



DEECA RETREATS

- More about coastal protection, they say

IT WAS more about protection and less about retreat as the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) and the Cape-to-Cape Resilience Project team continued to soften their language around the response to Inverloch's erosion problems at an online seminar last Thursday night, October 16. One of the 30 questions put to the panel during a probing Q&A, which followed the

Inverloch Dune Reconstruction Works Information Session, directly addressed the emotive issue of retreat, that is, a planned fallback from at-risk coastal areas. Cassandra Philippou, Cape to Cape Resilience Project Manager responded. "Look, I know that retreat has been something that has popped up fairly frequently during the project and for the resilience plan as well. Retreat is really a

process of managed land use transition. It doesn't happen instantly. It's something that takes place over a long period of time and is planned. "And the idea is that we need to change the way we use places and land so that we can put more appropriate uses in those places that are less vulnerable to some of those coastal hazards. Continued page 3

FINAL BELLS RING FOR CLASS OF 2025

THE end is in sight for Year 12 students across Bass Coast and South Gippsland as they farewell classrooms and count down to the last bell this week. Students at Bass Coast College were busy putting the final touches on this evening's Year 12 Arts and Technology exhibition on Monday. Pictured are Year 12 students Brodie Sarton, Charlotte Crellin, Rylee Dagg and Maggie Tsousidis.

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DEECA retreats: More about coastal protection, they say

From page 1

“So, the managed transition in the adaptation pathway for the Surf Beach is really to be activated in the medium to long term. So, we’re not talking tomorrow. We’re not talking in five years’ time. It’s really looking at having that transition really moving along by about 2070 or the 0.5 sea level rise scenario.”

Darrin McKenzie, DEECA’s Gippsland regional director chimed in saying that while initial community consultation, in early 2021 (based on 180 surveys, 38 per cent from Inverloch residents) provided the basis for the strategy, he was open to the idea of re-assessing community desires and goals in the future.

“What Caz has said is right, there’s work happening in government to try and understand what the implementation of a retreat policy would look like, and this comes back to comments I was making about community values, and it has to be a community-driven plan.

“When we put the first draft out for consultation, we got quite a bit of feedback from members of the community saying it was too focused on retreat. That there was some ideological position in government that that’s the pathway we wanted to go down. That’s certainly not the case,” said Mr McKenzie.

“So, we have responded to that feedback, and once the final plan comes out, you’ll see in there, the community will see that we’ve introduced an additional pathway that does provide a greater emphasis, or opportunities for protective type outcomes into the future.

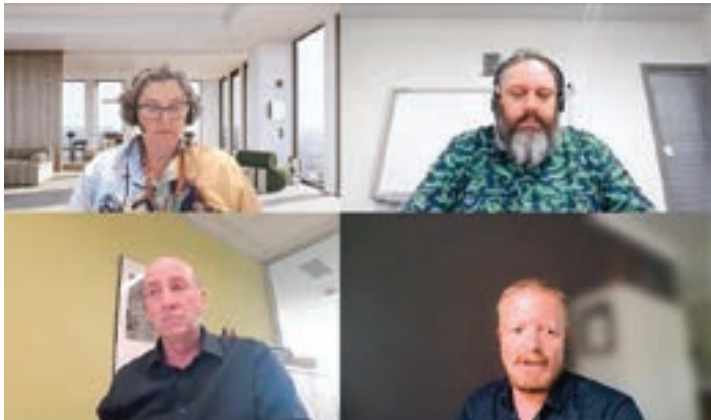
“That’s not to say that the work we’ve been talking about today, in terms of the dune reconstruction and renourishment, is not a protection pathway for us. We are looking to protect the dunes and ultimately protect the assets that sit on that coastal zone.

“It is a nature-based, or a natural-based protection pathway or action for us.”

Bass Coast Shire Councillor Meg Edwards, who watched the seminar with a group of people at home last Thursday evening, said she felt community action had moved the needle from talk about retreat to protection, which was heartening.



The sandbag wall in front of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club will be extended east and west over the next few months, that work being completed by Christmas.



Members of the panel for the Inverloch Dune Reconstruction Works Online Information Seminar last Thursday evening included Darrin McKenzie, Gippsland regional director Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Elise Lawry, coastal engineer at Water Technology Pty Ltd (not pictured), Simon Woodland, manager sustainable environment at Bass Coast Shire Council and Jeremy Neilson, regional manager for Land and Built Environment (DEECA).

“Honestly, I think that just basing your response on 180 submissions when 2500 people signed a petition, 700 attended a beach rally and 350 at a town hall meeting, calling for greater protection, does indicate a wider spread of opinion,” said Cr Edwards.

“The word ‘protect’ came up a lot more and there was also the offer to go back and test community sentiment again,” she said.

“What was also interesting is that the limits being placed on the amount of sand they’re prepared to move and dunes they’re prepared to reinstate is based more on the limits to the funding rather than what’s needed to do the job.

“If it’s actually going to cost \$10 million to complete the

work, the government should look at the economic and social benefits and fund it upfront.”

Cr Edwards said she was also concerned the sand dredging and dune reinstatement works would be carried out in the period between February and Easter, still a busy time on the beach at Inverloch.

President of the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, Glenn Arnold, was also pleased to hear the commitments being made to protecting rather than retreating.

“We’re pleased to hear that they’re going to go ahead and extend the sand-bag wall (east and west of its present position) and that they’re going to get that work done before Christmas,” said Mr Arnold.

“And that the sand dredging

and dune reinstatement work will commence in February, followed by the revegetation works.”

Mr Arnold said he also raised the potential of using jute mesh, made from natural products or Coir mesh made from coconut husk fibres, to protect the dunes and assist in the revegetation process as a possible solution.

Mr McKenzie said there would be a similar online information session held later to advise the community about the exact timelines for work and how that might impact activities on the beach and in the town.

Some of the other questions addressed such issues as how long the dune reconstruction and replanting program would provide protection for houses and other assets, what the impact had been of recent storms and high tides, who would be responsible for releasing stormwater from Wreck Creek, the impact of dredging on Anderson Inlet, who would respond in an emergency and why hard engineering options weren’t being used.

Among those who presented at the online seminar were:

- Darrin McKenzie, Gippsland regional director Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Elise Lawry, coastal engineer at Water Technology Pty Ltd
- Simon Woodland, manager sustainable environment at Bass Coast Shire Council
- Jeremy Neilson, regional manager for Land and Built Environment (DEECA).

GP bus catches fire

IT WAS a fairly uneventful weekend for police and emergency services over MotoGP weekend, on and around Phillip Island, according to Acting Inspector Paula Lindford, the Baw Baw local area commander.

And it was due to the quick thinking of a GP bus driver and the resourcefulness of a local farmer that is stayed that way.

Speaking on ABC Gippsland Radio on Monday this week, Acting Inspector Lindford said one of the buses ferrying patrons back to Cowes after the race, shortly before 5pm on Sunday, had what is believed to be an oil leak in the engine bay, initially starting to smoke and then catching fire.

“The quick-thinking bus driver was able to get all of the passengers off the bus safely, and we got them onto another bus (which was following closely behind), and some local farmers nearby actually brought their farm fire-fighting trailer over and put the fire out before the CFA arrived. So, it was an excellent result, with nobody being injured.”

The incident occurred near the corner of Berry Beach Road and Troutmans Road, a few hundred metres off Back Beach Road with the result that the road was closed for about an hour, with buses detoured down Back Beach Road and into Cowes via Ventnor Road.

According to locals, the Good Samaritan was local farmer Matthew Jeffrey. Apparently, the bus driver used both of his extinguishers to keep the fire in check, but it flared up again, with a big plume of blue smoke rising from the back of the bus before the farmer arrived with his firefighting gear.

Ms Lindford said the only other mishap involved a motorbike rider, during a community ride on Saturday, when one bike rear-ended the other, before coming down, and the rider broke his wrist.

Memorial Walk a fitting tribute

LEONGATHA Memorial Hospital’s new Memorial Walk opened on Monday afternoon with a tremendous community turnout for the occasion, the Walk honouring those who served abroad and those who carried the work of care at home.

“It bridges remembrance and health-care, sacrifice and service, and tells a story that is uniquely South Gippsland’s,” Louise Sparkes, CEO of Gippsland Southern Health Service, said.

As well as the photos and information honouring those who served, there is a separate display outlining the history of the hospital.

Louise introduced Geoff Dean of the Leongatha Community Foundation whose idea to return the word ‘Memorial’ to the hospital’s name sparked the Memorial Walk project, the hospital’s Kate Ginnivan acting as the project officer.

Leongatha RSL president Bill Verboon also spoke, expressing heartfelt thanks to Leongatha Hospital for its support in making the new tribute possible.

Read full story online at sgst.com.au and in next week’s edition

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CONTACT

OFFICE:	47 McBride, Avenue, Wonthaggi, VIC, 3995
HOURS:	Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
PHONE:	(03) 5672 1888
EMAIL:	EDITORIAL & LETTERS news@sgst.com.au
	ADVERTISING ads@sgst.com.au
	ACCOUNTS accounts@sgst.com.au

MANAGING DIRECTOR:	Michael Giles michael@sgst.com.au
OPERATIONS MANAGER:	Jim Akers jim@sgst.com.au
ADVERTISING MANAGER:	Holly McMaster holly@sgst.com.au
EDITOR:	Chloe Kent
JOURNALISTS:	Andrew Paloczi Bruce Wardley Nicole May Tayla Kershaw

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9° 18°	11° 21°	9° 16°	9° 17°	7° 19°	9° 17°

IN BRIEF

Conquering Skin
Cancer in Leongatha

SOUTH Gippslanders have the chance to hear from skin cancer survivors and experts in a free screening of the award-winning documentary Conquering Skin Cancer.

This powerful film features compelling interviews with skin cancer survivors, medical experts and Aussie celebrities.

Viewers can also learn about the latest innovative research aimed at beating skin cancer.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion and Q&A session with local health professionals and skin cancer experts.

The film is being presented in partnership with Gippsland Regional Integrated Cancer Service and Gippsland Region Public Health Unit.

The screening is free, but seats are limited. Tickets will also be available on the day.

Conquering Skin Cancer is being shown at Stadium 4 Cinema in Leongatha on Wednesday, October 22 at 1.30pm.

To book, visit: stadiumcinema.com.au/show-times/conquering-skin-cancer.

It will also be screened in Wonthaggi at The Union Theatre on November 19 at 4pm and at Cowes at Berninneit on November 20 at 5.30pm.

Public free to comment
on Streetscape concerns

THOSE with concerns about aspects of current Korumburra Streetscape works are welcome to raise them, with South Gippsland Shire Mayor John Schelling saying community members can report any issues to the council project team via phone, email or ‘Snap Send Solve’.

“Council is working with our Korumburra Streetscape contractors to finalise the project and address any outstanding defects or omissions,” Cr Schelling said. “The contracts include a defect liability period where the respective contractor remains responsible for the repair of any material or workmanship defects.”

The topic of Streetscape concerns was sparked by regular council adversary David Amor, who submitted the following question, answered at Wednesday’s council meeting.

“Korumburra Streetscape’s almost there; when will the mistakes be fixed and is there a place for the community and individuals to have their say?”

Allen Summerfield
honour confirmed

AT ITS October meeting, South Gippsland Shire Council proudly resolved to officially name the oval at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve as ‘Summerfield Oval’.

The decision follows a community consultation period, during which every submission supported the proposed name,

highlighting the deep respect and admiration the community holds for the late Allen Victor Summerfield, known as Cobra.

The nomination to consider the renaming was supported by the Korumburra Recreation Reserve Committee, and his family and included numerous letters of support received from associated clubs and community members.

AusNet HOME Grant
applications now open

AUSNET invites applications for its Helping Our Mission for Equity Grant, offering \$30,000 to fund bold ideas that improve outcomes for customers and communities across its electricity distribution network.

The HOME Grant is open to individuals, researchers, community groups and businesses.

AusNet is seeking proposals that identify barriers and challenges faced by customers, generate insights to better understand and support customer needs, explore ways to improve service delivery and outcomes, and advance knowledge or practice in supporting customers on AusNet’s electricity network.

To found out more, go to communityhub.ausnetservices.com.au/HOME-Grant. Proposals can be submitted to research@ausnetservices.com.au. Applications close on Friday, November 7.

Have an early say on
South Gippsland Shire
Council Budget

SOUTH Gippsland Shire residents can help shape council’s Annual Budget for 2026/27 from the outset in order to have their priorities considered as council evaluates how to best allocate its limited resources. This early submission phase, approved at Wednesday’s council meeting, allows residents to put forward proposals before the budget is drafted, ensuring early consideration for financial planning.

Once community feedback is collected and the Annual Budget is drafted, council will hold a second consultation for the community to review the draft budget.

However, submissions at that stage will be for feedback on the draft Budget document rather than for new ideas, meaning now is the time to have your say on development of the Budget.

To share your feedback and help shape the Draft Budget 2026/27 visit: yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au.

Council will also host in-person pop-ups across the Shire, with the first scheduled for Wednesday, October 22 from 12pm to 1pm at the Venus Bay Community Centre.

Pre-budget submissions will close Friday, November 21.

“We encourage residents to provide thoughtful and realistic suggestions that will help council prioritise its financial resources effectively,” Mayor John Schelling said.

Santa rolls in for
Christmas pics

SANTA is trading the sleigh for a fire truck this Christmas, with the Phillip Island Fire Brigade holding photo sessions from Friday, November 21, until Sunday, November 23. Bring along the whole family, including pets. Bookings are now open on trybooking.com.

Telstra mobile network
upgrades for Venus Bay
and Cowes

TELSTRA will be upgrading its mobile base station that services Venus Bay to bring a better 4G/5G user experience between Monday, October 20 and Friday, October 24, and Cowes from Wednesday, October 22, to Sunday, October 26.

The upgrades will improve the mobile sites’ capacity, meaning faster downloads, smoother streaming and less congestion.

Mobile services in the area will be temporarily affected while the upgrade works are underway.

Telstra mobile customers will receive texts advising of the upcoming work.

Landline services, NBN and Satellite internet services, and mobile coverage from other providers will not be impacted.

Any calls to Triple Zero from a Telstra mobile when the site is off air will automatically connect to another mobile network if available for connection to emergency services.

The Venus Bay site will need to be switched off during the following periods:

- Monday, October 20 – Friday, October 24 (site offline)
- Saturday, October 25 – Sunday, October 26 (site online)
- Monday, October 27 – Wednesday, October 29 (intermittent outages each day)

The Cowes site:

- Wednesday, October 22 – Sunday, October 26 (site offline)
- Monday, October 27 – Thursday, October 30 (intermittent outages)

Telstra’s tips for improving connectivity while works are underway

Telstra customers can continue to make calls and send texts during disruption to mobile services by switching on Wi-Fi Calling. This is a free setting on most popular mobile phones and allows your mobile to make and receive mobile calls while connected to Wi-Fi.

Telstra also encourage business owners to talk to their provider about connecting their EFTPOS terminals to their NBN or Wi-Fi connection to prevent delays in processing transactions.

No Passivhaus
news is good news

IT SEEMS like an eternity that the Bass Coast Shire

Council has been waiting for a decision on its application for Passivhaus accreditation for its award-winning cultural centre, Berninneit, at Cowes.

Well, according to the shire’s response to a question from Louise Lyell at last week’s council meeting, we’re going to have to wait a little longer.

“At the July 2025 Council Meeting, CEO Box stated Berninneit Passivhaus accreditation is currently pending. It is almost two years since Berninneit was opened (October 2023) with great fanfare and awards. When does CEO Box expect there will be a decision on Passivhaus accreditation?”

Mr Box said there was no fixed timeframe.

“The Passivhaus accreditation was submitted for assessment in early 2025. As this process is undertaken by an international certification body based in Germany, Council is not provided with a fixed timeframe for when an outcome will be received. Officers are in regular contact and will continue to seek updates on the progress of the assessment.”

\$1.5 million
campaign for Monash

AUSTRALIAN Electoral Commission (AEC) data has revealed that independent candidate Deb Leonard received more than \$1.5 million in donations to fund her campaign for the seat of Monash.

Two-thirds of Deb Leonard’s donations, a total of \$995,974, came from a single source, Climate 200.

Deb Leonard’s second biggest donor, according to the AEC data, was Keldoulis Investments P.L. and share trader Robert Keldoulis, who also made donations to Climate 200 candidates including \$252,276 to Ms Leonard.

Overall, Deb Leonard’s campaign donations totalled \$1,513,341.

Flying after
project funding

THE Bass Coast Council chased government funding hard in its first eight months in office, if the travel expenses of the mayor and deputy mayor are anything to go by.

Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead (\$15,977) and Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari (\$6158) topped the travel expenses column when the councillor expenses report was tabled last week with Cr Tracey Bell ahead in the “professional development” stakes, spending \$6181 to get a better handle on local government procedures.

Five of the councillors had total expenses of \$3000 (including travel, PD and other expenses) or less for the same period.



Meeniyan pensioner Aileen Hughes is getting progressively more anxious about her situation the closer she gets to her day in court, up against the South Gippsland Shire Council, which has charged her with the offence of failing to comply with an order to “cease occupation” of her home on an idyllic rural-residential block on the edge of town.

Legal threats hit home for Meeniyan pensioner

THE South Gippsland Shire Council is still on track to take Meeniyan pensioner Aileen Hughes to court.

That's despite stating this week that “it remains open to avoiding court action if that can be achieved”.

The case is listed to be heard at the Korumburra Magistrate's Court on Thursday, November 6.

And as the days count down, Ms Hughes is getting progressively more anxious about her future and where she might live if it all goes horribly wrong.

The shire has charged her with failing to comply with a Building Order, dated September 17, 2024, “to cease occupation” of a home she has lived in for more than 25 years.

That's despite a report by an authorised council officer, dated October 3, 2023, obtained under Freedom of Information, detailing that “in my opinion the shed used for habitation poses no immediate risk (excluding absence of smoke alarms)”.

A smoke alarm has since been added, to council's satisfaction.

After inspecting Ms Hughes' home in September 2023, following a report from “an anonymous person... complaining that a person has been living in a shed on the property for the past 10 years”, the officer told his superiors that “the only immediate risks identified by the shed being used for occupation is the absence of smoke alarms”.

He directed that an alarm be installed above the entrance to the bedroom “to mitigate fire safety risks”.

The work was carried out by an authorised person and inspected by a council officer who also inspected a septic

system on the property and found it to have an up-to-date service history, which is more than you could say for plenty of other properties in the shire.

Despite that, they're continuing to prosecute the 75-year-old lifetime local, in the face of an avalanche of community support, urging Council to stand down.

If the court upholds council's “cease occupation” order in the middle of a housing crisis across Australia, where there are an estimated 400 households in need of affordable housing in the South Gippsland Shire alone, Ms Hughes and her beloved horse Darcy will likely have nowhere to go.

She doesn't want to go anywhere else. Why should she!

“It's pretty stressful. I've had my moments over the past two years, I can tell you,” said Ms Hughes this week.

“Being hit with a criminal charge is something I just can't get over. It's unbelievable really, thinking about what might happen on November 6.

“There's nothing wrong with the house. It's probably a lot better living here than some of the other houses you hear about.

“How can they pull this out now when they know I've been living here for more than 25 years,” she said.

Ms Hughes said the property was inspected in 2016 with the council officer at the time saying she'd do a report and if there was any problem, they'd get back to me. They never did.

“They came back in 2023 and asked me to put in a smoke alarm, which I did.”

Ms Hughes said the shire wanted her to pay for a further assessment of the prop-

erty, which she was unable to afford on a low, fixed income.

The ball's in the shire's court.

But, as Ms Hughes says, why are they wasting ratepayers' money on an issue that's 25 years old.

“I'm happy here. It's my home and there's nothing wrong with it. Why don't they just leave me alone.”

The shire's new CEO Allison Jones has reached out, offering to discuss the options for avoiding going to court, but Ms Hughes is fearful it might mean having to undertake further assessment and building works she can't afford.

The shire's actions have set up an impasse where taking the matter to court and letting someone else decide what to do seems the only option in an overly bureaucratic setting.

Shire response

The Sentinel-Times asked council for a response.

“As this matter is now subject to legal proceedings, Council is unable to comment on specific case details. However, Council can provide the following general information:

- Council's preference is to resolve this matter cooperatively by ensuring Ms Hughes' building meets all compliance requirements, and it remains open to avoiding court action if that can be achieved.

- Victorian building legislation establishes minimum safety and construction standards to ensure dwellings are safe and suitable for habitation. It is unlawful to reside in any building that has not been designed, approved, and constructed for residential use.

- Council officers are required to operate in accordance with the Victorian Building

Act 1993 and the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

- Once Council becomes aware of an instance of unlawful habitation, it has a duty of care to act in accordance with these legislative requirements. Failure to act may result in legal consequences, and there have been cases where councils have been found liable for not responding appropriately to such situations.

- Issues relating to habitation can be resolved if certification is obtained confirming that the building meets the necessary standards for residential use, including compliance with the standards applicable at the time of construction and relevant bush-fire requirements.

Online feedback unanimous

The online feedback has been swift, unanimous and at times brutal in its criticism of the shire and the “anonymous person”. Here are a few examples:

- Kate Danby: Absolutely disgusting on the council's behalf. I certainly don't want my rates paying to harass and bully an innocent person living her life without harm to anyone. Shameful!!

- Diane Napper: What's happened to our homes being our Castles?

- Keith Mitchelson: Shire should stick to what they're supposed to do – rates, roads and rubbish not to harassing poor old pensioners.

- Jarrod Metselaar: You just hope the “anonymous person” stubs their toe every day for the rest of their life.

- Bonnie Cook: This shire is exceptionally good at throwing elderly people out into the street. Korumburra elderly citizens for example!

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Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead

AT our October Council Meeting, we endorsed community engagement on an addendum to the Bass Coast Aquatic Strategy and redevelopment plans for the Bass Coast Leisure Centre at Wonthaggi. This marks an important step toward planning for the future of our aquatic facilities across Bass Coast.

The updated approach prioritises the redevelopment of the Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Wonthaggi first, followed by a new aquatic centre for Phillip Island as the second stage.

I understand this decision may be disappointing for many people on Phillip Island who were hoping to see both centres progress together. Please know that Council remains fully committed to delivering a new aquatic facility for Phillip Island. This approach simply reflects the financial realities we face today and the advice we've received from government funding bodies that a staged approach gives us the best chance of success.

The Wonthaggi centre has served our community well for decades, but it's reaching the end of its life and now needs major renewal to remain safe, accessible and functional. Redeveloping this facility first means we can continue providing essential aquatic and leisure services while positioning ourselves to attract future funding for the Phillip Island facility.

The concept plan for Wonthaggi shows how the centre can be redeveloped in stages, so works can be delivered as funding becomes available and the centre can stay open as much as possible during construction. It also includes improvements to accessibility, sustainability, and energy efficiency.

This is not about choosing one community over another. It's about taking practical, responsible steps to make sure both communities get the facilities they deserve in the long term.

I encourage everyone to visit engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/aquatic-swim to view the plans and share your feedback by 6 November 2025. Your ideas will help shape how these important community facilities are designed and used in the future.

Council's bark worse than its bite, they say

BASS Coast Shire Councillors were talking tough when they ushered in a new era in domestic animal control at their council meeting last Wednesday, October 15.

And their enforcement-heavy approach wasn't lost on a group of Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association members who turned out at the council's monthly meeting, in the Berninnet Cultural Centre in Cowes.

President of the strong dog owners' group, Cheryl Owens, said some of the comments by the councillors, especially the threatening remarks made by Cr Matt Morgan, had upset some of her members, especially after the collaborative and respectful way they had engaged with the new Domestic Animal Management Plan process.

"They couldn't believe the way they spoke about us, as if the dog owners were nothing but trouble," said Ms Owens.

"I thanked them (the members) for coming but quite a few of them went away upset about what had been said.

"The accusations of irresponsible pet ownership, claims about harassment of wildlife and especially the remarks by Cr Morgan, that he's going to do what, come back with a Notice of Motion and take away our ability to walk our dogs on the beach if something goes wrong?"

"These incidents are very isolated. And there are some people who will never do the right thing," said Ms Owens.

"If that's their only plan, to fine people out of doing the wrong thing, how's that going to work?"

"In other shires, it's more about better signage and education than more enforcement."

Dog owners' group issued the following statement:

"The dog association worked collaboratively with the Bass Coast Shire on this new DAMP. We will continue to support off-lead beach areas and will continue to lobby for designated inland off-lead dog parks," said Ms Owens on behalf of the group.

"We will continue to educate all dog owners around protecting and living with our native wildlife in our community. Our association will continue to promote responsible dog ownership.

"We supported the DAMP in good faith as we were involved in the process.



Cheryl Owens, president of the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association, and other members of the group who attended last week's council meeting, chat with Bass Coast Shire emergency management officer Rhyce Davis with their concerns about the attitude of some councillors to dog owners.

"What we didn't expect was for the councillors to then focus on one narrow component (enforcement) rather than the DAMP in its entirety.

"We are looking forward to advancing the care and protection of the San Remo wombats.

"We certainly hope the councillors can look at it with a broader view going forward."

There was also a briefing for the group's 3000 Facebook page members prompting dozens of responses, none of it complimentary to the council.

"I listened after and couldn't believe what they were saying, not much of what they said made sense. It definitely was like we had been totally ignored. They seem gun-ho on shutting us down. I was totally shocked how they spoke," said one.

"The people that are letting their dogs go near and in the wombat burrows need to be caught and fined. If the council are so worried about this then they need to install better cameras to cover more of the area. Just my thoughts Cheryl. You really do a great job. The whole association is proud of you," said another.

What Cr Morgan had to say

"We need domestic animals and their owners to take responsibility for the actions

of their animals that we've brought into the natural environment of our native wildlife. I'm looking forward to seeing the inland off-leash areas being formalised with fencing in Inverloch.

"And like my colleagues, I'm glad to share that we're acquiring a couple of new compliance officers. Hopefully, this approach allows officers to educate those doing the wrong thing, and granted, it is the extreme minority, without ruining it for the responsible pet owners.

"That being said, I remain extremely concerned about the vulnerability of our native wildlife, especially on particular parts of our beautiful beaches.

"I've seen the photos and videos of the dogs chasing wildlife and digging in burrows. That must stop. I won't hesitate to bring an urgent motion into this chamber in future if I see that behaviour continuing post the adoption of this plan."

Cr Jon Temby said the "wet lettuce leaf" approach to enforcement wasn't working.

"Full implementation of the plan and strong policing should resolve the seemingly intractable issues around irresponsible pet owners allowing their animals to adversely interact with wildlife, and the

primary legal and moral responsibility we have to allow our wildlife to exist undisturbed.

"Strong policing and the immediate and heavier fines for infringement should help to get the message through that pet or feral animals' interference with our wildlife is illegal, seriously irresponsible and grossly selfish on the part of the owner.

"The wet-lettuce-leaf approach of a verbal warning has no impact on these people. They need strong deterrence via fines. The prompt use of serious fines should eventually get through to these people," he said.

In December last year, the Bass Coast Shire Council posted the following message about fines for dog owners doing the wrong thing:

"All dogs must be on a leash when out in public and not in a designated off-leash area. Failure to do so can result in an infringement of \$185. You must also pick up after your dog when out in public and carry bags with which to do so. Failure to pick up after your dog or carry bags carries an infringement of up to \$370."

It is anticipated that these fines have since increased, but importantly, fines can be issued without warning.

Danny O'BRIEN^{MP}
State Member for Gippsland South

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Wonthaggi firm wins \$1M Old Post Office contract

THE 114-year-old Wonthaggi Post Office, on the corner of Watt Street and McBride Avenue, will be returned to its former glory under a \$1 million refurbishment set to begin in November this year.

And the work will be done by a local company, TS Constructions, after the Bass Coast Shire Council awarded the contract at its council meeting last Wednesday, October 15.

Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead welcomed the appointment of “a trusted local contractor for such an important heritage project”.

“TS Constructions has demonstrated outstanding expertise in heritage restoration and a deep appreciation of what this building means to Wonthaggi,” she said.

“This project will not only preserve a much-loved landmark but also celebrate the craftsmanship and stories embedded in its walls.”

In announcing the awarding of the contract, the shire’s general manager innovation and engagement, Patrick Dillon, said TS Constructions represented the “best value for money” among tenderers, noting that “they achieved the highest score for its comprehensive understanding of the project, particularly the importance of the building’s heritage” while demonstrating the capability and experience to deliver the project.



The grand old Wonthaggi Post Office is set for a \$1 million internal refurbishment, making it ready for a new future, predominantly hosting community events.

Wonthaggi Councillor Brett Tessari also welcomed the shire’s commitment to restoring the “gorgeous” old post office.

“This is a beautiful old building, but unfortunately, in disrepair inside. This tender, approved today, will get this building brought up, not only to code, but to where it

should be, and that is usable. You can’t go upstairs at the moment because the stairs are ruined, the plaster is rotted out and it’s in such a poor condition, the roof also leaks,” said Cr Tessari.

“So, it’s a shame to see a building like this in that condition and to be able to bring it back to its grand old day

will warm the hearts of us. Wonthaggites that walk past it every day,” he said.

Shire CEO Greg Box said after the meeting that the building would mainly have a community focus once restored, hosting consultation and other engagement events, while being available for other public purposes.

Waste costs heap pressure on council

BASS Coast Shire Council CEO Greg Box appeared to confirm, at last week’s council meeting, that the shire is running at a loss.

And in answer to a question from council watcher, Graham Jolly of Cape Woolamai, Mr Box seemed to confirm that the shire was headed for another loss next financial year.

“Council’s adjusted underlying yearly losses,” said Mr Jolly, “were \$11.7 million in 2024, and \$6.788 million in 2025. On the 1st of July 2025 Council’s Budget has planned for another loss of \$10 million, with an operating loss \$1.513 million.”

“These results are a clear indication council is spending more than it generates in its own right, please explain.”

Mr Box underscored how reliant the shire is on one-off grants to build new or upgrade capital infrastructure.

“The adjusted underlying deficit excludes non-recurrent income, such as capital grants, but includes depreciation expense. The recorded deficits reflect Council’s reliance on one-off capital grants to fund infrastructure upgrades and renewals. Recent asset revaluations have also increased annual depreciation expenses,” said Mr Box.

“The 2025–26 budgeted adjusted underlying deficit is primarily influenced by higher depreciation costs and expenditure on the Wonthaggi Landfill Rehabilitation Project, which is funded through Council’s discretionary reserves.”

In the 2025-26 Budget, the shire proposed spending \$22.7 million on waste services, including the delivery and management of waste services \$16 million, landfill rehabilitation \$5.1 million and waste facility improvements \$1.6 million.

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Bass Coast SPP approved, as government celebrates protections for Bass Coast

MINISTER for Planning Sonya Kilkenny announced the approval of the Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy (SPP) by the Governor in Council, which now forms part of the Victoria Planning Provisions, on Thursday last week.

The Bass Coast joins the Bellarine Peninsula, Surf Coast and Macedon Ranges as one of Victoria's officially declared Distinctive Areas and Landscapes with the new policy setting a 50-year vision for the region's future – locking in 24 settlement boundaries across townships including Cowes, San Remo, Grantville, Cape Paterson, and Kilcunda.

Developed in partnership with the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Bass Coast Shire Council, government agencies, the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes Standing Advisory Committee and local community groups, the SPP reflects a shared commitment to protect what makes the region special and ensure the region is preserved for the future.

Though a 50-year vision for Bass Coast, the SPP must be reviewed no later than 10 years after it commences (in 2035), and has flexibility to be reviewed earlier if there are compelling reasons supported by strategic planning and technical studies.

“Bass Coast's coastline, farmland and townships make it a truly special place to live, work and visit – now we've locked in protections to keep it that way,” Member for Bass Coast Jordan Crugnale stated.



Jordan Crugnale MP with Minister for Planning the Hon. Sonya Kilkenny MP

A planning scheme amendment will now embed the SPP protections into the Bass Coast Planning Scheme.

Despite opposition, Bass Coast Shire Council formally endorsed the SPP on July 9 at a special meeting at short notice, with councillors predominantly voting in favour. Cr Edwards voted against, and Cr Tessari was absent from the vote.

Cr Bauer did raise concerns at the time in regard to a Cape Paterson development that was

now confronted with different criteria, and that locking in town boundaries could lead to larger blocks being subdivided for infill and increased building heights, while Cr Thompson expressed concern about retreat for areas of erosion, and the absence of a town boundary around Adams Estate.

Bass Coast Shire Council welcomed Thursday's announcement stating “Bass Coast Shire Council has welcomed the Allan Labor Government's

announcement of the Bass Coast Statement of Planning Policy (SPP), officially enshrining the region as one of Victoria's Distinctive Areas and Landscapes.

“The SPP establishes a 50-year vision for Bass Coast's future, setting clear settlement boundaries across 24 townships including Cowes, San Remo, Grantville, Cape Paterson and Kilcunda. It ensures that the Bass Coast's natural environment, cultural heritage, and local character are protected while guiding sustainable growth and development.

“The decision, approved by the Governor in Council, locks in the protected town boundaries for many of our towns and includes a range of recommendations to enhance neighbourhood character. Importantly, the policy also recognises the importance of the Western Port Woodlands.”

Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny also praised the announcement.

“Bass Coast is one of Victoria's most iconic regions – from the Bunurong cliffs to the beaches of Phillip Island and the rolling Strzelecki Foothills – and this is about ensuring they can be enjoyed for generations to come,” Minister Kilkenny said in announcing the Governor in Council's approval.

“This is about protecting the landscapes, coastlines and communities that define Bass Coast, while supporting the industries and jobs that sustain it.”

Final week to get your ticker checked

LEONGATHA locals once again have the chance to take part in the Shane Warne Legacy Health Check, available at the Leongatha RSL from October 13 to 27 during normal opening hours.

After the strong community response earlier this year, the RSL has brought back the free health checks as part of its Community Connection Program.

The quick, four-minute checks measure blood pressure, heart rate, body fat percentage, height, weight, and BMI, generating a personal health snapshot and recommendations based on the results.

“We were very surprised and excited by the number of people that took up the Health Check opportunity in May,” said Greg Nugent, general manager of Leongatha RSL, “so much so that we have decided to place the machine in the Club so that people who missed out before can take advantage of the opportunity this time. It is also a great opportunity for people who previously took the test to recheck on how things are going with the overall heart health.”

The May results provided valuable insights into local heart health.

The RSL encourages everyone, whether you missed out last time or want to monitor changes in your health to take advantage of this free service.

It only takes a few minutes, but it could make a real difference to your long-term wellbeing.

And while you're there, take a moment to enjoy a coffee, some cake, or a bite to eat for lunch or dinner.



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South Gippsland
Shire Council

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Join the Conversation

Share your ideas, provide feedback and help shape the future of South Gippsland via the following engagement opportunities:

Pre-Prep Consultation

Four-Year-Old-Kindergarten is becoming Pre-Prep and we are inviting parents, carers of young children, and people planning for a family to share their thoughts on the upcoming transition.

Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan

This Plan seeks to balance the needs of pet owners and non-pet owners and addresses seven core priorities, including officer training, pet registration, nuisance management, dog attacks, restricted dog breeds, education, and animal businesses.

Draft Community Engagement Policy and Strategy (2025–2029)

These documents guide how Council meaningfully engages with the South

Gippsland community. Key changes include a stronger focus on closing the loop by reporting back on community feedback to better share residents' views across the region.

Draft Governance Rules

This document defines how Council meetings are run, and how the public can participate. The review aims to improve and clarify processes, address previous inconsistencies, and strengthen good governance practices.

2026/27 Annual Budget

Share your ideas to help guide Council's investments within budget—building a safer, stronger South Gippsland.

In-person engagement events will occur throughout November.

For more information and share your feedback, please visit:
yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/

Council Adopts the 2024/2025 Annual Report



The 2024/25 Annual Report showcases the breadth of Council's achievements over the past year. Highlights include:

- Achieving all 21 annual initiatives in the 2022–2026 Council Plan.
- Completing our ambitious \$34 million capital works program.
- Ensuring Council remains in a strong financial position.

To read the full 2024/25 Annual Report, visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/yourcouncil

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 November at 2.00pm.

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

To watch the meeting live or when it suits you, visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a new job? We might have the perfect position for you!

Check out our current vacant positions here:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions

AUSTRALIA DAY NOMINATIONS

Celebrate our everyday legends!

These awards are a chance to shine a light on the everyday people who go above and beyond to make our community a better place. Nominations are now open in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

Nominations close on Wednesday 5 November.

For more information, visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

Council is seeking submissions from qualified companies/applicants for the following:

RFT/457 – Sealed Road Rehab Program 25/26

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 11 November 2025

Documentation is available from Council's e-Tendering Portal:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

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Councillor Hersey’s Spanish conference approved despite councillor concerns

COUNCILLOR Nathan Hersey is heading to Barcelona, Spain, in November to represent Gippsland at the Smart City Expo World Congress, with that opportunity coming through his role as Chair of One Gippsland.

However, that decision was not made without considerable reservations on behalf of some councillors ahead of Wednesday’s vote on whether to support authorising the trip.

The Congress is being run through the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) program of the European Union, that promotes multi-city cooperation on sustainable urban development, building partnerships between EU and non-EU cities.

Those representing Gippsland at the Congress will participate in discussions on Industrial Modernisation, Agri-Food, Clean Energy and Blue Economy.

The program will foot the bill for most of Cr Hersey’s expenses, including three nights’ accommodation in Barcelona, a return economy airfare and some meals, councillors voting at Wednesday’s meeting to cap council’s contribution at \$500.

Cr Bron Beach declared it an opportunity for the South Gippsland Shire councillor group to gain from international knowledge and hear about innovative approaches.

Cr Brad Snell also announced his support of the trip, seeing it as a chance of acquiring “new ideas, global knowledge, and skills and resources for the betterment of South Gippsland”.

In contrast to the positive vibes from some councillors, Cr Steve



Cr Nathan Hersey is off to Barcelona after much discussion in the council chamber. A02_4225

Finlay questioned the motives of those at the IURC.

“The IURC will pay most of our costs, and you’ve got to ask why,” he said, further arguing that local government has enough input from State and Federal Governments and doesn’t need more from overseas.

Speaking of IURC using buzz terms such as clean and green, just and inclusive, and resilient energy transition, Cr Finlay also noted other concepts such as ‘15-minute cities’, climate imperatives, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and rapid urbanisation.

“You wonder how this is relevant to trade opportunities with Gippsland and whether it is all good for us,” he said.

While expressing confidence in Cr Hersey, Cr Finlay questioned the wisdom of mixing with “global elites”,

suggesting it may make “one a target for Klaus Schwab’s Young Global Leaders”.

Cr Scott Rae was philosophical about the matter, seeing the potential for Cr Hersey to gain valuable knowledge, with no real downside.

“He’s not going to do trade deals, he’s not going to sign Australia up to anything; he hasn’t got the authority,” Cr Rae said, adding the State and Federal Governments are involved and will have stalls at the Barcelona event.

While Cr John Kennedy agreed with the concerns of Cr Finlay, he added, “It’s worth Nathan going, just to see what we’re up against here,” suggesting it is better to know the devil than not know, and that there may be some worthwhile opportunities.

Mayor John Schelling has mulled over the best course of action, remarking the matter has caused him sleepless nights.

He came to the decision that, “We need to support Cr Hersey to go to the IURC Congress, based on the shire’s financial support of One Gippsland and the decisions they make as a collective.”

“So, while my gut tells me there are dangers associated with Nathan going, with this decision we must trust the process, so as everyone else has said, the proof will be measured by the result,” Cr Schelling said.

Councillors Beach, Williams, Rae, Schelling, Snell and Kennedy voted in favour of approving Cr Hersey’s attendance at the Congress, with Cr Finlay voting against it and Cr Hersey abstaining.

Cr Gilligan was absent.

Senior Citizens saga continues in Korumburra

CONCERNS about mounting legal costs for members of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Club and for ratepayers through the ongoing battle over the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre, prompted Cr John Kennedy to say the matter “needs to come to a head soon”.

While the long-running saga was raised during Wednesday’s council meeting, it was only to acknowledge a petition calling for the centre’s return to the seniors, and thank lead petitioner Angie Bowen for her efforts in organising it.

“The community of Korumburra and the Senior Citizens request that

South Gippsland Council return the Senior Citizens Hall 14-16 Radovick Street to the Senior Citizens for the importance of purposeful engagement, activity and place of belonging, alongside the public use of the general Korumburra community,” the petition states.

“It’s going to cost a lot of money either way for both parties,” Cr Kennedy said, declaring his support for the petition and remarking there is strong support for it in Korumburra.

He mentioned the importance of respecting elders in the community.

Cr Steve Finlay expressed his support for the seniors and the

acceptance of the petition.

While Cr Nathan Hersey thanked Angie for the petition and the effort involved, he noted that although its receipt is acknowledged, it will remain pending until the legal case determining the future of the Senior Citizens Centre land is resolved.

“I appreciate the input and it’s been heard and will be noted; we can’t do anything at this point in time because there is an ongoing legal matter, but it doesn’t mean we aren’t listening,” he said.

Sentinel-Times is attempting to establish if a court date has been set in relation to the Radovick Street land.

South Gippsland Shire Council sets advocacy objectives

ADVOCACY priorities for South Gippsland Shire have been locked in by council, with the success of previous advocacy efforts spurring confidence in reaping further benefits for the region.

“It helps us with what we’re asking for from State and Federal Governments,” Cr Nathan Hersey said, adding that is backed up by grants and other support received over the last couple of years.

He provided the example of just over \$3 million in funding towards bridge replacement, attributed to an advocacy trip to Canberra, a saving for council that enables it to cover other important projects.

Cr Hersey detailed several other examples of the success of council’s advocacy.

Council’s list of advocacy priorities for 2026 is wide-ranging.

Broadly, it’s calling for:

- An increase in rural road funding
- Disaster recovery infrastructure funding
- Telecommunications and transport improvements
- Support for community groups
- Coastal resilience assistance
- Support for local industry
- Community facility upgrades



Council is calling for urgent DRFA reform to simplify processes, centralise funding, and fast-track emergency recovery support.

- Increased mental health services
- Early years infrastructure

Cr Hersey stressed that advocacy priorities are based on community feedback and act as a clear guideline for councillors and council staff to know what to ask for on behalf of South Gippsland.

Cr Clare Williams elaborated on the need to support community groups, noting council’s efforts to do so by implementing an array of training workshops, such as ones on event planning,

grant writing and social media.

She spoke of the exhausting hours volunteers put in and the complex requirements they now deal with, arguing council needs to do all it can to advocate for further support of community groups.

Cr Williams also spoke of the importance of increased mental health services and the fact council will persist in pursuing improvements despite past disappointment when promised funding wasn’t delivered.

Mayor’s Message



South Gippsland
Shire Council



Cr John Schelling

Children’s Week 2025

This week, we begin by celebrating Children’s Week – a time to recognise and honour the youngest members of our community. To mark the occasion, Council is hosting a special event with The Flying Bookworm, who bring classic stories to life through performance. There are two free sessions to choose from on Wednesday, October 22 at the Meeniyah Hall (97 Whitelaw Street):

- Session 1: 10am – 10.45am
- Session 2: 11.30am – 12.15pm

I encourage all families to book in and enjoy this joyful celebration of our little local legends.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/childrens-week

October Council Meeting

Last week’s October Council Meeting was a bumper session, with several important endorsements that open up new opportunities for community engagement. These include:

- The Community Engagement Policy and Strategy
- The Draft Governance Rules
- The Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan
- The Pre-Budget 2026/27 Submission Phase

We also have the Pre-Prep Engagement open until the end of the month. I encourage everyone to get involved and help shape the future of South Gippsland. In-person engagement opportunities are also on the way, starting with Coffee with a Councillor at the Venus Bay Community Centre on Wednesday 22 October. We want to hear from you. yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

2024/25 Annual Report

Council also endorsed the 2024/25 Annual Report, and I’m incredibly proud of what we’ve achieved as a Councillor group and organisation. Highlights for me include the gravel-to-seal upgrades on North Poowong Road, road rehabilitation along Mount Lyall Road, footpath extensions along Castel Street, Mirboo North and Yarragon Road, Leongatha, and the street reconstruction work at Nelson Street, Foster. The revitalisation of the Leongatha and Korumburra railway precincts, as well as the Korumburra streetscape works, are also major achievements.

Eat Drink Play Gippsland

A special mention goes to the inaugural Eat Drink Play Gippsland Festival, which brought incredible energy to Leongatha and the broader Gippsland region over the weekend. It was fantastic to see our region’s best producers showcased in the heart of town. The buzz was undeniable, and the support from locals and visitors was incredible.

Australia Day Awards

There’s still time to nominate for the 2026 Australia Day Awards. If you know an unsung hero in our community, please put their name forward. It’s a feel-good celebration with three award categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

Nominations close Wednesday, November 5. southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Summerfield Oval

I’m also proud to share that Council unanimously endorsed the renaming of the Korumburra Recreation Reserve Oval to ‘Summerfield Oval’, in honour of Mr. Allen Victor Summerfield – also known as Cobra. It’s a meaningful tribute to a man who gave so much to Korumburra, and I thank the community for helping make this happen.

Gippsland Wine Awards

On Friday, Councillor Rae and I attended the Gippsland Wine Awards – a wonderful evening celebrating the talent and dedication of our local producers.

Citizenship Ceremony

I’d like to invite you to attend our October Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday, October 22 at 6pm, held at Memorial Hall, Leongatha. We’ll be welcoming 17 new conferees and celebrating the growing cultural tapestry of our region.

Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route

Last week, Council was briefed by the Department of Transport and Planning on regional road priorities. I was pleased to hear that the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route has been identified as the highest priority in Gippsland. This intersection has long been a concern for our community, and it’s reassuring to know it’s firmly on the Victorian Government’s radar. I remain hopeful for more good news in the near future.



Sarah Paynter (right), Milpara's digital tutor with students Kerry Coutts (left) and Margaret Moon (center).

Building confidence online with Milpara's digital learning programs

THERE'S never been a better time to boost your tech skills, and at Milpara Community House, locals are doing just that.

Milpara's Digital Essentials course helps participants make the most of their smartphones and tablets, building confidence and practical know-how with everyday technology. The program runs for nine weeks on Friday mornings from 9.45am to 12.45pm.

In the afternoon, tutor Sarah Paynter leads the Digital Literacy course from 1.15pm to 4.15pm, designed for those wanting to strengthen their computer skills. The class introduces learners to a range of software programs commonly used at home and in the workplace.

Both courses are part of the

Learn Local program, offering great value at just \$50 full fee or \$20 concession for all nine sessions. To register, contact Milpara Community House.

As part of Get Online Week, Milpara is also hosting a free "High Tech High Tea" on Wednesday, October 22, from 2pm to 4pm. This social afternoon invites community members to enjoy a cuppa while discovering new ways to use their smart devices safely and effectively.

Guest speakers will share tips and activities to help participants get the most out of their phones, tablets, and online tools in a safe manner.

So whether you're a total beginner or just looking to brush up on your digital skills, Milpara has a class, and friendly tutor Sarah Paynter, ready to help.

Council's Annual Report reflects project delivery and increased borrowing

COUNCILLOR Nathan Hersey expressed pride in what South Gippsland Shire Council has achieved in the last 12 months, the first year of the current council term, as councillors spoke in glowing terms about council's Annual Report for 2024/25.

There was acknowledgement the report also reflected the work of the previous councillor group, being for the financial year.

While Cr Hersey conceded some in the community will say the report is just a chance for councillors and council staff to pat themselves on the back, he argued there's every reason to celebrate.

He stressed that the organisation achieved what it set out to do over the past year as it works for the community.

"We navigated council elections and a caretaker period, we welcomed a new councillor group and supported their induction into this place," Cr Hersey said, also noting there has been organisational change and the recruitment of a new council CEO.

"We have delivered 100 per cent of the council's planned initiatives, and this reflects our community's top priorities," he declared.

The delivery of over \$34 million of Capital Works was highlighted.

Some of the major projects delivered last financial year include sealed road rehabilitation of Mt Lyall Road in Nyora and sealing of North Poowong Road, Poowong, construction of the Meenyan Community Hub, the Korumburra Showgrounds changeroom project, Koonwarra Landfill Cell 5 construction and the Leongatha and Korumburra Rail Precinct redevelopments.



South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Allison Jones spoke of council's strong project delivery. A14_4225

There were 43 projects completed over the year and six others said to be on track.

Reduced timeframes for handling planning applications was also noted.

The Annual Report reveals the percentage of planning applications decided within the required timeframe rose from a lowly 32 per cent to a healthier 53 per cent, attributing the rise to "enhanced internal efficiencies and a strengthened commitment to timely service delivery".

Council CEO Allison Jones noted the 2024/25 Annual Report reflects strong project delivery and an ongoing commitment to high-quality services and infrastructure for South Gippsland.

"Despite external challenges including inflation and prolonged drought conditions, council has remained focused on delivering outcomes that support long-term well-being and prosperity of the shire,"

she said, adding "This Annual Report is the epitome of on time, on budget."

In the latest Annual Report, it is argued that "South Gippsland Shire Council remains in a very healthy financial position," while conceding its "borrowings have increased over the past five years."

The increased borrowings are attributed to "the draw-down of loan facilities through Treasury Corporation Victoria".

"The Community Infrastructure and Community Sports Infrastructure Loan Schemes were a Victorian Government initiative which allowed local government organisations to access low-interest government-guaranteed loans in order to deliver infrastructure projects," it is explained.

It is noted that despite its increased borrowings, council is well placed to repay debt from the funds it generates.

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Your feedback needed on staged pool plan

IN SWIMMING parlance, the Bass Coast Shire Council has changed stroke mid-race in the quest to get two aquatic centres built in the shire, one where the old pool is past its 'use by' date in Wonthaggi and the other where great expectations exist for a public pool, on Phillip Island.

They say they haven't dropped their 'two-pool strategy' but after a unanimous vote was taken at last Wednesday's council meeting, they've backed a staged approach to get an aquatic centre built in Wonthaggi first, and a staged approach to get a new sports centre started in Cowes, before relaunching the campaign for a Phillip Island Aquatic Centre.

The new approach, which also reluctantly garnered the support of Phillip Island Councillor Ron Bauer, is being put out for 16 days of public comment on the shire's Engage Bass Coast website, from October 16 to November 6, 2025.

In moving the motion to change tack, and go for a staged approach to building Wonthaggi's pool complex first and then going after facilities for Phillip Island next, Cr Meg Edwards called the plan exciting.

"This is exciting because aquatic facilities in our region are absolutely critical, and different to our neighbouring shires, this is the only public swimming pool available in Bass Coast. And it's the same swimming pool that, as a primary school kid, we came across to and learnt to swim in," said Cr Edwards.

"And I don't think it's had any work done since then," she said.

"It's at risk of having serious faults at the moment, and we are at risk of not having a pool in the region, which would be absolutely



Here is the new concept plan for a refurbishment of the Bass Coast Aquatic Centre in Wonthaggi. In a staged project, a new 10-lane, 25-metre pool and creche area would be completed first (circled), while keeping the existing pool operating. Next (arrowed) a play pool and warm water pool would be added in stage two, and finally, the old pool would be filled in and a new larger gym built over the space.

catastrophic for a council that is surrounded by so much coastline, not to have a pool for our children to learn to swim, or people to recover in or for enjoyment."

Cr Edwards said Wonthaggi didn't need a 'Taj Mahal' for swimming but something for the likes of the local swim clubs and the underwater hockey group, which "punched above its weight" in state and national competitions.

Cr Tim O'Brien acknowledged the \$10 million worth of problems with the old Wonthaggi pool and the fact that it needed to be rebuilt, but with Phillip Island's sporting needs to follow.

"It's part of a two-pool strategy and just a comment to Philip Islanders only, there's a focus on the sporting precinct first, as something that we could get over the line, and then to draw the aquatic centre for Phillip Island into that once we had a critical

mass of use of the sporting precinct," said Cr O'Brien.

Cr Tessari said he was on council in 2016 when a report was tabled that the old Wonthaggi pool would fail within 10 years, that was nine years ago, he said.

But he said the two-pool strategy had failed all efforts over the past decade and it would be the definition of stupidity to keep doing the same thing.

"The strategy is very, very clear now that we get the Wonthaggi

pool first, get the sporting precinct up there (Hilton Chadwick Reserve) next, and then the (Phillip Island) pool follows. We've already been told that it's a much smarter strategy to go after one pool at a time," said Cr Tessari.

Cr Ron Bauer continued calling for an aquatic centre for Phillip Island but acknowledged the Wonthaggi pool was in "very urgent need of attention".

The Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, aware she was speaking to a Phillip Island audience at Berninnet in Cowes, said she was conscious of the long-running community-driven campaign to get an aquatic centre for Phillip Island.

"I feel for Phillip Island, I really do. I know they've been advocating for a long time, but it is a difficult situation, with funding very limited at both state and federal levels, and we can't deliver infrastructure or assets without the support of either the state or federal government," said Cr Halstead.

"As Cr Tessari said, we've been advocating very hard at both levels for a two-pool strategy, and we've fallen flat. So, I congratulate councillors for making this tough decision because we know how strongly our communities feel about this. So I just wanted to thank councillors around the table. I hope that people recognise it wasn't an easy decision, and we haven't taken Phillip Island off future plans, and if a sooner opportunity presents, we'll be all over it," she said.

Read all the details about the pool strategy and provide your feedback online at engage.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/aquatics.

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Fire season is around the corner

IT WON'T be long before the fire season is upon us again. With the CFA predicting a particularly severe risk this year, it is now time to commence your planning and preparations.

The fact is that the majority of houses are lost to ember attack. Embers (burning material such as leaves, bark and twigs) are typically carried a few kilometres ahead of the fire front, but in severe conditions they can be carried up to 40 kilometres. So, it is clear that living in a town provides limited protection.

Therefore, we are encouraging all residents to plan and prepare. Further, even if you aren't home when the fire threatens, appropriate preparations increase the

By Meeniyah-Stony Creek Fire Brigade

likelihood of your house surviving. If a firefighting appliance does attend your property, it also has a better chance of saving it.

Unfortunately, we can't guarantee that a fire truck will be available, sadly, during extreme fire events, our resources are stretched to the limit. Therefore, the survival of your property and even your personal survival may come down to the decisions that you make, starting now. Plus, in the event that you are caught in a fire, a well-prepared building may be your only choice to shelter from the deadly fire front.

Clearing around your home, including burning off, should be an

essential part of your preparations. Fire restrictions will be upon us sooner rather than later, so now is the time to do your burning off. To ensure an unnecessary visit from the Brigade, please register any burns on 1800 668 511.

RIGHT: Are you ready for the fire season? The CFA are urging the community to get fire ready now as the Fire Danger Period (FDP) officially begins in South Gippsland on Monday, October 27. Hotter and drier conditions are expected, so make sure your property is prepared and you have a Bushfire Plan. An FDP date is yet to be announced for Bass Coast. Pictured is Poowong Captain Zeb Mitchell at a recent open day.



From 10 December 2025, you will need to be 16 or over to have an account on social media.



Victoria's fire season officially begins in South Gippsland

THIS year's Victorian fire season is set to officially begin with fire restrictions commencing in parts of the state in the next fortnight, which means permits must be obtained after this time for burning off.

CFA has declared the first Fire Danger Period (FDP) for the 2025-26 fire season, commencing at 1am on Monday, October 27 for the following municipalities in the northwest and southeast of the state:

- Mildura Rural City Council
- Baw Baw Shire Council
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Wellington Shire Council
- East Gippsland Shire Council
- Latrobe City Shire Council

Victorians can expect a hotter and drier summer and communities should be preparing their properties and creating a Bushfire Plan, according to the CFA.

CFA will be introducing further FDPs for Victorian municipalities in the coming weeks and months based on assessments of the amount of rain, grassland curing rate and local conditions.

CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan said with most of Victoria experiencing low rainfall there is an increase in fuel, such as dead plant material and vegetation, which has the potential to support significant bushfire potential.

"We need Victorians to play their part and ensure their properties are ready and they have a plan in place," he said.

"It is going to be a challenging fire season and with the commencement of fire danger periods, it is a good reminder to ensure those last bits of preparation get done."

Those conducting burn-offs must notify authorities online at the Fire Permits Victoria website (firepermits.vic.gov.au), or by calling 1800 668 511.

By registering your burn-off online, you allow emergency call takers to allocate more of their time taking calls from people who need emergency assistance immediately.

No burning off is permitted during the FDP without a Permit to Burn, which can be applied for through the Fire Permits Victoria website.

Fire Danger Period information:

A written permit is required to burn off grass, undergrowth, weeds or other vegetation during the FDP. You can apply for a permit at firepermits.vic.gov.au.

Lighting fires in the open without a permit can bring a penalty of more than \$21,800 and/or 12 months imprisonment. For a full list of conditions, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/can.

Farmers can find legal guidelines and practical advice at cfa.vic.gov.au/farms.

More information about FDPs is available online at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/firedangerperiod.

To find out what you can and can't do during FDP, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/can or by calling VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

For more details and to help you prepare, go to **eSafety.gov.au**



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Carol, Tony (RSL), Bec, Annie, Marg and Lyn assist with the Inner Wheel Club of Wonthaggi Owls weekly food pantry at the RSL Sub-Branch in Wonthaggi. B01_4225

Queuing for donated food and groceries

LOCAL students have joined pensioners, low-income families and the homeless queuing for basic grocery items at Wonthaggi food pantries.

According to Inner Wheel Club of Wonthaggi Owls food pantry co-ordinator Carol Maygar, demand for donated food, groceries and toiletries has never been stronger.

High-priority items for people needing help with the basics include fresh and canned food, tea, coffee, sugar, long-life or powdered milk, pasta, rice, cereal, spreads, biscuits, and pet food.

"Toiletries are also desperately needed," said volunteer Bec Gould.

"Shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap, baby wipes, baby nappies, feminine hygiene products, soap, surface cleaners, paper towels and washing powder."

Inner Wheel Club of Wonthaggi Owls treasurer Marg Hausen said up to 20 regulars attend the free food pantry at the Wonthaggi RSL every Wednesday between 1pm and 2pm.

"It often depends on the weather or the timing of pension payments," said Ms Hausen.

"It's all about affordability." School-age children with parents and babies in prams are common.

"We don't turn anyone away,

we don't ask any questions," she said.

"The only alternative is to steal food, which pushes up prices for everyone."

Reverend Graeme Liersch of the Anglican Parish of Wonthaggi and Inverloch said the food pantry at the Wonthaggi Anglican Food Rescue Program was almost empty recently.

"Probus, Inverloch Rotary and the CWA in Inverloch stepped in to help.

"Occasionally, we see babies in prams with their mothers," said Reverend Liersch.

"Demand for free food and groceries has jumped 50 per cent over recent years."

"We help everyone. The

homeless and unemployed, we get 50 to 60 people each week."

The Anglican Food Rescue Program is open for fresh fruit and vegetables and meat, Wednesday and Friday from 11am to 11.30am at the rear of the Anglican Church in Hagelt-horn Street, Wonthaggi. Stocks of non-perishable items such as cans of fruit, baked beans, pasta, flour and breakfast cereal are also available and IGA vouchers.

Donations of non-perishable food items and essential household items for the Inner Wheel Club of Wonthaggi Owls food pantry can be placed in designated donation trolleys located at Woolworths and Ritchies IGA in Wonthaggi.



Coral Donat has petitioned Bass Coast Council to lower the 100km/h speed limit on Chisholm Road, Wonthaggi. B05_4225

Petition to lower local speed limit

ONE TRAGIC fatality and another accident waiting to happen, according to local residents of Chisholm Road, Wonthaggi, who want the current 100km/h speed limit on Chisholm Road to be halved.

"None of the locals travel at 100km/h on Chisholm Road because it's too dangerous," said resident and beef farmer Coral Donat, who is angry Bass Coast Shire Council has done nothing to slow traffic down.

Residents claim Chisholm Road is slippery when wet, and dusty and full of potholes when dry.

"Gravel is lost from the road because of vehicles travelling at high speeds," Coral said.

"Passing traffic sends up clouds of dust."

A fatal accident in March this year on adjoining Campbell Street, in which an elderly woman and her neighbour's dog were killed, is currently before the courts.

"Chisholm Road is not strong enough to support high-speed vehicles," said Ms Donat.

"You're likely to end up in all sorts of problems."

Twelve landholders in the area, including residents of Grasstree Court, which adjoins Chisholm Road, have signed a petition to reduce the speed limit to between 50km/h and 70 km/h.

"It's only two kilometres of road and a lower speed limit would only add a minute or two to travel times."

Ms Donat said there had been a number of accidents on the road including a vehicle driven by a young driver that ended up in a drain full of water.

"Another driver who went through a fence was lucky to walk away alive," she said.

Chisholm Road no longer connects to any other roads, only walking tracks.

"Speeding motorbikes use the road and can be a problem at higher speeds," said Coral.

Wildlife crossing the road from adjacent bushland includes emus, kangaroos, brown wallabies, lyre-birds, snakes, wombats and echidnas.

"The road has a loose surface, which makes it difficult to stop."

Coral contacted Bass Coast Shire Council as recently as last week, but is yet to receive a satisfactory response.

"I'm angry about it," said Coral. "Everybody wants a lower speed limit. It's a farming zone."

Coral claimed she lost her confidence driving because of the condition of Chisholm Road.

"It's affected my health, I've become a nervous driver," she said.

Bass Coast Shire Council response can be viewed online at sgst.com.au

ExxonMobil Australia Decommissioning Update: Bass Strait decommissioning provides jobs for the Gippsland Community



October Update:

Since drilling our first Gippsland Basin well over 50 years ago, Esso Australia has made significant investments to deliver the essential energy many Australians still rely on today.

During that time, our Gippsland operations have provided well-paid, highly skilled jobs for thousands of Australians. Now that many of our Bass Strait fields are no longer producing oil or gas, we are undertaking the largest decommissioning campaign ever seen in Australia - and one of the largest in the world, which is bringing even more jobs to the Gippsland region.

Historically, between 300-500 staff have worked on Esso Australia's offshore oil and gas platforms. However, with our decommissioning efforts now in full swing, our offshore workforce has grown over 800 people.

In addition, 50-100 jobs are expected to be

required to carry out the dismantling and recycling of the platforms at Barry Beach Marine Terminal. This onshore workforce is expected to come largely from Gippsland, providing an opportunity for those in our local community to learn new skills and benefit from this growing industry.

This is one of the largest workforces we've ever had, with many workers coming from the local

Gippsland area. It's a testament to the scale of the work ahead—and the opportunity it brings to our community.

We remain committed to keeping our stakeholders informed and supporting local employment as we responsibly manage our offshore infrastructure. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out via consultation@exxonmobil.com.

GP1684457



CEO Greg Box responded to questions read out by Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead during public question time at Bass Coast Shire Council. B15_4125

Public question time at Bass Coast Shire Council

QUESTION time at the first October meeting of Bass Coast Shire Council held on October 8 at the Council Chambers in Wonthaggi covered a wide range of topics from the carnival land in Cowes to the cost of red display lights that light up part of the front wall of the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre.

Graham Jolly asked about the carnival land in Cowes, where Landcare is planting native vegetation.

"Landcare are progressively planting native vegetation on the carnival land in Cowes. Would council please provide a design copy of the planting plan Landcare have been instructed to use for the site."

CEO Greg Box replied, "A copy of the plan will be placed on the Engage Bass Coast page for the Sporting Precinct Project."

Bill Wilson queried the cost of a battery installation at Berninneit, with Mr Box confirming it is being installed and managed by Mondo at no cost to Council.

In response to Ernie Westergard, who asked about the red lighting on the centre's front wall, "Would council please confirm the actual cost for

the supply and installation of the red display lights that lights up a front wall to the Cowes Cultural and Community Centre at night as it is the belief the cost was greater than \$38,000", Mr Box advised the total cost was \$24,442, covering supply and installation of permanent programmable weatherproof lighting.

Addressing a second question by Graham Jolly about grant readiness and how many individual projects were shovel ready, Mr Box said, "As of 8 October, Council has seven grant applications submitted and pending decision with the State or Federal Government. These pending applications are with the Commonwealth Road Safety Program, Regional Partnerships and Precincts Program, Safer Local Roads Infrastructure Program, and two each with the Federal Black Spots Program and TAC Road Safety Program. The applications support various projects including the revitalisation of the former Wonthaggi Secondary College Site Precinct, Stewart Road Kernot Bridge, and traffic calming in Settlement Road Cowes, among others."

When Facebook gets it wrong, cool heads prevail at Berninneit

By Bruce Wardley

IN A startling reminder of the influence of social media, a recent comment on Facebook regarding a proposed wellness retreat on Phillip Island has been blamed for generating an avalanche of groundless complaints.

Bass Coast Shire Council received a total of 150 objections to a holistic health and wellness retreat in Lyall Street, Ventnor, with many objectors basing their comments on a Facebook rumour. A number of objectors turned up at last week's council meeting at Berninneit only to be told there was absolutely no truth in the Facebook post.

The proposed wellness retreat at Ventnor initially received a vote of support.

"I saw on Facebook someone expressing concern that there will be a mental health drug rehabilitation place located in Lyall Street at Ventnor. I believe these concerns are based on fear and ignorance. I wish to say that I have no concerns about the proposed facility and will have no issues if it is approved."

That was enough to set the hares running at Ventnor. Objectors shared a common view that they wanted Ventnor to remain safe.

"I will be living in fear knowing there are drug addicted people in our area."

"Clinical areas like this should remain in town alongside other clinical areas."

"I have safety concerns for my family exposed to a variety of people coming and going, and the noise of people dealing with mental illness and drug withdrawal."

A grandmother of two children on the spectrum said she was very much aware of the behaviour of



A tennis court and swimming pool are included in the plans for a proposed wellness retreat at Ventnor with accommodation for a maximum of five clients at any time.

people with mental illness and affected by drugs.

"We all deserve the right to live in peace," she said.

"As a community, we will be worrying about people with serious drug addictions being around or near our innocent children," posted one objector.

"My children won't be able to play," said another.

"Crime increases due to unsavoury patronage."

"While we support the need for drug, alcohol, and mental health services, placing a facility like this on our street raises serious concerns about safety."

"Our street is a quiet residential area, and this type of facility would be better suited in a location with appropriate infrastructure and support services, not in the middle of a family neighbourhood."

"We don't want to be exposed to mentally unwell people and people who have taken drugs or who have addictions."

"These changes will diminish the residential amenity that attracted us to the area."

Cr Tim O'Brien said he had heard all sorts of stories about what this (proposal) might otherwise be and had been approached by many people in his neck

of the woods.

"This is just a wellness centre," said Cr O'Brien.

"People standing on one leg humming or sitting beside a pond, is not going to greatly disturb the environment near the horse riding club."

"The facility would only take very small numbers at a time," he said.

"It was far, far better than having another Airbnb right next door."

Supporting Cr O'Brien's comments, Cr Jon Temby said he could not see the centre's clients or activities being a nuisance in any way, with activities that are based on yoga, meditation, lifestyle education and access to quiet, nature-based activity spaces.

Recognising there had been an incredible amount of objections to the proposal, Cr Ron Bauer said councillors needed to vote on what was in front of them, not the conjecture and whispers that had been swirling around.

"I have visited the site," said Cr Bauer.

"It is modern, quiet, secluded and serene."

The objections posted on Bass Coast Council's own website bordered on the extreme.

"People with drug addictions are prone to having relapses and being unstable."

"The area opposite is a children's pony club and could put children at risk."

"I live alone and the potential for break-ins will escalate."

"Something like this would ruin our community."

"Traffic would become horrendous on this country lane."

"I am concerned about the potential for patients to wander into private spaces."

"This is a truly horrific idea for a person trying to get clean."

Bass Coast Council was advised the Holistic Health and Wellness Retreat would offer tailored, in-house programs developed in consultation with allied health professionals, designed to support early intervention, stress recovery, and general well-being, including (but not limited to) psychology and therapeutic counselling sessions, daily yoga, meditation, and mindfulness practice, nutritional and lifestyle education, allied health services including naturopathy, breathwork, and resilience coaching, visits from medical practitioners, and access to quiet, nature-based recovery spaces.

The concerns raised by the objectors were considered to be primarily due to the applicant's reference to a business in Queensland that offers a variety of services, including drug and alcohol rehabilitation;

"The proposed model draws inspiration from leading therapeutic frameworks, such as The Banyans Wellness Centre..."

The planning application received the full support of Bass Coast Council.

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How they're reopening iconic Sealers Cove Track

PRESIDENT of Bushwalking Australia, Jeff McDonell, considers the Sealers Cove Walk the best walking track in Victoria, and more's the pity then that it has been closed due to flooding damage since 2021.

The good news is that a contract has been awarded for the replacement of two kilometres of boardwalk, which forms the crucial link on the 10-kilometre trail between Tidal River and Sealers Cove, which has been the right of passage for serious visitors to the Prom for decades.

Speaking on Gippsland ABC Radio on Wednesday this week, the now veteran walker said he first did the walk in his 20s and took both of his children out on numerous overnight camping and day trips to Sealers Cove from when they were quite young and plans to have his ashes sprinkled there after he dies.

"I consider it the prime walking track in Victoria; it's my favourite, and I plan to have my ashes spread in the cove. It's a beautiful part of Victoria, with a beautiful beach and mountain views.

"You don't need to do the full circuit. You can just walk in and camp one night, or you can just start early and do the walk in the day."

He should know. Jeff first visited Sealers Cove in 1969, well before there was a boardwalk. He's also walked the Annapurna Base Camp in Nepal and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa. In Australia, he's walked the Overland Track in Tasmania in 1970 and again in 2017, plus the 250-kilometre Great South West walk in Victoria.

He's president of Bushwalking Victoria, as well as Bushwalking Australia and has been a member of the Wilsons Promontory Advisory Group for seven years.



Repaired after flooding in 2011, the Sealers Cove Boardwalk did not survive flooding in 2021 and has been closed since then. Works to replace the two-kilometre boardwalk and reopen the iconic 10-kilometre walk from Tidal River to Sealers Cove are due to start soon.

"I am an active overnight walks leader for my bushwalking club, Bayside. I just took a group of beginner walkers to Roaring Meg last month for two nights as part of Bushwalking Victoria (BWV)'s Try Bushwalking Month," said Jeff this week.

He's also a leader for the track maintenance carried out by Bushwalking Victoria, helping to clear most of the Southern Circuit, including the track to Sealers Cove. And it's mostly hands-on.

"I usually work on chainsaw, clearing fallen logs."

Bushwalking, he says, deserves a much higher priority on Parks Victoria's to-do list, with its relatively low priority contributing to the delay in getting the Sealers Cove Walk back to where it belongs.

But he's relieved to see that a

contract has finally been let for the works which are due to start soon for completion in autumn next year.

According to the Parks Victoria 'Projects Eastern Victoria' website, last updated in October 2025, the contract has been awarded to Envirotechniques to rebuild the walking track. Final permits and approvals are being prepared, and construction on the walking track is expected to start in late November.

"Preparation along the track will take place in September and October to allow construction to start. The track is expected to be completed and open to the project in autumn 2026."

The project

"We are replacing the Sealers Cove Boardwalk and reopening

the track.

"Sealers Cove is a highlight at the Wilsons Promontory National Park. With surrounding hiking trails, campground and stunning beach, the cove is popular with visitors to the park.

"During 2021, successive storms and floods hit the Prom and caused significant and widespread damage. This included to the Sealers Cove Boardwalk, which provides a connection to the Tidal River visitor hub across an otherwise impassable swamp.

"The boardwalk was over 40 years old; and although sections were repaired after the flooding in 2011, the damage caused during 2021 is beyond repair.

"A subsequent engineering assessment found that the entire two kilometres of the Sealers Cove Boardwalk needed to be replaced.

"In late 2023, funding was announced to rebuild the boardwalk.

"This is a major and complex project. It replaces two kilometres of boardwalk over sensitive terrain while carefully managing the landscape."

The new Sealers Cove Boardwalk will use Reinforced Plastic (FRP). This creates a sturdy walking experience with fewer maintenance requirements. This material has been successfully used at both Lily Pilly Gully and Waterloo Bay. The designs include a boardwalk that will be slightly wider, higher above ground and water, and will be constructed using materials that will be more appropriate to the aquatic and marine environment.

Access to Sealers Cove is still possible, but via a 25-kilometre hike from Telegraph Saddle.

Roads and education on the agenda for Mary Aldred MP

ROADS and community infrastructure were top of the agenda in a discussion between Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP and South Gippsland Shire Mayor Cr John Schelling and CEO Alison Jones.

"It's important that all three levels of government are working as effectively as we can to deliver for local families and businesses in South Gippsland," said Ms Aldred.

"There are a number of critical priorities I am working on every day to progress, in particular the McCartin Street corner of the South Gippsland Highway in Leongatha, the Fish Creek Football and Netball Club redevelopment, and community and sporting infrastructure at Mirboo North," added Ms Aldred.

"With drought-like conditions persisting, I've been very active in advocating on behalf of our farmers and agribusiness sector to ensure it's got all of the available support needed.

"We are a freight-driven region, and upgrading our roads and infrastructure network is absolutely critical for road safety and getting our local products to market competitively," she added.

"I'll continue to explore additional black spot funding at a federal level to ensure we get the funding and investment we need to upgrade our road network across South Gippsland."

Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP also visited St Laurence O'Toole Primary School in Leongatha last week to speak with student leaders about civics education and present new flags to the school.

"Thanks to St Laurence O'Toole for inviting me to present new national flags to their school. I'm passionate about promoting civics education in our schools, and it was terrific to speak with the student leaders about the history of our flag, my work as their federal representative and our parliamentary democracy," said Ms Aldred.

"I'm always so impressed by the insightful and clever questions our local students ask about how the parliament works, and it just shows our region has a very impressive generation of civic leaders in the making."

Aldred takes mobile office to Tarwin Lower

Ms Aldred also met with Tarwin Lower community organisations and discussed their priorities across connectivity, sporting infrastructure and roads recently.

"Our smaller communities in Monash matter, and I'm continuing my strong focus on engaging with local residents and community organisations in their town to discuss what's important to them," said Ms Aldred.

Ms Aldred met with representatives of the Tarwin Sharks Football Netball Club, nearby Venus Bay Community Centre, Men's Shed and other organisations.

"I'm committed to standing up and fighting for the infrastructure, services and investment that South Gippsland communities need, and I look forward to continuing to proactively engage with local residents, businesses and community groups," added Ms Aldred.

Building disaster resilience on the Bass Coast

HEADING into another fire season, Bass Coast Shire Council has launched two new initiatives to help the community prepare, respond and recover when disaster strikes.

Local Energy Resilient Community Hubs and a Bass Coast Emergency Dashboard will help strengthen local resilience and give people the tools they need to stay safe and connected in an emergency.

Ten existing community facilities across Bass Coast have been fitted with solar panels and battery systems, which means that even during extreme weather events or widespread power outages, these hubs can continue to provide power and serve as a central point for community connection, information and services.

The hubs include the Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre, Glen Alvie Reserve, Coronet Bay Community Hall, Grantville Transaction Centre, Kernot Community Hall, Mitchell House Wonthaggi, Corinella and District Community Centre, PICAL, Kilcunda Community Hall and Cape Paterson Hall.

The new Emergency Dashboard is a central online hub bringing together information from sources like Vic Emergency, Vic Traffic, the Bureau of Meteorology and AusNet.



Two new emergency management initiatives were launched at Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) by Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale MP and representatives of Bass Coast Council, local resilience networks, response agencies and community leaders.

The Dashboard provides vital information on preparing for emergencies and helps visitors to the region access information to safely plan and enjoy their trip.

Jordan Crugnale MP said the state government was proud to support this great initiative, which has delivered power-resilient hubs, stronger community networks, and vital emergency tools through a true

partnership between Council, Emergency Management Victoria and local communities.

"This program shows the power of collaboration, building resilience, installing solar and battery systems across our Shire, and keeping community hubs like Corinella open when residents need them most."

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead said these hubs gave the community confidence that

in times of uncertainty, there are places to connect, find support and look after one another.

"It was great that we can modernise these facilities, reduce bills and give them even more value to the community through this collaborative initiative," Mayor Halstead said.

To view the Emergency Dashboard go to emergency.bass-coast.vic.gov.au.



Monster X Tour roars back into Korumburra

GET ready, Korumburra – the South Coast Monster Trucks are back with Monster X Tour: X-Treme Carnage.

For the first time in a decade, these high-powered machines will tear up the track at Korumburra Showgrounds on Saturday, November 15, from 2pm to 4pm (gates open at 12 noon).

This adrenaline-charged show promises non-stop action, featuring world-class Monster Trucks and two pro international drivers, PsychoPAT and Kevin King, going head-to-head in a spectacle of roaring engines, flying metal, and extreme stunts.

Start the day with a Free Pit Party, where fans can meet the drivers, snap photos, and get up close with the trucks before the main event kicks off. Then brace yourself for Monster Truck mayhem, FMX stunt riders, and the incredible Jet Car Shockwave, famous for its flame-spitting finale. Tickets are on sale now via TryBooking.

Bonus event: Before the big day, come down to the Korumburra Showgrounds Halloween event to meet Moonshine, one of the Monster Trucks, up close on the oval. Visit the Korumburra Showgrounds Facebook Page for more details.

Time to move the MotoGP? Definitely not, they say

THE Motorcycle Riders Association Australia have made its position clear on the Australian round of the MotoGP.

"The weather is often bad on Phillip Island in October," MRAA spokesperson Damien Coognotto, OAM, stated last week ahead of the October round of the MotoGP at Phillip Island.

"That is not good for motorcycle racing. It is not good for road riding either.

"Recently, there has been discussion about moving the Moto GP off Phillip Island. The Motorcycle Riders Association Australia (MRAA) has written to Travis Auld, the Grand Prix Corporation CEO, calling for the race to stay on the Island. The MRAA also want the race to go back to the original March/April date for better weather."

In his letter, Mr Codognotto highlighted that "better weather means a bigger crowd" and also a "safer event".

Over the three-day event this year, 91,245 fans headed along to the track, the largest since 2012, according to Premier Jacinta Allan. Fans of MotoGP and, even World Superbikes, can easily recall the multi-deep crowd along the barriers in yesteryears.

Additionally, Mr Codognotto noted the association's strong interest in the MotoGP after being involved in the first-ever Australian round, which was held on Phillip Island in 1989 from April 7 to 9.

"Better weather means safer racing and safer road riding."



The Tarwin Lower Festival is on November 2 from 9am at the Tarwin Lower Reserve.



The Tarwin Lower Festival will have classics on display from 9am.

An affordable family fun day out at Tarwin Lower Festival

THE Tarwin Lower Festival is set to return on November 2, offering an affordable and exciting day out for families in the local community. Running from 9am at the Tarwin Lower Reserve, the event has evolved to become an annual showcase of entertainment for the whole family.

The Tarwin Lower Festival committee have designed the festival to be budget-friendly,

with adults entry priced at \$10 and children under 16 admitted free. The event will feature an impressive lineup of activities, including a tractor pull, horse and cart rides, and a classic auto display, including cars, motorbikes and trucks.

The children will be well entertained with pony rides, a petting zoo, a magician, face painting, and glitter painting.

Visitors can also enjoy blow-up ponies, sack races and a traditional egg and spoon race.

Committee member Lorraine Kennedy said there will also be two separate music stages, showcasing local performers, adding to the community atmosphere.

"We'll have over 40 food and market stalls, as well as local organisations present, including SES, CFA and Girl

Guides," said Lorraine.

"This festival, now in its fourth year (with a break during the pandemic), is organised entirely by volunteers from local clubs, including the Football Club, Bowls Club and Fishing Club.

"We've tried to create an event that brings the community together and provides affordable entertainment for the entire family to enjoy."

Out and about for the MotoGP



A group of Sydneysiders were all dressed up outside the pie shop in Cowes ready to head off to the MotoGP race on Sunday.



This couple from Shepparton in the Goulburn Valley, took time out for breakfast in Cowes before heading out to the famous Phillip Island GP Circuit.



Hollywood heartthrob and former local Chris Hemsworth with Katrina Lawrence and Bass Coast Mayor Rochelle Halstead.



Gavin Wall, Bass Coast Mayor Rochelle Halstead, 2024 MotoGP number one ticketholder Rosa Scarlato and Katrina Lawrence.

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Is it time to refocus your budget?

By author Claire Chitty

BUDGETING is an aspect of life, and as a single mum, I understand the financial challenges. For many, it's a real struggle to buy groceries and utilities, let alone raising a family.

When money was tight, I could have gone down the path of charity. Instead, I chose to go without, so my children had the opportunity for an immersive school experience in France as an incentive to learn the language. I viewed this as a small price to pay, in the knowledge, understanding and appreciation they gained visiting another country.

Even though I now have no dependents, I still can turn a 'penny into a pound'. So where can you cut costs without reducing your enjoyment of everyday?

Write a list with three columns.

Firstly, start with basic outlays; what are your essential expenses? Food, gas, water, electricity, medical, fuel, rates, taxes, car registration, insurance, rent or mortgage, debt, payment plans, other? This can add up to a significant cost.

Second column, look at your income, work, pension, investments, shares, and superannuation.

Thirdly, non-essential items including cigarettes, alcohol, recreational drugs, gambling, excessive clothing, junk food, luxury holidays, technology toys, subscriptions, and so forth. I totally get it's easy to get caught up in marketing, tempted by beautiful things and FOMO, but will it change your life or stress you out when the credit card bill is due? Now, look around your home. Is an impulse buy or gadget taking up space, forgotten in a cupboard? Is the caravan in the front yard or in a storage facility unused?

Budgeting doesn't have to mean you go without; It's important to appreciate life without constantly worrying about money. For me, the solution comes down to choices and where I choose to spend cash.

Marketplace, garage sales and roadside finds can unearth notable bargains, while scouring opportunity shops at Cowes, Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Korumburra, Leongatha and Bass for clothes makes an enjoyable day out.

I refuse to buy food unless it's on special. I'm also conscious of what I consume by growing or exchanging produce where possible, making nutritious, tasty home-cooked meals, and generally avoiding sugar and chemical-laden processed products. If that sounds boring, my body thrives on organic fruit and vegetables combined with fresh herbs and spices in comparison to manufactured 'junk'.

Daily walks in all kinds of weather are non-negotiable and cost nothing, whether it be near the ocean, the local streets or the vast walking and bicycle tracks scattered throughout the Bass Coast.

My social life has never been more active. In the region, there's a long list of free or minimal cost activities from community gardens, free music entertainment at the local pubs both on weekends and weeknights, local markets, book talks at the libraries, dance classes, art galleries to browse, and much more. It's also an opportunity to meet new people and create friendships by simply showing up. Check out the local council website or Facebook for events.

Before you reach for the overpriced chocolate bar, ask yourself, "What could I be buying instead?" My suggestion is to put the money aside and do something special for yourself. You deserve to enjoy your life, and your body will be grateful.

Encounter the newest gentle giants of Phillip Island

FROM loveable koalas to waddling penguins, Phillip Island has added their newest animal attraction, cozy Highland cows.

Churchill Island's new Highland cattle experience launches this November, giving visitors a chance to get close and personal with these gentle Scottish giants.

This rare opportunity is made possible by Phillip Island Nature Parks, allowing individuals to learn more about one of the world's most docile and lovable farm animals.

"Although known as gentle giants of the paddock, we will be respecting their space, and our skilled staff will be on hand to ensure the sessions are safe, interactive and educational," said Daniel Kallstrom, attractions manager at the Nature Parks.

Native to the Scottish Highlands, Highland cattle were first shipped to Australia in 1829 and are amongst one of the oldest registered breeds in the world, renowned for their shaggy coats, long horns and adaptations to climate conditions.

"With their big eyes, woolly fringes and inquisitive nature, Highland cattle are impossible not to love," said Kallstrom.

"The Highland cattle experience offers something for everyone, from children who



Get up close and personal with the Highland cattle on Churchill Island this November.

want to feed the animals to adults interested in farming traditions and the breed's cultural heritage."

Included in the new experience, visitors of Churchill Island can participate in tractor rides around the farm to meet and feed the Highland cattle.

"This well-crafted, family-friendly experience is one animal lovers won't forget," Mr Kallstrom said.

Churchill Island is a heritage-listed sight and was an important place for European settlers. In the year 1801, Churchill Island was the place where the first

European garden in Victoria was planted with wheat and corn.

Now the 1800s homestead includes a restored heritage house and barn from 1872. Alongside two original heritage-listed cottages, endearingly filled with collections of antiquated furniture on loan from the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

Commencing on Saturday, November 1, and running over the long weekend, the Highland cattle experience will become a weekend feature over the school term and operate from Thursdays

to Sundays during the Victorian School Holidays.

Those participating in the encounter will gain knowledge about the history of the Bunurong and European influence, come across centuries-old Moonah trees and other farm animals before coming face to face with the hero Highland. Where guests can then throw hay for the cattle and take pictures at close range.

To keep the animals calm, the experience is limited to 20 people at a time.

To book tickets visit: penguins.org.au/attractions.

Working bee takes to Leongatha Recreation Reserve



Glen Wright, the president, marks a significant milestone by removing the final brick on Sunday, October 12, at Leongatha Recreation Reserve.

VISITORS to the Leongatha Recreation Reserve will notice a welcome improvement – the wall height has been reduced, greatly improving visibility and safety when entering and leaving the grounds.

The upgrade was made possible through a recent working bee, as the committee continues to manage the reserve on a tight budget each year. Funding comes from a combination of a shire grant and users pay annual fees, which help the committee to maintain the grounds and buildings.

Last year, generous support from the Leongatha Foundation enabled the replacement of three sets of stairs leading to the grandstand. At more than 100 years old, the

original stairs were well past their use-by date.

The reserve also relies on the dedication of two volunteer mower operators, who keep the ovals in top condition. Cutting them twice a week during the busy spring season.

The Reserve is fairly unique in Victoria, with many sports actively utilising the facilities, including football, netball, croquet, South Gippsland Splash pool and sports stadium, golf, historical car club, table tennis, small bore club, athletics club, cycling club, skate bowl and Men's Shed.

If you think you have time to give the committee a hand, either physically or financially contact leongatharecreserve@gmail.com.

Honouring Wonthaggi's service and sacrifice this Remembrance Day

By Kevin Walsh, president Wonthaggi RSL

DID you know, almost 1000 men from Wonthaggi enlisted to serve in the Australian Defence Forces in World War I. At the time, this was around 20 per cent of the town's population and 40 per cent of the men. Around 200 of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice.

At precisely 11am on November 11 in 1918, the guns fell silent on the Western Front.

Australian soldiers at the front reported that, at that exact moment, a machine gun that was firing to block their advance abruptly stopped firing. The gunner stood up, bowed in

their direction, packed up his gun and walked to the rear.

World War I cost over 16 million lives. Over 60 thousand Australians were Killed in Action. If you served at the front in World War I you had a 70 per cent chance of being wounded or killed, with one in five being Killed in Action.

Originally named Armistice Day, the name was changed to Remembrance Day after World War II to commemorate Australian casualties of all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

On November 11, 2025 at the Wonthaggi Cenotaph there will be a service to commemorate Remembrance Day to honour those who suffered

and died in war, conflict and peacekeeping operations serving Australia. This year, the service will commence at 10.15am, with the bugle call to signal the minutes' silence and reveille to end that silence will be played over the town public address system at 11am.

Members of the public are invited to attend the service wearing a poppy or perhaps lay a wreath to honour a personal loved one you wish to be remembered.

You will be able to purchase merchandise including Remembrance Day pins at various retail outlets over the coming month with all proceeds going to serve the Veteran

community and their families. Remember that these purchases are classified as donations and are tax-deductible.

Today, around 140 individuals identify as Defence Force Veterans in the Wonthaggi, South Dudley and Cape Paterson area.

The recent Royal Commission into Veteran Suicide has revealed both Veterans and their families may struggle post-service and I invite members of the public to treat our Veterans respectfully. That said, the essence of military service is service to the community and I trust all service members will honour those who honour them. LEST WE FORGET

Why another Archies Creek season is music to our ears

RUSSELL Morris, Judith Durham, Jimmy Barnes, Paul Kelly, Renee Geyer, Peter Garrett, Wally de Backer, John Farnham, of course, and even Bon Scott. They all have it.

A vocal quality that rings out like a bell.

The clarity, the musicality, the tone, it's... well, it's music to our ears.

And you're not far into one of their songs when the star power hits you. It's obvious.

Thirty-one years after My Friend the Chocolate Cake commandeered a line from our psyches, 'I've got a plan, this time it'll work' and turned it into one of the tracks of our lives, David Bridie still has the same star power.

Never mind that only 120 people saw it shine out at the Archies Creek Hall last Sunday afternoon, or if you listen to David Bridie, because they heard it at the Archies Creek Hall.

"I just love coming down here. Peter (Foley) always sets it up so well for us," said Bridie.

"I've played at both the pub and here at the hall several times. It's great.

"We always love coming down, there's always a very welcoming crowd and everyone's so appreciative.

"It's the same at another venue we go to, smaller than this, at Wauchope, inland from Port



David Bridie of My Friend the Chocolate Cake fame and Archies Creek Hotel impresario Peter Foley at the start of another big season of live entertainment at the Creek.

Macquarie in NSW."

Mind you, like his mate, Phillip Island's own Kutcha Edwards, who sang with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House last week, David also played the Opera House last year.

Sitting at tables around the hall, the patrons also got an insight into how David makes his music and where the themes come from, whether it's the popular culture, a Christopher and Pixie Skase podcast on the ABC or a home improvement show on Channel 7 or something more assertoric, more important like the Antarctic holding 90 per cent of the world's ice.

With his hands stroking the keys and ambient guitarist Rosie Excess complementing the sound, he builds the atmosphere, and then the vocals... the effort it takes to book the tickets and get your arse off the couch at home is suddenly worth it.

But that's what the Archies Creek Pub crew have brought to Bass Coast and South Gippsland, and David Bridie's visit is just the start of what already looks set to be an enormous spring and summer of musical highlights.

"Yeah, we've already got a pretty good line-up and we haven't announced them all yet," said Peter Foley.

"We're looking to broaden the program this year, getting the younger ones along as well and we've started that with our 'Friday Night Knock-offs' organised by Fergus Lawson. That started last Friday night with music, pizza and drinks, and we're continuing with that," said Peter.

But just watch out what's coming Archies Creek's way over the next few months leading up to Christmas and beyond.

Here's a flavour of what's coming up, get your tickets online at archiescreekhotel.com.au.

- Sunday, October 26, 2025 Blue Sabbath
- Friday, October 31 Glenn Richards (Augie March) – Solo
- Saturday, November 1 Gut Health
- Sunday, November 2 Ross Wilson & The Peaceniks - 50 Years Of Hits! (sold out)
- Saturday, November 8 Tropical F*ck Storm
- Sunday, November 9 Deborah Conway & Willy Zygyer present 'Songs You Can Trust'
- Thursday, November 13 Sylvie
- Saturday, November 15 Ash Grunwald (sold out)
- Sunday, November 30 Tex Perkins & Matt Walker (sold out)
- Sunday, December 7 The Audreys
- Saturday, January 10, 2026 The Black Sorrows

LIFE Moments



ELIONNA Nyawal Bush was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on September 19, 2025, weighing 3.4 kilograms. Elionna is a daughter for Nyabie Galuak and Adam Bush of Cowes.

Send your birthday, anniversary or baby photos to news@sgst.com.au

Save GMH from GWM destruction, they say

GREAT General Motors Holden leaders like John Bagshaw would be rolling in their graves at the thought that the Holden Proving Ground at Lang Lang could soon become the plaything of giant Chinese car maker Great Wall Motors.

In other words that the GMH Proving Ground would become the GWM Proving Ground.

But that appears to be the way it's going.

Last week the motoring media picked up on the news.

"The birthplace of 60 years of Holdens made in Australia could soon be owned by a Chinese car maker with big ambitions for the local market," wrote Alex Misoyannis at Drive.

"The former Holden test track south-east of Melbourne could be purchased by Chinese car giant GWM, four years after current owners VinFast placed the property back on the market.

"GWM took up permanent residency at the 877-hectare (2167-acre) site earlier this year as part of a program to tune the driving characteristics of its cars to better suit local roads, led by former top Holden engineer Rob Trubiani.

"Yes, we are considering to purchase this ground," GWM chief technology officer Nicole Wu told Australian and international media last week.

"Even if we don't buy it, we can use it. But yes, if we buy it, it will be an advantage to make very good, useful for us. We are considering buying Lang Lang sincerely – we need to consider it as a business case."

Vietnamese start-up Vinfast paid \$36.3 million for the historic Holden test track in 2021.

Save the Western Port Woodlands supporter and former Bass Coast Mayor Neil Rankine told the local online publication, the Bass Coast Post, it was a wasted opportunity to secure a unique part of Victoria's natural heritage.

"The 900-hectare proving ground forms the central link in the Western Port Woodlands. If the site is cleared or fragmented, the woodland corridor will be effectively destroyed.

"The State Government has missed its chance to buy the old Holden Proving Ground. Now they must act urgently to protect the site's extraordinary ecological values under new ownership," he said, noting that the highest-value eastern section could be purchased for as little as \$8 million.

50 years for Koringal Women's Service Club

SINCE 1975, Koringal Women's Service Club has been raising money and donating the proceeds to worthy causes in and around Korumburra.

In the past 50 years, they have amazingly donated approximately \$300,000 and an unimaginable amount of volunteer hours. All efforts of cooking, catering, organising and representing the club at events have been undertaken with enthusiasm, fun and friendship.

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, a celebration was held for existing and past members, which included the induction of three new life members, Sue VanSinderen, Pam Burley and Julie Watt.

RIGHT: Koringal Women's Service Club is celebrating 50 years of service.



First crepe myrtles planted in Graham Street, Wonthaggi

THE Wonthaggi streetscape transformation is well underway with the first of 24 modular planter boxes installed along McBride Avenue, and the first handful of crepe myrtle trees planted on Graham Street last Thursday.

According to Bass Coast Shire Council, 'these projects will add shade, colour and life to the town centre while creating safer and more enjoyable spaces for people to gather, shop, dine and relax'.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, said the projects mark an important step in delivering the vision for Wonthaggi as part of the Streetscapes Project.

"These projects are all about reimagining our town cen-

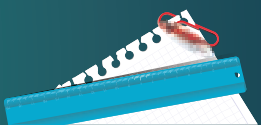
tre as a place that celebrates Wonthaggi's character and heritage while creating spaces for people to enjoy," Cr Halstead said.

"Thanks to the strong support of the Victorian Government, we're able to deliver streetscapes that not only look fantastic but also support local businesses by encouraging outdoor dining and improving pedestrian safety. This is an exciting time for Wonthaggi."

Contractors will maintain the plantings for the first year to ensure they thrive.

RIGHT: The first of 13 crepe myrtle trees were planted last Thursday in Graham Street. C01_4225





Boy Swallows Universe by Trent Dalton was voted the top book this century. C12_4225

Readers have spoken, what are the top books?

THE public have spoken and Boy Swallows Universe by Trent Dalton has taken out the top spot in the ABCRadio National Top 100 Book Countdown, followed behind by The Book Thief by Markus Zusak and A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.

According to the ABC almost 288,000 readers cast their votes for their favourite books of the twenty-first century.

Australian authors Geraldine Brooks and Anna Funder saw three of their books place in the top 100, with the ABC stating that women made up the majority of voters at 75 per cent.

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins was voted the favourite for readers under 35.



Creativity on show at Bass Coast College

BASS Coast College students were busy on Monday adding the final touches to their work ahead of Tuesday evening's Year 12 Arts and Technology exhibition, which includes the Henry Hammond Art Award, and celebrates creativity across a range of disciplines.

The event showcases work from Art Creative Practice, Art Making and Exhibition, Certificate III Visual Arts, Visual Communication and Design, Media, Certificate II Furnishing, Product Design and Technology: Textiles, and Product Design and Technology: Engineering.

The exhibition opens at 5pm this evening (Tuesday, October 21) in the Arts Atrium at the Wonthaggi Campus of Bass Coast College (2 McKenzie Street, Wonthaggi).

Catering will be provided by the school's hospitality students, and the program includes a special guest speaker, public are welcome.

BCC Arts KLA leader Malcolm Beasley was excited ahead of the exhibition, helping students display their artworks, and proudly showing off the students' works.



Korumburra Secondary College's 2025 Year 12 Student Representative Council members Chloe Gaffney and Rhiannon Rawlins, outgoing School Captains Riley McIntosh, Kiera Whitton, Marty Cook and Holly Fowler, and 2026 School Captains Natalie Churchill, Naomi Petho, Georgia Kyle, Phoebe Ye and Emma Gardner. A63_4225

Busy times at Korumburra Secondary

KORUMBURRA Secondary College was a hive of activity on Monday, the school's newly installed CrossFit stations officially opened, a senior school art show being held, and members of the 2025 Year 12 student leadership group handing over to their 2026 counterparts.

The CrossFit stations, which allow for a variety of exercises focused on different parts of the body, were made possible through a \$14,000 grant from the State Government's Active Schools, along with community support.

Korumburra Lions Club, Korumburra Community Development Association, and the Koringal Womens Service Club all contributed.

Some valiant students tackled the steep climbing wall so Sentinel-Times could capture

the action, Fletcher Cameron making it to the top, but suggesting another foothold high up on the right would have been advantageous.

Lily Lovell wasn't yet sure what exercises one can do on the other equipment, but was happy to climb up for a snap, while another student turned a section of netting into a hammock.

However, the students are sure to learn how to benefit from the equipment, with the outdoor fitness space there to support their wellbeing.

Acting principal Naomi Coleman expressed her appreciation for the grant and the support from groups and others who contributed, encouraging the students to use the equipment safely.

The art show offered a mix of mediums and approaches,

the Sentinel-Times chatting to three of the Year 12 contingent about award-winning work they had on display.

Grace Villinger, who plans to study interior architecture, has been busy gaining experience through her work in the subject Visual Communication and Design, with her design of a self-sustaining office space featuring a nature area in the centre.

Sections of the layout allow for collaboration while others cater to individual work, with the whole space wheelchair accessible and suited to everyone through features such as braille on doors.

Grace also designed an ergonomic desk.

Ethan Wicks created a unique wooden spoon holder with a concrete base, and a polished steel sculpture, its

blue appearance achieved with careful use of a blowtorch.

He turned the Red Gum spoons himself on a lathe, with the metal section of his work using chains that would otherwise have been thrown out.

Bonnie Crawford, who sells her artwork through the Korumburra florist, explained her drawing of a woman with butterfly wings.

"I wanted to capture something that shows the connection between nature and humanity," she said, choosing greyscale to add to the melancholy vibe she desired.

Bonnie used graphite pencils, with an eraser pen for finer highlights and a blending tool to make the work smoother.

The Year 12s are in their final week of school.



School captain Sahara Short speaking at the Class of 2025 graduation assembly.



Chairo Leongatha Year 12 student Edward Cross was pleased to receive his graduation certificate from principal Amy Stork.



Year 12 students led worship songs at the Class of 2025 whole-campus graduation assembly.

A year well done at Chairo Christian School

THE inaugural Year 12 class at Chairo Christian School in Leongatha celebrated the closing of this significant year with a final whole-campus assembly last Friday.

The principal, Amy Stork, explained how proud she is of the way the students conducted themselves this year.

"Their fun-loving attitude

and commitment to their education is a great example of excellence for all who follow in their footsteps," she said.

From worship songs, a devotional message and photo slide-shows to physical challenges, certificate presentations and an interactive quiz, the graduating students celebrated a year well done with flair.

Reflecting on the importance of an event such as this, VCE student Samuel Brown commented that he was encouraged to "see how far we have come".

Vocational Major student Summer Walsh expressed deep appreciation for the opportunity to celebrate, and for the impact that Chairo has had on her

life, saying, "I love this school!"

School captain, Sahara Short, captured Chairo's distinctive culture when she observed that the song being played with the Prep to Year 12 slideshow felt like a prayer for their future.

In her address, Sahara shared her thanks to God for a wonderful year.

Bass Coast learner honoured at Victorian Learn Local Awards



Award winner Sopha Chizzoniti celebrates her achievement with BCAL executive officer David Leslie, following her recognition at the Victorian Learn Local Awards.

BASS Coast Adult Learning (BCAL) student Sopha has been recognised with the Victorian Learn Local Award for Pre-accredited Learner (Skills for Work), celebrating her inspiring journey from learning English to employment and further study in the health sector.

Sopha began her learning journey at BCAL in the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP), where she built the language and confidence skills that helped her reconnect with education and community life. She then completed BCAL's Health Support Services course, a Learn Local program that prepares people for essential non-clinical roles in hospitals, aged care, and disability support.

Building on that success, Sopha went on to complete BCAL's Be Work Ready program, where she developed her job-seeking, interview, and workplace communication skills. Through this course, she secured employment with Bass Coast Health, where she now plays an important role in maintaining safe and clean environments for elderly patients.

Determined to keep learning, Sopha also applied for the

Certificate III in Individual Support through one of BCAL's training partners, TAFE Gippsland, and was accepted.

She continues to work at Bass Coast Health while completing her qualification and attending BCAL's Study Support Group.

She is now only a few months away from becoming a qualified carer.

"Sopha's story shows how community-based learning can change lives," said David Leslie, BCAL executive officer.

"Her pathway from study to employment and onto further education is exactly what BCAL supports."

Sopha said the support she received through BCAL made all the difference.

"The teachers helped me believe I could do it. I found my confidence, and now I have a job I like and a qualification on the way. I feel very proud of myself and BCAL," she said.

With a growing demand for health and care workers across Gippsland, Sopha's journey highlights the significance of Learn Local training delivered at BCAL to connect people with real opportunities close to home.



Cowes Primary School student with Bass Coast Shire Mayor Rochelle Halstead.

Cowes PS students visit Berninneit

COWES Primary School students brought plenty of energy and curiosity to Berninneit this week for a special Meet the Mayor visit as part of their Community Walk on Wednesday.

Organised by Island Ward Councillor, Cr Tracey Bell, the visit began with a warm welcome from Bass Coast Shire Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, who greeted the students at the door. The group explored key community spaces in the building, including the museum and the library, before heading into the community room set up for a Council meeting.

Inside, the students were polite, interested and highly engaged, listening carefully to the Mayor and asking curious questions like, "What do you do as Mayor?" and "Do you get to help people?"

Before heading back to school, each child received a gift pack, including native seeds to plant at home, a hands-on reminder that everyone can help care for our environment.

"It's always inspiring to see young people so interested in how their community works," Mayor Halstead said.

"Their respectful questions and enthusiasm were fantastic – I'm sure we met some future leaders today."



Blaire Davey is watering a new plant. St Paul's students dig in for a greener future

STUDENTS at St Paul's Anglican Grammar School's Drouin Campus made the most of the beautiful spring weather recently, rolling up their sleeves for a tree-planting session on campus.

The activity gave students a hands-on opportunity to learn about caring for the environment as they dug holes, prepared soil, planted seedlings and carefully placed guards around each young tree for protection.

By the end of the day, around 60 new trees had been planted, and students are already looking forward to watching their efforts grow and flourish in the months and years ahead. By digging in for a greener future, students also enjoyed the health and happiness that come from working together and connecting with nature.

Newhaven College celebrates VCE Art and Design Exhibition 2025



Newhaven College Visual Arts Captain Sienna Bell talks through some of the art pieces on display at the VCE Arts and Design Exhibition.

NEWHAVEN College is thrilled to announce its annual VCE Art and Design Exhibition for 2025, a celebration of creativity and innovation, currently on display in the College's Performing Arts Wing foyer. The exhibition showcases the exceptional achievements of the College's talented VCE students, who have worked diligently throughout the year to produce an impressive array of works in a variety of media.

The exhibition highlights the outstanding Unit 3 and 4 works from the following subjects:

- Art Making and Exhibiting
- Visual Communication Design
- Media
- Product Design and Technologies
- Systems Engineering

This year's exhibition is a true reflection of the students' dedication, creativity and hard work. Each piece tells a unique story, demonstrating the range of artistic, technical and design skills honed by students during their VCE journey. From intricate design concepts to thought-provoking art and media projects, the display offers something for everyone to enjoy.

The proceedings were presented by Visual Art Captain Sienna Bell. Art teacher Rebecca Power announced the prizes awarded to Michael Mehes for 'Best in Show' and the encouragement award went to Ailish Flynn for her hard-working and committed attitude. There was no doubt these two students represented all of the outstanding talent in the VCE cohort.



Newhaven College VCE student Michael Mehes won the Best in Show for his intriguing work.



Newhaven College VCE student Ailish Flynn won the encouragement award for her visual communication design, a pop-up book.

Changing a troubled world

By Rev. Graeme Liersch,
Anglican Church
Wonthaggi/Inverloch

I GOT to thinking the other day about the world we live in and all its wonders and delights along with the strife and tribulations that occur.

I thought about the strife between families and siblings, the troubles between different groups of people and all the different belief systems that occur in the world.

For example, in the world today, there is possibly the same number of belief systems as there are people. I say that because we all have an opinion, and in today's world, we're taught to look after ourselves first and foremost.

I listened to President Zelinsky's (Ukraine) address to the UN a couple of weeks back and marvelled at his rhetoric on the state of the world. Basically, he was saying that the UN is a toothless tiger, and if we don't have weapons to defend ourselves, then we will be conquered.

According to Zelensky, diplomacy only works when you have something to bargain with, and in his case, it is weapons. But in a strange twist, he identified the existence of weapons as the main perpetrator in conflicts. He certainly painted a picture that portrayed doom and gloom, but it was also a picture that included a reality. That reality is that we, in this world, despite the lessons given from history, continue to drive an unrealistic expectation of life that includes domination over one another.

It is this dominant aspect that drives conflicts between one another, families, friends, and countries. It is a form of idol worship, where we make ourselves better than others. In fact, we set ourselves up to be the god of our dominion.

Where, when, and how can this be reversed and or stopped before we destroy ourselves?

Strangely, it can be reversed or stopped anywhere at any time. All it takes is for a person to read the story of a carpenter, who, despite the persecution upon him, chose to be a servant.

Who, despite becoming a great teacher, could have lauded it over everyone, chose to humble himself and be sacrificed for all, despite never being self-obsessed or self-opinionated or self-righteous. He, in fact, is the opposite of what is mentioned above and what many strive for today. Who is this carpenter?

His name is Jesus from Nazareth, and He is God on earth. Do as He did and humble yourself.

It is a rewarding experience. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." (Luke 14:11)

Want to change the way the world is going? Then commit to following Jesus Christ and ask Him to help humble you.

Scouts gather at Coal Creek for annual awards presentation



Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP and Bass Coast Shire Councillor Cr Meg Edwards with South Gippsland Scouts award recipients.



Scout of the Year: William Talbot (1st Inverloch) and Sam Wightman (1st Fish Creek).



Scouter of the Year: Kaylene Morter.



Venturer Scout of the Year: Flick Ogden (1st Inverloch).



DC Special Award: Kelly Graham (Korumburra).



Cub Scout of the Year: Xavier Duckmanton (1st Inverloch).

THE South Gippsland Scouts District gathered at Coal Creek in Korumburra on Saturday, October 11, for its Annual Report and Awards Presentation.

Families and friends joined youth members for a midday meeting led by Scouts, celebrating another year of community involvement and outdoor adventure. Visitors were encouraged to grab lunch from the Korumburra Scout Group's barbecue at the nearby Farmers Market before the event began.

Following the formalities, attendees took part in guided tours of Coal Creek, with the first tour starting at 1pm. The day provided a relaxed and family-friendly opportunity for local Scouts to showcase their achievements and leadership, while bringing the community together to recognise the spirit of Scouting across South Gippsland.

South Gippsland Scouts celebrate a successful year

CONGRATULATING South Gippsland Scouts on another big year, Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP revealed a portrait of the King could soon be on the way to scouts at Fish Creek.

Speaking at the 2025 presentation of awards for South Gippsland Scouts at Coal Creek Korumburra, Ms Aldred said the scouting movement provided an excellent opportunity for young people in the region to learn resilience, teamwork and the importance of giving back to the community.

"I applaud the support and mentorship of parents and volunteers who put so much into the leadership development of young people in South Gippsland," said Ms Aldred.

"What you do here locally is nationally significant to many people, such as the Governor General, who was appointed the Chief Scout earlier this year, and your commitment to community is acknowledged across the board."

Ms Aldred also said she had the opportunity to discuss local scout groups with the Governor General Her Excellency Sam Mostyn in Canberra recently and mentioned the work of Fish Creek Scouts and their request for a new portrait of the King.



Merilyn Scott, Cherry Anderson, Josie Bleaser, and Anne Larking were among the friendly Leongatha Probus members welcoming representatives of other clubs and guests to enjoy a tasty High Tea. A03_4225

Probus High Tea delights

LEONGATHA Probus Club celebrated Probus Month in style on Monday, hosting High Tea for its members and those of the Coal Creek, Woorayl and Inverloch Probus Clubs and guests.

Probus Month runs throughout October.

The organisation is about friendship, fun and fellowship; its members retired or semi-retired, and there is no age limit for joining.

It was an impressive turnout at Space 47 in McCartin Street, with a great social vibe and a mix of scrumptious sweet and savoury items.

Celebrating National Water Week and local ‘Water Heroes’

SOUTH Gippsland Water is joining communities across Australia to celebrate National Water Week, with a splash of local creativity and community spirit.

A highlight of the week is the announcement of winners in South Gippsland Water’s National Water Week Poster Competition, which this year saw more than double the number of entries compared to 2024 – a fantastic response from six local primary schools. Participating schools included Welshpool and District Primary School, Toora Primary School, Fish Creek Primary School, St Laurence O’Toole Primary School, Leongatha Primary School, and St Joseph’s Primary School, Wonthaggi.

This year’s poster theme, “Water Heroes: Save Every Drop,” inspired students to explore how everyone can play a role in protecting our most precious resource. Entries ranged from imaginative water superheroes to practical tips for saving water at home and in the community. Managing director Robert Murphy said the creativity and engagement from students across the region were truly inspiring.

“National Water Week is all about celebrating the value of water and inspiring people to use it wisely,” Mr Murphy said.

“It’s wonderful to see such enthusiasm from our young



Winning Grade 5–6 entry by Georgie from Fish Creek Primary School, whose creative design captured the spirit of this year’s theme perfectly.

people – they’re our future water champions. The ideas and imagination they’ve shown in their posters remind us that even small actions can make a big difference when it comes to saving water.”

First, second and third place prizes are awarded in four categories: Prep, Grade 1–2, Grade 3–4, and Grade 5–6. Winners will receive Officeworks vouchers to help with school and art

supplies. “We’re thrilled by the community’s support this year,” Mr Murphy added.

“Thank you to all the participating schools for encouraging students to think about sustainability and water conservation in such creative ways.”

National Water Week makes a splash across Australia each year by inspiring communities and organisations to work

together on water issues and future solutions. The campaign reminds everyone that water must be used wisely, while celebrating innovation and achievements that support Australia’s sustainable future.

South Gippsland Water’s judging panel was impressed by the imagination, colour and thoughtful ideas on display – with many posters showing forward-thinking fixes for the future.

Turn off the taps

THERE are a number of events happening nationally this Water Week and whilst some are not in our catchments areas, they are still accessible online.

Today, October 21, jump into the Young Water Professionals Taskforce National Water Week Webinar from 1-2pm and learn about how you can create meaningful change for a sustainable water future. Hear from leading voices in the sector about the essential role water plays in our communities and environments.

Tomorrow evening, October 22, join landscape architect Louise Costa and native plant guru Cathy Olive as Goulburn Valley Water hosts Let’s Grow: Waterwise Gardens. The event will be streamed online from 7pm–9pm.

Celebrate National Water Week and learn how to create a beautiful, climate-resilient garden that thrives in our dry summers. Louise, renowned for projects like the Shepparton Botanical Gardens and Euroa Arboretum’s Climate Ready Garden, will share tips on designing stunning, wildlife-friendly spaces that flourish with minimal watering. Cathy, development manager at the Euroa Arboretum, brings 30 years’ experience in native flora and will highlight practical, eye-catching plant choices.

And whilst you’re online, turn off your taps. Australians are encouraged to take part in Water Night 2025, a national challenge that highlights how often we use water and how vital it is to our lives. From 5pm to 10pm on Thursday, October 23, households are asked to switch off their taps and go without running water to reflect on how we use and value this precious resource.

It’s a simple, eye-opening way to make a difference, and a fun challenge for the whole family. Join in, tap off, and tune in this Water Night. Head to nationalwater-week.org/events for more information.

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Sentinel-Times COMMENT

The problem with Victoria today

THE number one issue in Victoria today is, surprise, surprise, crime. It should be homelessness, the state of our roads, the cost of doing business, the lack of funding for needed infrastructure in regional Victoria and the future of energy generation... to name a few.

However, when you have a staggering statewide increase in the rate of crime of 16.3 per cent in the past financial year, and by far the biggest increase in motor vehicle theft in Australia, up by 41 per cent in one year when the only other state to record an increase, NSW, was up by six per cent, you know something is seriously wrong in this state.

What's wrong? A whole myriad of things, but you're sure as hell not going to stop it by following the state politicians' playbook on increasing offender penalties and "getting tougher" on bail laws.

That's the symptom, it's not the problem.

If we are getting rapid increases in car thefts, thefts from retail and increases in violent crime ahead of what's happening in other states with the same socio-economic, mental health and drugs problems as we are experiencing here, it's something that we're not doing right in Victoria.

And ultimately it comes back to the government of the day assessing what the drivers of the problem are and coming up with a plan, well communicated to the people, and then getting on and making a difference.

If, for some reason, whether it's ideological or systemic, they can't or won't address the problem, then the people get a chance to change the government and we, hopefully, get a fresh start.

That's what happened in 1999 when Jeff Kennett lost the so-called unlosable election when people got sick of the state's institutions getting "jeffed" and also his presidential-style of politics, which seems to have caught on successfully since.

So, if the Allan Labor Government can't come up with a plan, and we need a Royal Commission to flesh out the complexities of the crime rise in Victoria, then there should be a change of government at the next election.

But there are some systemic problems with getting a change of government as well, not the least being the burgeoning size of the government workforce, i.e. rusted on voting block, and the rabble that is the Opposition at the moment, both here in Victoria and nationally.

The first thing the opposition parties should do to fix the crime rate in Victoria, and any other problems they see ahead of the next election, is fix their own party structure first and they could start by setting aside personal ambition.

The success of a democratic system of government, over the journey, relies heavily on having a credible alternative to vote for in the event that the government of the day loses its way, or becomes so bogged down and wedded to the problems they have created themselves, that we need a change.

Being able to rule a line off, and make a fresh start, is a luxury we don't appear to have right now.

Vox Pop

What's your favourite book of all time? And are you a digital reader or old school hard copy?



Alison Gill

Corinella

"The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark. I'm a digital reader now."



Malcolm Beasley

Ryanston

"Lord of the Rings. Utilise both, but always a book in the bath."



Anna Gebhardt

Wonthaggi (library coordinator)

"How can I pick a favourite when there are so many to choose from! Me, Antman And Fleabag by Gayle Kennedy. Definitely hardcopy."



Maddy Murray-White

Wonthaggi

"Where The Wild Things Are – Dad used to read it to me as a child. Hardcopies."

Are you a Freemason in need of a new lodge?

IT IS well recognized that the Bass Coast area has become an increasingly popular destination for retirees as well as families escaping from the pressures of Melbourne for all the obvious reasons. A number of professionals in the education and health sectors have also settled here in recent times.

It stands to reason that some of these would be men who are Freemasons who have become separated from the organisation and may not be aware of the presence of several lodges operating in the area.

There are two Craft Lodges in Wonthaggi namely the Powlett Lodge and the Woolamai Daylight Lodge. Other degrees worked are Mark, Chapter and Royal and Select.

The Phillip Island Lodge also meets in Cowes.

Further afield there are two lodges which meet in Korumburra and another in Mirboo North.

These lodges are naturally keen to either have new candidates for Freemasonry as well as to welcome joining members.

For further information please contact the acting secretary of the Woolamai Daylight Lodge, Peter Thick on 0429 851 004.

Ken Barnes, Wonthaggi

Thanks to the Russos

I WOULD sincerely like to publicly thank Anthony and Ida Russo of Kilcunda for the hard work and investment they made to rebuild the shopping area known as Sticks and the new KGS at Kilcunda.

I know the hard work because we had to wait and complain about the lack of facilities in Kilcunda, while the hard work was progressing, but Anthony and Ida never wavered from the task they had set themselves.

Truly, two great people who are responsible for many amenities that were never there before. Such as the lack of specific services like a chemist, hairdressing salon, massage therapies, food and coffee establishments in Kilcunda had been a notable concern for the community.

On behalf of those that enjoy these amenities every day, we thank you and hope you live a long, fruitful retirement.

Neville Wright, Kilcunda

Signing a petition could cost you your say

AT THE October BCSC meeting, when moving the Links Street Special Charge Scheme (SCS), Cr Bell stated "there were only two objections out of 12 houses" and this "reflects a general desire by the residents ... to improve safety, access and liveability in their neighbourhood."

This is an inadequate representation of the factual data council collected, and questions whether councillors are genuinely seeking to represent the majority of ratepayers or pandering to small interest groups.

Rather than focusing on the two no votes, council should have openly outlined and clarified the factual composition of the final vote.

The Bass Coast Engage page factually shows:

1. The initial petition was signed by around 75 per cent or nine out of 12 ratepayers.
2. In the final vote, resident support for the project fell by 33 per cent, and only 41.5 per cent or five out of 12 ratepayers voted for the scheme.
3. Equally, 41.5 per cent of ratepayers did not vote at all.
4. Combining non-votes with no votes reveals that 58 per cent or seven out of 12 of the residents did not vote to support the scheme.
5. As it does BCSC assumed control of the non-votes and used them to support the declaration of a scheme which did not even achieve 50 per cent ratepayer support.

Having failed to implement the Sunderland Bay/Surf Beach SCS, BCSC made targeted changes to its URDI policy to make it easier to initiate an SCS, lowering from 70 to 50 per cent the required percentage of signatures needed to lodge a SCS petition. This made SCS schemes easier to initiate but extremely difficult to stop.

Once proposed by petition, the only way to stop a scheme is for 50 per cent plus one of affected ratepayers to vote against it.

This is demonstrated by both Links Street and the Pioneer Bay SCS, where the only votes were 27 no votes. Not a single vote was registered in favour of that scheme, yet BCSC pushed it through.

Residents need to be very careful about signing a special charge petition. You may find that doing so results in the loss of any influence or control over the future development of your street.

Ross Bencraft, Surf Beach

Getting behind the solution for Inverloch

AFTER eight years of campaigning, SGCS (South Gippsland Conservation Society) welcomes the appointment of a contractor to undertake the planned beach renourishment and dune reconstruction of Inverloch Surf Beach. Along with the Surf Club protection works to be installed over the next months, it is a significant milestone. We congratulate DEECA and the C2C Resilience Project Team in making it happen.

It's critical to the protection of the remaining dunes that these major works are completed before the winter of 2026. The 100,000m3 of sand to be placed on

the beach, the equivalent of 10,000 truckloads, will create a beach width of around 60 metres wide and lift the beach level by up to four metres, well above the swash zone.

What's planned is at a totally different scale to the emergency sand replenishments that Council has been undertaking. It will also provide the opportunity for a large-scale revegetation project to enhance dune resilience.

SGCS supports this initial step in adaptation planning for Inverloch Surf Beach and is liaising with the authorities in developing a robust revegetation plan for the back of the renourished beach.

On beaches, the role of wind in moving sand is often underappreciated. The role of vegetation in growing dunes is also often underappreciated. Wind, carrying fine sand, hits the vegetation, slows and drops the sand. Sand accumulates, growing the height of the dune.

It is why vegetation establishment is a key recommendation of the Inverloch beach renourishment project plan. To accelerate the process, we propose planting nursery-raised plants and direct seeding. We are modelling our species selection and spacing on the successful planting in front of the Surf Club.

We propose an adaptive management approach that will spread risk by staging the planting over two years. Under our plan, we will plant the most stable sand areas, first in 2026, with a further consolidation planting planned for 2027. The Society looks forward to working with volunteers from Inverloch's community and service organisations to aid contractors in this significant planting program.

Beach renourishment and dune restoration, as well as enhanced dune management, are critical to prolonging the life of the Surf Beach. Our hope is that a successful revegetation program will further assist with this. In addition, it will help to restore the biolink function of the coastal reserve, the original reason why the Society got so involved with this issue back in 2018.

It's also possible that, in buying some time, coastal processes at Inverloch could revert to their pre-2014 condition, further aiding the retention of sand on the Surf Beach. So, let's all get behind this initiative and see what we can achieve together.

Philip Heath, Coordinator, Inverloch Coastal Resilience Project and Ed Thexton, President, South Gippsland Conservation Society.

The 'Sentinel-Times' encourages readers to write with issues of interest or concern but letters that have a local reference point will be given priority. Writers are also urged to be brief where possible. Letters may be edited for space and legal reasons, and must be submitted with the author's name and contact details of which only the name and town location will appear.

Vegas Fitzmaurice takes stand against art fraud

THE art world is plagued by forgery and exploitation. This is not only costing billions globally, but it is also eroding the voices of those whose stories deserve to be heard. In Australia, Indigenous art has been widely misappropriated, illegally copied and faked.

Celebrated Indigenous artist Vegas Fitzmaurice has taken a powerful step to change that narrative. Adopting the Authentic Indigenous system, powered by Authentical's Blockchain and NFC-based technology, to safeguard his work and legacy.

Fitzmaurice's latest exhibition, *Milowl: A Mother's Element*, opens at the Berninnet Art Gallery on November 1, 2025. Each piece will feature a tamper-proof NFC tag containing details about the artist, the story behind the work, and a certificate of authenticity.

Known for explosive colour and deeply rooted storytelling, Fitzmaurice is more than an artist; he is a custodian of heritage and a contemporary voice for ancient traditions. He is determined to ensure culture is represented truthfully on the global stage. Each canvas reflects family, tradition, and connection to country, expressed through a bold and modern visual language that resonates with new generations.

"I am proud of my Indigenous heritage, and I create art to connect, inspire and share our history with respect. My vision is to connect culture with kindness, understanding and to help unite and heal for a brighter future," Fitzmaurice said.

The exhibition recognises the enduring force and beauty of Mother Nature, and the way she sustains,



Vegas Fitzmaurice's exhibit opens this November and with it comes a new way of protecting artwork.

protects and transforms us. Each artwork draws inspiration from the four sacred elements: Fire, Water, Air and Earth, as experienced across the island's landscapes and seascapes. Through these elemental themes, Fitzmaurice captures the rhythm of life on Country:

- Fire as renewal and memory
- Water as healing and flow
- Air as breath and spirit
- Earth as grounding and connection

Together, these works invite reflection on the cycles of nature and life, and on the unbreakable ties between people, place and ancestry.

It's a powerful exhibition

on multiple levels.

The pioneering collaboration between Fitzmaurice and Berninnet Art Gallery in the adoption of the Authentic Indigenous system represents a watershed moment in the fight against cultural exploitation.

For decades, counterfeit Indigenous artworks have flooded markets, deceiving buyers and robbing artists and their communities of rightful recognition and income. Beyond financial loss, this theft distorts heritage and obscures authentic voices. With Authentical's technology, every Fitzmaurice artwork now carries a tamper-proof digital identity

linked to a secure Blockchain record. Collectors, galleries, and museums can verify authenticity instantly, ensuring the artist's story remains intact and indisputable.

Mark Jackaman, CEO of Authentic Indigenous, said Fitzmaurice's adoption is a turning point.

"Vegas is doing what every artist needs to do. This is to take control of their truth. This is not just a safeguard, it's a statement. Indigenous artists in Australia and beyond have had their work misappropriated for too long. With Authentic Indigenous, we are saying: no more."



Members of Poowong Garden Club came together last week, decorating the town's bollards ahead of the annual flower and photo show.

Splash of colour for Poowong's streetscape

POOWONG'S main street is looking brighter than ever, with 30 bollards transformed into colourful displays by members of the Poowong Garden Club.

Event coordinator Linda Harvey said the idea came to her after a visit to Beechworth last Christmas, where festive Christmas decorations covered the town's bollards. "I came home and put it to the garden club ladies, and they all thought it was a good idea," she said.

Around 20 club members took part in creating the unique displays, which range from knitted designs to tributes celebrating local pride. Among them is a Hawthorn-themed bollard honouring AFL player Jai Newcombe, and another inspired by the Poowong Magpies Football Club.

"There were no rules regarding themes," Ms Harvey said. "It was up to the members and what they wanted to do. A few decided to do something representing the town."

The decorations first went up on Monday, October 13 and will stay in place for about a month, giving locals and visitors plenty of time to admire the art.

"They were only put up on Monday, and already people are saying it's jazzing up the town," Ms Harvey said. "Everyone's been positive about it."

While the displays coincide with the club's annual flower and photo show, they're free for anyone to enjoy, bringing a cheerful touch to Poowong's streetscape.

Inaugural women in local government award nominations open

Nominations close this week for a new award that will recognise their vital contributions to the local government sector in Victoria. Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos said the inaugural Mary Rogers Award would celebrate women in leadership and support efforts to advance gender equality in the local government sector.

The award is part of \$20,000 in government funding for the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA) and its work to acknowledge women councillors, raise the profile of women in the sector and highlight the importance of gender equality in local decision-making.

There are three award categories:

- Mary Rogers Award – Awarded to a current woman councillor for outstanding contributions as a civic leader in Victoria.
- Emerging Woman Leader Award – Awarded to a woman councillor who is demonstrating outstanding leadership in their first term.
- Gender Equality Council Champion Award – Awarded to a council in recognition of their work in supporting women's participation in local government.

Nominations close at 5pm, Friday, October 24 and can be made at: vlga.org.au/governance-leadership/local-government/mary-rogers-awards.

A Festival of Lights celebration at the Dalyston Hall

INDIAN group of Wonthaggi hosted a vibrant Diwali – Festival of Lights celebration on Saturday at Dalyston Hall, bringing together families and friends for an evening of culture, joy, and unity.

Diwali, one of India's most important festivals, symbolises the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. It is marked by lighting lamps, sharing sweets, and celebrating togetherness.

The Dalyston celebration featured colourful cultural performances, music, dance, traditional food, and festive decorations that filled the hall with warmth and happiness. The event showcased India's rich heritage while strengthening community bonds in the region.

The Group expressed gratitude to all volunteers, families, and supporters who contributed to making the evening a memorable success.

RIGHT: Diwali in Dalyston, a cultural celebration with music and dance, showing India's rich history.



Genesis Chamber Ensemble revives timeless masterworks

DRAWN from Melbourne/Naarm's Genesis Baroque, The Genesis Chamber Ensemble are bringing their expressive artistry to perform in Fish Creek.

Performing on historical period instruments, the ensemble transports audiences to the sound world of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Authentic and vivid musicianship will allow the emotional layers of Franz Schubert and Ludwig van Beethoven to be felt throughout audiences, revealing depth and texture with each symphony.

This concert features two masterpieces: 'Franz Schubert – String Quartet No.14 in D minor, "Death and the Maiden"

Composed in 1824 during a period of personal struggle, this powerful and dramatic quartet explores themes of life, death, and transcendence – one of the most profound works in the chamber repertoire.'

'Ludwig van Beethoven – String Quartet Op.18, No.1

Known for its emotional depth and lyrical beauty, the second movement is believed to depict the vault scene from Romeo and Juliet, weaving tenderness and tension in equal measure.'

This performance will conclude the Prom Recitals Series of 2025. The breathtaking and cherished concert promises to revive the composition from two of music's great visionaries, the ensemble ready to dedicate the night to historical authenticity.

The event will take place at Fish Creek Memorial Hall on Sunday, October 26 at 2.30pm.

Tickets available at: trybooking.com/DDVKU or promrecitals.org.au for further information.

Live music returns to Archies Creek with Cup weekend "vibrant outdoor affair"

ARCHIES Creek Hotel will come alive this Cup weekend when Melbourne-based band Gut Health headline an outdoor afternoon of live music on Saturday, November 1. They will be joined by Mess Esque and Shock Corridor for a high-energy day at the much-loved venue.

The event is part of a growing push by Archies Creek to broaden its program and bring new audiences to the coastal town.

Venue owner Peter Foley said the hotel is working to create a more inclusive and youth-focused atmosphere while staying true to its reputation for great live music.

"We're hoping for a vibrant outdoor affair," Peter said.

"During summer, we run a whole bunch of outdoor mini festivals, and Gut Health is part of a program of more youth-focused gigs. We're trying to support and perpetuate the Australian culture around new music. It's all about people bringing their kids, enjoying the day and celebrating community."

Gut Health are fresh from a 20-date European and UK tour and have built a reputation as one of the country's most exciting live acts. Their debut album Stiletto earned the 2025 AIR Award for Best Independent



The coastal venue will host Melbourne acts Gut Health, Mess Esque and Shock Corridor on Saturday, November 1.

Punk Album, while also featuring in Rolling Stone's "100 Best Australian Albums of the 2020s So Far." They will be joined by Mess Esque, known for their dream-pop-meets-Velvet-Underground sound, and Shock Corridor, whose dark wave and trip hop energy is sure to be worth your time.

For Peter, hosting bands of this calibre adds to the venue's growing identity as one of regional Victoria's leading live music spaces.

"The outdoor aspect is what people love," he said.

"They just relax. They're not constrained to one space. The kids can play on the grass,

people can sit up the back if they want a rest from the music, and they can wander down and sit right beside the band. It's just a really fun, relaxed experience."

The idea was originally inspired by the success of international act Shannon and the Clams, who played a summer show at Archies Creek earlier this year. That performance drew a younger crowd and created the blueprint for future outdoor events.

Archies Creek's dedication to live music has not gone unnoticed. The venue was named Best Regional Venue at the Music Victoria Awards in both 2022 and 2023. After coming

close to closing last year, the pub has been reinvigorated by a fresh injection of youthful energy led by local musician Fergus Lawson, who co-programmed the Bathing in the Creek Festival in April.

"The biggest thing for me," Peter said, "is just to see people come into a space that you've facilitated and enjoy community. Music is simply the vehicle we climb aboard to do that."

The November 1 show starts from 2.30pm with tickets available through Trybooking. Food is also back at the venue with wood-fired pizzas available on Fridays and Saturdays throughout the weekend.

LEONGATHA LYRIC THEATRE PRESENTS

A WARM HUG OF AN AUSTRALIAN PLAY

THE HEARTBREAK CHOIR
by Aidan Fennessy

24 OCT - 2 NOV 2025

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By arrangement with Creative Representation

The ARCHIES CREEK HOTEL PROUDLY PRESENTS

Month	Date	Event
October	SUN 26/10	BLUE SABBATH
	FRI 21/10	GLENN RICHARDS (AUGIE MARCH)
November	SAT 1/11	GUT HEALTH, SHOCK CORRIDOR & MESS ESQUE
	SUN 2/11	ROSS WILSON & THE PEACENIKS
	MON 3/11	JULIA DEANS (NZ) & JONNY GOES TO CHURCH
	SAT 8/11	TROPICAL F**KSTORM
	SUN 9/11	DEBORAH CONWAY & WILLY ZYGIER
	THU 13/11	SYLVIE (US)
	FRI 14/11	JENNY DONT & THE SPURS (US)
	SAT 15/11	ASH GRUNWALD
	SUN 16/11	SUZANNAH ESPIE
	FRI 21/11	GALLIE
	SAT 22/11	BEN OTTERWELL & IAN BALL (UK)
	SUN 23/11	19 TWENTY
	SAT 29/11	MISS EILEEN & KING LEAR ALBUM LAUNCH
	SUN 30/11	TEX PERKINS & MATT WALKER
December	SAT 6/12	FLORIST (US)
	SUN 7/12	THE AUDREYS
	SAT 20/12	MAGIC DIRT
	SUN 21/12	LOST RAGAS & SILVER SOUND

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Heartbreak Choir hits Leongatha on Friday

WITH preparations almost complete, Leongatha Lyric Theatre is ready to welcome audiences to the play 'Heartbreak Choir' by Aidan Fennessy, running from October 24 until November 2 at Leongatha Memorial Hall.

The small, but enthusiastic and talented cast is under the guidance of experienced director Bernadette Grainger, the production set in a CFA hall in a small country town about 150 kilometres from Melbourne.

The lead roles are filled by Alison McIntyre, Bianca Wicks and Melita Berzins.

Alison returns after a hiatus from Lyric, being a life member of the company, playing Barbara, a psychologist and choir director, the character exudes charm and warmth and believes in the healing power of music.

Bianca is a new face to Lyric, assuming the character of Mack, a mum with mild anxiety and a bold and vibrant personality. Bianca graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Performance Studies and studied voice at the Melba Conservatorium of Music, making her the ideal choice as vocal coach for the Heartbreak Choir cast. Mack is a member of the choir and the assistant to the local Under 11s footy team.

Director Bernadette says audiences will love the interactions between Mack and her



The cast of Heartbreak Choir is ready to entertain audiences in Leongatha. Back row: Kiki Joseph, Yasmin Tough and Bianca Wicks. Middle row: Melita Berzins, Alison McIntyre and Trevar Skillicorn-Chilver. Front: Lachlan Denbrok.

onstage daughter, Savannah, played by Yasmin Tough, who has appeared in several Lyric shows, including the group's most recent musical Footloose, Savannah being pensive and mystical.

Melita plays Totty, who is resolutely single and frighteningly organised and a founding choir member, the actress well known to Lyric audiences, most recently in Footloose.

'Kiki' Joseph's background

as a cabaret singer ensures she'll be at home on the stage, albeit, playing the part of Aseni, an African migrant, is a heavily pregnant qualified doctor from a wealthy family and brings a breath of fresh air to the choir, with Bernadette noting Kiki's accent and personality suit the character perfectly.

On stage father and son, Peter and Beau, are played by Trevar Skillicorn-Chilver and Lachlan

Denbrok, respectively.

"Lachlan inhabits the role of the troubled but loveable Beau so convincingly," Bernadette said.

Although a play rather than a musical, the subject of Heartbreak Choir means the production is sprinkled with song, with representatives of Lyric Theatre joined by members of The South Gippsland Singers and the Treble F Singers. Tickets are available on Trybooking.

Virtuoso pianist returns to country

ORIGINALLY hailing from country Victoria, acclaimed pianist Josh has built an impressive international career and now he's returning to regional audiences with a special performance at Wonthaggi Baptist Church on Friday, November 1 at 2pm, with afternoon tea provided.

A PhD graduate in Music Performance from the University of Melbourne (2023), Josh studied under the guidance of Professors Ian Holtham and Paul Kildea, and is currently the Kenneth Moore Memorial Music Scholar at Janet Clarke Hall. His musical journey has taken him far from home from private study in Vienna with the legendary Paul Badura-Skoda (one of his final students) to lessons in London with Imogen Cooper.

Josh's performances span Australia, Europe, and the UK, with recent highlights including solo appearances in London, Portugal, Austria, France, and The Netherlands, and festival engagements at the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival, International Holland Music Sessions, and Musica Viva's Regional Touring Program.

He has graced some of the world's most respected venues – Melbourne Recital Centre, Hamer Hall, and Phoenix Central Park among them – performing concertos by Beethoven, Schumann, Liszt, and Ravel with orchestras such as the University of Melbourne Symphony Orchestra and Hopkins Sinfonia.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of Australia's most exciting young pianists as he brings his artistry to Wonthaggi.

What's happening around town

Construction Induction (White Card)

Friday, October 24, 9am – 4pm

\$250 (\$240 concession)

Bass Coast Adult Learning

Childcare, Aged Care, Disability Support, Health Services

Fridays, 10am – 3pm

\$50 (\$35 concession)

Bass Coast Adult Learning

The Heartbreak Choir – Leongatha Lyric Theatre

Friday, October 24 – November 2

Leongatha Memorial Hall

Farm Gate and Pony Rides

Saturdays, 10am – 1pm

Wattle Bank Farm

Inverloch Community Farmer's Market

Sunday, October 26, 8am – 1pm

The Glade

Tristan J Ross and Pete Mitchell

Sunday, October 26, 2pm

The Inlet Hotel, Inverloch

TRISTAN J ROSS
PETE MITCHELL
THE INLET HOTEL INVERLOCH
SUNDAY OCTOBER 26TH 2PM

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Eat Drink Play
GIPPSLAND

Leongatha
Railway
Precinct

Saturday October 18
11am - 10pm



Ella Godbold and Marcus Satchell of 'Dirty Three Wines', which is based in Inverloch but has vineyards in South Gippsland, ready to welcome attendees. A21_4225



Leongatha-based Lithostylis owners Dean and Dayna Roberts don't yet have a cellar door but offered their wines at Eat Drink Play. A20_4225



Kim Richardson of Mates Gin puts half the business's profits into social causes such as the Dream Big Australia Foundation, which she established, that provides positive experiences for underprivileged children. A26_4225



Trav Smith and MJ display some of the tasty products on offer from Gurneys Cidery. A22_4225



Traralgon's Alisha Tainton samples a whisky from Loch Brewery & Distillery. A29_4225



Daniel and Katie Hales of Prom Country Cheese that is based in Moyarra, using milk from a farm in Lance Creek. A25_4225



B and Dayvid show off a couple of the cans in the Sailors Grave beer range. A23_4225



Jess Gardner, Amber Griffin, and Sarah Terkvile were ready for a great day at Eat Drink Play. A24_4225



Sari Hickey and Liana Bauer are among the friendly team at Mahob at Moo's. A32_4225



Tom Lawler and Kade King of Traralgon take in the hospitality at Eat Drink Play. A34_4225



Phil Vis of Korumburra is ready to enjoy a hot dog from Messmates Dining in Warragul. A27_4225



Georgia and Leo Hagel of Korumburra take in the sunshine at Eat Drink Play. A31_4225



‘Invy Horn Jam’ sets the Eat Drink Play vibe in Bair Street. A16_4225

Eat Drink Play shows off Gippsland

WITH close to 3000 people enjoying the finest of Gippsland produce and the talents of musicians from the region and elsewhere, the inaugural Eat Drink Play festival may well lead to an annual tradition.

The prayers of organisers were answered when morning rain cleared and pleasant conditions set in, ensuring the comfort of attendees as they grazed, listened and socialised.

‘Invy Horn Jam’ established the upbeat mood from the start, giving a short Bair Street concert that included briefly holding up traffic at a pedestrian crossing, before marching to the festival site in the Leongatha Railway Precinct to continue the show.

There were opportunities for people to sample a wide range of food and beverages, as well as talks to learn more about Gippsland produce, with those sessions hosted by wine expert Max Allen and food

By Andrew Paloczi

writer Kara Monssen.

Penni Ellicott, South Gippsland Shire Council’s coordinator of arts, culture and visitor economy was thrilled with the success of the event.

“It was amazing, for the first time and not having done it at the site, it’s always a challenge when you do a new event, but I think the result was incredible and we certainly showcased all the Gippsland produce, wine and everything that’s wonderful about Gippsland,” she said of the day session.

She was equally delighted with “The killer music event at night”.

San Remo-based Steph Strings kicked off the evening session in her last Australian performance before heading to America for her first headline tour there.

Her numbers included ‘Dusty Road’, the first song she wrote, as

well as the work of other artists, such as Xavier Rudd’s ‘Follow the Sun’.

Emma Donovan’s blend of Indigenous culture and her powerful singing voice during songs such as ‘Take me to the River’ kept the audience engaged and energised.

She spoke of the importance of growing up in a musical family and the relationship between her culture and songs.

Melbourne Ska Orchestra finished the evening in its own vibrant style, ensuring it kept people dancing even after a long day, ‘Lygon Street Melt-down’ introducing a gangster vibe but fortunately all in good fun.

“A lot of people were up for the big haul,” Penni remarked, with many buying combined day and night tickets.

Overall ticket sales began at about 2600 by morning and built throughout the day.



Nick, Brittany and Sammy of ‘Soda Fish’ in Lakes Entrance were ready to feed the crowd at Eat Drink Play, with Brittany looking forward to a good vibe and a sunny day. A17_4225



Frank Butera and Graham Adams of Bass River Winery, based in Glen Forbes, were set for a big day at Eat Drink Play. A18_4225



Craig Johnson, Jackson Whittaker and Chris Cronin of Loch Brewery & Distillery offer lots of tasting variety. A28_4225



Bob Ellery and Anne Bevis try Leongatha’s Fleet Wine, with Georgie Appleyard on hand to answer their questions. A19_4225



Colin and Sandra of Drouin and Claire from Ringwood relax at Eat Drink Play. A30_4225



Misty Harlowe entertains the daytime audience. A35_4225



Coal Creek Probus members Barbara Hosking (standing), Marg Clark, Carolyn Stewart and Pam Coulston at Leongatha Probus Club's High Tea. A05_4225



Coal Creek Probus members Mary Keeble (standing), Jenny Kerville and Jenny Douglas at High Tea in Leongatha. A06_4225



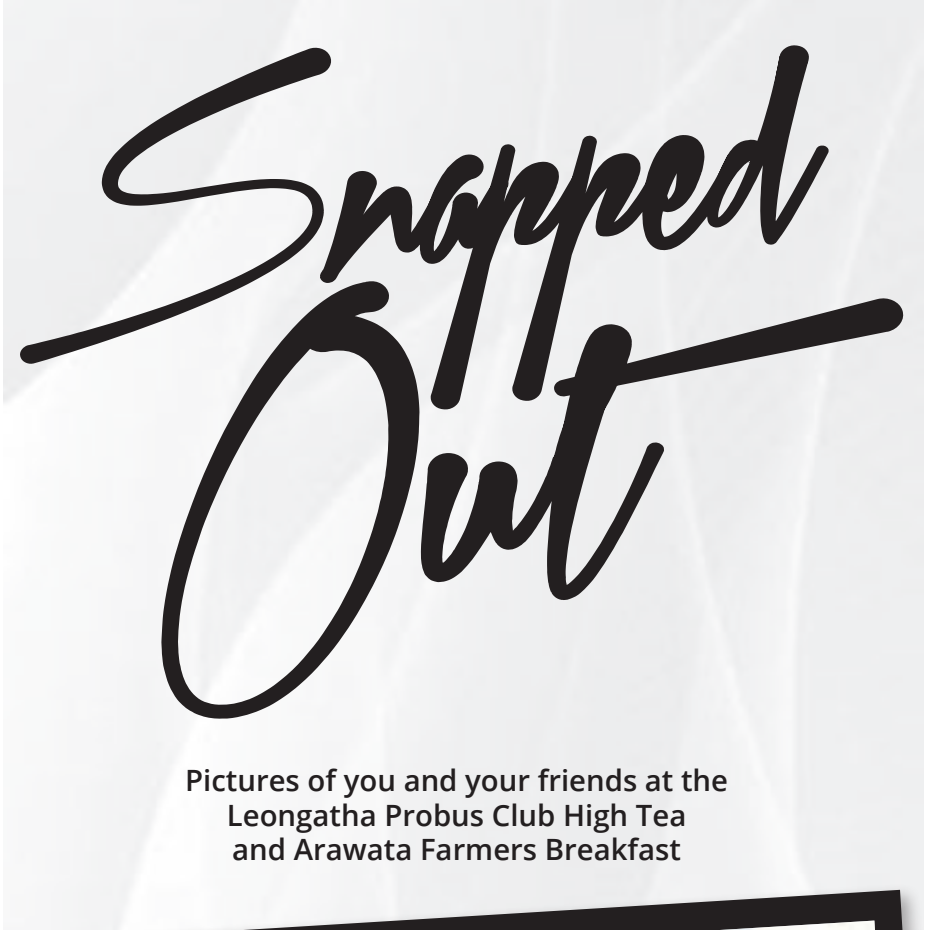
Inverloch Probus members Ann McAuley, Pam Dixon and Kate Taylor celebrate Probus Month. A07_4225



Sisters Lia Robinson and Hennie Harris enjoy High Tea, with Lia a member of Leongatha Probus Club and Hennie visiting from Croydon South. A08_4225



Leongatha Probus Club members Albertha Giliam and Peter Westcott at High Tea. A09_4225



Josie and Leo Bleaser of Leongatha Probus Club celebrate Probus Month. A10_4225



Fay Turner, Gayle Hines and Lorraine McCartin at High Tea. A11_4225



Lila Horkings and Gloria Fletcher enjoy High Tea. A12_4225



George Obrita and Janine Riviere at the Arawata Farmers Breakfast on Saturday. A46_4225



Claire and Alex Aeschlimann take it easy at the Arawata Farmers Breakfast. A47_4225



Isabella Ofner and Meredith Freeman at the Arawata Hall. A54_4225



Ian Osborne and Robert Clarke enjoy Saturday's gathering in Arawata. A48_4225



Jeetho's Cynthia Love and Linda Fiddelaers of Leongatha North volunteer at the Arawata Farmers Breakfast. A53_4225



Scout and Bridget van Lerde enjoy the local farmers' breakfast, having moved to Arawata this year, being familiar with the area through family and keen to be part of the friendly community. A49_4225



Darren Besanko of Bena and Arawata's Gen Dawson enjoy Saturday's relaxed event in Arawata. A50_4225



Arawata Community Hall committee president Craig Jackson and vice president Michael Dawson were among the friendly volunteers in charge of Saturday's breakfast, raising funds to maintain the hall. A51_4225



Local dairy farmers Chris and Don Peters at the Arawata Farmers Breakfast, which they like to attend each year to catch up with community members and help raise funds for the upkeep of the Arawata Hall. A52_4225



A large crowd filled Inverloch RSL on Sunday afternoon, October 12, for Fred Smith's Unforgotten performance.

A moving tribute at Inverloch Community Hub

ON SUNDAY, the Inverloch Community Hub became the heart of local remembrance as residents gathered for the Fred Smith 'Unforgotten' concert, proudly sponsored by the Inverloch RSL. The event offered the community a poignant opportunity to reflect on Australia's involvement in wars and conflicts, honouring both the sacrifices of the past and the ongoing responsibilities of peace. The warm, respectful atmosphere within the Hub set the stage for an afternoon dedicated to memory, music, and storytelling.

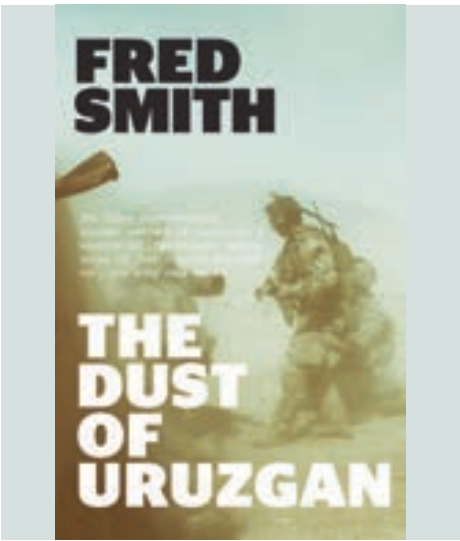
From the outset, the concert anchored itself in the tradition of thoughtful remembrance. Fred Smith, known for his evocative songwriting and deep understanding of Australia's military engagements, curated a program that spanned over a century of service. The concert drew together poetry, classic and contemporary songs, and personal anecdotes to create a rich tapestry of Australia's military history, inviting the audience to consider both the glory and the cost of conflict.

A defining moment of the show came with the recitation of Henry Lawson's iconic poem, The Scots of the Riverina, chosen to honour those who served in World War I. The poem's vivid imagery and emotional depth set a reflective tone, reminding all present of the heartbreak and resilience that marked the war generation.

Continuing this journey through history, the program included stirring renditions of songs from World War II, each piece echoing the spirit and struggles of those turbulent years. The audience was visibly moved by Fred Smith's performance of John Schumann's 'I Was Only 19', a haunting ballad that encapsulates the Vietnam War experience through the eyes of an ordinary Australian soldier. The inclusion of music inspired by Australia's peacekeeping missions in the Solomon Islands, and later, Afghanistan, demonstrated the breadth of the nation's service and the evolving challenges faced by its service members. His rendition of songs of young lives lost in Afghanistan was heart-wrenching but at the same time beautiful.

Central to the afternoon was Fred Smith's deeply personal reflection on his time in Afghanistan, where he served from 2010 to 2021, with additional deployments, culminating in the fall of Kabul. His stories – delivered with candour and compassion – offered the audience a glimpse into the realities of daily life in a warzone. Smith spoke of moments of hope and heartbreak, painting a nuanced picture of the challenges faced by both Coalition forces and the Afghan people. These lived experiences lent a powerful authenticity to the music and stories shared throughout the concert.

Smith's insights extended beyond the battlefield, highlighting the enduring contributions made by Coalition forces to health and education in Afghanistan. He offered particular emphasis on the progress achieved for females, recounting stories of young girls attending



Those who missed Fred Smith's recent performance at the Inverloch RSL, or who want to explore his stories further, can pick up a copy of *The Dust of Uruzgan*. The book offers a powerful and personal account of Australia's war in Afghanistan, blending memoir, music, and frontline insight from the acclaimed singer-diplomat.

school and women accessing healthcare – milestones made possible through international collaboration. These achievements, Smith noted, stand as lasting legacies of Australia's involvement, even amidst the uncertainty that followed the Taliban's return to power.

In a spirit of openness, Smith did not shy away from the complexities of recent history. He offered candid reflections on the politicisation of the war, the shifting nature of public opinion, and the challenging process of peace negotiations with the Taliban. His remarks encouraged the audience to grapple with difficult questions about duty, sacrifice, and the price of peace – reminding all present that remembrance is not only about honouring the past but also learning for the future.

The concert's impact was evident in the audience's engagement. Attendees listened with rapt attention, many visibly moved by the stories and songs. The shared sense of history and community was palpable as people reflected on their own connections to service, remembrance, and national identity. Spontaneous applause, quiet moments of reflection, and heartfelt conversations at the event's close all testified to the concert's emotional resonance.

The Fred Smith 'Unforgotten' concert, supported by the Inverloch RSL, was more than an afternoon of music – it was a profound act of communal remembrance and education. By weaving together poetry, song, and personal testimony, Fred Smith offered the Inverloch community a space to reflect, to honour, and to remember. The event stands as a testament to the enduring importance of acknowledging our shared past, and to the role that art and storytelling play in keeping history alive.

Real Estate

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

Introduction of Portable Rental Bond Scheme

RENTERS know the feeling: paying for a new rental bond out of pocket before their existing bond has been returned. Most people don't just have a spare few thousand dollars lying around to cover it.

That's why the state government is changing the law to introduce a new Portable Rental Bond Scheme and help do away with the dreaded 'double bond' payment.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos introduced the Consumer Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 to establish the scheme, which can allow renters to transfer their existing bond directly to their new rental property.

Under the scheme, renters will be able to apply online to port their existing bond across to their new home.

It's a win-win for renters and providers: as part of the scheme, the Government will guarantee the existing bond amount in advance to the original rental provider until the tenancy is wrapped up and the bond claim process is finalised.

If a rental provider's claim for a bond is successful, the renter will owe the money not to the rental provider but to the Government, and will need to pay it back up front or in stages.

The Bill will also deliver further protections to



Minister for Consumer Affairs Nick Staikos announced the new Portable Rental Bond Scheme on Facebook, complete with a few James Bond references.

make renting fairer and rental properties safer, including:

- Requiring rental providers and their agents to provide renters with documentary evidence to support a bond claim three days before the claim can be lodged
- Requiring rental providers and their agents to provide supporting documentation when making an application for a bond claim to VCAT
- Banning the extra fees that get charged when you pay your own rent, including on 'rent tech' apps

- Requiring rental providers and rooming house operators to keep records that demonstrate their property meets the mandatory minimum standards
- Expanding gas and electrical safety checks to apply to all residential rental agreements, regardless of when a rental agreement was started
- Ensuring the health and safety of renters by requiring gas checks to be undertaken prior to draughtproofing activities in residential rental properties, so gas appliances operate safely.

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KARDELLA



- Country hideaway 9ha/23ac
- Ideal horse, beef property
- 3 dams, established trees
- Shed barn, 10min to Korumburra
- Just minutes from rail trail

\$360,000 - \$390,000
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

Real Estate

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

Country lifestyle with space, views and convenience

SET on approximately 8.6 acres in a highly sought-after pocket of South Gippsland, this lifestyle property offers the perfect combination of rural living, practicality, and convenience. The comfortable three-bedroom home enjoys stunning views across the rolling countryside, while the surrounding land provides ample room for hobby farming, livestock or simply space to breathe.

The home offers three generous bedrooms, each with built-in robes, providing plenty of storage. The spacious kitchen features electric cooking, ample cupboard and bench space, and adjoins a dining area and comfortable living space complete with a cosy Coonarra wood heater, split system reverse cycle and sliding door access to the deck.

The bathroom is neat and functional, including a walk-in shower, bath, vanity, and separate toilet. An enclosed outdoor kitchen and entertaining area make year-round gatherings easy, while the large deck is the perfect spot to relax and soak in the stunning views of the rolling green hills.

Outside, the extensive 24m x 8m shed is ideal for storage, a workshop, and even includes a dedicated man cave. A 6kW solar power system helps reduce energy costs, while ample tank water supplies the home. The property also features a dam suitable for stock use, along with an established orchard.

Perfectly positioned, this property is just minutes from Loch Village, 10 minutes to Korumburra and 20 minutes to Leongatha, around 30 minutes to Inverloch, just over an hour to Wilsons Promontory, and about 1 hour and 45 minutes to Melbourne CBD.

Enjoy the best of both worlds – a peaceful country setting with sweeping views, yet within easy reach of vibrant townships, schools, cafés, and pristine beaches. Whether you're looking for a family home, hobby farm, or weekend escape, 145 South Road, Loch offers an ideal balance of comfort, space, and lifestyle.

For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Katrina Griggs on 0428 571 083 or Sharon Turton on 0447 604 796.

For a Due Diligence Checklist, go to: consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist



3 1 6

8.6 Acres

145 South Road, Loch

For Sale \$960,000

Agent Elders

Katrina Griggs 0428 571 083

Sharon Turton 0447 604 796



Elders

Real Estate

In any market rely on Elders

eldersrealestate.com.au

Korumburra

Affordable 2 Bedroom Units

- 2-bed, 1 bath units
- Kitchen, separate lounge
- Close to shops & cafes

Web ID: 300P22664 & 300P22665 **\$350,000 ea**

Korumburra

682m²

Fresh, Affordable & Ready to Move In

- 2-bed home with functional kitchen
- Open-plan living, kitchen and dining area
- Rear deck, ideal for relaxing/entertaining

Web ID: 300P187112 **\$470,000**

Mount Eccles

7.5 Acres

Marvellous Mt Eccles Lifestyle

- 4-bed including master with ensuite
- Well-appointed kitchen
- 4.2kw solar system feeds into the grid

Web ID: 300P101511 **\$680,000**

Poowong

138 Acres

Water Security & Location

- Highly productive grazing country
- Stock water supplied by troughs
- New heavy-duty cattle yards, hay shed

Web ID: 300P155979 **\$1,863,000**

Elders Korumburra

11 Commercial Street

Ph 5658 1894

BEN TOWNSEND

Licensed Estate Agent

0400 594 487

SHARON TURTON

Sales Consultant

0447 604 796

KATRINA GRIGGS

Sales Consultant

0428 571 083

HELEN ARESTIA

Sales Support

03 5662 3523

NATALIE RES

Property Manager

0439 383 091

Elders Leongatha

37 Bair Street

Ph 5662 3523

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 | 35

JAZ231083V9



Your country escape awaits

SET atop a gentle rise and surrounded by established trees and vibrant flowering gardens, this charming weatherboard home offers the perfect rural retreat on approximately 10.30 picturesque acres.

Freshly painted inside and out, the home exudes warmth and country character with modern comforts and thoughtful updates throughout. Positioned directly opposite the popular Great Southern Rail Trail and just a short drive to the townships of Koonwarra, Leongatha and Meeniyan, the home effortlessly combines the tranquillity of the countryside with easy access to local cafés, shops and community amenities.

Step inside to light-filled living spaces where large windows frame views of the surrounding landscape. The lounge is fitted with a reverse cycle air conditioner for year-round comfort, while the brand-new kitchen will impress with its electric oven, cooktop and dishwasher, seamlessly connecting to the dining area for easy family meals or relaxed entertaining.

Accommodation includes three comfortable bedrooms, plus a large family room that could easily serve as a spacious fourth bedroom or master suite, complete with built-in cabinetry and reverse cycle air conditioner. The home also features a sunroom and a practical mudroom with rear access, opening out to a deck, the perfect spot to sit back and enjoy the serenity. A modern bathroom with a walk-in shower and a separate toilet sits off the generous laundry, adding convenience to the home's functional layout.

Outside, the property continues to impress with a four-bay machinery shed, secure grazing paddocks ideal for hobby farming or livestock and a productive vegetable garden. Water is plentiful with one large dam and two smaller dams, and a disused dairy adds character and potential for future use.

Beautifully positioned and lovingly maintained, this property combines the peace and space of rural living with the comfort of a modern home, creating the ideal place to unwind and embrace your country lifestyle dream.



4 1 410.3 Acres

6 Minns Road, **Koonwarra**
Forthcoming Auction
unless sold prior
Agent Ray White Leongatha
Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

Multi-award-winning Grassy Spur Olives

RAY White Foster is thrilled to introduce to the market Grassy Spur Olives.

Grassy Spur Olives is situated in picturesque South Gippsland, two hours southeast of Melbourne, on the doorstep of some of Victoria's best beaches and Wilsons Promontory National Park.

The Grassy Spur Olive Grove was planted initially in Easter 2005 with about 800 trees. Further plantings occurred over the following years, and it has grown now to over 1500 trees.

The olive grove boasts four varieties of olives divided into separate groves, and 100 oak-inoculated truffle trees in a separate grove. An apiary of bee hives located in the centre of the property also aids pollination of the grove and produces another product to be sold – Grassy Spur Pure Honey.

All olives are processed onsite within hours of picking. This contributes to consistent high-quality EVOO (Extra Virgin Olive Oil) that has been recognised as gold quality nationally and internationally in the New York Olive Oil Competition.

Grassy Spur Olives has participated in the National Australian Olive Association Awards since 2011 and medalled consistently since.

The property, being 25 acres (approx.), accommodates a beautiful locally built Considine and Johnston three-bedroom, two-bathroom family home. The

home, with magnificent rural views, is open plan with a modern kitchen, master with ensuite, large light-filled rooms, polished timber floors, solid fuel heating, RC/AC and more.

Other key features of the property include, but are not limited to the following:

- Assorted shedding (plant, processing, machinery)
- 10kw Solar and battery system plus solar hot water
- Fully operational olive processing plant
- Tasting room set up for sampling and sales
- Drought-proof water supply via two large dams
- Underground fire bunker
- Established low-maintenance gardens
- Established tracks for easy access around the property

Grassy Spur Olives presents as a genuine opportunity to secure an award-winning venture with income potential, growth potential and lifestyle potential. Full training will be provided to the successful purchasers by the current owners (who are looking to downsize but stay in the area).

To check out Grassy Spur Olives and maybe make a purchase, please head to their website: grassyspurolives.com.au.

For more information pertaining to the property, operation and figures, please contact Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653 or David County 0417 397 650 at Ray White Foster.



3 2 425 Acres

32 Moyes Road, **Stony Creek**
Expressions of Interest
Agent Ray White Foster
Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653
David County 0417 397 650



Ray White Leongatha
03 5662 5800
15 Bair Street, Leongatha
raywhiteleongatha.com.au

Ray White Foster & Sandy Point
03 5639 9202
17 Main Street, Foster
raywhitefoster.com.au

Ray White



For Sale

5 James Court, **Leongatha**

QUIET COURT SETTING

- Sweeping views
- Spacious open plan
- Undercover alfresco
- Double garage/workshop

Michael Hanily 0417 311 756

\$635,000 3 b, 2 b 4 b



For Sale

9 Massimo Way, **Korumburra**

SPACE, STYLE & FAMILY LIVING

- Quality finishes
- Multiple living areas
- Stunning kitchen
- Covered alfresco

Michael Hanily 0417 311 756

\$925,000 4 b, 2 b 2 b



For Sale

165 Old Korumburra Rd, **Leongatha**

PEACEFUL COUNTRY LIVING

- 2.47 approx acres
- Rural views throughout
- 3 bay shed with power
- Ideal for hobby farming

Michael Hanily 0417 311 756

\$850,000 - \$895,000 3 b, 2 b 6 b



For Sale

44 Grand Ridge West Rd, **Mirboo Nth**

PICTURE PERFECT LIVING

- Beautifully landscaped gardens
- Spacious open plan
- Separate workshop
- Raised garden beds & fruit trees

David Trotman 0418 589 805

\$575,000 3 b, 2 b 2 b



For Sale

4 Bate Street, **Leongatha**

LOVINGLY RENOVATED

- Light filled open plan
- Updated 3 bedroom with 2 toilets
- Shed with concrete floor & power
- Veggie garden with sprinkler system

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$420,000 - \$460,000 3 b, 1 b 3 b



For Sale

2/2 Hanily Street, **Meeniyan**

TURN THE KEY TO EASY LIVING

- Low maintenance
- Modern kitchen
- Undercover patio
- Quality built

Michael Hanily 0417 311 756

\$525,000 2 b, 1 b 1 b



For Sale

3233 Strzelecki Hwy, **Mirboo Nth**

108.2 ACRES ON EDGE OF TOWN!

- Highly productive grazing/cropping land
- 2 large irrigation dams
- 8 paddocks with excellent fencing
- 100 head capacity stockyards

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$1,299,000 Land



For Sale

140 G Browns Road, **Meeniyan**

SPECTACULAR VIEWS

- 82.2 ac, excellent water supply
- Updated 4 bedroom family home
- Lock up machinery shed + hay shed
- Good stock yards, well fenced

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$1,675,000 4 b, 2 b 4 b



For Sale

4420 South Gippsland Hwy, **Foster**

HISTORICAL GEM WITH VIEWS

- Built in 1908 with original period features
- Views to Corner Inlet & Wilsons Prom
- Two living areas, updated kitchen
- 6,915m² block

Dave County 0417 397 650

\$895,000 3 b, 2 b 2 b



Coming Soon

Address on request, **Port Franklin**

HOBBY FARM ON EDGE OF TOWN

- Fully renovated home
- 5.8 acres, two paddocks with shelters
- New shed with man cave, office & bathrm
- Backs onto Franklin River, direct access

Wendy Gregson 0477 665 868

\$979,000 3 b, 2 b 4 b



For Sale

71 Nelson Street, **Foster**

FAMILY HOME PRICED TO SELL

- Newly renovated
- Close to sports & medical precinct
- 723m² flat block
- Large shed and entertaining area

Dave County 0417 397 650

\$550,000 3 b, 1 b 4 b



For Sale

135 Fullers Road, **Foster**

LIFESTYLE ACREAGE CLOSE TO TOWN

- Renovated home, open plan living
- 28 acres, horse & hobby ready
- Separate bungalow
- 12 x 8 shed

Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653

\$1,125,000 3 b, 2 b 3 b



For Sale

1/1 Victory Avenue, **Foster**

FIRST HOME BUYERS/INVESTORS!

- Short walk to the shops
- Open plan kitchen dining and living
- 2 generous bedrooms
- Currently tenanted returning \$330pw

Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653

\$330,000 2 b, 1 b 1 b



For Sale

3 Banksia Rise, **Foster**

BRAND NEW HOME

- 7 star energy rating, builders warranties
- Move in ready, first home buyer incentives
- Open plan living with stone benchtops
- Investor option with strong yield potential

Wendy Gregson 0477 665 868

\$649,000 Motivated Vendor 3 b, 2 b 2 b



For Sale

47 Townsend St, **Port Welshpool**

BIG SHED, BEAUTIFUL HOME

- 3 Bay shed with bathroom & mezzanine
- Open plan living home
- Main bedroom with ensuite
- Large deck - cafe blinds, BBQ & TV

Wendy Gregson 0477 665 868

\$799,000 4 b, 3 b 3 b



For Sale

64 Stanley Street, **Toora**

WOODFIRE PIZZA BUSINESS FOR SALE

- Thriving business in heart of town
- Full liquor license
- Large rear courtyard
- WIWO opportunity

David County 0417 397 650

\$535,000



7 2 5 196 Acres

55 Treases Outlet Rd, **Dumbalk Nth**
For Sale \$1,990,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Tony Giles 0407 528 192
Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
Dan Huther 0418 334 801

Grazing farm with two residences

SITUATED in beautiful rolling hills, the owners present this as the perfect grazing land with much of the hard work already done.

This picturesque and well-maintained 196-acre (approx.) parcel of highly productive pasture has the added benefit of two homes on the title.

Live in one residence and use the other for either a second family member, a farm employee or simply rent out.

In all, there are 18 paddocks, seven dams, and troughs/water to 17 of the 18 paddocks. A total of seven paddocks can be cut for hay.

The farm can carry 140 head of beef cattle and 40 sheep, with some normal reduction during late summer into autumn.

There is an abundance of shedding to house everything required for a successful farming operation; including a four bay shed, half lockable, of 18m x 9m dimension, a high clearance 12m x 9m shed, a 12m x 12m mancave featuring a sunken bar, a 8.5m x 9.8 metre implement shed as well as a number of other storage, garaging and an excellent mancave!

Water is provided from a large spring-fed dam, which is pumped to a header tank, gravity feeding the troughs to service the property's stock water needs. Water is pumped via an electric-start Yanmar diesel motor and pump.

The fencing is of excellent quality, all pastures have been

well maintained, and there is an abundance of infrastructure.

Included in the sale are the cattle and sheep yards, with cattle crush and loading race.

The main house features three bedrooms with an original country kitchen, and electric stove and oven.

This opens into a formal dining area featuring decorative cornices and ceiling roses and containing many original features and serviced by a wood heater. Adjacent is the spacious lounge room, which leads onto a deck area with a magnificent vista over the surrounding hills from large windows that capture light and views to the garden and beyond.

The second home has four bedrooms or three plus a study; and is constructed of a mix of aluminium weatherboard, Besser block base, Colourbond and weatherboard. An extension to the original home added a split level and a number of bedrooms and bathroom. This home has solar panels and an electric hot water system.

For an inspection, please contact Alex Scott and Staff, Leongatha; Tony Giles 0407 528 192, Andrew Newton 0402 940 320 or Dan Huther 0418 334 801.

Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in preparing the above information, it is to be used as a guide only. Please refer to the appropriate legal documentation to complete your due diligence.

Look at my size and space in central Cowes

SET on a massive 1784m² allotment, this property offers incredible space and endless possibilities.

The first time offered since being built for a long-time island family, this substantial home is perfectly situated close to the primary school, RSL, supermarket, and medical centres.

Inside, the home features three large bedrooms, with the master suite boasting a walk-in robe and ensuite. Enjoy the spaciousness of three separate living areas and an open-plan kitchen that's perfect for family life.

This home will suit those looking for space for vehicles, boats, and caravans. The property includes an extra-large double garage, a separate large workshop/bungalow connected to a double carport.

Outside, you'll find a beautifully landscaped and established garden with a tranquil fernery area and a brick-paved outdoor barbecue space for entertaining. With so much room for side access and parking, you can easily accommodate multiple vehicles, trailers, and all your recreational toys without sacrificing yard space.

Similar properties of this size have successfully created second titles after gaining planning approval from Council, providing you with many options in the future.

Don't miss this rare opportunity to secure a large property with a superb location. This home is a must-see for anyone seeking space and convenience. Call Alex Scott & Staff on 5952 2633 to arrange your private inspection.



3 2 4 1784m²

27 Walton Street, **Cowes**
Auction Sat. November 8 at 2pm
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
Cowes Office 5952 2633



HAY and SILAGE

Use your dairy effluent now on silage regrowth

By Rachael Campbell,
Agriculture Victoria Ballarat

NOW that paddocks are being cut for silage, dairy effluent can be applied to areas with some green leaf still present. This can be done after cutting to promote valuable pasture regrowth for extra grazing and to replace lost nutrients.

Dairy effluent contains many essential nutrients, including nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

An effluent test is the best way to determine the most appropriate application rate for your farm, as nutrient levels vary widely between farms.

The total potassium applied per application should be no more than 60 kilograms of potassium per hectare and no more than 120 kilograms of potassium per hectare per year.

Nitrogen application should be no more than 60-80 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare per application. Heavier applications increase the risk of problems such as nitrate poisoning, mineral imbalances and losses to the environment.

If a chemical analysis isn't available, a rule of thumb is to apply liquid effluent at a rate of one megalitre per four hectares to areas where there is no likelihood of runoff from the property. Target paddocks that are known to have lower nutrient levels.

Remember to restrict cattle grazing for at least 21 days after the application of effluent, as this withholding period will overcome



Apply dairy effluent carefully after cutting to support pasture regrowth while avoiding runoff and nutrient loss. Photo: West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

palatability or fouling issues, reduce the risk of pathogens and allow the plants time to respond to the nutrients.

Sludge will also need to be removed from your first pond every so often, depending on how the pond was designed.

This can be applied to paddocks about to be cultivated for a crop or sprayed thinly on pasture at similar times to the effluent. Application rate should be based on an effluent test; however, if this is not available, a guide for applying sludge to pasture is a rate of one megalitre per 12 hectares.

Vacuum tankers and other specialised equipment, often used by contractors, can be useful for this purpose. Withholding periods tend to be longer for sludge applications than liquid effluent, and these

paddocks shouldn't be grazed until the grass has grown through the sludge layer.

Over the longer term, continue to conduct regular soil testing where effluent is being applied to monitor nutrient levels and soil health.

For more information about using dairy effluent effectively, contact Rachael Campbell on rachael.campbell@agriculture.vic.gov.au

For information on available drought support, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

But be careful

WHILST effluent is a valuable source of nutrients, farmers are being reminded to ensure systems are working properly and critical processes are in place to prevent effluent from entering waterways.

A dairy farm in South Gippsland

has been fined \$10,176 after EPA Victoria found dairy effluent and silage leachate were escaping its property into Lamont Creek.

EPA officers inspected the premises on August 27 during a special operation focusing on effluent management on dairy farms. They found two effluent ponds near the milking pad, one solids pond that was nearly full and one with liquid overflowing only 30 metres uphill from the creek.

During the inspection, the officers took water samples from the creek. They found a large pile of green waste and silage wrap next to the creek, and two raised fuel tanks and several bulk containers stored on bare earth without the required bund around them to trap any spills.

They also found a silage pit

15 metres from the creek that was emitting a strong odour with dark leachate draining into the creek.

Along with the fine, EPA has issued the farm with two Improvement Notices that require it to install controls to prevent silage leachate from entering the creek and dairy effluent from overflowing from the ponds.

EPA Victoria has also fined a Lang Lang dairy farmer \$2035 after discovering effluent from the farm flowing into the Lang Lang River. EPA officers made the discovery early in September.

They found that a pump had been installed at the point where effluent was collected, and the surrounding area was covered with effluent and was very boggy. From there, a culvert was taking liquid under a track, across a paddock and into the Lang Lang River.

EPA issued an Improvement Notice requiring the farmer to engage an expert assessment of the dairy effluent system on the farm, and to install interim controls to prevent any additional spills. The expert's report is likely to guide any additional work on the property.

The fine referred to the deposit of more than 1000 litres of dairy effluent into the Lang Lang River, an offence under Section 115 of the Environment Protection Act.

Members of the public can report pollution by calling EPA's 24-hour hotline on 1300 372 842 or providing details online at epa.vic.gov.au/report-pollution/reporting-pollution.



Our Services:

- Standard Mowing, Mower Conditioning, Raking and Tedding.
- Round baling up to 5FT 6 with 4 round balers.
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- Silage wrapping with satellite wrapper.
- Little square baling with 2 square balers.
- Cartage of both round and square bales.
- Heavy duty ploughing and speed discing.
- Disc seeding with air seeder with our Vaderstad rapid A 400s with the option of seed counting and fertiliser application.
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ME0633-V2

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**REASONABLE
RATES**



JACK THORSON

Mobile 0418 356 016

HAY and SILAGE

Careful: It's harvest time on our local roads

YOU'VE got a car license, right? So, you can drive a tractor on the road.

Not so fast!

Yes, it's true if you have a Class C license, which is essentially a car license, then you're clear to drive tractors on any road in Australia – even ones towing implements. They don't even have to be 4.5 tonnes or under, which is the gross vehicle mass (GVM) restriction set out for Class C license holders.

However, depending on the state you're in, and even depending on the road you're proposing to use, some limitations apply.

In Victoria, you need a Class C license (not motorcycle or motorcycle learner permit) to drive a tractor. You can also drive a tractor on a car learner permit, and you don't have to display your L plates either.

Warning to road users

Before getting too deeply into this, however, it's important that drivers on country roads, at this time of the year, are aware that around the next corner you might find an oversize piece of farm machinery in front of you, or coming towards you.

It pays to have your speed polished off more than you'd usually need and also to practice some patience when you see local farmers going about their work. In terms of keeping food on the table, they're an essential service, and we support what they do.



At harvest time in South Gippsland and Bass Coast, between now and the end of January, drivers need to be aware of what might be around the next corner.

Take care, know the rules

Those who grew up on a farm will inarguably have driven some type of machinery around the farm, helping to carry out tasks, whether it be on tractors doing some spraying or on ATVs carrying hay out to feed the livestock.

The question is, is that all legal especially if you're underage? The answer is yes – if you're operating machinery within the boundaries of your own private property, then it is all systems go, no licenses required.

Just never forget to put on your helmet, fasten your seat belt and take all other necessary

safety precautions.

However, if you need to drive farm machinery on public roads, that's when regulations and restrictions apply.

There are, however, some restrictions on certain roads within your area and it pays to consult the maps on the Transport Vic website at transport.vic.gov.au to make yourself aware.

Essentially, if your agricultural vehicle, machinery, implement or combination is oversize but not overmass (Class O) you can drive on just about any road.

If your agricultural vehicle, machinery, implement or

combination is oversize and overmass (Class 1) then you'll need to be aware of the roads where restrictions apply.

Any agricultural vehicle, machinery, implement or combination with a GVM over 4.5 tonne is a 'heavy vehicle'. Therefore, it is categorised as 'Class 1' and covered by national heavy vehicle law and regulations.

Here, for example is how Class 1 conditions apply to some local roads:

- Pound Creek Road, Pound Creek. Access: Restricted. Comment: Restricted – Council-managed road not approved on

this gazetted network for this vehicle. A NHVR consent permit is required from LGA for any vehicle operating between 2.5 and 3.7 metres wide. Road Manager: Bass Coast Shire Council.

- West Creek Road, West Creek. Access: Restricted. Comment: Restricted – Council-managed road not approved on this gazetted network for this vehicle. A NHVR consent permit is required from LGA for any vehicle operating between 2.5 and 3.7 metres wide. Road Manager: Bass Coast Shire Council.

- Koonwarra Pound Creek Road, Leongatha South. Access: Approved with Conditions. Comment: Conditionally approved – Council road requires a certified pilot to accompany any vehicle combination between 5.1 and 6.5 metres and for vehicles of these widths to limit their speed to 40km/h on unsealed roads. Road Manager: South Gippsland Shire Council.

- Loch-Kernot Road, Loch. Access: Restricted. Comment: Restricted – Council-managed road not approved on this gazetted network for this vehicle. A NHVR consent permit is required from LGA for any vehicle operating between 2.5 and 3.7 metres wide. Road Manager: Bass Coast Shire Council.

- Korumburra South Road, Korumburra South. Access: Approved. Comment: Road Manager: South Gippsland Shire Council.

ROUND BALER CLEAR OUT

BOOK YOUR DEMO TODAY

0% P.A. FINANCE

FOR 60 MONTHS ACROSS THE KRONE ROUND BALER RANGE

* Offer is available for business borrowers only. This 0%p.a. finance rate offer is only available with a minimum 20% deposit, term of up to 60 months, minimum financed amount of \$4,000 and no residual or balloon payment. Terms, conditions, fees, charges and credit criteria apply. Different terms and different deposits may result in a different rate. Credit provided by Kubota Australia Pty Ltd ABN 72005300621. This finance offer is available until 31/10/2025 and applies to the new Krone Round Baler range.

A green Krone round baler is shown in operation, baling hay into large round bales. The baler is attached to a red tractor. The background shows a field with trees in the distance.

KRONE

Be quick – all stock must clear.

Premium German engineering, trusted by professional farmers, and available now with the most competitive finance offer on the market. There has never been a better time to secure your Krone Round Baler.

Talk to us today and gear up for a big season ahead.



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chapmanmachinery.com.au

Introducing EGALIS®

A new range of high-quality silage inoculants designed to drive quick and proper fermentation

Contact: Donal Blackwell 0408 377 304

A green agricultural machine, likely a harrow or similar, is shown in a field, moving through rows of crops.

pH

Drives a rapid drop in pH

Increases lactic acid counts

Preserves nutrients and reduces dry matter loss

Improves forage stability

Altech LIENERT

Is hay the best option for your crop this season?

EVERY year Victorian grain crops face seasonal risks in spring. With the market for hay quite strong and the grain market looking weaker than other years, farmers might choose to cut their crops for hay instead of harvesting them.

To help work out the most profitable option, Agriculture Victoria Seasonal Risk Agronomist Dale Boyd is encouraging growers to take advantage of some helpful online calculators.

“Growers are facing elevated seasonal risks this year due to below average growing season rainfall,” Mr Boyd said.

“Our calculators will help farmers check how well their crops are doing for grain and weigh up whether it’s better to use them for fodder to optimise outcomes in a challenging season.”

The Dry Matter Calculator helps farmers work out how much dry matter their crops may yield in tonnes per hectare so they can decide the best time to cut hay.

The Hay versus Grain Calculator compares the gross margin of both hay and grain in dollars per hectare, offering a picture of potential profitability.

The Crop Yield Calculator helps farmers quickly estimate cereal crop yield in the field using a ruler and smartphone. It’s a practical tool for assessing paddock performance, forecasting grain quality, and planning harvest logistics.

Together, these tools can help farmers to make confident, data-driven decisions in the field. To use these calculators visit:

- Dry matter calculator go.vic.gov.au/3L3eO0R.
- Hay versus grain calculator go.vic.gov.au/42y8THb.
- Crop yield calculator extensionaus.com.au/soilmoisturemonitoring/crop-yield-calculator.

Support page launched for farmers as spring falls short of expectations

A NEW resources page has been launched to help farmers make critical decisions with spring failing to deliver as expected.

Feed Central has developed the resource to support farmers making hard decisions around harvesting grain or cutting for hay.

Managing director, Tim Ford, said farmers were now at a critical point in their decision-making after the predicted wet spring failed to eventuate.

Mr Ford said the page had been developed in response to concerns raised by farmers about how to cope with the drier-than-anticipated season.

“We’ve had a lot of phone calls, especially from the southern states, because farmers aren’t having the spring they were expecting,” he said.

“It’s turning very dry, and a lot of crops are not going to finish, so its knife-edge decision time for farmers who are running out of moisture and looking for help with crops failing to finish.”

The resources page Tools and Resources for Hay Season Decision-Making, includes a Hay versus Grain Calculator, Tips for a



Feed Central’s hay v grain calculator is one of the resources available on their website to help farmers.

Profitable Hay Season magazine, a market update and other video resources.

Mr Ford said farmers were starting to worry about the best way forward.

“Farmers want to know their options if their crops are not going to get through,” he said.

“Hay is a good option, but you must manage the product. Stacking outside is a very short-term option, but if you use a good contractor, make it right and store it in a

good shed, you will realise a good profit.

“Selling it off the paddock just after the baler is not always the best way to sell because of soft prices and we’re seeing that now in this drying off time. Winter is the best market for selling hay, but it must be done right.”

The Hay versus Grain – Gross Margin Calculator helps farmers to independently weigh up options as the season unfolds and compare hay and grain side by side

to see which will deliver the stronger return.

Tips for a Profitable Hay Season magazine is an annual resource that brings together expert advice, industry insights and grower information to support a successful season ahead.

“Having the numbers can guide your decisions this season,” Mr Ford said.

“The goal of the resources page is to support farmers with information to make the decision that’s best for them.”

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42 | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

HAY and SILAGE

Manks Rural Contractors offers all-round service for farmers



Manks Rural Contractors is a true family operation, with Shane, Malcolm, and Matthew Manks offering everything from agronomic advice to hay and silage production.

ESTABLISHED large family business Manks Rural Contractors, based in Woodleigh, is ready to handle your hay and silage needs, but also offers a broader service for farmers, with its operator Shane Manks a qualified agronomist.

That is a point of difference to many hay and silage contractors.

“We provide agronomic advice to clients, whether that’s growing the crop or planting it, or selection of paddocks,” Shane said of the business that is active in the South and West Gippsland areas.

Spraying, fertilising, sowing and cultivation are among the services the business provides.

“This time of year, we’re talking about summer crops,” Shane said, explaining that with a drier-than-average spring, a lot of farmers are looking to go down that path, with Manks Rural Contractors able to help with all steps of that process.

As for fodder conservation, Manks handles the complete process from cutting through to wrapping silage and baling hay, the latter able to be turned into small or large square bales or round ones.

“We do all the transport if we sell silage or hay,” Shane said, keeping the process in-house and avoiding the need for external contractors, the business having its own semis.

Shane’s father, Malcolm, and

brother Matthew remain actively involved in the business that Malcolm established almost 30 years ago.

It still has loyal clients who have been there throughout the journey, the business having expanded greatly over the years, with that growth providing scope to take on extra work, assisting many more farmers.

“We now have up to 12 staff who help us get through the season,” Shane said, contrasting that to the days when it was just him and his dad.

The business started with one baler, now has six and 13 tractors.

Hay and silage yields are currently high, with quality good, and recent weather has been favourable for contractors.

With everyone nervous about whether things are going to dry out in late spring, a lot of farmers are fertilising and maximising production, with that philosophy extending beyond the initial cut.

“The majority of farmers are fertilising after they’ve got their first cut, with the anticipation of going for a second cut to maximise yields,” Shane said, explaining it may be possible to do up to four cuts of silage and one cut of small squares, giving five cuts for the season.

His background in agronomy enables him to help farmers maximise what they get out of their farms.

— South Gippsland’s hay helpers —

Site manager Bella oversees progress from her hay bale perch.

Frank loves helping his Grandpa feed out hay to the cows.

Lace and Delilah out and about helping with the silage.

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MARKET REPORT

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CLAAS Harvest Centre

Steady result for stores

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded 3200 cattle at this week’s VLE Leongatha store sale with a good crowd of local graziers and agencies and most of the regular buyer in attendance.

There were a few good pens of grown steers and mix sex weaners on offer with good competition for the better end of these with prices around firm on recent sales.

Overall there were more secondary, coloured and Xbred types in the yarding with competition steady with prices in line with quality.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025			
Steers			
L Peters 11 Hereford	589kg	\$4.65	\$2740
JD & JA Kay 15 Angus	577kg	\$5.00	\$2890
M & B Harding 12 Angus	533kg	\$4.85	\$2590
Nicola P/L 14 Hereford	524kg	\$4.73	\$2480
J Carney 16 Angus	520kg	\$4.98	\$2590
Kyle Custom Building 20 BB	513kg	\$5.00	\$2570
Lotus Farms 29 Angus	493kg	\$4.62	\$2280
DA & AR Andrew 20 Hereford	479kg	\$5.15	\$2470
M Phillips 13 Angus	484kg	\$4.85	\$2350
ML & JR Ahern 11 Angus	471kg	\$4.88	\$2300
Kyle Custom Building 20 Hfd	468kg	\$5.08	\$2380
S & M Dakin 18 Angus	462kg	\$4.89	\$2260
IC & RA Ripper 10 BB	454kg	\$4.80	\$2180
G Murray 15 Angus	451kg	\$4.92	\$2220
IC & RA Ripper 20 Angus	444kg	\$5.02	\$2230
R & G Matthews 20 Angus	440kg	\$5.18	\$2280
M & J Diston 11 Angus	418kg	\$4.78	\$2000
G & A Price 12 Hereford	417kg	\$4.82	\$2010
Loch Hills Cattle Farm 10 Ang	417kg	\$4.72	\$1970
LM & MH Matthews 13 Angus	406kg	\$4.64	\$1900
D Cameron 22 Angus	390kg	\$5.12	\$2000
Outlook Farm 16 Angus	385kg	\$4.67	\$1800
B Gardiner 11 Angus	383kg	\$5.15	\$1700
J Cavill 11 Angus	383kg	\$4.80	\$1840
Glenshiel Pastoral 15 Char	380kg	\$4.60	\$1750
Shaw Pastoral 10 Angus	378kg	\$4.12	\$1560
EJ & ML White 20 Angus	368kg	\$5.12	\$1970
D Hurley 14 Angus	367kg	\$5.53	\$2030
Meringo Pastoral 21 Angus	365kg	\$4.54	\$1660
Willox Earthmoving 14 Char	362kg	\$4.69	\$1700
TG & RA Faithfull 12 Angus	354kg	\$5.50	\$1950
D & S Hourigan 10 Angus	353kg	\$4.81	\$1700
Cleverline Ag 16 Hereford	322kg	\$3.44	\$1110
Eynon Farms 10 Angus	317kg	\$4.25	\$1350
JA & RC Foat 16 Angus	310kg	\$4.70	\$1460
G & D Smith 13 BB	304kg	\$5.03	\$1530
Gs & J Tuckett 28 Angus	304kg	\$5.78	\$1760
T Richards & D Rae 10 Angus	294kg	\$4.72	\$1390
DA & RD Scott 15 Hereford	294kg	\$4.25	\$1250
Nethercote Trading 19 Angus	290kg	\$5.03	\$1460
Oaklands 22 Angus	283kg	\$5.15	\$1460
G & D Smith 10 Angus	277kg	\$4.54	\$1260
RN & JE Hanergraaf 14 Spk	272kg	\$4.22	\$1150
A Orchard & E Garth 14 Angus	268kg	\$5.07	\$1360
Ezori Park 12 Spk	266kg	\$3.75	\$1000
Rural Operations Group 11 Hfd	265kg	\$4.56	\$1210
R & V Patullo 12 Angus	259kg	\$3.66	\$950
Burton Park 26 Char	252kg	\$4.08	\$1030
M Hughes 10 Red Angus	240kg	\$3.95	\$950
A Filsell & E Smith 10 Angus	237kg	\$4.00	\$950
Bergamin Pastoral Co 16 Ang	223kg	\$5.38	\$1200
A Hall 12 Angus	221kg	\$4.52	\$1000

Heifers:			
Pukenui P/L 10 Angus	466kg	\$4.33	\$2020
A Hall 10 Hereford	407kg	\$4.12	\$1680
M Phillips 12 Angus	397kg	\$4.38	\$1740
MJ & EE Smith 14 Angus	394kg	\$4.46	\$1760
Northside Pastoral 20 Angus	384kg	\$4.63	\$1780
Lavinia Park 11 Angus	380kg	\$4.07	\$1550
Creighton Grange Angus19 Ang	380kg	\$4.42	\$1680
B Lowther 10 Angus	373kg	\$4.02	\$1500
M & J Diston 10 Angus	366kg	\$3.96	\$1450
Agridge P/L 15 Angus	336kg	\$4.13	\$1390
J Cavill 16 Angus	358kg	\$4.46	\$1600
P Miller 24 Char	330kg	\$4.12	\$1360
J Langusley Nominees 13 Hfd	328kg	\$3.99	\$1310
Fat Cow Farm P/L 21 Shorn	316kg	\$4.49	\$1420
Bartrace Farms 14 Mixed	312kg	\$4.16	\$1300
Cleverline Ag 19 Hereford	304kg	\$2.89	\$880
GS & J Tuckett 22 Angus	296kg	\$4.39	\$1300
Alira Rise 10 Hereford	296kg	\$3.61	\$1070
Alira Rise 10 Red Angus	292kg	\$4.10	\$1200
G & D Smith 17 Angus	276kg	\$4.23	\$1170
R & V Patullo 12 Angus	272kg	\$4.11	\$1120
Burton Park 23 Char	255kg	\$4.23	\$1080

Lardner Park Calf Market Report			
Monday, October 13, 2025			
Jersey & Jersey x	\$15 to \$52		
Friesian Bulls	\$40 to \$106		
Beef Bulls	\$25 to \$210		
Beef Heifers	\$30 to \$105		
Friesian Heifers	\$40 to \$70		
Number of Calves: 210			
Number purchased to rear: 58			

Labor Government’s \$1m hunting huts raise questions locally

A NEW \$1 million state government initiative to build and upgrade remote huts for recreational deer hunters has drawn mixed reactions, with some local Landcare leaders saying the money could be better spent supporting coordinated control efforts.

The Allan Labor Government last week announced the project, which will see new huts with meat safes built in some of Victoria's most remote hunting areas. The huts will give recreational hunters a basecamp where they can store venison safely, extend their trips and harvest deer more sustainably. They will also be open to bushwalkers, four-wheel drivers, mountain bikers and adventurers.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos said the huts would “help manage deer populations to protect our environment and boost local economies,” describing the initiative as a way to build “safe, responsible and sustainable hunting experiences.”

The facilities will include timber meat safes with fly screening to promote airflow and prevent contamination, offering better hygiene and food safety than game bags. The locations are yet to be determined, with the government to consult hunting and community groups.

Ken Slee, a member of the Australian Deer Association, welcomed the plan.

“I think it’s a terrific initiative. It recognises the contribution that recreational hunters make to deer control and management in Victoria,” he said.

While the plan has been welcomed by some hunters, others doubt it will make much difference.

Chair of the South Gippsland



Wild deer are now a very common sight across South Gippsland’s forests and farmland. Photo: Australian Deer Association.

Landcare Network Jillian Staton said that while the idea might sound appealing, it would not necessarily reduce the state’s growing deer population.

“I think it’s an interesting approach, but I doubt it will make a difference to the problem we’re facing,” she said.

“To reduce deer numbers, we have to cull between 30 and 50 per cent of the population every year. With an estimated feral deer population of one million, that’s at least 300,000 deer per year. There’s no way recreational hunters are going to achieve that. I believe the \$1 million would be much better spent investing in personnel to coordinate deer control in communities that want to do something about the problem.”

Ms Staton, who is also president of the Tarwin Landcare Group and a beef producer at Cape Liptrap, said deer damage is increasing across South Gippsland.

“Tarwin Landcare Group and South Gippsland Landcare Network have been doing surveys with cameras, drones and vegetation monitoring, and the

results show rising numbers of deer and growing damage to vegetation,” she said.

“We all know someone who has hit a deer in a car. Hitting a red or sambar deer can be like hitting a cow. The damage to native vegetation is increasing, and its loss poses yet another threat to our wildlife.”

She said deer were also hurting farmers by damaging pastures and shelter belts and spreading diseases such as John’s disease.

In the Dandenongs, deer are now as big a threat to lyrebird populations as foxes,” she said.

“We have an active lyrebird population at Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, so it’s really important to manage the problem.”

In the Cape Liptrap area, Landcare members have seen success through a mix of recreational hunters, farmers and commercial harvesters. The Cape Liptrap Community Deer Program, established after COVID lockdowns, relies on trusted recreational shooters who report their efforts through the FeralScan app and share deer movement data

with landholders.

“We’ve built relationships with recreational hunters who we trust to come onto our properties to manage deer,” Ms Staton said.

“We’ve also engaged a commercial harvester who has the equipment and licences to shoot large numbers in one night.”

She said the key to success lies in coordination and trust between neighbours, Parks Victoria and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

“Being able to survey the park and coordinate our control efforts are important goals for us,” she said.

“We’re incredibly lucky to have Jenny O’Sullivan, a local farmer, who has taken on this coordination role with gusto. Not all communities have a driver like Jenny, however. Investing in paid coordinators who could help communities help themselves would have a greater impact on deer control than building a handful of huts.”

Ms Staton also questioned whether the proposed huts would even suit South Gippsland.

“Huts wouldn’t be appropriate here, in my opinion, because we don’t have large enough tracts of remote parkland,” she said.

Instead, she believes the state could do more to support the growing wild venison industry.

“We could eat our way out of the problem, but we need investment in local facilities that can process venison for human consumption,” she said. “The lack of those facilities is a real obstacle for commercial harvesters. They have to take carcasses all the way to Bairnsdale. It wastes time, petrol and money.”

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Livestock Sales			
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		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
WARRAGUL		PAKENHAM	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales					
KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472		
BERWICK		LANG LANG		KOO WEE RUP	
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Angus Hall	0466 326 487

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Shane and Neil are two of the dedicated local volunteers who keep the PICAL Pantry Garden thriving.

Come and grow at PICAL Garden Open Day

PHILLIP Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) invites everyone to celebrate community and connection at its Garden Open Day on Saturday, November 1, from 10am to 3pm. Set to take place at PICAL's Pantry Garden at Blue Gum Reserve (119 Settlement Road, Cowes), the event promises to be a fun-filled day for all ages while raising funds to support the PICAL Pantry Garden and highlighting its important role in the community.

- Visitors will enjoy:
- Guided Garden Tours (10am to 11am) – See firsthand what's growing in PICAL's Pantry Garden
 - Worm Farming Workshops (11am and 1pm) – All you need to know about having and managing a worm farm
 - Composting Workshops (11.30am and 1.30pm) – Learn about the benefits of composting and how to transform everyday kitchen waste to feed

your garden

- Seed Raising Demonstrations (12pm and 2pm) – A demonstration of seed raising and how to do this at home

Children will be invited to pot up a lettuce to take home and discover the joy of gardening. There will also be plant and preserve stalls offering fresh seedlings, herbs, vegetables and preserves made by PICAL's Preserve Group from the garden's produce. A sausage sizzle and cold drinks will also be available.

"We're so proud of our Pantry Garden and our wonderful volunteers who have made the garden what it is today. The open day is not just a chance to raise funds for the garden; it's an opportunity to showcase the amazing work of our dedicated garden volunteers and share the garden's benefits with the wider community. It's incredible to see what some community spirit and dedicated locals can achieve,"

says David Rooks, centre manager, PICAL.

The volunteer-led Pantry Garden plays an important role in supporting PICAL's emergency food relief program while also providing education and opportunities for community members to connect, learn and grow.

All produce grown at the Pantry Garden goes straight to PICAL's Community Kitchen, where it's transformed into nutritious meals and PICAL's Emergency Food Relief Pantry for locals who are doing it tough. Any excess produce goes to PICAL's preserve group, who transform the produce into something yummy. The preserves are then sold, with all funds raised going directly to PICAL's pantry.

Gold coin donation entry (children free). For more information, visit the Phillip Island Community & Learning Centre Facebook page or call PICAL on (03) 5952 1131.

More secondary cattle at Store Sale

QUALITY was down at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. Meat and Livestock Australia market reporter Brendan Fletcher noting the diminishing number of heavy Angus steers and "larger proportion of secondary cattle".

Highlighting the presence of some poor lots and many unweaned calves, he made it clear the lower quality on offer was decisive in sale results.

"Most grades fell within the range of 20c to 40c per kilo cheaper or \$100 to \$200 a head," he reported, observing that heavy cattle were least affected and that "discounting increased as weight decreased."

Sentinel-Times chatted to Fergus O'Connor of Berrys Creek, who came to check out the Store Sale action.



Berrys Creek farmer Fergus O'Connor came to check out the action at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A71_4225

He remarked that he sold some pure Angus steers in the mid-500-kilo bracket six to eight weeks ago, with prices on comparable animals having dropped considerably since then.

The decision to sell when he did came down to conditions, with Fergus saying that moisture in the subsoil is still much

lower than is usual for this time of year.

Elders Livestock agent Aaron McCole, based in Bairnsdale, said that with conditions remaining quite dry in East Gippsland, a number of farmers in the region were probably overstocked and selling off a few more cattle than they normally would in Spring.

Landcare's Seascape to Landscape project

PHILLIP Island Landcare Group's \$20,000 funding this year is allocated to the Seascape to Landscape links and new directions. This includes working with three landholders to restore and extend remnant vegetation by planting 3000 indigenous plants, stakes, and guards in the endangered Swamp Scrub (EVC 53). They will also install 560 kilometres of wallaby-proof fencing and collaborate with the Bunurong Land Council's Strong Country team for planting.

Since 1987, Phillip Island Landcare Group

has helped landholders restore indigenous vegetation and create landscape links across the island. Education, training and communications manager Lisa Wangman said Phillip Island Landcare will host a community session to update its Strategic Plan and guide future landscape restoration efforts.

"The Phillip Island Group needs volunteers to help plant trees over spring," said Lisa.

For more information on dates and how to join, visit phillipislandlandcare.org.au.

VLE - LEONGATHA

STORE SALE

3000 CATTLE 3000

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c 'Rowville', Moorooduc (ES&B)
150 Angus steers, 16-17 mths, Hazeldean and Roskin blood
A/c Blackwood Grazing, Trafalgar (NUTRIEN)
150 Angus steers, 14 mths, Predominantly Pathfinder blood, NE Accred, 1st dose Bovilis MH IBR 5/10
A/c 'Volpaia Park', Drouin South (ES&B)
90 Hereford steers, 14-15 mths, Mirraway blood
A/c Estate of BS Cantwell, Welshpool (PHC) (Property Sold)
50 Angus steers, 18 mths, Leawood & EagleRock blood
30 Charolais/Red Angus/Simmental steers, 18-20 mths, Rangan blood VB, GF, ABF
A/c P Bloomer, Poowong (SEJ)
60 Angus steers, 18 mths, GF & ABF
A/c Aeolus Nominees, Flinders (ES&B)
42 Angus steers, 15-18 mths, One Mark, Mortlake District bred
A/c G Clarke, Inverloch (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus steers, 18 mths
A/c Jackson Pastoral (NUTRIEN)
40 Angus steers, 15 mths, Merdeduke & Pathfinder blood, VB
A/c H & L Cathels, Athlone (ES&B)
34 Angus steers, 24-26 mths, One Mark, Pure Camoola blood
A/c Lorstan, Hedley (SEJ)
34 Angus steers, 14- 15 mths VB, GF, NA, NE Accred, Kunuma and Tambo Valley blood
A/c P Alicata, Thorpdale (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 20 mths
A/c Cheeky Chilli, Toora (SEJ)
30 Angus steers, 18 mths, Dunoon & Harris farms blood
A/c Holleywoods Pastoral Co, Giffard (NUTRIEN)
30 Angus steers, 16 mths, Mawarra blood
A/c I & S Vaughan, Flinders (ES&B)
22 Angus steers, 22-24 mths. One Mark
A/c Pearson Beef, Meeniyen (SEJ)
20 Angus and Hereford Angus x steers, 2 yo, by Dunoon sires
A/c R Jones, Foster (SEJ)
20 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, Yancowinna blood, VB, GF, ABF
A/c EST AA Birss, Stradbroke (NUTRIEN)
18 Angus steers, 20 mths, kunuma blood
J & J Mosley, Briagolong (NUTRIEN)
18 Angus steers, 13-15 mths
A/c B Frawley, Sale (NUTRIEN)
17 Angus & Angus Hereford X steers, 20 mths
A/c D Jelbart, Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
16 Angus steers, 16 mths
A/c T B Waterfall Lang Lang (ES&B)
15 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, VB, Table Top bloodlines
A/c Nolans Hill, Jindivick (SEJ)
12 NB steers, 15-16 mths, Sth East Dist bred, very quiet
A/c Avon Beef, Bushy Park (NUTRIEN)
12 Hereford steers, 18 mths, Newcomen blood, GF & ABF

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Lorstan, Hedley (SEJ)
26 Angus heifers, 14-15 mths, VB, GF, NA, NE Accred, Kunuma and Tambo Valley blood

SEJ

Nutrien

PHC

ESB

5662 4033 5662 2291 0429 050 349 5997 1555

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS

ANGUS WEANERS

A/c Elm Valley, Tarwin (NUTRIEN)
67 Angus steers, 9-10 mths, Kunuma blood, NE Accred
A/c G Wade, Willow Grove (SEJ)
40 Angus steers
10 Hereford steers
12 mths, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred
A/c Doonagatha, Sandy Point (SEJ)
40 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned, VB, GF, NA, NE Accred, Mordallup and Harris Farms blood
A/c C & G White, Foster (SEJ)
38 Angus heifers, 12 mths, weaned, VB, GF, NA, Banquet blood
A/c Merlewood Angus P/L, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)
13 Angus steers
21 Angus heifers
12-14 mths, Merlewood blood, NE Accred, GF, ABF and weaned
A/c D & L White, Fernbank (SEJ)
30 Angus steers, 12 mths, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred
A/c K & S Hammond, Bairnsdale (SEJ)
30 Angus & Angus Hereford mixed sex, 8 mths
A/c A & A Missen, Woodside (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steers, 12-14 mths
A/c RA Jones, Glen Forbes (NUTRIEN)
20 Angus steer calves, 10-11 mths, weaned
A/c P Russo Balnarring (ES&B)
20 Angus mixed sex weaners
A/c J & D Sebelt, Fish Creek (SEJ)
20 Angus/Hereford mixed sex, 8-10mths, Dunoon blood
A/c Bowka Pastoral, Nerrena (SEJ)
12 Angus heifers, Battersby blood, 12 mths, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred
A/c P, H & M Thompson, Fish Creek (NUTRIEN)
11 Angus X steers, 13-14 mths, AI bred
A/c D & E Jenkin, Boorool (NUTRIEN)
6 Angus steers, 12-13 mths
5 Angus heifers, 12-13 mths
A/c Holleywoods Pastoral Co, Giffard (NUTRIEN)
10 Angus mixed sex, 8-9 mths, Mawarra blood

COLOURED WEANERS

A/c D Land, Strath Creek (NUTRIEN)
60 Hereford heifers, 12 mths
A/c C & D Wight P/L, Leongatha (NUTRIEN)
11 Hereford heifers
5 Hereford steers
12 mths, NE Accred

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c D & R Lace, Maffra (NUTRIEN)
35 Angus X Limbo & Angus X steers, 15-16 mths
A/c R, M, P, S, C & V Kershaw, Glen Alvie (NUTRIEN)
25 Angus/Friesian X steers, 12 mths
A/c M&R Conn, Hedley (SEJ)
16 Hereford Friesian X steers, 12 mths, VB, GF, NA, bucket reared

COWS & CALVES

A/c ED & HC Moore, Jack River (PHC)
40 x 40 Angus / Friesian X cows, mixed ages, Angus C.A.F. 2-10 weeks, not re-depastured, will be drafted into lines

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025 | 45



Monitoring worms is essential this spring

By Alison Desmond, Project Leader BestWool/BestLamb

DROUGHT conditions over winter may have compromised the condition of sheep and reduced their resistance to internal parasites. Short pastures and prolonged grazing close to the ground can increase the risk of worm larvae uptake.

Although pasture growth in spring typically lowers susceptibility, it remains essential to stay vigilant – particularly at and after weaning when young animals are most vulnerable.

Worm infection costs the Australian sheep industry an estimated \$436 million per year in lost production. Sheep infected with worms exhibit signs such as weight loss, poor wool growth, scouring, and in severe cases, anaemia or death. The cost of worm infections can be substantial, with losses in growth, wool, and survival, along with treatment expenses.

Weaners are the most vulnerable group of animals, as they have the highest susceptibility to internal parasites. Their natural immunity, which protects them against worms, doesn't develop until about 12-18 months of age. Stressors associated with the weaning process can also compromise immunity.

Conducting regular Worm egg counts (WECs) provides the best chance of detecting a worm burden and targeting appropriate treatments. A WEC shows the number of worm eggs in a sample of faeces and indicates the size of an internal worm burden. Regular monitoring through worm tests is crucial. These tests help determine when sheep exceed the WEC threshold, indicating the need for treatment.

Active monitoring also guides decisions on when not to drench, preventing unnecessary chemical use, saving the cost of treatment and reducing the risk of drench resistance.

The WEC at which you should drench varies based on the worm species and class of stock. Consult your private vet or refer to the Wormboss Drench Decision Guide once you have received your WEC results to decide whether a drench is required.

WEC kits can be provided by your veterinarian or laboratory and will include collection, storage, postage or drop-off instructions. For a mob WEC, 20-30 samples of fresh (warm) faeces should be collected.

Some animal health labs can perform a larval culture to identify the type of worms present, so you can treat your flock with the most effective drench.



Kiah Stewart and Jenny Wilsher were among the friendly volunteers helping serve hearty breakfasts on Saturday at Arawata Community Hall, S.J. Curtis displaying a couple of full plates. A61_4225

Record crowd supports Arawata's annual Farmers Breakfast fundraiser

By Andrew Palocz

A RAINY morning failed to discourage people from attending Saturday's Arawata Farmers Breakfast, the event being the major fundraiser for maintaining the Arawata Community Hall.

With well over 90 people coming, more than \$4300 profit was raised for the cause, a Caulfield Cup Sweep and an auction adding to the tally and the fun.

Hearty \$15 breakfasts were enjoyed, along with the chance for farmers and others to catch up with those they may not have seen for some time, enjoying a chat or a bit of banter.

Bridget van Lerde was drawn to Arawata, having had family in the region and being impressed by the friendly nature of the community, moving there this year.

She plans to make the annual Farmers Breakfast a tradition after enjoying this year's gathering.

Local dairy farmers Chris and Don Peters like to attend the breakfast each year, pleased to contribute to the fundraising effort, take a brief break from the



Arawata Community Hall Association president Craig Jackson takes on the role of auctioneer, keeping breakfast attendees entertained and boosting the fundraising tally. A62_4225

farm and catch up with people.

Arawata Community Hall Association president Craig Jackson expressed his appreciation to all the volunteers who helped make the breakfast a success and the businesses and individuals who donated auction items, along with anyone who contributed produce for the stall.

He also acted as auctioneer, boosting the total raised by selling diverse items including admission to the Eat Drink Play festival in Leongatha, a Taylor Swift poster, a palm plant, chain

lube, chook pellets and tools and garden implements.

This scribe was happy to hear his Sentinel-Times article previewing the event brought along some extra attendees, including Inverloch beef farmers Louise Brooks and Bevan Brinkley, who embraced the spirit of the event and got involved in the auction.

Craig and the rest of those in the Arawata Community Hall Association look forward to welcoming people to next year's Farmers Breakfast and plan to set another record.

Value adding a key to growth in the dairy industry

By Andrew Palocz

THE importance of dairy farmers earning a fair milk price was a theme running through the discussion between 'Gippsland Jersey' co-founder Sallie Jones and food journalist Kara Monsen during an engaging Eat Drink Play session on Saturday.

In highlighting the importance of making the dairy industry profitable for farmers, Sallie stressed that Gippsland is losing about 50 dairy farms a year.

After growing up on the family dairy farm in Lakes Entrance, she shifted to Melbourne intending to break free from the industry, but found herself selling her dad's dairy products at farmers' markets and decided to return to Gippsland.

Value adding is the key for Gippsland Jersey, its creamy Jersey milk delicious to drink or when used in products such as cheese and butter.

The appeal of the products,

combined with not being bound by international dairy prices, enables the business to pay its suppliers fairly.

"My dad was such a pioneer in the dairy industry with the philosophy of controlling your own milk price," Sallie said, having spoken of the ice cream shop her family owned when she was growing up to value-add to the milk produced on the farm.

Pure Jersey cattle account for only 14 per cent of Australian dairy herds, Sallie said.

She contrasted 'real milk' with alternatives.

"Anyone drinking oat and almond milk, you're missing out," Sallie said, commenting on the highly processed nature of those products.

In a tough industry, Gippsland Jersey's success sees it on the verge of turning 10.



Sallie Jones talks about her business 'Gippsland Jersey'. A60_4225

Saputo ups milk price during challenging time for dairy farmers

WITH the 2024-25 Dairy Farm Monitor Project (DFMP) reporting a considerable drop in income for Victoria's dairy farmers, including in the Gippsland region, a price step-up announced on Thursday by Saputo Dairy Australia (SDA) appears timely.

It has advised its suppliers of a \$0.15 per kgMS increase for exclusive supply in its Southern milk collection regions.

This step-up brings SDA's weighted average milk price to \$9.15 – \$9.25 per kgMS in the Southern region, which includes Gippsland, South-West Victoria and South Australia, as well as in the Northern region and Tasmania.

The DFMP reported that net farm income fell from \$1.74 per kgMS of milk solids to just 47c per kgMS, with those figures based on top-performing dairy farms across Victoria.

"The average farmer is going backwards," United Dairy Farmers of Victoria president Bernie Free said.

The Saputo step-up follows Wednesday's report in The Weekly Times that highlighted growing pressure on major dairy processors to provide a Springtime step-up as drought erodes profit margins across much of southeastern Australia.

Kate Ryan, Director of Milk Supply and Planning, said while SDA continued to navigate variable conditions across global and domestic markets, this step-up reflects recent value realised by the business and its commitment to offer a competitive milk price for its loyal supplier base.

"We appreciate the strong partnerships we've built with our farmers and we remain committed to fostering a sustainable dairy industry," she said.

"In what continues to be a challenging year for farming communities, our team of Field Services, milk quality, agribusiness and feeds experts are also supporting and connecting suppliers with our partnership programs and services that best suit each farm's unique needs."

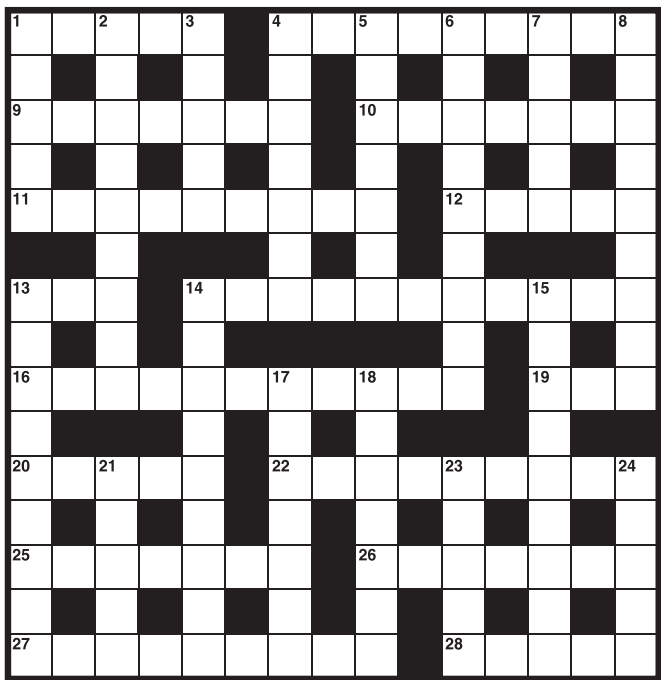
The announced step-up is retrospective and will be automatically applied to all qualifying milk supplied since July 1 by suppliers who entered into an exclusive Milk Supply Agreement for the 2025-26 season, as published on SDA's website.

The payment will be made to eligible suppliers with their October proceeds during November.

SDA stresses that milk prices achieved at individual farm level will vary based on specific milk supply circumstances and a variety of factors on farm.

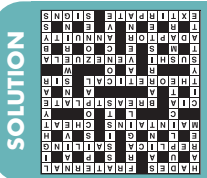
CROSSWORD

No. 303



- ACROSS**
- 1 Abode of the dead (5)
4 Brotherly (9)
9 Copy (7)
10 Voyaging on water (7)
11 Keeps (9)
12 Trick (5)
- 13 US intelligence agency (1,1,1)
14 Armour that covers the chest (11)
16 Hypothetical (11)
19 Mister (3)
20 Japanese delicacy (5)

- 22 South American nation (9)
25 Power plug (7)
26 Regular payment (7)
27 Eradicate (9)
28 Autographs (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Seraglio (5)
2 Reproduce (9)
3 Holy person (5)
4 Brittle (7)
5 Helps (7)
6 Governed by bishops (9)
7 Gullible (5)
8 Measure of interstellar distance (5-4)
13 Monaco, Singapore or Vatican City, for example (4-5)
14 Lawyer (9)
15 Replying (9)
17 Greek restaurant (7)
18 Hollow and curved (7)
21 Intelligent (5)
23 Regions (5)
24 Bottomless gulf (5)

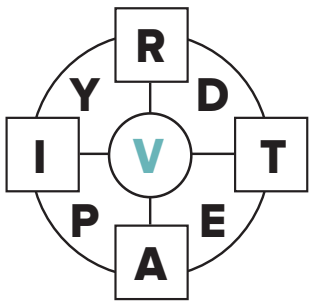


9-LETTER

No. 303

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

- Today's Aim:**
- 16 words: **Good**
24 words: **Very good**
33 words: **Excellent**

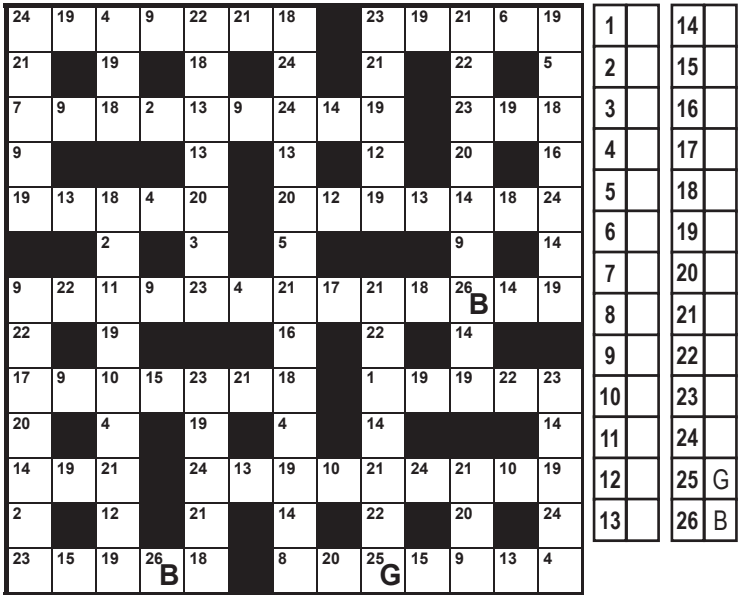


vied, viper, vita, vitae
verily, very, vide,
varied, variety, vary,
rived, river, vapid,
rave, raved, rive,
private, privet, privy,
drive, pave, paved,
dive, diver, divert,
DEPRIVITY, diva,
avid, dative, davit,
advert, aver, avert,

CODEWORD

No. 293

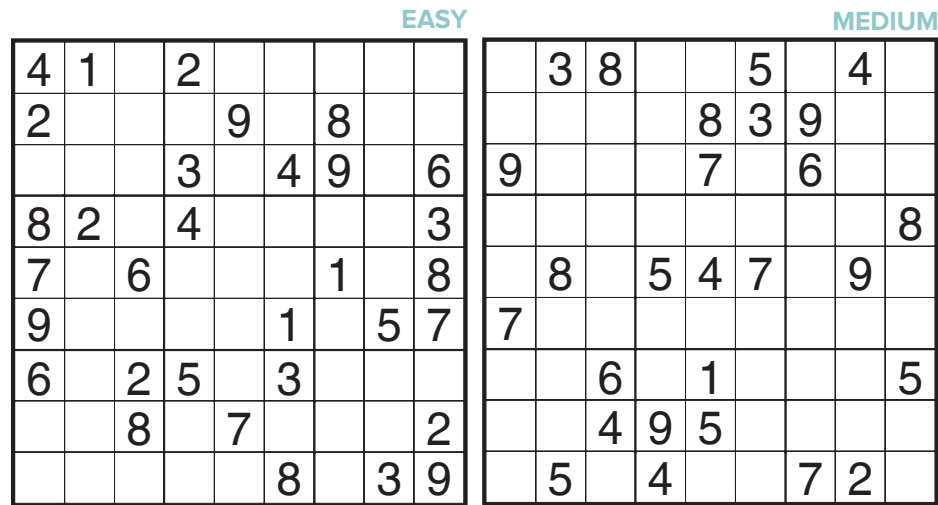
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

No. 302

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



1710 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © **pagemasters.**

QUICK QUIZ

- The tree genus *Salix* is more commonly known by what name?
- Which TV series centres around the angel-devil duo Aziraphale and Crowley?
- As of 2025, who is the highest-grossing female actor of all time?
- Which fruit is the main ingredient in a som tam Thai salad?
- From which country did the Christmas tree tradition originate?
- True or false: pogonophobia refers to a fear of needles?
- Which character is also the narrator in Donna Tartt's novel *The Secret History*?
- Glenn Close (pictured) appeared in a live-action Disney adaptation as which villain?
- In which sport would you use a foil?
- The ancient Egyptian goddess Bastet is commonly depicted with the head of what animal?



ANSWERS: 1. Willow 2. *Good Omens* 3. Scarlett Johansson 4. Green papaya 5. Germany 6. False (fear of beards) 7. Richard Papen 8. Cruella de Vil 9. Fencing 10. Cat

WORD SEARCH

No. 213

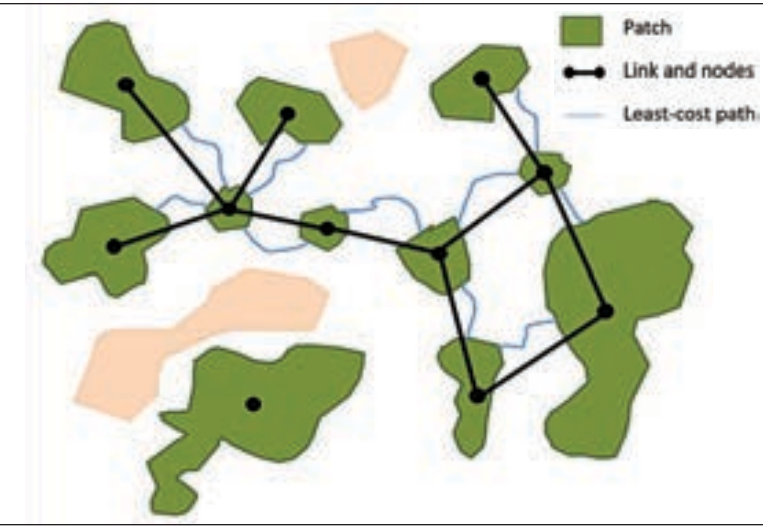
Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|
| AERO | DOMAIN | NANO |
| APP | DRONE | OPTICS |
| BIONICS | EMAIL | PHONE |
| BIT | ENCRYPTION | POWER |
| CACHE | ENERGY | SCIENCE |
| CHIP | ETHERNET | SKILL |
| CODE | FAST | SONAR |
| COOKIE | GAMES | SPACE |
| CRAFT | HTML | SPAM |
| CRYPTO | INNOVATION | SYSTEM |
| CYBERPUNK | LASER | TABLET |
| CYBORG | MATH | VIRUS |
| DEVELOP | MICRO | ZIP |
| DEVICE | MOUSE | |

SECRET MESSAGE: Do androids dream of electric sheep?

Mirboo North Recovery Fund donates to South Gippsland Biolinks Map



The Mirboo North Recovery Fund’s contribution is helping support landscape connectivity mapping through the South Gippsland Biolinks project. Image Credit: Lecher 2017

THE storm which hit Mirboo North in February 2024 resulted in the loss of a significant amount of valuable habitat in the area. With environmental recovery in mind, the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation has put its support behind the development of a Biolinks Map for South Gippsland through the donation of \$10,000 from the Mirboo North Recovery Fund to the South Gippsland Landcare Fund.

The South Gippsland Biolinks Map, a key action of the South Gippsland Biodiversity Protection Plan, aims to identify and connect key areas of native vegetation and ecological hotspots across South Gippsland.

“Wildlife corridors are really important as they connect fragment-

ed habitats, enabling our native animals to move, find resources and breed, which increases genetic diversity and population resilience,” explains Jillian Staton, Chair of the South Gippsland Landcare Network.

The donation came from the Mirboo North Recovery Fund, established by the Community Foundation in response to the devastation caused by the storm. The Mirboo North Recovery Fund was generously supported through donations from individuals, community groups and businesses across the Gippsland region, as well as through the commercialisation by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) of the windfallen wood that had been removed from the roadsides as part of the

emergency clean up. Receiving donations of \$95,000 in total, this has supported recovery projects ranging from school-based trauma recovery programs for children to resilience equipment for local halls and lots of events to allow individuals to connect and share their experiences.

“The SG Biolinks Map will help identify where regeneration efforts are best directed to get the best outcomes for both wildlife and the community,” explains Ruth Rogan, executive officer of the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation.

“We hope to be part of future funding partnerships with local Landcare groups and landowners to support regeneration and revegetation based on the completed map.”

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All enquiries: Brad Hutchinson, Principal 5667 2200

SITUATIONS VACANT

ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

DEADLINES

Classified single column

Mondays 12.00 noon

Classified double column

Fridays 3.00pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

TO ADVERTISE



Phone:
5672 1888



Email:
ads@sgst.com.au



In person:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi



Mail:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

Office Hours:
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

Payments accepted:



Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

Sentinel-Times



Maintenance Attendant

Rose Lodge is a not-for-profit Aged Care facility located in Wonthaggi that is committed to providing high quality care and support to our residents. We believe that our dedication and compassionate staff are the key to our success.

We are always looking for talented and passionate individuals who are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of others and share our values which are: **Community, Respect, Wellbeing, Accountability and Partnership.**

Rose Lodge is currently seeking a Maintenance Attendant.

About you:

- General Maintenance skills
- Hands-on problem solver who works well independently
- Organised, adaptable & a great communicator
- Committed to safety and quality work

If you are interested or would like a copy of the Position Description.

Please email your resume and application letter to:
education@roselodge.com.au

HM13036



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12

Newhaven College is seeking applications for:

YEAR 9 ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE TEACHER

Semester One 2026

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING LEADER

Prep to Year 8 - 2026 School Year

AFL SPORTSREADY TRAINEE

2026 School Year

For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website.

Applications to be submitted to:
recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au
Applications close Monday 27 October 2025 at 4pm

VICTORIAN LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE



- VLE -

Livestock Drovers

Victorian Livestock Exchange is a leader in the livestock saleyard industry.

We have casual positions available for drovers to work at our Leongatha saleyard.

Shifts are broadly as follows:

Tuesday - Prime Market from 8:15am

Wednesday - Store Market Pre-weigh from 7:45pm (A higher pay rate applies to Wednesday night shifts)

Thursday - Store Market from 9am

Drovers will be responsible for the movement of cattle throughout the saleyard facilities from weighing through to delivery. Cattle handling experience is essential to the role.

Queries about the position can be directed to the Livestock Manager, Tex on 0484 351 847.

Applications, including a cover letter, resume and at least two professional referees should be forwarded to admin@vle.com.au

AF0048



South Gippsland Hospital

Positions Vacant

Administration Officer - Front of House

HS1A- HA1 (depending on experience)
0.42 EFT permanent part time position

Registered Nurse - Acute RN Grade 2

0.63 EFT fixed term parental leave position

Occupational Therapist Grade 2

0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

Dietitian Grade 2

0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

Health Care Worker - Casual Grade 2-3

For more information:
<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

Volunteer Expression of Interest

Community Information Volunteer
Volunteer Catering Administration Assistant
Ward Assist Volunteer

For more information call

Annie on 5683 9704
www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers

AF0086



Est. 1886

Join our Team!

Property Manager | Grantville Part Time (3 Days)

We are seeking an experienced Property Manager to work as part of the team overseeing the portfolio. End to End tasks working as part of the team.

Receptionist | Grantville Part Time (3 Days)

This part-time position is perfect for someone who enjoys a variety of administrative and customer service tasks in a supportive and professional team environment.

First point of contact for clients and visitors and provide valuable administrative support to our Sales and Property Management teams.

Property Manager | Koo Wee Rup Full Time

This tidy portfolio is looking for a full-time end to end Property Manager. To join our experienced & supportive team at our Koo Wee Rup office.

This role gives you both autonomy to work however part of a bigger team for support.

Full Position Descriptions available on request or more details on Seek Ad's

All applications and enquiries in strictest confidence.

Contact: Louise McKay - HR Manager
louise@alexscott.com.au
or 0447 881 839

AF0053



LEONGATHA
Secondary College

Kickstart your career at Leongatha Secondary College

2026 Sport & Recreation Traineeship

For further information contact Georgie Kibble 5667 2200 or gkibble@leonsec.vic.edu.au
Applications close 15th November 2025.

Employment Opportunity



School Crossing Supervisor (Foster)

- Ongoing Part Time
- Monday to Friday, 8.15am to 9.00am and 3.15pm to 4.00pm
- Split shift for this position will be considered
- \$12,897 per annum (pro-rata) + 12% superannuation (annualised salary agreement)

Enquiries to Sarah Male on 03 5662 9200.
Applications close when a suitable candidate is identified
For more information and to apply, please visit www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/employment

Major Projects Advisor



With our 2040 Vision and Strategy guiding us toward our vision - to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations - we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to join us.

South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:

- Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
- Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
- Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
- Family friendly workplace, including Paid Parental Leave
- Attractive Salary Packaging options available (eligibility conditions apply)
- Flexibility to work from home, with base location at any of our offices in Wonthaggi, Foster or Leongatha

Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

- Fixed Term (2 Years) Full Time
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band 6 \$82,702.66 - \$89,148.20 + Leave Loading + Superannuation

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

Applications Close: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 5pm

1300 851 636 | www.sgwater.com.au

Join us at the Nature Parks

The Nature Parks is an inspiring workplace and, as the largest employer on Phillip Island offers a range of career opportunities. Our people are enthusiastic, committed, and professional in what they do.

Facilities Officer

Part time and Casual roles available

As a member of the Facilities team, you will contribute to providing exceptional cleaning and venue presentation services throughout the Nature Parks precincts on Phillip Island. Your efforts will help ensure that our facilities and grounds are maintained to the highest standards.

Farm Lead

Full time

As the Farm Lead, you will take an active role in supporting the day-to-day operations of Churchill Island Heritage Farm, including farm management and maintenance tasks, ensuring that animal care, farming practices and site presentation reflect the values of a working heritage farm. You will also guide the Visitor Experience team in delivering engaging demonstrations and memorable farm experiences for visitors.

Visitor Experience Farm & Grounds

Casual

Work in a truly special place where history, tourism and conservation come together. At Churchill Island Farm you will be part of a team that brings the islands rich history to life through hands- on experiences, farm activities and authentic storytelling, whilst surrounded by stunning coastal views and a welcoming, close-knit team.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.penguins.org.au/about/work-with-us/employment/our-people-our-work/>.



penguins.org.au



Kirri Harvey and Mardi Lloyd of Phillip Island are honouring Kirri's late husband, Andrew and raising awareness of pancreatic cancer.

A drive of hope across the Nullarbor

CURRENTLY on the Nullarbor in a 1967 convertible beach buggy – painted with purpose by Pankind, Kirri Harvey and Mardi Lloyd of Phillip Island are already turning heads and sharing their story, in honour of Kirri's late husband of 23 years, Andrew Harvey, who lost his battle to pancreatic cancer.

Andrew was diagnosed on his 60th birthday, and he passed away on July 15, 2024.

"He had no symptoms; we were on the road in outback Queensland, when Andrew woke up with a yellow tinge to his skin; it was shortly after that Andrew was diagnosed with stage four cancer," said Kirri.

"He went through two rounds of chemotherapy, the first lasting six months and the second lasting three months, before I lost him.

"Most pancreatic cancer patients pass away within three to 12 months after diagnosis, and it's for this reason that Mardi and I are trying to raise awareness."

With no early screening tests and symptoms that often appear too late, pancreatic cancer remains a devastating diagnosis. Kirri and Mardi are determined to change that, one mile at a time. Their souped-up buggy, adorned with pancreatic cancer awareness graphics – thanks to Ricky at Neto Graphics, is a rolling billboard of hope and remembrance.

"We've already met so many people, those who have heard our story and shared their own," said Mardi.

This journey began with a chance encounter at a roundabout in Cowes, after a blue beach buggy caught Kirri's eye.

"When I was 16 and working in a hardware store, a woman in the office who was 10 years older would come to work in a

yellow beach buggy, and I always thought it was cool," said Kirri.

"I hadn't actively sought one out until now, when I went home and found this 1967 convertible in Western Australia (WA)."

Deciding to transform grief into a mission of awareness, Kirri and Mardi thought, "Let's do it". They landed in WA on Tuesday, October 14, and are making their way back to the coast, one conversation at a time.

Kirri shared that Andrew was her world.

"We did everything together, we worked together, and spent all our time together, we'd moved from the Hunter Valley to Phillip Island and kept to ourselves," she said.

"When I lost him, my world fell apart."

Travelling through her grief, Kirri decided not to be alone and joined the Rhyll Pickleball group. It was there that she met Mardi.

"We only met eight months ago, and on this trip, we're having the best time."

Support and friendship are helping Kirri through this journey.

Their upcoming "Put Your Foot Down" walk on November 22 at the Phillip Island RSL promises to continue their mission, and together they're inviting the community to wear purple and stand against this aggressive disease.

"Our focus is on raising awareness and pushing for early detection research.

"Pancreatic cancer has only a five per cent survival rate past five years."

Help Kirri and Mardi raise awareness and donate to Pankind to help improve outcomes for pancreatic cancer patients. Visit, fundraise.pankind.org.au/fundraiser/meltully/kirri-and-mardi-y--s-great-purple-drive.

Is your employment opportunity listed online?

Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a **FREE** listing in our online and searchable directory at www.sgst.com.au

Email your job adverts to: ads@sgst.com.au

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

Sentinel-Times



NOTICE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

In accordance with Division 4 Section 63(1) of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC)
Bass Coast Children's Centre Inc is conducting it's AGM on:

Monday, November 17, 2025 at 7pm.
244 White Road, WONTHAGGI, VIC, 3995.

A light supper will be provided and all are welcome. For further information please contact the service directly.
Ph: (03) 5672 5151
bass.coast.cc@kindergarten.vic.gov.au

Red and Yellow Day to celebrate volunteer lifesavers

A NEW national day to recognise the contribution of volunteer lifesavers will be held in March next year.

Red and Yellow Day will be a nationwide celebration of the lifesaving movement, and an opportunity to show our appreciation to our volunteers for giving their time, effort and energy to protect our community.

The public will be encouraged to show their support by wearing the iconic red and yellow colours of our volunteer lifesavers, making a donation to their local club or joining as a member, and pledging to keep themselves and their loved ones safe in the water.

The day will also promote the Red and Yellow Day Appeal, which is an opportunity for lifesaving clubs to raise much-needed funds to support their operations, build community engagement and take part in nationwide water safety campaigns.

LSV General Manager – Member Engagement and Sport Simon Rickard thanked and commended



Red and Yellow Day will recognise the contribution of volunteer lifesavers. The Red and Yellow Day Appeal will run from March 3 to May 6. Photo: LSV.

our volunteer lifesavers, who are gearing up for the start of the Summer Patrol Season on November 15.

"Our volunteer lifesavers show incredible dedication, skill and selflessness, giving their time freely to serve the

public," Mr Rickard said.

"Red and Yellow Day is a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate our volunteer lifesavers for their efforts to keep our community safe in the water as well as raise much-needed funds to

support essential equipment, training, and facilities for clubs."

The inaugural Red and Yellow Day will run on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. The Red and Yellow Day Appeal will run from March 3 to May 6.



Walking Basketball helps keep exercise fun and social.

Walking Basketball hits Leongatha

WALKING Basketball is about to tip off at the Leongatha Splash Centre, offering fun exercise and socialisation and allowing those a little less mobile or recovering from injury the chance to participate in sport, the action beginning on Tuesday, October 28.

Anyone is welcome to come and play at 10.30am each Tuesday from that date, with Basketball Victoria sponsoring the court hire cost for the first three months and players paying a small fee after that.

Local musician Corie Blackley still plays some Masters basketball but has been keenly involved in Walking Basketball since taking it up when recovering from injury.

He now plays the slower-paced game in several locations and was keen to bring it to South Gippsland Shire.

Basketball Victoria is providing bibs and basketballs for the program.

Players are covered by insurance during the sessions.

It's a great, low-impact exercise, improving cardiovascular health, with Corie suggesting players will likely cover approximately four to five kilometres in a game, and the focus is on enjoyment, not competition.

Enhanced mobility and balance, improved cognitive function, and the formation of teamwork and friendships are other benefits.

"For me, it's easier to exercise if I'm playing a game rather than going to the gym or for a walk," Corie said.

All-inclusive swim sports at Bass Coast Aquatic Centre

THE emphasis was on fun and inclusion at the second annual combined Bass Coast and South Gippsland Specialist School swimming sports at the Bass Coast Aquatic Centre.

"Our motto is Have a Go," said Bass Coast Specialist School swim co-ordinator Rachel Cullen.

Thirty students aged from 11 to 18 took part in the swimming sports, which filled all the lanes at the Wonthaggi pool. Events included swimming strokes resembling freestyle, and a combination of backstroke and survival backstroke.

"We also had relays with two swimmers, using the stroke of their choice," said Ms Cullen.

Family and friends watched from the sidelines as students

cheered on enthusiastically.

The swimming sports ended with a teachers versus students event and pool games.

Ms Cullen said specialist school swimming sports are all inclusive.

First-time swimmers are encouraged to have a go as well as more experienced swimmers.

"The satisfaction of competing is as important as winning ribbons."

"It fosters companionship," said South Gippsland Specialist School swimming co-ordinator Linda Slabill.

"With families and carers in attendance to support the swimmers."

Rachel Cullen said the specialist school swimming sports are getting bigger each year.



Jordan, Zachary, Ethan, Oliver, Jaydee and Riley from the Bass Coast Specialist School at the annual specialist school swim sports in Wonthaggi. B06_4225

As temperatures rise, time drops for SGB swimmers

THE weather was hot, but the times were hotter for GSI 4 at Traralgon on the weekend. Two hundred and forty-five swimmers from across Gippsland competed at the event with distances ranging from 50 to 400 metres. Swimmers from East Gippsland, Sale, Traralgon, Morwell, Moe, Warragul and South Gippsland Bass all competed at the event.

With several State Championships coming up in the next few months, the more experienced swimmers were swimming targeted events that they wanted to get qualifying times for, with great excitement as they were ticked off, or when swimmers edged closer.

For many of the younger swimmers, who are still getting the hang of racing in the 50 metre pool, it was a good opportunity to see if they could improve their times



SGB swimmers Jarrah, Billy, Archie, Bec and Miah prepare for the 100m free.

from competing here a fortnight ago.

It was also great practice for the youngsters before next weekend's Country District Junior Championship at MSAC. There are nearly 83 swimmers from Gippsland competing against other districts, trying to retain the title they

have held since 1993. The extra practice in the 50 metre events boosted their confidence and will help tame the nerves.

SGB Coach Lorri was thrilled with their efforts.

"I'm going to be down in Melbourne with the District kids, and they are looking really good. I love seeing

them get to race on the big stage like their teammates. They put in really good swims today, and I look forward to seeing them at MSAC next week."

For many swimmers, they were thrilled to improve on their times from last season and see how much they had progressed.



Fish Creek Football Netball Club Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, November 21

Fish Creek Hotel - Oberon Room

6pm for a meal, AGM starts 7pm

To be followed by a committee meeting

Business to be conducted:

End of year Reports

Election of Committee Members

Please email for nomination forms
fcfnsecretary@gmail.com

All Welcome

RIVERSIDE TENNIS ASSOC

RESULTS: Section 1 Doubles: Neerim District 5 – 44 defeated Drouin Gold 4 – 36; Drouin Maroon 6 – 49 defeated Warragul 3 – 44; Moe – bye. Ladder: Moe 23.5; Neerim District 23; Drouin Maroon 18.5; Drouin Gold 11.5; Warragul 6.

Section 1/2 Singles: Drouin Maroon 0 – 24 defeated by Trafalgar Red 6 – 49; Trafalgar White 6 – 48 defeated Drouin Gold 0 – 0 (forfeit); Moe Blue 0 – 14 defeated by Moe White 6 – 48; Warragul – bye.

Ladder: Moe White 20; Trafalgar White 20; Trafalgar Red 15; Warragul 10; Drouin Maroon 6; Drouin Gold 6; Moe Blue 5.

Section 2 Doubles: Poowong 2 – 20 defeated by Drouin 7 – 43; Trafalgar 4 – 37 defeated by Hallora 5 – 44; Warragul 7 – 54 defeated Neerim District 2 – 34. Ladder: Warragul 25; Neerim District 20; Hallora 20; Drouin 15; Trafalgar 11; Poowong 8.

AM&DTA TENNIS

WHAT a great day for tennis this week, and the tennis was just as good!

At Koonwarra, Ekala Moore was playing for the Korumburra Section 1 team and was hitting the ball beautifully. Well done, Ekala! The Westernport teams were both at their home courts, with Red having a win and White suffering a loss to Leongatha.

In Section 2, it was all happening out at Outtrim with plenty of cricket, the shooting range firing and even some motocross action as well. Leongatha were winners over Outtrim with their father-and-son and mother-and-daughter dynamic duos. Joel and Ethan Langstaff had a good day, winning all their sets. Baromi and Korumburra had the closest match of the round, with Baromi winning by just nine games.

There are many new and familiar faces playing tennis within the Association. An association that has been around since 1981 and is still going. Thank you to everyone who has been part of it and made it such a terrific competition.

Section 1 Results: Westernport Red 7.46 defeated Outtrim 1.25 Leongatha 7.44 defeated Westernport White 1.21 Koonwarra 6.43 defeated Korumburra 2.25

Ladder: Westernport Red 24, Leongatha 23, Westernport White 17, Koonwarra 15, Outtrim 8 and Korumburra 3.

Section 2 Results: Leongatha 7.47 defeated Outtrim 1.28 Baromi 5.40 defeated Korumburra 3.31 Ladder: Leongatha 21, Baromi 15, Outtrim 12 and Korumburra 12.

WONTHAGGI TABLE TENNIS

ANDRO defeated Butterfly three to two.

Andro still has a pulse after a pulsating seven-set doubles encounter that eventually overcame a very plucky Butterfly. Butterfly's jolly titan David and the improving Mick backfooted the finals aspiring Andro with power balls bordering on violence to nigh on intern Andro's season.

But the Beastie Boys, Luke and Yeti fought for their right to party and fended off the assault.

Stiga defeated Double Fish three to two.

Double Fish has got wobbly like a Cape Paterson rock pool jellyfish and has been de-tentacled, losing top spot with their third loss from the last four games.

Again, Doubles was key. Stiga's Tim and Michael showed blue-bottled sting, coming back from three to one down to win in seven and hence the match.

Nittaku defeated Radak three to two.

Nittaku took care of Radak with efficient blade and sufficient power like a Wonthaggi wind turbine.

Nittaku has risen to top spot vacated by Double Fish with Braden and Jake carrying ominous momentum on the eve of the finals.

Donic had the bye. Ladder: Nittaku 32; Stiga 32; Double Fish 32; Donic 20; Andro 16; Radak 12; Butterfly 8.

Leading players: David 18; Tim and Braden 16; Brad 14.

LEONGATHA TABLE TENNIS

LEONGATHA Table Tennis is starting to heat up.

The club is seeing some great games in both sections.

Katrina beat Sam in the decider in five sets.

Ben beat Phil in the decider and Sven remains undefeated.

It's great to see the young guys doing some nice stuff with table tennis.

It's also great to see Ben back after getting married – congratulations, mate.

SPORTS



Phillip Island Boardriders Club claimed victory at the Australian Boardriders Battle Victorian Qualifier at home and are holding a round two fundraiser at the Bang Bang Bar on Saturday, October 25 from 6 pm.

Bang Bang Cup back with a bang!

THE Bang Bang Bar & Food Cup is back for round two – and it's shaping up to be another classic Phillip Island Board riders showdown! After last year's epic debut, the season opener will once again bring together mateship, banter, and bragging rights in a fun tag-team format that's all about keeping the stoke alive.

The action kicks off with the sign-up night at Bang Bang Bar and Food on Saturday, October 25, with DJ Lachie Eastwood on the decks from 6pm and team announcements at 8pm. Ten per cent of all takings from the night will go directly towards the club's World Cup and ABB campaigns, so get down early,

grab a feed and a drink, and get your name on a team.

Teams will follow the ABB-style format, with groms stepping up as team captains and co-captains, and each team nominating a power surfer. To keep things fun and family-friendly, there'll be one parent assist per team. Each team will proudly carry the name of one of the club's financial sponsors, celebrating the local businesses that keep the surf scene thriving.

A huge thanks to Bang Bang Bar and Food for backing the event again, and to Quiksilver, who've jumped on board as prize sponsors this year. Expect a massive raffle on the Saturday night, with

a brand-new surfboard as the major prize, plus Quiksilver gear and Island Surfboards vouchers up for grabs.

Pat O'Garey from Bang Bang Bar and Food said the team was pumped to be involved again.

"Last year's event had such an unreal vibe – good people, good tunes, and great surfing. We're stoked to get behind it again and help kick off the new season with a bang, and how good the crew have qualified for the World Cup and Aust boardriders battle next year, looking forward to seeing the crew smash it on the big screen here next year at our unofficial PIBC clubroom, Bang Bar and Restaurant."

Local fishing clubs encouraged to reel in funding grants

LOCAL fishing clubs and associations will again be given the opportunity to apply for funding grants to help improve club facilities and attract new members.

Minister for Outdoor Recreation Steve Dimopoulos encouraged fishing clubs to apply for their share of up to \$600,000 in funding from the 2025/26 round of the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program, which opened on October 8.

"Fishing gets people outdoors and helps build stronger connections in the community. We want to encourage more Victorians to fish more often," said Mr Dimopoulos.

"We encourage fishing clubs to consider applying for a grant, to help attract new members and share the many memorable experiences fishing can offer within their communities."

The funding can be used in a variety of ways from clubroom and facility improvements to providing fishing tuition for multicultural

groups, women and First Nations people, as well as open days, training, events and running guest speaker nights.

In the most recent round, 32 clubs and associations netted grants of up to \$10,000, made possible through the \$96 million Go Fishing and Boating Victoria plan.

Previous recipients have included the Port Albert Fishing Club to upgrade its kitchen facilities and the Wonthaggi Angling Club to renovate and modernise the clubrooms.

Applications for the 2025/26 round of grants close on Sunday, November 30.

To learn more and to apply for a grant go to visit vfa.vic.gov.au/strongerfishingclubs.

RIGHT: The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath, is encouraging local angling clubs to apply for funding through the Stronger Fishing Clubs Grant Program.



TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS
Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY October 21
▲ 12.41am 1.40m
▼ 6.22am 0.71m
▲ 12.41pm 1.36m
▼ 6.45pm 0.48m

WEDNESDAY October 22
▲ 1.35am 1.50m
▼ 7.16am 0.69m
▲ 1.23pm 1.38m
▼ 7.24pm 0.40m

THURSDAY October 23
▲ 2.18am 1.59m
▼ 7.57am 0.67m
▲ 1.59pm 1.41m
▼ 8.00pm 0.34m

FRIDAY October 24
▲ 2.56am 1.65m
▼ 8.31am 0.66m
▲ 2.31pm 1.43m
▼ 8.33pm 0.30m

SATURDAY October 25
▲ 3.27am 1.68m
▼ 9.04am 0.64m
▲ 3.03pm 1.44m
▼ 9.07pm 0.29m

SUNDAY October 26
▲ 3.57am 1.69m
▼ 9.36am 0.64m
▲ 3.36pm 1.45m
▼ 9.41pm 0.29m

MONDAY October 27
▲ 4.28am 1.67m
▼ 10.10am 0.64m
▲ 4.10pm 1.44m
▼ 10.14pm 0.31m

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au

Wonthaggi Little Athletics jump into new season with \$1400 grant

WONTHAGGI Little Athletics is jumping into the new season with a \$1400 grant from Coles to support aspiring athletes and community volunteers.

Wonthaggi was one of 72 grassroots Little Athletics Centres across Australia announced this week as a successful recipient of the 2025 Coles Little Athletics Community Fund, which will share in \$250,000 to purchase much-needed sports, safety and volunteer equipment.

Wonthaggi Little Athletics will use their grant to buy new measuring tapes, modified shot puts, discs and javelins, which centre president Mark Rowe said will help volunteers to deliver a fun, safe and quality program for young athletes.

“Some of our equipment has fallen into disrepair over the past few seasons, and this grant will enable us to upgrade much-needed equipment without putting further strain on our club’s finances or volunteers’ time.

“Being able to provide our athletes with new equipment is essential to keeping them motivated and developing their skills so that they reach their full potential,” he said.

The grant comes as Little Athletics Australia revealed a 16 per cent jump in participation over the past 12 months, with the biggest increase recorded in the Little Athletics Tiny Tots program for three to five-year-olds, which rose by



Wonthaggi Little Athletics is a successful recipient of the 2025 Coles Little Athletics Community Fund, helping purchase much-needed sports equipment.

33 per cent.

In the past five seasons, Little Athletics has grown by more than 40 per cent to over 96,000 Aussie kids and a further 74,000 community volunteers, coaches and officials, making it one of the most participated junior sports programs in Australia.

A significant contributor to this surge in participation was Australia’s success at the Paris Olympics, which represented the third-highest post-Olympics growth in the past 40 years (behind London 2012 and Sydney 2000).

Little Athletics Australia

CEO Myles Foreman said Little Athletics is well-positioned to maintain its growth with recent successes on and off the track and field.

“Grassroots Little Athletics Centres are the heartbeat of our sport. The sustained upward trend in participation over the past five years is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our 74,000 volunteers across the country, as well as the ongoing efforts of our State and Territory Member Associations, who deliver quality programs to thousands of young athletes,” he said.

“Our partnership exten-

sion with Coles for a further three years will also help Little Athletics to continue this momentum with resources and opportunities for children of all ages, including our youngest athletes through the Coles Little Athletics Tiny Tots program.”

In addition to providing equipment grants to grassroots centres, Coles also raised funds for Little Athletics through its annual Banana A-Peel, a national fundraiser whereby five cents from every kilo of Cavendish bananas sold at Coles until October 21 was donated to Little Athletics.

SPORTS BRIEFS

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

MONDAY nights are limping along, but surviving.

The club hopes the warmer weather will encourage a few more players out of their houses in the evening.

Ann Marie Tytler and Fred Meiseloach carried the day with 65 per cent, and Pamela Nisbet and Neville Chapman had 62.5 per cent.

Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston are dominating Tuesday’s play in Wonthaggi, with 63.70, Marie Sands and Ken McKenzie 56.67, Penny Lanser and Bruce Higgs also 56.67, Bronwyn Sund and Michael Dooley 51.85, Ann Rinder and Neville Chapman 50.37, and Faye Rowlands and Doug McIntosh 48.89 per cent.

It was great to see 11 tables accommodated on Friday.

N/S was led by Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs with 60.74 per cent, Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 59.60, Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson 58.69, Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh 58.0, and Deb Anglim and John French 55.03 per cent.

In E/W, Moya Crowley and Michael Doolley scored 62.80 per cent, Faye Rowlands and John Currier 60.75, Bron Sund and Julie Perriam 60.29, Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd 51.37, and Marie Sands and Maureen Stiles 50.23 per cent.

Anyone wanting to learn the game and/or join the club would be welcome to ring the president Mary Brewis on 0427 338 598 or the secretary Kathy Dowd on 0438 859 561.

PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE

THIS week’s Monday afternoon session saw outstanding play from Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour, who secured first place with a remarkable 62.5 per cent over four and a half tables.

Wednesday afternoon’s nationwide event echoed Monday’s success, with Greg and Jean once again leading the field over five and a half tables.

Their reliable teamwork has made them names to watch in club circles.

A new series of beginner lessons start on Thursday, October 28, at 10am.

If you are keen to learn or brush up on the basics, please contact Caroline on 0418 369 557.

THRILLING CONTESTS AT SPRING DARTS COMP

THE arrows were flying, and the tension was palpable as the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League wrapped up a thrilling round six of its Spring Competition on Monday night.

Twenty-three dedicated players stepped up to the oche across three boards for what turned out to be a nail-bitingly tightly contested evening of precision throwing.

In a finish that kept spectators guessing right up to the very last dart, the winning team secured victory on a dramatic five-to-two countback.

Huge congratulations go to the formidable four of captain Marilyn Smith, John Batista, Dave Healey, and Peter Murphy for their outstanding performance and teamwork.

The evening’s luck was also spread around, with the coveted San Remo Butchers meat tray going home with the league’s very own awesome treasurer, Meredith.

On the individual front, the leaderboard remains heated.

Bob Hee is still clinging to the top spot with 41 points, but the competition is closing in fast, with Paul Gleeson holding a close second on 39 points, and David Healey sitting comfortably in third with 36 points.

Finally, special applause must go out for two fantastic high scores – Diane Holmes crushed a phenomenal 160, and Vince Palladino wasn’t far behind with a magnificent 156.

Both were fantastic scores that lit up the boards.

The Spring Competition is tentatively planned to run until the end of November, provided player numbers remain high.

If you or a friend are thinking about stepping up, everyone is welcome for what promises to be more fun and fierce competition next week.



Open Women: First Carly Shanahan (Jan Juc), 13.50, second Ava Holland (Dromana), 10.10, third Sara Hickson (Rye), 7.10, and fourth Lillian Bassed (Sandy Point), 6.30. Photo: Jacques Kelly/Surfing Victoria.



Open Men: First Lucas Hickson (Rye), 15.23, second Kai Nudd (Jan Juc), 13.00, third Tim Birnie (Jan Juc), 11.00 and fourth Derek Bassed (Sandy Point), 8.66. Photo: Jacques Kelly/Surfing Victoria.

Lillian Bassed and Derek Bassed take fourth at state championships

VICTORIAN State Championships decided at the WorkSafe Victorian Classic at Bells Beach/Djararak.

This first year of a new format saw one of the biggest fields for the event in recent memory with over 50 competitors taking to the famous break to earn the title of State Champion, gain a spot in the Rip Curl Pro Trials and claim the winner’s cheque.

2025 Rip Curl Pro Trials winner Carly Shanahan (Jan Juc) was unstoppable throughout the event, winning her opening round heat to skip the repechage rounds before locking in the equal highest heat total of the weekend (16.00 points out of a possible 20.00) to make the final.

In the final, Shanahan never

looked like losing, scoring a heat-topping score on her first wave (7.33) before backing it up with a 6.17 to seal the win.

“I am frothing to take the win! Time to start putting in the work for the trials,” said Shanahan.

“There was some amazing surfing going down. We’re so lucky to be able to live in this beautiful place with these waves, and to surf them uncrowded is even better. The format to have a minimum of two surfs at Bells is all-time. All the girls surf incredibly, and I was inspired to put in my all. Thanks to Micky for caddying all day.”

Coming in second place was Ava Holland (Dromana) with a heat total of 10.10 points. Sara Hickson (Rye, 7.10)

and Lillian Bassed (Sandy Point, 6.30) came in third and fourth, respectively.

The Open division saw Lucas Hickson (Rye) continue his run of form over the last 12 months, going back-to-back with Victorian State Titles.

“I’m absolutely stoked! Winning the state title means a lot – to be crowned champ and earn a spot in the trials again is massive,” said Hickson.

Hickson finished in the final on a heat total of 15.23 points, ahead of Kai Nudd (Jan Juc), who finished on 13.00 points.

“Bells is such an iconic wave, and getting the chance to surf it with just a few others out is pretty special. The new format this year was a cool change too. Having the second

chance draw took some pressure off early, and running it over two days gave everyone a real shot to show what they’ve got.”

Veterans Tim Birnie (Jan Juc, 11.00) and Derek Bassed (Sandy Point, 8.66) finished in third and fourth place, respectively.

Finals Results:

Open Women: 1st – Carly Shanahan (Jan Juc), 13.50, 2nd – Ava Holland (Dromana), 10.10, 3rd – Sara Hickson (Rye), 7.10, 4th – Lillian Bassed (Sandy Point), 6.30
Open Men: 1st – Lucas Hickson (Rye), 15.23, 2nd – Kai Nudd (Jan Juc), 13.00, 3rd – Tim Birnie (Jan Juc), 11.00, 4th – Derek Bassed (Sandy Point), 8.66

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

WHAT a day of bowling.

A good turnout of members came to the Cape and enjoyed a great day of bowling on Monday.

The winners were Glenda Binch, Gordon Peters and Pat Novak.

They won with +14 – well done team.

Another week gone and the club has had some pretty good bowling.

The winners on Friday were Peter Grenville, Rhonda Rattenbury and Ken Webb with a score of +8.

FISH CREEK

MIDWEEK Pennant got off to a good start last Tuesday with Fish Creek Division 2 defeating Meeniyen 66/16 to 51/0.

The newly formed Division 4 also played at home and had a draw with Corinella 40/5 each.

Saturday Pennant saw a great day at Fish Creek with all teams at home against Wonthaggi.

In Division 2, each rink had victories with final scores being 62/16 to 45/0.

Good all-round bowling by everyone.

Next Saturday, Fish Creek will journey to San Remo in a top-of-the-table clash.

Division 4, with a couple of regulars away, was beaten by Wonthaggi 45/0 to 67/16.

Next week, Fish Creek will travel to Phillip Island.

The Division 6 side had an impressive win 44/8 to 31/2.

Rob MacLaughlin's rink recorded a big win.

Fish Creek will take on Korumburra next week.

The 100 up competition is getting down to the pointy end with Bill and Paddy playing off for a spot in the final, whilst the winner of Mal and Kelvin is to play Ray in the other semi-final.

KORUMBURRA

ANOTHER bowling season has started with midweek Division 1 travelling to Leongatha, but the results were not good.

Les “Grumpy” Davis was the only successful rink, getting up 24 shots to 16.

Bennie Peachey went down 22 shots to 20 while Jo Lomagno lost 24 shots to 10.

Division 2 travelled to Cowes and had a bad day.

Cheryl Moore won 25 shots to 22, Peter Hearn went down 35 shots to 18 and Phil Ashton went down 21 shots to 17 – not a good result.

Saturday pennant also started this week with Division 1 travelling to Tarwin Lower and all rinks had a win.

Shane O'Loughlin got up 29 shots to 11, Rob Cosson won 23 shots to 11 and Charlie Edgerton won 22 shots to 18.

Division 2 hosted Lang Lang.

Unfortunately, all rinks were defeated.

Jim Garnham lost 15 shots to 21, Grumpy went down 26 shots to 20 and Garry Dorling lost 16 shots to 20.

There's always next week.

Division 4 hosted Inverloch.

Rob Sund got up 19 shots to 18, Peter Hearn won 22 shots to 21, but unfortunately Ross Lomagno went down 16 shots to 22 – an overall two shot loss.

FOSTER

LAST Wednesday saw the new season of Jack Attack start up at the club – and what a night it was.

The weather was perfect, and the players rolled in.



The social bowls winners at the Leongatha Bowls Club were Maureen and Bill on Wednesday

There was some great bowling and the results were close.

Two teams were on two wins and +12, but with one extra end won, the winners for the night were the BMF's, Dion, Jen and Stu.

They won the Chamber of Commerce vouchers, kindly sponsored by Roosters Plumbing and Engineering.

A very big thank you to them, as they have given a big sponsorship for the whole nine-week season.

The runners-up were the OFB's, Justin, Alan and Benny (as fill-in).

They won the chocky prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

There was enjoyment all round with an assortment of raffle prizes.

Many thanks to Prom Meats, Cellarbrations, IGA and a generous participant, Roxy and family.

The support from everyone is amazing.

It's great to have you all involved.

It was another fun night this week before the main competition begins.

The club is ready and keen for another awesome night this Wednesday.

The main club Pennant competition started last Tuesday and Saturday.

Tuesday saw Division 1 play at home to Corinella.

Foster finished well with a nice win under its belt.

Division 3 found it tough going against San Remo, which proved way too strong.

In Saturday Pennant, both divisions were at home.

Division 3 was against Port Welshpool and Division 5 was against Phillip Island.

The bowlers played under perfect conditions.

Division 3 battled on to get a victory – a close-fought game right till the end.

All rinks in Division 5 played strong, coming home with a comfortable win.

It was a great start to the Saturday season.

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LEONGATHA

LEONGATHA Bowls Club has an important date for members, or anyone interested, in a CPR and defibrillator training session.

Mark Wednesday, November 5, in your diary.

It will take only one and a half hours in the club rooms starting at 4.30pm, soon after social bowls finishes.

Vanessa from Sterling First Aid will give up her time at no cost to anyone, so come on down. Everyone needs a refresher course.

On a rainy and a bit nippy Tuesday, some of the newest bowlers had a taste of their first pennant game with mixed results, much like the weather.

Tuesday pennant: Leongatha Division 1 won two rinks, lost one but came away with the

overall win 62 to 54 – not a bad start.

Division 4 won one rink and lost the other.

Unfortunately, it lost overall 48 to 41 – early days, keep it going.

Social day yet again bathed in blue skies with little wind was a mixture of pairs and triples teams.

Winners in the pairs was Maureen and Bill, and runners-up were the triples team of Chris, Ollie and Moxey.

Saturday Pennant:

Leongatha Division 1 on a rainy morning, but a nice afternoon saw Leongatha go down to the young guns 70 to 54.

Division 2 also lost 66 to 48.

Division 5 went down 61 to 51.

All early days.

To finish off, a quick note from the match committee – the Annual Pairs Day on January 11 has been fully booked out.

Thank you to all far and wide for supporting this day.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

FIFTY-FIVE bowlers attended the weekly gathering of the South West Gippsland Bowls Group at San Remo on Thursday, October 16.

Hosts John Nicholson and Rob Jeffrey signed everyone in for the day while Vern and Bev Elliott organised the teams.

Treasurer Peter McWilliams along with his wife Pauline was warmly welcomed back after a long illness-related absence.

Once the teams were set, everyone quickly moved out onto the green to be greeted by the first very warm day of the season.

The air was filled with laughter and friendly chatter, a testament to the fun and great bowling happening across all the rinks.

A few ‘wrong bias’ bowls frustrated some and amused others, but, more importantly, added to the donations for the Royal Children's Hospital tin.

After a competitive day of bowls, the club celebrated its winners. The winners on a very good score of 38 were Bill Sheriff (skip), Peter Thorley (lead), John Kappler (second) and Steve Muhi (third).

Runners-up on a score of 37 were Louis Magri (skip), Claire Sheers (third), Maggie Prosser (lead) and Mick Sheers (second).

Best one game winners on a score of 20 were John Nicholson (skip), Luke Monckton (third), Steve Banks (lead) and Derek Fenn (second).

A big thank you goes out to Mark Andreatta and Mick Sheers for their hard work behind the bar, and to everyone who pitched in to set up the green and kitchen.

At the end of the day, thanks to those who helped clean up.

Next Thursday, October 23, the group meets at Koo Wee Rup for another week of friendly competition.

Everyone is welcome, but please be on-site by 10am sharp



Foster Bowls Club's Jack Attack winners were BMF – Dion, Jen and Stu.

to allow enough time to organise the teams.

Since numbers are consistently near the capacity of 56, the club must strictly enforce the 10am cut-off time.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another busy week at the club.

Monday was a huge day for some members – Bryan, Coby, Wayne, Roger and others – as the floor of the cool room was replaced.

Well done to everyone on a great job.

Tuesday saw the start of the Midweek Pennant season.

Division 1 travelled to Tarwin looking to start the season off with a win.

All rinks were close all day, with Wonthaggi able to get a break on one rink to seal the victory.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 58, Tarwin 55.

Division 2 played host to San Remo at Wonthaggi on a fine day with a slight breeze.

All rinks had a battle all day, but at the end of the day San Remo were able to get the points.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 53, San Remo 69.

Division 3 travelled to Tarwin also looking for a win to start the season off well.

Wonthaggi had a good, balanced team with some experienced bowlers in the side to record a solid win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 73, Tarwin 39.

Thursday morning social bowls saw good numbers on a fine sunny morning.

Once again, everybody enjoyed the morning.

Thursday afternoon social bowls at 1pm saw 26 bowlers play two games of 10 ends, with teams of fours and triples.

The winners were a team of four – Peter Miller, Adrian Gray, Wally Leijen and Lyn Tagell – with a score of two wins and 34 points.

The other team to win two games were Stan Jackson, John Hill and Mike Raman, with a score of two wins and 31 points.

Friday night once again was a success, with the members' draw going off.

The club also celebrated Rod Hogan's 80th birthday.

Dennis Jackson won the members' draw, collecting \$170.

Tom was the meat tray winner and Karen won the chicken tray.

Michael and Allan each won a brekky pack.

Other winners were Fred, Iris, Allan and Howard.

Saturday saw the start of the Weekend Pennant on a fine sunny day.

Division 1 played host to Corinella at Wonthaggi.

All rinks played well to record a solid win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 78, Corinella 44.

Division 2 travelled to Fish

Creek looking for a win to start the season off.

All rinks fought hard all day, but Fish Creek were just too good on the day.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 45, Fish Creek 62.

Division 4 (Wonthaggi 3) played host to Tarwin at Wonthaggi, also looking for a win.

After a tight battle all day, Tarwin was able to get the points to record a narrow victory.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 3: 48, Tarwin 53.

Division 4 (Wonthaggi 4) travelled to Fish Creek looking for a win.

All rinks played well to record a solid win to start the season off on the front foot.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 4: 67, Fish Creek 45.

Division 6 – yes, that's right – travelled to Fish Creek looking for a win to start the season.

It was a match of two halves, with one rink having a win and the other a loss.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 31, Fish Creek 44.

Bowls this week: Tuesday – Midweek Pennant; Thursday – social bowls at 9.30am and 1pm; Friday – coaching at 10am; Saturday – Weekend Pennant.

Don't forget Friday night, with the members' draw being \$50 plus meat trays and other prizes to win.

The club has started the sheets for the Melbourne Cup sweeps, so don't miss out on getting a horse. See Rob, Joy or Allan to get your horse.

The Christmas lunch has been booked at the Wonthaggi Club on December 7, so put the date on your calendar to make it a good day.

WONTHAGGI CARPET BOWLS

WONTHAGGI Uniting Carpet Bowls Club played host to the Mardan Carpet Bowls Club last Wednesday night.

This year represents 67 years the two clubs have been playing against each other.

The two clubs meet twice a year.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

TUESDAY'S winners were Max Sweetnam, Paul Holmes and Ian Bice with +18 (two games).

Coming a close second with +17 (two games) were John Rook, Teresa Ireland, Fred Demenech and Theo Scholey.

On Friday, the club saw the winners win with a massive score of +35 (two games).

They were Jeannie Slocombe, John Postlethwaite and Philip Fowler.

Runners up were Glenda Binch, Fred Demenech, Pam Russell and Theo Scholey with a score of +16 (one game).

Well done to all.

There will be no normal Tuesday afternoon bowling as the club will be playing its Triples competition starting at 10am.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, October 14. Stableford: 24 players. Winner: A Grade Peter Johnson 34 points. Winner: B Grade Peter Hislop 36 points. NTPs: first David Sorrell and 10th John Kerr. Thursday, October 16: Stableford: 14 players. Winner: Mick Belvedere 37 points. NTPs: first Bryce Riddell, 10th Mick Belvedere and 13th Rob Gallagher. Saturday, October 18: Sponsors: Rod and Judi Spokes. Stableford: 46 players. A Grade winner: Matt Burns 41 points. B Grade winner: Mick Belvedere 36 points. NTPs: first Murray Webb, seventh Mat Wrigley, 10th Steve Duffield and 13th Greg Wilson.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, October 14: Stableford. Tuesday's Stableford round had 58 members/guests entering the comp on a pleasant day on course. Overall winner: Geoffrey McDonald (20) with the high score of the day with 38 points. A Grade winner: Ashley Hutton (17) with 37 points on a countback. R/up: Rod McKenzie (11) with 37 points. B Grade winner: Geoffrey McDonald (20) with 38 points. R/up: Michael Delaney (24) with 37 points. NTP fifth second shot: Bernard Skerys (18) at 1.03m. NTP 14th: Rod McKenzie (11) at 1.46m. NTP 16th: Bernard Skerys (18) at 2.77m. Thursday, October 16: Stableford. Thursday was a Stableford event with 70 members/guests hitting off with a shotgun start. Overall winner: Bernard Skerys (18) with 37 points on a countback. A Grade winner: Jeremy de Silva (9) with 33 points on a countback. R/up: Paul Deery (10) with 33 points on a countback. B Grade winner: Bernard Skerys (18) with 37 points. R/up: Ken Smirk (15) with 35 points. C Grade winner: David Forbes (20) with 37 points. R/up: Geoffrey McDonald (20) with 34 points on a countback. Great score by Christopher Buckland with an eagle on the sixth hole. NTP fifth second shot: Paul Deery (10) at .31m. NTP 14th: Steve Fisher (16) at 2.21m. NTP 16th: David Forbes (20) at 2.71m. Saturday, October 18: Par. Saturday was a Par event, with clearing skies opening up the course for a pleasant day for golfers. A field of 81 members/guests entered the competition. Overall winner: Winton Knop (10) with a score of +3 on a countback. A Grade winner: Winton Knop (10) with a score of +3. R/up: Michael West (7) with a score of 0 on a countback. B Grade winner: Dave Brownett (16) with a score of +3. R/up: Gary McGrath (15) with a score of +1. C Grade winner: Andy Bassett (19) with a score of 0 on a countback. R/up: Russell Pentland (21) with a score of 0.

D Grade winner: Sean Munley (28) with a score of 0 on a countback. R/up: Anna de Bondt (31) with a score of 0. NTP fifth second shot: Brendon Richards (17) at 2.40m. NTP 14th: Craig Hutchison (9) at 2.08m. NTP 16th: Craig Hutchison (9) at .44m.

Ladies

SOME excellent scores were recorded last week in the Stableford event. The field size was reduced slightly as some of the women were playing the first round of the match play Cashin Cup. Colleen Touzel had a day out finishing with 40 points. Alison Strong also scored strongly finishing with 39 points. Balls down the went to 34: Lynda Bassett, Karen de Groot, Michelle Roberts, Bronwyn Debenham, Joy O'Sullivan, Jill Moor and Dot Stubbs. Marie Sands won the nine-hole competition with 21 points. Nearest the pin on the 16th was Sue Bowler and Maxine Eabry was the closest second shot on the fifth.

MEENIYAN

Ladies

UNDER beautiful sunshine, the golfers set out playing the front nine twice. The winner of the Stableford event was Gail Browne with 30 points from Irene Holm on 29. Heather Poletti won a ball. Susan Straw and Dot Christie took out the nearest the pins. The club welcomed 24 ladies from Moe Golf Club who came and played nine holes before heading into the Meeniyen Hotel for lunch. It was a mystery tour for them as only the bus driver knew the final destination. A great time was had by them all.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, October 14: Stableford. A Grade: S. Liebe 40 points. B Grade: G. Hughes 37 points. DTL: S. Mills 38, and M. Payne and T. Bradshaw 35 c/b. NTP: fourth A. McCarthy, sixth T. Whitelaw, 13th T. Bradshaw and 16th S. Mills. Birdies: fourth A. Liebe 13th P. Woodall, S. Mills and 16th G. Shandley. Saturday, October 18: Stableford. A Grade: T. Bradshaw, (10) 39 points c/b. B Grade: N. Whichello (15) 38 points. C Grade: S. Beitz (18) 39 points. DTL: P. Kennedy 39, T. Whitelaw, S. Mills 38, G. Shandley 37 and A. Liebe 36 c/b. NTP: fourth N. Bickerton, sixth S. Hill-Smith, 13th M. Atkins and 16th T. Bradshaw. Birdies: fourth G. Roberts, S. Mills, T. Bradshaw, and sixth S. Hill-Smith.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: October 16, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Peter Ali 38. R/up: Warren Dummett 37. Ball sweep: Mark Casey 36 and Richard Luykx (Meeniyen) 35. Albatross: Glen Turner seventh. Results: October 16, SR. 34.5. Competition: Stableford front nine-hole. Winner: Norm Burne 19. Ball DTL: Graham Ryan 19 and Ray Hender 18.



Runners-up Ricky Brown and Layla Robertson, Scratch winners Marg Johnson and Mat Johnson, and the J and P Martin net trophy winners Catherine Bolding and Ian Baker at Wonthaggi Golf Club's Mixed Championships.

Results: October 18, S.R 71. Competition: Pro Stroke. A Grade: Ross Lovett E. B Grade: Rohan Todd -4. C Grade: Secondo Tiziani -7. BDTL to E. Ball sweep: Max Ahearne -2; Ian McDonald -2; Steve Terrill -2; Shaun Stirton -1; Glenn Hewlett -1; Keith Ridout E; David Garry E; Eric Van Agtmaal E. NTPs: not claimed second; Eric Van Agtmaal fourth; John Walsh propin eighth; Allan McLean 13th; Ross Lovett money hole 17th. Coming event: November 9: Wonthaggi Hospital Charity Day.

WONTHAGGI

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was the second round of Stroke to decide the 2025 Lorna Jeeves Rose Bowl winner. The 22 players set out for an amazing day weather-wise, blue sky, little wind and bare arms appeared. After nine days of no rain, with big winds, it has turned the course into a much friendlier place to play. Marg Johnson took advantage to win A Grade and the Lorna Jeeves Bowl with 86(17)69 net for a two-week total of 146 net. B Grade's winner was Yvonne Everitt 95(21)74 net and C Grade's winner was Heather Wintle 112(38)74 net by c/b from Patsy Britt. NTP on eighth was Simone Lindsay. BDL went to Jan Beaumont 74, Patsy Britt 74, Irene Walsh 76 and Donna Brosnan 76.

WONTHAGGI MIXED CHAMPIONSHIP

SUNDAY was the Mixed Championships with a Scratch and Net event, Board events. Although the field was small, a huge thank you to the faithful group of players who regularly play on the Mixed Days. How was the weather? Windy. Foursomes is a challenge on a good day, let alone when it's blowing into your face relentlessly. The Scratch event was a close event with Mat (+1) and Marg Johnson (17) 81 taking the honours by the smallest of margins from Ian Baker (3) and Catherine Bolding (18) 82. The J and P Martin net trophy was also tight and was won by Ian Baker and Catherine Bolding 71.5 net by countback to Ricky Brown (15) and Layla Robertson (30) 71.5 NTP claimed on eighth was Dawn Judkins, 13th Ian Baker and 17th Paul Cornelis.



Heather Wintle, Marg Johnson and Yvonne Everitt were this week's grade winners, with Marg winning the 2025 Lorna Jeeves Rose Bowl at the Wonthaggi Golf Club.



Elly Berryman, Janet Thompson and Sherrill Winkler were the Flag Day grade winners at the Woorayl Golf Club.

BDL went to Keith Ridout and Dawn Judkins 72, Mat and Marg Johnson 73, and Inoke and Jane Buardromo.

WOORAYL

Ladies

THE event on Wednesday was Flag Day sponsored by Inge Giliam. The format was stroke. Fifteen ladies played in beautiful sunshine and no wind. A Grade's winner was Elly Berryman 16, 92, 76 net. B Grade's winner was Janet Thompson 35, 108, 73 net. The C Grade winner was Sherrill Winkler 36, 110, 74 net. BDL: Inge Giliam 77 net, Bev Bridge 75 net and Tracey Ryan 78 net. NTP: eighth Pauline Lancaster, 11th Jean Hayes and 17th Kath Davis.



The winner of the Stableford event at Leongatha was Colleen Touzel.



Clad in bright orange safety jackets, Rotary’s dedicated team worked tirelessly to direct traffic and assist arriving spectators, ensuring a smooth and safe entry to the 2025 Grand Prix. From left, Stuart Liddel, and Cheryl Harvey.



Rotary Club volunteers don bright orange safety jackets as they direct cars into the parking paddocks at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit during a past MotoGP event. From left, Tim Mullen, Cheryl Harvey, Garry Thompson, and Kathryn Thompson.

Rotary Volunteers steer MotoGP parking to aid new hospital courtyard

AT THIS weekend’s Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, volunteers from the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo took on the huge task of managing parking for thousands of motorcycles and cars at the Phillip Island Circuit.

Clad in bright orange safety jackets, Rotary’s dedicated team worked tirelessly to direct traffic and assist arriving spectators, ensuring a smooth and safe entry despite the unpredictable spring weather. Their efforts weren’t just about logistics – every dollar raised from their work will go directly to the Rotary Rehabilitation Courtyard at the new Phillip Island Community Hospital in Cowes.

Despite gusty winds, sudden showers, and bursts of sunshine, the Rotarians remained upbeat and professional throughout the weekend. Visitors were greeted with warm smiles, clear directions, and genuine community spirit as cars poured steadily into the grass paddocks.

Their efforts embodied Rotary’s enduring motto, “Service Above Self,” turning a demanding operational role into a visible act of community service at one of Australia’s premier sporting events.

Funds raised through the MotoGP parking program will help complete the Rotary Rehabilitation Courtyard – a tranquil outdoor space designed to bring comfort and dignity to patients and families at the new hospital.

Rotary Club president Gea Lovell said seeing the courtyard come to life has been a highlight for the club.

“We thank Fred Reinking, of Dome Security, for once again involving our club,” she said.

With their high-vis jackets now hung up until next year, the Phillip Island and San Remo Rotarians have once again shown that teamwork, generosity, and community spirit can turn a parking paddock into a powerful driver for local good.



Phillip Island singer-songwriter Imogen Price has made Saturday night of Phillip Island’s GP weekend her own, on the main stage in Cowes again last Saturday night, with a big crowd up singing and dancing to a varied offering of country rock covers.

Happy days and GP nights in Cowes

ON SATURDAY night, a big crowd of happy GP motorbike enthusiasts rolled into town and rolled out just as happy after an enjoyable and just as importantly, uneventful night of entertainment in Thompson Avenue.

And the main act on stage was Phillip Island’s own Imogen Price, who has made the centrepiece of night-time entertainment, Saturday night of GP weekend in Cowes, her own.

Playing a mixture of country rock anthems and favourites, Imogen kept the crowd engaged for nearly two hours, and at times singing and dancing along, as they found food and drink to refresh themselves after a big day at the track, and another to come on Sunday.

Two squads of police circulated through the crowd with their presence more reassuring than necessary, stopping to chat with patrons and the staff of local venues, untroubled by a packed crowd, enjoying a fine night outdoors at the lower end of the CBD.

A Nashville tribute band followed, making for a successful Saturday night in town for patrons, business owners and organisers.



Head of Newhaven College’s MTB Academy Steven Scott and principal Tony Corr pose with the Newhaven boys competition riders.

Inaugural interschool MTB race held at Newhaven College

FIVE schools competed in the inaugural South East Independent Schools Association (SEISA) Mountain Bike Competition, racing around the dedicated tracks and through the grounds of Newhaven College on Tuesday, October 14.

With more than 100 competitors riding, spectators watched on in amazement as the route took riders around the Flow Trail, down through the crowded amphitheatre, straight through the main reception building and out the front doors.

Riders made their way around the grounds of the College, leaping over intermediate elements including jumps, drops, the Whale Tail and shooting through the Tunnel, a 40ft shipping container.

Utilising the home ground advantage, Newhaven College eventually collected finishing honours, placing in all of the age group categories.

A huge congratulations to Hamish Dakers-Hock and Lucy Thompson, who placed first in their respective competitions; with special mentions for Ryder Evans and Evie McCabe, who each placed second; and to Maxen Mills, Sophia Hardy and Fletcher Middleton, who each placed third.

Newhaven College’s dedicated staff, students and a very supportive parent group saw this incredible event come together.

It really was an exceptional day.



The MTB girls’ competition may be small, but it in no way diminishes the achievements of the riders.

Fernandez takes Island win

By Peter Cleeland

SPANISH rider Raul Fernandez, riding an Aprilia, followed up his second placing in the Tissot Sprint on Saturday with a commanding debut win in the premier MotoGP class at the Australian Grand Prix on Sunday. Australian Moto2 rider, Senna Agius, who qualified second in practice, smashed the field and created history by being the first Australian in Moto2 to win his home Grand Prix. In Moto3, Joel Kelso rode the wheels off his to record a strong second placing to 2025 Moto3 champion Jose Rueda in an outstanding performance.

Frenetic Friday

The three-day weekend commenced with free practice sessions, where riders had to qualify for further qualifying sessions to establish grid starting positions, which provided an exciting start to the weekend's festivities. With a cooler morning session in free practice one Aussie Jack Miller topped the timesheets on the "true blue" Yamaha, which thrilled quite a large crowd.

Miller announced himself with clear intentions again in free practice two, wringing the Yamaha's neck to lead the session with 14 minutes to go. A top ten finish in this practice sends riders through to Qualifying 2, the preferred place to be for the top 10 shootout. Miller had blasted around the Island circuit in 1 minute 28 seconds, but the rider avalanche was threatening.

As the weather warmed up for the afternoon, a bruised and battered Marco Bezzecchi riding an Aprilia cranked up the possums and smashed the lap record with a 1 minute 26.4 seconds to establish a new benchmark. Spanish rider Raul Fernandez from Trackhouse Racing, also on an Aprilia, slotted into second while Fabio Di Giannantonio flew the Ducati flag in third spot.

Fans were witnessing one of the most open and unpredictable build-ups to a race for the whole MotoGP season as Aprilia, Ducati, Yamaha, Honda and KTM machines filled the first ten places on the fast-flowing Island circuit. Unfortunately, Aussie Jack Miller, who set the early running could not respond to the upbeat tempo and he qualified 13th for a start in Qualifying One on Saturday!

Sensational Saturday Qualifying Sessions

In Qualifying One, Jack Miller overcame adversity to record the second fastest time in this session from Firmin Aldeguer with both riders going through to the second qualifier. On a dry track, Johann Zarco dropped the Honda at turn 10 in a desperate attempt to run down Miller's time. The Frenchman was less than impressed giving the battered machine a beating of his own!

In Qualifying Two, Jack Miller led the session with dynamic riding on the Yamaha, giving the Aussie fans something to shout about. With 30 seconds to go in the session, Fabio Quatararo and Marco Bezzecchi overtook Miller, who had to settle for third place on the grid. Still, a front row possie was more than he could have expected at the start of the day. Expectation of an Australian rider on the podium swelled throughout the crowd.

More good news followed in Moto2, where Aussie Senna Agius qualified in second position and Joel Kelso took pole position in Moto3 for Sunday's races.



Raul Fernandez, winner of the 2025 Australian Grand Prix exiting Miller Corner on his way to victory. Photo: Peter Cleeland

Dual Australian MotoGP champion Casey Stoner gave the fans a thrill by completing a number of tribute laps on the Honda while in the skies above Red Bull Air Race world champion pilot Matt Hall kept the crowd enthralled with some stunning aeronautical moves.

Tissot Sprint Race (13 laps)

When the lights went out, Aprilia riders Raul Fernandez and Marco Bezzecchi staged their own two-man race while KTM's Pedro Acosta, Yamaha's Jack Miller and Ducati's Fabio Di Giannantonio fought for the last spot on the podium. Although Bezzecchi made a mistake that cost him a significant amount of time coming over Lukey Heights into turn 10, his superior speed allowed him to run down Trackhouse Racing, Fernandez in convincing style.

Pole sitter Fabio Quartararo went backwards from the start to end up in seventh place, some eight seconds behind the winner, blaming his choice of a medium rather than hard compound front tyre, while Ducati Team Lenovo finished in 19th and 20th position in what was an embarrassing outing. In fact, only two Ducatis finished in the top 10 after dominating the MotoGP 2025 season. Have the fans witnessed the end of the long reign of the Ducati manufacturer and the rise of Aprilia?

Race organisers delayed the start of all races for Sunday's program by one hour due to potential high winds being forecast.

Senna's Sunday

The Moto3 race of 23 laps kicked off the race program, which had been delayed by an hour due to weather concerns. Aussie, Joel Kelso, who sat on pole, blasted away with Jose Rueda closely shadowing him. The pair of riders cleared out, having a two-man duel in the closing stages, Rueda pulled a vital break to record his 10th victory of the season. Red Bull KTM's placed first and third with Spaniard Alvaro Carpe some 12 seconds adrift. Kelso got within 0.829 seconds of victory celebrating with the crowd his tremendous achievement.

Australian rider, Senna Agius, on the Kalex in the Moto2 event simply blew the field away, building con-

sistently on a commanding lead to be out by six seconds at one stage before winning by 3.6 seconds from David Alonso on a CFM Moto and Diogo Moreira riding a Kalex. The home crowd saluted and celebrated with Senna, who performed the obligatory "champagne shoe" at the presentation ceremony to the delight of the locals.

In the feature MotoGP race, Tissot Sprint winner, Marco Bezzecchi, had the gauntlet thrust at him after he inherited two long lap penalties in the main event for shunting Marc Marquez off the track in Mandalika last week. Undeterred, Bezzecchi got to an early lead on the Aprilia and took one penalty early on, but the second penalty gave him too much ground to make up. Trackhouse Racing's Raul Fernandez, also on an Aprilia, got a good break on Pedro Acosta and Alex Marquez, which they could do little about. Back in the field, Aussie Jack Miller bit the dust early on as the front end gave way, and seasoned veteran, Frenchman, Johann Zarco found the kitty litter exiting Southern Loop. 2024 champion Pecco Bagnaia completed an absolutely miserable weekend for Ducati, throwing his bike down the road at Siberia late in the race.

In the closing stages, the fans' interest lay in the fight for the minor placings, Fabio Di Giannantonio, Ducati and Marco Bezzecchi closing in on Alex Marquez, who was also riding a Ducati. As Raul Fernandez strolled across the start/finish line to record his first MotoGP win by 1.4 seconds, both Fabio and Marco passed Marquez to take second and third, respectively.

Organisers of the 2025 Australian Grand Prix had presented a spectacularly well-run event, which was supported by a bumper crowd on Friday, an even bigger attendance on Saturday, and a solid Sunday turnout. Local highly talented singer, Imogen Price, lit up the stage on Saturday night in downtown Cowes, giving the visiting fans an absolute musical treat.

As a freelance journalist/photographer, I'd to thank Canon Photographic Services for providing an outstanding on-track photography loan service where accredited photographers could get to trial the latest lenses and cameras on site.



Australian Moto2 rider, Senna Agius, meets with some young GP fans at San Remo on Thursday.



In Moto3 racing, Aussie Jacob Roulstone (12) was making a charge, on the outside of Brian Uriarte, when he came down in the big race, in tricky wind conditions, at the Phillip Island GP Circuit on Sunday. Photo: Peter Cleeland.

Aussie thrills and spills on memorable GP day

AUSSIE Senna Agius, 20 from Sydney, won his way to the front row of the grid in Moto2 and stepped away best to lead the World Championship race and held on through six laps in a thrilling contest with Manuel Gonzalez and David Alonso.

But it was an early battle that was to set up a fantastic victory in his own home grand prix... the big Aussie crowd went wild!

Ironically, it was the first time since 2014 that an Aussie had topped the podium on grand prix day at Phillip Island, the last being Jack Miller in the Moto3 class in 2014.

Unfortunately, Miller could repeat the dose, crashing out on lap five in the 2025 MotoGP race last Sunday.

Agius had a couple of moments, heading up into the wind early in his race, but continued to hold the front spot while riders were swapping places behind him.

By lap eight of 23, Agius had moved out to a half-second gap and some clear air with the fastest lap of the race, getting that out to a full second as the riders behind him changed places while slowing each other down in the wake of Agius.

By mid-race distance, Agius had it out to almost four seconds in front and it was his race to lose as the championship contenders Diogo

Moreira, Manuel Gonzalez and David Alonso slowed each other down with close racing in a real title shootout.

The weather was fine and cool, but the action on the track was hot and furious as Moreira and Gonzalez battled for second and ascendency in the overall title, working their tyres hard and playing into the Aussie's hands up front, out by almost six seconds with six laps to go.

After 20 laps of 23, Agius was still maintaining a six-second gap, continuing to roll out competitive times while in second, third and fourth there was a tremendous fight going on, at one stage, the bikes touched as they surged through the corners.

With two laps to go, it was all Agius... could he continue to hold on?

You bet he could with the chasing pack coming hard and ultimately closing it down to three seconds. But it was Agius all the way as he grabbed an Australian flag and went on a raucous lap of the track as the perfect setup for the big race to follow.

In the Moto3 race, Aussie Joel Kelso secured a podium finish when he claimed second in thrilling circumstances, while his compatriot Jacob Roulstone made a great charge from further back on the grid before dropping the bike due to rider error.



While Rhett McLennan has made the move from coaching Gippsland Power to taking charge of VFL side Casey, he'll continue to provide opportunities for talented Gippsland players. Photo: Melbourne Media.

Rhett McLennan to continue team-first philosophy at Casey

FORMER Leongatha player and established Gippsland Power coach Rhett McLennan is looking to build on the Casey Demons' positive finish to last season, having stepped into the Senior coaching role there.

In addition to his responsibilities with Casey, he'll be part of Melbourne's AFL program, with a focus on player development, particularly working with the younger players on Melbourne's list.

He's looking forward to helping new Melbourne Senior coach, Steven King.

There'll be some familiar faces for McLennan at Melbourne, such as former Gippsland Power Captain Xavier Lindsay and Ricky Mentha, along with Harvey Langford, whom he coached at Vic Country level.

McLennan's experience in helping his players reach their full potential is one of the attributes Melbourne's GM of AFL Football Performance Alan Richardson said made him a standout candidate for the Casey gig.

During his time in charge of Power, McLennan has played a part in the development of 32 players who have gone on to be drafted into the AFL system, with that number set to rise by a few this year, including likely first pick in the AFL draft, Willem Duursma.

"It's about making sure you have an understanding of what motivates kids, and then understanding it's about their development but it's also about understanding how the team works," McLennan said.

He's found that when a player learns how to be the best teammate he can, and enjoys the achievements of others, it generally aids his development.

His overarching philosophy is unlikely to alter much in the Casey role.

"You still need to be a great teammate to get the best out of yourself and others," McLennan said.

Training and list management efforts kick into gear on November 9.

McLennan will continue living in Leongatha and is keen to ensure there are strong ties between Casey and Gippsland.

He wants talented young Gippslanders to see Casey as their first port of call to try their hand at VFL level.

Generally, there are about three to five players from Gippsland on the Casey list each season, with Moe's Riley Baldi having played most of this season and Leongatha's Paddy Ireland getting a taste of VFL footy, with several other Gippsland players in action.

Prior to his seven seasons in charge of Gippsland Power, McLennan was an assistant coach there for four years, still playing for Leongatha during the last of those seasons.

He has over 20 years of coaching experience, including time as a playing assistant coach.

His vast playing career of over 300 games included representing Donvale in the Eastern Football League and Chelsea in the Mornington Peninsula League, having featured in a couple of premierships as a teenager for Maroochydore in Queensland.

McLennan noted he had the support of a strong coaching team at Gippsland Power and is sure that will again be so at Casey, where he looks forward to working with line coaches, the development coach and those in the strength and conditioning department.

BASS COAST BREAKERS PRESENTATION NIGHT



Some of the Bass Coast Breakers' wonderful volunteers.



Cloe Booth received the Breaker on the rise award and was pictured with Jenna Russo.

Bass Coast Breakers celebrate the 2025 season

THE Bass Coast Breakers wrapped up the season with a presentation evening held at The Clubhouse.

The Breakers recognised award winners, milestone games, volunteers and thanked their sponsors.

For anyone wishing to join

the team next year, reach out via the team's socials to stay in the loop about some exciting activities planned over the offseason.

Three Breakers players were rewarded for their outstanding season with selection in the Mornington

Peninsula Football Netball League Division 2 Team of the Year – Jenna Russo (midfield), Immy Bradford (forward pocket) and Tess Angarane (centre halfback).

Ready to build on a great 2025 season with a strong list of players eager to

continue developing, the Breakers are on the hunt for a head coach for next season.

For more information or to discuss the role contact, Ella Angarane on 0438 722 639 or reach out on the team's socials.



Volunteer of the Year Clem Collins pictured with Bass Coast Breakers captains Tess Angarane, Jenna Russo and Sophie McCracken-Evans and coach Ella Angarane.



Ella Angarane was pictured with Molly Conroy, who was best in finals.



Breakers coach Ella Angarane with equal best and fairest Jenna Russo, runner-up best and fairest Tess Angarane, volunteer of the year Clem Collins and sponsor from The Wonthaggi Club Jason Sartori. Absent: equal best and fairest Tayla Stahl.



Brooke McKean won the Bass Coast Breakers captain's award and is pictured with Tess Angarane.



Bass Coast Breakers' milestone players Immy Bradford 100 games, Grace Hope 50 games, Lily Jack 50 games and Ella Cargill 100 Breakers games.



Sophie McCracken-Evans with the winner of the Breakers spirit award Gaby Hynes and Bruce Proctor from Breakers' major sponsor Bendigo Bank San Remo and District.



Ella Angarane (left) and Chelsea Connell (right) with the Deb Reilly Determination Award recipient Immy Bradford.

KORUMBURRA BENA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT



11 Under – Sianna Coote (runner-up best and fairest), Eve Tumino (most improved), and Paige Wyatt (best and fairest).



13 Under – Pearl Cruickshank (runner-up best and fairest), Ruby Anderson (best and fairest), and Sophia Belvedere (most improved).



17 Under – Georgia Kyle (runner-up best and fairest), Heidi Nicholas (best and fairest), and Maia Enbom (best team player).



D Grade – Gemma Mowbray (runner-up best and fairest), Amy White (coach), and Kez Gow (best and fairest). Absent: Nicole Elford (most improved).



Netball Milestones – Louise McMeekin (350 Games), Meg Newton (100 Games) and Kez Gow (350 Games).



Netball Certificates – Juniors moving into Seniors – Mathilda Joske, Georgia Kyle, Maia Enbom, Alyssa Edwards and Heidi Nicholas.



B Grade – Sienna Cruickshank (runner-up best and fairest), Ella Cuman (best and fairest), Ange Williams (coach), and Sophie Thomas (most determined).



C Grade – Sophie Walker (runner-up best and fairest), Millie Enbom (best and fairest), Belinda Whiteside (coach), and Maddi Wilcox (best team player).



Fourths – Kaden Brown (best team man), Jayden Douglas (runner-up best and fairest), Evan Belvedere (best and fairest), and Blake Hopwood (most consistent). Absent: Tyler Mortimer (most improved), Kruz Tucker (most determined).



Thirds – Bailey Fowles (most determined), Jesse Gollop (most consistent), Caleb Turton (best team man), Bryce Riddell (best and fairest), Noah Belvedere (coach's award), and Tanner Walker (runner-up best and fairest).



Junior Milestones – Bryce Riddell (most promising footballer) and Heidi Nicholas (most promising netballer).



Football Milestones – Matt Kennewell (150 Games) and Zach Walker (150 Games).



Best Club Person – Andrew Robertson.

KORUMBURRA BENA FNC PRESENTATION NIGHT



Life Membership – Kellie Walker.



A Grade – Kate Attenborough (coach), Ashlee Cuff (most determined), Mackenna Whiteside (runner-up best and fairest), Gemma Dixon (coach and best and fairest), and Fiona Burns (best in finals).



Seniors – Tyler Newton (most valuable player), Lachlan Smith (most improved), Evan Allaway (coach's award), Guy Dickson (runner-up best and fairest), Josh Hopkins (coach and best and fairest), Nicholas Besley (most consistent), and Joel Cuman (trailblazer award).



Reserves – Joel Carpenter (most improved), Tarkyn Walker (equal runner-up best and fairest), Bryce Rawson (coach), Jasper Macri (best team person), Luke Walker (most determined), Matt Kennewell (best and fairest), and Jed Harris (equal runner-up best and fairest). Absent: Codie Anderson (most consistent).

FISH CREEK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT

Photos: Megan Vuillermin.



Senior football, from left, most determined Josh Standfield, Dunstan family best young talent Wilkie Edgelow, Eric Smith award for skill and courage Reghan Lewis, Standfield Family award for best and fairest Luke Williams, coach's award Jai Stefani. Absent runner-up best and fairest and best in finals, Roland DeBiase.



C Grade netball MGFNL, from left, coach's award Stella McGannon, runner-up best and fairest Nadia Wallace, best and fairest Ashlyn Matheson, best in finals Misha Gange, coach Beth Pratt.



Reserves football, from left, best and fairest and players' player award Owen Straw, Pete Mueller (presented awards on behalf of co-coaches), Lewis Bradbury, most courageous award Aaron Farrell, coaches' award Tom Piasente. Absent runner-up best and fairest Jake Anderson, most consistent Luke Southwell.



Thirds football, from left, best and fairest Joe Rysko, runner-up best and fairest Rye Cicero, most improved Matt Chapman, coach's award Billy Boyd, Jack Charlton award for most determined Aiden Bradley, trainers' award Asher Hamlett, trainer George Bovell, coach Liam Edgelow.



D Grade netball MGFNL, from left, coach Ella Schauble, coach's award Katherine Pride, runner-up best and fairest Kelly Pruyn, best and fairest Tessa Vuillermin. Absent best in finals, Meg Vuillermin.

FISH CREEK FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT

Photos: Megan Vuillermín.



Under 17 netball MGFNL, from left, best and fairest Ellie Bowman, runner-up Remi Gange, Pat King memorial award for most determined Lara Landry, coach's award Indi Lawson.



Under 13 netball MGFNL, from left, coach's award Marlee Phillips, best and fairest Addie Manne, runner-up best and fairest Margot Gornall, best in finals Tahlia Shute.



Creekers FX Kerr award Glenn Park.

Fish Creek FNC celebrates a successful season

FISH Creek Football Netball Club (FCFNC) celebrated another successful season and another premiership – this time the B Grade netball team – at a well-attended presentation night on September 19 (juniors) and 26 (seniors).

A highlight was the presentation of life memberships to two long-serving volunteers and very deserving recipients, Kelly Pruyn and Nick Shaw.

Three football teams and 11 netball teams – seven in the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League and four in Leongatha and District Netball Association – wore the red and white in 2025, and the club is proud to provide an opportunity for so many to participate in community sport.

As the club works towards rebuilding its facilities, members are grateful to the Fish Creek Bowling Club for the use of their building for the season.



U11 LDNA Netball participants each received a medallion.



A Grade netball MGFNL, from left, most consistent Jess Edgar, coach Jayde McGlead, runner-up best and fairest and best in finals Ema Hodgson. Absent best and fairest Emma Allman.



B Grade netball MGFNL, from left, coach's award Hayley Bourke, coach Maddi Carew, runner-up best and fairest and best in finals Lauren Gale. Absent best and fairest Emma Watkins.



U13 netball LDNA, from left, coach's award Blue McCormack, best and fairest Aija Murray, runner-up best and fairest Jasmine Wallace.



Creekers Award for best club person, Darren McAinch.



Open netball LDNA, from left, coach's award for most improved, Oakleigh Williams, runner-up best and fairest Emma Hannigan. Absent best and fairest Jaclyn VanRoy.



New life members Kelly Pruyn and Nick Shaw.



Under 15 netball MGFNL, from left, best and fairest Sophie Milton, runner-up best and fairest Annie Jean Gilliam Rodda, coach's award Julia Stefani.



Tristan Francis newly appointed Senior Coach of Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club, one of seven new senior coaches for the Gippsland League in 2026. B12_4225

Ex-Magpie Tristan Francis appointed Wonthaggi Power senior coach

FORMER Collingwood midfielder and Port Melbourne VFL premiership player Tristan Francis has been appointed Senior Coach of the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club for season 2026.

The Magpies snared Tristan Francis from Gippsland Power as a 19-year-old in the 2008 AFL Rookie Draft after Francis ran a 20 metre sprint in a blistering 2.9 seconds.

The classy mid-felder who first played for Collingwood in 2009 can still run, but at age 36, his time over 20 seconds may be a little slower than in his teenage years.

Trick or Tricka, as he was known in his Vic Kick days, appeared in 21 matches for the Gippsland Power, averaging 19 disposals, four marks and four tackles a game.

“I was always called Trick or Tricka since I can remember.”

Wonthaggi Power is excited for the journey ahead with Francis as coach, and according to the new coach, a 2026 premiership flag is not out of reach, with Kyle Reid and Jakeb Thomas both back in the side.

Seven clubs in the Gippsland League have confirmed new senior coaches.

Drouin has appointed Jordan Kingi as Playing head coach for 2026, Hayden Burgiel has been selected as head senior coach for Maffra, Shaun Mooney will be senior coach at Morwell, Jack Leslie – a former Sale junior who played 28 AFL games with the Gold Coast Suns will be senior coach at Sale, and Dylan Loprese has been appointed Senior Coach at Traralgon.

The team to watch will be Warragul, which has appointed Gary Ayres as senior coach on a two-year term. Ayres played 269 games for Hawthorn, winning five premierships and two Norm Smith Medals, and served as club captain from 1992 to 1993. His honours include the Peter Crimmins Medal (1986), induction into the Australian Football Hall of Fame (1999), selection in Hawthorn’s Team of the Century and Hawthorn Hall of Fame, and three VFL/AFL Team of the Year (1983, 1986, 1988).

Tristan Francis has spent the past five years as an assistant coach at Wonthaggi Power to Jarryd Blair, who will continue to play in 2026 with a focus on mentoring the club’s younger playing group.

“Jarryd and I have been best mates since we were 15,” said Tristan.

“The last five years have worked really well coaching in tandem.”

With Power’s pre-season training scheduled to start in November, Tristan is keen to build on the momentum gained towards the end of last season, just missing out on a finals berth by the narrowest of percentage margins.

“We let ourselves down, dropping a few games earlier in the year.”

Tristan is looking to chalk up some early wins in season 2026.

“Our last two wins were great confidence builders.”

Already looking forward to the first Bass Coast South Gippsland derby against the Parrots, Tristan was cautious about reading too much into Power’s round 17 defeat of Leongatha.

“The top sides may have been resting some of their senior players close to the finals.”

Trent McMicking returns as senior coach of the Parrots in 2026.

Bena siblings head to Japan for international karate debut

TWO young martial artists from Bena are preparing to step onto one of the biggest stages in full-contact karate, representing their dojo and community at the Rookie Cup in Okinawa, Japan, this November.

Oscar and Annika McGeachin have been selected to compete at the international tournament, joining two other students from the Cranbourne dojo. The event, known as one of the largest of its kind in the world, attracts up to 1500 competitors from across the globe.

“It’s a full-contact, knock-down karate tournament,” said head instructor and proud dad, Sensei Trevor McGeachin.

“It’s for competitors who haven’t competed internationally before and are below the rank of black belt. People come from all around the world to go and compete.”

Oscar, 12, and Annika, 10, have both been training since they were just four years old. They live in Bena and train at the Loong Fu Pai Dojo in Korumburra, which Trevor opened three years ago.

The pair earned their spots in the Rookie Cup after strong performances earlier this year at the Queensland titles and the national championships in Sydney. Annika claimed a national title and finished second in Queensland, while



Oscar McGeachin has fought his way to an international opportunity in Okinawa, Japan.

Oscar impressed in his division despite being one of the lighter fighters in his weight class.

“I’m looking forward to seeing how people from all around the world fight,” Oscar said.

“I’ve learnt how to take hits much better and manage my nerves.”

Annika said she’s simply excited for the challenge, and a bit of fun along the way.

“I can’t wait to give my all,” she said. “And Disneyland.”

“They’ve been building all year with this tournament in mind,” Trevor said. “They’re training six days a week at the moment, and they have their

own strength and conditioning coach down in Warragul. They’ve really ramped things up since January.”

It’s the first time competitors from the Korumburra dojo will represent on the international stage, marking a milestone for the small but growing club.

“We’re hoping this inspires more of the younger kids to follow in their footsteps,” Trevor said.

“It can be hard for kids in Victoria to find opportunities for full-contact fights, which is why we’ve been flying all over the country to get them prepared. Hopefully, this builds a platform for more kids to

come through and eventually represent the state and the country.”

Trevor said the experience would teach his children valuable lessons both on and off the mat.

“The biggest thing in the type of karate we do is determination and never giving up,” he said.

“It’s not easy to have someone standing across from you who is allowed to hit you as hard as they want, but pushing through that adversity helps set people up for life.”

Oscar and Annika will travel to Okinawa on November 25, with the tournament to be held on November 30.



Annika McGeachin proudly displays a medal after a strong season on the mats.



Organisers and local club members are encouraging women and girls to get involved in the upcoming South Gippsland Play Well Expo on this weekend in Leongatha.

South Gippsland’s Play Well Expo celebrates women in sport

WOMEN and girls across South Gippsland are invited to get active, try new sports, and connect with their community at the South Gippsland Play Well Expo on Saturday, October 25, from 10am to 12pm at South Gippsland Splash, 52A Roughton Street, Leongatha.

This free, family-friendly event will feature beginner-friendly activities in AFL, Cricket, and Soccer, led by local clubs and associations including AFL Gippsland,

Southern Gippsland Junior Football Association, Leongatha and District Cricket Association, Gippsland Soccer League, Leongatha Knights FC, Nyora Football Netball Club, and Leongatha Football Netball Club. Participants can try new skills, connect with local clubs, and discover their next favourite way to play. The activities are designed to make sport accessible, fun, and welcoming for everyone.

The Expo also includes an

inspiring panel discussion with local women and girls who play, coach, and volunteer in their sporting clubs. They’ll share the excitement of their first goals and wickets, the challenges of coaching, and the joy of being part of their communities. Attendees will hear real stories, gain practical tips, and leave encouraged to get involved. This discussion highlights that sport in South Gippsland is about more than just playing, it’s about belonging, learning,

and having fun.

Supported by GippSport, South Gippsland Shire Council, and the Australian Sports Commission’s Play Well Participation Grants, the Expo is a celebration of community, connection, and the joy of sport, showing everyone there’s a place for them to get involved.

For more information, visit gippsport.com.au/playwell or contact Gene Parini at gene@gippsport.com.au or on 0428 358 335.

AROUND THE GROUNDS...

FOSTER

FOSTER'S A Grade side faced a challenging Round 3 fixture, suffering a nine-wicket defeat against Korumburra at the Foster Cricket Ground. After Korumburra won the toss and elected to bowl, Foster struggled to build momentum, all out for 113 in 39.2 overs.

Unfortunately for Foster, their innings was undone by a middle-order collapse, losing four wickets for just eight runs. Andrew Pattie (23 off 20, 4 fours) and Gurinder Singh (18 off 16, 2 fours and a six) showed intent but were overshadowed by a dominant bowling performance from Korumburra.

Captain Harry McNeil was the chief wrecker, finishing with outstanding figures of four wickets for just 20 runs off 7.2 overs. He was well supported by Jacob Whiteside (2/13) and Mitch Young (2/19).

The target of 114 proved no challenge for Korumburra's top order. Opener Rumesh Rangana led a brutal and rapid chase, blasting an unbeaten 74 runs off only 41 balls, a knock that included six sixes. Foster will face MDU this weekend at Meeniyen Rec Reserve.

GLEN ALVIE

GLEN Alvie's B Grade secured a comprehensive 64-run victory over Imperials at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve. After winning the toss and electing to bat, Glen Alvie set a competitive target, reaching 7/150 from their 40 overs.

The innings was anchored by a solid performance from the top order. Opener Steven Smith played a patient hand, scoring 43 off 82 balls, before Lucas Ton provided crucial late acceleration with 36 runs off 43 deliveries, featuring two sixes and a four. Edward Spiteri-Stevens contributed a steady 24, helping Glen Alvie post a defendable total.

The Imperials' chase was quickly dismantled by disciplined bowling. Apart from one determined batsman who scored 30 runs, the lineup struggled to cope with the pressure, collapsing to be all out for 86 in the 35th over. Edward Spiteri-Stevens delivered a match-winning spell, claiming three wickets for just 15 runs.

IMPERIALS

THE Imperials faced Phillip Island at the Cowes Recreation Reserve in A1 on Saturday.

The away side was sent into bat first and got an early start from Rowen McLennan and captain Jack Ginnane.

Young Klayton McGrath has shown some excellent form early in the season and continued his run after hitting 45 on the weekend. However, three run outs against the Imperials hurt their chance at victory.

Phillip Island came in with a young bowling side and impressed the Imperials with their skills. George McCausland and Thomas Niven took two wickets each.

The Imperials started well with their bowling, led by Lachie Wright and McGrath.

Max Arceo opened for Phillip Island and performed well.

However, it was captain Daniel Mock who ensured Phillip

Island took the win.

Mock was unbeatable, making 77 not out before Phillip Island had chased down the Imperials' score.

The Imperials will once again host its Woolworths Blast program at Leongatha's East Campus from 4pm on Thursday.

INVERLOCH

INVERLOCH held its own against Nerrena in Saturday's A1 match, but ultimately the Red Caps walked away with the points. Nerrena won the toss and chose to bat first.

Inverloch bowled well, with both Lewis Rankin and Ron Abeysinghe taking two wickets each. Brett Poll, making his A Grade debut for Inverloch, was also a wicket-taker.

"The game was a bit of a mixed bag. Our bowling was strong, and we thought we might be in with a chance against a quality side. Unfortunately, we couldn't make the most of our opportunities with the bat," captain Dave Newman said.

Nerrena bowler Jarrod Hoy ran through Inverloch's batting order, taking five wickets.

Things were looking dire for Inverloch when it was sitting on 9/60, but Ty Debono and Harry Butcher came in at the end and salvaged the score, bringing it up to 105.

KILCUNDA-BASS

KILCUNDA-BASS Cricket Club (B2) faced Koonwarra RSL at the Mary MacKillop Ground in Leongatha. After losing the toss, Bass bowled first. Koonwarra started strongly with the bat until James Papworth (3/26) broke through with a near-unplayable delivery for the first wicket.

Ro Duff was the pick of the bowlers, delivering a masterclass in line and length to finish with 1/10 off 8 overs.

Chasing 162 for victory, Bass started conservatively, seeing off the opening bowlers before the tea break. After the interval, Joel Dickson (47) and Ray Gardiner (18) steadied the innings. Zac Crow (21) played a crucial role in keeping the momentum going, while Jackson Baker (25) and Ro Duff (11) held their nerve to guide Bass to victory, winning by two wickets.

Both A2 and B2 sides have started the season strongly at 2-0.

KORUMBURRA

A MIXED week on the field for the Cobras, with A Grade posting a strong win to continue their outstanding start to the season. Our B, C and U17 teams battled hard but couldn't quite get the results, while our U15 side was unable to complete their match due to wet weather.

It was great to see our first turf wicket of the season prepared, and a big thank you goes out to our turf management team – Evan Allaway, Mitch Young, Jason Richards and Rooster Dunn – for their hard work in producing a fantastic wicket. Also, a special mention to Ray Cruickshank for his terrific work on the mower, with the oval and surrounds looking an absolute treat.

It was fantastic to see a strong local crowd at the ground on Saturday afternoon, enjoying the cricket, sunshine and great community spirit while supporting the town's cricket club. Your ongoing local support is truly appreciated!

TOWN

IT WAS a great day out for C Grade, taking the win over Glen Alvie with a strong all-round performance.

Father and son pair Ash and Shem Hickey opened the batting, while another family duo, Marshall and Angus Livingstone, also took to the crease together – a proud moment for both families.

Poly Joseph top-scored with 33, while Ash Hickey added 25 and Angus Livingstone contributed 15, helping Town to a total of 8/140. Young Callum Smith showed maturity beyond his years, digging in for a valuable eight off 30 balls.

With the ball, Ash Hickey tore through Glen Alvie's top order, finishing with brilliant figures of 4/11 off seven overs. Angus Livingstone bowled tightly, taking 1/15 off seven, while wickets were also shared among Poly Joseph (1/5), Alysia Edwards, Cal Smith, and Harvey Aeschlimann (1/6).

It was a fine team effort from start to finish, capped off by some memorable family moments and a well-earned victory for the Scorpis.

MDU

MEENIYAN Dumbalk United's B2 team kicked off the season with a second decisive victory in their second game for the season, defeating Nyora by five wickets at Meeniyen Recreation Reserve. MDU A Grade captain Mitch McGrath confirmed the result, stating, "Our B grade yesterday had a good win over Nyora, winning by five wickets."

The win was built on a strong performance with both ball and bat. Nyora was restricted to 9/168 off their 40 overs, thanks primarily to Daniel Feild, who took four wickets for 33 runs off his eight overs. All-rounder Steve Arnup also contributed significantly by picking up three wickets for 35 runs.

Chasing 169, MDU reached the total quickly, securing the win in just 28.3 overs (5/170).

The opening pair set the innings up strong with Steve Arnup getting 63 off 65 balls and Tyrone Zukovskis getting 43 off 35," McGrath stated.

Arnup's commanding knock included nine boundaries and a six. The team will now carry this momentum into their next fixture.

NYORA

NYORA fell agonisingly short of victory against Meeniyen Dumbalk United on Saturday, despite a standout all-round performance from Benn Hayes.

After Nyora won the toss and elected to bat at Meeniyen, Hayes anchored the innings with a classy 80 from 101 balls, guiding his side to a competitive 9/168 from 40 overs. Support came from Jordan Knox (18) and

Michael Higgins (14), but tight bowling from Daniel Feild (4/33) and Steve Arnup (3/35) kept MDU in control.

"MDU bats were just too good in this match and that was the difference," Nyora secretary Adam White said.

Hayes again impressed with the ball, taking 2/18 from six tidy overs, while captain Michael Lynch chipped in with 2/68 and Peiris claimed a wicket with his only over.

Nyora's Over 50s side also began their season on a high, defeating Traralgon West at home on Sunday.

"Now in our third season of over 50s, we started off with a win."

OMK

OUTTRIM Moyarra Kongwak (OMK) enjoyed a strong weekend of cricket, with all four sides taking to the field for the first time this season, capped off by a commanding 147-run win over Leongatha Town in B Grade Division 1.

Batting first, OMK compiled an impressive 7/216 from 40 overs, led by an 80-run opening stand between Adam Busana (57 off 40) and Kris Kerr (23 off 47).

"The main notable highlights was the opening partnership between Busana and Kerr to get us off to a good start. Young Toby Nicholas played a great patient innings in the middle order, and Tom Eustace did some late hitting to enable our total to reach over 200," B1 captain Justin Greenwood said. "With the ball, Peter Dell and Toby Nicholas started us off well."

Dell bowled brilliantly, taking four wickets; the rest of the wickets shared around.

"A highlight was the one-handed diving catch by Nick Auddino in gully."

Leongatha Town was bowled out for just 69 in 23.2 overs, with Dell claiming 4/25, Ben Maguire 3/9, and Auddino 2/16 in a dominant bowling display. "It was a great weekend for cricket," Greenwood added.

The club's Reverse Draw function will be held this weekend, with tickets available from Russ White or on the night.

PHILLIP ISLAND

PHILLIP Island enjoyed a comfortable win over OMK in C1 on Saturday.

Playing at the Rhyll Cricket Ground, the Sharks won the toss and chose to bat first.

Oliver Hodson and Peter Francis opened and delivered a strong performance.

OMK bowler Steven Loader claimed Francis' wicket after he had made 31 runs, which allowed Damien Holmes to step up to the crease.

Holmes and Hodson made 54 and 52 runs respectively,

The Sharks were not done though with Michael Cleary joining Holmes at the crease after the dismissal of Jon Parry at 3/134. Cleary top scored with 57 runs and was also not out at the end of the innings.

OMK started its innings well with 32 runs from Russ White, but Phillip Island bowlers Holmes and Jackson Allan swept away the top of the batting order. Paul Harper contributed 39 not out.

More online at sgst.com.au

Goannas cruise to a win

THE Gippsland Goannas Over-70 cricket team travelled to Capital Reserve, Glen Waverley on Tuesday, to take on the Glen Waverley Hawks Over-70 team. The grass damp as the home team batted first.

Ian Southall and Neil Meredith opened the bowling. Mero had the opening batsman drag his first ball onto the stumps, from his first ball.

Ron Milnes, four overs for eight runs, and Gordon Cowling were the change bowlers, after 12 overs, and the Hawks batted steadily, reaching 1/52 at the 20-over drinks break.

Bob Penrose, four overs 27 runs, came on after drinks, Murray Moore bowled six overs for 17 runs and Andy Slevin four overs for 14.

Donald Cameron to Meredith had a run out in the 32nd over. Southall featured in two more runouts as the score mounted to 5/129 at the end of 40 overs.

Meredith 1/23 and Cowling 1/16 were the wicket takers, while Southy finished with eight overs for 20 runs.

A couple of catches went down, but the Goannas' ground fielding helped keep the score to a gettable total.

After lunch, which was taken sitting under a couple of marquees as the clubrooms had been burned down in a recent arson attack, the Goannas' innings was opened by Meredith and Donald Cameron.

Donald was unfortunately run out at the bowler's end after Mero hit a ball through the bowler's fingers onto the wickets. Cameron was backing up, as all good batsmen do, and was a little unlucky.

Mero hit out and was caught on the boundary for 29 from 27 balls.

The fielder was awarded player of the match as he was the only player on the park to take a catch.

Moore 24, Garry Rose 11, Southall 29, Bob Duljas 18, all retired, and Penrose 7x, and Phill Higgins 4x, guided the Goannas home in the 29th over.

Neil Meredith was awarded Goannas player of the match.

The Goannas 70's next game will be a home game against the West Gippsland team on Tuesday, October 28.

Kookas over 60's, always the winner

THE South Gippy Kookas were at headquarters, the magnificent Outtrim Reserve.

Skipa Pete Miller called correctly, and the Kookas opened up! Unfortunately, the Kookas were soon reeling at 3/29. Young Phill Richards and Ol Grayza Wighty responded with 27 and 28, respectively, to "steady the ship". Mr Cricket, Gary Adams then, as usual, peeled off a Masterful 28no. to get the Kookas to 5/91 at the 20-over mark. The Mornington Olden Goldies were trundling well, but Petier Loos 20, the Ageless Freddy DeBono 19no and the Experienced Brendon Thomas 12no got the ol' Kookas up to 8/139 of their allotted 40 Overs.

After the usual superb lunch, the Kookas propelled the pill. The very slick, young Mick Whitside and ever-reliable Petier Loos kept things tighter than the South Gippy council budget. The Marauders were up and about, and although the Tundlers never gave up, the Mornington Lads cruised to Victory in the 30th over with 2/142.



KORUMBURRA-BENA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB INC.

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, November 11

7.00pm at Korumburra Showgrounds Amenities Complex

2026 committee nomination forms are available at secretary@kbfncgiants.com.au

Any queries phone Shay on 0419 581 585

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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Madura Madusanka (Town) 116* ; Jarrod Hoy (Nerrena) 5/15
A2: Tanuj Namalge (Koon L/RSL) 87 ; Harry McNeil (Korumburra) 4/20
B1: Adam Busana (OMK) 57 ; Jay Mottram Carter (Inverloch) 4/1
B2: Benn Hayes (Nyora) 80 ; Daniel Feild (MDU) 4/33
C1: Brian Gannon (Nerrena) 63* ; Christos Marinou (Nerrena) 3/14
C2: Isaac Richardson (Inverloch) 69 ; Ashley Hickey (Town) 4/11

 Choices

The floor you've been searching for

 BEAUMONT TILES

Looking good!

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Wonthaggi. 5672 2148

LADDERS

RD 3

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
A GRADE, Division 1			A GRADE, Division 2		
OMK	36	1.187	Koonwarra L/RSL	36	2.624
Nerrena	24	2.844	Korumburra	24	1.929
Phillip Island	24	1.120	Kilcunda Bass	24	1.859
Club	12	1.091	Nyora	24	0.449
Inverloch	12	0.842	MDU	0	0.798
Imperials	0	0.651	Glen Alvie	0	0.581
Town	0	0.460	Foster	0	0.243

LADDERS

RD 3

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
B GRADE, Division 1			B GRADE, Division 2		
Club	30	2.842	MDU	30	1.153
OMK	18	4.472	Kilcunda Bass	30	1.099
Phillip Island	18	2.534	Glen Alvie	18	1.701
Nerrena	18	1.571	Nyora	18	1.250
Inverloch	12	1.343	Imperials	6	0.710
Town	6	0.324	Koonwarra L/RSL	6	0.534
Korumburra	6	0.225			

LADDERS

RD 3

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
C GRADE, Division 1			C GRADE, Division 2		
Nerrena	30	2.221	Club	30	1.849
Kilcunda Bass	18	0.986	Town	24	2.243
Phillip Island	18	0.684	Inverloch	18	1.322
MDU	18	0.000	Glen Alvie	18	0.792
OMK	12	0.890	Koonwarra L/RSL	6	0.611
Korumburra	6	0.624	OMK	6	0.368
Club	6	0.515	Nyora	6	0.000

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 4 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

A GRADE, Division 1			
OMK v Phillip Island	Outtrim	Shane Moore	
Nerrena v Club	Nerrena	Ken Scrimshaw	
Imperials v Town	Leongatha Turf	John Schelling	
Inverloch - BYE			

A Grade, Division 2			
K'burra v Koon L/RSL	Korumburra	Ashleigh Stride	
Nyora v Kilcunda Bass	Nyora	Graham Wightman	
MDU v Foster	Meeniyen	Michael Thomas	
Glen Alvie - BYE			

B GRADE, Division 1

Club v Korumburra	McMahon	Brad Phillips	
Phillip Island v OMK	Cowes	Les White	
Inverloch v Nerrena	Inverloch Turf	Ian Salmon	
Town - BYE			

B GRADE, Division 2

Imperials v Koon L/RSL	East Campus	Geoff Birnie	
Nyora v Glen Alvie	Poowong	Tyson Tootel	
Kilcunda Bass v MDU	Bass 1	Geoffrey Parkinson	

ROUND 4 - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25

C GRADE, Division 1

Kilcunda Bass v MDU	Bass 2	TBA	
OMK v Nerrena	Digger Park	TBA	
Club v Phillip Islnd	Won. SC	TBA	
Korumburra - BYE			

C GRADE, Division 2

Koon L/RSL v OMK	Koonwarra	TBA	
Town v Inverloch	Scorpion Pk 2	TBA	
Glen Alvie v Nyora	Glen Alvie	TBA	
Club - BYE			

Subject to Confirmation.
Any prospective umpires can contact
Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421

Nerrena in charge against Kilcunda Bass in C1 action

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

AFTER morning drizzle gave way to glorious sunshine, the Nerrena bowling attack took control from the start of the game and despite Peter Miller and Daniel Bettles working patiently to build a partnership for Kilcunda Bass, the Red Caps took charge thereafter to win by eight wickets.

Having elected to bat, Kilcunda Bass skipper and opener Joel Hockett fell for a duck and number three Vijai Kumar Gopal managed just a single run.

Just as the Sharks' fortunes were turning around, the Red Caps struck again when Michael Croatto had Miller caught by Daniel Grigg for a patient 33 off 68 balls.

Croatto then dismissed Bettles for 20 shortly after.

Croatto finished with two wickets, conceding just 13 runs off his seven overs, with Grigg and Raidyn Harrison the early wicket takers who helped set the positive tone for Nerrena, Harrison finishing with 2/17 from six overs and Grigg 1/14 from five overs.

Christos Marinou chimed in with an impressive 3/14 from a couple of balls short of five overs as the Sharks were bowled out for just 101.

Nerrena captain Brian Gannon made sure the small chase was straightforward, the opener finishing unbeaten on 63, with Hunter Bettles the only wicket-taking bowler for Kilcunda Bass, managing 1/18 from five overs.



Peter Miller is watchful for Kilcunda Bass, being its top scorer with 33 in the C1 loss to Nerrena. A37_4225

Leongatha Town claim first win of the season

WOMEN'S CRICKET

IT WAS an absolute delight for Leongatha Town and Wonthaggi Club's women's teams to take to the pitch with Wonthaggi on Sunday – full of encouragement, plenty of banter, and a great buzz all round.

Nat Challis and Kylie Ashton opened the batting for Town, with Nat smashing an impressive 43 runs, including a string of boundaries – one reportedly landing somewhere near Cape Paterson. Strong support came from Kate Oates (17) and Sarah Knox (10), helping Town build a solid innings.

With the ball, Sarah Knox was on fire, taking three wickets in her three overs, while Chiara Marinou claimed two, and Brenda Stewart chipped in with another.

There was sharp work in the field too, with Nat Challis, Kate Oates, and others snapping up quick catches.

In a show of spirit, Gen Anderson padded up to bat for Wonthaggi, and several Town players stepped in to help them out in the field.

Both teams gave it their all – uplifting one another with encouragement, laughter, and a few handy pointers along the way. Leongatha Town 150 (132 runs, 6 wickets) v Wonthaggi Club 77 (74 runs, 1 wicket)



Wonthaggi Club's Hayley Richards and Leongatha Town's Gen Anderson before going out to bat for Wonthaggi together.



James Rushton plays an aggressive shot in the final over of Koonwarra Leongatha RSL innings, his 61 helping set up an A2 win over MDU. A40_4225

Kayden Scrimshaw takes charge as Cougars beat Demons

A GRADE, DIVISON 2

WHILE Kayden Scrimshaw felt some nerves in his first senior game as Koonwarra Leongatha RSL's solo captain, he guided his team to a comfortable victory over MDU despite a minor hiccup when he forgot the ball at the start of the Cougars' bowling innings. He was quick to retrieve it and managed his bowlers well, MDU eight down when its 40 overs concluded and still 118 runs behind. Earlier, Scrimshaw compiled a patient 22 batting at number three, Tanuj Namalge the best of the Cougars with the willow, making a rapid 87 off just 76 balls, James Rushton and Azhar Mehmood each contributing 61, the latter off just 31 deliveries and including five sixes. Replying to Koonwarra Leongatha RSL's imposing 6/258, Paul Le Page was the only Demon to get going, making 71 at just under a run-a-ball, the next best scorer managing just 11 not out. Mehmood capped his excellent day with 3/18 from five overs, also contributing a run

out, while Namalge built on his batting exploits with 2/27 off five overs. Earlier, Max Murray was the only multiple wicket taker for MDU, but his two dismissals came at substantial cost, conceding 35 runs off three overs. Sam Bright was most economical for the Demons, taking 1/30 off eight overs. Cougars' skipper, Scrimshaw, shared the captaincy with Callum Buckland in the first couple of rounds, having previously only held the responsibility at junior level. "I was very nervous; there's a lot to think about," he said of his feelings ahead of the game, adding that he has lots of support from others at the club with leadership experience, including previous skipper Rushton. While confident after his side's strong score, Scrimshaw wasn't taking anything for granted, given the nature of cricket. Asked his approach to managing the Cougars' bowling attack, Scrimshaw said he has particular bowlers he knows he can turn to. "Then you just go from there, depending on the game situation," he said.



MDU's Max Murray races Koonwarra Leongatha RSL's Harry Scrimshaw as the latter scrambles to make his ground. A42_4225



Max Murray delivers for MDU, proving expensive but taking a couple of wickets. A41_4225

Kookaburras too strong for Endeavour Hills/Bayside

SOUTH Gippsland Kookaburras Over 70s cricket team hosted Endeavour Hills/Bayside on Tuesday, October 14, at Outtrim Reserve, winning the toss and electing to bat on a newly carpeted pitch. All but one batter made runs from their possible 25 balls, with totals ranging from four to 27. At the end of 40 overs, the team had amassed 185 runs with a loss of six wickets. Endeavour Hills/Bayside started its innings well. The first four batters retired not out for a total of 71, but after that six were dismissed without getting to double figures. The team making a total of six for 127.

Notable individual efforts of the Kookaburras were Peter Little 27 runs and two wickets for six, Andrew Smith two for 10, Pieter Loos 28 runs, Neil White 22 and Warrick Hayes 19. Peter Little received the best player award from the opposing captain and almost took a hat trick, the ball just evading the gully fielder. Alex Miller fielded with a standard well above what anyone would expect of an over-70s player. One of the octogenarian players, Fred Debono, made 17 not out and bowled five overs for 17 runs. Being 82 years old is no barrier to succeeding in this competition.



Gavin Sharp bats for the South Gippsland Kookaburras Over 70s team.

LDCA - ROUND 3 HIGHLIGHTS

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

OMK 3/180 d Town 5/178
OMK Batting: C Quaife 86*, P Fermanis 44*
OMK Bowling: V Sharma 3/27, E Lamers 2/10
Town Batting: M Madusanka 116*, L Ashton 15
Town Bowling: M Madusanka 2/26, R Hume 1/36
Nerrena 7/129 d Inverloch 105
Nerrena Batting: M Clarke 39, J Hoy 26
Nerrena Bowling: T Wightman 2/11, J Hoy 5/15
Inv. Batting: D Newman 25, T Debono 23*
Inv. Bowling: L Rankin 2/16, R Abeysinghe 2/18
Phillip Island 3/151 d Imperials 8/148
PI Batting: D Mock 77*, M Arceo 32
PI Bowling: T Niven 2/19, G McCausland 2/24
Imperials Batting: K McGrath 45, R McLennan 25
Imperials Bowling: L Anderson 0/20, L Wright 1/34
Club - BYE

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

Kilcunda Bass 3/197 d Glen Alvie 135
K-Bass Batting: C Davidson 51, M Grayson 39*
K-Bass Bowling: T Smith 1/8, B Wright 2/17
G-Alv. Batting: M Donohue 45, W Luke 30
G-Alv. Bowling: A Donohue 2/28, L McRae 1/32
Koon L/RSL 6/258 d MDU 8/140
Koon. Batting: T Namalge 87, A Mehmood 61
Koon. Bowling: A Mehmood 3/18, J Kennedy 1/7
MDU Batting: P Le Page 71, J Sinclair 11*
MDU Bowling: M Murray 2/35, S Bright 1/30
Korumburra 1/116 d Foster 113
K'burra Batting: R Rangana 74*, C Turton 30
K'burra Bowling: H McNeil 4/20, J Whiteside 2/13
Foster Batting: A Pattie 23, G Singh 18
Foster Bowling: M Allott 1/15, A Pattie 0/9
Nyora - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

Club 3/128 d Nerrena 5/127
Club Batting: H West 32, K Allison 27*
Club Bowling: C Adams 1/12, S Beaumont 1/27
Ner. Batting: E Berryman 44*, G Murphy 32
Ner. Bowling: B Evans 2/17, S Roche 2/21
OMK 7/216 d Town 69
OMK Batting: A Busana 57, Fill-in 31
OMK Bowling: P Dell 4/25, B Maguire 3/9
Town Batting: H Livingstone 19, S Clark 15
Town Bowling: J Pandukabhaya 1/12, S Clark 1/18
Inverloch 8/195 d Korumburra 34
Inv. Batting: W Rankin 53, B Debono 42
Inv. Bowling: J Mottram Carter 4/1, J Richardson 3/10
K-burra Batting: M Allen 9, R Butler 7
K-burra Bowling: H Jefferis 4/32, N Belvedere 2/31
Phillip Island - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

MDU 5/170 d Nyora 9/168
MDU Batting: S Arnup 63, T Zukovskis 43
MDU Bowling: D Feild 4/33, S Arnup 3/35
Nyora Batting: B Hayes 80, J Knox 18
Nyora Bowling: B Hayes 2/18, V Peiris 1/0
Kilcunda Bas 8/164 d Koonwara L/RSL 157
K-Bass Batting: J Dickson 47, J Baker 29*
K-Bass Bowling: A Leighton 3/27, R Duff 2/10
Koon. Batting: K Thorne 36, L Read 32
Koon. Bowling: B Thomas 4/37, S Kanesathasan 1/24
Glen Alvie 7/150 d Imperials 86
G-Alvie Batting: S Smith 43, L Ton 36
G-Alvie Bowling: E Spiteri-Stevens 3/15, L Scholz 2/9
Imp. Batting: Private player 30, L O'Connor 12
Imo. Bowling: J Jeffery 2/14, L O'Connor 2/27
Foster - BYE

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

Phillip Island 3/227 d OMK 5/134
PI Batting: M Cleary 57*, D Holmes 54*
PI Bowling: D Holmes 2/14, J Allan 2/17
OMK Batting: P Harper 39*, R White 32
OMK Bowling: J Cuman 2/44, S Loader 1/27
Nerrena 2/105 d Kilcunda Bass 101
Nerrena Batting: B Gannon 63*, C Salmon 24
Nerrena Bowling: C Marinou 3/14, M Croatto 2/13
K-Bass Batting: P Miller 33, D Bettles 20
K-Bass Bowling: H Bettles 1/18, D Bettles 0/8
MDU d Korumburra (forfeit)
Club - BYE

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Town 8/140 d Glen Alvie 78
Town Batting: PJ Kallokkaran 33, A Hickey 25
Town Bowling: A Hickey 4/11, PJ Kallokkaran 1/5
G-Alv. Batting: I Thorn 20, C Duschler 13
G-Alv. Bowling: G Luff 3/22, O Luff 2/23
Inverloch 5/212 d Koon L/RSL 5/124
Inv. Batting: I Richardson 69, D Harris 42
Inv. Bowling: W Williams 1/2, N Dobbie 1/14
Koon. Batting: N Botha 28*, A Pikson 28
Koon. Bowling: G Matthies 1/20, D Isgro 1/36
Club 4/100 d OMK 9/83
Club Batting: J Caddy 47*, A Benetti 13
Club Bowling: A Dynes 3/8, B Ton 2/3
OMK Batting: M Greenwood 17, M Gow 15*
OMK Bowling: J Battersby 2/13, M Whiteside 1/19
Nyora - BYE



Casey Stoner meets the kids from the San Remo Primary School, including Fin and Tyler, and signs some autographs for them ahead of leading the 'Homecoming Ride' across the San Remo Bridge, to officially launch Grand Prix Weekend on Phillip Island.

Stoner's secret Island love affair

IT'S easy to understand why Casey Stoner is the fans' favourite at Phillip Island.

Starting with his first win on home soil in 2007, Casey Stoner sent the crowd into raptures on six consecutive occasions at the famous Phillip Island circuit, including 2012, marking the final time he'd race at the Island.

But, as he revealed prior to the start of the 'Homecoming Ride' at San Remo last Thursday, just after being serenaded by students from the San Remo Primary School with a rousing rendition of 'Happy Birthday' for his 40th birthday, he was no fan of the Phillip Island track in the beginning.

"A lot of people talked about me having the advantage at my own

home GP in 2007, but I'd hardly ever raced there and didn't know much about the track," Stoner revealed in an interview before the ride.

He said a number of the high-speed corners on the track, including his signature Turn 3, concerned him greatly for the way they were hit by the wind in certain conditions, and it was some time before he really felt comfortable at the Island.

When he made his first-ever appearance there in 2001, as part of the 125cc World Championship, he and his family had been making their home in Europe for a few years to pursue his burgeoning career at age 16, and he even felt something of an outsider coming

to Phillip Island.

"I'd never seen a place so tough to get used to, but I found some tricks over the years that worked, although I was never confident on the front wheel due to the wind," he said.

But it was here that he scored his first-ever World Championship points, riding a privately entered Honda 125, and the rest is history. He'd done enough to convince the factory teams that he deserved a full-time Grand Prix ride, and he was on his way.

And as for Turn 3, now Casey Stoner Corner, he didn't like that turn initially because of the wind, but when he found the right way to ride it, it unlocked precious seconds for him, becoming one of

his keys to success at Phillip Island.

Asked about meeting the fans and riding with them back to the track, Stoner spoke about dealing with expectations.

"It's something special, for sure. I mean, this bridge is quite synonymous with Phillip Island to get on here. Every time we drove from the airport down to get ready for the race, you know, as soon as you cross this bridge to the Island, it was, it meant something, you know, it meant that this race, for me, unfortunately, added a little bit of extra pressure, especially the more I started to win here, the more pressure and expectation there was.

"But it's still something special.

This racetrack is unlike anything around the world. It's still what I would call old school. You have to deal with the weather, these different conditions, high speeds, low grip in a lot of ways. So, it's truly, a really, you know, incredible experience. And to lead the ride across the island is a nice feeling indeed."

One of the lucky 500 riders, Andries Posthuma from Somerville on the Mornington Peninsula, jumped online just after the 'Homecoming Ride' tickets went on sale and scored ticket 378 about 10 minutes after they went on sale.

"Who could complain on a perfect day like this, but most people do it for the chance to ride around the track a couple of times."



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