertain the kids this summer and refresh their water safety skills?

Wonthaggi Life Saving Club has a wide array of activities on offer, from their yearly nippers program which kicks off on Saturday, December 28 to the Bronze Medallion Camp from Monday, January 6. There's also the hit family fun evening Hoy sessions.

Never heard of Hoy, you're not alone! Head along on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7.30pm and learn about the bingo-like card game that has been around for decades.

It all kicks off on December 27 at the bay beach life saving club with the Come and Try Open Day.

Pop along from 10am to 5pm for free family fun and learn all about Wonthaggi Life Saving Club and their summer water safety programs.

Then on December 28, it's underway with Nippers. Dive on in each morning for fun beach activities and

surf safety lessons. Learn about the lurking dangers on the beach and in the water in a safe and friendly environment. Develop surf awareness, sun smart philosophies and meet new friends over 14 sessions. And best yet, it's the perfect way to kick start a future in lifesaving, including competitions.

For those 13 years and upwards the Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC) provides the perfect introduction to basic patrolling and surf awareness. Over 21.5 hours between Sunday, January 14 and Friday, January 19 train in signals, radio operations, resuscitation, surf awareness and rescue skills, enabling participation in basic lifesaving patrol activities.

For those 15 years and above, it's time to jump into the Bronze Medallion. Similar to the SRC, the Bronze Medallion equips participants with the skills to patrol on the beach over summer. Learn emergency care, spinal management and on-the-job

patrol training.

Established in 1938 on the shores of Cape Paterson Bay Beach, Wonthaggi Life Saving Club is no stranger to the dangers of the water. As you head out on your summer adventures, remember to not only slip, slop, slap, seek and slide, but say hi to your life savers, and when hunger strikes head up to the café for a bite by the many volunteers.

With spaces still available across the water safety program, don't get caught out this summer.

To register or learn more about the upcoming events on offer head to wlsc.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events.

Outdoor movies are also back this summer, weather dependent, head to Wonthaggi LSC's Facebook page for more information.

And remember, only swim between the flags this summer – head to beachsafe.org.au for beach information and patrol locations.



WONTHAGGI LIFE SAVING CLUB

Home of the famous Cape Paterson Bay Beach Rock Pool

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB THIS SUMMER

NIPPERS

BEACH & LIFESAVING PROGRAM FOR 5 TO 13 YEAR OLDS

Open Day Friday, December 27, 10am – 5pm
Uniform pickup, age managers and come and try day
The Nipper Program is held at the Wonthaggi Life Saving Clubhouse on the following dates and times:

December 2024

Saturday 28, Sunday 29, Monday 30, Tuesday 31
January 2025

Thursday 2, Friday 3, Saturday 4, Monday 6, Wednesday 8, Friday 10, Saturday 11, Monday 13, Wednesday 15, Friday 17

Club Champions Saturday, January 11

Nipper sessions run from 9.30am to 12pm,
plus time at the conclusion of the session to pack up.

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Tuesday, January 7

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Tuesday, January 14

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NESTLED along the serene shores of the Bass Strait, Inverloch has long been a favourite getaway for those seeking the perfect balance of relaxation and adventure. Within this charming coastal town, BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch offers a unique and unparalleled holiday experience that brings the natural beauty of the region to the forefront while providing top-tier accommodation and a welcoming environment.

For families, couples, and solo travellers alike, the accommodations offered by BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch are second to none. Spacious rooms, modern amenities, and private outdoor areas allow guests to unwind and enjoy their stay in complete comfort. Whether you prefer the proximity to the beach or a secluded retreat surrounded by nature, BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch provides an option that caters to every preference.

Moreover, Inverloch itself is a destination brimming with activity. From paddleboarding and kayaking to scenic hikes and bike rides, there's always something to do for those who seek adventure. The vibrant local food scene, with its fresh seafood and artisanal offerings, adds a culinary charm that complements the town's easygoing atmosphere. BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch has positioned itself at the intersection of all these activities, ensuring guests can effortlessly enjoy the very best of both the laid-back coastal town vibes and the fast-paced fun of the kids' activities in the park.

BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch also stands out for its exceptional service. The friendly and professional staff go above and beyond to make each guest feel at home, whether it's through personalised recommendations for local activities, providing local knowledge, or helping with bookings. The attention to detail is evident, and their



commitment to ensuring a seamless stay is something that sets BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch apart from the competition.

As travellers increasingly seek destinations that offer both tranquillity and the opportunity for exploration, BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch provides the ideal escape. The combination of breathtaking surroundings, luxurious accommodations, and a welcoming atmosphere makes it a premier choice for anyone looking to experience the beauty of Victoria's coastline in style. Whether you're planning a family holiday, a romantic weekend, or a solo retreat, BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch is sure to deliver an unforgettable stay.

In an era where conscious travel is gaining momentum, BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch is proving that relaxation and adventure can indeed go hand in hand, offering an enriching experience that resonates long after the trip has ended.




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Uncovering Bass Coast's prehistoric legacy

MORE than 700 people have assisted in the discovery of prehistoric remains along Bass Coast. Often at the heart of local research is Wonthaggi's own fossil preparator Lesley Kool.

Lesley has been a fossil preparator since 1984 and has an unparalleled passion for her job.

"All the bones we find are in rock and to study them we have to get them out of the rock – that's my job," she said.

"I was fortunate to be involved in the inaugural dinosaur dig at Dinosaur Cove (the Otways) back in '84, and we worked there for two weeks. We came back with 300 bones and there was no one to prepare them, so I put my hand up and I've been doing it ever since."

In 1986, Lesley was offered a research assistant position at Monash – a job she took on for 20 years.

During that time, she was involved in fossil preparation and organising digs in the Otways and Bass Coast.

Lesley said she has been fortunate to work alongside Phillip Island palaeontologist Mike Cleeland.

"I met Mike in 1989. He came to Dinosaur Cove, and I took him out and showed him what fossil bones looked like in the rock and set him loose on the Bass Coast," she said.

Mike has been instrumental in the many local discoveries and ongoing new discoveries.

The largest bone he has found was the lower jaw of the *Koolasuchus Cleelandi*.

There are 37 fossil localities from San Remo to Inverloch.

"Mike found a lot of those – he and his prospecting team. He has a group of mostly locals, and some people come from Melbourne," Lesley said.

"He organises to go out to the various localities at low tide. The constant erosion is exposing more bones all the time.

"We are still having our annual digs and they're at sites where there is a concentration of bones. This year, we were at Eagles Nest and Twin Reefs. Twin Reefs is a new site – it was only found in January this year."

While out at Twin Reefs, one of Mike's prospectors Melissa Lowery found nine exposed bones on the surface – a rare discovery.

"We'd already organised a dig for February, so we decided we'd spend some of that time sampling this new site at Twin Reefs. It turns out that it looks like it's quite rich, so we will be back in February next year and hopefully, we'll find more," Lesley said.

"It's a big treasure hunt and we love it."

Lesley's role ensures the discoveries are scientifically viable to send to the Museum of Victoria.

"A lot of the bones we find, because they have been exposed for some time, have been eroded away and often there's only a little bit left or not enough to be diagnostic. Unfortunately, they aren't scientifically important, but anything that goes into the museum, where it is registered under the Vertebrate Palaeontology Collection, allows visiting researchers to study them," she said.

"Just this year, an American palaeontologist, Matthew Carrano, came out and spent three months going through our Vertebrate Palaeontology Collection – specifically the Early Cretaceous material that we've collected here and in the Otways and was able to identify some mystery bones.

"He's going to be writing a paper on what he thinks he found, so that's going to be really interesting."

Lesley has many career highlights, but a standout for her was the discovery of the first mammal jaw with head researcher Tom Rich.

"Tom is American, and he came out to Australia because he was sure there were mammals from the Early Cretaceous. We went to Dinosaur Cove and found an upper arm bone of a monotreme mammal," she said.

"The day that was found – I remember it vividly – happened to coincide with a day Tom was coming down to the dig and the look on his face when he saw it through the microscope, I'll never forget it. It was just amazing. It was sort of like a dream come true."

The Flat Rocks site in Inverloch is the only Australian site with five different types of mammals, including the world's smallest and oldest monotreme.

"There are so many special things in Bass Coast. To me, the most exciting thing is that new bones are being exposed all the time. Who knows what's going to turn up next?" Lesley said.

The local dig sites have brought people from all over the world to the community, including researchers from

Iceland, Alaska, Japan and Germany.

Lesley has also had the opportunity to explore the world through her job.

"I've been to Alberta in Canada where they have the Badlands out there. There are so many bones at the Royal Tyrrell Museum, and I was fortunate to work there for six weeks," she said.

"I've been to Patagonia. Tom, Pat (Vickers-Rich, head researcher) and I went over there in the 90s to teach the museum how to prospect. That was a fun, amazing place.

"I've also been to Japan. They had a symposium and asked us to come over and explain how we trained our volunteers. I've been very lucky to travel quite a bit with this job."

Lesley will continue her job into the future but is thrilled to see the recruitment of the younger generation and the growth of local education.

She will also continue her work in her own particular interest area – turtles.

"Over the years, I have been surprised about how many good bits of turtle we were finding. It turns out some of the oldest and most primitive turtles were in Australia," she said.

These turtles are 126 million years old.

Lesley said the entire operation is definitely a group effort, mentioning the collective hard work of the volunteers, collectors, preparators and researchers.

"It's exciting and it's a lot of fun. You can tell by the people who keep coming back every year to be involved," she said.

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Cooldown with summer delights

MEENIYAN born and raised Fiona Barclay is delighted to share her frozen yogurt, ice cream, homemade cookies and other tasty treats with Leongatha locals and visitors this summer at her McCartin Street shop Froyo Heaven.

The business opened on Anzac Day, Fiona inspired by her love of frozen yogurt and her late mum's great fondness for ice cream, which was "her favourite thing in the world".

Coffee, smoothies, milkshakes and hot dogs are other delights on the menu.

While there are four frozen yogurt flavours to choose from, with vanilla always available and mango also popular, Fiona often changes the selection.

She plans to add to the six available ice cream flavours when she gets a bigger freezer, with hopes of that happening during December, and gelato and dairy-free options are also set to join the range.

Fiona's yogurt comes

from Italy in powder form and is gluten-free, low fat and low sugar.

Her cookies took extensive internet research and experimentation to arrive at recipes that deliver the desired flavours, the process taking two to three months.

"I've created different flavours and every week I change it up and everyone seems to love it," Fiona said of her chunky filled cookies, cookies with ice cream proving particularly popular.

The business was blessed with temperatures in the twenties for its first month or two before winter hit but negotiated the challenge of the cold and wet period well and is sure to thrive in summer.

As well as tasty and cooling products, the shop has a summery vibe with its pink look creating a happy setting.

Fiona is assisted by her three enthusiastic staff, with the whole team delighted summer has arrived.



Magilla's Play Centre and Mini Golf

9 Mine Road, Korumburra
5655 2198

THE whole family can enjoy wholesome fun, all year round, right in the heart of South Gippsland at Magilla's Play Centre and Korumburra Indoor Mini Golf, which also boasts a golf simulator for those more serious players.

The little ones can explore the fun, colourful, safe play space that has a large obstacle course complete with flying fox, winding slides, tunnels, ladders, a rock-climbing wall and soft-landing mats. An enclosed baby play area with toys and dolls allows parents to relax and energetic toddlers can cruise around on toy tractors, cars, bikes and trikes.

A party room can be booked for up to 20 kids and the onsite café provides the ultimate variety of hot and cold party food. Parents only need to bring along the cake and for themed celebrations, the decorations.

Tables and chairs in the café allow parents to relax or socialise over a barista-brewed cup of coffee.

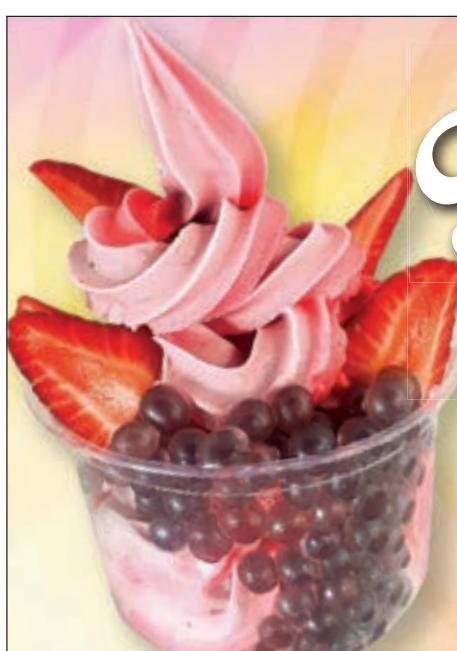
Right next door is the indoor mini golf centre, with two themed nine-hole mini golf courses and a golf simulator that provides a warm, dry place for older kids and adults to have a social hit or to tee off from around the world.

Entering through a rocky mine shaft, a glow-in-the-dark, deep underwater-themed nine-hole course emerges.

Sea creatures glow from the deep sea walls while others float above the course, the skeleton of a sailor watches from a boat, and glow-in-the-dark carpet and mooring ropes mesmerise and add a surreal, spooky and fantastical experience to the game of golf.

The next nine holes are adorned with an Australiana theme, featuring gumtrees, crocodiles, kangaroos, a large python; and antique objects with a story to tell from old Australia.

This course is one to challenge mini-golf champions and players both young and old will need to bring their A game to complete the course under par.



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Marylou 1

San Remo's fishing legacy

JAMIE Papas (commercial Gillnet fisherman based out of the port of San Remo) and his father Jim Papas are the owners of the Marylou 1 fishing vessel, which they jointly run and operate catching Gummy sharks within the Southern Eastern Scale and Shark Fishery (SESSF).

Their company, The Local Catch Pty Ltd, also includes Jamie's wife Lauren Papas and Jamie's mum Mary Papas. It is a traditional family-run local fishing business.

As a second-generation fisherman who has participated in the industry for over 40 years within the local coastal region of San Remo, Jamie said their company owns a Commonwealth Statuary Fishing Right (SFR) to fish anywhere within its licensed waters targeting Gummy Shark (Flake).

"Our area of operations is basically from Victoria to Tasmania, as far west as Portland and as far east as Gabo island," said Jamie.

"When I was a kid, I used to go down to the boat and help my dad unload and do maintenance, but it wasn't until I turned 12 that I went out for my first fishing trip during school holidays. It didn't work out too great for me, as I got very seasick, yet he made me work every shift on deck just like the crew had to.

"Afterwards, I never thought that I could become a fisherman due to my seasickness and I actually did my best to avoid it. I ended up finishing high school and opened up a fish retail and wholesale business with my family in Cowes so I could stay shore-based – not yet knowing how

much I would end up loving fishing. We ended up selling that business as it was a bit before its time in our region."

Jamie then took up industrial construction over the next six years travelling around Australia, and quickly became a supervisor using the hard-working ethics that he learnt from his dad on the boat.

"Little did I know that some of those skills that I would learn in construction would become essential in future endeavours – building the Marylou 1 myself."

From the age of 27, Jamie started fishing full-time with Jim, and by 31, he was a skipper. The business grew, and as Jamie had ambitions for growth, they sold Jim's smaller boat and went into partnership together,

taking on more within the industry.

Back when Jim started fishing San Remo's Jetty was full of flourishing fishing vessels – all making great livings and supporting the growth of the local communities. Fast forward and the Marylou 1 is one of only two of the last dedicated Gummy shark fishing vessels left in the port.

"Just the Marylou 1 and Josh Rule on the Endeavour, which is a very historic boat to our community and has been run out of San Remo since the early days," Jamie explained.

"You can bet that every time these two boats unload a proportion of the catch is going to the San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op for the local community to enjoy."

The rest of the catch is distributed across Victoria.



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ME046



"San Remo's growth in population has gone through the roof over the last 15 years and many might not even know that the whole town was built around its once thriving traditional fishing industry," said Jamie.

"The San Remo Co-Op is so important to our whole area because it reflects these traditional roots. It provides the essential infrastructure and services needed for fishers in our industry to be able to continue their business, whilst also being able to provide the local community with local seafood harvested sustainably from the Bass Strait region."

Jamie shared that COVID-19 highlighted this importance – once the supply chain failed, people could still get sustainable domestically caught seafood and valued that immensely.

Fishing is one of the most dangerous

jobs there is, and comes at a great risk to anyone who participates. Bass Strait is one of the most treacherous sea stretches in the world because it is so shallow and the waves created are short in frequency and sharp, when this is introduced to tidal conditions it makes the waves stand up like a brick wall with short roll periods between them.

"We typically go out for seven to 10 days at a time. After fuelling up and icing up using the facilities at the San Remo Jetty, we go out with one vessel master (either Jim or I) and two deck crew," said Jamie. "Maintaining the vessel and its many mechanical aspects between trips is a job within itself as it operates in one of the harshest environments on earth."

In conversation with Jamie, he noted that since the 80s, the rules, regulations and red tape have increased at such a rate

that it is difficult for fishers to stay viable.

"The good news is that Gillnet shark fishing in the SESSF is among one of the most sustainable fishing industries in the world, and its future health, which is assessed by CSIRO, shows its future is in extremely good health. The SESSF is a heavily regulated industry, so overfishing is not possible," explained Jamie.

"We set our nets on the sea floor and do not drag them, but rather place them in front of where we anticipate fish to swim, this lessens the impact of our fishing methods which is important in preserving future fish stocks."

"This means that the local communities really need to get behind the active, current fishermen and fishers of the future so that they have a voice and so that local, sustainably caught Australian seafood can have a place at everyone's table."

"The San Remo Co-Op is so important to our whole area because it reflects these traditional roots. It provides the essential infrastructure and services needed for fishers in our industry to be able to continue their business, whilst also being able to provide the local community with local seafood harvested sustainably from the Bass Strait region."



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Sunburn, prevention is best

Enjoying the stunning beaches of Bass Coast and South Gippsland this summer? Don't forget to protect yourself and your family from sunburn.

Every time you're out in the sun, be sure to wear a hat, long-sleeved clothing, sunscreen and sunglasses. This will reduce the risk of ultraviolet radiation damaging your skin and eyes, and decrease your risk of skin cancer.

According to the Department of Health's Better Health Channel website, sunburn can happen in as little as 11 minutes and if severe, can take days or weeks to heal.

There is no cure for sunburn other than to allow your body time to heal. While mild sunburn can be treated at home, severe and blistered sunburn needs prompt medical attention.

If you have mild sunburn, drink plenty of water to rehydrate your body, and apply cool or cold compresses, or bathe the area in cool water. Avoid using soap as this may irritate your skin. See your pharmacist about products that help soothe sunburn and opt for spray-on solutions rather than creams that require rubbing in by hand.

If you need urgent medical attention, head to the local Emergency Department or Urgent Care Centres.



Terry White offers broader range of services

TERRY White Chemmart in Leongatha and Inverloch continues to expand its range of services under the 'community pharmacist pilot program', enabling the business to provide specific extra services previously only available through a GP.

The Victorian Government initiative of expanding the range of services pharmacies can provide is intended to improve access to health care for Victorians.

As previously reported, extra services include being able to issue a resupply of contraceptive pills without a new prescription and providing antibiotics for uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women aged 18 to 65.

A travel clinic service, and treatment of mild skin conditions such as plaque psoriasis are more recently added services, as is administering of medicines by injection.

Treatment of the early stages of shingles is now also available.

Consultation will take place to ensure people are eligible for services

and that those who are receive the right treatment.

If not eligible, you will be referred to an appropriate service provider, such as a doctor or specialist.

Pharmacist Zac Timpano, based at the Leongatha store, underwent special training to participate in the pilot program and is excited to be able to offer a broader range of services.

He said the pilot program is going really well and he has received lots of positive feedback.

"We're able to do a travel consultation, which includes looking through vaccination history and making sure you're up to date; if there are any gaps in that vaccination history, we can provide vaccinations," Zac said.

Specific health safety advice is available for your intended destination.

Zac said the new medicines by injection service is distinct from the pharmacy's vaccine program, with Ozempic an example.

He explained that intramuscular injections such as vitamin B12

are not easy to self-administer and people would previously get their prescription filled and then return to the medical clinic to be injected by a nurse or doctor.

Pharmacist Ailu Liu has been trained to deliver medication by injection.

She recommends people book online or by calling Terry White in Leongatha or Inverloch for that service and for the travel clinic.

For other services under the pilot program, Ailu encourages people to just drop in.

Most of the services are free apart from paying for vaccines and medications.

The medicines by injection service costs \$24.95 plus the cost of the medicine, while there are charges for travel vaccinations.

Pharmacist Jungho Oh provides pilot program services in Inverloch.

Victoria-wide, the program has been running for just over a year, with the government recently extending the trial period.

You can now receive certain healthcare treatments at a local pharmacy, without having to get a prescription first.

The Victorian Government's Community Pharmacist Pilot is making healthcare more accessible. Here are some other treatments you can access.

Speak to our specialist pharmacist today

INVERLOCH

P: 5674 1652

LEONGATHA

P: 5662 2183

TerryWhite Chemmart
Dedicated to Care



Treatment for shingles

If you have one of the following symptoms, you may have shingles:

- painful blistering rash
- a tingling, burning sensation on the skin.

If you are aged 18 years and older, you may be eligible for treatment.



Treatment for urinary tract infections

If you have any of the following symptoms, you may have a urinary tract infection:

- stinging or burning when passing urine
- feeling the need to pass urine frequently or bladder still feels full after passing urine.

If you are female and aged between 16-65 years you may be able to get treatment.



Treatment for a flare up of mild plaque psoriasis

If you are aged 18 years and older, and currently have a flare-up of mild plaque psoriasis, speak to a participating pharmacist to check if you can get a resupply of your cream or ointment.



Resupply of an oral contraceptive pill

If you are aged 16-50 years and currently take an oral contraceptive pill, speak to a participating pharmacist to check if you can get a resupply.



Travel and vaccines

If you are travelling overseas or need a public health vaccine, pharmacists participating in the Pilot can administer a range of travel vaccinations as well as hepatitis A, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, typhoid vaccines (for people aged 5 years and older).



For more information and to find a local pharmacy providing these services visit: go.vic.gov.au/49C6sFc



These treatments are part of the Community Pharmacist Pilot, funded by the Victorian Government.



DELECTABLE aromas waft from a table filled with food. Perfectly toasted Turkish and pita breads rest alongside fresh house-made dips and warmed olives. Popcorn chicken and crispy chicken tacos round out the feast. A perfect mezze platter, ready to be savoured.

The Archaic Chef Phil suggests starting with the prawn ceviche which rests in glass jars, an absolute treat.

Infused with mango, lime, ginger and rocket it's a zesty mouthwatering seafood twist on a traditional Peruvian dish; transporting one to a faraway land, where the seafood is straight from the ocean, and you run your feet through the sand.

For those curious the prawns are cooked.

"We put our heart and soul into the food we create," Phil explains.

"We have the time to create good food and good drinks, and we hope



A taste of timeless elegance

that reflects in the dining experience." Dehydrated fruit garnishes our drinks, a whimsical addition.

The popcorn chicken is quickly devoured in a ladylike fashion. The BBQ honey glaze is a delightful blend of sweet and savoury flavours over the juicy chicken inside. Again, all made from scratch in-house.

Quoting my dining companion, it's "the best I've ever had!"

Next, it's a scattering of dips and tacos.

The tzatziki is thick and chunky, a luscious texture of yoghurt mixed with finely chopped cucumbers, freshly minced garlic and dill. The Greek staple is far from anything available in a shop.

Accompanying the tzatziki is the moreish pumpkin, carrot and cumin dip, and hummus.

The final plate is the crispy chicken

tacos, which come in a set of two topped with tomato and charred corn salsa, sriracha aioli and cheese. A flavour-packed delight it's crunchy perfection, with vibrant tomatoes and smoky, slightly sweet corn kernels combined with the spicy kick of sriracha aioli.

Featuring bruschetta, calamari, zucchini crisps, vegetable gyoza, choc tops and lukumades there is something for everyone on the menu and that is without mentioning the weekly specials which have included popular rice paper rolls, and Wagyu cheeseburger sliders in recent weeks.

"Sourcing the freshest, good-quality produce, locally where possible, the plates are all centred around sharing foods," General Manager, Rod Bye explains.

"You can share the food with friends, or order a selection to enjoy yourself.

"You can always order more."

The food is even better than the décor, which is a high quote for the newest addition to The Workmen's Club in Wonthaggi.

The Archaic is otherworldly.

A speakeasy-inspired tapas bar set in the old storage room it blends old-world charm with contemporary flair. Vintage paintings, soft lamplight, Art Deco-inspired touches, a marble bar and a stately clock, it's a unique atmosphere unlike anywhere else.

The dedication of chefs Phil and Gabrielle is obvious and paired with a fantastic team behind the bar, you are sure to leave well-sated.

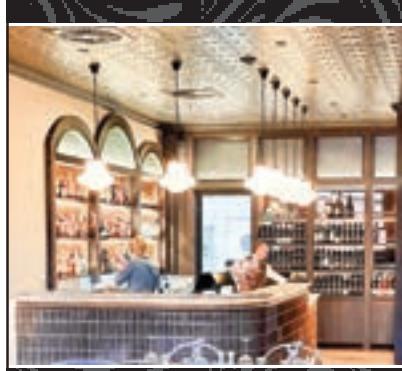
Open Thursdays and Fridays from 4pm, Saturdays from 3pm, and Sundays from 12 noon.

And whilst you're at it book in your next function in the intimate private dining space.



Crib Bistro
PLAYGROUND
TO ENTERTAIN THE KIDS

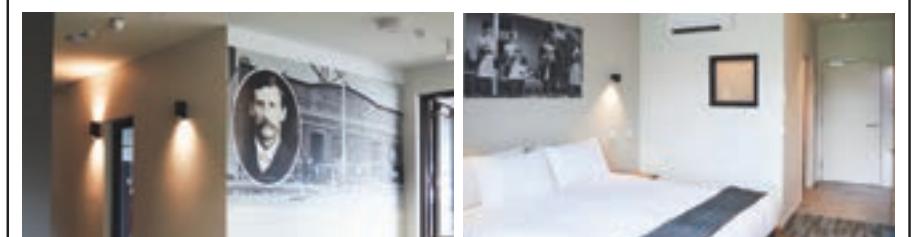
Bistro Hours
Lunch 12.00pm-2.00pm
Dinner 5.30pm-8.00pm



@ the Archaic
Specialising in

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HOURS Thursday 4~10pm Friday 4~10.30pm
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75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi | 5672 1083
enquiries@wonthaggiworkmens.com.au





The Wooli Tavern

1 Vista Place, Cape Woolamai
5956 6836 | thewoolitavern.com.au

SITUATED in the small coastal town of Cape Woolamai, the family-friendly tavern hits the top note offering the perfect blend of tradition and modern flair.

The menu boasts a variety of pub classics, from golden beer-battered fish and chips to indulgent chicken parmigiana, alongside creative contemporary dishes like prawn aglio e olio and 12-hour braised lamb shoulder. Fresh local produce shines with every bite, while gluten-free and vegan-friendly options ensure everyone is catered to.

Complementing the food, the bar features C.U.B. beer on tap, an impressive selection of local wines, and colourful cocktails to suit every mood. Live entertainment every weekend creates a lively atmosphere. With a spacious function room, pool tables and even a pet-friendly policy, this tavern goes above and beyond to make guests feel welcome.

For a relaxed yet vibrant dining experience on Phillip Island, head to The Wooli Tavern. Eat. Drink. Groove.



Have you booked yet?

THE roar of the engines return in 2025 when Phillip Island Circuit once again hosts the MOTUL FIM Superbike World Championship, Australian Round between February 21 to 23.

There will be action on and off the track with three days of racing including WorldSBK, WorldSSP and round one of the ASBK championships, plus SBK, SSP and SSP 300.

From VIP experiences, helicopter joy flights, Bar SBK to camping there is plenty happening.

Editor's tips

1. Choose your viewing location

There are plenty of incredible locations to watch the on-track action. Whether you plan to be along the Gardner Straight fence line, perched up at Lukey Heights or roaming around the circuit soaking up the atmosphere.

2. Capture the moment

You don't need the biggest lens and best equipment to photograph the on-track action. The key is picking the right location and allowing your

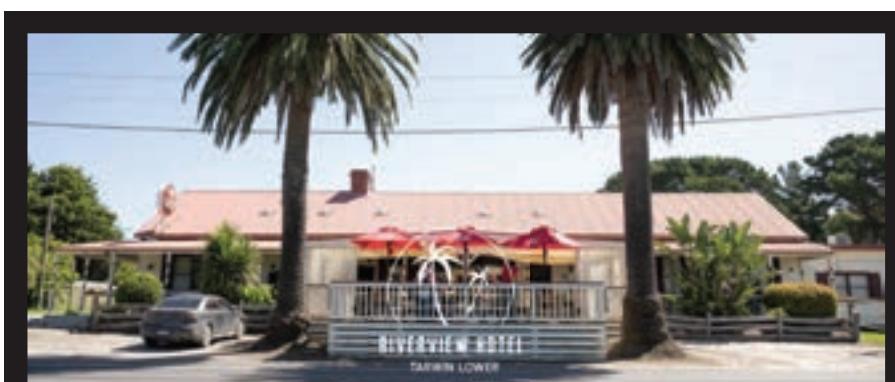
camera to follow the action. Line up the rider, track the rider and bike (often the easiest point of focus is the number on the bike), hit the shutter and continue following the bike/rider with your camera.

3. Take your bike

Did you know you can ride your own bike around the outfield?

4. The podium

If people intrigue you, take a moment to look at the emotions in the crowd, particularly of those in the team – there's often tears of joy!



- Courtesy Bus available • Function room • Live music
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Photos: Gippsland Lifestyle Magazine

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Phone: 5663 5211 | riverviewhotel.au



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ME159 - Photos: Gippsland Lifestyle Magazine

52 DISCOVER | SUMMER 2024/25



Kingswood and Monaro Country

POOWONG'S Des and Lyn Judd love taking to the road in their impressive vehicles, his Monaro and her Kingswood Deluxe capturing attention wherever they go.

The pair enjoy the social side of mixing with other motoring enthusiasts and belong to multiple car clubs, including the South Gippsland branch of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club.

Des has owned his 1974 Aussie-made Holden HJ GTS Monaro Coupe since it was new, having originally fallen in love with the HQ. He purchased his Monaro as a demo model that had done about 800 kilometres.

It was never intended to be a daily commute vehicle, with Des also owning a 1965 HD Holden when the Monaro was new. He loves attending special events such as this year's Monaro Nationals in Wangaratta, always driving his Monaro there rather than taking it on a trailer.

Discussion at such gatherings

centres on how the cars should be, with some owners staunch advocates of avoiding modifications, while others take a more flexible outlook.

Not fussed if people choose to modify their cars, just pleased to see them still on the road, Des takes a traditional outlook with his, albeit there has to be a little flexibility with some parts due to availability.

"It's a different culture," he said of those at Monaro gatherings, adding "That's all they talk about."

Those who watched Kingswood Country will recall Ted Bullpitt zealously guarding his pride and joy, but his was a standard Kingswood, Lyn's Deluxe includes added features such as bucket seats, T-Bar auto and a radio, the latter now replaced.

"It's like driving an armchair," she said of the bucket seat experience, fond of feeling the breeze in her hair as she travels in comfort in her Aussie classic.

"It's got full instrumentation and an oblong speedo, not the round one," she said of the Deluxe dashboard.

Des ensures that like his Monaro, Lyn's 1975 Kingswood is kept in top condition. He gave her the car as a present in 1999 after completing some work on it such as a light respray to build up the duco.

Lyn got the car on Grand Final Day and while her Bombers weren't in action she fondly recalls the added touch of red and black streamers on the aerial.

Having just returned from one of her regular drives to the Mornington Peninsula when she spoke to the Sentinel-Times, Lyn described the Kingswood Deluxe as "like driving a dream". Bullpitt, with his much-adored but standard model, might have been a touch jealous.

South Gippsland GHAC'S annual and beloved Swap Meet comes to Korumburra on Sunday, January 12.



Explore the wonderful world of bugs

EVER wondered what spiders and bugs look like magnified to the size of a TV screen? South Gippsland Landcare are joining with the expert team from Bug Blitz, to show kids and adults alike how to collect and examine bugs on Wednesday, January 8, from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Participants can examine what they've captured using the Mobile Field Laboratory and discover how the types of bugs sampled help us understand the health of the environment.

There will also be art activities and a live spider show.

With over 100,000 bugs documented during field days, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn about the critical roles invertebrates play in nature.

Free event at Mossvale Park, Berrys Creek. Registration is essential via events.humanitix.com/bug-blitz-bug-discovery-day.

For more information contact Nick Stephens from South Gippsland Landcare Network on 0499 271 251.

Celebrating 40 years

The South Gippsland branch of Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Inc. presents



40th Annual SWAP MEET

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Korumburra Showgrounds

Vintage & Classic Car Display

Grounds closed 10pm Saturday till 6am Sunday

- AUTO • MOTORCYCLE • STATIONARY ENGINES
- FARM MACHINERY • ANTIQUE • ANYTHING MECHANICAL

ADMISSION: \$5 per person • Under 16 FREE

Sites \$15 per site plus \$5 per person. Sites allocated on arrival. No prior bookings

BRIC-A-BRAC • CAR BOOKS • LIGHT REFRESHMENTS plus more from 6am in the pavilion

Inquiries • 0490 787 318

email: korumburraswapmeet@gmail.com

No animal sales. No dogs permitted entry.

The iconic Fish Creek Hotel (1939) is a magnificently imposing art deco building located in the heart of Fish Creek.



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Unwind on The Deck

FEEL the sea breeze and be swept away as you nestle yourself within the picturesque coastal landscapes of Inverloch at the multi-award-winning RACV Inverloch Resort.

Whether sipping cocktails with friends on The Deck – a delightful alfresco area (with retractable roof), relaxing in the Zenith Lounge or indulging in a sophisticated dining experience in Radius Restaurant that marries exquisite flavours with a breathtaking ambience, there is a variety of options this summer.

There is much to enjoy with passionate chefs delighting in and showcasing our region's best produce, which also includes local wines and beers.

The newest addition to the resort is The Deck, which officially opened late last year and is a haven for those who enjoy sitting back, indulging in a drink

or two with casual dining and perhaps catching up with friends new and old.

Overlooking Eagles Nest with views to Wilsons Prom why not start with the signature Paloma cocktail before diving tastebud by tastebud into the regional platter?

Filled with local smoked smallgoods, Bassine Farmhouse cheese, Fish Creek dukkah, hummus, house pork terrine, marinated olives, house pickles and grilled Oak & Swan sourdough there is plenty for two.

If cheese is more your style, the local cheese platter is a sure-fire hit.

Paired with an extensive wine list that includes local favourites there is no better place to unwind this summer.

For the less favourable weather days, head inside to Radius Restaurant and Zenith Lounge where the visual

spectacle is no less impressive.

Share smoked salt and mountain pepper calamari with goddess dressing or Kokoda – Fijian style lime and coconut cured snapper. Perhaps Bassine halloumi tickles your taste-buds. There's also a fine selection of mains sure to enchant the senses.

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

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

There is no denying the property is diverse and able to cater to a wide range of individual or group needs – from resort rooms to cabins and villas, and even beautiful spaces to park up the caravan.



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

Delighting in a refreshing beverage, whilst looking out to the horizon it is easy to get swept away. To forget about all the worries and embrace the birds and wildlife passing by the windows, as chef Rohan and his team prepare a culinary treat.

For those with a sweet tooth the dark chocolate nemesis with Bass River merlot sorbet is a must, although one can be forgiven for choosing the frozen coconut mousse or whipped burnt vanilla cheesecake with Gippsland rhubarb; there is no disappointing.

Savour the flavours and try RACV Inverloch Resort for yourself.



Exceptional food and wine experiences Set on the rugged Bass Coast

A warm and inviting space, Zenith Lounge is the place to enjoy a drink, snacks and panoramic coastal views. Relax and catch live music by local artists every Friday evening.

Open 7 days, 10am – 10pm.

A stunning light-filled space, Radius Restaurant showcases local, regional produce and an extensive wine list. With sweeping views of the coastline, Radius is a destination in itself.

Open for lunch and dinner 7 days. 12pm – 2pm and 5:30pm – 9pm. A range of great dining offers available. Bookings recommended.

70 Cape Paterson-Inverloch Rd,

Inverloch, Victoria, 3996

For bookings call 03 5674 0420

racv.com.au/Inverloch

RACV Inverloch
Resort

HM12202

Wonthaggi's local family bakery since 1993



Serving all your favourites, baked fresh and served with exceptional customer service



BAKERY

33-35 Murray Street, Wonthaggi



A mooing good time

AND more than you ever thought you could know about milk.

A visit to Caldermeade Farm on the South Gippsland Highway between Lang Lang and Koo Wee Rup is time well spent.

Nestled behind century-old hedges this family-friendly farm and café provides the perfect setting for relaxed indoor and outdoor dining well away from the hustle and bustle of holiday traffic.

Settled in 1875, Caldermeade was originally one of the region's premier beef cattle properties but these days it is home to Jersey dairy cows, chickens, ducklings, goats, alpacas, deer, rabbits and geese.

Sit down for a hot coffee and try Caldermeade's Devonshire tea, or save room for an ice cream made from fresh Jersey milk.

Visitors can also purchase pies made at the cafe along with jams, preserves, cakes and biscuits.

Caldermeade Farm is a place you can visit again and again.

The family-run farm employs seventy staff, seven days a week to serve hundreds of meals a day in the impressive restaurant and café, care for 350 dairy cows and calves, and run a fifty-stall rotary milk plant twice a day.

"It's free to come and watch the milking or visit the animal nursery," said Director Ben Gommans.

"Not many people do what we do these days, owning and running every side of the business from looking after our cows to running our café, factory and developing nutritious and delicious recipes."

Caldermeade Farm sells Jersey milk and goat's milk from the farm café or through selected supermarkets, cheese, butter, yoghurt, ice cream, and flavoured milk.

The farm's Jersey cows eat fresh Gippsland pasture producing milk high in protein, calcium, vitamins, and trace elements.

"Children love to see where milk comes from before it appears on supermarket shelves in bottles and cartons."

Jersey milk has a lower lactose (sugar) content than most milk and more protein but that's not all, with more cream Caldermeade Jersey milk has a delicious smooth taste, making it perfect for coffee, baking, and cooking.

Rich, yellow and extra creamy, historically Jersey milk has always been the milk of choice for butter making.

"Ice cream and creamy-smooth milkshakes are the most popular," said Ben noting Caldermeade Farm hosts a fabulous market on the third Saturday of each month.

A visit to Caldermeade Farm and its amazing rotary dairy can include an optional guided tour around the farm including a visit to the calf shed depending on the season, and a trip out to the paddocks to feed the milking herd.

The farm tour runs at 1pm on Saturday and Sunday during the school term and every day during school holidays.

Caldermeade Farm is open seven days a week from 9am to 4pm and tickets for the farm tour can be bought in advance or at the café.



Watch the milking at Caldermeade Farm from 2.30pm each day



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TRACTOR TOURS
MONTHLY MARKET (3RD SATURDAY)

4385 South Gippsland Highway, Caldermeade, VIC, 3984
Tel: 03 5997 5000 web: caldermeade.farm 

MED161

DISCOVER | SUMMER 2024/25 55

Discover the region's local eateries



Avonleigh Farm Fine Food
42 Thorsons Road, Tarwin
5664 7264
avonleighfarmfinedining.com

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

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

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

Established 13 years ago, Avonleigh Farm Fine Food has become an indulgent treat for those wishing to enjoy a taste of relaxation and fine dining.

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

The ingredients are locally sourced and organic where possible.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Leongatha RSL
Cnr Smith St & Michael Place,
Leongatha | 5662 2747
leongatha-rsl.com.au

SOUTH Gippsland's premier function, entertainment and leisure destination. A place for veterans, former service men and women and the general public, Leongatha RSL Sub Branch offers a large bistro, Red Poppy Café and two bars, alongside a function room.

Take in the large collection of memorabilia as you enjoy a meal or drink this summer.

If the club classics don't take your fancy then the large menu provides plenty of options. Up for a seafood treat then tempt the tastebuds with the prawn twisters followed by the seafood crepe or perhaps garlic prawns. Looking for a meatier option the satay chicken skewers and porterhouse might be up your alley. Perhaps one of the daily specials.

With kids meal deals and half serve options available, head into Leongatha RSL this summer. Open seven days a week for lunch, 12pm – 2pm, and dinner, 5.30pm – 8pm.



Mahob at Moos
89 Whitelaw Street, Meeniyian
0413 035 690
mahob.com.au

FROM the vibrant streets of Windsor to the pop-up magic in Hawthorn East, Mahob by Amok has evolved, and now, a new chapter begins in Meeniyian – a small town with a big heart. Known as the Turning Point, Meeniyian is where Mahob invite you to rediscover the bold, punchy flavours that defined Amok and experience their interpretation of modern Cambodian cuisine.

At Mahob (meaning "food" in Khmer), they celebrate the connection food brings – kinship, joy, and love. Drawing inspiration from Cambodian traditions, their meals are designed for sharing.

Join for breakfast and lunch from 8.30am to 4.30pm, Fridays to Mondays, or immerse yourself in Chef Woody's modern Cambodian creations at dinner on Friday and Saturday evenings. Share meals, create memories, and savour every bite together. Mahob at Moos is now open.



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Foodworks Inverloch has everything you need for your Christmas and Summer entertaining including a range of fresh and frozen seafood from Bass Strait Direct.

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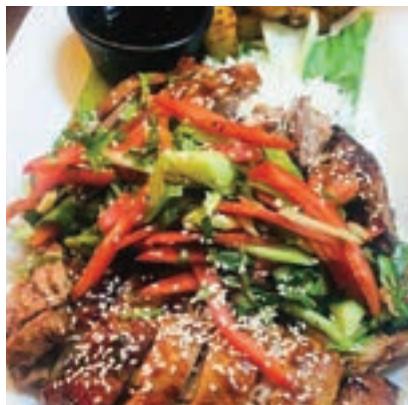
Phillip Island RSL
225-243 Thompson Ave, Cowes
5952 1004
pirsl.com.au

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

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

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

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



Wonthaggi Hotel
2 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi
5606 0108
[WonthaggiHotel](https://www.facebook.com/WonthaggiHotel)

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

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

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



The Fish Creek Hotel
1 Old Waratah Road, Fish Creek
5683 2404
fishcreekhotel.com.au

BISTRO, Sports Bar, Accommodation and Bottle Shop, The Fish Creek Hotel has it all. Architecturally significant the welcoming country hotel has the beloved pub classics, Bass Strait Fish and Chips, and Chicken Parma, whilst also tantalising the tastebuds with Korean Fries Popcorn Chicken, French Dip Beef Sliders, Seafood Linguine, Curries, and BBQ Pork Back Ribs to name but a few from the seasonally changing menu.

Open for lunch and dinner, seven days a week, dine in with the whole family or take it away with you.

For those looking to explore Fish Creek and surrounds nine well equipped retro motel units sit behind the hotel.

Enjoy relaxing by the bar, or fire on the chillier nights, or sit back in the bright and spacious 'Fish' Room with large windows overlooking Fish Creek.

Whether dinner with the family, an informal catch up with friends or a private function, The Fish Creek Hotel has you covered.



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

WHETHER you're catching up with friends for a casual lunch, enjoying a family meal, or celebrating a special occasion, The Middle Hotel's bistro is the perfect setting. As the Winner of the 2024 Best Parma, 2024 Overall Hotel of the Year, and 2024 Outdoor Experience Award, it stands out as a premier dining destination.

Open seven days a week for both lunch and dinner, the bistro ensures you can relish its offerings whenever your heart desires.

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

Whether starting off with an entrée or jumping straight into mains, The Middle offers all your pub favourites with delectable additions including Greek Style Western District Lamb Ribs, Peking Pork Bao Buns, Twelve Hour Gippsland Beef Brisket, Creamy Seafood Chowder and more...

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

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

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



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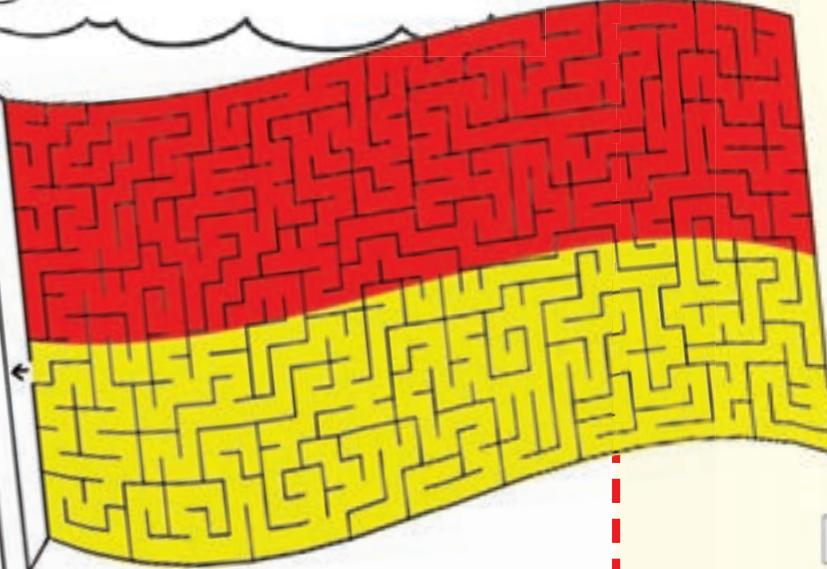
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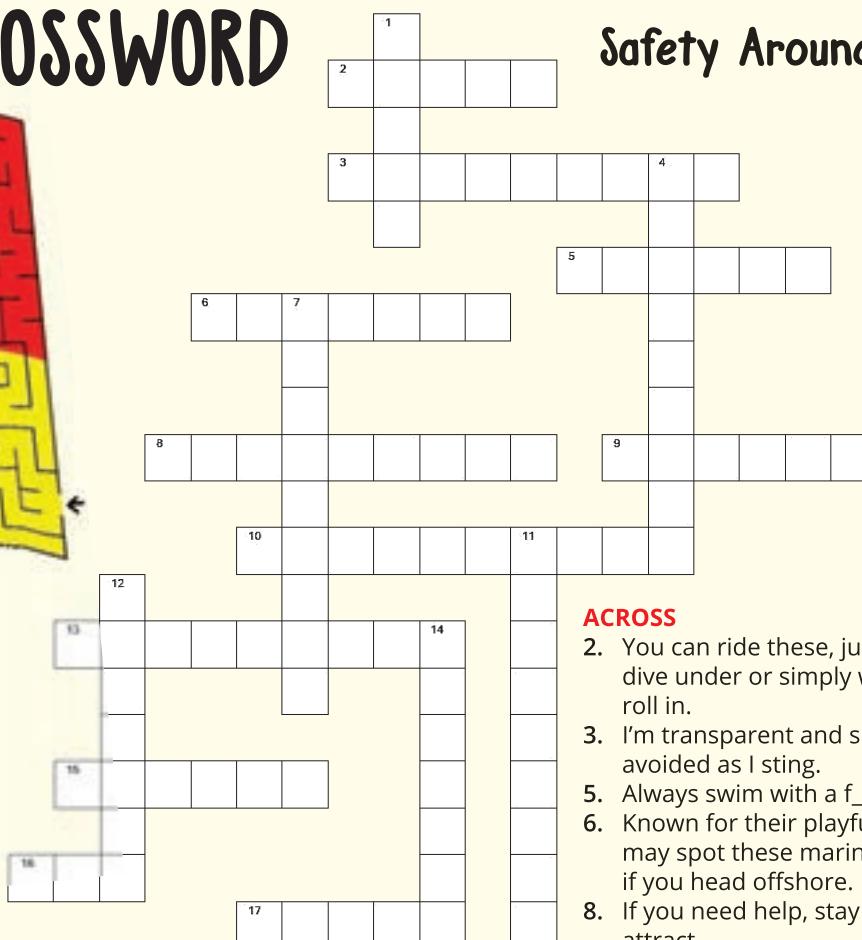
ME0134

KIDS PUZZLES CHALLENGE

CROSSWORD



Remember to
always swim between
the flags at
patrolled beaches



Safety Around Water

ACROSS

- You can ride these, jump over, dive under or simply watch them roll in.
- I'm transparent and should be avoided as I sting.
- Always swim with a f_____.
- Known for their playfulness you may spot these marine mammals if you head offshore.
- If you need help, stay calm and attract _____.
- If heading on a boat or marine vehicle, or if you are not a confident swimmer you should always wear a life _____.
- Protect your eyes this summer and slide on _____.
- The slop in slip, slop, slap, seek, slide.
- Always swim between the red and _____ flags.
- Make sure you always wear a _____.
- Read the s____ before you enter the water.

DOWN

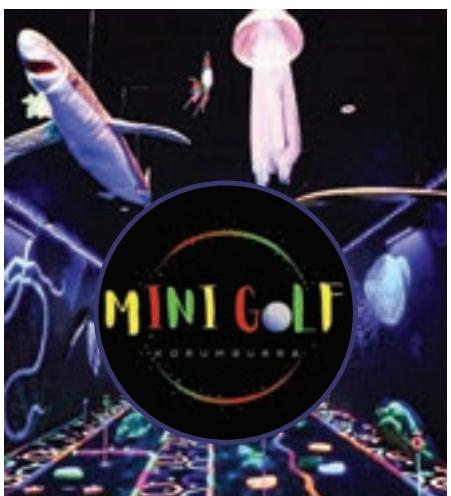
- The ocean is filled with _____.
- There are multiple families of these living under piers and jetties in Bass Coast and South Gippsland.
- A rescuer who patrols the beach.
- Avoid me, I'm a spiny, globular looking creature that varies in colour including black, purple, red and pink.
- The movement of water from one location to another.
- A beach education program for children that introduces lifesaving.

WORD SEARCH Beaches of South Gippsland

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

CORONET BAY
COWES
CUTLERS
EAGLES NEST
FIRST BEACH
FLAT ROCKS
KITTY MILLER
NORMAN HILL
ROCK POOL
SANDY POINT
SMALL
SMITHS
SQUEAKY
WARATAH
WHISKEY BAY
WOOLAMAI SURF

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



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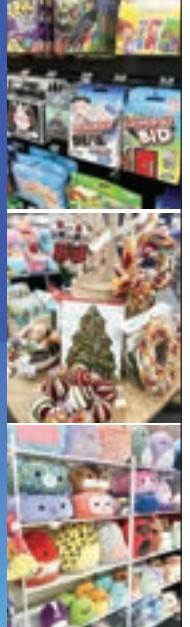
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HM1216

Discover the markets this season

Churchill Island Farmers Market

January 4 | 8am-1pm

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



Coal Creek Farmers Market

January 11 | 8am-12.30pm

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

Corinella Community Market

January 11 | 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.

Coronet Bay Market

January 19 | 9am-2pm

Discover a vibrant mix of craft, plants, bric-a-brac, and an array of new and used treasures, plus so much more! Treat yourself to hot coffee, delicious food, and tempting cakes and slices as you explore both indoor and outdoor stalls at Coronet Bay Recreation Reserve, 39 Gellibrand Street.

Cowes Island Craft Market

January 11 | 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 Market on Church

December 28 and January 24 | 9am-2pm

A delightful community market featuring over 30 stalls offering local produce, crafts, plants, clothing, and unique finds in the trash and treasure shed on the fourth Saturday of every month. Savour hot food and drinks while exploring both indoor and outdoor stalls at St Phillip's Parish Hall grounds, Cowes. A perfect spot for discovering hidden treasures and enjoying local treats.

Cowes Sunday Market

February 2 | 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.

Bass Market

January 18 | 8am-1pm

A delightful mix of stallholders and food vendors come together on the third Saturday of each month to offer an exceptional shopping experience at 2 Bass School Road, Bass.

Inverloch Community Farmers Market

December 27, and January 1*, 8*, 15*, 22*, 26 *Twilight market. 9am-1pm (Sunday) and 3pm-8pm (twilight)

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

Inverloch Farmers Market

January 18 | 8am-1pm

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

Island Foreshore Market

December 28 and January 11 and 25 | 3pm-9pm

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

Jumbunna Bush Market

January 5 | 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 is the beloved market, which is open to the public every Sunday. The Kongwak market is the go-to place to find an eclectic selection of retro, vintage and second-hand items and books. A contemporary art gallery is also open for viewing and marketgoers can enjoy a sausage sizzle or Indian food as they wander the stalls. Entry is a \$1 donation.

Koonwarra Farmers Market

January 4 | 8am-1pm

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

Loch Lions Village Market

January 12 | 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.

On The Lawn Market

January 19 | 9am-2pm

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

Prom Country Farmers Market

January 18 | 8am-12pm

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

Prom Produce and Craft Market

December 29 and January 26 | 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.

Rail Trail Community Market

January 19 | 8.30am-1pm

Leongatha's beloved community market transformed into the Rail Trail Community Market in early 2024. Set in the picturesque Leongatha Railway Precinct, offering a vibrant atmosphere, ample space, and convenient parking discover an exciting array of locally sourced products, including fresh produce, baked goods, beautiful crafts, and more from talented local stallholders. Don't miss out on this revitalised market experience!

Rhyll Twilight Market

January 3 and 17 | 4pm-8pm

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

Tarwin Lower Market

January 3 and 27 | 8am-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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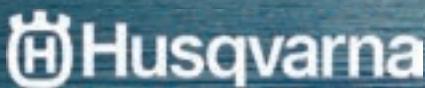
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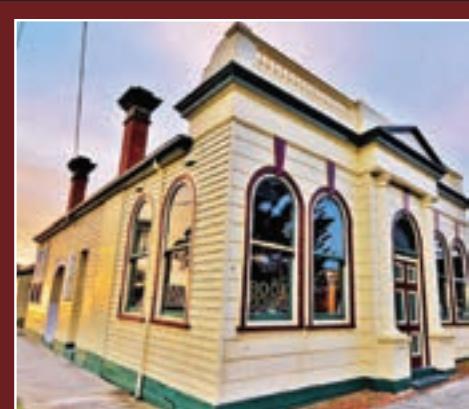
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A positive wave

...The ripple effect of volunteering

THE Sentinel-Times introduced Joanna (Jo) O'Reilly Stubbs in the last Discover Autumn edition and as summer approaches journalist Nicole May has dived in a little deeper to hear of Jo's recent experience as an Environmental Research Scientist and how her volunteer work has made such a positive impact within the community.

Jo previously spoke to us about 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, for example in speaking to Jo, it didn't take long to realise that her initiative to make positive change was inspiring those around her but she shared how others were also weaving a pathway for her too.

Jo joined the Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) in 2022, initially interested in surf photography, but inspired by the leadership of former president Hannah Eisen, she took on the role of treasurer (currently in her third season) and has shaped strong change since – successfully attaining a total of over \$70,000 in paid grants for PIBC.

"These grants have been successful applications from the Bass Coast Shire Council, Bendigo Bank, Victorian State Government and the Foundation Rural Regional Renewal of which we were recently successful in coordinating the weeding and planting at the PIBC," said Jo.

"This \$4300 of funding will rejuvenate and rehabilitate all the sand dunes and soils around the clubhouse. With the grant we'll be able to pay our local club member, Harry DeRoth, to do the work on a community planting day – it's all scheduled for autumn next year.

"Harry will source all the native species endemic to the area from Barb Martin Bushbank Native Nursery. It's really satisfying to bring money into local, regional Victoria and to see things get done, literally on the ground."

Whilst still interested in surf photography and developing this proficiency as a hobby, Jo said that her most recent role as a surf judge has significantly improved her photography immensely.

"As part of PIBC, all competitors surf

a heat and judge a heat, and I thought oh, it'd be good to learn how to do this, and Surfing Victoria was offering free courses to Boardrider members, so I signed up for the foundation course. Being a surf judge has made me a better photographer because now I'm capturing what's considered technically difficult or just stylish," Jo explained.

Jo has since gone on to complete the level two progression course and become a judge at Surfing Victoria competitions, where she was trained by elite judges who judge WSL competitions internationally.

"I really love it, because it's different to my paid work, to my education background – it's nice to do something completely different and it ties in with my volunteer work with PIBC," said Jo.

Although this role is different, everything that Jo puts her mind to somehow still ties together with her making direct positive change, including her volunteer role in the election campaign for Independent Candidate for Monash, Deb Leonard.

"Working on the campaign with Deb just feels like the right thing to do. To simply help a friend who's also a great community leader," said Jo.

"It's interesting for me, because I did an undergrad in politics and to watch it in action and to see that as an independent, she's like an open book, is fabulous."

Despite these volunteer roles, Jo is the founder of Urban Forestry Research and a freelance Research Writer for different community projects.

"These projects are all about looking holistically at a region. In my recent work, employed with Kindred Spirits Enterprises, I was looking at Gippsland and what social foundations people need to live a good life, and what are the ecological ceilings for different environmental components," Jo explained.

To sum it up, Jo was researching council targets, reports, and strategies, as well as state and federal government – looking at sustainability development goals.

"It's a holistic view of the entire community needs, as opposed to one subsection," said Jo.

"I'm connecting with people, who all work towards one common goal. Just real people, doing real work."



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Plenty of room for all

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The house is still asleep – visiting family occupying the guest suite and two bedrooms, it's routine now, they know which room is whose and there's plenty of space for all.

The downstairs laundry is perfect, easy to wash up after a day spent on the beach. The rumpus room, a space where the big kids can play video games in the evening, whilst the young kids play games on the balcony.

The upstairs master looks out over Bass Strait, it's no less special and perfect for storm watching. A large walk-in robe runs alongside with ensuite easily accessible.

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from a two employee business to one of more than 100 employees. And better yet, they employ local people, support local trades, suppliers and industry, alongside local organisations and charitable causes.

"We pride ourselves on our quality," Construction Manager Kim O'Connor explained, noting the Portsea 376 display home in Wonthaggi had recently taken out the Best Display Home in the \$500,000-\$600,000 category at the HIA Eastern Victoria Housing Awards.

"These awards are a true reflection of the dedication, craftsmanship, and passion our team puts into every home we build."

Whether looking to downsize, upsize or a first home buyer the team at SJD will help guide you through the process from start to finish.

"We understand that navigating the homebuying process can be daunting, especially for first-time buyers and investors. That's why we have streamlined every step to make it as straightforward as possible, without compromising on the quality of construction and customer service," said new home building consultant at Wonthaggi, Michelle Eckhardt.

SJD Homes was recently recognised as HIA's Most Professional Major

Builder for 2024, a testament to their excellence in construction, customer care, and innovation. This recognition gives prospective homeowners confidence that they are choosing a trusted, reliable builder dedicated to delivering quality and excellence.

Whether your family is young and growing or retirement beckons head instore today, next year you might just be sipping on your morning coffee overlooking the crystal waters of Western Port. You can visit SJD Homes Display Home Super Centre at 330 White Road, North Wonthaggi. Open seven days a week, 12pm-5pm.

SJDhomes DISPLAY HOME *super* CENTRE

Visit one of our four display homes at
330 White Road, Wonthaggi today!

Open 7 days from 12pm - 5pm.

sjdhomes.com.au



Caversham 314

4 2 2



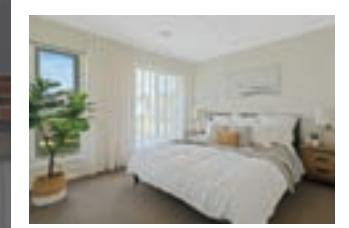
Patterson 332

4 3 3



Portsea 376

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- Sustainable Homes
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- Knockdown Rebuild Homes
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South Gippsland's *not so secret* treasures

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

Loch Suspension Bridge:

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

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

Agnes Falls:

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

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

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

Tarra-Bulga National Park:

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

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

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

Cape Liptrap Coastal Park:

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

Delight in the breathtaking vistas from the Cape Liptrap Lighthouse, offering panoramic views of turquoise waters. The straightforward, self-guided stroll not only showcases the scenic beauty but also provides insights into its historical importance. Explore the mangroves bustling with unique bird-life. Do not swim at Cape Liptrap.

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Authorised by Russell Broadbent MP, Independent Federal Member for Monash, Warragul

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One Great Club,
Two Great Venues

Club Bistro

OPEN for Lunch & Dinner 7 DAYS

Monday – Kids Eat Free*

Tuesday – Celebrity Parma

Try a different parma every week
for only \$22 served with a pot*

Wednesday – Steak Night*

2 premium steaks & a bottle of wine \$60

Thursday - Seniors Deal*

\$14 Two Course lunch & dinner

Friday - Funtimes

Mega Raffles
Cash Draws
Finger Food from 5pm

Courtesy Bus

Thursday, Friday & Saturday
4pm-6pm & 8pm-10pm
Bookings Essential



Stage 1

bar and lounge

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and Saturday from 10am

Free Quiz every Wednesday from 6:30pm

Poker every Thursday & Friday night,
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