

Sentinel-Times

SUMMER 2022/23

FREE

DISCOVER

South Gippsland and Bass Coast



THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER

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Mystery | p. 8

FRESH PRODUCE & WINERIES

Grow, make,
wine and enjoy | p. 19

GALLERIES, MARKETS & EVENTS

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

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

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

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Discover San Remo

HEAD TO THE JETTY AT NOON

ON THE foreshore next to the San Remo Pier and Co-op a magical event takes place daily – whether rain, hail or shine... Undertaken by San Remo Fisherman Co-Op staff, the pelican feeding takes place at noon with anywhere from five to 35 pelicans heading to the foreshore to participate. Feed a simple snack, the free event not only entertains the crowd but provides educational content regarding pelican's diets, lifestyles and conservation efforts. A must see for young and old alike – and afterwards pop in for your own snack next door at the Co-Op with delicious fresh fish, chips and everything in between including treats for your furry friends.



AN IDYLIC seaside town, San Remo has a range of delicious meal options combined with impressive beaches and walks. But where do you start? Head to the San Remo jetty, where playful pelicans and fishing trawlers bob in the channel, under the backdrop of the impressive San Remo bridge. Cast a line off the jetty or simply sit back and relax on the picturesque beach – an easy walk from the car park or one of the local caravan parks. And when lunchtime is approaching, watch the pelicans get fed at noon and then head to the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op. The Co-op is a staple of the San Remo community; it has been servicing the needs of the local fishing fleet and the seafood-loving community since 1948. Whether dining inside or out, you can soak up the stunning views over the very waters where your meal was caught. After your meal, discover some seafood delights to cook

at home. And for some additions to that delicious meal, pop into IGA San Remo. It is your friendly local grocer that has it all when it comes to unique and fresh local products and produce. On top of this, San Remo IGA is becoming well-known as a 'foodies' supermarket and its large cheese range sourced from both local and international producers is getting quite a reputation in the Bass Coast region. San Remo was recognised as a finalist in the Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards in 2021. The awards recognise and celebrate towns that offer an amazing visitor experience. And it's easy to see why, with country people welcoming you to the gateway to Phillip Island. The town has gone from strength to strength in recent years as the population has steadily increased and more people discover the seaside community with a main street which runs parallel with the beach.





- Fresh Local seafood straight off the boats
- Fish, crays, scallops, octopus & more
- Scrumptious fish & chips





OPEN 7 DAYS
SAN REMO JETTY
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plus LIQUOR

Owned and operated by locals, San Remo IGA offers local and gourmet lines. Come and shop our great range of groceries, fresh produce, fully-stocked deli, on-site butchers and liquor

or shop online **sanremoiga.com.au**

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OPEN 8AM – 9PM, 7 DAYS A WEEK

135 Marine Parade, San Remo • Phone 5678 5337

 San Remo IGA



HIT THE THROTTLE

Go Karts are a perfect way to experience the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit with a dedicated 760-metre scale replica track to give fans a taste of the action.



PHILLIP Island is home to one of the most picturesque circuits in the world, the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit, which hosts several international motorcycle and car racing championships throughout the year.

Every year thousands of motorcycling diehards descend on Phillip Island for the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix (MotoGP) and World Superbike Championships, as well as various Australian series.

Soak up the electric atmosphere

at any event, as grandstands light up against the stunning ocean backdrop!

Go full-throttle on brand new Go Karts at the 760-metre scale replica of the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit.

Situated right alongside the Grand Prix Circuit and overlooking Bass Strait, your Go Kart experience will be like no other.

For motorsport fans, take a guided circuit tour and a stroll through the history of motorsport museum.

CHURCHILL ISLAND Take a step back in time

CHURCHILL Island is home to a historical 1872 homestead, built on 57 hectares of farmland; countryside that today is renowned as one of Victoria's most loved tourist attractions.

Running daily activity schedules to showcase the craftsmanship around homemakers and farming, volunteers generously donate their time to give visitor tours on blacksmithing, cow milking, sheep shearing, working dogs, and whip cracking.

Open daily from 10am until 4:30pm

visitors have the opportunity to explore the island, learn the history of the heritage farm or discover the range of walking and cycling trails free to enjoy.

Over the summer period, every Thursday from December 29 until January 26 guests are welcome to join in on old fashioned games on the lawn or take a guided walk to learn of the culture and conservation values that remain today.

To find out about market days, or other attractions on Churchill Island visit www.penguins.org.au



FEEL THE SPEED WITH BREATHTAKING OCEAN VIEWS AT PHILLIP ISLAND GO KARTS + VISITOR CENTRE



**PHILLIP ISLAND
GO KARTS**

Contact the visitor centre to make a booking.
Call 5952 9400 or email vc@phillipislandcircuit.com.au

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Discover Phillip Island

with Wildlife Coast Cruises

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

One of the best ways to discover the Island is with a Wildlife Coast Cruises tour, taking you on various ocean journeys around this fantastic area.

For cute marine life, jump on a Phillip Island Seal Cruise.

This amazing tour takes you up-close and personal with thousands of Australian Fur Seals at Australia's largest breeding colony, Seal Rocks.

Summer at the rocks is an interesting time, as pups born from October-December can be spotted finding their feet and exploring their habitat in small rockpools and bleating at their mothers.

The Phillip Island Seal Cruise takes you along the north-west side of the Island, past the Nobbies and Round Island, it's an essential to do when visiting the Island.

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

one of them.

The cape is iconic for its towering granite cliffs, caves, and remnants of the old granite quarry, all surrounded by impressive turquoise waters.

The Cape Cruise is a one-hour tour that takes you to view this scenic area and departs from the historic San Remo fishing village.

After you return from your cruise make sure to try the delicious local Fisherman's Co Op, fish n' chips, using fresh flake straight off the boats.

In the evenings find yourself kicking back, enjoying a local wine and some delicious appetisers aboard an evening Sunset Cruise.

Taking you across the bay viewing birdlife and watching the sun set along this alluring coastline.

Or if you're in the mood for live music the Bay and Beats Cruise will keep you entertained boasting some excellent local talent as you take a tour around the bay.

There really is so many options to cruising the Island this summer the hardest part is deciding which one.



Phillip Island Seal Cruise

Wildlife experience



Cape Cruise

Amazing scenery



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



CONNECTING LAND AND SEA

THE Bass Coast Rail Trail sets high expectations, which are surpassed with an ovation-worthy ride at the meeting of land and sea.

Vivid green hills seemingly tumble into the ocean thanks to dramatic rocky cliffs and headlands.

Start the ride from Anderson (or Woolamai if you're on foot) with a scenic journey through rural farmland as the trail connects with the coast, then take a breather at Kilcunda. The beachside town is blessed with options for some good tucker.

Make your way down to Shelley Beach, living up to its name thanks to millions of tiny shells.

You're in for a treat as you head out of town with a crossing of the magnificent Kilcunda Trestle Bridge over Bourne Creek. Take a moment to admire the views toward rocky outcrops from the heritage-listed beauty.

You'll cross a road that leads down to the Mouth of the Powlett if you want to while away a few hours.

Next, you'll see the unmissable wind turbines of the Wonthaggi Wind Farm. These grand structures create a renewable energy source and power more than 6000 homes locally.

Continue on towards Wonthaggi. The bustling township has a thriving retail scene and a burgeoning cafe scene.

The 20km-plus fine gravel track through farmland, coastal bushland, historic coal mining reserves and rugged coastline is not to be missed and should be on everyone's to-do list – whether you're a local or visiting.

The Bass Coast Rail Trail also links to the George Bass Coastal Walk at Kilcunda, making it possible to walk from Punch Bowl in San Remo all the way to the centre of Wonthaggi.



Maintenance and tour guide volunteer, David Edgley, who 'toured' Vietnam in 1968-69 as a sapper with the Royal Australian Engineers, is depicted in this photo reading a book during downtime at the Nui Dat base. With him is NVVM Education and Interpretation Officer Wendy Anderson getting the new exhibition ready.

Enjoying some RnR at the Vietnam Veterans Museum

A VISIT to Phillip Island would not be complete without a fish and chips lunch at the San Remo Fishermen's Co-op, a visit to the National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Newhaven and dusk at the world-famous Phillip Island Penguin Parade.

You could slide a side trip in to Purple Hen Wines if you like, some kids playtime at Amaze'N'Things, Grumpy's Mini Golf or Island Ten Pins... you get the picture.

But a stop at the Vietnam Veterans Museum, next to Phillip Island Helicopters, is a must.

The museum has a great standing exhibition of Vietnam War vehicles, planes and armaments, key memorabilia and the story to go with it and a holographic Light and Sound Show which describes what it was like for conscripted soldiers, ordinary men, fighting in a foreign country against an increasingly desperate local army.

There's always a feature exhibition too, like there was through November, telling the story of First

Nation's People who paid the Supreme Sacrifice in War.

From the first week of December onwards, the National Vietnam Veterans Museum has put together an entirely appropriate exhibition for the summer holidays, with everything about what the ex-servicemen and women did on rest and recreation leave and during their downtime.

"They say being a soldier is 95% boredom and 5% action and we're focusing on the downtime in this exhibition," said NVVM Education and Interpretation Officer Wendy Anderson.

"Whether it's a barbecue in Vung Tau, playing sports at Nui Dat, sailing, reading a book or writing letters home, we've got some really good photos depicting that," said Wendy.

"The Australian Government brought over sailboats, surfboards, and all sorts of other sporting equipment. They played among themselves and all taught the kids how to play," said NVVM General Manager Braxton Laine.

The museum is open 10am to 5pm daily with the busiest time between 11am and 2pm.



Keep Bass Coast beautiful.

Be a good sort this summer. Get across Council's waste services from recycling rules to bin collection calendars.

Find out the latest for residents and guests:

For all services visit: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/waste

For bin calendars go to: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/bins

Meet us at **visitor information** or **customer service centres**.

Or call 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.





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

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

Lauren Mitchell of Phillip Island Helicopters said the multi-award-winning business has been regularly recognised as the most popular tourism attraction

in Bass Coast.

"We're open every day for locals and tourists to experience joy and adventure from one of the five different flights on offer, starting from only \$125 per person," said Lauren.

"Pilots Chad, Jason and Darcy will take to the skies this Summer and showcase Phillip Island from a different perspective - one that you can only get in the air."

A scenic flight is a once in a lifetime experience; an adventure to tick off the bucket list, a day-event to enjoy with family and friends post pandemic.

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

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





National Vietnam Veterans Museum and Café

Open 7 days
10am 5pm
Ph: 5956 6400

FASCINATING FOR ALL AGES

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



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



✓ **Check off your bucket list today!**

www.pih.com.au | Ph:5956 7316



Nick White experienced the 10-metre-high SkyTrail at A Maze'N Things, Phillip Island, enjoying the view and challenging his fears.



Leckie and Glenda visited A Maze'N Things with grandchildren Jesse and Lilly – who valued the sheer mystery and excitement inside Magic Manor.

RENOWNED for the array of activities for the entire family, A Maze'N Things in Cowes, Phillip Island is extending their SkyTrail adventure rope course sessions to accommodate for all visitors this summer.

The SkyTrail is a 10-metre-high adventure ropes course set on a zig zagging structure, with 34 challenges and two levels to explore.

Assistant manager, Taylah Fox said it gives the very adventurous a new and exciting activity, but still offers those who are a little more reserved; a chance to challenge their fears and get a healthy shot of adrenaline in complete safety.

"If you are looking for an adventure activity, an adrenaline rush or an exciting rope climbing experience these holidays, look no further. The SkyTrail is engineered for safety and designed for fun. Participants are outfitted with a full-body safety harness and sling line," said Taylah.

"The sling line is secured in the overhead track and to the participant's harness before they leave the ground and cannot be detached until they get back to the ground, giving you total security and freedom to choose wherever you want to go."

The SkyTrail is suitable for those over 140cm in good physical condition, and children over 120cm can also climb with a paying adult chaperone.

The outdoor fun continues at A Maze'N Things, with the Maxi mini golf 19-hole course available for those of all ages; whether it be a family friendly contest or just a bit of a laugh, mini golf is a family favourite on a summer afternoon.

Participants are then welcomed to purchase a fun, magic and adventure pass that provides access to Puzzle Island, Magic Manor, and the infamous Maze.

The giant three-dimensional maze consists of 1.99km of passages and gives adventurers a quest to find four congratulations flags and a race to the finish line.

Inside patrons can then explore Puzzle Island and Magic Manor – two unique and unforgettable attractions that will leave everyone in wonder.

Inside Puzzle Island patrons of all ages can enjoy the challenges and games as they make their way through a mirror maze or drop down the 7.2 metre LookOut drop slide.

Then the excitement continues through the cave of Magic Manor.

Attractions assistant Diane Koole said inside the walls of Magic Manor, eyes will wander, and things aren't always as they seem.

"Roam the library of tricks and mystery, enter the time machine and step inside the scare room but always remember that a magician will never reveal their secrets."

Whether you're looking for a fun family day out, a daytrip with friends or an adventure in the summer, A Maze'N Things has a whole lot of fun to offer and news of a gelato and lolly shop coming soon.

The onsite café and retail shop is available to the public and will be open 9am until 7pm from Boxing Day onwards. Last admissions for Puzzle Island, Magic Manor, Maze, and golf will conclude at 5pm each day.

"If you're looking to break out of your comfort zone with the SkyTrail and challenge your friends to reach the top, then book online and skip the queue, but remember to arrive 15 minutes earlier than your booked session time and allow just over one hour to complete the SkyTrail adventure."

To book the SkyTrail or any other attraction at A Maze'N Things, visit www.amazenthings.com.au or call 5952 2283 to speak to the friendly staff and make a group booking today.



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THINGS**

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ONLINE**

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please visit **AMAZETHINGS.COM.AU**



Find out what's on in Bass Coast this summer?

THE Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre provides maps and tickets for all major attractions and itinerary planning for visitors and locals alike this summer.

The knowledgeable and friendly staff inspire and inform visitors with different interests, whether it is experiencing the serenity and beauty of the surf and bayside coastlines; the thrill of adrenaline filled activities on the road, water or in the air; nature-based activities; wildlife and walking trails or a specialised bus tour with a local operator - they can facilitate it all.

Staff specialised in ticketing and accommodation know the product firsthand to ensure everyone finds exactly what you are looking for. They can create packages with accommodation, tickets, ideas on where to eat and information on local markets, shops, and fun activities.

There is a wide range of products for sale including a selection of high-quality local products and works by local artists unique to the region. The shop also has fun souvenir options for the whole family.

Visit the Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre at 895 Phillip Island Road, Newhaven or call 1300 366 422 to plan a summer getaway in Bass Coast.



Michael Donoghue from Warrick near Sale was visiting Bass Coast with the Sale Baptist Church group and a ride on spectacular Bass Coast Rail Trail.

More tracks and trails in Bass Coast

THERE'S already an extensive offering of tracks and trails around Bass Coast, highlighted by the spectacular Bass Coast Rail Trail over the old trestle bridge at Kilcunda.

But, whether it's riding from Wonthaggi to Cowes, a 4.5 hour trek with stops at Kilcunda for lunch and San Remo for coffee, or the chance to see local wildlife on the 4.6km loop around the Oswin Robers Reserve (behind the Koala Reserve), there's a pleasing variety of established trails and discovery routes.

There's already a lot but there's more.

The Bass Coast Shire Council has just completed an extensive audit of its tracks and trails, including setting out an ambitious schedule for \$44.3 million worth of development, including \$22.3 million in high-priority work to which the shire has already committed \$1 million per annum with the hope of attracting grant funds.

At its meeting in November, the Bass Coast Council adopted its 'Bass Coast Tracks and Trails Strategy 2022-2032', including

the six strategic principles which have guided the development of the strategy and delivery Plan: 1. Connectivity. 2. Health and well-being. 3. Accessibility. 4. Tourism. 5. Connection to nature. 6. Environmental protection.

"Investing in the 36 new trail projects identified in this strategy, will achieve the vision of "offering a connected and accessible trail network that supports active and healthy communities, showcases and protects the natural environment and encourages increased visitation to the region".

High priority trails include:

- Wonthaggi to Inverloch Trail
- Woolamai to Nyora Rail Trail Extension
- Coghlan Rd to Redwood Drive
- Rhyll Inlet to Cowes-Rhyll Road
- Ozone St to Goroke St
- Cowes to Ventnor Foreshore Trail

You can check out the 'Bass Coast Tracks and Trails Strategy 2022-2032' on the shire's website, where you'll find a list of trails you may not have known existed: <https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/about-council/news-listing/future-direction-set-with-bass-coast-tracks-and-trails-strategy>

Open Nightly from 6pm



New Rides New Games

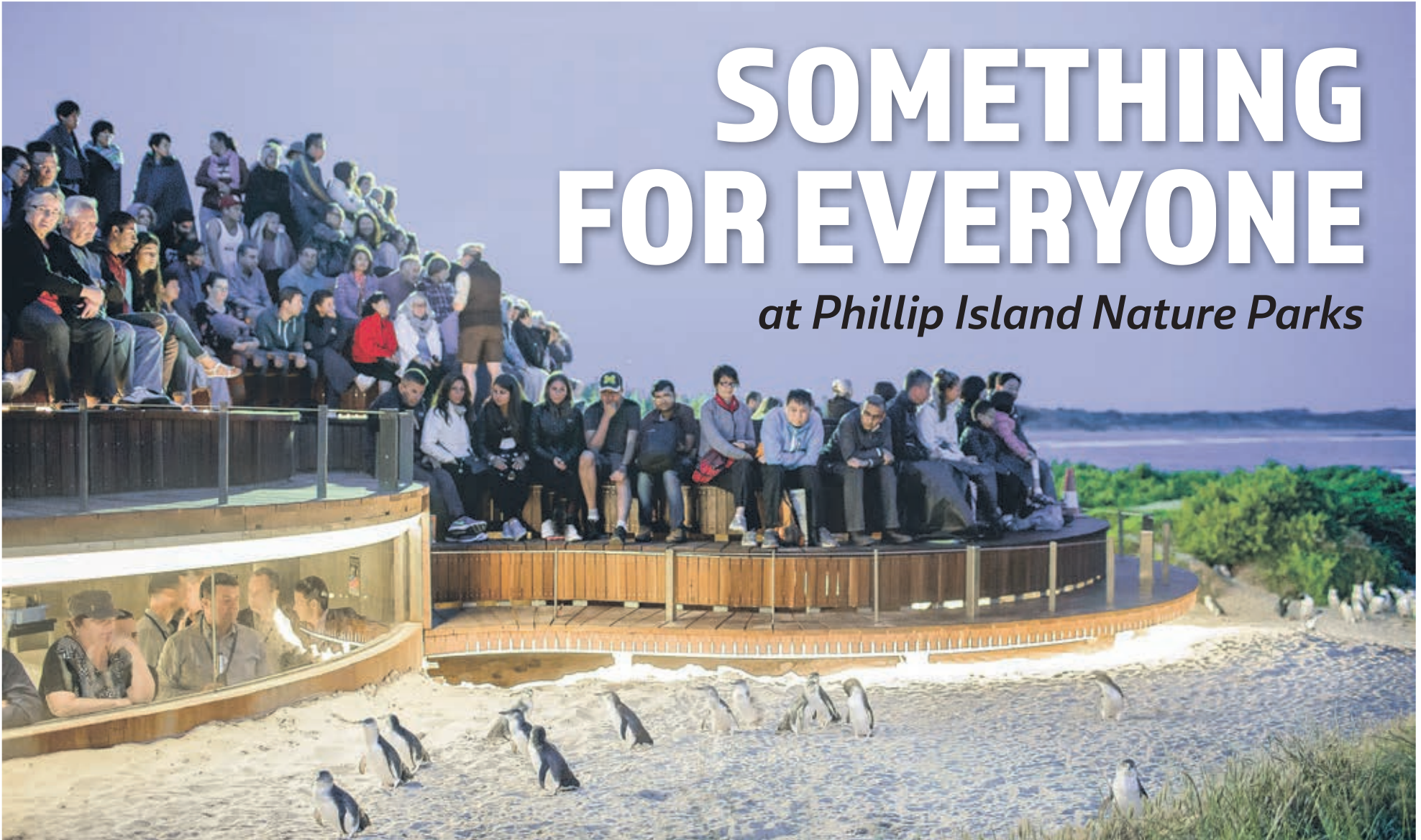
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Ventnor Rd, Cowes, Phillip Island ... Diagonally Opposite the RSL

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

at Phillip Island Nature Parks



THERE'S truly something for everyone to enjoy through Phillip Island Nature Parks thanks to their wide range of activities across the Island.

See More and Save – 4 Parks Pass:

The 4 Parks Pass is perfect for school holidays and includes booked entry to the Penguin Parade, plus open-dated entry to the Koala Conservation Reserve, Churchill Island, and the Antarctic Journey at the Nobbies. Entry to these three attractions is valid for up to 6 months from date of booking, so you can take your time to explore Phillip Island at your leisure.

Nightly Tours, Penguin Parade:

Nature Parks have just launched nightly tours for the popular Guided Ranger Tour and the fully eco-accredited Ultimate Adventure Tour. The Guided Ranger Tour takes you on an informative journey through the penguin colony while the Ultimate Adventure Tour offers you a unique opportunity to venture out to a secluded beach away from the Penguin Parade.

Family Wildlife Tour, Penguin Parade:

Hosted by your own Nature Parks ranger, enjoy a fun and educational tour that starts with a talk about the wildlife of Millowl (Phillip Island) and finishes with front row seats for your penguin viewing experience. Explore the secrets, sounds and signs left by the native animals that call the Penguin Parade home. Then settle in to watch the little penguins waddle home and ask your ranger any questions you have.

For more information or to book, visit penguins.org.au

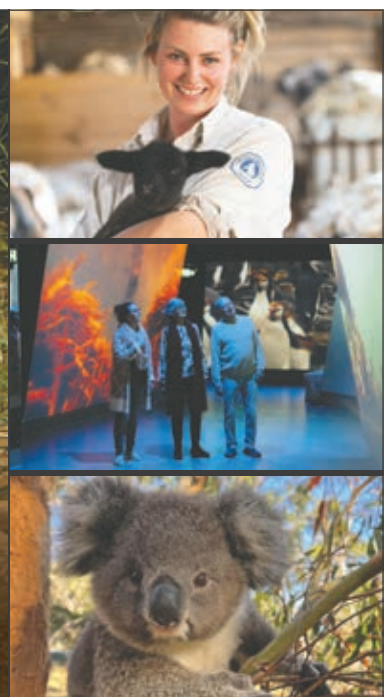


Watch the Little Penguins waddle home

See more
& SAVE
with a
**4 PARKS
PASS**

Visit Penguin Parade, Churchill Island, Antarctic Journey, Koala Conservation Reserve
BOOK NOW penguins.org.au

Phillip Island
**NATURE
PARKS**



Relax and embrace the fresh air and

FARM VIBES



WINDOWS down, the smell of fresh air and the sea breeze through your hair as you drive along the track that takes you to Macca's Farm.

Driving past the piglets to the left, lake to the far-right teaming with local wildlife you're whisked away to the beauty of working farm life.

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

Let the kids, young and old, laugh and run through the green grass as they chase the biggest and juiciest red berries.

Listening to the sweet sounds of nature and memories of growing up it's time to put your feet up and indulge at the delicious paddock to plate restaurant. Sit outside and bask in the ambience as you sip on Macca's Summer Sunset Smoothie, and feast on a grazing board, or if the weather is less than favourable there's always inside...

With seasonal specials plus everything you love be transported by mouth-watering meals, whether for breakfast, lunch or brunch...

Finish up with a coffee and something sweet; the recent German Blitz Torte and signature Choc Strawberry Raw Cake a must...

When you're bursting at the seams head next door to the Produce Store and grab supplies for the week ahead including a readymade meal for dinner or salad.

Stock up on hydroponic vegetables fresh from the paddocks, farm butchered free-range Angus beef and Wessex-Saddleback pork, and locally sourced free-range lamb, honey, jams, cheeses and biscuits.

From regular supplies to the delightful picnic basket kind fill up your boxes and embrace eating and supporting local. Better yet recreate memories reminiscent of small produce stalls of faraway countries – fresh Mediterranean salads made of local tomatoes, cucumber, onions and lettuce, topped with artisan cheese and drizzled with olive oil and even a dash of honey for the sweet tooth.

And don't be surprised to find delicious farm butchered ham or smallgoods too – simply not Christmas leftovers these are weekly staples locals love.

Macca's Farm really does bring the finest fresh produce from their paddocks and across South Gippsland to one place, at your fingertips. Head out for the day, a couple of hours or a quick stop for your weekly produce needs – you won't be disappointed.

EXPERIENCE SUMMER TIME ON MACCAs FARM

Great fun for the whole family!

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



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Café 9am – 3pm ■ Shop 9am – 5pm

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HMB15-V2

PHILLIP ISLAND RSL A VENUE FOR ALL OF LIFE'S OCCASIONS

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www.pirsl.com.au

HMB869

Experience NATIVE ANIMALS

VISITORS to Maru Koala & Animal Park can immerse themselves in the habitat of specific resident species through 'animal experiences', with koala feeding one of the highlights.

While general admission entry to Maru offers great value, including keeper talks and a wildlife presentation that gives people the chance to see and learn about many of the resident animals, those wanting a more in-depth animal experience can book one for an additional fee.

While koalas sleep between 18 and 20 hours a day, taking part in a koala feeding experience guarantees you will see the gum-leaf loving marsupials bright, alert and on the move.

"People get special entry at 9 o'clock before the business opens to everybody else and they come and join the keeper to feed the koalas," Maru's Neroli Heffer said.

As well as seeing the koalas enjoying fresh gum leaves, participants in this experience will learn about the species, their threats, conservation status and how people can help.

Keepers will introduce you to the koalas by name and describe their character as you assist with the morning feed.

You can get close to the koalas and feel the coat of one of them, taking as many photos as you like to capture this experience.

You'll enjoy exclusive access to the koala area, with the bonus of interacting with some wallabies there.

While some animal experiences may not run due to excessively hot weather, the koala feeding experience is guaranteed to take place as they must be fed every day.

Neroli outlined the park's new approach to its animal experiences.

"They're more about immersing yourself in the animal's habitat," she said.

That includes the opportunity to offer nectar to Maru's squirrel gliders as part of the Glider Experience.

Other animal experiences give you the chance to

put yourself into the habitat of reptiles, dingoes, or resident cassowary Gloria, with the latter opportunity limited to two people a day.

The Cassowary Experience includes joining a keeper for Gloria's daily training session.

Daily training is a routine for all animals at Maru Koala & Animal Park, as this regular training conditions the animal to approach keepers for easy and stress-free health assessment.

As well as providing an opportunity for participants to learn about specific species and conservation efforts related to them, animal experiences generate crucial funds for Maru's wildlife shelter.

Unfortunately, the shelter's volunteers are kept busy caring for many animals, often injured on roads.

The wildlife shelter and its inhabitants operate separately from the Koala & Animal Park, with the aim of the shelter being to rehabilitate its resident animals, exposing them to minimal human contact to enable them to be released into the wild.

Neroli stressed wild animals are never moved into the Park for display as it would be too stressful for them.

"The animals on display have grown up in that environment," Neroli said, noting the valuable conservation message these ambassador animals deliver.

Maru Koala & Animal Park offers plenty of family fun.

Besides wandering its grounds to see the many resident animals, people can strive to outdo friends and family on Maru's pirate-themed mini golf course.

Park entry now includes mini golf, or you can pay separately if you just want to tackle the course.

Maru's Homestead Bistro ensures nobody will go hungry, with a selection of tasty meals and snacks and a range of healthy options for summer.

Animal experiences can be booked online by visiting marukoalapark.com.au as can Maru general admission tickets.



Visitors to Maru Koala and Animal Park love the Koala Feeding Experience, getting up close to one of Australia's most famous animals and learning about them.

CARING FOR WILDLIFE FOR OVER 35 YEARS

MARU
KOALA & ANIMAL PARK

KEEPER FOR A DAY
Programs available

EXPERIENCE THE KOALAS UP CLOSE

- Hand feed kangaroos including rare albinos
- See and experience the koalas up close
- Wombats, dingoes, Tasmanian Devils
- Talking parrots and many other animals
- Crocodile, snakes and lizards

ANIMAL EXPERIENCES AT MARU

- Join the keepers to feed the koalas
- Immerse yourself in the dingo habitat
- Meet snakes and lizards
- Have the gliders greet you inside their nocturnal house
- Professional photography available
- See our website for more details

ALSO

- Regular keeper talks
- Daily Wildlife Presentation in auditorium
- Pirate Pete's Mini-golf
- Meals and drinks in the Homestead Bistro

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Photos courtesy Anna Carson [f](#) [e](#) Seabrae Photos

GRANTVILLE

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

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

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





Top attractions of the Waterline

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

CORONET BAY

IN the summer months, the township of Coronet Bay comes alive with people flocking to the family friendly bay (regarded as a beach to the locals) for a swim, fish, kayak or a game of beach cricket. The water is crystal clear and at low tide you can see tiny fish swimming in it. The Coronet Bay beach is accessible via Cutty Sark Road where there are amenities such as public toilets, a rotunda (to escape the heat) and cooking facilities (for that perfect summer barbeque). Nearby there is a general store. The beach is also accessible via Norsemen's road where the walking track to Corinella starts.

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

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

CORINELLA

NEIGHBOURING Corinella is known for its fishing and for good reason. It boasts four new boat ramps, a designated area for cleaning fish and a long jetty, all of which can be accessed via Peter's Street. Bait and tackle for fishing can be purchased at the town's general store. Many find a good catch off of the jetty or by taking the boat out. As a fishing spot, in the summer months, it can get very busy. The new area for cleaning fish has brought more pelicans to the town, as fisherman feed off cuts of fish to them. Watch as the pelicans fly in for a feed! Conveniently located up from the jetty and boat ramp, is a caravan park, ideal for that camping getaway. At the foreshore you will find picnic tables, cooking facilities and a rotunda. There are also amenities (such as public toilets) at the town's park.

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

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





A whole new experience at Bassine Cheese

Owners of Bassine Speciality Cheeses Glen Bisognin and Kaye Courtney's mission is to remain a slow food movement business, keeping quality over quantity.

BASSINE Speciality Cheeses dairy farm was established in 1966 by Attilio and Mary Bisognin and today the family owned, and operated business is passionately managed by son Glen Bisognin and his partner Kaye Courtney.

When visiting the farm located on Bass Highway in Glen Forbes, Glen and Kaye welcome their customers to a whole new level of experience, sharing their slow food movement with

the public by inviting them into an on-farm café with a homemade menu.

"Our menu offers an array of cheese-cakes made onsite with our handmade artisan farmhouse cheeses, cheese platters, milkshakes with our pasteurised not homogenised pure milk and homemade scones – made with the freshest produce there is," said Glen.

"We also have a focus on low-on-low food miles, meaning our milk comes from 200 metres up the driveway and

to remain local we only wholesale to small independent mum and dad grocers, milk bars, restaurants and cafes located with 100km from the farm."

Managing a slow food movement business, Glen and Kaye can produce all their own dairy products, milk their cows, pasteurise their milk and develop their own cheese shop – that's been open since 2014.

"We are not mass produced, our customers can view the make room and

watch everything made in person, on-site," said Glen.

"With everything handmade and done in respect of quality not quantity our milk is made like the good old days, so don't forget to give it a shake each time you take it from the fridge."

Located at 2125 Bass Highway, Glen Forbes, Glen, and Kaye welcome the public to experience life on the farm, and with any luck you'll be able to meet the cows.



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It's party time at Woolamai and Stony Creek

THE popular Woolamai and District Racing Club missed its first meeting of the year after the wet start to the season but they're up and running now, ready to party like it's 2023!

In fact, the next race meeting at Woolamai is the New Year's Eve bash and the party crowds, especially the 'Bucks' Parties' and 'Hens' Parties groups', are already booked in and raring to go.

It's a day when the action off the track will rival the great racing on the track, with Woolamai already attracting some top fields of up-and-coming racehorses (a few 'never was' racehorses too having one last crack at the winners' circle).

And the revellers will be suitably attired as well. They'll be partying at Stony Creek too, on Tuesday, December 27 at their very popular Christmas-New Year race meeting when the city visitors meet the country folk. Sure to be a great occasion to come off the beach.

Woolamai Racing Club Secretary, Abby Boyle, said the club had been set for a bumper season of seven race meetings, including the relocated Healesville picnic meeting on Saturday, December 10 but said it was all systems go now.

"The winter dragged on a bit and the spring was late but we're into the good weather now and racegoers have responded strongly," Ms Boyle said.

Ms Boyle said the club had simply been keen to get the season started, such is the popularity of one of Victoria's best picnic race venues, with heavy bookings already in for the big cup meeting on Saturday, January 28.

Stony Creek's traditional Christmas-New Year holiday meeting on Tuesday, December 27 will be followed by four other meetings in January (2), February and March.

Race meeting dates

Woolamai & District race meetings: Saturday, December 31, Saturday, January 14, Saturday, January 28 (Woolamai Cup), Saturday, February 18 and Saturday, April 1.

Stony Creek race meetings: Tuesday, December 27, Tuesday, January 3, Tuesday, January 31, Monday, February 13 and Sunday, March 12 (Stony Creek Cup).



THE GURDIES WINERY

LOCATED ON THE TOP OF THE HILL

Boasting breathtaking views of French Island and Western Port Bay, The Gurdies Winery has a large Cellar Door, huge patio and an outdoor function area perfect for that special occasion.

All our wines are made from Estate grown grapes.

The Gurdies Winery – Wine worth the detour

Look after yourself this summer

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

1. STAY HYDRATED

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

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

2. GET YOUR REST

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

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

3. MOVE YOUR BODY

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

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

4. CONNECT WITH OTHERS

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

5. WEAR SUNSCREEN

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

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PURPLE HEN

Grow, make, wine and enjoy

TRAVELLING along the country road the turn to Purple Hen is a sight to behold.

As you travel past the vines and appear at the Cellar Door, there is no room for maybes, it's simply time to relax, chat with good friends and embrace the sights and sounds of nature.

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

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

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

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

What has followed is over 200 trophies, awards and medals across Chardonnay, Merlot, Pinot Gris, Riesling, Sauvignon Blanc, Sparkling Wines, Viognier, Shiraz, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Noir all produced on Phillip Island's doorstep.

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

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

here," Rick added.

"It produces very good wine, which shows with our 2021 Pinot Noir recently winning Gold in both the 2022 Australian Pinot Noir Challenge and the 2022 Victorian Wine Show."

Purple Hen's 2022 Sauvignon Blanc and 2021 Chardonnay also secured silver in the Victorian Wine Show with bronze for the 2022 Riesling Off Dry and 2022 Fume Blanc.

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

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

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

Follow Purple Hen on socials and visit purplehenwines.com.au for Friday night and Saturday evening's summer music events.

TOP RIGHT: Rick proudly shows off the award-winning Purple Hen Pinot Noir 2021.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Dom and Rick check in on the barrels with a cheeky tasting.

"Our wine is Island grown and made."



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Island Grown and Crafted



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

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

Vineyard and Winery:

School Holidays: 11am - 5.30pm, 7 days a week

Other times: 5 days a week (closed Tuesday and Wednesday)

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www.purplehenwines.com.au



A Trip to the Museum



THERE are plenty of opportunities to dive into our district's history – whether you want to go back as far as the dinosaurs, coal mining or the Vietnam War – with museums from Phillip Island to Inverloch to Port Welshpool.

Coal Creek Community Park and Museum

Established in 1974, Coal Creek is a historic village that shares the history of South Gippsland pioneers in the coal industry.

Many historic buildings from across the district have been moved onto the site to recreate what a mining town would have been like in the late 1800s.

The 15-hectare open-air museum is home to over half a million collection items ranging from trains to thimbles.

Inverloch Shell Museum

It has over 6000 shells, making it one of the largest collections in the world.

The collection is owned by the Bass Coast Shire under the auspices of the South Gippsland Conservation Society and housed at the Bunurong Environment Centre in Inverloch.

The museum houses specimens such as conical shells, flat shells, sea snail shells, kauri shells and scattered amongst them are pieces of coral, seahorses and crabs. It also has a touch and feel table, shell art, dinosaur fossils, crystals and Aboriginal artefacts.

National Vietnam Veterans Museum

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum (NVVM) is an independent Australian museum with a huge collection of artefacts from the Vietnam War.

As a Vietnam veteran himself, museum curator and owner John Methven OAM and his wife Krishna originally toured the collection as a travelling museum trailer for many years before the collection found its permanent home in Newhaven on Veterans Drive.

Displays include conscription ballot balls, helmets, helicopters, tanks and bombers as well as audiovisual displays and a holographic sound and light show.

Foster Museum

See how the district developed from the discovery of gold in 1870, the growth of the dairy and fishing industries, the establishment of Wilsons Promontory National Park in 1906 – Victoria's first National Park – to the thriving district of the 21st century.

Located in the main street of Foster, the museum is run by volunteers from the Foster and District Historical Society.

It is certainly worth a look if you're interested in local history.

Port Welshpool Maritime Museum

The Townsend Street museum is housed in one of the original fishermen's homes of Port Welshpool.

It houses a collection that showcases the history of the district, including maritime artefacts, a shell collection and history of the founding families of the area.

It is also the site of the Janet Iles, a fishing boat built in 1914 for the Smith family.

State Coal Mine

The Wonthaggi State Coal Mine offers a glimpse back in time to what life was like in a coal mine in the early 1900s.

The coal mine in Wonthaggi operated between 1909 and 1968 and produced 17 million tonnes of coal for Victoria's industries and railways.

Now managed by Parks Victoria, the State Coal Mine site has been lovingly restored by the local community for the enjoyment of generations to come.

Wonthaggi Railway Museum

The Wonthaggi Historical Society's museum is at the old railway station in Wonthaggi and has many historic artefacts and photographs covering all aspects of the town's historical past.

Not only that, but the train station building is over 100 years old!

The museum also has a small collection of books and souvenirs about the local history for sale.

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MOST of us are looking for a little piece of paradise, not too far from our home comforts but far enough away from the madding crowds of summer to be at one with nature.

Well French Island just may be that place.

Only a 15-minute fast cat ride with Western Port Ferries from Phillip Island, this little known, off grid, eco-destination is two-thirds National Park.

With unmade roads, plenty of wildlife, volcanic beaches, free camp site, a general store and one winery it is just waiting to be explored.

Hikers, cyclists and nature lovers can head over for the day and discover this hidden treasure.

If you are looking for more, Naturaliste 4WD Tours can take you on a tour of the island.

For first timers, try the Discover French Island Tour with plenty of history, wildlife encounters, meet locals and lunch or afternoon tea on a farm.

Wine lovers may like to experience the Wines, Vines and Vistas Tour with the

French Island Vineyard for a tasting, lunch, guided walk and 4WD tour to and from the winery.

All tours include the ferry crossing, take only 10 passengers and are great value starting at \$109 per person.

Always be prepared and be safe when visiting over the summer months.

Check the weather before you travel, take water, sunscreen taking all the other sensible summer travel items and precautions.

Western Port Ferries sails every day between Cowes and French Island and on to Stony Point on the Mornington Peninsula. The passenger ferry is a great bay cruise in itself.

The staff are warm and friendly, welcoming both local French Islanders and visitors alike.

Timetable and ticket purchase at www.westernportferries.com.au

Naturaliste Tours operates most days, offering small, guided 4WD tours.

Visit www.naturalistetours.com.au



What to do in INVERLOCH

Inverloch is brimming with activities for young and mature alike from shopping to dining, the beach and surfing to walks, wrecks and photo opportunities.

Take your shoes off as you immerse yourself in the soft sand, splash water with the kids and grandkids and laugh like no-one is watching.

Once you've dried off fill the tummies with a bite or something sweet and experience everything the coastal town has to offer...

This is Inverloch – the entrance to the lake.



For the quieter moments, grab your fishing rod and spend some quality family (or alone) time on the Jetty, as Brendan and Annie were doing.



Meditating on the rocks or simply enjoying the present moment, there is nothing better than enjoying the abyss.



Prefer to move – grab your bike like Dan and Zephyr and enjoy the many bike paths and trails across Inverloch and nearby districts.



If shopping is more your cup of tea there are plenty of offerings to be had from furniture to clothes and gifts scattered around Inverloch.



Austin and Grace enjoy the waves at Inverloch. Don't worry if you don't have your own board, pop into Myli Library and borrow one!



Enjoy the free sights around town including the replica ketch Ripple dedicated to the masters and crew who gave their service to Inverloch.

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INDULGE THE SENSES

A delicious mix of Malaysian inspired dishes to tantalise your tastebuds.

GREETED by a friendly and welcoming team as one walks through the door, Pearl sits on the site of the Old Manna Gum in Broadbeach.

It's one of the best kept secrets to the east as chef, Ken, indulges the senses with a Malaysian inspired menu.

Rest your legs after a long day and be transported with delicious dishes, sumptuous cocktails, and come summer a beer garden with live music.

Pearl is the first child of The Grove, Gippsland evolving from a desire to keep their team employed during the many lockdowns, with take away and provide an easier opportunity for individuals and families to enjoy The Grove without the drive.

"Our customers were asking for The Grove without the late-night windy hills," Manager, Tracey explained.

"So, we brought The Grove to our customers.

"It's the same ethos with fresh produce and something special on the side.

"Pearl is out of the ordinary, we wanted to provide a destination where one could enjoy dinner with an attention to detail, real customer service and unbeatable ambiance."

Ken's family are all in the hospitality industry back in Malaysia

and therefore, it comes as no surprise his focus is on the food and the industry with a dash of particularities.

"Ken is clear about how things should be done and is very particular," Tracey said.

Tracey is no stranger to the kitchen either, a previous life as a chef in Melbourne, before joining The Grove when they opened their restaurant in 2019.

"I've been cooking since I was eight. I remember creating choux pastry when I was 10 to make chocolate eclairs.

"I love helping the young team realise what they want to do – we do it because we love food and the customer relationship that's created. It's addictive.

"We are also proud to be hosting a weekly seafood night each Thursday. Every Thursday there will be a special seafood dish showcased."

A private room seating 20, the main restaurant is also available for special events, with seasonal food and drink specials on socials.

"Lilian makes a mean margarita with a select list of cocktails available, alongside take away."

"Everyone who works here feels the same – we spend a lot of time at work in our lives and it's important we enjoy it, and we want our customers to enjoy it also. It's a (civilised) party every night!"



Shioni, Tracey and Lilian are ready to welcome diners to Pearl in Inverloch.

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Pearl Inverloch



Volunteer Helen Norman invites visitors to the township to explore the immense work exhibited at Wonthaggi ArtSpace.

Talented artists and much more at ArtSpace

WONTHAGGI ArtSpace is a gateway to arts and culture for artists and art appreciators, as well as a space for sharing stories of the past and visions for the future. The ArtSpace gallery primarily features and promotes local artists and writers from Bass Coast and South Gippsland. But is also inclusive of participating artists from other regions of Victoria, providing the opportunity for artists to showcase and sell their art. The arts are vital for the health and well-being of individuals and the community, expression and voice of cultures, empathy, and education, as well as a guide to live in the moment. Volunteer Ellen Hubble said the information centre, as part of the ArtSpace gallery, provides guidance and assistance to local community and visitors, including those travelling from interstate and overseas.

“Purely managed as a volunteer space, the generosity of locals is what keeps artists connected with each other and their community and we are ready for nine new exhibitions in 2023.” Exhibitions include indigenous artist Daniel Church, Carol Mercer, the Winter Solstice, NAIDOC, ArtsPrint, Three Exhibitions – open to all artists and John Mutsaers - 40th anniversary exhibition. Daniel Church is a contemporary Aboriginal artist whose passion for art began in his primary school years, after his brother was being given a demonstration on the critics of line drawing. “As I watched and observed wilfully with my brother’s demonstration, I became hypnotised by the art angelic process. I have been mesmerised ever since.” Daniel shared his story stating, “My brother and I were incarcerated and sent

to the correctional centre in Queensland, where we spent years in confinement. During this time in detention with my brother, we began to paint together authentically for the first time, and I discovered myself as an individual and unique artist.” It was during the time that Daniel unlocked his true capabilities. “I witnessed art becoming a true expression of individualism and a visual creation of my story.” Daniel’s exhibition will be at the ArtSpace gallery from January 24 until March 6, 2023, and he explained that within each piece of artwork, “I have painted and carved my song lines and stories of what my family and elders taught me and embedded my connection to the ocean and country.” As a premier gallery in Wonthaggi, ArtSpace features a diverse range and high-quality artworks, professional

assistance in the purchasing process and community enrichment. “Our vision is to provide for the widest possible audience to view and purchase high quality artworks by artists and artisans, but we need the help of volunteers,” said Ellen. “Shifts are 10am until 3pm daily, training is provided and no previous knowledge or experience in the arts of information is required.” “ArtSpace recognises and implements the importance of collaborating with art groups galleries and societies throughout the region, so we assist each other and provide support for artists and make their work accessible to the public.” The art gallery boardroom is available for hire for meetings and small functions. To find out more about the 2023 exhibitions call 5672 5767, or to become a volunteer email artspaceroasters@gmail.com



Summer Art

Time for yourself, family and friends over summer, visit our Exclusive High Quality Art Collection by our renowned local artists.

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Marvellous music

Bones and Jones stops off on their Regional Tour at the Archies Creek Hotel on Saturday, January 21, 2023.

at Archies Creek Hotel

NO VISIT to South Gippsland and Bass Coast is complete without looking up what's on at the Archies Creek Hotel.

From international acts like Eric Bibb (USA), to iconic Australian artists like Brian Cadd, Ross Wilson, Mark Seymour and Joe Camilleri and his Black Sorrows, and even the inimitable Chad Morgan; they're all going to be here over the summer.

Since the Archie's Creek Hotel was taken over by Caravan Music Club promoters Peter Foley and Mary Howlett, the line-up of acts who've performed at the pub, and local hall, just outside Wonthaggi has been nothing short of mind-blowing.

And all those who've had the pleasure of seeing the Aussie greats, visiting internationals and the up-and-coming close-up and personal consider themselves very fortunate.

Do yourself a favour... as they say!

Here's some of the flavour of what you can expect:

"I was just speaking to an American musician friend on the phone and he reckons Red Volkaert is quite possibly the greatest guitar player on the planet," said Peter Foley.

The Grammy award winning picker who has played with the likes of Merle Haggard, George Jones and Dwight Yoakam will head to Archies on Saturday February 4 with Ray Beadle as part of their Guitar Gumbo tour.

"Not to be missed," says Peter.

Tickets and further information: <https://bit.ly/3Xy07Vp>

Australian Blues pioneers Chain, featuring Matt Taylor and Phil Manning, will celebrate an astounding 55 years together at Archies Creek on Saturday, March 11.

"And for something completely different, we are delighted to welcome back Ella Hooper on Sunday, February 12 to launch her brand spanking new album titled 'Small Town Temple'."

"It was such a pleasure to have Lindy Morrison in our town recently and we can now announce that her old 'Go Betweens' band mate Robert Forster will saunter laconically into Archies on Sunday, May 21. Robert once commented to me that it was his dream to play and stay in a country hotel," said Peter.

"Hopefully it's all he imagines it to be and such an honour to have this great Australian songwriter dropping in."

"I had the good fortune of attending John Prine's final Melbourne show at the Palais. Like many, I found it to be the most inspiring emotional concert experience of my life."

"John Prine is my favourite songwriter, so I am super pleased to announce a special concert to celebrate his lyric genius on Sunday, January 15. The show is titled 'It's Prine Time' and features Australian folk legend Mike McClellan together with Suzannah Espie and Lachlan Bryan."

New Year's Eve Archies Creek love bus initiative

It's on at Archies Creek Hotel on New Year's Eve with a Jazzparty featuring special guests and DJ Ginger Light.

And to make it easy for patrons to enjoy the night, they have, the hotel has organised the transport.

"We have chartered a 57-seat coach that will firstly pickup from Cowes at 6pm, then head down Phillip Island Road, collecting Archies Creek Hotel revellers from V/Line Bus Stops, continuing on through to San Remo and Kilcunda and arriving at Archies around 7pm."

"The coach will then head down to Inverloch and start collecting folk from there at 7.30pm, returning to Archies via Cape Paterson and Wonthaggi. The bus will return you home safely between 1am and 2.30am."

Bus tickets can be purchased via the Jazzparty Ticket Link on the Archies Creek Hotel website... get on board!

Here's a selection of the talent coming Archies Creek's way:

- Saturday, December 31 – Jazzparty (New Years Eve) W/Special Guests + Dj Ginger Light
- Sunday, January 1 (New Years Day) Mick Thomas & The Roving Commission + Sherry Rich & The Grievous Angels + Dave Wright & The Midnight Electric
- Sunday, January 8 - Katie Noonan – Joni Mitchell's Blue 50th Anniversary

- Sunday, January 15 - The Lyric Genius Of John Prine featuring Mike McClellan, Lachlan Bryan & Suzannah Espie.
- Saturday, January 21 - Bones & Jones 'Regional Tour'
- Saturday, February 4 - Red Volkaert & Ray Beadle 'Guitar Gumbo Australian Tour'
- Sunday, February 5 - Brian Cadd & Band
- Sunday, February 12 - Ella Hooper Album Launch
- Saturday, February 15 - Chad Morgan
- Sunday, February 26 - Dog Trumpet 'Shadowland Album Launch' W/ Special Guest Stephen Cummings
- Friday, March 3 - Eilen Jewell W/Special Guests The Rechords
- Saturday, March 4 - Liam Gerner & Los Perros Perdidos Album Launch.
- Sunday, March 5 - Eric Bibb (USA) (Sold Out)
- Friday, March 10 - Hussy Hicks
- Saturday, March 11 – Chain '55th Anniversary Celebration
- Saturday, March 18 - Songs For Suzanne: The Music And Poetry Of Leonard Cohen
- Sunday, March 19 - Liz Stringer & William Crighton
- Sunday, May 21 - Robert Forster
- Sunday, March 26 - The Whitlams Black Stump Band.

To check out what's on and to look for new dates at the Archies Creek Hotel go to: <https://archiescreekhotel.com.au/>



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Owner of Summersalt Gymnastics Chelsea Caple has a dedicated team of movement educators including Wendy Caple, Nakita Dowie and friendly favourite Scout.

Flip'n good fun

SUMMERSALT Gymnastics in Wonthaggi has the kid's fun covered over the school break, opening their summer holiday program from Monday, January 9 until Friday, January 27.

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

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

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

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

Two, one-hour sessions will run every Wednesday from 9:30am until 10:30am and 10:30am until 11:30am for children aged one-year to pre-school; and on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, movement educators will run two, two-hour

sessions for kinder to teens, ran from 9:30am until 11:30am and 12pm until 2pm.

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

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

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

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

The summer program will be \$15 for an hour session and \$30 for a two-hour session. Bookings can be made online at www.summersaltgym.com.au. All participants are recommended to bring a drink bottle and socks for the bouncy trampolines.

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

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Great Southern Rail Trail

Expanding east and west

SOUTH Gippsland and Bass Coast shires are set to host one of the most extensive systems of rail trails anywhere in Australia.

And it's all being rolled out right now.

Funded with a grant of \$800,000, through the State Government's Local Sport Infrastructure Fund in October 2021, the 28.5km extension of the Great Southern Rail Trail from Leongatha to Nyora is almost complete.

The section between Leongatha and Loch is already up and going and the next part to Nyora is expected to be open by Christmas.

Most people enjoy their chosen sections; Leongatha to Meeniyan or Meeniyan to Fish Creek are popular, with the chance to stop for coffees or lunch and to visit some of the art galleries and other attractions along the way.

But the run from Leongatha to Korumburra and on to Loch is gaining plenty of supporters, rolling through the gorgeous, green hills of South Gippsland, past bakeries, cafés and other points of interest along the way.

Past Fish Creek and Foster you'll catch a spectacular glimpse of Wilsons Promontory, across the waters of Corner Inlet and the intrepid ones can push on to Port Welshpool for a walk on the long jetty.

Bass Coast already boasts one of the most spectacular rail trails in the state, across the Kilcunda trestle bridge, between Wonthaggi and Anderson, and then on to San Remo and Cowes on Phillip Island.

Both the Bass Coast and South Gippsland shires are cooperating to get the 21km section between Woolamai and Nyora completed, which is earmarked as the vital western link of the 1100km Gippsland Odyssey trail.

Bass Coast Shire Council has been awarded \$375,000 from the Victorian Government's Investment Fast-Track Fund 2022-23 to progress planning for this trail extension.

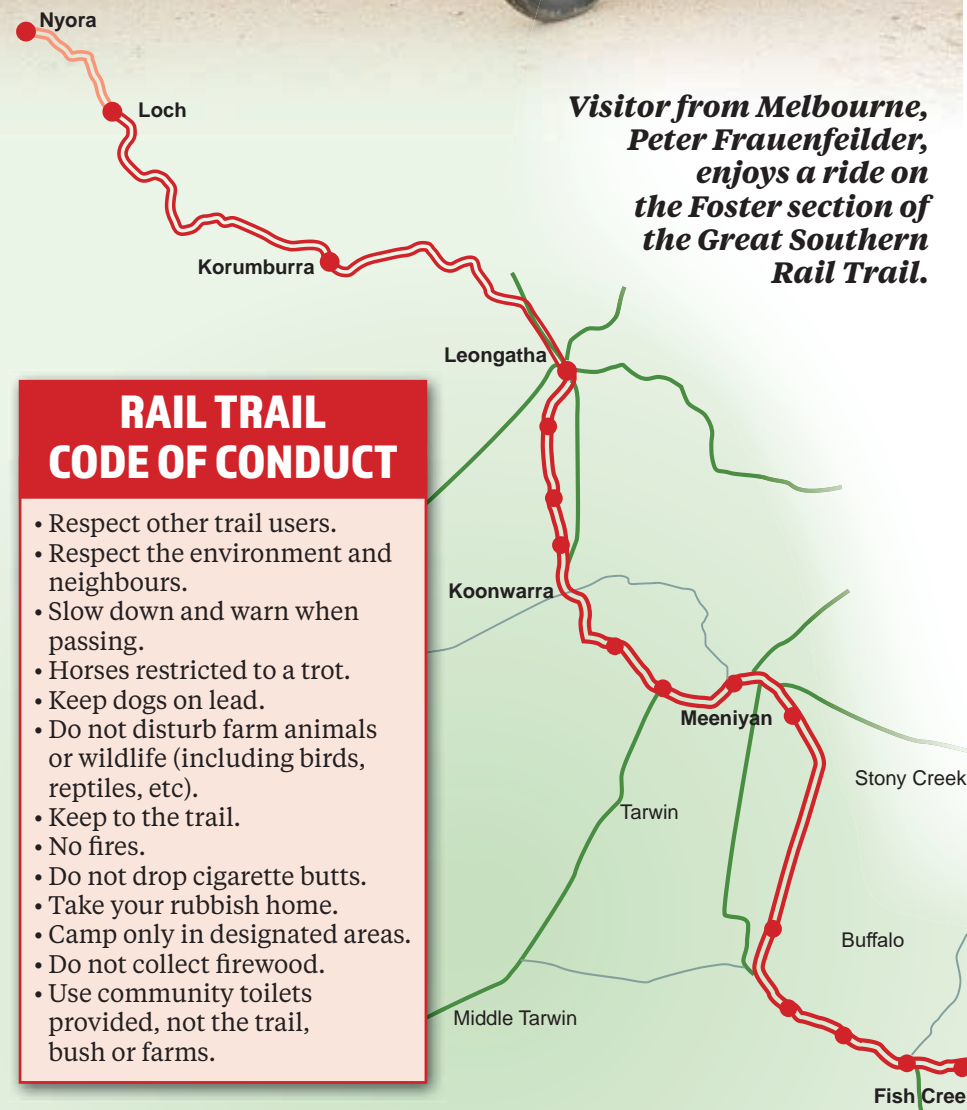
Up the other end of the line, between Welshpool and Yarram, the Wellington Shire received \$6 million to construct the 21km section between Alberton and Welshpool, featuring several small and large bridge projects, for which contracts were recently awarded by the shire at the October 2022 council meeting.

The work is expected to get underway early in 2023.

Since the onset of the pandemic, including the stay-at-home and lockdown rules, everyone is looking for outdoor activities and the network of local rail trails and villages offer the perfect combination.

Visitor from Melbourne, Peter Frauenfeilder, enjoys a ride on the Foster section of the Great Southern Rail Trail.

FOSTER



The trail from Nyora to Port Welshpool will soon be extended to Alberton.

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GOTTA GO GOLFING!

- Nine great courses to enjoy

From Phillip Island Golf Club at Cowes, and Lang Lang Golf Club at near Nyora in the west to the small Welshpool Golf Club and Yarram in the east, there's a week-and-a-half of golf to be had on the courses of South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

Cowes, Lang Lang and Leongatha are rated highly by visitors, but it's well worth getting off the beaten track to enjoy the green rolling hills of the excellent Korumburra Course, Mirboo North or Meeniyan amongst the trees, or the town courses at Foster and Woorayl (in Leongatha).

An outlier for this area, but still well worth the trip is the spectacular Yarram Golf Course.

Situated on a sand belt just east of the town, the course handles the wet weather with ease but looks an absolute picture at the moment, thanks to Mother Nature's support of the fairway irrigation system.

Here are the local golf courses:

Yarram Golf Club is a challenging 18-hole course featuring top class greens. Clubhouse fully licensed and visitors always made most welcome. A small colony of kangaroos occupy the course and graze contently while golf is played around them. Par for the course is 72. Phone: (03) 5182 5596.

Korumburra Golf Club is a picturesque 18 hole course in the heart of the rolling South Gippsland hills. Grass greens always maintained to the highest standard. Excellent licensed clubhouse with magnificent views and a friendly atmosphere. Phone: (03) 5655 1886. This course has the most magnificent array of trees seen anywhere.

Woorayl Golf Club is a nine hole course, located within the town, at Leongatha's renowned sporting reserve. It offers a challenging round of golf with a warm social atmosphere. Phone: (03) 5662 4187.

Meeniyan Golf Club is situated three kilometres from

Meeniyan on the road to Wilsons Promontory and Waratah Bay, Meeniyan has 18 watered grass greens on gently undulating country. The club is fully licensed and has a small but very friendly membership with a relaxed country atmosphere. Phone: (03) 5664 7490.

Welshpool Golf Club is a level nine-hole course, just out of town. All grass greens with spectacular views back over Corner Inlet to Wilsons Promontory. Phone: (03) 5688 1556. The course in all its years has recently conceded to a sub-par round for the first time.

Phillip Island Golf Club is located on Victoria's premier tourist resort, one kilometre from the township. Eighteen level tree-lined watered fairways. Par 72. Phone: (03) 5952 2141. Pro shop (03) 5952 1121.

Leongatha Golf Club is located on Inverloch-Koonwarra Road. An 18 hole, 5795 m. par 70 course, which features santa annua fairways, undulating tree-lined fairways, excellent coastal and rural views. Licensed clubhouse, Friday night meals, Golf equipment available. Phone: (03) 5664 3314.

Mirboo North Golf Club is an 18 hole course, watered fairways, situated on the northern perimeter of Mirboo North township. The course has been developed from natural bushland. The undulating fairways offer panoramic views of the surrounding hills and bushland. Phone: (03) 5668 1515.

Foster Golf Club is an attractive, undulating, tight course of 5725 metres, par 72, ACR 69. The course has only nine sand bunkers but small greens add to the challenge. The club boasts a fine new licensed clubhouse. Phone: (03) 5682 2272.

A HIDDEN TREASURE at Leongatha Golf Club

AFTER moving from the township of Leongatha in the 1950s to its current location at 855 Koonwarra-Inverloch Road, Leongatha South, the Leongatha Golf Club is thriving.

It has long been known as a 'hidden treasure' for its scenic, diverse layout, beautifully maintained greens and plentiful modern facilities, some of which are exclusive to the club!

Club general manager Justin Speirani explained what the club offers.

"We've got obviously 18 holes, highest ranked golf course in Gippsland, the course is a beautiful design, tricky in parts but it's a really strong golf course," he said.

"We also offer the only come and use driving range, so you can come and hire a bucket of balls over summer hit them down, leave them and then just head off, we've also got the indoor simulator room.

"So, you can use that either for club fitting, teaching, or you can use it to come to practise your golf and get all the data from the technology we've got set up in the room. We've also got plenty of hire equipment if you haven't got

your own clubs, we have hire clubs, buggies and golf carts."

The Leongatha Golf Club is the only top-100 ranked golf course in Gippsland, and is always considered one of the top regional golf courses in the state by various golf publications.

The course is a classic Vern-Morcom design, that is not long by modern standards and is kept in fantastic condition all-year-round.

Speirani also mentioned the club has an array of exciting events planned for the summer.

"We set up to take more visitors through the summer period, our biggest event coming this summer is our annual tournament which takes place on February 16-19 and the course is in pristine condition at that time of year so we're looking to attract capacity fields,

"That'll be followed by our club championships which is an internal event so the annual tournament is the big one."

The club has the only indoor fitting centre in the area and the only outdoor range, they also offer professional coaching from Tyler Marotti.

Marotti is a PGA certified

professional and offers lessons to golfers at every level and age including juniors, beginners, club golfers and elite players and boasts many positive reviews.

On top of the various amazing programs, events and facilities the Leongatha Golf Club offers, it is also beloved by its members, particularly in current times as Speirani explained.

"It's a welcoming place for the members, it's almost a second family for them where they get to go out and play golf with their friends," he said.

"As we know the last few years being locked up through COVID so now they get to enjoy the space, the golf course and friendships they make through the club," he said.

"We're open seven days a week for visitors, you can book online with us and if you do book online, you'll pay a lesser rate."

For more information or any booking, membership or other related inquiries, the Leongatha Golf Club can be found at leongathagolf.com.au/ and contacted via phone on 03 5664 3314 or email at info@leongathagolf.com.au.

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**SOUTH
GIPPS
LAND**

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

Walk or cycle the Great Southern Rail Trail

The trail spans 108km between Nyora and Port Welshpool. When you use the rail trail, don't forget to call into townships along the route to experience the friendliness and charm of country living.

Walk or cycle the Grand Ridge Rail Trail

One trail isn't enough for us here in South Gippsland! Nestled between the picturesque villages of Mirboo North and Boolarra is the Grand Ridge Rail Trail. The trail winds 13 km through towering trees, perfect for a warm day.

Visit the Long Jetty in Port Welshpool

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

Walk the Point Smythe Nature Trail

The trail is 6 km in length is reasonably sheltered, even on windy days. Taking approximately 2 hours to complete (return journey) the Point Smythe Walk takes you through masses of coastal vegetation and onto the beach at Point Smythe. The walk has a medium difficulty level. Dogs are not permitted.

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

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

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



- ☐ 1. Visit Wilsons Promontory National Park
- ☐ 2. Experience Coal Creek (free entry)
- ☐ 3. Stroll through the Lyrebird Forest Walk
- ☐ 4. Walk to the top of Mount Nicoll
- ☐ 5. Drive the Grand Ridge Road
- ☐ 6. Discover the Walkerville lime kilns
- ☐ 7. Sample delicious boutique wine, beer, cider and spirits
- ☐ 8. Visit the Loch suspension bridge
- ☐ 9. Picnic under the trees at Agnes Falls Scenic Reserve
- ☐ 10. Fish along the banks of the Tarwin River
- ☐ 11. Vist 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 Hoddle Mountain Trail
- ☐ 15. Swim at our local beaches



Picnic at Agnes Falls Scenic Reserve



Shop at craft and other retail stores



Walk or ride the Great Southern Rail Trail



Discover Coal Creek Community Park and Museum



Check out our markets, there are plenty on offer



South Gippsland's POPULAR ATTRACTIONS

Cape Liptrap Lighthouse

Cape Liptrap Lighthouse stands on a rocky clifftop on the South Gippsland coastline, keeping ships clear of rocks in treacherous Bass Strait.

Its scenic surrounds and stunning sea views offer an ideal setting for a picnic.

The 1951 concrete structure replaced a steel tower constructed in 1913.

It's easily accessed from Walkerville, via Cape Liptrap Road, just a short walk from the carpark and is in the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park.

Port Welshpool Long Jetty

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

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

The \$11 million plus project restored as much of the original jetty as possible, with extensive rebuilding also required.

It's proved to be money well spent, quickly becoming a major drawcard that brings people to the region.

It's the perfect spot to cast a line and you might reel in some squid.

There are ample fishing rod holders along the jetty's railing.

Toora Dog Tree

Canine lovers gravitate to the carved Toora Dog Tree, which has brought the remains of an old cypress to life, alongside the South Gippsland Highway, just east of Toora.

Leongatha school teacher and artist Andrew Noble fashioned the life-like dogs with a chainsaw, then added colour to their coats using paint and wood stain.

They include the rescue dogs of the property owners Lynne Hawkes and Geoff Loftus, with Lynne being South Gippsland co-ordinator of Starting Over Dog Rescue.

The couple's largest furry companion Birk the Scottish deerhound features along with Bruno the Tenterfield terrier, husky-Queensland heeler cross Tank, Saveloy the kelpie among others.

Walkerville Lime Kilns

Lime production was once a thriving industry in Walkerville South, previously known as Waratah, and is still evident in the remains of six lime kilns.

Waratah Bay lime deposits were discovered in 1875, with the six kilns operational within three years.

Production at Walkerville reached its peak in the early 1890s, waning by 1900, and by 1926 the kilns were closed.

The kilns are in various states of intactness, with walls and foundations remaining.

The 1.5km return Limeburners walk links Walkerville North and South, via the impressive remnants of the kilns.

Lennie Gwyther

A statue unveiled in Leongatha in 2017 depicts the famous 1,000 km journey of local Lenny Gwyther.

He rode his horse Ginger Mick from his home town of Leongatha to Sydney for the 1932 opening of the Harbour Bridge, aged just nine.

Not only did they complete the epic trip, the pair were included in the opening parade.

Lennie met the Lord Mayor of Sydney, Sir Samuel Walder, as well as having tea with Prime Minister Joseph Lyons.

So much did the youngster enjoy the trip, he rode Ginger Mick home, rather than the duo returning by boat as planned.

Agnes Falls

Take in the serenity of the Strzelecki Ranges and the forest setting, as water cascades over Agnes Falls, dropping 59 metres into a picturesque gorge.

Only a short drive from Toora or Welshpool, it's a glorious escape from the rapid pace of life as you relax with a picnic and observe the local wildlife.

It's just a 200m walk from the carpark to the viewing area overlooking the falls, named after the meandering Agnes River.

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.

Built in the year 2000, it is 60 metres long.

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

The town's 125th birthday celebration coincided with the bridge's official opening in 2001.

One Plover is not the same as another...

Spur-winged Plover or Masked Lapwing
Common & swooping
You might find me nesting on your local footy oval!

You've given me a bad reputation!

Hooded Plover
Rare & THREATENED
You can only find me on ocean beaches



Sharing our beaches with Hooded Plovers

ALONG the sandy beaches between San Remo and Waratah Bay lives a special little shorebird called the Hooded Plover.

Hooded Plovers are medium-sized shorebirds found along the shorelines of beaches, and typically nest on the sand during the busy summer months when we are also enjoying the beach.

Unfortunately, because their nests and chicks are so small and well camouflaged, they can be easily crushed underfoot or destroyed by dogs and foxes.

Hooded Plovers are shy by nature and easily disturbed by beachgoers and animals.

If disturbed, adult Hooded Plovers may abandon their nest leaving chicks vulnerable to predators or starvation.

To ensure Hooded Plovers have a successful breeding season this year we can all play a part in protecting them. While enjoying the beach this summer you can help a Hooded Plover by:



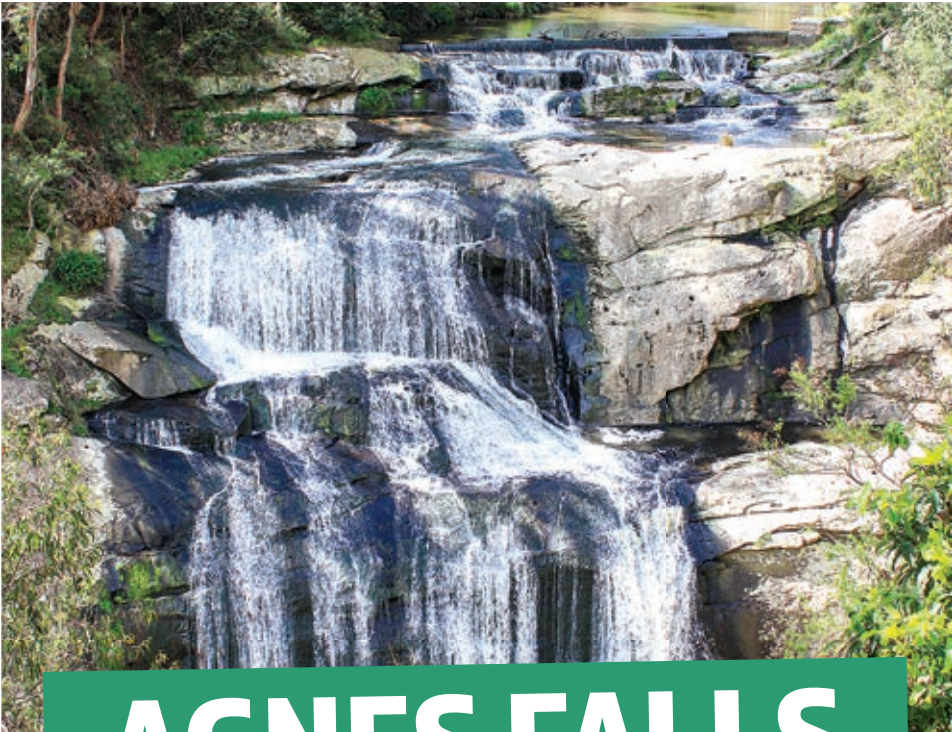
- Walking your dog on a leash at all beaches
- Keep to designated paths and walking areas
- Following beach signage suggestions to protect shorebirds
- Maintaining a distance from fenced off areas
- Walk close to the water's edge where possible
- Place towels and beach activities well away from nests (not between the nests and shoreline).

We can all enjoy our beautiful Gippsland beaches this summer while sharing them with these special birds.

This article was prepared by South Gippsland Landcare Network, 2022 and the project is supported through funding by the Australian Government.

Project partners: Bass Coast Landcare, Birdlife Australia, Friends of Hooded Plovers and Tarwin Landcare Group.

www.sgln.net.au



AGNES FALLS

Waterfall in our backyard

AGNES Falls is reached from the South Gippsland Highway at Toora by following Silcocks Hill Road.

Alternatively, the reserve can be reached from Welshpool via Slade Hill Road and Hazel Park Road.

At 59 metres, Agnes Falls are the highest single span falls in Victoria.

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.

Agnes Falls Scenic Reserve protects a small remnant of the forests that once

covered the Strzelecki Ranges.

The Agnes Falls Scenic Reserve provides habitat to support many different species of birds. The canopy of tall eucalypts provides food and nesting areas for a variety of birds including honeyeaters. The understorey composed of tall shrubs and small trees is home to the Eastern Yellow Robin. Watch for the playful antics of the Grey Fantail as it darts and spirals in and out of trees in its quest for food. The forest also echoes to the calls of the Laughing Kookaburra, Currawong and Crimson Rosella.

For further information, please check out their Facebook page, 'Friends of Agnes Falls'.

CAUTION

HOODED PLOVER CHICK FEEDING ZONE AHEAD



THERE ARE CHICKS OF A THREATENED SPECIES ON THE BEACH AHEAD!

They can't fly, are tiny and hard to see, and will run and hide as you approach.

The fenced area acts as a refuge but it is critical they don't hide for too long or they will starve.



FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO HELP THEM SURVIVE



Walk past along the water's edge



Do not enter the fenced area



Keep dogs on a leash



Do not linger in front of fenced area

Community volunteers monitor and protect these threatened birds. If you would like to help, please visit: www.birdlife.org.au/beach



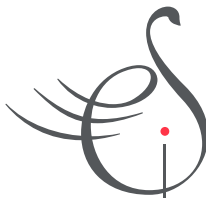
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Exploring South Gippsland

SOUTH Gippsland is a dream for any nature-lover. The region is home to the iconic Wilsons Promontory National Park and a perfect blend of walks, beaches, waterfalls and natural attractions.

Located only 1.5 hour's drive from Melbourne, it's possible to get a taste of South Gippsland via a day trip but a weekend getaway or extended holiday gives a greater opportunity to explore and discover.

Warmer weather means it is the perfect time to head outdoors in South Gippsland. Some people head straight to the beach; throwing down a towel to enjoy a lazy beach day filled with sun and surf at coastal hamlets such as Venus Bay, Walkerville, Waratah Bay or Sandy Point. Others grab a rod or reel and try their hand at fishing. Yanakie, Port Franklin and Port Welshpool are all popular fishing destinations, and so too is Tarwin Lower where you can set

yourself up on the side of the river.

Want to get active? South Gippsland has so many nature walks to choose from. Pick a town and you can normally find a walk close by. In the northern part of the Prom Country, you can explore Wuchatsch Reserve, located 5km from Nyora; Pioneer Reserve in Kongwak or the Lyrebird Forest Walk, located just out of Mirboo North (keep an eye out for the walk's elusive namesake). Further south, you can discover the Foster Flora Reserve, Agnes Falls Scenic Reserve (near Toora) or the Point Smythe Nature Trail near Venus Bay. And, of course, no mention of walking trails would be complete without referencing two of South Gippsland's best-known walking/cycling trails: the Grand Ridge and Great Southern Rail Trails.

The Grand Ridge Rail Trail extends 13km through dense and lush forest vegetation, capturing the beauty of the

Strzelecki Ranges. It begins (or ends) at Mirboo North. The Great Southern Rail Trail is the big brother to the Grand Ridge. Running 72km, the trail commences in Leongatha and continues through to Port Welshpool - although an extension at both ends is in the works - with many villages to stop and explore along the way. The rail trails are well maintained with a compacted gravel surface and feature a variety of landscapes and trail gradations.

And you can't list walks in South Gippsland without mentioning one of Australia's premier walking destinations, Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Comprising over 50,000 hectares, Wilsons Prom offers an eclectic mix of short, long, overnight and multi-day walks. Many of the trails take walkers through temperate rainforest, towering sand dunes and past pristine beaches offering spectacular panoramic views.

Food is another area where South Gippsland has built a fine reputation. Tasty, farm-fresh and organic are words that often spring to mind when talking about local South Gippsland produce. From boutique cheeses, ciders, beers and wines to bustling farmers' markets, you can find many ways to satisfy the taste buds during any visit to South Gippsland. Small villages such as Loch, Meenyan and Fish Creek hide many foodie secrets. Local South Gippsland chefs love to take locally grown produce and transform it into tasty dishes, bursting with flavour.

If the weather takes a rainy turn, don't despair. A shower or two provides a great opportunity to explore South Gippsland's many galleries. The region is fortunate to host many renowned artists who were unable to resist the lure of our majestic landscape. You can find art galleries in most of the local townships.

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GG0350

FIXING THE 'Midge'

This classic MK111 made it all the way from the UK to end up in Korumburra.



Total restoration

It's not likely to be ready for the coming Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Swap Meet on January 8, but Carole Santin's 1934 Wolseley Hornet special is undergoing a complete restoration.

The car has a rich racing history and work started by straightening the chassis after its many crashes.

Carole's restorer husband Don aims to complete the car ready for the 2024 swap meet.

As assembling the wooden coachwork is out of Don's expertise, this phase is to be by 'Classic Car Restorations' in Ballarat.

Mechanicals are ready with trimming and painting planned to finish.

THESE classic British MG sports cars were manufactured in the village of Abington on Thames in Oxfordshire, UK (some 16 km south of Oxford) from 1928 until production was moved to Longbridge in Birmingham in 1980.

My Midget MK111 was built in August 1974 to USA specs.

The Mk111 was introduced in 1966 when the engine capacity was increased from 1098 to 1275cc. The production from 1966 through to 1971 had square rear wheel arches. However, from 1971 through to 1974 a cosmetic change included a rounded rear wheel arch (production nomenclature GAN 5).

A total of 100,246 Mk 111 midgets were built between 1966 and 1974.

Only some 33000 were round wheel arch types making it a sought-after feature.

It allows slightly wider wheels to be fitted at the rear without contacting the body.

After 1974 they reverted back to the square top design.

GAN 5152214G was shipped to California in 1974.

In 1996 (some 22 years later) it was then shipped to Australia by an MG enthusiast as a rust-free project.

It was rust free but not in good

By South Gippsland branch of Gippsland Historical Automobile Club

condition in other respects.

Once converted to RHD it was purchased by my son in law in Jan 1997 and used to commute to uni. At the time he was a member of a group of young Midget owners.

The car was never dependable transport and when he moved to Long Island in NY, he stored the car in a friend's shed in the year 2000.

This temporary storage extended to 2016, when surrounded by babies and mortgages he was happy to sell it to me.

It continued to be stored at our townhouse in Bon Beach until we moved to Korumburra in Jan 2017. Our move to Korumburra involved a major house renovation and so the midget languished until I began fiddling about 3 years ago.

As a project I could say it has been "steady".

If there was nothing better to do, I would work on the midget.

One significant advantage in renovating the midget has been the relative ease of sourcing parts.

The Moss company in the UK issue a catalogue of every bit you could

ever want.

A number of sources exist here in OZ easily accessed via internet.

In addition, many parts are common to Morris, Austin and Wolseley cars of the era and when not labelled MG are usually cheaper.

Finally, I have to say the Midge is "fun on a stick" to drive. The steering is very direct.

The car just loves corners. Perhaps because it is so small you feel intimate with the car on the road. It will not beat a mustang away from the lights, but it feels like it does!

With the top down you are out in the wind and open to the passing world.

The occasional bushie in the mouth is a small price to pay for this much fun.

At the time of writing the car has:

- Repaint.
- Reco motor.
- Rewired.
- New hydraulic system inc brakes and clutch.
- Electronic distributor.
- New starter motor.
- Single 1.5-inch SU carb.
- Upgraded instruments.
- Upgraded lighting.
- New carpet and door trims.
- New Superlite wheels.

The South Gippsland branch of Gippsland Historical Automobile Club Inc. presents



Sunday, January 8, 2023

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Bass Coast Health is expanding and recruiting

BASS Coast and South Gippsland are beautiful places to holiday and even better places to live.

If you're thinking about relocating to this beautiful part of the world, Bass Coast Health is now recruiting for clinical and non-clinical roles, from doctors and nurses, to cleaners, porters, administration staff and more.

We invite prospective staff to email their resumes and details of areas of interest to hr@basscoasthealth.org.au

We may be able to find a role for you.

We've just opened Stage 1 of an expanded hospital at Wonthaggi, with a contemporary Emergency Department, Theatres and Surgical Ward. In late 2024, we'll open the Phillip Island Community Hospital in Cowes.

In the meantime, if you need medical care while on holidays, come to the Urgent Care Centre at the Phillip Island Health Hub at 50-54 Church Street, Cowes for minor illnesses and injury. Phone 03 5951 2101.

Our Emergency Department at Wonthaggi Hospital caters for more serious matters, however in the event of an emergency, please always phone 000.



Chez Kirk, Fran Reyerse and Antoinette Russo inspire and delight each other through their work at the Wonthaggi market and café Frida.



A PLACE OF CONNECTION *and creativity*

THE Wonthaggi market and café Frida is known as a happy place to inspire and delight.

The aroma of the homemade baked goods and barista made Seven Seeds coffee, helps start the day with a sense of joy.

The curators managing the market bring an artistic flair, inspiring those around them to express themselves through creation; Chaz Kirk creates handcrafted donkey milk soaps – selling an array of gardenia, lilac and chia honey milk oats soaps that moisturise and replenish the skin and manager Antoinette Russo

sells her handmade earrings collection, designed, and crafted with gemstones and beads.

Antoinette began the Wonthaggi market and café six years ago, welcoming the community into the open space to sell their bric-a-brac, second hand clothing and footwear and handmade goods.

"This community market is a domain for micro business innovation, a space for curators to express their talents and run their small businesses," said Antoinette.

Inside the café, Antoinette is serving an assortment of homemade

focaccias, including vegetarian options and a variety of foods for a low-FODMAP diet, locally sourced pastries and homemade slices and desserts, made with fresh home-grown produce.

The homemade gluten free banana and coconut cake with a lime and nutmeg icing or homemade raspberry and chocolate brownies are a perfect pair with a freshly brewed coffee.

For all enquiries on the business, stop in for a stroll and afternoon tea or call Antoinette Russo on 0419 342 815.



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FREE ATTRACTIONS

on offer in Bass Coast

The Big Wave (Newhaven)

Would-be surfers can achieve the sport's 'Holy Grail', riding under the curling lip of a large wave, without getting wet.

Newhaven's Big Wave sculpture makes the perfect setting for a fun photo, with people able to climb inside and stand on a fixed surfboard.

The beached wave is located in the carpark alongside Rip Curl.

Eagles Nest (Inverloch)

Located on the Bunurong Coastal Drive between Cape Paterson and Inverloch, the Eagles Nest is a captivating sandstone formation appealing to photographers.

It's best to get your photos and admire the view from the road as walking down to the beach and across the rocks can be dangerous, particularly when high tide occurs.

The Eagles Nest is separated from the headland and continues to be shaped by the elements.

The first dinosaur bone discovered in Australia, the 'Cape Paterson Claw', was found in this area in 1903.

Kilcunda Trestle Railway Bridge

Constructed in 1911, the iconic heritage-listed Kilcunda Trestle Railway Bridge stretches 91 metres across Bourne Creek at Kilcunda.

The 12-metre-high wooden trestle bridge is now a feature of the Bass Coast Rail Trail, offering glorious sea vistas to those who pedal or stroll across.

Stretching 21 kilometres, the Bass Coast Rail Trail runs between old Wonthaggi Railway Station in Murray Street and the Woolamai Racecourse.

The Wonthaggi railway line closed in 1978, but the spectacular trestle bridge has proved to be a lasting drawcard.

Whale Bones at Whalebone Hotel (Wonthaggi Hotel)

The Wonthaggi Hotel is often referred to as the Whalebone Hotel in honour of the striking whale jawbones that adorn its exterior.

A 22-metre behemoth of a Sperm Whale was found washed ashore on Wreck Beach on 4 July 1923.

The proprietor of the then Taberner's Wonthaggi Hotel paid an unemployed local butcher 25 pounds for the eye-catching jawbones.

That's proved a reasonable investment given they are still a talking point almost a century later.

The striking bones are almost six metres high.

Wonthaggi mine whistle

When the whistle blows, it's mid-day in Wonthaggi.

The State Coal Mine's whistle once regulated the industrial and social lives of those in the Wonthaggi community, miners, shopkeepers, schoolchildren and housewives alike.

The original whistle at one point in the early 1900s blew 17 times per day signifying a variety of information to mine workers.

These days the whistle sounds its powerful note once a day from its perch atop a replica mine poppet head in Wonthaggi's Apex Park.

Rather than superheated steam, it is now given voice by an air compressor housed at the railway station museum.

San Remo pelican feeding

The San Remo Fisherman's Co-op feeds local pelicans daily at 12 noon on the foreshore next to the San Remo pier.

Being wild animals, pelican numbers vary from day to day.

As well as giving the hungry birds a feed and entertaining the crowd, the sessions help educate the public about the pelicans, their diet, lifestyle and how conservation can be improved.

The San Remo Fisherman's Co-op built on the habit of fishermen throwing fish offcuts to pelicans.

Fisherman Warren Dickie was the first regular pelican feeder, sparking the tradition of a daily feeding time in 1985.

The feeding sessions are run by well-trained staff and are free of charge.

Victorian Desalination Plant Ecological Reserve

Look for the discovery points throughout the Victorian Desalination Plant Ecological Reserve to learn about the desalination process, the history of the Bunurong people, uses of this land since settlement and the complexities of the revegetation process undertaken here.

The Ecological Reserve covers 225 hectares of reclaimed and rehabilitated land, featuring wide compacted-gravel walking tracks and boardwalks.

A boardwalk near the parking area leads to a high viewing platform overlooking the desalination plant.

Another boardwalk winds through reed beds to a large bird hide.

Crowds will once again be able to enjoy amusement rides and much more at the 2023 Bass Coast Summer Agricultural show.
(Pictured is the show from 2019).

Show Time this time round

IT'S all about the sunshine, fresh air and having a lovely day out at the Bass Coast Summer Agricultural show.

It will be held at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve on Saturday January 14, 2023.

As we unwrap our little show from its cocoon after a sad couple of years due to COVID, we have taken a realistic look at what we will achieve on Show Day for this coming Event.

We are still very mindful of COVID, but want to really celebrate how far we have come and we feel optimistic for the future.

Children 12 years and under, due to a state government grant, are able to come through the gates for free.

With all others the fee will \$5 but only with cash.

The generosity of all sponsors has meant we can produce a great day out especially for children.

At this stage we will be having:

- A massive ute and 4x4 show
- An amusement carnival
- Showbags and novelties
- Buskers with their live music
- Stilt walker
- Barnyard babies mobile farm
- Poultry exhibition
- Pony rides
- Face painting
- An equestrian show with horses and ponies in harness as well
- Special will be donkeys and mules show
- Diverse food vans plus coffee

Our big plan is to get back in 2024 to something grand and hold through the year in the town our normal Photography, Art, Craft, Cookery, Pickles, Preserves, Floral Art, Cut Flowers Pot Plants Garden and Farm Produce.

Please watch this space.

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Bass Coast

Summer Agricultural Show

Wonthaggi

January 14th 2023

9am onwards

Follow us on facebook: Bass Coast - Wonthaggi Summer Show

Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve
Korumburra Rd Wonthaggi

Artwork courtesy of Clancy's Printing

Animal Nursery, Donkeys, Pony Rides, Horses, Chooks, Carnival Amusements, Food, Buskers, Ute 4x4 Show

**'We don't have
to be the biggest,
but we aspire
to be the best
at what we do.'**

Wattle Bank Farm

Quality over quantity

IT'S a home away from home, a retreat, an escape.

From marriage proposals under the majestic gum tree on the deck or lounging in the hammock watching the horses frolic, to natural horsemanship experiences and trail rides to workshops and farm tours, Wattle Bank Farm truly is a relaxing escape.

And the best part is there is something for everyone, you can pop in for a lesson or stay a while.

"Pete's farming experience goes way back on his family farm when they farmed beef and sheep in Macedon, Noosa and King Island," Beatrice began.

"For me, my three pillars have been people, places and the planet. I am passionate about collaboration, storytelling and creating and sharing beautiful spaces and produce."

From The Ritz and The Savoy in

London, Palazzo Versace on the Gold Coast and the North and South Poles to suburban life in Brighton, Country Style Magazine's Legends of the Land finalists Pete and Beatrice have a wealth of adventure, stories and experience to share, and that's before they started growing their own vegetables and eating a herbivorous diet.

"After years of creating businesses for others, I wanted to apply myself in my own business," Beatrice added.

The couple were recently runners up in the Business Innovation Bass Coast Business Awards and also a finalist in the Gippsland Business Awards.

"We're both sustainably minded and passionate about the land and the region. We are only at the beginning of what we hope to achieve."

The first Australian to walk to the north and south magnetic poles,

outside his leadership work and expeditions, Pete's passion is his horses and more particularly natural horsemanship.

"A lot of places, if you go horse riding, you arrive, you get on, go for a ride, you come out and that's it. But we love to teach holistically.

"If you want to ride a horse you first have to learn how to catch your own, it's an experience. Rope work, how to do their feet, leading the horses through obstacles, bareback and bitless riding. Once you have the basics, we move on to riding and even some bush polo. Teaching the psychology of horses through Liberty work is a highlight in our equine facilitated training sessions and school holiday clinics.

The idea (at the onset of the pandemic) of growing mushrooms kicked off a whirlwind adventure they said.

"It made sense, we did some

research – no-one was growing gourmet mushrooms in our immediate region.

"Considered a superfood, we knew nothing about growing mushrooms and because of the state of the world, we had to do it all online."

December rounded out two years of commercially growing mushrooms for the pair with their produce utilised by restaurants across Victoria and local produce stores, as well as available online and at their farm.

During lockdowns, the pair had to innovate and set about dehydrating the excess mushrooms and cocktail citrus now available as produce jars.

Surrounded by horses, food and fresh air there really is no better place to consider a workshop, corporate retreat, tour or horsemanship session.

At Wattle Bank Farm you truly do come for the experience and stay for the adventure.



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Bring the family for an enjoyable day out.



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Wattle Bank Farm are also proud finalists in the 2022 Gippsland Business Awards for New Business and runners up in the Bass Coast Business Innovation Award for 2022, amongst the Best Rustic Farmhouse Accommodation – Eastern Victoria in the Resorts & Retreats Awards.



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A SLICE OF ITALY

in Mirboo North

THE Mirboo North Italian Festa is returning to Gippsland to showcase the best of everything Italian.

The free, family-friendly event will bring together a collection of your most-loved Italian food, produce and drinks.

The 2023 Festa highlight will be the return of crowd favourites, the flag throwers and musicians from Faenza in Italy.

This will be the only event in Australia where you will see this unique and spectacular exhibition of internationally acclaimed performers.

Mirboo North Italian Festa coordinator Rosie Romano has led the Festa in its current format since 2016.

"That year happened to be a beautiful sunny day, and we estimated there were about 5000 people there, and we were just blown away by that," Mrs Romano said.

"And the following year, we had even more people, even though it rained."

Each year since then, apart from a break due to COVID, the event has become bigger, with more community involvement and infrastructure needed to put on the event.

There will be a line-up of authentic Italian food stalls to satisfy everyone's appetites, including traditional arancini, handmade gnocchi, salty tasty arrosticini, pizza, calamari, spicy barbecue salsicce and the Italian favourite, pasta with all kinds of sauces.

For dolce, Italian for dessert, indulge in gelato, zeppole, tiramisu, biscotti, cannoli and numerous sweet treats.

Everything can be washed down with Italian beers, wines or an Aperol Spritz (or two).

Altogether, over 30 genuine food and drink options will nourish your inner Italian.

"Our aim from the beginning has always been for people to learn something about Italian culture, whether that's through food, dancing, music, Nonna's cooking, the exhibitions or displays," Mrs Ramano commented.

Following on from the successful 'Nonna's Secret Recipe' Cookbook, cooking demonstrations will be running all day for you to discover the recipes and secrets of Nonna's kitchen.

Learn how to roll pasta, make traditional pizza the way Nonna does, or unearth the secrets of how Italians make their salami.

There will be free children's activities and games to keep the kids entertained.

The Mirboo North Italian Festa, 10am to 4pm, Sunday 12, February, 2023 in Baromi Park, Mirboo North.

Parking for the event will be at the Walter J Tuck Reserve, Strzelecki Highway, Mirboo North.

For more information <https://www.italianfesta.net/> or find the event on Facebook.








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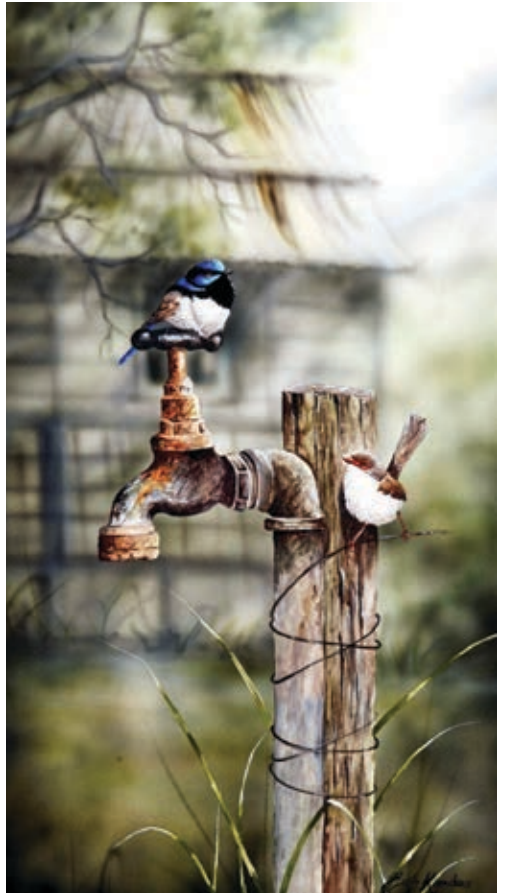



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Fly away with me

**Celebrating 20 years in her gallery, Emily's art exhibition
Summer Wings will be on display throughout January.**

VIEWS beyond belief, one meanders through an avenue of maple trees from the car park. Transported to another time a mix of dreamy old federation meets modern country with chandeliers along Ruby-Fairbank Rd.

Greeted by an incredible smile and beautiful soul, Emily Koenders opens the door to her Art Gallery.

Filled with spectacularly detailed wildlife works, Emily is celebrating 20 years in her own gallery space and over 30 years as a professional full-time artist.

"Loving nature is... to see luminous splashes of colour masterly placed on the wing of a bird, as light that lifts your spirit..."

"To watch birds soar against a cerulean blue sky and be raised up with them..."

"To see dappled light dance across the old wise gums and land on the lacy ferns, bejewelled by the robin, the wren, or whatever small miracle lives within. To feel the enchantment, the magic of the forest..."

"Every intricately designed leaf, every twig encrusted in moss and all the feathers in every hue imaginable..."

"Who could ever conceive of something more rich, more rare, or more beautiful?"

"To view all the creatures from all the corners of this abundant planet and be in awe of Creation..."

"Feeling blessed and transformed in knowing I live amongst it."

"This is me, the wildlife artist."

"Welcome to my world," Emily begins.

"I was four – 1982 that's when I started."

Creating came second nature for the young artistic mind with pastel pencil the early material of choice.

Supported by her folks, Emily began entering competitions, both for children and adults.

"I put this tiny little painting of the panda in (the adult's exhibition), and within minutes of opening we went to visit. For me to see it on the wall was an honour, but I walked in and there it was sold!"

"That's where it began – a little portrait of a panda."

Years of awards, exhibitions and recognition, Emily was the youngest to be accepted into the highly coveted Camberwell Art Show.

"You have to be judged to even get on the wall – it's the biggest art exhibition in all of Victoria."

"I was very fortunate. I'd walk out of school, and I'd be off to the exhibitions and opening nights."

"My family also hosted solo exhibitions in Caulfield and Doncaster, for example, that were opened by John Woods, Peter Hitchener and Val Jellay (Maurie Field's wife) which were enormous opportunities where I had my works."

"The 80/90s art world in Australia was booming."

Portfolios of newspaper clippings, photographs and early samples of work sit open on the white ottoman as the warm summer breeze glides across the hills outside Emily's gallery.

Raised in the art world and commencing her professional art career at

the age of 14, it wasn't until later in life that Emily's heritage was traced back to the famous Dutch master Vincent Van Gogh.

But one of Emily's most precious memories involves Wilma, an Australian wombat.

"To have such a close experience with an Australian animal there are no words..."

"I was sitting there painting a pride of lions and Wilma was in her little pouch on my chest, that I had made out of my jumper. She'd sit there asleep, whilst I painted during the school holidays."

"When she woke, she put her little nose out and tried to chew on the pastel pencil I was using – would you believe my mother got a photograph of it."

Emily is spirited by the beauty of her childhood, the views and scenery surrounding her home, and her imagination; she also happens to be musically trained.

A feature artist at exhibitions, Emily has also on multiple occasions demonstrated her talent for hyperrealism in front of an audience.

"I take 20 works with me, and as I did at Easter in Bendigo, I'll sit and demonstrate to people how I paint and talk to a lot of amazing people."

"That's the unexpected part of it – it's so beautiful because people open up to you from all walks of life, and you're yourself."

Purchasing the land on which her home now resides as a young adult, Emily has added and built to it as each stage of life has allowed.

"There was nothing here – an empty

paddock. It swept me away and I didn't care what the consequences were. It's been a labour of love. It's like a fairy land in the night."

"I've had times where there's a storm coming in, John Turner used to paint a lot of dramatic skies that were so stirring and times where it's come across the bluffs black, and it would be pink on the other side – it would be just like the heavens opening in that moment."

"When my husband came into my life 12 years ago, he said, let's build your dream gallery."

"It was beautiful before, but we hit another level – it's an amazing space."

The space is now a phenomenal gallery with studio space for Emily to work on her latest masterpieces. And, when she is not downstairs, she can embrace the mezzanine bridge above, as her young son has done on a few occasions overlooking Wilson's Promontory, the Gippsland hills and embrace the thrilling storms and surreal skies filled with every colour of the rainbow...

"We were sitting on the front verandah one afternoon, and he said, 'it's a beautiful light mummy'."

"I've always said to him about the light, the patchwork of colours on the hills, and the rainbows over the mountains..."

A world rich in music, colours, light and immense focus on the wildlife subject at hand, Emily's art is a timeless gift from nature.

"When people buy a painting from you, they're buying a piece of you."

Emily's upcoming exhibition Summer Wings is one not to miss.

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GG0374

ART EXHIBITION



'Summer Wings'

Dec 31 - Jan 29

**Open Saturday,
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Emily Koenders
ART GALLERY

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HN0799



Vortex owners Katherine and Steve Cousins with the surfboards crafted at the store.

Innovation and passion drive the team at Vortex

WONTHAGGI'S Vortex Surf Skate Snow provides equipment, servicing and repairs, combined with expertise and a passion for the sports it focuses on.

"We pride ourselves on having a lot of knowledge on those areas," owner Steve Cousins said of the Vortex team.

The business recently celebrated its 22nd birthday.

With summer's arrival, its custom-made surfboards will be in demand.

While you may still find Steve serving in the shop, he now focuses largely on board building.

"We make them here and it differentiates us from others," he said of the store's surfboards.

By making its own boards, Vortex can customise them to suit local conditions and the individual surfer.

Originally, the store sold various brand name surfboards, but sourcing them from locations such as Queensland proved challenging due to high freight costs and the risk of damage in transit.

That prompted the move into Vortex producing its own boards, one that has proved a great success over the seven years or so since adopting that approach.

Steve said there is a lot of support from the surrounding community with surfers keen to buy boards created by a shaper who knows local conditions.

As well as ensuring a board that performs as desired, customisation provides a further drawcard, enabling each person to get the look they desire.

"They can come to me with ideas of what they want in terms of colour, design and patterns and we can do all that," Steve said.

It's not only experienced surfers the Vortex team caters for.

"Through COVID a lot of people have started surfing," Steve said.

He noted it is important being able to give those new to surfing the information and help they need to make the right choice of board and equipment.

Although the business keeps him occupied, Steve still makes time to get in a surf somewhere between Phillip Island and the Prom, with Cape Paterson and Kilcunda among his favourite spots.

It's not unusual for other surfers to start a discussion about what they are after in the way of a new board while Steve is out surfing.

Vortex is supportive of its chosen sports, having run skate competitions and sponsored surfers and skaters.

During winter, snowboarding becomes a major focus, with equipment available to buy or hire.

That enables customers to head to the snow with the gear they need, so when they get to the mountains they can take care of their lift ticket and get into action rather than worry about equipment.

"They can just concentrate on going to the snow," Steve said.

Baw Baw is just a couple of hours away.

TOP BEACHES

To visit on Phillip Island

• Woolamai Surf Beach

This is actually two beaches; the Surf Beach and the Safety Beach! If you're looking to hit the waves and try your hand at surfing, or if you already consider yourself a pro, head to Woolamai Beach which is famed for its strong rips and currents. It guarantees an adventurous day, filled with sun-kissed sand and large wave swells.

• Kitty Miller Bay

If you are up to discovering what's under the water's surface, Kitty Miller Bay has you covered. Perfect for a snorkelling adventure, with deep rock pools bursting with starfish, colourful marine plants, and even some fish. The entire bay stretches out 500 metres in length and is quite sheltered from the strong currents of the open sea.

• Smiths Beach

Situated to the south of the island and tucked away in a secluded bay, Smiths Beach offers calm waves and gentle surf for beginners. Again, it's well-patrolled, and its bay-side location gives it a more relaxed, peaceful vibe than Woolamai.

• Shelly Beach

For a more relaxed surfing experience, head to Shelly Beach which boasts small waves perfect for beginners. As well as water sports, it's also an ideal sunbathing spot with a quiet atmosphere and incredible views.

• Cowes Main Beach

It is undoubtedly the most popular beach at Phillip Island! Being in a perfect location for calm waters and stunning soft sand. It is, in fact, the biggest north-facing beach in the entire state of Victoria, giving the locals something different to the other beaches available. Due to its popularity and close proximity to a town, the beach is nearby to popular food and drink spots. With picnic areas, cafes, and BBQ areas all walking distance. It is also a patrolled beach during the summer, so perfect for families and visitors not used to Victoria's rough currents.

• Ventnor Beach

If surfing's not your thing – don't worry! Ventnor Beach, situated on the northern coast of the island, prohibits surfing, instead offering a calm and peaceful backdrop for sun-seekers and swimmers. It is long and narrow, perfect for visitors to spread out and enjoy their own space of uninterrupted paradise.

• Cowes Beach

Cowes Beach is another stretch of sand situated on the northern coast of the island. It's a popular place for families with its shallow waves and plethora of facilities and amenities that dot the shoreline. Grab a bucket and spade and an ice cream and you'll fit right in!

• Berrys Beach

It certainly isn't the biggest beach, but it is one of the best! Nestled only about ten minutes from Cowes, the only way to access this beach is by the wooden stairs connected to the nearby carpark.

• Red Rocks Beach

Set against a backdrop of impressive red rocks, this beach is sheltered and sandy, providing the perfect place to splash around in the shallows and relax in front of amazing sea views. Although it isn't patrolled, its calm waters usually are fine for most!

• Surf Beach

For hardcore surfers, Surf Beach is the place to go. The large waves and strong currents mean it's not recommended for swimming, but it's ideal for pro surfers looking to catch some waves against a backdrop of incredible landscapes.

• Summerland Beach

This beach isn't famous for its waters, but it offers something even better. If it's wild-life you're seeking out then Summerland Beach is a must-visit, as it is the setting for Phillip Island's famous Penguin Parade. The Little Penguins of Phillip Island calls Summerland Beach their home, digging their burrows deep under the grassy beach shores!



Photo courtesy Liam Robertson/Surfing Victoria.

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Big summer

for Wonthaggi's Lifesavers

ESTABLISHED in 1938 on the shores of Cape Paterson Bay Beach, Wonthaggi Life Saving Club (WLSC) prides itself on its community relations and many successful years of saving lives.

Known for family friendly swimming, the famous rock pool and surrounding rock formations and their dedicated and selfless volunteers, WLSC is the place to be.

Club Captain Alexandra Madeley spoke to the Sentinel Times prior to kicking off the Wonthaggi LSC season.

"I am excited to be stepping into the Club Captain role this season and will be undertaking the task of leading our operations team made up of our Chief Instructor, Gear and Equipment Officer, IRB Captain and First Aid Officer," she said.

"Together, we are aiming to provide an actioned packed summer of volunteer patrols and member training."

WLSC's patrol season has already begun, after starting on Saturday November 26, and will run until Tuesday, April 25.

Over these 22 weekends and additional public holidays, the club will be providing volunteer patrols on the Cape Paterson Bay Beach ensuring the safety of the local community and holiday makers.

Madeley spoke on some marquee events and programs running at the club this summer.

"As we aim to grow the number of patrolling members in our club and the skill sets of our current members, we will be facilitating our annual Surf Rescue Certificate and Bronze Medallion course between Monday January 2 to Saturday January 7, 2023," she said.

"All details and sign up can be found on our website, we're also planning to run courses in CPR, First Aid, Advanced Resuscitation Techniques and Inflatable Rescue Boat.

"Our goal for this season is to develop all of our members so that our patrols are well skilled and equipped to deal with any situation.

"You do not need to swim to join us on patrol we have dedicated First Aid and CPR patrolling members, we would like to encourage anyone interested in becoming a patrolling member to please get in contact with Alex at clubcaptain@wlsc.org.au."

The WLSC is an inclusive and driven club that is focused on improving all of those within it, while also ensuring they dedicate themselves to beach safety throughout the summer.

The club caters to all ages as well, as Madeley mentioned with their Nippers program.

"Over the last few seasons, our Nippers Program has showed continual

growth in members and program structure, this season, we aim to continue that trend," she said.

"Our four-week intensive holiday program will continue three days a week this season and aims to engage young members in surf skills and safety by exposing them to our aquatic environment in a safe and inviting manner.

"We are proud to deliver a Surf Education Program which sees our Nippers partake in educational activities including a presentation from Marine Mammals Foundation and the opportunity to join our volunteer lifesavers on patrol for a day.

"Our Nippers Program will also include our annual Club Championships on Saturday January 14 where members of all ages get into their competitive spirit and race in open water swim, board paddle and beach sprints to become their age group champion."

The club is located at 14 Bay Beach Road, Cape Paterson.

The Wonthaggi LSC certainly sounds like the place to be if you're looking to have fun in the sun and by the beach this summer, further details about their Nippers Program and Memberships can be found on their website at <https://wlsc.org.au/>



WONTHAGGI LIFE SAVING CLUB

Home of the famous Cape Paterson Bay Beach Rock Pool

WHAT'S ON AT THE CLUB THIS SUMMER

NIPPERS

BEACH & LIFESAVING PROGRAM FOR 5 TO 13 YEAR OLDS

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

December 2022

Wednesday 28 and Friday 30

January 2023

Monday 2, Wednesday 4, Friday 6, Monday 9, Wednesday 11, Friday 13, Monday 16, Wednesday 18

Club Champions (A fun competition for Nippers through to Masters)
Saturday, January 14

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

85TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Saturday, January 14, 2023

Come celebrate 85 years with the club
Past, present and new members welcome

OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHTS

Bring a chair or picnic rug

HELD IN THE PARK BESIDE THE WONTHAGGI LIFE SAVING CLUB HALL

Starting approx. 8.30pm
(weather permitting)

Friday nights, Jan. 6, 13, 20
(Movie TBA)

HOY

FAMILY CARD FUN NIGHTS 7.30PM - 9.30PM

Thursday, December 29

Tuesday, January 3

Thursday, January 5

Tuesday, January 10,

Thursday, January 12

Tuesday, January 17

Thursday, January 19

Tuesday, January 24

COFFEE SHOP

Wonthaggi Life Saving Club
Open daily through January
Coffee, drinks, icy poles,
Devonshire teas and much more

For updates and further information visit www.wlsc.org.au or phone Mark on 0409 159 341



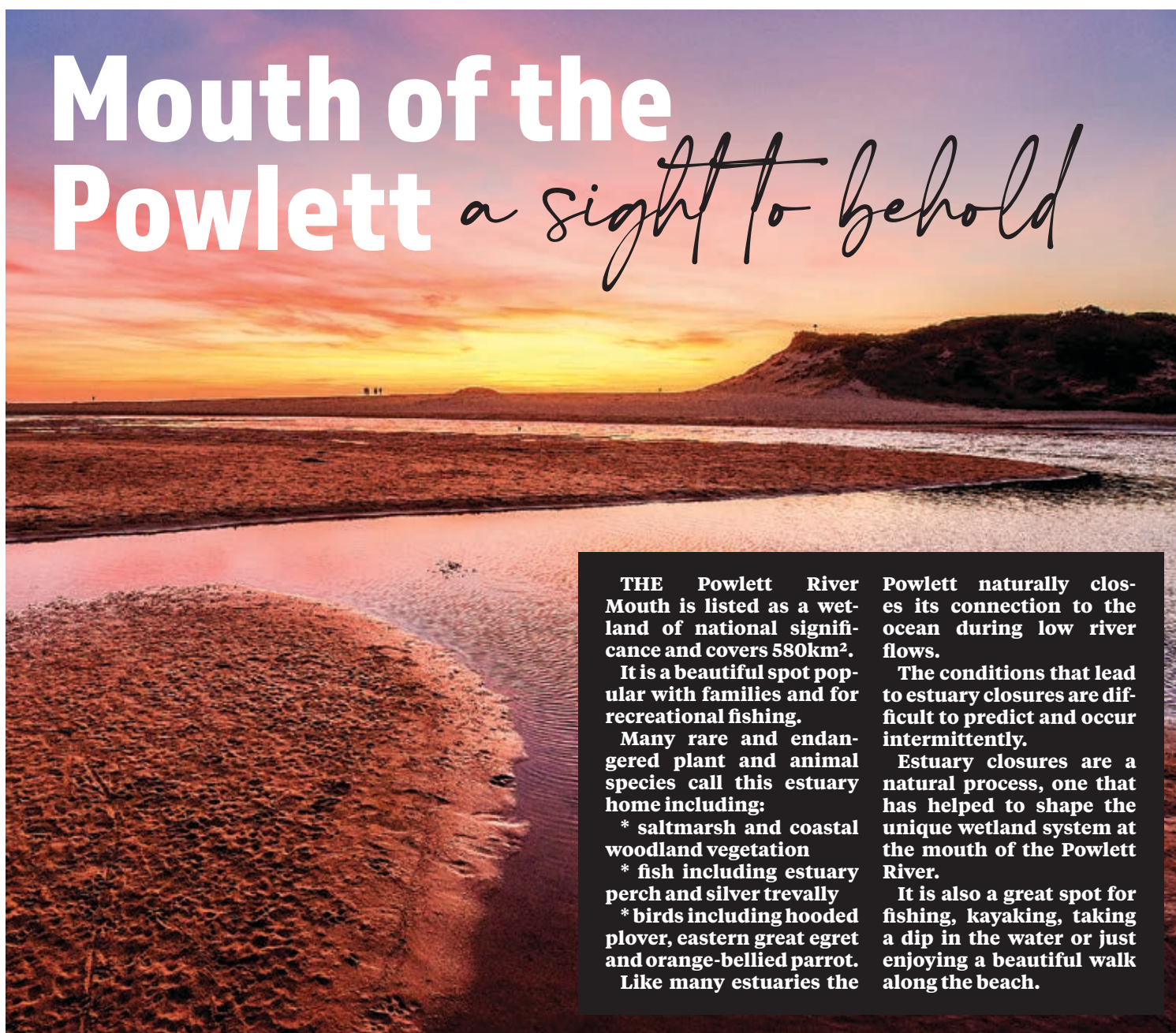
A gift for you

WONTHAGGI Library Close Knit Group meets on a Thursday from 1pm, and whether working on a personal project or community project visitors are always welcome to join in.

In a heart-warming feat the group sent off their third parcel for 2022, filled with blankets, beanies and trauma toys amongst other things, prior to Christmas via Wonthaggi Lions Club to Need for Feed.

If you have tools and equipment, spare wool or would like to pop knitted goods for donation do not hesitate to pop into Wonthaggi Library at any time.

Mouth of the Powlett *a sight to behold*



THE Powlett River Mouth is listed as a wetland of national significance and covers 580km².

It is a beautiful spot popular with families and for recreational fishing.

Many rare and endangered plant and animal species call this estuary home including:

- * saltmarsh and coastal woodland vegetation
 - * fish including estuary perch and silver trevally
 - * birds including hooded plover, eastern great egret and orange-bellied parrot.
- Like many estuaries the

Powlett naturally closes its connection to the ocean during low river flows.

The conditions that lead to estuary closures are difficult to predict and occur intermittently.

Estuary closures are a natural process, one that has helped to shape the unique wetland system at the mouth of the Powlett River.

It is also a great spot for fishing, kayaking, taking a dip in the water or just enjoying a beautiful walk along the beach.

Photo courtesy Anna Carson 📷 Seabrae Photos

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FOR 2023 SHOW 'N SHINE

AFTER the roaring success of this year's Show 'N Shine and Swap Meet in Wonthaggi, the 2023 event is shaping up to be just as big on January 22.

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

On Saturday evening, those interested can participate in the 'car cruise' via a top-secret route.

Participants should meet on Korumburra Road at the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Courts at 4.30pm for a 5pm departure.

The cruise will go for approximately 45mins to 1 hour.

Meet back at Wonthaggi Power clubrooms for meals and open bar.

For the big event on Sunday, gates open 6am for Swap Meet stallholders, 7.30/8am gates open for car entrants and public.

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

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

Judging cut off 9.30am sharp!

Ten award categories including:

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



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& SWAP MEET**

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WELCOME to Wilsons Prom, the southernmost tip of mainland Australia. Walk remote coastal bushland trails and swim at pristine beaches dominated by granite tors.

Camp in comfort at family-friendly Tidal River or hike to a more secluded campsite. Either way, the local wombats, kangaroos and emus are waiting to meet you.

Swim at Norman Beach - just a few minutes' walk from Tidal River Campground, or go snorkelling for a unique underwater view of Victoria's largest marine national park.

Bring the family and camp in comfort at Tidal River. Choose from powered or unpowered sites or stay in

roofed accommodation.

Scale the granite peaks of Mount Bishop or Mount Oberon for panoramic views, or enjoy an overnight hike in The Prom.

In the north there's a remote and rugged wilderness to explore, while the south is home to the historic Wilsons Promontory Lightstation and Sealers Cove.

Feel the sand between your toes at some of the more secluded beaches of Wilsons Prom, from Cotters Beach to Whisky Bay and Fairy Cove. You can book a free all-terrain wheelchair, TrailRider or beach wheelchair to explore the great outdoors at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

A range of special equipment is available for the park accommodation at Tidal River to make your stay more comfortable.

Park visitors may book this equipment for free by contacting Wilsons Promontory National Park Information Centre on 8427 2122

A motorised TrailRider and a range of beach wheelchairs are available for park visitors with significant physical disabilities or mobility limitations to explore the great outdoors at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

These all-terrain wheelchairs are designed for different abilities and are available for both adults and children. The chairs are suited for sandy and

semi-rough tracks where conventional wheelchairs cannot go.

The day visitor area at Norman Beach is accessed by following the Main Road through the Tidal River camping and accommodation area. It consists of a large carpark, picnic tables, covered gas barbecues and a toilet/shower block. There are 12 picnic tables located in open and shaded areas on an undulating lawn surface adjacent to the carpark. All of the tables have an open table end feature for wheelchairs and strollers. Some of these have the roll under end table feature.

Best access to the river and to Norman Beach for all terrain beach wheelchairs and strollers is from 1st Boat Ramp located on the bank of Tidal River at low tide.

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Wilsons Prom is one of the most spectacular places to explore with its incredible views and scenery.



This is located near the camping area just up from the day visitor area car-park. The beach is approximately 500m from the boat ramp and chair/stroller operators need to be reasonably fit. The boat ramp consists of a concrete surface and has a slope of approximately 1:10 which is reasonably steep. When the water line has receded, there is usually a surface of compacted damp sand at the bottom of the boat ramp. The riverbed at low tide is reasonably level and consists of a damp compacted sand surface and some very shallow water flows in sections. A damp compacted sand surface can be followed all the way to the beach.

It is recommended that access by all

terrain beach wheelchairs and strollers is at low tide only. Access along the riverbed and bank is subject to varying water flows in the river. Inspection of the access route to the beach is strongly recommended prior to taking all terrain beach wheelchairs and strollers over it.

More reasons to visit the Prom

THE State Government is investing in new and improved visitor experiences at Wilsons Promontory.

Eplus Architecture was appointed as principal consultant on the \$23 million Wilsons Prom Revitalisation project, which will rejuvenate the information centre and its connections with surrounding visitor spaces and facilities.

The upgrade includes Tidal River, which is home to the park's roofed accommodation, campground, toilets and amenities, café, general store and other facilities

The funding will also deliver new walking experiences, including a Telegraph Saddle trail to connect Tidal River and Mount Oberon, and an upgrade of the Wildlife Circuit.

Parks Victoria will be engaging with Traditional Owners and specialist consultants throughout the project to ensure Aboriginal cultural heritage and environmental values are protected.

Wilsons Promontory is one of Parks Victoria's most popular sites, with visitor numbers rebounding to pre-pandemic

levels, with an estimated 197,700 visits in summer, up from 178,353 during summer 2020-19.

The national park also plays a critical role in protecting our native biodiversity and will soon be Australia's largest and best-protected nature haven. These new upgrades will allow visitors to experience national park's unique coastal landscape without impacting conservation.

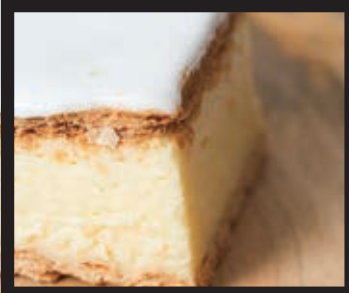
Works will be delivered during 2023 and 2024, with the project expected to generate 54 jobs and bring over \$11 million into the regional economy.

This project is being funded as part of the \$633 million Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan.

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Paul The Pieman



Going all out with garlic at Meeniyen

ONE of the best little festivals in Victoria, is back again on Saturday, February 18 at the Meeniyen Recreation Reserve and spinning over into the iconic main street of the 'turning point' town.

It's the 2023 Meeniyen Garlic Festival and it's already shaping up to be the best yet, introducing a number of fantastic new features.

There'll be music, food, four great chefs in the Festival Kitchen, including the award-winning Alejandro Saravia.

And there'll also be garlic, garlic and more garlic... learn about the many varieties of garlic and how to grow it, cook it and eat it!

In the Al Fresco Dining Precinct, you'll sample fine regional wines, ciders, craft beers and outstanding cheeses. It's a place to bring your lunch, relax and listen to superb music from our Festival performers. With umbrellas, seating and buskers, it is a great place to relax and enjoy good wine, good cheese and good company.

There's entertainment all day: A full-day program featuring local and visiting artists. Chill out with a good feed, and listen to some great music. There will be live performances on three stages – check your festival guide for locations. They include local musician Fiona Curram, the Corie Blackley Family Show with balloons, magic and music, another local band Beggs 2 Differ featuring Philip Beggs, John Rees of Men at Work fame, Diana Rees and Korumburra's Terry Lay.

Plus, there's family entertainment, farm activities and more. Don't miss it.

See the Meeniyen Garlic Festival website for details: <https://meeniyengarlicfestival.com.au/>

Take a country
drive to the

Woodside Beach Hotel

Come for a drive and check out the iconic Woodside Beach Hotel, where Naomi, Amanda and the team have a cool drink and a fine meal waiting... but please book on the weekends.



THE Woodside Beach Hotel is an historic country hotel 28km from Yarram or an easy one hour, 20 minute drive from Leongatha.

The pub reopened in July 2022 after a major refurbishment but the beer had stopped flowing there, way back in 2016!

So, it's been a long time between drinks... and eats.

And according to former Sydney chef, Rob Paget, who has made the ultimate sea change from the Harbour City to Woodside Beach, it's hard to get a table on Sundays in particular.

"Yes, for sure, if you're coming out on the weekend, especially over the summer holidays, it's best to make a booking," said Rob, whose just put the finishing touches on a new menu.

Check it out at <https://woodside-beachhotel.com/thepub>

Rob says the locals, Gippslanders

from Sale, the Lakes and the Latrobe Valley, as well as weekenders and day trippers from Melbourne have visited in good numbers over the past five months and he feels they're now ready to take on the summer rush.

"We're expecting it to be busy. It's just a great destination. The beer gardens are up and running, we've got some music events as well. It's the ideal place to stop for a cool drink and a great meal on a sunny afternoon or warm evening.

"We've been doing lunch and dinner from Wednesday to Sunday but we'll be stretching that out to seven days over the summer."

The Hotel is located in the small rural town of Woodside, famous for its Wildcats football and netball teams, and there's reminders of some of the town's sporting history on the wall, like Alan Lowe, one of the best Gippsland footballers never

to play AFL.

Usually parched and dry by this time of the year, the broad sheep and beef paddocks that stretch from Stradbroke and Giffard West into Woodside have enjoyed one of their best seasons ever with plenty of hay and stock in prime condition.

And the Woodside Beach Hotel is just the place to wet your whistle after a hard day's work, a great day's fishing, or round of golf at the nearby (excellent) Yarram Golf Course.

In fact, located as it is on the highway/beach road corner, it's practically irresistible if you're passing at this time of the year.

For those driving east from South Gippsland, it only adds a few minutes to your trip to go via Yarram and Woodside, with the bonus that you can stop off at the Woodside Beach Hotel.

"See you at the Woody!"

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JEN2118



Leigh McCulloch and Jen Lewis of Thriving foods farm in Koo Wee Rup sell their local produce at local markets across Bass Coast.



Jane Rogers of Australian Harvest had the very best of the region's jams at Inverloch's Regional Farmers Market recently.



Start your engine in Bass Coast

By Nick Sinis

FOR all motorcycle enthusiasts, Bass Coast has to be one the best regions in Victoria to explore on a summer's day.

The area is a treasure trove of stunning views and off-the-beaten tracks to be discovered.

And one of the best spots, of course, has to be Phillip Island, with an abundance of ideal roads to cruise along and plenty of pitstops.

Usually, I enjoy starting off my morning coming down the Bass Highway and making my way through towns such as Grantville and Corinella.

It's always a delight to get the bike warmed up while riding through these areas, searching for the best views of the beach and the bay.

And the refreshing ocean breeze is always great for keeping you cool in all that gear.

Next stop is San Remo, where it's time for a short break and something to eat, whether at the San Remo Fishermen's Co-op or the delicious bakeries.

From there, it's anyone's game, depending on the mood of the day, I might head towards Newhaven and up to Cowes from there or head across to Sunderland Bay.

That's the beauty of Phillip Island, you don't have to stick to any one location.

It's long, winding roads are perfect for coasting along on the bike, just keep an eye out for the wildlife!

There are so many excellent spots to take a look at, whether it's Churchill Island or Pyramid Rock, there's no shortage of choices.

Then the trip usually wraps up at Cowes as you cruise down the Esplanade, again taking in all that the stunning views have to offer.

While also being spoilt for choice for eateries, or even a delicious ice cream at Isola Gelato.

Phillip Island is a perfect spot to rev the engine and spend the day exploring, and its roads are also ideal for those not wanting too many twists and turns.

However, be sure to also check out the rest of Bass Coast and make it a whole weekend by continuing down the Bass Highway through Kilcunda, Wonthaggi and eventually Inverloch.

There's no shortage of options for all motorcycle riders!

It's 'Market Season'

IN SOME respects, it's 'market season' every weekend somewhere in South Gippsland and Bass Coast but the outdoor marketplaces for all things fresh and fantastic really kicks into gear in December and January.

Local favourites include the Inverloch Farmers Market on the third Saturday of the month at The Glade in the Middle of Town, the Churchill Island Market on the first Saturday of each month, set against the backdrop of tranquil Western Port, the time-honoured Kongwak Market each Sunday still with its esoteric vintage and retro roots, the original Koonwarra Farmers Market opposite the

fire station on the first Saturday and the famous Prom Produce and Craft Market at Foster, which was back on Sunday, December 11 and continues on the following dates:

- Sunday, January 1, 2023
- Sunday, January 22 (Australia Day Weekend)
- Sunday, March 12 (Labour Day Weekend)
- Sunday, April 9 (Easter Sunday)

The best places to find out what markets are on and when and the local shire markets pages Bass Coast at <https://www.visitbass-coast.com.au/events/markets> and South Gippsland at <https://visit-southgippsland.com.au/events/>



Kay Kondarios of Phillip Island's Hill Top Farm Meats brings you the very best in grass-fed and free-range meats to local markets including Churchill Island and Inverloch or pick up your supplies at 35 Coghlan Rd, Cowes (just around the corner from the Koala Conservation Centre).

Markets from the Waterline to Inverloch

CORINELLA COMMUNITY MARKET

Harold Hughes Reserve
Second Saturday 9am-1pm
– Plastic Bay Free
January 14, February 11, March 11

GRANTVILLE COMMUNITY MARKET

1470 Bass Highway
Fourth Sunday 8am-2pm
January 22, February 26, March 26

INVERLOCH COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKET

The Glade
Last Sunday 8am-1pm
December 28, January 4*, 11*, 18*, 25*, 29, February 26, March 26
*Special Twilight Market 3-8pm

INVERLOCH FARMER'S MARKET

The Glade
Third Saturday 8am-1pm
January 21, February 18, March 18

TARWIN LOWER MARKET

Memorial Hall, Riverside Drive
Every Monday Public Holiday 10am-1pm
January 2, March 13

WONTHAGGI ROTARY MARKET

Murray Street
Second Sunday 8am-1pm
January 8, February 12, March 12

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Santa's Little Helper & Collectables
144 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
f Santas Little Helper Wonthaggi



Gemma and Kiana are just some of the friendly staff on deck at the Workmen's Club bistro.

Enjoy the food and stay the night at the Workmen's Club

IT'S easier to stay and enjoy all that Wonthaggi Workmen's Club and the town have to offer with the business' 26-room 4-star MJ McMahon Motel. It provides delightful modern comfort while paying tribute to the area's past, including its mining heritage. "In its modern approach, whilst recognising our history, it moves the club into the future in style and comfort," general manager Rod Bye said. He noted the motel is an important addition for those wanting to hold large functions at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, such as weddings. It offers the perfect spot for attendees to stay in comfort. Every room features a photo capturing a bygone moment, even a Cape Paterson beauty contest that allows you to pick a winner or marvel at how much society has changed. Modern beach photography also features in the motel, adding a splash of colour. Rooms are named after past presidents of the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, with MJ McMahon the second to hold that honour.

Dining
The club's vibrant summer menu ensures visitors and locals have abundant, tasty and healthy dining options. Vegans and vegetarians are well catered for. There's all your favourite classics from a range of steaks and parma's to salads, pizzas and pastas and much more! There's plenty of choice in finding a suitable accompaniment for your meal, with a great selection of wines by the bottle and glass. Those after a refreshing cold beer on a hot summer's day will also enjoy a top selection. You'll get a taste of Wonthaggi's past as you enter the Workmen's Club through its impressive replica mine shaft. However, rather than coal dust and hard work, a friendly greeting and a host of entertainment and dining options await. Wonthaggi Workmen's Club is itself a rich part of the town's history, having operated since 1911.



The MJ McMahon Motel features 26 luxurious rooms.



Sweeping views on the George Bass Coastal Walk

DISCOVER the unique beauty of the Bass Coast along the George Bass Coastal Walk, offering sweeping views of the wild ocean from Punch Bowl Road near San Remo to Kilcunda. Few walks offer such breathtaking and diverse scenery, from rugged coastline, woodland gullies, tucked-away coves, to the almost iridescent green hills spotted with happy cows. Dare to look down and find pristine beaches, nestled cosily between the rocky outcrops. The 7km walk dips through coastal gullies and takes in a secluded beach, climbing again high above the sea. You might be in luck and get a glimpse of a local kangaroo mob feeding in knee-high grass but keep your distance, of course. Finish up at Kilcunda and from there, you can continue walking along the Bass Coast Rail Trail into Wonthaggi.



You're always welcome at Wonthaggi Workmen's

Enjoy our modern family - friendly club this summer

CRIB BISTRO

Open everyday for members, guests and visitors
Lunch 12noon - 2.30pm • Dinner from 6 - 8.30pm



Reservations phone 5672 1083
75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
www.wonthaggiworkmens.com.au



Now welcoming guests

Our brand new, modern 26-room motel offers comfort and quality to accommodate families, groups and corporate guests.

62-64 Watt Street, Wonthaggi
Bookings 03 5672 1083





A SPLASH OF FUN

this summer

POSITIONED 200 metres from Inverloch beach on 10 acres of land, BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch accommodates for all size family units this summer holidays.

Offering a vast selection of powered sites throughout the park, including:

- Large-powered sites
- Medium-powered sites
- Powered ensuite suites
- Safari tents
- Superior villas
- Holiday units
- Deluxe holiday units
- Ensuite cabins
- Luxury villas
- Luxury apartments
- Palm water villas.

Along the foreshore are sites for those tourists looking for a more secluded area, a quiet space for unpowered sites positioned amongst the trees, a

place to hear the ocean from camp.

Assistant manager Tim Burgess said the park is designed to accommodate large families, including extended relatives and grandparents, with superior villas that sleep up to eight people and powered ensuite sites for those guests who are after a little more privacy.

"The facilities inside the park are accessible for all guests, including our renowned safari splash park, indoor heated pool with three depth levels for safe swimming, a jumping cushion, pump track, outdoor playground and games room with arcade machines and table tennis."

"Throughout the peak holiday period, the park will run a range of experiences to treat guests of all ages, including a

kids club that will run weather dependant activities, live music to have a dance under the stars and a variety of food trucks to enjoy those summer nights," said Tim.

The park offers an array of amenities, including but not limited to, boat parking, basketball court, barbecue areas, a camp kitchen, baby room with bath and laundry facilities.

BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch is a home away from home for the summer, a place to create memories with family and friends, also offering day passes for visitors who are heading to Bass Coast for a daytrip (subject to park capacity).

To book your next holiday and experience the adventure of Ingenia Inverloch visit www.ingeniaholidays.com.au



Tait enjoyed his time at the BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch, playing on the playground whilst camping with his family in Bass Coast.



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

at Big4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch



Complete range of accommodation, caravan sites and recreational facilities including indoor heated pool and indoor splash pool

What are you waiting for? Book your next getaway!

BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch | 2 Cuttriss Street, Inverloch | **Phone 5674 1447** | www.ingeniaholidays.com.au



Mitch Staley (sales manager), Travis Cameron (site supervisor), Tyrone Zukovskis (managing director) and Wade Kohlman (site supervisor) are some of the friendly team at South Gippsland Homes.

High Quality affordable Homes

SOUTH Gippsland Homes prides itself on constructing high quality, affordable homes using local tradespeople and suppliers.

“We’re local and support local trades,” managing director Tyrone Zukovskis said, adding that makes it easy to ensure the high-quality workmanship desired.

The business provides the flexibility to choose the style of home that suits your taste and budget, from basic brick veneers to fully customised builds.

“We consider ourselves a one-stop shop,” Tyrone said.

That philosophy includes providing a large Leongatha showroom, opposite Toyota, which enables people to inspect everything on offer.

“It’s a full selection set up, so if you come to build a house with us, we don’t send you off to the tile shop and the plumbing supplies shop, because everything we offer is on display in that showroom,” Tyrone said.

That approach combines the streamlined convenience of a large-volume builder with the flexibility and quality of a local custom builder, he explained.

People are welcome to source materials outside those displayed in the showroom.

South Gippsland Homes builds across most of the Bass Coast and South Gippsland region.

The business operates with seven fulltime

staff, subcontracting tradespeople.

Speaking in late November, Tyrone outlined the situation in regard to sourcing building materials and labour, challenges that the building trade has faced since the COVID period arose.

“Material supplies is a bit of an issue, but it’s not a major one, and the trades side we are not struggling with at all,” Tyrone said.

“We use the same group of trades for every build and we build approximately 30 to 35 homes a year, so the trades are generally doing something for us.”

Tyrone said the material supply situation has been challenging over the last two years, but that issue has begun to settle down recently.

He highlighted the peace of mind that comes from using a local building business such as South Gippsland Homes.

“I think it’s important that people know who they’re dealing with in the current market,” Tyrone said.

“Being able to trust who you’re using to build what is your biggest asset is a particularly important thing.

“Even though we build quite a lot of homes, we’re still a small group of staff and we get to know our clients quite well.”

**“We’re
local and
support
local
trades,”**



EXPERIENCE THE TRUE BUILDER’S TOUCH

As your South Gippsland local builder, we pride ourselves on creating a dream home that perfectly reflects your personal tastes, needs and lifestyle.

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the true builder’s touch

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YOUR NEW HOME

could be waiting at The Cape

THE Cape housing estate has released its long awaited and highly anticipated final stage.

The stage, known as the Ocean Views Release, features homesites overlooking wetlands and waterways, and many elevated homesites which have views across Bass Strait to Wilsons Promontory to the east, and Cape Woolamai to the west.

Residents in the stage will see whales from their back porch and be enjoying lunch only minutes after finishing their surf at Cape Paterson's beautiful second surf beach.

Surrounded by hectares of well-maintained open space, these types of "unicorn" homesites are exceedingly rare in the Australian property market, and have only become more scarce as new coastal developments are generally constructed inland of existing towns.

Cape Paterson is an increasingly sought-after location due to its beautiful beaches, friendly village atmosphere and lack of the big crowds that swarm to other nearby coastal locations in summer.

The Cape is a multi-award winning sustainable housing estate, which has pioneered mainstream sustainable, net zero

carbon housing, and features a rich biodiverse landscape, a children's playground, kilometres of walking and cycling tracks, exercise stations, wetlands and habitat corridors, lookout points, an off-leash dog park, direct walk-on beach access, a huge community garden and an upcoming sports precinct.

After recently winning the prestigious Premier's Sustainability Award for Climate Action and Landscape Victoria's Sustainable Landscape of the year, a rare double win, The Cape has clearly demonstrated a ground-breaking holistic approach to integrated sustainability in housing estates.

Nearly half of the 230 homes in the estate are complete or under construction and the community is flourishing, with 75 per cent of all households taking up a plot in the recently launched community farm that will produce an estimated \$150,000 worth of fruit, herbs and vegetables each year.

The Farm is the perfect hub for residents to gather, share stories, share laughs and share food.

Head to liveatthecape.com.au for more information.



the
Cape

Australia's first net zero carbon housing estate

Energy Efficient

All homes are gas-free, at least 7.5 stars and come with rooftop solar. Whether you design your own bespoke home, or use one of The Cape's designs, you'll find yourself living in carbon neutral comfort.

Community-Centered

The Cape's local beaches, wetlands, parks, sports precincts and community farm are linked by a series of walking and cycling paths, ensuring community connection is at the heart of the estate.

Connected to Nature

Expert Biodiversity Sensitive Urban Design and hundreds of thousands of native plants make The Cape a stunning hotspot for a range of native wildlife such as echidnas, kangaroos and endangered birds.

**FINAL
STAGE
NOW
SELLING!**

[@liveatthecape](https://liveatthecape.com.au) liveatthecape.com.au



Make sure your pool is compliant

WITH summer and Christmas ahead of us Alex Scott and Staff make note that it is timely to point out the rules and regulations regarding swimming pools and spas specifically the “blow-up” type.

Is it deeper than 30cm? Can it hold over 2000 litres? Does it have a filtration system?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you will require a building approval and compliant pool fence prior to filling the pool.

Please keep in mind that pool regulations are subject to change and may vary in different states and council shires.

Avoid disappointment and a request to have the Pool removed by the Agent/Rental Provider should it not comply.

It is advised that you will need to seek approval in writing to the agent, follow the regulations for your area, obtain an authorised inspection and compliance certificate.

The agent will not be liable for any fines or litigation should any incident occur.



Enjoy the fireworks in Bass Coast this New Year's Eve

----- **Coronet Bay fireworks** -----
Saturday, December 31,
at 6:00pm - 9:30pm
Coronet Bay Foreshore,
Cutty Sark Road, Coronet Bay
This year celebrate New Year's Eve in Coronet Bay and bring your family along to enjoy a family friendly fireworks display.

----- **Cowes fireworks** -----
Saturday, December 31,
at 9:30pm - 9:45pm
Cowes Jetty, The Esplanade Cowes
This year celebrate New Year's Eve in Cowes and bring your family along to enjoy a family friendly fireworks display.

----- **Inverloch fireworks** -----
Saturday, December 31,
at 9:30pm - 9:45pm
Inverloch Recreation Reserve,
Sandymount Ave, Inverloch
This year celebrate New Year's Eve in Inverloch and bring your family along to enjoy a family friendly fireworks display.

Find your perfect home

Principal Fiona McMahon-Hughes and Sarah Doolan say there's plenty on offer at Ray White for all your holiday needs.

THE quiet coastal town of Inverloch is renowned for its scenic coastline and gorgeous properties.

As the town and area continues to grow in popularity and liveability, there has never been a better time to consider making the sea change.

Principal of Ray White Inverloch, Fiona McMahon-Hughes, has established the real estate office over recent years, witnessing the growth in both sales and rental properties.

Ray White Inverloch is a part of Australasia's largest real estate group, providing clients with the latest innovations in marketing and technology for both sales and rentals.

Staff are also highly trained with property managers receiving monthly training sessions to ensure they're up to date with sales and holiday trends.

“Being part of a nationally recognised brand, our team can work

with interstate offices, enabling us to help our vendors not only sell their home here, but purchase and relocate interstate or to elsewhere in the area,” Fiona said.

“We pride ourselves in communicating with our vendors, purchasers, landlords and tenants by always giving them precise feedback on the current state of the market because our client satisfaction is our most important measure of success,” Fiona said.

Inverloch and its surrounds offer an abundance of natural beauty, untouched beaches and interesting natural attractions.

Today, visitors are not only stopping to explore but investing in holiday homes or relocating their families and careers.

If you are considering selling or after property advice, contact Fiona McMahon-Hughes at Ray White Inverloch on 5662 9533 or visit the office at 6 Williams Street, Inverloch.



HOLIDAY SEASON LIKE NEVER BEFORE

ALEX Scott and Staff are expecting a bumper holiday season right across Bass Coast and surrounds with demand increasing like never before.

Director Greg Price (Cowes based) said after huge events in 2022 such as the MotoGP and Superbikes, tourism continues to rebound after lockdowns.

“All of our offices from Western Port right down to Venus Bay are expecting big numbers of visitors,” he said.

“Even though people can travel freely interstate, the enquiry level has been very strong based on people looking at the cost of interstate travel.

“We’re expecting certainly a very busy holiday season and that has been coming through holiday bookings.”

Mr Price highlighted while the main weeks of the holiday period including Christmas had already been booked out, demand continues for holiday rentals in Inverloch and Cowes.

“We’re close, we’re immediate for a lot of people, they don’t want to have that big cost of travel,” he said.

“We’re so close to Melbourne for people to enjoy a weekend away.”

Mr Price added that visitation numbers throughout 2022 had also boomed, and he expects the trend to continue.



“We certainly expect very strong visitation to our beaches and everything that our region offers,” he said.

There’s plenty of choice for pricing as well, with high end properties just across from the beach on offer, through to more affordable rentals.

“Compared to areas on the West Coast in Victoria towards Torquay and Lorne, Phillip Island and Inverloch still offer a big range of choice and budget for people wanting to holiday.”

**Inverloch based
Alex Scott and Staff
property manager
Abbey McCaughan and
director Marni Redmond
can’t wait to assist with all
your property and rental
needs this holiday season.**



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Aminah 0415 256 578
Luke 0422 066 129



Discover Rhyll Boat Ramp

Locals and visiting fishers and boaties love the new Rhyll Boat Ramp.

THERE'S a lot to consider when you plan to go out fishing with boat checks, fuel, bait, safety gear and all the rest but it's a whole lot easier when you know the launch and retrieval exercise will be a breeze.

And that's what the new boat ramp at Rhyll, delivered in partnership with Better Boating Victoria (BBV) by the Bass Coast Shire, provides - ease of access, safety and peace of mind.

"It's been awesome. Great access on all tides and easy launch and retrieval.

They love it," said Toby Stewart of Phillip Island Marine.

"There's plenty of room in the car-park for cars and trailers and it's been getting a lot of use," he said this week.

The total project cost was over \$5 million with the majority of funds provided from the State Government's \$47.2 million investment to make recreational boating better in Victoria.

The program invests in improving and upgrading boat launching facilities

across Victoria to improve safety, accessibility, capacity and functionality.

So, the Bass Coast Shire Council, in consultation with the community, deserves a lot of credit for the way the project has been delivered.

If there was a bigger fish cleaning table, the whole thing would be perfect.

A "before and after" video on YouTube provides a great aerial view of the boat ramp: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1xBAGam_WHw



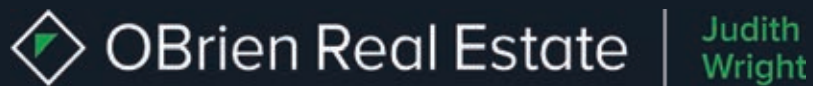
Take your rubbish with you

EVERYTHING has an impact.

With plastic pollution one of the greatest marine environment threats it has never been more important to ensure your rubbish goes in a bin.

From marine animal entanglements to penguins and seabirds using rubbish in their burrows and nests, this summer, leave our home better than you found it.

- Pick up your rubbish and place it in a bin
- Put cigarettes in the bin do not throw them on the ground
- Support local fisheries – it's fresh and supports the community
- Take fishing line, netting and bait bags home with you and dispose appropriately when you recreationally fish
- Pick up rubbish you spot with dog poo bags on walks
- Cut looped items (masks, beer can holders, elastic bands, etc.) before placing in the bin
- Purchase locally grown fresh produce
- Support local businesses and understand it can be a busy time for them
- Use reef and marine friendly sunscreen
- Reduce your car usage – enjoy the sun on your skin when you walk instead



Local knowledge & Industry expertise = Exceptional results



With a combined 250+ years of real estate experience, over 28 years of service on the Bass Coast and supported by Victoria's fastest growing real estate brand in OBrien real estate, the team at OBrien Judith Wright remain one of the most respected real estate agent names in the area.

- Real Estate Sales
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- Holiday Rentals
- Property Management
- Strata/Owners Corporation & Storage

To chat with our team - scan below:



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We put you first



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ACCOMMODATION

We can take the stress out of managing your holiday home

- ✓ Specialised and dedicated team
- ✓ Arrange cleans between guests
- ✓ Market & advertising your property over multiple platforms
- ✓ Booking Management
- ✓ Arrange maintenance
- ✓ 24/7 guest inquiries & support

Are you ready to book your next stay in South Gippsland?

With a portfolio of quality homes to suit your budget and needs, you'll find the perfect accommodation. Book directly on our website or call the team.



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Knowledge. Skill. Experience.

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If you are thinking of selling now is the time



To sell your home with Australasia's leading real estate brand, contact your local Ray White team

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raywhite.com



Bring your *dream home* to life with Hotondo Homes

BUILDING your dream home will most likely be the single largest investment you will ever make, so it's important to choose the right team for the project.

As a local family-owned business which has operated for over 24 years, Hotondo Homes Inverloch has been the obvious choice for hundreds of families who have built their home across the Bass Coast and South Gippsland Shire.

Directors Trent and Caroline Allen and their team provide quality building services across Inverloch and the surrounding areas, including Leongatha, Korumburra, Wonthaggi and Venus Bay.

"We are your true local builder who employs local people," said Trent.

"We live and work here in Gippsland and take great pride in offering a more personalised service to our clients."

With extensive knowledge of the region, they work closely with their clients to bring their vision to life and create a home that is perfectly suited to their location, needs and lifestyle.

"We understand the specific requirements for our area, such

as the processes that need to be put in place when building on acreage lots or in sensitive areas such as Venus Bay," said Trent.

The team are also proud to offer an extensive collection of over 120 flexible floor plans, with a design to suit every family at any stage of life.

Independently owned and operated, the Inverloch franchise has been part of the Hotondo Homes network since 1998.

Established by Trent's father Don Allen, the family business has thrived through two generations and 24 years in operation.

Trent officially took over the reins of the business in July 2016, and says he is proud to uphold the reputation for quality and exceptional service his father built.

"A big thing for us that Dad has taught me is understanding the value for the client," said Trent.

"You can't lose sight of the fact that you're building someone's new home and they've saved all their life to build this home."

A testament to the team's commitment to customer excellence, Hotondo Homes Inverloch has an overall rating of five stars on Australia's largest consumer platform, ProductReview.com.au.

"Clear and transparent communication is key for us in delivering an exceptional customer experience from start to finish," said Caroline.

"We are always ready to answer any questions our clients may have and provide regular build updates so they can enjoy the journey and be part of the process."

Hotondo Homes Inverloch was recently recognised as a Runner-Up for the coveted Customer Experience Excellence Award, and a Finalist for Professional Builder of the Year VIC/SA/TAS at the recent 2022 Hotondo Homes National Conference.

The Hotondo Homes network was also named Australia's #1 Home Builder in Customer Excellence at the 2021 ProductReview.com.au Awards.

Hotondo Homes was established in 1979 and has operated as a national building franchise network since 1993, with independent local builders situated across Australia.

To start your dream home journey, chat to Trent, Caroline, and the team at their office at Shop 2 Ramsey Boulevard, Inverloch or visit Hotondo.com.au today!

24
YEARS
WITH
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Shop 2 Ramsey Boulevard, Inverloch

Hotondo Homes Inverloch Pty Ltd CDB-U 51609

Open hours
Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm
Weekends by appointment



Local builder wins state's top award for BUILDING EXCELLENCE

VIRTUE Homes is proud to announce they have been awarded top honours in the state as Regional Residential Builder of the Year, at the 2022 Master Builders of Victoria Excellence in Housing Awards recently celebrated at the Crown Palladium in Melbourne.

The award is given to the residential home builder who demonstrates exceptional quality and workmanship, something that Virtue Homes have built a reputation for over the past two decades. Mick Nicola, Virtue Homes owner said, "I couldn't be prouder of the Virtue Homes team, this award demonstrates our commitment to quality and design and we look forward to continuing to deliver exceptional homes for our customers in 2023 and beyond".

With two new display homes being launched very soon at Virtue Homes Display Village, located in Traralgon, there's even more reasons to be excited and inspired for your new custom home build. And don't forget the Victorian Display Home of the Year winner, The Acura 38, Virtue Home's Warragul display home.

Virtue Homes is a leading residential building company in Gippsland. Virtue Homes is committed to providing our clients with quality custom homes that are built to last.



VIRTUE HOMES
BUILDING EXCELLENCE



LOOKING TO BUILD IN 2023?

Be inspired by Victoria's Residential Regional Builder of the Year, Virtue Homes.



Stay up to date by subscribing to our newsletter at virtuehomes.com.au or call us on 03 5176 5997



Visit Virtue Home's Display Village in Traralgon or the Display Home of Year in Warragul.

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ROSIE | 0476 002 225

The Wonthaggi Club

Be part of something special



Club Bistro

OPEN for Lunch & Dinner 7 DAYS

Mexican Monday

Enjoy a frozen margarita and some Mexican favourites every Monday 12noon-2pm and 5-8pm

Tuesday – Celebrity Parma Day

Try a different parma every week for only \$18 or \$20 with a pot!

Wednesday – Mixed Grill Night

Two mixed grills and a bottle of wine \$60
One mixed grill and a glass of wine \$33
5pm – 8pm

Thursday - Seniors Meals

\$12 seniors two course
Soup and roast - 12 noon until 8pm



Stage 1

bar and lounge

WITH 12 BEERS ON TAP

Great Australian Wine List, including some local offerings.

ALL DAY MENU
FROM 12PM – 8PM DAILY
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and Sunday afternoon.

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