



BRIDGE FURY

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Cr Jan Thompson and Cr Mat Morgan joined a large group of Kernot residents protesting over delayed funding for a new Kernot bridge. B28_4525

Bridge impasse continues as residents rally over closed Kernot bridge

KERNOT locals are enraged over delays in funding for the closed Stewart Road bridge after paramedics were delayed by 15 minutes for a life-threatening medical emergency last week and forced to divert around the closed bridge. Seventy Kernot landholders, residents and farmers were joined by Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Cr Jan Thompson and Cr Mat

Morgan in a massive rally at the bridge. "It is frustrating for the local community," said Mayor Halstead. "It's a long diversion." Mayor Halstead said council had been continuously promised that funding would be approved soon. "First it was August, then October and now November." According to the Mayor, the bridge may not be finished

until the end of next year. "We're heading into the fire season and fire trucks can't get across the bridge." "The longer it takes for funding to be approved, the longer it will stay closed." Cautiously warning that Bass Coast Shire Council may be forced to look at other options, Mayor Halstead said if the money came out of council's budget something else

would miss out. "Where would we take it from?" Mayor Halstead asked. Rallying at the bridge after the medical emergency, distressed local residents were clearly frustrated and angry. "We're just not being heard," said Rob Parsons. "We wanted the bridge completed by June or July next year." Continued page 3

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NOVEMBER 11

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Bridge Fury: Bridge impasse continues as residents rally over closed Kernot bridge

From page 1
Calling for answers, residents turned out with just 24 hours' notice to attend the spontaneous bridge protest.
"Fix our bridge," said Pam Gardiner.
"The closure of the bridge has split the community," said David Rae.

"Ambulances with lights and sirens can't get through."
According to Paul Johnston, it could have been a lot worse.
"A few extra minutes can mean the difference between life and death."
"We've had two major fires in the last two years."
"There's no sign saying bridge closed on the other side," complained Samantha Rae.

Residents welcomed the support of Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP.
Following her recent advocacy in relation to the required works at the Stewart Road Kernot Bridge, Ms Aldred said she had received a response from the Minister for Transport indicating council should hear shortly from the Department about the next steps.

"The Federal Government has been dragging their feet on funding to fix the Kernot bridge, so I wrote to the Federal Government and outlined how urgent it was," said Ms Aldred.
"The Minister has responded to my representations on behalf of the community to say the Department has finalised its assessment process and will have a recommendation on Bass Coast Shire's funding application shortly. I will always act immediately to secure urgent outcomes for our community



Local residents are calling for urgent funding for a new bridge at Kernot after paramedics were forced to divert around the closed bridge to attend a life-threatening medical emergency. B30_4525

on roads and infrastructure projects like this one that can't afford to wait," said Ms Aldred.
Minister King said the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts had finalised the assessment of a tranche of applications under the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program (SLRIP) to support projects such as the Stewart Road bridge upgrade and was preparing recommendations for her approval.
"The Department will contact Bass Coast Shire Council when

my decision is made."
Residents complained about a lack of communication from Bass Coast Shire Council.
In the latest update on Engage Bass Coast, late last week, council explained that it was continuing to work hard behind the scenes to prepare for the reconstruction of the Stewart Road Bridge, and planning, design and permit work were progressing so the project could move quickly once funding was confirmed.
Council also revealed a targeted survey was underway to protect two nearby colonies of

Giant Gippsland Earthworms. Given the project's current value of around \$2.3 million, an open tender process is now required, which could take around 13 weeks once the grant outcome is known. Council is aiming to award the bridge contract in early 2026.
'We understand how important this bridge is for safety, access and connection.
'Although the funding process has taken longer than expected, we want to assure you that work and advocacy continues in the background to keep the project moving.'

Giant earthworms no threat to Kernot bridge funding

THE chance discovery of two colonies of giant Gippsland earthworms in the vicinity of the closed Kernot Bridge will not delay funding for a replacement bridge, according to Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead.
"Council has obtained all the necessary permits," said Cr Halstead.
"We will work around the giant earthworms."
The Giant Gippsland Earthworm (*Megascolides australis*) is endemic to Kernot.
The life history of the species, including a long life span, low reproductive and recruitment rates, and low dispersal

ability, makes the fragmented populations of giant earthworm susceptible to environmental disturbances and catastrophic events.
Giant earthworms spend their entire life underground, usually near streams or drainage channels. Many landholders first notice the worms by the gurgling sound they make.
Giant Gippsland Earthworms are listed as vulnerable under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and as threatened under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.



Two colonies of Giant Gippsland Earthworms discovered at Kernot near Stewart Road bridge are not expected to delay funding for a new bridge.

Fire breaks out at Cape Corner Store

A SMALL fire broke out at the Cape Corner Store in Cape Patterson on Saturday, November 8, prompting a swift response from local CFA crews.
CFA member Jamie Moresco said the blaze started when the power meter box caught fire around mid-morning.
"The power meter box caught fire. It burned through the wall and got to some old bird nests and then started burning the timber," Mr Moresco said.
Crews quickly contained the fire before it could spread further.
"We just put a hose line up into the roof and suppressed the fire," he said.
The fire was brought under control shortly after, with no injuries reported.

Two-vehicle collision in Wonthaggi under investigation

POLICE are investigating a two-vehicle collision in Wonthaggi on November 6.
It is understood that a Highway Patrol vehicle and a civilian vehicle collided at the intersection of Billson Street and Merrin Crescent about 10.55am.
The driver and sole occupant of the civilian vehicle received minor injuries and was transported to the hospital for observation.
The two police officers in the Highway Patrol vehicle were not injured.
The investigation into the circumstances of the collision is ongoing.

Why you shouldn't text while driving

NEVERMIND that you could be fined \$611 if caught using a portable device such as a mobile phone while driving, and four demerit points.
As Korumburra Magistrate Cecily Hollingworth told a 36-year-old Kilcunda resident facing careless driving charges last Thursday, you could go to jail for up to six years if you hit and kill someone while speeding, falling asleep, tuning the radio or playing with your phone.
"We're all just one text message away from a culpable driving charge and a sentence of up to six years in prison," Ms Hollingworth told the driver who had been involved in a collision in Wonthaggi in September last year, writing off the victim's car after a rear-end collision.
Being uninsured, the offending driver had to pay \$17,000 towards the car's written-off value of \$22,000 and was placed on a six-month good behaviour undertaking.

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6 Day
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TUE Nov 11 Showers. Wind AM: W-SW 25-35km/h Wind PM: W-SW 25-35km/h	WED Nov 12 Cloudy. Wind AM: W-NW 25-35km/h Wind PM: W-NW 25-35km/h	THUR Nov 13 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: NW 15-25km/h Wind PM: SW 20-30km/h	FRI Nov 14 Possible shower. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h	SAT Nov 15 Possible shower. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h	SUN Nov 16 Shower or two. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: W 15-20km/h
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IN BRIEF

Get Fire Ready drives
recruitment increase

ALMOST 500 Victorians put their hands up to join CFA between October 3 and 29 on the back of the Get Fire Ready initiative.

The figure represents an 11 per cent increase in new applicants during the same period last year.

Of the 499 new applicants, 61 per cent were men and 36 per cent were women. Around 66 per cent of applicants want to serve as firefighters, while 33 per cent preferred non-operational roles.

Younger Victorians led the way, with around 38 per cent aged between 18 and 34 and 27 per cent aged 17 or under.

To learn more about volunteering with CFA, visit cfa.vic.gov.au/volunteers.

Residents in high-risk bushfire areas can still order a Get Fire Ready information pack by visiting cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready.

Aileen can stay
home for Christmas

AILEEN Hughes will be home for Christmas.

That was no certainty when the South Gippsland Shire Council charged her with failing to comply with a Building Order “to cease occupation” of the Meeniyah home she has lived in for more than 25 years.

Having failed to resolve the issue since bringing the charges against her on September 17 last year, the matter was listed for decision in the Korumburra Magistrate’s Court last Thursday.

But, at the 11th hour, the Council agreed to an application by Ms Hughes for an adjournment until April 2 next year.

Councillors were reportedly advised of the adjournment at their usual briefing session last Wednesday.

Speaking to the Sentinel-Times this week, Ms Hughes said the adjournment was a relief, but the fear of eviction remained.

“I’ve already had to pay legal fees I can’t afford. Where does it

end?” she said.

Ms Hughes has been buoyed by widespread community support, but maintains her home poses no risk and that the council should simply drop the charges.

Summer beach shuttle

DURING peak tourist season, Venus Bay Community Centre(VBCC) will again be running a free beach shuttle, safely transporting people to and from the patrolled Beach 1, with volunteer drivers required.

The service runs for a couple of weeks over the peak period in summer, reducing parking congestion and boosting safety.

It’s a chance to get behind the wheel of ‘Sunny’, VBCC’s electric bus, while providing a valuable service to Venus Bay locals and visitors.

Licensed drivers are encouraged to register, with a police check to be undertaken at no expense to the volunteer. There’s an induction process, with bus driver shifts lasting three hours, from 11am until 2pm or 2pm until 5pm. The service starts on December 27 and will likely run for two weeks, but may go a little longer if Venus Bay remains busy and there are sufficient drivers. Those interested in volunteering as drivers are encouraged to email info@vbcc.org.au or pop into VBCC.

Wonthaggi streets to echo

THE streets of Wonthaggi will echo to the notes of the Last Post and Reveille today, Remembrance Day, when it is hoped the town’s historic P.A. system will burst into life courtesy of the Wonthaggi sub-branch of the RSL.

After months of hard work, the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month will be observed by the broadcast of the Last Post on speakers lining the streets before a minute silence to acknowledge, honour and remember those who have served our country.

The minute silence will be

followed by Reveille, the raising of the flag and three short blasts from the State Coal Mine whistle in addition to the normal whistle blast at midday. The RSL hopes to use the P.A. system again during the festive season to play Christmas carols subject to council approval and on Anzac Day next year.

Remembrance Day will be observed at the Wonthaggi Cenotaph from 10.30am.

Power off at Inverloch for
energy network upgrades

INVERLOCH will lose power from 8.30am to approximately 4pm on Friday, November 14 as part of essential works to upgrade the energy network and improve power reliability.

AusNet has advised it will be undertaking maintenance works and replacing overhead conductors and poles in the Inverloch township impacting over 4000 customers.

Affected customers will have already been notified by AusNet.

Consumers affected by the planned power outage should charge battery packs so they’re ready to power mobile phones, fill an esky with ice to keep food and drinks cold, stock up on bottled water if they have an electric water pump, and those who have an electric gate or garage should make sure they know how to manually open and close it.

Customers reliant on life support should be ready to activate their emergency plan or call the AusNet priority line on 1800 818 832.

Fire Danger Period about
to start in Bass Coast
Shire

CFA has declared a November 17 start to the Fire Danger Period for Bass Coast Shire and French Island, meaning that from then on, you can’t light a fire in the open air unless you have a permit or comply with certain requirements.

The Fire Danger Period is

currently listed as ending on May 1, 2026.

Visit the CFA website for details.

Help shape the
future of Wonthaggi

BASS Coast Shire Council is inviting Expressions of Interest from community members to join the new Wonthaggi Planning and Projects Community Reference Group (CRG).

The CRG will play an important role in shaping the future of Wonthaggi through two key projects, the Wonthaggi Structure Plan Review and planning for the former Wonthaggi Secondary College site.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead said Council was seeking community members who are passionate about Wonthaggi and want to contribute to its future direction.

“Wonthaggi is our regional centre. It is a place of growth, creativity and community. This reference group is an opportunity for local people to help guide how our town evolves,” Cr Halstead said.

“We’re looking for a diverse group of community members with different perspectives and experiences who can represent our community and bring thoughtful, constructive feedback to the table.”

It’s understood the group will meet five times between late 2025 and mid-2026.

Economic development
award for Bass Coast

BASS Coast Shire Council has been recognised on the national stage, taking home the Economic Development Sustainable Initiatives Award at the 2025 National Economic Development Awards for Excellence for its Circular Economy Business Accelerator Program. The award was highly contested, with Bass Coast taking the win over other finalists, including the City of Greater Geelong and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA).

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Heartwarming Wonthaggi farewell for Susan Goodwin

IN A sign that community spirit still burns brightly in Wonthaggi, despite its burgeoning growth over the past decade or so, 200 people turned out at a memorial service for Susan Goodwin at the Wonthaggi Golf Club last Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

Never mind that 'Suzi Q', as she was known here in her youth, has been away from the local district for several decades, more than 20 years of which after going missing from her Port Lincoln home in July 2002.

Maybe they remembered one of the biggest funerals in the town's history, back in September 1984, when the Goodwin family and Wonthaggi were rocked by the deaths of three of Susan's siblings; Gary Goodwin 20, Heather Goodwin 24 and Maree Tiziani 27 in a horrific car accident at Wyung near Bairnsdale that also claimed the life of their cousin, the driver, 20-year-old Stephen Shanahan.

In one fell swoop, parents Don and Margaret Goodwin lost three of their five children, leaving Susan and her younger sister Cheryl behind.

Susan, aged 21, was one of two surviving passengers in the car which struck the wooden bridge on Clifton Creek Road at 1am on Sunday morning, September 9, 1984, and plunged into the five-metre-deep creek, the other being her cousin Christopher Bromage, aged 22.



Susan Goodwin, late of Wonthaggi, right, with her siblings Gary, Heather, Maree and, front, Cheryl.

According to details provided at the funeral, Susan was never the same afterwards, despite reportedly sustaining only minor physical injuries in the accident.

Perhaps they were aware of the harrowing campaign waged by Margaret, Don, their family and the local community for more than 20 years to get answers to Susan's mysterious disappearance in 2002, the details of which remained unknown until Major Crime Investigation Branch detectives made a breakthrough in the cold case in September this year.

Following the discovery of Susan's body and some

personal items in the backyard of a Port Lincoln residential property, police charged a 64-year-old South Australian man with her murder. He was remanded in custody to appear again in April next year.

As much as the news provided the answers Susan's family and friends had been seeking for two decades, it came too late to provide closure for her grieving parents, both of whom died in 2017, maintaining hope that their daughter might one day be found alive.

Mrs Goodwin placed an 'in memoriam' notice for her children, lost in the 1984 crash, in the Sentinel-Times every year until her death, including

the names of sisters, Susan and Cheryl, as still grieving siblings.

But most likely the people who turned out for an emotional memorial service in Wonthaggi on Wednesday remember the beautiful, fun-loving, social butterfly they shared their youth and good times with at primary school in Dalyston or Archies Creek, later at the Wonthaggi Tech, working at Durham's grocery store or Smith and Nephews, playing tennis, fishing or out on the tear of a night at 'Tabs' or one of the other local pubs.

Whatever the case, last Wednesday's memorial service and the wonderful turnout would have provided great comfort to a family that has faced more tragedy than most.

The service started and finished with songs from the era, 'Wish You Were Here' by Pink Floyd first and 'Stairway to Heaven' by Led Zeppelin as photos of Susan, her family and friends locally were flashed on the screen.

Civil Celebrant Bryan Sharp said, 'wish you were here' spoke volumes about the absence of a person who should still be here with us, gone but not forgotten.

He said that for 23 long years, after Susan's disappearance, questions lingered and were not answered, but that Wednesday's service would provide some peace after a tragic passing.

See additional details online at sgst.com.au.

Cape Liptrap poachers avoid death penalty

TYPICALLY, you'll get a fine or a good-behaviour bond if you're caught taking too many abalone.

Occasionally, in cases of repeat or serious offending, you might get a term of imprisonment.

But a family from Hoppers Crossing in Melbourne, who took three times the legal limit for abalone, while collecting 32 black-lip abalone in the intertidal zone at Cape Liptrap Coastal Park in April last year, almost got the death penalty.

As revealed at the Wonthaggi Magistrate's Court last Friday, November 7, during the viewing of body-worn camera footage taken by fisheries officers, as well as collecting 32 abalone, the family of five also gathered a number of edible sea snails, enjoyed in various cuisines around the world, and one potentially deadly cone snail shell.

"You've also got a cone-shell here as well," said Fisheries Officer Stephanie Chessum, in a field interview with the accused.

"A cone shell can sting you anywhere. You could have died," she said.

"Really?"

"Yes."

"We also have Blue-ringed octopuses in this area," she said later.

Cone snails, which live in stunningly patterned shells, have a toxin that can paralyse or kill a human within one to five hours if untreated and in an isolated area like Cape



A visiting family of abalone poachers from Melbourne have been accused of taking three times the legal limit for abalone from the intertidal zone at Cape Liptrap in April last year. One of two divers from the group appeared in the Wonthaggi Magistrate's Court last Friday to face a range of charges.

Liptrap, such a sting could indeed be fatal.

The gastropod molluscs have a harpoon-like tooth that allows it to rapidly sting prey or stab predators and quickly flee from danger.

Having avoided the worst possible outcome of their allegedly illegal fishing expedition on Sunday morning, April 13 last year, one of the two divers in the group facing a range of charges, will have to wait until January 30 next year to hear his fate.

The fishing party included a father and son, who shared the diving duties, both in camouflaged wetsuits, green

camo for the father and red for the son, the boy's mother and two others, a male and a female, who did little more than come along to watch, or at the most, carry one of two backpacks back to the carpark, to their waiting black Mercedes SUV.

The sticking point for Fisheries prosecutor, Pranaven Pathmaraj, is the claim made by the family that the 17-year-old boy did most of the abalone gathering, accepting responsibility for 27 of the 32 shellfish, including all three of the undersized abalone, while his father collected five, the legal limit.

But as Mr Pathmaraj explained to the court on Friday, November 7, 2025, the Fisheries' case is covered by what the Act defines as in possession.

"We say he would meet those definitions or that he was complicit, assisted, directed or encouraged the commission of the offence," Mr Pathmaraj said.

Magistrate Cecily Hollingworth called on the prosecution to provide a written submission by January 26, 2026, outlining their claim that the accused "wasn't taking x amount, but that he meets the definition of being in possession" made out by the Act.

The son has already had his case dealt with in children's court, where he reportedly received a good-behaviour bond.

Fisheries Officer Stephanie Chessum said it was a mistake many people made, thinking they could share their catch, either fishing or collecting abalone and other seafood restricted by a bag limit, with family members or others who came along for the ride.

"It applies to all species, the bag limit is tied to the person actually involved in the diving or fishing," she said.

"You can't just hand the catch off to someone else and share the limit."

The case returns to court in Wonthaggi on January 30, 2026.

Melina

BATH MP

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 | 5

Rabbits 2, shire nil

AT THE September meeting of the Bass Coast Shire Council, they passed the following motion unanimously: "That Council Officers provide a report on possible eradication and population control options regarding rabbits, feral cats and deer in Bass Coast."

But it was more about rabbits being in plague proportions on Phillip Island than anything else. And you don't have to look far past the lawns in front of the Berninnet Cultural Centre and the jetty triangle in Cowes to see where dozens of rabbits have taken up residence. The issue was raised by Island Ward Councillor Ron Bauer, but managed to garner the support of all other councillors on the basis that the initial call for a rabbit management report be extended to other pest animals, across the whole shire.

What will the council do? They may already be doing it! According to a report tabled at council, officers of the shire already work in collaboration with Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast Landcare Network to develop innovative approaches for rabbit control on Phillip Island, while minimising risk to native wildlife.

"Regular interagency meetings are held to discuss methods for control, including baiting under protective cages, fumigation, and rabbit-proof fencing. Next year, a trial led by Phillip Island Nature Parks, with a PhD candidate, will aim to determine the effectiveness of different control methods and determine the risk to Eastern Barred Bandicoots and other animals."

But, as Cr Bauer underscored, the damage being caused by rabbits remains a key concern in the community.

"Since last year's election, the two most asked questions have been what's happening with the recreation reserve and what is Council doing about the bloody rabbits. The rabbits are burrowing under people's homes and digging up everybody's gardens. I know a garden in Cowes worthy of a feature in Gardening Australia, where, according to the owner, at least \$20,000 worth of damage has been done by these pests," said Cr Bauer.

"The damage that they're doing to native flora is horrendous, but I have no doubt that the rabbits do not distinguish between private and public property, so they must be costing the council a fortune in both appearance and maintenance of our public assets."

"Another issue with the burrowing and the hole digging is the occupational health and safety issue. The holes caused are a tripping hazard where a person can easily twist an ankle or break a foot," he said.

Cr Matt Morgan said there was a feral animal problem across the shire and he was pleased to see that the report would cover other areas and other animal pests as well.

"I would love to say that I'm optimistic that this report will come back with some magic solutions. I know that this is a very difficult problem, particularly with rabbits and breeding conditions, as there's a warming climate means that they will breed like rabbits," said Cr Morgan.

Cr Tim O'Brien's cameras in the Western Port Woodlands had picked up vision of all sorts of feral animals including wild pigs and deer. The Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead also weighed in saying that deer were a regular hazard on the roads in the Waterline area.

It is not known when the pest animals' report, with the emphasis on those rascally rabbits will come to council.

Ideas picnic for old Wonthaggi Tech site

IT'S been six years since the doors of the old McBride Campus of the Wonthaggi Secondary College closed for the last time.

And, according to members of the Wonthaggi Old Tech Creative Hub Group (WOTCH), it's simply taking too long for a start to be made on repurposing the centrally-located, 1.8 hectare site.

So, on Saturday, November 15, WOTCH will be taking matters into their own hands.

And they've called on the representatives of other community groups and interested individuals to come and join them at a 'Picnic in the Park' in Wishart Reserve from 4pm-6pm – all welcome.

"We've got an interest in transforming it into a creative community hub which could include artist studios, sound and media lab, spaces for learning and sharing, café, bar, marketplace, creative businesses and the like but it's such a great location, big and central, that it could accommodate a multitude of uses," said WOTCH spokesperson Jeni Jobe.

"The possibilities are endless. I've also got a keen interest in the Housing Matters Bass Coast group, advocating for more affordable housing in our area and some innovative ways to grow social housing in Bass Coast, and that could be a part of it too."

"But there's just so much



A local community group is calling for action at the old Wonthaggi Tech site before it's too late to make use of buildings and other assets on the site.

opportunity there, the only problem being that the longer we delay, the less useful the existing buildings will be and the less likely something will happen in the short term."

Ms Jobe said any repurposing of the site would be a staged affair, possibly with some interim uses to begin with to keep the site active and maintained, with more permanent development of the site to follow.

"The big challenge is to get something happening sooner rather than later because if nothing's done soon, it's going

to decay quickly.

"It would be terribly sad if we looked again at this site in 10 years' time and nothing had been done. We need to inject a sense of immediacy into this project, to make something happen so that the infrastructure and sense of goodwill that exists within the community isn't lost."

"If something starts to happen, people will have more hope about what's possible there."

"There's a lot of old buildings that will have problems with asbestos, the plumbing,

electricals, whatever, but there are also buildings built after 1985 that won't have those sorts of problems.

"If we could establish some sort of hub there first, a way to get some activity on the site, it would help preserve the best elements for future use."

"But we've got to get on with it," she said.

Despite not having ownership or even control of the site to date, the Bass Coast Shire Council committed \$350,000 in its 2025-26 budget to do its due diligence and develop a feasibility study to put to the state government.

The shire will update progress on its Engage Bass Coast website where it says it has commenced detailed pre-feasibility studies, which include exhaustive examinations of the property's condition, including building and structural integrity, heritage and safety. This will identify short, medium and long-term costs plus risks associated with taking on the site, to ensure a full understanding of the costs involved in managing the site.

The 'Picnic in the Park' to garner community support for the old Tech School will be held at Wishart Reserve, Wonthaggi on Saturday, November 15 from 4pm-6pm, BYO food, drinks and a rug (musical instrument optional). Go to the Facebook page for WOTCH or their website at wonthaggioldtech.org.

Car crashed linked to homicide investigation



POLICE are preparing a report for the coroner following a crash on Ventnor Road, Cowes last Friday morning, November 7.

It is understood the car was travelling east along Ventnor Road when it crashed into a tree just after 6.30am.

The driver and sole occupant, a 56-year-old man from the Cowes area, died at the scene.

It has been reported that the deceased man was Frank Waylen, 56, the son of a recently deceased local resident, 86-year-old Paul Waylen.

Police had been investigating the circumstances around

Mr Waylen senior's death, and had listed the son as "the sole person of interest in their investigation".

In April this year, Homicide Detective Inspector Dean Thomas provided an update to their investigation confirming: "We're not looking for anyone else in relation to the incident."

Despite last Friday's crash, police say the "homicide investigation remains ongoing".

LEFT: The scene of a single car crash on Ventnor Road, just outside Cowes, last Friday, November 7 at about 6.30am.

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**THE NATIONALS**

for Regional Victoria



6 | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

South Dudley recycler walks away \$10,000 richer

WHEN the phone first rang, Kim from South Dudley was cautious to say the least.

"I was sceptical at first, I thought I was getting pranked," she said.

"I didn't believe it until they sent me an email, and I could check it all and see it was legitimate. And then I just couldn't believe it. I only entered once, and that was because my son asked me to. Before I drove off from the can collect, I just thought 'okay, I'll get this over and done with, I'll just enter' but I didn't expect to hear anything from it."

That single entry, the one she almost didn't bother with, has just earned her \$10,000.

The statewide Win a Million Cents competition ran from May 5 to June 15, giving people one entry for every fifty drink containers returned. Five people across Victoria won the major prize. Kim's entry came through Wonthaggi's Can Collect depot.

Wonthaggi depot manager Michael Imlach said the team was thrilled.

"It was a state-wide competition with five winners across the whole state. It went for six weeks. We were one of the five locations that won, so it was a bit of a big deal for us."

Michael said the win felt personal.

"Seeing a local person win this cash prize through our Depot is an incredibly proud moment for



Wonthaggi Can Collect's Michael Imlach and Billy Caddy congratulate Kim from South Dudley on her \$10,000 win through the container deposit scheme. W03_4525

our entire team. It's a reflection of the dedication, customer service, and passion we've poured into promoting the competition within our community. We worked tirelessly to make this opportunity possible, and witnessing it benefit someone from right here in our community makes every effort worthwhile."

The timing, he said, couldn't have been better.

"As we celebrate our second anniversary this November, we reflect with pride on the journey we've shared with the communities of Bass Coast and South Gippsland. Over the past two years, our mission has been clear: to serve our region with

integrity, sustainability, and community spirit. With over 24 million containers processed across our two Can Collect CDS Vic depots, we've not only helped reduce waste, we've built a movement rooted in local action and environmental responsibility. Our commitment is to continue growing with our community, one container at a time."

For Kim, the habit of collecting cans started during one of the hardest times of her life.

"I went through treatment for breast cancer last year, and while I was doing the treatment, I needed to keep myself healthy, and they suggested walking. I

was walking a lot, at least one or two hours a day. So, while I was walking, I'd take a bag with me and collect any cans I could find. It was a bit like a treasure hunt. Sometimes I can get up to 30 cans."

As for how she'll spend the money, she's taking her time.

"One day I'd like to go on a holiday, but I'm not planning anything at the moment. Possibly to Cairns. Somewhere tropical and warm."

The Win a Million Cents competition drew tens of thousands of entries from all corners of Victoria, from Geelong to Gippsland and Wodonga to Melbourne's outer suburbs.

AusNet backs community energy resilience

AUSNET established the \$12 million Energy Resilience Community Fund following the storms in February last year, to support energy resilience and literacy projects across AusNet's electricity distribution network in eastern and north-eastern Victoria, and Melbourne's north and east. Round three recipients in Bass Coast include:

- Bass Valley Community Group received \$18,696 for solar and battery storage at the Bass Community Centre to create a community resilience hub.

- Grantville Recreation Reserve Committee of Management received \$33,630 for a new inverter, battery and generator to create a community resilience hub. The system will power cooking facilities, refrigeration and charge devices during emergencies, severe weather events and outages.

- State Emergency Service San Remo Unit received \$12,179 for a generator and change-over switch, to enable continuous power for cooking facilities, refrigeration and device charging.

- Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club received \$25,000 to replace the existing solar with a new, high-efficiency solar system and install a second battery system.

Round three recipients in South Gippsland include:

- Mirboo North Hardware received \$5737 for a generator to provide backup power, allowing the hardware store to supply essential items to the community during emergency events while also providing a source of power to recharge battery-operated tools and devices.

- Fish Creek Memorial Hall received \$36,748 to install a generator, which will provide the community with access to power, heating, cooking facilities and somewhere to charge devices during extended outages and severe weather events.

- Country Fire Authority Loch Brigade received \$45,314 for a generator at the Loch CFA, which will provide the community with access to power, heating, cooking facilities.

SEC Morwell hub now open

A place for locals to learn, connect, and lead the charge toward Victoria's renewable energy future.



Information on how to go electric at home to reduce energy bills



Schools programs to inspire careers in renewable energy



Events and spaces to engage with industry and community



Explore SEC history and how we're powering a renewable energy future

Come along and visit us at 248 Commercial Road, Morwell
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Join the cycle: The journey of your 10-cent containers

HAVE you ever wondered what happens to your drink cans, bottles and cartons after you return them for a 10-cent refund through Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS Vic)?

With this week being National Recycling Week (November 10–16), CDS Vic shares what happens next, and how every returned container helps power Victoria's circular economy.

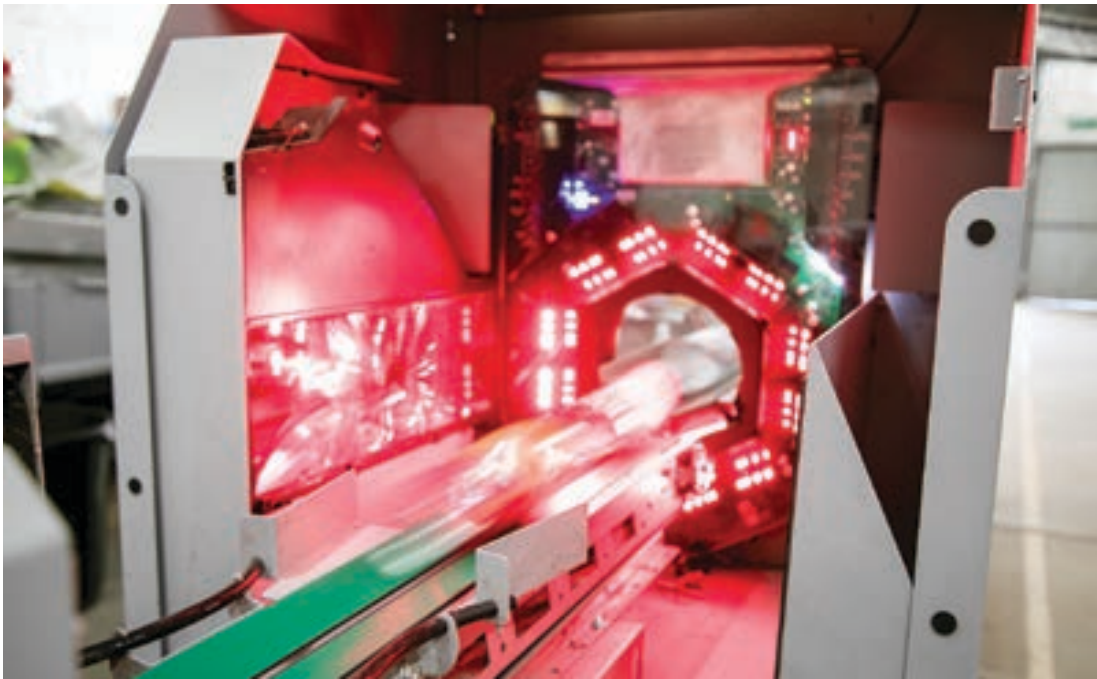
This year's theme, Join the Cycle, perfectly aligns with the mission of CDS Vic: keeping eligible drink containers in the recycling loop so they can be remade into new products again and again.

"National Recycling Week is a timely reminder of our shared commitment to a more sustainable Victoria," said Marianne Doyle, interim Chief Executive of scheme coordinator VicReturn.

"Recycling eligible drink containers means fewer virgin materials are needed to make new bottles and cans, reducing our impact on the environment," she said.

The recycling process begins when Victorians return their drink containers at one of the hundreds of refund points across the state. From there, they're sorted by material type and sent to recycling facilities to be processed back into new products.

Here's where your containers



Have you ever wondered where your drink containers end up?

go next:

Plastic bottles are sorted by material type (PET, HDPE and others) and recycled at facilities in Victoria. They're cleaned, shredded into flakes, melted down, extruded and turned into pellets, then used to make new products.

Glass bottles are cleaned and sorted by colour into glass cullet, at facilities in Victoria and South Australia. The cullet is then sent to glass manufacturing plants in Victoria and South Australia that use it in the production

of new glass bottles and jars.

"Glass can be infinitely recycled, so returning your glass bottles through CDS Vic helps conserve our natural resources," Mrs Doyle said.

Aluminium cans are bailed before being shipped overseas to be reprocessed into aluminium coils. These are returned to Australia where they are used to make new drink cans.

Since launching in November 2023, CDS Vic has helped Victorians recycle more, reduce litter and keep valuable

materials out of landfill. Victorians have returned 2.3 billion drink containers, earning \$230 million in refunds.

CDS Vic proudly supports Planet Ark's National Recycling Week, which has encouraged Australians since 1996 to reduce, reuse and repurpose their waste.

Join the cycle this National Recycling Week by collecting and returning eligible drink containers for a 10-cent refund at your nearest refund point. Visit cdsvic.org.au to learn more.

Aquatic centre upgrade leaves men out in the cold

SLOW progress on remedial works at the Bass Coast Aquatic Centre in Wonthaggi have left male swimmers out in the cold with a makeshift changeroom and a single shower.

New windows have been installed in the gym area enhancing natural light and ventilation, but on the main pool deck, a portable male toilet block has been bolted to the side of the aquatic centre with a temporary changing area partitioned from the public with nothing more than a flimsy curtain.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead admitted it was not a good solution.

"We are strongly advocating for the aquatic centre through applications for grants.

"Leading into the state election next year, there will be a lot of meetings with Ministers and Shadow Ministers to seek election commitments," said Mayor Halstead.

"We have to make sure the aquatic centre is doing its job."

Floor repairs were delayed due to excess moisture from the pool, according to Engage Bass Coast, however, work is now underway on the female changerooms with female swimmers currently located in the male changerooms.

"We appreciate your patience during the construction period, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions before or during the project."

Work is expected to be completed by the end of this week, Friday, November 14.

"It has not been ideal," said a spokesperson for Bass Coast Shire Council.

"But we've done our best to keep everyone accommodated as best as we could."

Men using the aquatic centre during the upgrade works have also been offered use of the family changing rooms as an alternative to the temporary shower and change area.

VICTORIA'S
CONTAINER DEPOSIT
SCHEME

FEEL LIKE
A MILLION
BUCKS

Return your empties this National Recycling
Week and help the planet and your pocket.



South Gippsland
Shire Council

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Walk Against Family Violence

Wear orange and join the walk towards a future free from family violence on Wednesday 26 November.

To support the 16 Days of Activism, South Gippsland Shire Council is hosting a Walk Against Family Violence. It will begin outside the Leongatha Memorial Hall. PollyannaR is also hosting a **respect** themed photo pop-up activity at the same location.

Sadly, family violence continues to be a significant issue in South Gippsland. By walking with us, you're taking a stand against it and helping to create a safer, more inclusive community for everyone in our region.

Joining the walk is one of the ways you can show your support for ending all forms violence.

If you or anyone you know needs support, call 1800 RESPECT or visit **www.1800respect.org.au**

WALK AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE

Date: Wednesday 26 November

Where: Out the front of Leongatha Memorial Hall.

Time: **Walk** - 12.30pm to 1.00pm,
Photo Pop-Up - 10.00am to 2.00pm.

Citizenship Ceremony



South Gippsland's next Citizenship Ceremony will be taking place on Wednesday 12 November.

On the night, 17 conferees will be recognised, hailing from: New Zealand, Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Singapore and Netherlands.

Please join us at Memorial Hall in Leongatha from 6.00pm to celebrate our newest Australian citizens.

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

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

RFT/430 – Port Welshpool Seawall Repairs

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 2 December 2025.

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

COMMUNITY IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

Date: Thursday 18 November

Where: Karmai Community Children's Centre, 22 Princes Street, Korumburra

When: 10.00am to 2.00pm

To find a session in November that suits you and to book, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation

GREEN WASTE AMNESTY

Dispose of green waste free of charge at Council's transfer station until 31 December 2025. Please be mindful that some plant species are not accepted in the amnesty.

For more information, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/greenwasteamnesty

GARAGE SALE TRAIL

Australia's largest second-hand treasure hunt is on this weekend (15 and 16 November).

With over 30 sale locations around South Gippsland, there's sure to be a bargain waiting around the corner!

From clothing and tools, to craft materials, there are all sorts of second-hand goods available as part of the trail.

For more information and to view a map of sales happening near you, visit:

www.garagesaletrail.com.au/south-gippsland

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha

03 5662 9200

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Media and police stayed in Patterson jury's hotel

IT WAS common knowledge during the week-long deliberations of the jury, at the end of the Erin Patterson trial in Morwell, that the police informant, Detective LSC Stephen Eppingstall, members of the prosecution team and the media were staying in the same hotel in Traralgon as the jury.

The issue has now become one of seven grounds of Ms Patterson's appeal against her conviction on three counts of murder and one of attempted murder, if successful, offering the opportunity of acquittal or retrial.

Characterised by Justice Beale, after he was informed of the situation five days into the jury's sequestration at Bridges on Argyle in Traralgon, as "obviously undesirable for any of the parties or the informant to be staying at the same hotel as the jury", he acknowledged there had been a shortage of accommodation in the district during the trial.

Prosecution solicitors made a statement that they did not interact with the jury at any stage and also took steps to avoid any incidental contact in common areas while members of the media have reported moving to avoid jury members in the hallway of the hotel.

It was Ms Patterson and her defence team that insisted the trial be held in Morwell, being the closest supreme court venue to where the offences were committed, against the submissions of the Crown, with the scarcity of accommodation and other issues surrounding the regional location playing out during the trial.

Here are the details of the appeal application, submitted to the Registrar of Criminal Appeals by Bill Doogue, Solicitor for Ms Patterson on behalf of the applicant.

"To the Registrar of Criminal Appeals: I, Erin Patterson, am convicted of the offences of murder and attempted murder, and I am a prisoner at Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. I wish to appeal



Erin Patterson's appeal against her murder convictions includes the claim that "a fundamental irregularity occurred" when the jury was sequestered at this hotel in Traralgon at the same time as police and prosecutors which "fatally undermined the integrity of the verdicts".

to the Court of Appeal under Section 274 of the Criminal Procedure Act 2009 against my conviction (particulars of which are set out below).

"Take notice that I apply to the Court of Appeal for leave to appeal against my conviction on the grounds:

1. A fundamental irregularity occurred while the jury were sequestered that has fatally undermined the integrity of the verdicts and requires the quashing of the convictions and an order for a re-trial so that justice can not only be done but be seen to be done.

2. The cell tower evidence and evidence of death cap mushroom sightings in Loch and Outtrim posted to iNaturalist should not have been adduced in the applicant's trial as the evidence was not (i) relevant or (ii) the probative value of that evidence was outweighed by its unfair prejudice and the admission of that evidence occasioned a substantial miscarriage of justice.

3. The learned trial judge erred in ruling that photos and videos related to mushrooms and found on an SD card at the applicant's home was inadmissible during the prosecution case such that a substantial miscarriage of

justice has occurred.

4. The "Facebook evidence" – including the evidence from Facebook 'friends' and Facebook messages – should not have been adduced in the applicant's trial as the evidence was not (i) relevant or (ii) the probative value of that evidence was outweighed by its unfair prejudice and the admission of that evidence occasioned a substantial miscarriage of justice.

5. A substantial miscarriage of justice has occurred because of unfair and oppressive cross-examination of the applicant.

6. The prosecutor's closing address caused a substantial miscarriage of justice

7. A substantial miscarriage of justice occurred because despite opening the case for the prosecution on the basis that there was no evidence of motive the prosecution in its closing address changed its case by implying that there was, in fact, a motive for murder.

The application is dated Monday, November 3, 2025.

It is expected to be heard early next year; however, while Ms Patterson's defence team must clear the first hurdle, that is be granted leave to appeal, usually the Court of Appeal will hold a

hearing at which they will hear arguments in relation to leave to appeal and the appeal itself at the same time.

Erin Patterson's convictions arise out of a family lunch of Beef Wellington laced with poisonous death cap mushrooms at her Leongatha home on Saturday, July 29, 2023.

As a result of eating the meal prepared by Ms Patterson, containing mushrooms she had collected, three of her in-laws died and another almost succumbed to Amanita phalloides poisoning.

Ms Patterson was sentenced to three life terms and one of 25 years, to be served concurrently, with a minimum of 33 years to serve.

The Department of Public Prosecution has also lodged an appeal against the sentence on the grounds the judge erred when he took into account the likely impact the triple murderer's time in solitary confinement. The DPP claims fixing a non-parole period of 33 years was "manifestly inadequate" for a conviction on three counts of murder and one of attempted murder.

Ms Patterson has been in custody since November 2023.

Injured woman rescued at Flat Rocks

BASS Coast Police Service Area Eyewatch Facebook page reported assisting the Inverloch SES Unit with a rescue last Friday, November 7.

The SES operation centred on recovering an injured woman at Flat Rocks.

The woman had fallen on slippery rocks, and was carried from the area using the SES 'Mule' trolley.

She was given medical treatment at the scene by paramedics from Ambulance Victoria.

RIGHT: Inverloch SES and police rescue an injured woman from Flat Rocks last Friday where she slipped, fell and injured herself.



Mayor's Message



South Gippsland
Shire Council

Cr John Schelling



Remembrance Day

I'd like to begin by acknowledging Remembrance Day and the many services held across our Shire. These moments of reflection are deeply important, and I thank everyone who participated in honouring those who have served.

Have Your Say on Council Initiatives

Over the last couple of weeks, Council hosted a series of in-person community engagement sessions in Leongatha, Korumburra, Foster, and Tarwin Lower. These sessions were a great success, and it was fantastic to hear directly from our community. Thank you to everyone who took time out of their day to attend and share their thoughts.

Community feedback is still open for the 2026/27 Budget submissions, the draft Governance Rules, and the draft Community Engagement Strategy and Policy. Submissions close Friday 21 November, so if you haven't yet had your say, I encourage you to visit [southgippsland.vic.gov.au](https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au) and share your feedback.

Garage Sale Trail

We've also kicked off the Garage Sale Trail – a nationwide event promoting sustainable shopping. It runs over two weekends: November 8–9 and November 15–16, with over 30 garage sales happening across South Gippsland. Be sure to map out your trail and take part in one of the biggest reuse events in the country.

Walk Against Family Violence

I would like to invite the community to join in walking against family violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. We will be walking from 12.30pm on Wednesday, November 26, starting at Memorial Hall in Leongatha.

Leongatha and Korumburra Railway Precincts Project – Official Opening

Another event is the official opening of the Leongatha and Korumburra Railway Precinct, happening on Friday, November 14 at 11.00am at the Leongatha Railway Precinct. This \$6 million project

has transformed railway land at both Leongatha and Korumburra into vibrant public spaces, and I welcome everyone to come celebrate this big milestone for South Gippsland.

November Citizenship Ceremony

In addition to exciting events, please come along to our November Citizenship Ceremony on Wednesday, November 12 from 6pm at Memorial Hall, Leongatha. We'll be welcoming 17 new conferees on the night.

Roaming ArtCubes

You may have noticed the ArtCubes have recently left Leongatha. They're now roaming the Shire and can be found at Fleet Wines Leongatha, Toora, and Venus Bay. Be sure to check them out and enjoy the creativity on display.

National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress

This week, I'm attending the Australian Local Government Association's National Local Roads, Transport and Infrastructure Congress in Bendigo alongside Council's Manager Infrastructure Delivery, Jareth Goss. It's a valuable opportunity to connect with other local government leaders, decision-makers, and suppliers who can support Council's initiatives and innovations.

2025 Mayoral Election

I also encourage everyone to tune into our upcoming Council Meeting on Wednesday, November 19, which includes the Mayoral Election. This annual process determines who will serve as Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the coming year, and it's an important moment in Council's governance calendar.

2026 Local hero for Victoria nominee

Finally, I'd like to congratulate Susan Moore, a dedicated wildlife carer from Venus Bay, who was nominated for the 2026 Australian of the Year Local Hero for Victoria Award. Being nominated is a tremendous honour, and Susan's contribution to our community is truly inspiring.

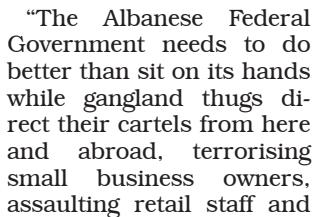


Is that text message worth \$611?

Using your phone illegally while driving could land you a \$611 fine and 4 demerit points.
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“The policy intention of an excise tax is to reduce the number of people, particularly young people, who take up smoking. Because of the financial impost, legal cigarettes are already taxed at among the highest levels in the world. “All of us want to see a



"It's going to have to be a massive cut to the price of legal cigarettes to be able to compete with criminals. It might sound attractive at first blush, but it's not practical."



"These light tankers will come equipped with the latest safety features and new firefighting equipment," Dan said.

"It was important to ensure we had the stock so we can continue delivering these vital firefighting vehicles to our brigades across the state over the next couple of years."

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 | **13**

More than 6400 weapons surrendered, they say

THE rollout of the Machete Amnesty Safe Disposal Bin on September 1 received negative backlash from the community, with the Sentinel-Times Facebook page remarks stating, 'it's a waste of money, as if criminals are going to hand them in, something needs to be done about the repeat offenders and the crime rate, not wasting money on this'.

All while a VICGOV spokesperson has stated that they are listening to the community.

"Which is why we continue to give Victoria Police the resources and powers they need to crack down on offenders.

"We're getting more knives off our streets than any other state through our nation-leading machete ban and the expanded stop and search powers we gave Victoria Police.

"We have also introduced tough bail laws that make it much harder for violent, repeat offenders to get bail, and the Chief Commissioner is overhauling Victoria Police with more police on the street."

Machete Amnesty Safe Disposal Bins are located outside designated 24/7 police stations until November 30, where the state government originally stated that people can surrender machetes safely and anonymously.

In addressing how effective the machete bins have been so far, the Premier's office confirmed that, so far, more than 6400 weapons have been surrendered by members of the public to the machete amnesty, and more than 3400 by a major retailer. This is on top of the 14,000 weapons Victoria Police have seized this year as part of OMNI operations, where they can search anyone at any time.

Exemptions apply for specific use, including for agricultural workers who use machetes as part of their job and for machetes that have a genuine traditional, historical, or cultural significance.

Further details on exemptions and the locations of the disposal are available at vic.gov.au/machete-amnesty.

Chris Buckingham endorsed as Labor candidate for Bass

CHRIS Buckingham says he feels "incredibly privileged" to stand as a Labor candidate for the seat of Bass, after recently being preselected. He describes his campaign as one built on fairness and genuine community connection.

Buckingham plans to move to the electorate in July next year, after visiting the area every year for the past four decades.

"I've been connected to Bass Coast and South Gippsland for a long time," he said.

"For me, it was about the opportunity to represent a community that I feel a strong connection to, and understanding that Bass has evolved over time."

Mr Buckingham previously ran for the federal seat of McMillan in 2016, which covered much of the same area as Bass, and has led several regional organisations, including Casey Cardinia Libraries and the Latrobe Valley Authority. He is currently CEO of The Fair Co.

He praised outgoing MP Jordan Crugnale, who will not be recontesting the seat, saying her work would continue to benefit residents for years to come.

"Jordan Crugnale has done an incredible amount of work for the people of Bass over the last seven years and will continue to do so over the next 12 months," he said.

"The community will reap the benefits for many years to come."



Outgoing MP Jordan Crugnale meets with newly preselected Labor candidate Chris Buckingham in Bass.

Ms Crugnale said she was very pleased with Chris Buckingham's endorsement from her party.

"I have known Chris for many years now. He is grounded, a great listener, smart and brings an insurmountable amount of energy and drive to work with and for community to bring about positive change for the better," she said.

"Chris will work his heart out to deliver the projects, programs and supports already underway and be an active and fierce advocate to ensure community priorities and needs are voiced and delivered so our growing, diverse and wonderful community can live and be well."

Looking ahead,

Mr Buckingham said he wants to focus on civic infrastructure, education and opportunities for young people.

"I think there's still work to be done around ensuring that civic infrastructure that serves the communities is up to scratch and well supported and meets the needs of the community," he said.

"Young people who get the opportunity to be educated in their community and feel connected with their community are more likely to stay in their community. That, for me, is a key opportunity for us as a region."

He also said Bass's diversity was one of its greatest strengths.

"I think there's a real diversity

in terms of the population and the communities that live in Bass," he said.

"By seeing the humanity in each other and supporting each other and caring for the country that we're living on, we'll help make Bass a better place."

Mr Buckingham pointed to his experience leading community and tourism organisations as shaping his approach to collaboration.

"I was the CEO of Casey-Cardinia Library for five years. Libraries are a great way of bringing community together, and that's at the core of who I am and what I've done professionally," he said.

"I understand people as a business community and government working together, and it shouldn't be a competition; it should be collaboration."

As he begins his campaign, Mr Buckingham said his focus would remain on fairness and opportunity.

"I am determined to retain the seat of Bass and will advocate on behalf of the electorate to ensure our community continues to prosper and grow," he said.

"Fairness goes to the very heart of how I work. No one should be held back, and no one should be left behind."

Bass is the most marginal seat in Victoria, held by fewer than 200 votes after Ms Crugnale's narrow win in 2022.

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14 | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

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VicGrid's corridor and draft preferred route for offshore wind transmission in Gippsland

VicGrid is developing a new shared transmission line to bring offshore wind energy from the Gippsland coast into the electricity grid. This is a vital project that will help power homes, businesses, schools, hospitals and essential services across the state - including Gippsland.

Following detailed studies, community feedback, and site investigations, we've identified a corridor and draft preferred route.

We're now looking to speak with landholders in the draft preferred route area to seek further feedback and input.

We know we need to undertake further technical work and environmental studies, alongside community and landholder feedback, to help refine the route.

We'll keep refining the draft preferred route in consultation with landholders and technical experts with an intent to announce a final route in early 2026.

Want to know more about what this means for your area?



Visit Engage Victoria to find out more about the corridor and draft preferred route, our upcoming events and to provide your feedback.

engage.vic.gov.au/offshore-wind-transmission





Bec Wilson, best-selling author, podcaster and retirement expert, is speaking at 12pm at the Lifestyle Communities Phillip Island open day on November 15.

Plan for your coastal retirement

PLANNING for retirement can often feel like an overwhelming task. Throughout the process, there are a lot of decisions to be made and a lot of questions to answer. Where will you retire? Will you have enough money? What government benefits are you entitled to? Do you need to sell your home to finance your retirement? What lifestyle do you want to have when you retire?

The list of questions to answer feels endless. That's completely normal and a common experience for people planning their retirement.

The truth is, planning your retirement isn't about having all the answers immediately. It's a journey that might take you years, but how you prepare for it can make a huge impact on what your retirement looks like.

You might have put off retirement planning for years, or you might have been chipping away. Whatever stage you're at, knowing how to prepare is crucial and makes the task more approachable. Having all the information you need to make the right decisions about retirement for

you is the first step!

At Lifestyle Communities, we believe retirement planning should be empowering, giving you a peek into what your next chapter could look like. Everyone's retirement will look different and that's ok. Some people want to stay busy with lots of get-aways, activities and even working along the way. Others prefer to take it slow, making time for themselves every single day. Whatever your dream retirement looks like, now is the time to start dreaming about it! For many homeowners at Lifestyle Communities Phillip Island, retiring by the coast with a lifestyle that felt like a holiday every day was their focus.

That's why we have partnered up with Bec Wilson, best-selling author, podcaster and retirement expert, to bring you an informative session about how to plan an epic retirement. She will be coming along to our next Open Day at Lifestyle Communities Phillip Island to give you the confidence to plan the retirement you've dreamt of. This is a great opportunity to gather all the

information you need to start planning your own epic retirement, no matter what that looks like for you.

Bec Wilson will be covering key aspects of retirement planning, such as preparing financially, planning for your dream lifestyle and more. Plus, if you've got any burning questions, Bec Wilson will be answering questions.

Join us on November 15 between 11am and 2pm for a fun day out for the whole family. Grab a bite to eat, wander through our resort-style Clubhouse, check out our newest display homes and leave with the knowledge you need to retire your way. Bec Wilson will be speaking at 12pm, so make sure you grab a coffee and a seat for this presentation.

Register for this event on the website or drop by on the day: lifestylecommunities.com.au/Phillip-Island-Open-Day.

Lifestyle Communities is flipping the script on life after 50 with resort-style Clubhouse amenities, low-maintenance homes and a community of like-minded homeowners who look out for one another.

AusNet launches eco-friendly streetlight trial on Phillip Island

AUSNET is switching on a brighter future for Phillip Island, one that's smarter, greener, and kinder to native wildlife.

In an innovative trial, AusNet is rolling out intelligent street-light technology across five locations on Phillip Island.

AusNet general manager customer and community, Stephen Thompson, said the smart lights are designed to reduce energy use and minimise light pollution, helping protect the island's unique ecosystem while improving public lighting.

"Smart streetlights respond to their surroundings. They adjust brightness to deliver just the right amount of light. This means lower energy consumption and less disruption to native animals' natural behaviours," said Mr Thompson.

The trial is being delivered in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council, Phillip Island Nature Parks, and lighting technology company Signify. Together, the trial aims to balance community safety with environmental stewardship.

"These lights offer passive dimming and remote control, which not only saves energy but also allows us to respond faster to outages or faults," added Mr Thompson.

Artificial light can interfere with animals' circadian rhythms, alter behaviour and even affect survival rates. By using warm white LEDs and smart sensors, AusNet hopes to reduce these impacts, especially during sensitive periods

like the annual shearwater bird migration.

The smart lighting upgrades will be installed at:

- The Esplanade near Surfies Point, Sunderland Bay – replacing existing lights with warm white LEDs and smart controllers.
- Phillip Island Road and Back Beach Road intersection – adding smart controllers to existing warm white LEDs.
- Cottesloe Ave near Woolamai Back Beach – upgrading to warm white LEDs with advanced proximity sensors.
- Old Bridge Drive – replacing lights with warm white LEDs and proximity sensors.
- Phillip Island Bridge – adding smart controllers to 17 lights and replacing two LEDs with warm white versions. These can be switched off during the shearwater migration to protect the birds.

Over the coming months AusNet will gather input from residents and visitors to assess lighting quality, safety, and environmental impact. This feedback will help shape future plans to expand smart lighting across AusNet's distribution network.

"We're listening closely to the community and monitoring wildlife activity so this technology delivers real benefits," said Mr Thompson.

Managing more than 180,000 streetlights, this trial has the potential blueprint for broader change.

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Phillip Island

Open day

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Free Information Session at 12pm with Bec Wilson

Join Bec Wilson – author, podcaster, and one of Australia's leading voices on modern retirement, as she shares practical tips for building a fulfilling, flexible, and financially confident future.

Registration is essential and closes Wednesday 12 November.



Saturday 15 November
11am to 2pm



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Phillip Island, 498
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 lifestyle communities

**Price correct as at October 2025. Subject to change.*



SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 | 17

South Gippsland cheesemakers sweep blue cheese finals



Cheese in the making at Prom Country Cheese, where the award-nominated Inverloch Blue is produced by hand.

SOUTH Gippsland has quietly built a reputation for producing some of the best blue cheese in the country, and this year's Australian Grand Dairy Awards have made it official, with every single finalist in the Blue Cheese category hailing from the area.

Among them is Prom Country Cheese at Moyarra, run by husband-and-wife team Daniel and Chelsie Hales, alongside Berry's Creek Gourmet Cheese in Fish Creek, which earned two finalist spots for its much-loved Oak Blue and Mossvale Blue.

For Daniel Hales, the recognition is more than just a nod from the judges, it's a moment of pride for his family's paddock-to-plate business.

"Prom Country Cheese was started about 12 years ago by Burke and Bronwyn Brandon, and then me and my wife, Chelsie, bought the business about three and a half years ago," he said.

"It was originally known for sheep milk cheeses, but now we specialise in certified organic raw milk cheeses."

Their finalist cheese, Inverloch Blue, is brand new, but already making waves.

"This is the first year we've ever made it," Daniel said.

"We only made 60 wheels. It's our milk, our cheese, wrapped with grape leaves from our vineyard at the factory, soaked in fumé blanc from a vineyard just 200 metres away. We wanted to create something that truly captures our place, something you can't recreate anywhere else."

The Hales' cheese is a genuine product of the land. Their farm, Glen Moidart, sits along Lance Creek, and Daniel is the fifth generation of his family to work the property, which was first settled back in 1886.

Everything happens on-site, from milking the cows at dawn to

handcrafting and maturing each cheese.

"We're in control of every step of the process," Daniel said. "From the soil to the grass, the cows, and the cheese. It's all connected."

Down the road in Fish Creek, master cheesemaker Barry Charlton of Berry's Creek Gourmet Cheese has long been known as one of Australia's greats. His blue cheeses are celebrated not only across the country but internationally, thanks to decades of careful refinement and a refusal to compromise on quality.

From his dairy base, Barry and his team produce cheeses that balance tradition and innovation, remaining fiercely loyal to their artisan roots. As their website puts it, Berry's Creek strives for "an uncompromising standard of excellence".

Daniel Hales said South Gippsland's environment and talented cheesemakers are what make the region stand out, particularly crediting Barry Charlton, as well as his own cheesemaker, Burke Brandon. "Gippsland has great dairy country, green grass, good rainfall, but you also need the skillset," he said.

"That's a credit to Barry and Burke. You could put those two anywhere in Australia and they'd still be making incredible cheese."

This year's Australian Grand Dairy Awards were judged in Brisbane in late October, with winners to be announced at the Melbourne Showgrounds on November 13. The awards shine a light on the best of Australian dairy products that are not just made well, but made with care, creativity and genuine passion.



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

Don't pay more than necessary for your electricity

WITH energy costs among the big challenges in the current cost-of-living environment, an interactive session at Venus Bay Community Centre (VBCC) on Wednesday, November 26 will help you determine if you have the best energy deal for your circumstances.

VBCC Manager Alyson Skinner stressed that nobody will be trying to sell you anything.

"We should be checking our energy retail providers every 12 months to make sure we're getting the best deal, and a lot of people don't do that," she said.

'Bring Your Bill Day' will teach you how to compare energy offers and what to look for on your energy bill, as well as helping you learn if having solar panels would lower your power costs.

"It's stepping through how you read your electricity bill, and how you can best use your electricity," Alyson said of the session.

Considerations such as peak and off-peak energy periods, and whether you have energy-efficient appliances will be discussed.

"We'll be showing people the various components of the electricity bill and looking together at the Victorian Energy Compare site where you can see different offers and find the best one for you and your circumstances," Alyson said.

'Bring Your Bill Day' is one of a series of 'Energy Circles', community-led gatherings at which people can ask questions, share knowledge and learn more about home efficiency and renewable energy.

'Energy Circles' events are supported by the Venus Bay Community Centre and Mycelia Renewables Partnership and funded by grants from Ausnet Energy Resilience Community Fund and FRRR Community Led Climate Solutions.

The project is supported by the Community Electrification Engagement Program that is delivered by Sustainability Victoria on behalf of the Victorian Government.

'Bring Your Bill Day' runs from 10.30-11.30am on Wednesday, November 26 at VBCC, located at 27 Canterbury Road, Venus Bay.

Please RSVP to teresa.davison@mycelia.org.au.

For more details and to help you prepare, go to [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)



Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Bringing it home: Monster Truck mayhem returns to Korumburra

IN THE decade since Korumburra's Simon O'Neill founded SouthCoast Monster Trucks (SCMT), his company has been putting on shows all over Australia.

But recently, Simon decided it was time to bring the SCMT action to his own hometown.

This Saturday, November 15, Monster X Tour – Xtreme Carnage explodes into action at the Korumburra Showgrounds.

With 66-inch-high wheels and packing a mammoth 1500 horsepower, the vehicles are part drag racing car, part truck – complete with fibreglass bodies and lots of bling.

"They're just a massive toy," said Simon.

"A Hot Wheels kind of a toy!"

Come Saturday, those massive toys will be airborne – flying over cars.

"We've got a caravan – we're going to jump over that and then at the end of the night, I reckon we'll run straight through it and destroy it," said Simon.

"We're going to have FMX Freestyle Motocross doing backflips and a Scooby Doo van with a jet engine in it, blasting around.

"So, plenty of action. Plenty of carnage. Lots of noise. And great fun."

There are currently three nitro-fuelled Monster Trucks in the SCMT stable: Bushranger, MonstaTron and Moonshine Madness, and they'll all be in action at Korumburra this weekend.

Kevin King – a world-renowned Monster Truck driver and former Pro Mud Track Racer who hails from Georgia in the US – will be driving Moonshine Madness.

Canadian Monster Truck driver Pat Paquet – better known as PsychoPAT – will be behind the wheel

of MonstaTron.

Simon himself will also be in the driver's seat, commandeering Bush Ranger, the Ford Monster Truck he shipped from the US to Australia several years ago.

Comedians Nick Trapani and Brett Hunter will be front and centre, hosting the event.

Simon will never forget his own introduction to the world of Monster Trucks.

A couple of mates who'd been working for a Monster Trucks company in Queensland enlisted his help to put on a show in Korumburra back in 2016.

"After the show, one of the guys said to me, 'Hey, how about you get in one, go for a blast – see what you think.'"

Initially hesitant, Simon decided to have a crack.

"I hopped in and went for a little run up and back at the rear of the Showgrounds and thought, 'Wow. This is fun!'"

A month later, he ended up buying two Monster Trucks of his own.

"I just think I had a bit of hoon left in me," Simon chuckles.

His company has since gone on to stage around fifty Monster Truck events – including at the Brisbane EKKKA, as well as in Darwin and Perth.

"We just did the Deni Ute Muster," said Simon.

"Ran through a caravan. Crushed a few cars!"

"It was good fun."

And this week, he gets to do it all again.

Monster X Tour – Xtreme Carnage is on this Saturday at the Korumburra Showgrounds. Gates open at 12pm. Main show starts at 2pm. Tickets are available at Ticketek.



Simon O'Neill is returning to his hometown this weekend and brings with him monster truck mayhem for the first time in a decade.



Canadian PsychoPAT steps to the stage behind the wheel of MonstaTron.

Melina Bath joins Leongatha for Remembrance Day service

ABOUT thirty people made their way into the Salvation Army Hall in Leongatha on Sunday morning for a special Remembrance Day service. It was run with the Leongatha RSL and led by chaplain Cyril Payne OAM, who spoke about how this year marks 107 years since the cessation of the First World War.

He spoke of the tragedy of war, about boys aged just 16 or 17 who had lied about their age to enlist. Some had thought it would be an adventure, he said, only to face the horrors of war.

The South Gippsland Shire Brass Band played throughout, lifting the hymns and closing with a stirring Last Post.

Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath MP was the guest speaker, though there was a chuckle among the attendees early on when Mr Payne told the room she'd accidentally been sent to the wrong venue by her office. She arrived a few minutes later to many smiles.

Ms Bath spoke about visiting Gallipoli earlier this year.

"It was a beautiful and amazing experience. It was a huge honour to be there," she said. She also mentioned seeing the graves of young soldiers from Warragul, Traralgon, Bairnsdale and other Gippsland towns.

The service ended with three national anthems: New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom.

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Tips for novice exhibitors at Rose Spectacular

EVERYONE is welcome to enter exhibits for judging at the Leongatha Rose Spectacular, with Leongatha Horticultural Society's Wendy McDonald offering helpful tips for novices, including how to select the best flowers in your garden.

"Look for something that has a good form and a nice shape, that's not tattered and not drooping, and doesn't have evidence of disease or mould on it," she said, with anything infested by insects also advisable to steer clear of.

Picking flowers in the morning when they are most hydrated is recommended, as is snipping stems on an angle to maximise surface area, and don't leave picked flowers in direct sunlight. Ensuring you put your flowers into a clean vessel that won't foul the water is important, and it is recommended not to leave greenery below the waterline.

Stewards are available to provide advice when entrants get to the Dakers Centre and will be happy to offer standard horticultural society display cones.

"The cones are designed to keep the roots or the base of your stems in place and to allow for some movement to arrange your blooms above the cone," Wendy explained. Entrants are also free to bring their own vase or container.

A key is to avoid cramming too much in when arranging your flowers, to ensure each individual bloom can be appreciated.

"The stewards will give you helpful tips on how much you should put in the vase," Wendy said. Competition can be close with judges having to look for small imperfections.

Bath calls for sustainable funding for Neighbourhood Houses

MEMBER for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath has called on the Minister for Carers and Volunteers in state parliament to urgently review the funding model for Neighbourhood Houses across Eastern Victoria.

"Our Neighbourhood Houses are vital community hubs in regional Victoria," Ms Bath said.

"They offer lifelines for people struggling with food insecurity, housing stress and social isolation, especially during a cost-of-living crisis.

"Residents have raised serious concerns with me following the closure of the Wont-haggi food pantry and the complete lack of funding for Omeo's Neighbourhood House, which may be forced to shut its doors.

"Many Neighbourhood Houses have not received funding increases in line with CPI for years, while their operational costs continue to climb.

"These centres are not just buildings, they are the heart of our communities, offering vital support for vulnerable people in need in rural locations.

"Without the certainty of sustainable funding, they cannot continue to deliver the essential support services that so many rely on."

Ms Bath has asked the Government to commit to a full review of Neighbourhood House funding in eastern Victoria and to work directly with affected centres to prevent further closures of services.

Blooming good time for Rose Spectacular

NOVEMBER is the ideal month to showcase the beauty of roses, this year's Leongatha Rose Spectacular opening at the Dakers Centre on Saturday, November 15 and continuing the next day.

"We create our own flower arrangements onsite and all the flowers that are used for that come from the members' gardens," Wendy McDonald of Leongatha Horticultural Society said, with keen gardeners pleased to contribute roses, other flowers and foliage to the cause.

Attendees can pick up something for their own garden, with nearly 200 seedlings including Impatiens, Foxgloves, Snap Dragons and Lobelias for people to buy.

The ladies from the Red Cross Leongatha Unit will again ensure everyone is well nourished, with sandwiches, cakes and slices available.

"We'll have tables set out, if people want to sit down and have a cup of tea or coffee with a light lunch, surrounded by flowers," Wendy said, remarking that the food is delicious.

While the Rose Spectacular was previously held at



The Leongatha Rose Spectacular is always a joy to experience. A02_4525

Leongatha Memorial Hall, a move to the Dakers Centre has proved successful.

"We found that the smaller venue just gave it a more intimate, cosier ambience, and we've still got enough room to showcase everything," Wendy said.

Leongatha Horticultural Society and the Red Cross are each running a raffle, with the former having some Alister

Clark roses as prizes, that tying in with the show's focus this year on his varieties, Clark having been a prominent rose breeder.

Alister Clark roses will also be prizes for those entering plants and flowers for judging.

For those keen to enter, visit leongathahorticulturalsociety.com.au to download the Rose Spectacular Schedule detailing the various classes of

competition and requirements.

Hard copies of the schedule are available from the Citizens Advice Bureau in Leongatha on the corner of McCartin Street and Michael Place and at Hays Jewellers at 31 Bair Street, Leongatha.

Entries can be brought to the Dakers Centre between 6pm and 8pm on Friday, November 14 or between 8am and 10am on the show's opening morning.

Entires open for the 21-day summer showcase of creativity

CALLING all artists and photographers! The Rotary Club of Leongatha is proud to announce that online entries for the 2026 Leongatha Art and Photography Show are now open, closing at 6am on Friday, December 5, 2025.

Now celebrating over 49 illustrious years, the Leongatha Art and Photography Show has become a cornerstone of artistic expression in the Gippsland region. What began as a small community event has evolved into a 21-day summer showcase of creativity, attracting more than 700 entries annually from local, Victorian, and interstate artists across sixteen award categories.

The exhibition features a vibrant mix of mediums – from painting and photography to sections dedicated to young artists, All Abilities entrants, and innovative 3D works.

Generously supported by long-standing sponsors, the 2026 show will award over \$8900 in prizes and awards, continuing a proud tradition of celebrating and supporting artistic excellence.

Drawing thousands of visitors each year, the Show has



Online entries are open for the 2026 Leongatha Art and Photography Show and close on Friday, December 5.

become a highlight of South Gippsland's summer calendar. In 2025, one in five attendees travelled from Melbourne, with visitors also arriving from across Australia, Tasmania, and abroad. The extended three-week

format in January and February not only enhances the visitor experience but also boosts art sales, giving patrons the chance to purchase original works and support local artists.

The event is hosted in the

historic Leongatha Memorial Hall, located on the corner of McCartin Street and Michael Place. Just 130 kilometres southeast of Melbourne, the venue is ideally positioned to welcome art lovers from Bass Coast, Latrobe Valley, and East, West, and South Gippsland.

Beyond showcasing creativity, the event supports a noble cause. Proceeds from art sales commissions, entry fees, and raffles directly fund the Rotary Club of Leongatha's local, national, and international humanitarian projects. As part of Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation, the club remains committed to fostering positive change and community development.

For artists and art enthusiasts alike, the 2026 Leongatha Art and Photography Show offers an unmissable celebration of talent, creativity, and community spirit.

For entry details, submission guidelines, or a printable entry form, visit leonartshow.com.au or contact rotaryleongatha.artshow@gmail.com.

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Leongatha Garden Club

Snakes alive as snake catcher Kev comes to the rescue

THE discovery of a metre-long lowland copperhead snake resting under a rock at a local primary school caused a minor disturbance as the professionals were called in to gently coax the snake to a safer home.

For local snake catcher Kev Girstun, it was just another day at the office.

“The copperhead was living under a rock at the back of the school,” said Kev.

Teachers at the school called Kev as soon as they saw the snake. Kev immediately attended and, within an hour, found the copperhead with a remote camera.

“A bit like an endoscopy camera,” said Kev.

Returning to the school the next morning, Kev quickly located the snake again and jacked up the rock with the snake under it using a car trolley jack.

Using a snake-handling hook, the highly venomous copperhead was gently removed and relocated before the children had even arrived at school.

“It was under the rock where the children sit and have lunch,” said Kev nonchalantly.

Snakes start waking up at this time of year after their winter hibernation.

“They get active when the sun comes out.”

Mice, rats, skinks, baby birds and frogs can all attract hungry snakes.

“The school had lots of skinks in the rocks,” said Kev.



If you see a snake, call the professionals, Kev Girstun at Snake Catching by Kev.

“The snake had a very happy home and was very well fed.”

Kev’s advice, if you see a snake, is not to corner it.

“Don’t make any sudden movement towards it and call a professional.”

Snake catching takes Kev from Grantville, Phillip Island and the Bass Coast to South Gippsland, as far as Yarram and Port Welshpool.

“They can pop up anywhere,” said Kev

Tiger snakes can be found north of Wonthaggi, but the most common snake on the Bass Coast is the lowlands copperhead.

“The copperhead is as dangerously venomous as the tiger

snake.”

First aid for a snake bite starts with a compression bandage.

“Keep calm and immobilise yourself,” advised Kev.

“Call Triple Zero to seek medical assistance and limit any movement as you wait for paramedics. Try to identify the snake if possible.”

Kev has also been called to remove two snakes from a home in Wonthaggi in recent weeks.

“They were living under the front steps of the house.”

Snakes can be found under sheets of tin or pieces of timber.

Snake Catching by Kev offers property checks for schools

and businesses.

“Low-maintenance gardens look great, but they can attract skinks and snakes.”

Native animals have been a lifelong passion for Kev since he was three years old.

“I had a fascination with Australian reptiles and wildlife.

“Loved blue tongues, lizards, goannas and snakes.”

After a career in security and then sales, Kev has now decided to become a full-time snake catcher.

“I enjoy knowing I’ve moved a snake and saved its life, and the life of a person or pet perhaps.”

Once caught, snakes are required to be relocated immediately to crown land after first making sure the snake is healthy and unhurt.

Snake sightings are common from October, over summer and into April.

“Snakes have no interest in biting us,” said Kev reassuringly.

“Don’t attack it, snakes are defensive, keep an eye on the snake from a distance and try to find out where it may be located until the snake catcher arrives.”

Kev Girstun is a professionally trained, government-registered and fully insured Snake Catcher proudly servicing the Bass Coast and South West Gippsland areas. Phone Kev on 0422 267 151 or go to snake-catchingbykev.com.au (website under construction).

Grand opening of new Specialist Disability Accommodation

GUARDIAN Living is proud to announce the official opening of its newest Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) in Yarram, located on James Street. The development represents an important step forward for people with disability in the region, providing high-quality, accessible housing that supports independence, choice and community inclusion.

The grand opening event will bring together tenants, families and members of the Yarram community to celebrate this milestone.

Stephen Vick, CEO of Guardian Living, said the new homes reflect the organisation’s ongoing commitment to delivering thoughtful, person-centred housing for people with disability across Victoria.

“Every person deserves a place they can truly call home – one that supports their lifestyle, their goals and their connection to community,” Mr Vick said.

“Our new James Street development is more than just bricks and mortar. It’s a place where people can live independently with the right supports around them and be part of a welcoming local community. We’re proud to see Yarram leading the way in inclusive housing.”

The project was delivered in partnership with Blake Minster, co-director of MMB Property Group, who collaborated with quality Gippsland builder, Virtue Homes, to ensure every detail met the highest accessibility and design standards.

“We’re thrilled to have been part of a project that will make such a real and lasting difference,” Mr Minster said.

“Building homes like these – where accessibility and comfort go hand-in-hand – is about helping people live their best lives. It’s great to see Yarram getting this kind of investment and opportunity.”

The James Street development features a purpose-built, high-quality three-bedroom house designed to meet NDIS Specialist Disability Accommodation standards. It offers contemporary finishes, assistive technology, a dedicated room for onsite overnight assistance, and spaces that promote both privacy and connection.

Mr Vick said the project’s completion is a testament to what can be achieved through collaboration between the disability, construction and local sectors.

“When we work together with communities, builders and support providers, we can create housing that truly changes lives,” he said.

The Yarram SDA is now open to tenants with SDA funding in their NDIS.

Local business called to jump onboard with Marinus Link

LOCAL businesses have been invited to meet the lead contractors in the giant Marinus Link energy infrastructure project ahead of construction starting next year. Up to a thousand jobs are expected to be created by Marinus Link directly and indirectly.

An industry briefing will be held at the Leongatha Memorial Hall from 10am to 12.30pm on Thursday, December 4 to give suppliers, subcontractors, and service providers a detailed look at supply chain opportunities and construction timelines.

“Our lead contractors will need strong local business capability to deliver on this massive construction campaign,” said Marinus Link Pty Ltd CEO Stephanie McGregor.

By Bruce Wardley

“These events are designed to connect local businesses directly with our delivery team and help contractors learn what skills and services will be needed as construction ramps up next year.”

Marinus Link staff, industry agencies, and representatives from lead contractors will be in attendance. Meet the Contractor events, which were held in February this year, resulted in more than 500 business registrations according to the Industry Capability Network (ICN).

These registrations were then passed on to the shortlisted contractors as they developed their tenders according to ICN Victoria CEO Nick Foa.

“ICN’s role is to bridge the gap between project opportunity and supplier readiness through our Gateway platform and face-to-face events,” said Mr Foa.

“We’ve helped local businesses position themselves with shortlisted Marinus Link contractors, demonstrating the power of collaboration and coordinated supply chain activation.”

Ms McGregor said the Marinus Link project will be mobilised gradually with a number of local suppliers to be engaged as early as February 2026.

“Now is the time for potential suppliers to start engaging,” Ms McGregor said. “We’re on the journey to getting this project built.”

Marinus Link expects jobs will be created in civil, construction,

marine and electrical engineering as well as ancillary services such as cleaners, labourers, food services, office jobs, finance, HR, legal services and external relations.

Accommodation for the large workforce has been identified as a priority for Marinus Link with contractors looking for every type of accommodation they can get, including rental homes, Airbnbs, B&Bs, motels and hotels.

South Gippsland tourist parks expect an increased demand for short-term accommodation for workers.

The Marinus Link project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2030. To find out more or to register for the Meet the Contractor event, go to marinuslink.com.au/workforce.



Making a real difference in the lives of people across Bass Coast.

If you can give, please give where you live.

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You’re Invited to our Open Day

NOW AVAILABLE



DISCOVER BRAND-NEW SDA IN YARRAM

Tuesday 25 November | 2-4pm | 49 James Street, Yarram

Take a guided tour of the home, learn about Specialist Disability Accommodation, meet the team, and go in the draw to win a \$100 gift card!

Scan the QR code to register

www.guardianliving.com.au



The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, with A Better Life for Foster Kids founder Heather Baird during last year's handover of donated Christmas gifts.

Giving Trees returns across Gippsland

CHRISTMAS is on the horizon, and Giving Trees for A Better Life for Foster Kids are once again appearing right across Gippsland, ready to collect gifts for children in out-of-home care who might otherwise miss out this festive season.

The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, said that early donations are vital to ensure every child receives a special gift in time.

"It takes an incredible amount of work from Heather Baird and her team at A Better Life for Foster Kids to sort, wrap and deliver gifts right across Victoria," Mr O'Brien said.

"Many gifts are delivered personally, but others must be posted, so the earlier we receive donations, the better chance they have of reaching every child."

Mr O'Brien said this year's appeal carries extra significance, following a senseless ram raid on a Sale shop-front earlier this year that destroyed much of the charity's stock of Christmas presents.

"It was heartbreaking to see such generosity from the community wiped out in an instant.

"But Gippslanders always rally, and I know people will dig deep again to help Heather and her team restock and make sure no child misses out."

All gifts are requested to be donated unwrapped. Supporters are also asked to avoid donating books, food items or toys that resemble weapons.

"Some popular and much-loved gift ideas include board games, arts and crafts, imaginative play items, beach towels, toiletry packs or gift cards," Mr O'Brien said.

"A Better Life for Foster Kids will also warmly accept donations of wrapping paper."

Donations can be dropped off at a number of Giving Trees across Gippsland, including at Danny O'Brien's office, located at 54B Cunningham Street, Sale, or posted directly to:

A Better Life for Foster Kids PO Box 1138 Sale VIC 3850

"Every gift helps bring a smile to a child who might otherwise go without. It's a simple way to share the Christmas spirit and show local kids they're cared for."

The Sentinel-Times would also like to thank the generous members of the community who donated nappies over the past couple of months, with a huge basketful recently being delivered to Mr O'Brien for distribution as part of The Nappy Collective.

Birds of a Feather enjoy Oaks Day at San Remo Bowls Club



Sam, Wendy, Janet, Tatiana, Kelly, Paulina, Rowanne, Ange, Kerri, Julie, Helen, Gail, Christie, Suzy, Linda and Ani with Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and Cr Jan Thompson at Oaks Day 2025 at the San Remo Bowls Club. B16_4525



The newly formed Bass Association bring Christmas alive

THE newly formed Bass & District Residents and Ratepayers Association is set to host its inaugural Great Bass Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14, at George Bass Memorial Park from 11am until 2pm, with a lineup of attractions for all ages and a visit from Santa at 1.30pm.

Launching in July after a well-attended public meeting, the association has already made significant progress in community development, and the inaugural Christmas party showcases their vision of bringing the residents of Bass, Woolamai and Anderson together, as well as welcoming those from surrounding towns.

The event will feature a jumping castle, photo booth, face painting, live music and a children's activity tent – all accessible through gold coin donations. Secretary, Tracey Denby, said a highlight will be the Christmas colouring-in competition for Bass Valley Primary School students and a best-dressed pet contest.

"Head on into the activity tent, decorate a mask – whether it be for yourself or your fur-baby and enter our best-dressed pet contest. You can even decorate your own Christmas bauble and be in the draw to win a \$50 bank account at Bendigo Bank," said Tracey.

"Bendigo Bank have been a great support for the event, and all the Bass Valley



The newly formed Bass & District Residents and Ratepayers Association committee, including Tracey McIlroy, Tony Heppleston, Ross Denby, Nikole Schellekens, Tracey Brumbaugh, Dave Brumbaugh and Tracey Denby, are hosting the inaugural Great Bass Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14, at George Bass Memorial Park.

Primary student colouring competitions will be on display prior to the Christmas party, so keep an eye out."

Beyond the festivities, the association has already achieved tangible community improvements. Their most notable success is securing council funding to install a safety barrier on the Bass Bridge, addressing the long-standing

safety concern for families with young children.

"Without the setup of the association, this improvement may not have been possible, and we're extremely grateful for the council's efficient effort in making this improvement. I know personally it makes me more comfortable to walk my grandkids, knowing they're not at risk of slipping," said

A LARGE gathering of over 90 ladies attended Oaks Day at the San Remo Bowls Club.

Adopting the theme Birds of a Feather, the women enjoyed an elegant day of racing fun, fashion and fabulous company with a willing group of 15 men providing table service throughout the afternoon.

Located at the southern entrance to Western Port Bay, the San Remo Bowls Club was bathed in sunshine for the event, which included a competitive Fashions on the Field.

Dressed in their finest race day fashions, the ladies painted the perfect picture of style, grace and charm with a dash of panache, the perfect recipe for a delightful day out.

Local sponsors included Cape Winds San Remo, the Gurdies Winery, BEAnd San Remo, San Remo Asian Grocery, Island Pies Newhaven, Saint Jules Café, Sanny Side Café, San Remo Lottery and Newsagency, Beemo San Remo and San Remo Chemist.

IGA San Remo donated chicken for the delicious lunch and Tony Halstead from Tides Bar and Grill in Tooradin donated succulent lamb.

President of the San Remo Bowls Club, Marie McKiernan, said Ladies Day was an annual event for the San Remo Bowls Club and is getting bigger every year.

LEFT: Kay, Annie, Glenda, Sandra, Jill, Ny, Dawn, Marlene and Jenny picture perfect for Oaks Day at the San Remo Bowls Club. B20_4525

Tracey.

Looking ahead, the committee will be pursuing plans for a bus shelter for the Melbourne-bound route – a critical infrastructure project that will also benefit the Bass Valley Primary School students and commuters alike.

"At the moment, there is no shelter at our bus stop, and people are standing out in the rain."

Driven by a core group of passionate volunteers, including Tracey McIlroy, Tony Heppleston, Ross Denby, Nikole Schellekens, Tracey Brumbaugh, Dave Brumbaugh and Tracey Denby, the association is driven to restore the community atmosphere that once defined their small town.

In a touching tribute to legacy, Tracey said the association recently honoured a couple who lived in Bass for 47 years. "We want the town to go back to what it was in their day, when everyone helped each other," said Tracey.

"We officially made this couple our first lifetime associate members, while also establishing a role model for community involvement."

The Great Bass Christmas Party exemplifies what it means to be part of a community, demonstrating what can be achieved when volunteers unite for the benefit of their town.

"Please note, this is a cash-only event."

Wonthaggi Toyota



SPRING SALE... OVER 75 VEHICLES READY TO GO



CAR OF THE WEEK

2013 Suzuki Swift
12,990 DRIVE AWAY
Nifty motoring, 155,705kms, 4 speed auto hatch, ABS, airbags. SN: W102156



2022 MG MG3 Excite
16,990 DRIVE AWAY
Great first car, 38,685kms, 4 speed auto, hatch SN: W102254



2015 Toyota Yaris Ascent
17,990 DRIVE AWAY
Reliable Small Car, 98,505kms, 4 speed hatch SUV SN: W102247



2017 Renault Kangoo SWB
16,990 DRIVE AWAY
Perfect van, 154,510kms, 6 speed manual van SN: W101800



2015 Holden Commodore SV6 VF Series II
20,990 DRIVE AWAY
A classic, Auto MY16, 162,928kms SN: W102228



2018 Holden Barina LS TM
15,990 DRIVE AWAY
Clean as a whistle, 66,661kms, 6 speed auto hatch SN: W102220



2018 Honda Civic RS
21,490 DRIVE AWAY
Little beauty, 224,364kms, CVT auto sedan SN: W102239



2019 Holden Equinox LTZ EQ
20,990 DRIVE AWAY
Family SUV, 141,213kms, 6 speed auto AWD wagon SN: W102212

Leongatha Toyota

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4 X 4 OF THE WEEK

2025 Ford Ranger XLT
65,990 DRIVE AWAY
Demo to go, 24,876kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4 double cab DOA 165



2021 Toyota Prado Kakadu
70,990 DRIVE AWAY
Just arrived, 105,242kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN: L101440



2023 Toyota RAV4 Cruiser
50,990 DRIVE AWAY
Comfortable SUV, 77,522kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN: L101430



2025 Ford Transit 350L VO LWB
65,990 DRIVE AWAY
Demo bargain, 1,588kms, 10 speed CVT auto van DRA 826



2019 Volkswagen Tiguan 162TSI Highline Allspace SN
26,990 DRIVE AWAY
Performance Plus 114,085kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L101429



2023 Hyundai Staria Load
37,990 DRIVE AWAY
Ready to Move, 36,000kms, 8 speed CVT auto van. SN: L101420



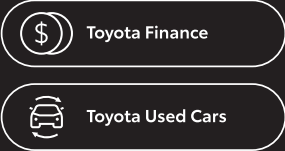
2022 Ford Ranger Wildtrak
69,990 DRIVE AWAY
Demo 4WD, 14,885kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4 double cab DOA 155



2022 Mitsubishi Triton GLX+ MR
40,990 DRIVE AWAY
King Cab, 71,500kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 ute SN: L101401

Wonthaggi Toyota
346 Bass Highway,
Wonthaggi VIC 3995
T (03) 5672 1722
LMCT 8179
wonthaggitoyota.com.au

Leongatha Toyota
7-13 Hughes Street,
Leongatha VIC 3953
T (03) 5662 2302
LMCT 8179
leongathatoyota.com.au



OH WHAT A FEELING

* Disclaimer: If the price does not contain the notation that it is "Driveaway*", the price may not include additional costs, such as stamp duty and other government charges.

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

Blame game?
Build the bridge
and get over it!

THERE'S a lot of finger-pointing going on about who's to blame for the delay in replacing the failed Stewart Road Bridge at Kernot.

And how long it might be, after it was closed way back in March this year, before a new bridge is built and open.

We've heard that the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Catherine King, has waved through the \$2.3 million in funding needed.

And that it's sitting on the desk of the Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories, and Minister for Emergency Management Kristy McBain, waiting for departmental sign-off, which local MP Mary Aldred says should only be a matter of a few weeks away.

But, after eight months, we've also heard that even if the money arrived next week the project couldn't go out to tender because the design works, studies and agency approvals have not yet been completed... after eight months!

There may be a sense of urgency at the Bass Coast Shire Council now, as we saw at a hastily arranged community meeting outside the impacted Kernot General Store last Friday evening, but you'd hope they have been using every waking hour, since the bridge was closed, to get all their ducks in a row. Have they?

There's a lot at stake.

We've heard that at least one resident has crashed her car going around the long way, that a commuter going to work in Melbourne's south-east is travelling an extra 150 kilometres a week, and that an ambulance going to a potential stroke victim was delayed by 15 minutes because they didn't realise the bridge was still closed.

Police and fire brigades have been similarly inconvenienced and delayed.

And then there's also the day-to-day problems of getting kids to school, getting to work, getting produce to market, getting around and simply being part of a now-divided local community.

It's too long, too late.

So, the test for the Bass Coast Shire Council will be, how long it takes them to get the bridge project out to tender and the contract let after the Federal Government announces its funding. That's the real job of local government before all the woke window dressing is attended to.

And, if the Federal Government doesn't stump up the money by Christmas, the Bass Coast Shire Council needs to be ready to fund the project itself, through borrowings if necessary, and just get on with it.

After all, the shire committed \$4.7 million of our money to the Wonthaggi to Inverloch pathway, which is estimated to cost \$7.7 million in total. Hopefully, they put a counter on that path to effectively measure how out of touch the previous council was with community priorities.

Bridge users have
waited long enough

WE WERE at the rally on Friday at 5pm regarding the long delay and silence surrounding any progress with the Kernot Bridge and when work will begin so it can reopen.

Unfortunately, I missed the journalist to include my point of view and hope it can be included if possible.

Bridges and linking roads need to be open for commuters to use for their daily lives.

Vox Pop

Has recent rainfall changed your outlook for the season?



Gary Anthony
Meeniyar

"It's probably one of the best seasons we've had because we haven't had a flood, and if all winters were like that, I'd be happy; it was a tough Autumn."



Bevan Brinkley
Inverloch

"We've had enough rainfall to fill up our dams, whereas a few months ago it was so dry; at the moment, the cattle are all fine, and we haven't had any problems."



Travis Sutton
Wellington Livestock

"I think it has changed my outlook; it's come late, but the break was needed, and the rain has promoted confidence and driven local competition at the market."



Dave Pickersgill
Mount Eccles

"By now, I was expecting it to be yellow and dry, so we kept our numbers down; now I've got feed everywhere and instead of hunting grass, we are hunting cattle."

The Kernot Bridge closure affects school bus and kinder runs, commuters, businesses, especially the Kernot Store passing trade, all emergency services and importantly the connection with community.

The closure not only affects locals but a much wider area with commuters to find a different and longer alternative to reach their destination.

It is unacceptable to be waiting eight months since March 7 with no response about bridge funding from the State and Federal government.

Barb Stewart

What's really happening with
Surf Beach's drainage?

IT IS two years since council stated that they were abandoning the Surf Beach Sunderland Bay Special Charge Scheme (SCS) and stated that no upgrade project or special charge scheme in any form will occur at Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay estates.

Guess what, now council are starting again with new council-initiated SCSs in Surf Beach.

Batman Street and Glen Street are the priority in the council modified 2024URDI Policy, aiming at individual streets. These two streets are the major drainage collector streets for Surf Beach, with both streets likely to require 750mm diameter drainage pipes discharging stormwater onto Phillip Island Road.

Council has previously told us that underground drainage pipes will only be designed for a one-in-five-year flow and anything extra will flow down the roadway, possibly flowing fenceline to fenceline, council even supplied a typical section showing this, so flooding may still continue. The reason for such a large pipe being required is that there are a large number of streets that drain into Batman and Glen streets.

CEO Box has repeatedly stated at question time that it is only the people in the special charge street who have to pay. This means that the residents of other streets discharging drainage into these streets pay nothing toward the costly, large drainage pipe system required to dispose of other streets drainage.

In the previous failed SCS council stated that they would construct wetlands on the farmland to protect pollution of Swan Bay waters. There has been no mention of how council will get the stormwater from these streets or treat stormwater pollutants from the streets before it discharges into the bay.

Another concerning issue is the failure of council to act on recommendations from a 2014 Traffic Management Plan recommending dedicated right turn bays into Surf Beach. Council refuses to accept any responsibility for issues arising along Phillip Island Road, with the CEO continually stating, "It is not council's responsibility". Can council escape liability

(nonfeasance) when someone is injured or killed at any of these intersections when they know of the issue? I think not!

Philip Davy, Surf Beach

Remembering the
dismissal 50 years on

TODAY marks 50 years since one of the most dramatic events in Australia's political history – the dismissal of the Whitlam Government. My focus on this day is on gratitude.

It was 'Time for a Change' and what breathtaking and far-reaching changes the Whitlam Government initiated!

So many great things about Australian life today – our Health Care (Medibank which became Medicare) and Education systems, focus on the Arts, Heritage and Culture, the 1972 Equal Pay for Women case, our Social Welfare and Pensions systems – he introduced the Single Mothers Pension and welfare payment for homeless people, Legal reforms including introduction of the Family Law Act, No Fault Divorce and Free Legal Aid, work against Racial Discrimination and recognising First Nations people and Land Rights, our focus on Environmental issues – Whitlam passed Australia's first Environmental Legislation and appointed our first Minister for the Environment – these and many more were initiatives out of the Whitlam years.

As a young woman in 1972, I was able to divorce without negative scrutiny and judgement, live on the Single Mother's Pension, working part-time to support my two young children, study and gain my university qualifications and then work in Community Development for the best part of 35 years.

Like so many people, I was empowered and shaped forever by the social justice values, the compassion (human rights) and the visionary, dynamic, and egalitarian principles within the comet which were the Whitlam years. Thanks Gough and thanks Labor!

Jan Bourne, Wonthaggi

South Gippsland
Conservation Society and
Inverloch Surf Beach

I WRITE to provide readers with information about the South Gippsland Conservation Society's involvement and position in regard to the beach erosion issue at Inverloch. We provide this information in response to Alan Brown's letter of November 4 in the belief that the community welcomes open, informed and respectful discussion of issues.

The Society, established in 1976, is an Inverloch stalwart. It is an Incorporated Association open to any member of the community concerned about

conservation and is managed by an elected Committee of Management. The grass-roots efforts and citizen science initiatives carried out by its volunteers have helped shape Inverloch's landscape, and its bookshop and education programs continue to be a source of pleasure and engagement for school children, visitors and holiday makers.

The Society has been monitoring and analysing changes at both Surf and Inlet beaches at Inverloch since the current erosion sequence commenced in 2012 and continues to do so today. With foresight, it engaged with experts to assess the environmental, social and economic values at risk and to identify the factors contributing to erosion of the dunes. The findings were compiled into a major report released in 2019. In 2020, the Society mounted a public exhibition at the Hub and the Surf Club and in 2021 our video documentary 'Coastline in Crisis' was released. The reports and videos are available on our website (www.sgsc.org.au).

In January 2022 the Society, in partnership with the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, arranged the "Rally Round the Dunes" event to raise awareness about the extent of erosion. Subsequently, over 500 people petitioned the Minister to commit funding for dune renourishment works and associated low-impact protection works and revegetation.

These initiatives contributed to the Victorian Government's decision to protect the Surf Club and Cape Paterson Road and to undertake detailed studies for its Cape to Cape Resilience Project. As a member of the project's Stakeholder Reference Group, SGCS has provided substantive input and commentary to the draft Resilience Plan that was released last year.

Throughout its 50 years, SGCS has engaged with all levels of Government – no matter their political persuasion – and will continue to do so.

SGCS continues to call on both State and Local Government for on-ground action and, following last year's storms, linked with the Inverloch Tourism Association and the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club to form the Inverloch Coastal Advocacy Network (I*CAN). I*CAN has subsequently provided input to DEECA on implementation of the draft Resilience Plan, including the initial dune renourishment and revegetation now scheduled to occur in February next year.

SGCS supports renourishing the full length of our beloved surf beach and its dunes and will continue to advocate for further investigation and funding of possible longer-term protection measures that would also extend the life of the beach.

Annette Read, Secretary, South Gippsland Conservation Society

Working together as one

THE Community Bank at Toora and Foster has been a great supporter of the Lions Club of Toora for many years, along with many other community groups, including Sea Days in Port Welshpool, Toora Football Club, Manna Gum in Foster, Fishy Stories, Buckleys Park in Fish Creek, Stony Creek Football Netball Club, and so many more organisations.

This year, the Community Bank again supported the Lions Club of Toora Peace Poster/Essay contest for students aged between 11 and 13. Three Corner Inlet schools participated: Welshpool, Toora and Fish Creek. The Bank provided each school with a bank voucher of \$50 credit into the student's Bendigo Bank account, which was greatly appreciated.

The three winners were Ethan at Welshpool, with Cove the winner in the middle school, Bella at Toora and Marlow at Fish Creek, with Aiya being a close second.

For the first time in District V3, young Kelarny from Toora wanted to express peace in an essay rather than a poster, which was impressive. Unfortunately, the rules for Essay writing are for the visually impaired, which includes colour blindness. Kelarny did not fit these criteria and was ineligible to participate at the international level. Perhaps our District can create a section for those who would rather express peace in writing and not painting.

The teachers in each school are to be congratulated for giving their guidance to the students who created some magnificent artwork. A certificate and a prize was awarded



Fish Creek Primary School winner Marlow with Zone Chairman Jim Brennan.

to each student.

Lions Peace Poster entries are judged at district and multiple district levels before the District Governor sends the winning poster to LCI headquarters for final judging.

The next stage was the V3 District Final recently held at the Conference at Lardner Park, Warragul. Again, the finalists' posters were impressive with a team of three judges, Lions Linda Starke, artist in Stratford, President Jan Hutton from Korumburra Lions and retired school teacher Lions Lady Anne de Bruyne from Warragul.

After a difficult decision, Ellie from Red Hill Consolidated School was the winner, Bella from Toora and Daisy from Dromana were runners up. The winner received a

voucher for \$100, and the two runners-up each received a \$50 voucher.

The Community Banks and Drouin & District, Neerim & District and Trafalgar & District were among the major sponsors at the V3 Conference.

Welshpool students have participated for the past 15 years or so and eagerly look forward to the Peace Poster contest each year.

There are more than 600,000 entries submitted worldwide in the annual Lions International Peace Poster Contest. Lions Clubs International is sponsoring the program to emphasise the importance of world peace to young people everywhere.

One international grand prize winner and 23 merit



District V3 Peace Poster first runner up Bella from Toora Primary School. The judges said of Bella's work, "The second prize winner speaks of peace with two doves and shows concern about germs and warfare with sunshine pouring into the world."

award winners will be selected in the New Year. The grand prize includes a cash award of \$5000 and will be recognised at a special awards ceremony at Lions Day with the United Nations. The 23 merit award winners will each receive a certificate and a cash award of \$500.

Next year's theme for the Peace Poster contest will be known in or about February/March 2026. If any student aged 11 to 13 as at November 15, 2026 is interested in participating, please contact Glenda on 0438 044 346 to receive a kit. You will have from March to October to complete your poster.

For additional information about Lions Clubs International Peace Poster Contest, visit lionsclubs.org/peaceposter.

• OBITUARY



Rod McConchie will be fondly remembered.

Rod McConchie always up for a chat

15 February 1933 – 17 October 2025

ROD McConchie, a long-term member of the Meeniyen community, will be greatly missed this Christmas, that being a time of year he loved, his gravy and Christmas cakes renowned among friends and family, along with his enthusiasm for playing Santa for the grandkids.

His warm personality made him popular in any setting.

"Rodney McConchie was the sort of bloke who could strike up a conversation with anyone; it didn't matter where he was, at the RSL, the Men's Shed, the shops or just out for a walk," the celebrant said at his funeral.

While there was sadness at his sudden and unexpected passing, there were also light-hearted moments during the service.

That included multiple recollections of Rod's famous tomato sauce bottle, which travelled with him so he was always prepared for a visit to Inverloch's Paul the Pie-man or elsewhere.

Having grown up in the Melbourne suburb of Moorabbin and continuing to live in suburbia, he joined the Meeniyen community in 1989 following the passing of his wife of 34 years, Joan, the couple having married in September 1955.

Fitter and turner Rod retired just before his move to Meeniyen, and after arriving in town joined local clubs, volunteered for Meals on Wheels and was a community driver for South Gippsland Shire Council.

He met partner Jenefer Chitty at the Leongatha RSL in 2005, Rod having done National Service followed by several years in the Citizen Military Forces.

The pair became close, joining several groups in Leongatha and surrounds, including Woorayl Probus Club, Leongatha Senior Citizens Club, Inverloch RSL and the Leongatha Horticultural Society. Rod also enjoying his time as a member of Meeniyen Bowls Club and Meeniyen Men's Shed.

Jenefer fondly recalls her many bus adventures with Rod in places such as Tasmania and New Zealand, a less happy memory being of one trip when the whole bus tour group was poisoned by dodgy sandwiches at a lunch stop.

Rod loved gardening, his veggies sometimes featuring in Leongatha horticultural shows, also having a couple of sheep, and chooks, as well as canaries at his place in Meeniyen, often giving canaries to family.

Rod dedicated 68 years to Freemasonry, beginning in his twenties.

A couple of Worshipful Brothers, Paul Vassell (Chaplain) and John Follett (Worshipful Master) of the Outtrim Lodge spoke at Rod's funeral, outlining his achievements as a Freemason, including having served as Worshipful Master during his time in Melbourne.

Upon his move to South Gippsland, Rod joined the Lord Brassey Lodge in Leongatha, that closing in 2011, and then joining the Outtrim Lodge.

Paul delivered a formal tribute to Rod following Freemason tradition.

An earlier photo tribute to Rod ended in fitting fashion with attendees taking up the celebrant's invitation to "Give him a big round of applause for just being a top bloke."

Memory Hub Studio set to capture local life stories

FORMER radio announcer and Inverloch resident, Cathie Agg, has recently launched Memory Hub Studio. This is an interview service for people living in South Gippsland and Bass Coast who would like to capture their life story for future generations.

"Everyone has stories to tell – we've been collecting them our whole lives," explained Cathie.

"I wanted to provide an effortless way for people to preserve their loved ones' stories.

"Once someone is no longer with us, we can regret not hearing their voice or laughter again."

Cathie began Memory Hub Studio after friends said they wished they'd recorded their parents' stories and voices. She feels the same about her own parents, who are no longer with us, and sees the timeless value in capturing a loved one's personality and life experiences.

Cathie aims to make the whole process effortless and deliver a high-quality audio recording.

"Often, people want to record their loved ones' stories, but don't know where to start," she said.

The process includes personal research, a one-on-one audio interview, and editing to create a professionally



Memory Hub Studio provides an effortless way to capture your unique memories. Professional, personal one-on-one audio interviews in South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

polished audio story.

Cathie wants people to feel comfortable during the interview session, to bring out their character and warmth.

"The style is easy and conversational, and the location can be in their home, which provides a relaxing environment. Often people forget they're being interviewed!"

Questions are personalised to help guide the conversation and bring out their life experiences, she explains.

"Your favourite moments is one of the themes that we

cover, which is always uplifting, and some thought-provoking questions are added. There might also be a message that they'd like to send to loved ones, or advice for future generations."

The interview helps to create a legacy.

"I want to help preserve the wonderful, meaningful moments in their lives," she said.

In addition to radio announcing, Cathie is also an experienced interviewer, audio producer and podcaster.

Many locals are aware of her local podcast called 'Love Your Work', where she has been interviewing people from all walks of life in the South Gippsland area, about their favourite work and personal values. Memory Hub Studio is a natural progression of the podcast, explains Cathie.

"I love to learn about people's lives – and at the same time, people love to talk about their lives!"

For more information, visit memoryhubstudio.com.au.



CareFlight expands Infant Care Workshops

FOLLOWING success in the Northern Territory, CareFlight has announced the expansion of its Infant Care Workshop (ICW) in alignment with its Sick and Injured Kids in the Bush (SIKITB) program.

These mobile, evidence-based programs are designed to assist participants across regional, rural and remote communities better diagnose and treat seriously ill and injured infants and children who are a long way from hospital and the health care they need.

From October – December, thanks to funding from generous donors, the aeromedical charity will be hosting free workshops throughout Victoria to equip new parents and carers as well as professionals including registered nurses, emergency nurses, paramedics and doctors, with essential life-saving skills to manage common infant health concerns and emergencies.

Committed to investing in long-term solutions and community education, the workshops will cover topics including paediatric assessment, fluids for kids, intraosseous insertions, cardiac arrest, neonatal resuscitation and paediatric trauma simulation.

Acting head of education, Tariq Sappideen emphasised the importance of these workshops and the impact they can have on communities: “Dealing with sick or critically injured children is challenging, especially in remote, rural and regional locations where access to specialists is limited.

“That is why we are excited to be expanding our Sick and Injured Kids in the Bush program and Infant Care Workshops into Victoria, giving us the opportunity to reach more communities. Providing participants with practical skills training and relevant scenario-based discussions to help improve their knowledge, skills and confidence, is vital for increasing positive health outcomes for newborns and children.”

Each workshop is delivered by a team of highly skilled doctors, nurses and paramedics who are passionate about building capacity in communities to ensure paediatric patients are given the best possible chance of recovery.

For more information and to register interest in participating in an upcoming course, visit careflight.org/our-work/education-training/community-training-careflight-medisim.

Dates for workshops in South Gippsland will be announced in the future.

Recognising innovation in rural after-hours healthcare

AN INNOVATIVE after-hours GP service that makes healthcare more accessible for rural Victorians has been named as a finalist at the upcoming Gippsland PHN Primary Health Awards.

Delivered by The Healthy Communities Foundation Australia (THCFA), the Health Access GP After Hours program has been named as a finalist in the ‘Courageous Innovation’ category of the awards.

The service provides timely and free virtual GP consultations to Gippsland residents outside regular GP clinic hours – helping to reduce avoidable emergency department visits and ease pressure on already stretched local GP services.

Between 2023 and 2025, the service delivered 1690 consultations to more than 1300 people across Gippsland. Uptake of the service is particularly strong among older adults, young families and residents in disadvantaged areas – suggesting the free service and phone access eliminate both cost and transport barriers that disproportionately affect these groups.

In a survey of users, more than 94 per cent said they would use the service again, citing convenience, timeliness and quality of care.

The program works in close partnership with local GPs, pharmacists and hospitals, ensuring every patient’s usual doctor receives a follow-up summary to maintain continuity of care.

The Gippsland PHN Primary Health Award winners will be announced on November 19.



Some of Bass Coast Health's Theatre team prepare for a morning surgical list, from left, registered nurses Amy Donald, Lucy O'Donovan, student Emma Evans, Sandy Jenner, Mai Cespon and Helen Cronin.

Perioperative nurses help to transform lives

PERIOPERATIVE Nurses Week from November 9-15 is a time to reflect on the incredible impact our qualified and expert perioperative team make on the Bass Coast and South Gippsland community.

These team members are helping to give local residents an enhanced quality of life through surgeries such as joint replacements in the state-of-the-art theatres at

Wonthaggi Hospital.

These hard-working team members support patients throughout their surgical journey, beginning with visits to the Elective Surgery Access Unit at Wonthaggi Hospital, where the team members discuss the procedure with patients and ensure their current health is suitable for the procedure.

The team members also

welcome patients to the theatre, helping them to relax, assisting with their surgery and monitoring patients following surgery. Acting perioperative services manager at BCH, Trish Pearson, said Perioperative Nurses Week was a time to recognise the contribution these diverse team members make to healthcare.

“This week is a reminder to acknowledge not just the

tasks they perform but the heart and passion they bring to their work,” she said.

“They provide excellent, specialised care to patients during a time when they are at their most vulnerable.”

The theme of the week is S.T.A.R.S. – Scrub/Scout, Technicians, Anaesthetics, Recovery and Support – recognising the variety of work these team members perform.

GSHS doctors achieve rural generalist status

DOCTORS at Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) are being celebrated for their work in rural medicine.

The Federal Government has formally recognised Rural Generalist Medicine as a specialist field within General Practice, noting the critical role Rural Generalists play in delivering high-quality, comprehensive healthcare in rural and remote communities across Australia.

GSHS doctors to be recognised as Rural Generalists include Dr Sewellyn Gale, Chris Perry, JeanNee Khoo, Elise Ly, Tom Ponsonby, Ben O’Leary, Tom Solano, Ben Uchenna, who is also Director of Clinical Training for the RG pathway, and Veronica Foote. Paul Cotton and Sam Walker are awaiting ratification of their awards, and Paul Odgers is the RG registrar with the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).

Dr Gale, who has worked at GSHS for the past 19 years, says the recognition highlights the importance of rural practice as a specialty.

“It acknowledges that rural health is quite different to metro GP work and everything else in medicine,” Dr Gale said.

“It doesn’t mean any changes to the way we work, but it is



Dr Veronica Foote and Dr Sewellyn Gale are among those at Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) to be recognised as Rural Generalists, after the Federal Government formally recognised Rural Generalist Medicine as a specialist field within General Practice.

recognition that we are specialists for performing in this rural environment.”

Dr Gale, who specialises in obstetrics and anaesthetic services, said Rural Generalists have a diverse range of skills.

“This highlights that people who work here have a skillset beyond the average GP, including emergency work, obstetrics, anaesthetics and surgery.

A Rural Generalist is about being resourceful and having a breadth of abilities to work across different fields.”

“For me, it’s recognition that we do something that is specific and special while showing our diversity and resourcefulness to practice in this environment,” she said.

Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler,

said the formal recognition acknowledges the critical role Rural Generalists play in delivering high-quality, comprehensive healthcare to rural, remote, and First Nations communities across the nation.

“Rural Generalists provide vital primary and emergency care to rural and regional communities and have additional training in areas such as obstetrics, mental health, anaesthetics and First Nations health. They broaden the range of locally available medical services. This helps rural and remote communities to access the right care, in the right place, at the right time, as close to home as possible.”

The milestone is the result of more than a decade of dedicated work by rural health leaders, including the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), Rural Doctors Associations of Australia (RDAA) and the Office of the National Rural Health Commissioner. GSHS is also an accredited training facility for ACRRM.

The move aligns with the Australian Government’s commitment to increase access to general practitioners, including rural generalist doctors in regional and rural Australia.



A new chapter for Leongatha Optometrists

THANKS, Rach, for your service to the South Gippsland community through Leongatha Optometrists.

Jeff and the team at Leongatha Optometrists would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to much-loved optometrist Rachel for her dedication and care over the past nine years serving the Leongatha and South Gippsland community. Rachel has been an integral part of the practice, and we wish her and her family every success in their exciting move to Melbourne.

In July, Leongatha Optometrists began a new chapter, with local optometrist Jefferson Daniel taking ownership of the long-standing practice. Patients will continue to be greeted by the friendly faces of Dot, Tamara, Melanie and Eliza – who together bring more than 40 years of optical experience – ensuring the same warm, familiar care the community has come to know and trust.



Jeff Daniel and outgoing optometrist Rachel celebrate a new chapter for Leongatha Optometrists, as Rachel farewells the South Gippsland community after nine years of dedicated service.

Jeff has been part of the Leongatha Optometrists family for the past two years, providing high-quality care and becoming a familiar face in the community. Before qualifying as an optometrist, he worked locally as an Orthop-

tist at Bass Coast Eye Centre under Dr David Ehrlich from 2015 – an experience that gave him a strong clinical foundation and deep ties to the South Gippsland and Bass Coast regions.

Jeff is passionate about

continuing the excellent care Rachel has provided over the years. His mission is to make Leongatha Optometrists a place where patients receive quality, comprehensive, affordable, and compassionate eye care.

To make eye care more accessible, the practice now offers Medicare bulk-billed consultations for valid Medicare card holders and has reduced prices on frames and lenses. Jeff believes quality healthcare should be affordable for everyone, while continuing to support local industry through Australian-made frames and lenses – ensuring patients receive the highest standard of care while backing Australian businesses.

Leongatha Optometrists is proud to continue its long tradition of professional service, community connection, and patient-centred care – serving South Gippsland with the same dedication that has defined the practice for over half a century.

• FAITH FACTOR

Watch what you feed your body and mind

By Ps Karen Evans,
Wonthaggi Christian Life Centre

HEALTH experts often tell us to watch what we put in our mouths. They say a balanced diet should include fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats. What we eat affects our health, our quality of life, our energy levels, and even our mood.

But have you ever stopped to think about what you're feeding your mind? Just as unhealthy food can make the body sick, unhealthy thoughts and influences can damage the heart and spirit. What we read, what we watch, and what we listen to all feed our minds, and they shape who we are becoming.

Before eating something rotten, we quickly reject it, knowing it will make us ill. Yet we often fail to recognise the "mental junk food" we take in every day. If we constantly fill our minds with fear, anger, or hopelessness, how can we expect peace or joy to grow within us? If we dwell on darkness, we begin to see the world through a dark lens.

The Bible tells us in Romans 12:2 to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind." That means we have a choice about what we allow in. When I fill my mind with God's truth through His Word, I start to see life and people through a lens of light and hope instead of darkness and fear.

Over 2000 years ago, Jesus walked this earth, and His words still bring healing and transformation today. His teachings are not distant history, they are life-giving truths that speak to the soul. He teaches me to love even those who have hurt me, to forgive freely, and to humble myself and seek forgiveness when I am wrong. Each time I do, I see His grace at work in my life.

When I feed on His Word, my mind is renewed and washed clean. The painful memories and negative thoughts from my past no longer define who I am; instead, they remind me of how far God has brought me. Through Jesus, the very things that once caused me pain have become powerful testimonies of His mercy and grace.

So yes, watch what you feed your body. But even more importantly, watch what you feed your mind. Because what you feed will grow.

People with diabetes can live life to the fullest with guidance

PEOPLE with diabetes can live as fulfilling a life as possible with the help and guidance of the diabetes educators of Bass Coast Health.

'Diabetes and wellbeing' is the theme for World Diabetes Day on November 14, with a focus on 'Diabetes and the workplace'.

BCH offers a comprehensive diabetes care service to the community, provided by credentialled diabetes educators Vivienne Prestidge, Roger Lindenmayer, Upmajit Kaur and Claire Gatto.

Vivienne said the diabetes educators can support people living with diabetes to self-manage their condition and live well, through education and the use of available technology.

"If ignored or not managed well, diabetes can lead to health complications, but our team is here to help you minimise these," she said.

"We offer consumers the latest in diabetes advice and advice on technology usage, so they can live with the minimum of restrictions and continue with their work and other ambitions in life."



Bass Coast Health's credentialled diabetes educators, from left, Claire Gatto, Upmajit Kaur, Vivienne Prestidge and Roger Lindenmayer at Wonthaggi Hospital.

Insulin is a hormone made by the body to keep one's blood glucose levels within the normal range. With type 1 diabetes, the body does not make insulin, and therefore insulin has to be injected every day to stay alive. With type 2 diabetes, the insulin does not work as well as it should and, over time, the insulin production decreases. Insulin injections are sometimes needed to manage blood glucose levels.

BCH's service is available at both Wonthaggi Hospital and Phillip Island Community Hospital, and offers support for a range of diabetes-related conditions. These include:

- Management of type 1, type 2, gestational diabetes and pre-diabetes
- Lifestyle changes
- Blood glucose monitoring and interpretation of blood glucose levels in relation to food, physical activity and medication

- Management of out-of-range glucose levels
- Commencement of insulin or other injectable diabetes medications or changes to diabetes medications
- Use of new glucose monitoring and insulin delivery devices
- Prevention and management of diabetes complications
- Advice for managing days when unwell
- Travel advice.

BCH's diabetes educators renew their credentialing annually with the Australian Diabetes Educators Association, which assures consumers they're receiving quality-assured diabetes care, education and self-management support.

The service accepts referrals from general practitioners and other health care professionals. Self-referrals are also accepted. The service involves a small fee and will be discussed with you when the referral coordinator calls you to obtain your details to admit you to the service.

For more information about BCH's diabetes service, go to: basscoasthealth.org.au/diabetes.

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 | 29



Curried Egg Sandwiches

By Meg Viney

MOST folk love curried egg, and this version is lovely and tangy.

Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon curry powder
- A pinch each of salt and sugar
- 1 couple of shakes of white pepper
- Lemon juice to taste

Method

This recipe is a mix-and-taste recipe, if you're trying to find a delicious tang that pleases your palate.

Start by boiling the eggs for 4 minutes, then cool in cold water and peel.

Place in a bowl with the remaining ingredients and mash with a fork.

Now start tasting. I often add more curry powder and salt – even more lemon juice, but it is your taste that counts.

Spread onto white or brown bread, sprinkle with chopped lettuce and add a second slice of bread to create sandwiches.

Cut into quarters and place on a platter covered with a damp tea towel until serving time. This is also lovely in ribbon sandwiches.

Sing We Now in joyous harmony

WHEN two local choirs combine for a concert with a Christmas flavour, it's very exciting!

Don't miss the Bass Coast Chorale (BCC) and South Gippsland Singers (SGS) in Wonthaggi on Saturday, November 29 and Leongatha on Sunday, November 30, both concerts at 2pm.

The Wonthaggi Town Hall and the Dakers Centre in Leongatha will be hummin'!

Following last year's highly successful collaboration with the Australian Welsh Male Choir, BCC and SGS are relishing the opportunity to join in joyous song and again entertain the community.

All they need is to look out at a hall packed with happy faces.

Bass Coast Chorale, led by musical director Larry Hills and accompanist Karen Vincent, is busily rehearsing for this epic collaboration, whilst musical director Jen Holm and accompanist Dorothy Warren are keeping the South Gippsland Singers on track.

Each choir will sing five songs from their repertoire and combine for five Christmas songs, including "Gloria In Excelsis Deo", "O Holy Night!" and a quirky version of "The Twelve Days Of Christmas".



Join the Bass Coast Chorale (BCC) and South Gippsland Singers (SGS) in Wonthaggi on Saturday, November 29 and Leongatha on Sunday, November 30, both concerts at 2pm. Larry Hills, Bass Coast Chorale musical director, Jen Holm and South Gippsland Singers musical director Dorothy Warren.

The whisper is that the audience may be invited to participate in some carols!

South Gippsland Singers' songs will include a favourite of theirs, the beautiful "Still' Still, Still" and "Sing We All Noel", a very bright song with a toe-tapping African flavour.

Bass Coast Chorale's bracket includes a "West Side Story" medley, the beautiful fantasy "Walking in the Air" from the 'Snowman' and the delightful "Seal Lullaby", lyrics from Rudyard Kipling's 'The White Seal'.

Tickets \$20, children under 16 free, includes afternoon

tea after each concert. (Bring some change for the raffle at Leongatha).

Bass Coast Chorale and South Gippsland Singers look forward to entertaining you!

Enquiries: Wonthaggi – Wayne Moloney 0402 727 364. Leongatha – 0409 176 346.

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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	
FRI 6/12	KEVIN BENNETT & THE FLOOD
SAT 6/12	FLORIST (US)
SUN 7/12	THE AUDREYS
SUN 14/12	NEIL YOUNG'S ZUMA 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FEATURING NICK BARKER, LISA MILLER & CRACK BAND LED BY SHANE O'MARA
SUN 19/12	THE STETSON FAMILY
SAT 20/12	MAGIC DIRT
SUN 21/12	LOST RAGAS & SILVER SOUND
January	
THU 1/1	MICK THOMAS' ROVING COMMISSION NEW YEAR'S DAY SHOW W/ HANNA & JESSIE LEE'S BAD HABITS, DANNY WALSH BANNED & QUEEN OF HEARTS MARIACHI BAND
SAT 10/1	THE BLACK SORROWS
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Sing we Now

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2pm Saturday

29 November

Wonthaggi Town Hall

Leongatha

2pm Sunday

30 November

Dakers Centre

Tickets at the door \$20 Children free

Afternoon tea provided

Dive into Fishy Stories this Saturday for a family day of creativity and storytelling

COME to the Fishy Stories Festival this Saturday, November 15, for a one-day celebration of storytelling magic in Fish Creek!

A full program of free author and illustrator workshops runs throughout the day, alongside Box Wars, the creative art of destruction, the Invy Horn Jam Band bringing their own special kind of magic, Myli Libraries' My Stories tent, and bubbles galore.

This year's special performance features Dr Hubble, a whole heap of bubbly fun with his extraordinary bubble creations. This is the festival's only ticketed event, taking place in the Memorial Hall at 12.30pm. Tickets are available now via trybooking.com/DGHKV.

An authors and illustrators session will kick off with an author panel discussion hosted by Alison Lester, one of Australia's most beloved children's authors and illustrators known for timeless classics such as *Magic Beach*, *Are We There Yet?*, and *Noni the Pony*.

The Real Pigeons creators, author Andrew McDonald and illustrator Ben Wood, are so popular that they are hosting two workshops. The team have



Fishy Stories 2025 will hold a featured authors and illustrators session with an author panel discussion hosted by Alison Lester, one of Australia's most beloved children's authors and illustrators known for timeless classics such as *Magic Beach*, *Are We There Yet?*, and *Noni the Pony*.

captivated readers worldwide with their hilarious mystery series.

Andrea Rowe, local award-winning author of *Jetty Jumping*, is bringing her new book, *Castle Crushing* and will share stories and activities from her

coastal adventure.

Twenty stories from the 2025 Writing Challenge will be performed by the amazing FAMDA at 10.45am and 2pm, with Picture Stories on display all day.

The Fishy Stories Festival is a free, family-friendly celebration

of storytelling, creativity, and community.

Check out the program and plan your day at fishystories.org.

It is this Saturday – come to the festival, your family will not be disappointed!

Stolen paintings and mysterious money

SCREENING this Sunday at 10.30am, the Bass Coast Fine Film Groups presents "The Stolen Painting" a thrilling drama filled with deceit, surprises, and double dealings.

A strongly performed, character driven, psychological drama with a mild air of mystery, "The Stolen Painting" is based on an actual event – the discovery of Egon Schiele's painting "Withered Sunflowers" which disappeared during WWII and was found in the home of a French factory worker in 2005.

The film takes us into the high-stakes world of rare art. Where did the painting come from? What is its provenance? How much is it worth? To whom does it really belong?

As an aside, the theme of stolen paintings being returned has a local resonance as the National Gallery of Victoria quietly returning a 17th-century painting "Lady with Fan" by Gerard ter Borch to the descendants of a Jewish family earlier this year.

"The Stolen Painting" was written and directed by Pascal Bonitzer, an 80-year-old a former film critic turned screenwriter-come-director, with writing credits for over 40 films including Catherine Breillat's "Last Summer" (WIFF 2025).

Working with a talented cast and excellent script, Bonitzer uses the incident as a tool to shine a bright light on the secretive world of the art market. He focuses on Andre Masson (Alex Lutz), the well remunerated, well dressed and cocksure head of a major French art firm and his relationship with his former wife (Lea Drucker) also an art specialist, and his assistant (Louise Chevillotte).

Mysterious yet engrossing, Bonitzer portrays the art scene as a nest of vipers where sharp-tongues abound amongst the powerful. With multiple plotlines, there is much to explore, including relationships between fathers and daughters, the value of friendships and who to trust when there are millions involved. A recurrent theme is the seductive and corrupting power of money.

Screening at 10.30am, on Sunday, November 16 at The Union Theatre, 96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. BCFFG members entry free, with general public welcome at usual box office prices.

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Fishy Stories



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www.fishystories.org for a full program



**10.30am SUNDAY 16th NOVEMBER
THE STOLEN PAINTING**

After discovery of a masterpiece that went missing in WW2, questions arise as to ownership, and what happens now? Based on a true story, the plot follows family relationships, the fraught world of art dealership, and the power of money.

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Check the website for more info:
basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com



WONTHAGGI



**WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
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**Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
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★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★



Lyn Terry and Judi Leece enjoyed Oaks Day at the San Remo Bowls Club. B18_4525



Jen Stephens from Jen's Soaps at the Bass Coast Health Ladies Auxiliary Fete. W10_4525



Local artist Laurita Thomas from Bunawa Arts was showing her wares at Bass Coast Health over the weekend. W11_4525



Member of the Ladies Auxiliary, June Martin, was busy selling raffle tickets on Saturday. W12_4525



Fran Cole and Garry Coleman showed off their geodes and trinkets at the Wonthaggi Fete. W13_4525



Shweta Elava was happy to show her henna art skills at the Wonthaggi Fete. W15_4525



Deb McBain and Tracy Creaton at the BCH Ladies Auxiliary Fete. W17_4525



Sarah Maher from Sear Bears Face Painting staying out of the rain at BCH on the weekend. W19_4525



Priscilla Plancke from Those Little Poffertjes, whipping up some delicious food for cyclists after their ride. W21_4525

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the San Remo Bowling Club's Oaks Day, Bass Coast Health Ladies Auxiliary Fete and Bass Coast Cycle Challenge.



President of the Inverloch Fundraising Auxiliary, Gerry Surridge and Klaus Edel, were busy sizzling sausages at Bass Coast Health. W14_4525



Lynne, Mary and Patricia from the Ladies Auxiliary selling crafts, cakes, jams and more. W16_4525



Auxiliary member Cynthia Walker was "very grateful for the things donated" for the Wonthaggi Fete. W18_4525



BCH employees Snezana Colley and Kerry Redmond were happy to help out at the Fete on Saturday. W20_4525



Rotary Club's John Turner, Tilly Huppon, Rosa Turner and Lachie Wilkinson manned the sausage sizzle. W22_4525



Kim Richardson from Mates Distillery braved the weather at the Bass Coast Cycle Challenge on Saturday. W23_4525



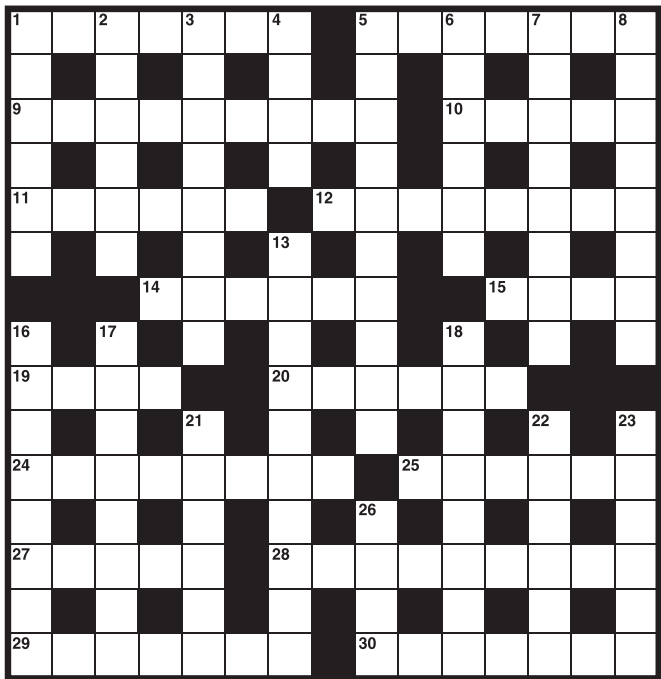
Cedric Krebs preparing to whip up some tasty crepes for returning cyclists at the Bass Coast Cycle Challenge. W24_4525



Chris and Julie Campbell from Coffee Hotspot, parked at the Bass Coast Cycle Challenge in Inverloch on the weekend. W25_4525

CROSSWORD

No. 306



- ACROSS
- 1

Meet requirements (7)
- 5

Traditions (7)
- 9

Inherited (9)
- 10

Purchaser (5)
- 11

Unimportant details (6)
- 12

A male voice (8)
- 14

Brew; steep (6)
- 15

Midday (4)
- 19

Illuminated sign (4)
- 20

Slanted font (6)
- 24

Engineer (8)
- 25

Chemical base (6)
- 27

Popular aquarium fish (5)

- 28
- One with obsessive self-love (9)
- 29
- Disagree (7)
- 30
- Persuaded (7)
- DOWN
- 1

Rough hut (6)
- 2

Alarm (6)
- 3

Series of meetings (8)
- 4

Anecdote (4)
- 5

Security for repayment (10)
- 6

Surrender (6)
- 7

Contradictory or incongruous phrase (8)
- 8

Scalpel wielders (8)
- 13

Very generous (10)
- 16

Lively (8)
- 17

Punitively eschews certain things (8)
- 18

A type of shot in cue sports (8)
- 21

Bottle for the table (6)
- 22

Lunatic (6)
- 23

Glutinous or sticky consistency (6)
- 26

A desert in Central Asia (4)

SOLUTION



9-LETTER

No. 306

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
- 32 words: Excellent

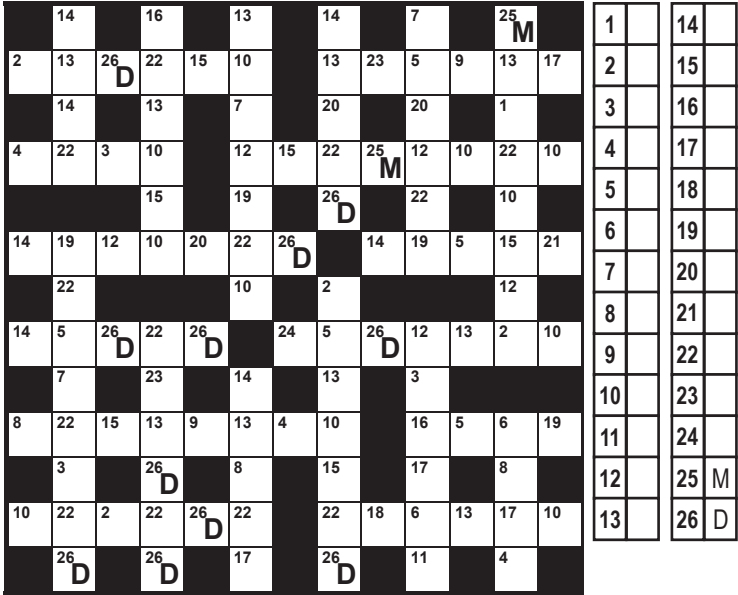


avert, averts, averse,
avert, averts, ever,
rave, rave, raves,
reave, reaves, revert,
reverts, revert, revs,
save, save, serve,
server, sever, starve,
slave, traverse,
traverse, vase,
vast, vaster, veer,
veers, verse, vest,
velts

CODEWORD

No. 296

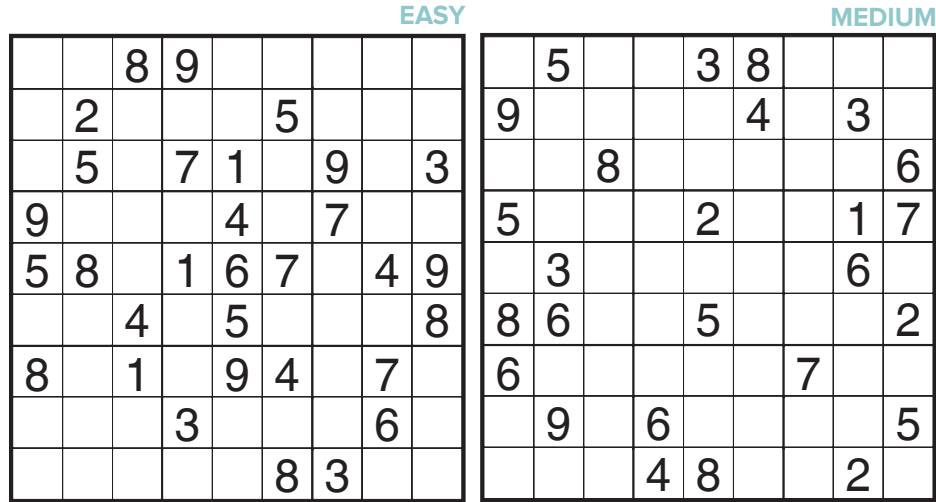
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

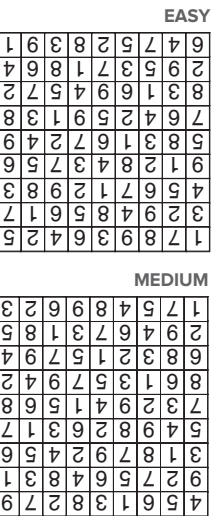
No. 305

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.



0711 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1.

True or false: all isotopes of any one chemical element share the same number of protons?
2.

What common 'nut' is actually a legume?
3.

In what country was composer Ludwig van Beethoven born?
4.

Who wrote the novels *Nausea* and *The Age of Reason*?
6.

Which famous Hollywood actor was believed to be buried in his Dracula costume?
6.

What kind of fruit is used to flavour Earl Grey and Lady Grey tea?
7.

In what year was Gmail first released (in beta): 1998, 2001 or 2004?
8.

Actress Maggie Smith (pictured) played which character in the Harry Potter movie franchise?
9.

In the equation $E=mc^2$, what does the 'm' stand for?
10.

Which Renaissance artist painted the fresco *Assumption of the Virgin*?

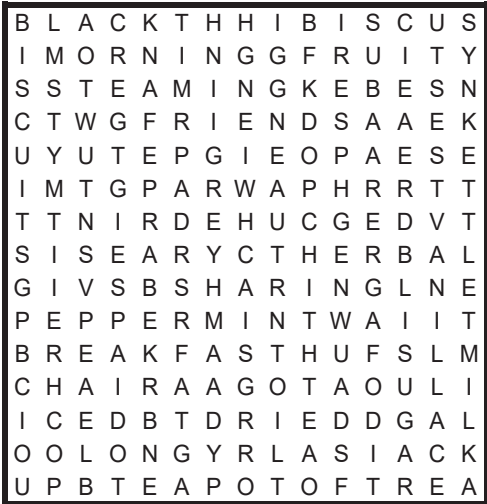


ANSWERS: 1. True 2. Peanut 3. Germany 4. Jean-Paul Sartre 5. Bela Lugosi 6. Bergamot orange 7. 2004 8. Professor Minerva McGonagall 9. Mass 10. Correggio

WORD SEARCH

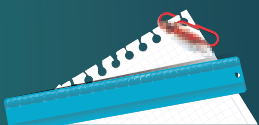
No. 216

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- ASIA
- BEVERAGE
- BISCUITS
- BLACK
- BOBA
- BREAKFAST
- BREWED
- CHAI
- CUPPA
- DRIED
- DRINK
- FRIENDS
- FRUITY
- GINGER
- GREEN
- HERBAL
- HIBISCUS
- ICED
- KETTLE
- LEAF
- MATCHA
- MILK
- MORNING
- MUG
- OOLONG
- PARTY
- PEPPERMINT
- RITUAL
- SHARING
- SIPPING
- STEAMING
- SUGAR
- TEAPOT
- VANILLA

SECRET MESSAGE: The best way to start the day is with a good cup of tea



Dion and Ryan show their support for Day for Daniel in bright red.



Savi, Ivy and Lil proudly show their support for child safety on Day for Daniel.

Cowes students unite for child safety

OUR Lady Star of the Sea Primary School in Cowes joined schools across Australia in marking Day for Daniel, the country's largest child safety awareness event held on the last Friday of October.

Dressed in red, the signature colour of the day, students took part in lessons and activities centred around this year's theme, Safe Spaces, learning about the importance of staying safe both online and in the real world.

Prep teacher Natalie Owens said it was an important opportunity for students to have open conversations about safety and knowing who to turn to if they ever feel unsure or uncomfortable.

"It's all about child safety, and how we can keep ourselves safe both in person and online," Ms Owens said.

"We really want students to go away remembering how to stay safe and knowing the people they can turn to and things they can do if they feel unsafe."

She said the school's students were very engaged, with age-appropriate activities helping them understand how they can be kept safe in their daily lives.

"It was all positive," she said.

"I think everyone went away feeling they had someone to turn to, and they knew how to keep themselves safe. The younger kids were also able to learn through activities about how they can be kept safe."

Day for Daniel honours the memory of Daniel Morcombe, a 13-year-old boy who was abducted and murdered in Queensland in 2003. His parents, Bruce and Denise Morcombe, established the Daniel Morcombe Foundation to promote child safety education and awareness.

The event encourages schools, families, and the wider community to play their part in helping children Recognise, React, and Report unsafe situations, a message Our Lady Star of the Sea continues to reinforce.



Brendan and Elijah get into the spirit of Day for Daniel.

A strong right arm an advantage at Bass Valley Primary School

A STRONG throwing arm will get you a long way at Bass Valley Primary School.

Currently Victorian school champions in Softball and T-Ball, sport rates very highly at this relatively small school of just 200 students.

A teacher for 16 years and, most recently acting principal, newly appointed school principal Aaron Bickery is justly proud of his students and staff.

"We have 15 teachers and 15 education support staff who always go above and beyond for the students," said Mr Bickery.

"We encourage our students to have a strong sustainability focus and care for our natural environment, and excursions in the local area for tree planting instils this."

The school has a country vibe, according to principal Bickery, with its own swimming pool, fruit orchard and plenty of playground space.

"Bass Valley kids love sport



Bass Valley P.S. School Captains Charli and Rosco with Principal Aaron Bickery. B23_4525

and outdoor learning. Softball and cricket have always been very strong at the school. The students value hands-on learning and being outdoors.

"Mathematics has been a huge improvement area for student learning over the past few years, and literacy will be a focus in 2026."

The Bass Valley girls are the current Victorian softball champions, and the Bass Valley boys recently won the Victorian T-Ball championships, both coached by P.E. teacher John McCormick.

The Bass Valley School Fete and Ducklotto fundraiser will be held from 5pm this

Friday, November 14. Tickets are only \$25 per child, which provides endless, all-night entertainment on the carnival rides.

"We'll have rides, showbags and Ducklotto, which is always a favourite with the locals."

Numbered rubber ducks are released into the school swimming pool, and the winning duck is plucked from beneath the water by the school principal himself and a large cash prize given to the winner.

"Each of the grades will have a stall to raise money for the school. The students have been busy growing tomato and vegetable seedlings in the school hothouse."

A BBQ and ice-cream van will add to the night's festivities.

"Bring your family and friends," said Aaron.

The school choir is busy rehearsing for the Corinella Carols on Saturday, December 13.



Entrants in Cowpat Bingo watch the action, hoping for a well-placed deposit. A22_4525



Cowpat Bingo organisers Alanna Crew and Jess Bell stand either side of judge Frank Springer. A23_4525

Cowpat Bingo hits the spot at Loch Primary School

WHILE cowpats aren't usually the source of much excitement, that couldn't be said at Loch Primary School where one such deposit brought tears of joy, a lady who normally doesn't win anything picking up \$500 in Cowpat Bingo on Sunday.

Organiser Alanna Crew, a member of the school's Parents

Club was inspired by an ABC article she read about such a competition, the Loch version of the event proving so popular all 225 tickets were sold.

A trio of cows wandered a grassed area featuring a large grid containing numbers, judge Frank Springer entrusted with making the call if a cow didn't neatly hit a single square, the

one with the bulk of the contribution being the winner.

Merry People gumboots, established by Nerrena's Dani Holloway, sponsored the first prize, 70 being the lucky number.

Burra Foods sponsored the \$250 second prize and various other aspects of the school's fundraising day, while the third

prize consisted of vouchers from businesses in the area.

Tug of War and Gumbboot Throw competition added to the fun, along with a mini market, food, music and face painting.

Money raised goes towards furniture for the school's Well-being Room that was officially opened on Sunday.

St Paul's celebrates the official opening of its Early Learning Centre

ST PAUL'S Anglican Grammar School marked a historic milestone on Friday, November 7 with the official opening and dedication of its Early Learning Centre in Drouin.

The ceremony, held on the school's picturesque 36-acre campus, was led by St Paul's principal, Mr Cameron Herbert, with The Right Reverend Dr Richard Treloar, Anglican Bishop of Gippsland, conducting the dedication.

The Drouin Campus, which opened earlier this year, expands St Paul's to three campuses and includes a new kindergarten and primary school catering for students from pre-kinder (three-year-old kinder)

to Year 3 in 2025 and will reach Year 6 by 2027.

The Early Learning Centre was made possible through a \$2 million contribution from the Victorian School Building Authority, Department of Education. The purpose-built facility features four bright, open classrooms and outdoor play spaces that blend seamlessly with the surrounding natural landscape, encouraging exploration, creativity and wellbeing.

With more than 20 years since a new school was last built in the area, the St Paul's Drouin Campus represents a significant and much-needed addition to the local community.



Unveiling the plaque: Darren Jennings (St Paul's Board Chair), The Right Reverend Dr Richard Treloar (Anglican Bishop of Gippsland), Rowan van Raay (Head of St Paul's Drouin Junior School) and Cameron Herbert (St Paul's Principal).



Jessica Park, Tilly Webber, Charlie Marsh, India Gibson-Goldsmith, Winter Scott and Matt Lynch enjoy the sunshine at Wishart Reserve as they celebrate finishing Year 12 at Village High School. W02_4525

Village High students celebrate the end of Year 12 together

IT WAS all smiles and sunshine for a group of Year 12 students from Village High School in Ryanston as they marked the end of their schooling journey on Thursday, November 11.

Gathering at Wishart Reserve in Wonthaggi, the students spent the afternoon enjoying food, drinks and friendly games of Finska as they reflected on the year that was and looked ahead to what comes next.

For many, it was a day of relief and excitement.

“Personally, I’m going to go to uni after this, but over the summer I’m aiming to get my licence, get a job, and just start building to

go out into the world,” said Charlie Marsh.

“I just got given my Cert II in computer assembly repair from Chisholm, so I’m looking for any job in the tech industry. At uni I’m going to be studying cybersecurity.”

Winter Scott said she’s planning to take a different path.

“I’m planning to have a gap year, and then I really want to go to uni in Europe. Hopefully Italy. I want to study social sciences. I want to be a Prime Minister,” she said with a laugh.

For India Gibson-Goldsmith, creativity is the focus.

“I want to be a tattoo artist eventually. Next year will probably be like a gap year of just practising. I’m also learning to drive and working to save up money, and I want to do some courses in the city.”

Classmates Matt Lynch and Tilly Webber are both heading to Swinburne University next year. With Matt starting a Bachelor of Forensic Psychological Science, and Tilly doing Psychological Sciences.

The group said finishing exams was a big relief after a long year. “Everybody else sat their English exam, which is the main one,” Charlie explained.

“It’s an unscored school, so we didn’t get ATARs or anything, we all just got study scores for English. I had to sit both the general maths exams as well though because I needed a score for maths too, so that was pretty stressful.”

Village High School, an alternative secondary school based in Ryanston, offers a collaborative and flexible approach to learning. The school only introduced Year 12 for the first time in 2024.

Under the bright November sun, it was a fitting celebration of a unique and rewarding school journey, and the beginning of many new ones.



Fundraising dress-up days were embraced by students of all ages. Newhaven College Year 2 students Saylor McHenry and Lana Milord-Robertson came as Dr Seuss characters for the movie character theme dress-up day.



Newhaven College’s fundraising Tropicana dress-up day was hugely popular. Year 5 student Ava Mannix shared the fun with local identity Harvey.

Newhaven students raise over \$14,000 for charity

EACH year, Newhaven College Year 12 Leadership selects a charity for the college to support.

This year, Bali Children Foundation (BCF) was chosen.

Starting in 2002, BCF has helped thousands of children living in remote areas of Bali complete their education, find employment and improve the lives of not only themselves but also their families and the wider communities.

The foundation is currently working to expand its reach to Sumba, an island in the far east of Indonesia.

The Year 12 Leadership team led the college community to raise \$14,198 for this worthy cause and were delighted with the participation and enthusiasm from students, staff and parents right across the school.

This was the largest amount raised in College fundraising history, so the captains were thrilled with the result.

The school community enjoyed participating in the fundraising dress-up days, Year 12 trivia night, a movie night and raffles for an official team-signed Western Bulldogs guernsey and five nights’ accommodation in Bali.

The College Parents and Friends Association also helped out at some of the fundraising events, which was great help to the organisers.

At the Year 12 final assembly, 2025 college captains Gabriel Di Falco and Abby Papas presented a cheque to BCF representative Mr Patrick Barry. Mr Barry gratefully accepted the cheque, commending the Year 12 Leadership team for their hard work and the outstanding result they achieved.

Earlier in the year, the founder and CEO of BCF, Margaret Barry, visited the Year 12 leadership team to explain the benefits that would result from the fundraising dollars.

She said, on receiving the cheque for \$14,198, “Thank you, Newhaven College students, your fundraising is educating and preparing Bali’s children for lifelong success.”

Principal Mr Tony Corr expressed his admiration for this year’s fundraising efforts.

“Our Year 12 student leaders chose BCF for 2025 because so many in our community enjoy holidaying in Bali and would like to give something back. I am incredibly impressed and proud of our students’ dedication to fundraising in such a meaningful area. They deserve to be congratulated,” he said.

Many thanks also go to the whole college community for their enthusiasm in supporting the events and fundraising.

The 2026 charity will be decided by the incoming Year 12 leadership team.

Confident beginnings for 2026 prep students

AS 2025 draws near, Newhaven College is already preparing to welcome its 2026 prep students with warmth, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of community. The College remains committed to ensuring a smooth and confident start to school life through practical resources, early connections, and a strong partnership between home and school.

Each year, Newhaven College supports incoming prep families with School Readiness Bags and Parent Information Presentations designed to help children build the foundational skills they need for a successful transition to school. These thoughtfully curated resources include handwriting tools, name cards, maths activities, books, and engaging learning tasks that foster confidence and independence.

The accompanying parent sessions explore literacy, numeracy, and school readiness strategies, offering families practical ways to support learning at home. This year, families also received expert guidance from occupational therapist Jade Potter, who shared valuable tips on developing children’s self-management, toilet independence, fine motor skills, physical development, and self-regulation.



2026 Preps, and already buddies, Lenny and Lewis become familiar with the library during one of the Prep transition sessions.

Parents have responded with appreciation.

One parent shared, “The presentations around literacy were so interesting and reassuring. It was wonderful to see how engaged and enthusiastic the teachers are, and how thorough Newhaven College is in building its curriculum.”

Another said, “Thank you so much for your support and all the effort you’ve put into the 2026 prep transition. We couldn’t be more pleased.”

Research consistently highlights the importance of strong fine motor skills, oral language development, and early literacy and numeracy

as key predictors of future academic success. By providing these resources and guidance, Newhaven College is helping students build these skills early, setting them up for a confident start.

The College’s Transition Program continues to be a highlight for students, families, and staff, including Head of Junior School, Cath Huther. Pre-offer interviews are conducted in Term 1 of the year prior to commencement to gain a deep understanding of each child’s strengths and needs while beginning the learning partnership with families.

Throughout the year, Library Sessions are held for

families to visit the school, meet peers, and connect with staff in a relaxed setting. These sessions help children become familiar with their new environment and give parents a glimpse into school life. The program culminates in a final Orientation Day, bringing everything together to ensure families feel prepared, confident, and excited for the year ahead.

Beyond the classroom, families are welcomed into a caring community where connections flourish. Parent volunteers often organise social events, from tenpin bowling nights to paint-and-sip sessions and casual catchups at local venues, helping families form friendships that last well beyond the prep year.

Across the Junior School, class representatives also play a key role in creating online parent groups to share reminders, updates, and celebrate milestones together, strengthening the sense of belonging that defines the Newhaven experience.

Prep enrolments for 2027 and 2028 are currently open. For further enquiries, please contact the College admissions team at admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au, call 5956 7505 or go to the College website for enrolment information.



The new basketball court at Welshpool Primary School. C06_4125

Small but mighty with a big heart

IT MIGHT be one of the smallest schools in the district, but Welshpool & District Primary School continues to prove that size is no barrier to big achievements. With just 32 students, the school is powered by a passionate team of teachers, support staff, parents and community members who work tirelessly to give every child a rich and rewarding experience.

This year, teacher Chloe Wade made the school proud as a finalist in the Victorian Education Excellence Awards – one of just three statewide finalists in her category, and the only representative from the South Gippsland and Bass Coast region.

Meanwhile, the Parents Club has been hard at work fundraising for a brand-new basketball court, replacing the original 40-year-old surface that had seen better days. Installed by Sports Courts Victoria, the modular sports square court now spans 15 by 30 metres and provides a full-sized playing space for students to enjoy.

And if this scribe may say so, it's pretty damn cool!

Beyond the classroom, students in Years 4 to 6 have been transforming the school's wetlands area, which is now teeming with birdlife thanks to new nesting boxes installed with help from a Landcare grant. The project even included a learning trip to Healesville Sanctuary, where students gained hands-on knowledge about native habitats before returning to complete the installation.

And the annual Welshpool & District Primary School Mega Christmas Raffle is also underway. With over \$6000 in prizes and 33 prize combinations up for grabs, all funds raised will go towards creating an outdoor learning and inclusion space for the students. Tickets are on sale until Monday, December 8, with the raffle drawn on Wednesday, December 17.

They might be small in numbers, but there is plenty of big works happening at the primary school, and students are certainly benefiting.

Poowong students become citizen scientists through Landcare grant

POOWONG Consolidated School is celebrating success after receiving a 2025 Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grant worth \$3329.80 to support its new Discovery Zone project.

The school is one of just 111 schools and youth organisations across Victoria to receive funding through Landcare Australia's Junior Landcare program, which is supported by the Victorian Government. The grants encourage young people to take part in hands-on biodiversity projects that deliver both environmental and educational outcomes.

At Poowong, the grant has made it possible to establish a student-led Citizen Science program on the school grounds, part of an ongoing effort to better understand and improve local biodiversity. Over the past three years, students have been learning about native animals, plants and ecosystems, and this new project allows them to monitor and record changes over time.

With support from Lisa Wangman of the Bass Coast Landcare



Students from Poowong Consolidated School with Lisa Wangman from the Bass Coast Landcare Network during a biodiversity incursion exploring local species and habitats.

Network, students took part in two incursions to learn how to identify and photograph species and upload their findings to iNaturalist. The grant also allowed the school to purchase class sets of sweep nets, binoculars, macroinvertebrate water-testing kits and a digital microscope, making citizen science accessible to every student.

Through the program, students are now taking part in national initiatives such as the Aussie Bird Count, River Detectives Water Testing and

Pollinator Count, while using their findings to enhance the school's habitat, planting pollinator gardens, building lizard and insect shelters, and installing bird boxes.

The long-term goal is to give students the skills and confidence to become active environmental stewards in their community.

"The creation of an on-ground, ongoing, student-led program will assist in us being able to highlight what is and isn't working for the native animals, plants and

other living things in our school grounds," Science and sustainability teacher, Lauren Dobie, explained, highlighting the ongoing benefit of the project.

"Students enjoyed learning these skills in isolation at different times over the past year, and we looked forward to their engagement as we combined all of these skills into a project that gave back to the students themselves, biodiversity records, and in turn the environment at PCS and the wider community."

Real Estate

South Gippsland and Bass Coast



ALEX SCOTT
AND STAFF

Est.1886

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AUCTION

Saturday, December 6 at 2pm on site
32 Forrest Avenue, Newhaven

This magnificent property on SOUGHT AFTER FORREST AVENUE is an absolute piece of blue-chip real estate, where the calibre of the home matches its irreplaceable location. Commanding a front-row position on a large, level allotment, this residence enjoys breathtaking, uninterrupted views across the sparkling waters of Western Port Bay and the Newhaven Marine. Inspection will truly impress, as this home is a masterpiece designed to capitalise on its stunning outlook. The property is defined by its expansive, three living areas, where huge bay windows draw the dramatic scenery indoors, making the water view the centrepiece of your everyday life.

CONTACT COWES:
Greg Price 0419 337 441 / George Grigg 0458 478 308

4 2 4

AUCTION

Saturday 22nd November at 11am On Site
2-6 Hade Avenue, Bass

- Significant Landholding:** Enjoy the space and flexibility offered by nearly 5000m² of land.
- Approved Subdivision Permit:** The hard work has been done! The property already possesses a further permit for a 3-lot subdivision, providing immediate development value and potential for strong returns (STCA on any future plans).
- Prominent Highway Frontage:** With excellent exposure to the highway, the property offers a huge range of future possibilities, from residential development to potential commercial/mixed-use (STCA), capitalising on the growing traffic and community of Bass.
- Existing Dwelling:** The property includes an existing house, providing holding income, a base to live in while you plan your development, or a great renovation project.

CONTACT COWES:
Greg Price 0419 337 441 / Angus Hall 0466 326 487

Four offices, one vision: Redefining regional real estate

FROM what was once one small office to now being a connected network across Cowes, San Remo, Wonthaggi and Inverloch, our growth has always been shaped by the communities we serve. As we expand across the Bass Coast and South Gippsland, our focus stays local – creating meaningful careers and delivering real results for the people who call this region home.

The continued expansion of our business – across four thriving office locations – has created an exciting period of opportunity for those looking to build a long-term career in real estate within our region.

Over the past three years, under the leadership of CEO Jodie Hanssen, our business has undergone a complete transformation. Drawing on high-level experience leading Melbourne operations while deeply understanding the values and lifestyle of the Bass Coast, Jodie has reshaped the organisation into a modern, progressive and people-centred real estate group.

We deliberately operate differently. While many regional businesses still follow traditional structures, we have invested in contemporary systems, advanced

technology, efficient workflows and a strong operational backbone that empowers our people to work smarter – not harder. We combine the warmth and personal connection of a local team with the professionalism and capability of a high-performing Melbourne agency.

Our culture is built on care, flexibility and the belief that when we support and nurture our people, the business succeeds in return. Work-life balance is not just a slogan here – we tailor roles around the individual. That is why so many of our young mums choose to build their careers with us and stay long-term, and why some team members have followed Jodie from previous workplaces. Loyalty grows naturally in an environment where people feel respected, supported and able to put family first.

As we continue to grow, we are welcoming new team members across several areas of the business – from sales and leasing, to marketing, administration and customer service roles. Rather than a “one-size-fits-all” approach, we work with candidates to shape positions to suit their strengths, stage of life and professional goals. Importantly, we also

offer higher salaries and the most competitive OTE sales commission structure in the Bass Coast, allowing high performers to thrive and be truly rewarded for their contribution.

Our recent alignment with Barry Plant – Australia’s Major Network of the Year – further enhances the opportunities available to our people. Through industry-leading training, technology, resources and a highly regarded brand, our team benefits from the support of a major network while still enjoying the closeness and culture of a local, family-focused business. This partnership also elevates the service we offer our clients, providing a Melbourne-standard experience right here on the Bass Coast.

With record growth, strong leadership, a supportive culture and the right systems in place, we are exceptionally well-positioned for the future – and we invite driven, values-aligned individuals to be part of our continued success story.

Whether you’re an experienced agent ready to grow your career or someone looking to enter real estate for the first time, there’s never been a better time to join our team.



There’s an exciting opportunity to join the Barry Plant team in Bass Coast and South Gippsland. From left, Ben Burling – Barry Plant franchise developer, Jodie Hanssen – CEO Barry Plant Phillip Island, San Remo, Wonthaggi and Inverloch and Mirade Clarke – operations manager Barry Plant Phillip Island, San Remo, Wonthaggi and Inverloch.

FOR SALE

36 McCartin Street, Leongatha

PROMINENT LOCATION

FIRST TIME OFFERED • GST NOT APPLICABLE

This historic building is offered for sale for the first time with two shops consisting of a large, vacant space fronting McCartin Street and an upstairs office area totalling 255 square metres. The area would support large professional offices with a purpose built communications room plus ample phone/computer points servicing all office spaces.

Facing the rear is the second shop which is securely tenanted by an established hairdresser with the area being 72.5 square metres. The hairdresser is adjacent to the large Woolworths supermarket with ample parking available.

\$890,000 neg.

To arrange an inspection or for further details contact Alex Scott and Staff, Leongatha today.

ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF

Tony Giles 0407 528 192

5662 0922

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We’re currently seeking:

- Social Media & Marketing Manager
- Sales Agents – experienced or new to the industry
- Sales Managers – potential for future shareholders
- Business Development Managers
- Property Managers & Leasing Agents
- Owners Corporation
- Commercial Agents
- Administration Assistants

We offer flexibility in roles, encourage work life balance & support team member development & growth.

Above average commission options & salaries.

For more information, contact Jodie for a confidential discussion.

0404 856 787 | jhanssen@barryplant.com.au

BARRYPLANT



4 1 2 *1501m²

42 Brown Street, **Leongatha**
For Sale
Agent Nutrien Harcourts
Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449
kellie.thomas@nh.com.au
*Approximately

Welcome to ‘Montville’

THIS stunning federation style home was constructed in 1913-1914, featuring double hung sash windows, box bay windows in the front formal lounge and lovely lead light windows. The home boasts beautiful timber floorboards, two restored and re-pointed chimneys, high ceilings, picture rails, deep architraves and a lovely bullnose verandah with turned posts. Historically, the house sat on four acres, and in the early 20th century, this location was the edge of the township of Leongatha.

Current day Leongatha now has it set on an approximately 1513 sqm block with sweeping westerly views over the lush rolling green hills of South Gippsland, the home's enclosed alfresco area is the perfect spot to take in golden sunsets. Step inside and you'll find a light-filled interior that honours the home's heritage while offering all the comforts of contemporary design.

Features of the home include:

- Three very generously sized bedrooms, with built-in robes in the master
- A formal sitting room or fourth bedroom, with an additional family room and formal dining room
- The contemporary kitchen is both functional and cleverly appointed with gorgeous cabinetry and appliances
- A recently renovated, stunning bathroom, with a separate powder room
- The enclosed alfresco area offers additional living space with a stunning outlook
- Perfectly manicured gardens and established trees have been lovingly curated and cared for
- An oversized, double lock-up garage, with back external access through to the back yard
- Additional shedding/workshop space and a chook house for beautiful fresh eggs

The immaculate and pristine condition of this home is a credit to the current owners, who have lovingly maintained this home from top to bottom. From the bullnose verandah to the box windows, it is a showstopper! An inspection is a must to appreciate everything this home has to offer.

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FOR SALE

KORUMBURRA 3 2 2

Contemporary Living

- Beautiful brick veneer home on approx. 745m².
- Open plan design with two living areas and alfresco.
- Modern, low-maintenance living just minutes from town.

\$650,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 2 2

Home with a view!

- Quality built family home on a huge 1,007m² block.
- Modern design, spacious living, double lock up garage.
- Gorgeous north facing rural views, quiet court.

\$765,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 5 2 1

Timeless Family Home!

- Renovated cottage-style home just steps from the CBD.
- 14ft ceilings, period features & spacious open-plan living.
- Outdoor entertaining, bungalow & rear lane access.

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Barry Redmond
Director / Estate Agent
0477 622 292



FOR SALE

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Lifestyle Dream on 1.6 Acres

- Renovated home on 1.6 acres with rural views.
- Light-filled open-plan living, modern kitchen with WIP.
- Spacious north-facing alfresco, shedding, tank water.

\$795,000



FOR SALE

FISH CREEK 4 2 8

Stunning 28 Acre Lifestyle Property

- Approx. 28 Acres with rolling hills and rural views.
- Modern kitchen, high ceilings, and multiple living areas.
- Alfresco, double garage, large shed, water tank and solar.

\$1,285,000 - \$1,385,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 4 3 2

Stunning Home in Leongatha!

- Spacious home with master suite, ensuite and WIR.
- Open-plan living, executive kitchen and formal lounge.
- Alfresco, double garage, shed/studio, easy-care garden.

\$930,000



Kellie Thomas
Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449



FOR SALE

WOOREEN 2 1 1

Stunning Rural Outlook

- Renovated 2-bedroom cottage with stunning rural views.
- Cosy living area, functional kitchen/dining.
- Established gardens, single carport, 669m² block.

\$475,000



COMING SOON

KORUMBURRA 3 1 2

Rural Living – Town Boundary

- Solid BV Home on approx. 1.48 acres.
- Established gardens, chook house.
- Town water, lock up shed.

\$950,000



FOR SALE

DUMBALK 4 2 2

Peace & Tranquillity

- Spacious home on 1,185m² with stunning rural views.
- Flexible dual living or Guest/Air BnB.
- Double lock up garage with extra storage space.

\$620,000



Monique Wightman
Marketing & Administration
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Skye Clothier
Sales Associate
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Record turnout marks Korumburra's 70th annual Sheep Dog Trials

THE voices of handlers and the shuffle of sheep were on full display at the Korumburra Showgrounds over the weekend, as the Southeastern Victorian Sheep Dog Trials returned for their 70th year.

Secretary Louise Rielly said the event had drawn its biggest crowd and field to date.

"The turnout has been great. This is the biggest trial we've ever had," she said. "This is our 70th birthday, we lost one due to COVID, but we're continuously growing and next year we're looking at moving to four days, because it's huge. It's currently three days."

The trials have long been part of Korumburra's history, and Louise said their success comes down to a combination of strong local backing and community spirit.

"The sponsorship from the town and businesses is huge, and they come back year after year. We're so appreciative of them. If we don't have them, we don't have this," she said.

She also thanked Max Morrison from Thorpdale, who sourced the sheep for the event.

"Max buys the sheep especially for us. He comes in to check on us and the sheep, to see if everything is okay. It's fantastic."

Louise said it was a weekend full of friendly competition and a few standout moments.

"There has been a standout performance from Grace Garner," she said. "We have the open trial, which is the top dogs. It's not about the worker, it's about the dogs. And then we go down to the improver, which they're improving to get into open. The novice dogs are starting off, then we have our encourage section, which Grace won."

Reflecting on 70 years of competition, Louise said the sense of family is what keeps people coming back.



Camperdown's Grace Garner with her dogs Billy and Lucy, who placed first and second in the encourage division at the Southeastern Victorian Sheep Dog Trials. W29_4525

"I think we run a very friendly open trial. Lots of banter and friendly chit chat. Everybody is included. I don't know that they only come for that, but they feel included and they feel wanted," she said. "I get all teary talking about it. These people here are my family. I'm like their mum. If there's a problem, I want them to tell me."

Among the handlers was Grace Garner, a 31-year-old nurse from Camperdown, who won both first and second place in the encourage division with her dogs Billy and Lucy.

"It's a very special bond," Grace said. "They're like my family or my best friends. You get to spend time with them and work with them out on the field, and they really build trust with you, with what you're saying, what you're asking them

to do. It's a little bit of give and take, whereas I have to trust that they know what they're doing. It's a real team dynamic of working together. A lot of trust, a lot of treating your animal well and giving them a good life as well. You look after them and they'll look after you. It's just being fair with them."

Grace said she enjoys coming to the Korumburra trials for the people as much as the competition.

"I really like coming to this trial. I like the setting, the people are really friendly, it's just a really lovely trial," she said.

Having only started trialling four years ago, she explained how the divisions work and how her weekend results mean she'll move up to the next level.

"Me and my dogs are all beginners, so I came first and second

in the encourage sections. As soon as the worker wins so many encourage farmer trials they get kicked out of that division and go to novice, open and improver, which are the higher levels, and that's based on the dog. As soon as the dog wins that they get kicked out of those levels. Both my dogs got first and second in the encourage division, so we'll be moving up now."

For Grace, it's all about connection and challenge.

"I think it's really that teamwork with your dog, as well as the challenge. You never know what's going to happen out there. You're never going to be perfect and you're always going to learn something."

Louise summed the day up simply. "We're just very grateful for the support, we really are."

Mansfield Border Collies adaptability tested in Korumburra

By Andrew Palocz

AFTER a drenching and chilly day, competitors in the Korumburra South Eastern Victorian Sheep Dog Trials warmed up at Saturday evening's sponsors' dinner, hearing from Mansfield competitor Rod Manning, whose dogs usually take charge of cattle.

Dinner attendees also heard that the record-breaking popularity of this year's competition has led to a change to next year's schedule, with a fourth day to be added.

Rod and his wife Maryke were at the Korumburra event for the first time, with Rod sure to bring a rain jacket and some warmer clothes if he visits South Gippsland again, having anticipated more pleasant conditions.

Despite the miserable weather, he has enjoyed the interaction with others at the event.

"It's great to meet people who have such an empathy for dogs," Border Collie lover Rod said.

Although happy to mix with



Maryke and Rod Manning ventured from Mansfield for the South Eastern Victorian Sheep Dog Trials in Korumburra, Rod being the speaker at Saturday's dinner for sponsors. A21_4525

all his competitors, he relishes a bit of banter with those who prefer Kelpies, including his daughter's partner.

While Melbourne raised, Rod always wanted to be a farmer and moved to Mansfield after completing a vet science degree at the University of Melbourne, drawn to the town by his

passion for skiing.

He soon discovered working as a vet left little time for hobbies.

Now retired from that rewarding but demanding job and with his son running the farm, he has time to pursue his interest in dog trialling, having always had canine companions,

including farm dogs.

"We've just used dogs all along," he said of the farm, the now entirely Angus herd numbering about 2500, after he started with just 20 cows.

The Mannings' cattle are moved every three or four days for rotational grazing purposes, with the dogs usually working in teams to achieve that.

Since retiring as a vet, Rod has been involved in a lot of cattle dog trialling.

"I used to watch you blokes, three sheepers, thinking how do they get that much control of those dogs," he said.

"I'm hoping at some point we can develop dogs that can swap from cattle into sheep and do it properly on both sides," he said, not yet sure how achievable that is but enjoying the learning process, albeit a challenging one.

So much so that Sentinel-Times is confident Rod and his dogs will be in action at next year's South Eastern Victorian Sheep Dog Trials, but he'll be under no illusions about the Korumburra weather.

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MARKET REPORT

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CLAAS Harvest Centre

Grass fever takes over

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded a smaller offering of 1900 head at this week's VLE Leongatha store sale in another good offering.

A good field of local agents and graziers attended again along with most of the regular commission and processor buyers.

Price lifted on last week's strong gains with most sales lifting another 10 cents with some sales improving 20-30 cents with local graziers securing a large share of the offering with feedlot orders struggling to go the rate.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025 Steers

M & A Lyon 11 Red Angus	567kg	\$5.00	\$2840
B & L Neumann 20 Angus	540kg	\$5.14	\$2780
B & L Neumann 19 Angus	474kg	\$5.09	\$2420
T & M Neesham 17 Angus	503kg	\$5.30	\$2670
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	474kg	\$5.31	\$2520
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	455kg	\$5.41	\$2470
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	436kg	\$5.52	\$2410
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	431kg	\$5.53	\$2390
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	420kg	\$5.45	\$2290
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	412kg	\$5.33	\$2220
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	407kg	\$5.61	\$2290
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	405kg	\$5.42	\$2200
Hopfields 18 Short Horn	403kg	\$5.18	\$2090
K & L Holmes 11 Hereford	388kg	\$5.06	\$1970
Hopfields 20 Angus	377kg	\$5.57	\$2100
A Massaro 18 Hereford	372kg	\$4.97	\$1850
J & M O'Brien 11 Angus	362kg	\$5.41	\$1960
D Lewis 11 BB	345kg	\$5.18	\$1790
J & S Kelly 22 Angus	337kg	\$5.92	\$2000
Hopfields P/L 11 Short Horn	327kg	\$5.35	\$1750
Joroka P/L 17 Angus	326kg	\$5.61	\$1830
J & D Muldoon 16 Angus	316kg	\$5.88	\$1860
J & S Kelly 23 Angus	309kg	\$6.01	\$1860
Joroka P/L 10 Angus	297kg	\$5.74	\$1710
P Norman Inv P/L 15 Angus	292kg	\$6.33	\$1850
Hopfields P/L 12 Angus	290kg	\$5.51	\$1600
Calafiore Ft 14 Angus/Bb	260kg	\$6.08	\$1580
RA Jones 15 Angus	250kg	\$6.68	\$1670
RA Jones 11 Angus	222kg	\$7.16	\$1590

Heifers

D Jelbart 16 Angus	460kg	\$4.93	\$2270
T & M Neesham 15 Angus	447kg	\$4.92	\$2200
J & D Muldoon 13 Angus	410kg	\$4.84	\$1990
D Jelbart 15 Angus	409kg	\$4.81	\$1970
J & B Dunbar 24 Angus	380kg	\$5.42	\$2060
J & D Muldoon 13 Angus	360kg	\$5.00	\$1800
Dc Carnes 10 Angus	344kg	\$4.94	\$1700
R & M Mcinness 17 Angus	339kg	\$5.42	\$1840
Joroka P/L 12 Angus	310kg	\$4.67	\$1450
R & M Mcinness 13 Angus	305kg	\$5.12	\$1560
Joroka P/L 21 Angus	297kg	\$4.75	\$1410
L & B Bastin 12 Angus	295kg	\$4.85	\$1430
D Lewis 11 Angus	293kg	\$4.68	\$1370
RA Jones 22 Angus	260kg	\$5.54	\$1440

Rain alters seasonal outlook at Leongatha Store Sale



Jimmy Kyle of SEJ engages with bidders on a day when the market performed strongly. A03_4525



Jack Ginnane of Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock in action on Thursday. A04_4525

CONFIDENCE and prices were high at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale following good recent rain.

"It was a grass-driven market," SEJ livestock agent Owen Kindellan said.

Auctioneer Jimmy Kyle, fondly known to those at SEJ as 'Hollywood' lived up to his show-business moniker by achieving some terrific prices; other agencies also thriving on the day.

A highlight for SEJ was the sale of Randall and Weston Angus calves from Welshpool, described by Owen as "very quiet and well bred", with a pen of 21 steers weighing an average of 216 kilos achieving \$7.22 a kilo at \$1560 per head.

Another pen of 13 Randall and Weston steers, averaging 280 kilos, went for \$1770 apiece or \$6.32 a kilo.

Heifers from the same source also fetched excellent prices, with 32 sold to a top of \$1340, that price being for animals weighing an average of 276 kilos, equating to \$4.85 a kilo.

Another pen of Randall and Weston heifers, averaging 225 kilos, sold for \$1070 or \$4.75 a kilo.

SEJ's Owen labelled the day's prices as "well above the last three weeks".

Jack Ginnane of Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock knocked down a pen of 22 Angus heifers from RA Jones in Glen Forbes for \$5.53 per kilo, having described those cattle as "nice and quiet".

They weighed an average of 260 kilos and went for \$1440 each, with another pen of 24 RA Jones heifers averaging 235 kilos, making \$5.23 a kilo when they sold for \$1230.

By Andrew Paloczi

"Everyone got a good price for heifers," MLA market reporter Brendan Fletcher told the Sentinel-Times, adding that steers also impressed, being dearer, noting there was strong competition, mostly locals with less feedlot competition.

He noted that while big steers were a bit dearer, there was a bigger price jump for light steers, attributing that jump to confidence driven by recent rain that was perfectly timed.

Dave Pickersgill of Mount Eccles explained how recent rain has altered his outlook for the season in terms of growing feed and stock levels.

"By now I was expecting it to be yellow and dry, so we kept our numbers down; now I've got feed everywhere and instead of hunting grass, we're hunting cattle," he said.

He succeeded in picking some up at the Store Sale, buying 15 Angus Friesian steers weighing an average of 326 kilos for \$1500 a head or \$4.60 per kilo.

"I've bought these cattle for many years, and I know what they'll do," Dave said, with their proven ability to put on weight justifying the cost.

A Store Sale regular described prices as "too high" but didn't want her name used, another sale goer quipping she should be referred to as "the cattle baroness of Gippsland".

Sentinel-Times heard one man remarking on heifer prices of \$4.70 to \$5, which based on those this scribe saw sell was very much in the ballpark in general, albeit some went well beyond the upper end of that range.



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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
LEONGATHA		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	WONTHAGGI	
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
WARRAGUL		David Holden	0428 749 390
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	PAKENHAM	
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
		Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
		Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	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	KOO WEE RUP	
BERWICK		LANG LANG		Angus Hall	0466 326 487
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898		

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Free online water planning with morning tea sessions

AGRICULTURE Victoria is inviting farmers to sit down with a cuppa and join a series of water planning webinars running over five weeks.

Agriculture Victoria land management extension officer Clem Sturmfels said deciding on upgrades to your farm water supply requires planning, and there is no one-size-fits-all answer; however, having a well-considered plan can take the pressure off.

“Farmers may be asking themselves: do I build a dam, sink a bore or join a rural pipeline? These questions are front of mind this year after a lack of cool-season rainfall, together with warmer-than-average temperatures.

“To assist with developing a water plan, we are running a series of relaxed and informal morning tea webinars. There will be plenty of time to ask questions and share knowledge and experience.

“Participants will also have access to a range of past webinar recordings, videos and resources as part of this webinar series.”

Presented by Mr Sturmfels, who has more than 45 years’ experience in



Agriculture Victoria is inviting farmers to sit down over morning tea and log in to a free five-week water planning workshop.

the design, construction and repair of farm dams and farm water reticulation systems, this series is full of practical information and tips for farmers to help set themselves up now and into the future.

When: 10am every Tuesday from November 18 through to December 16. Participants are encouraged to attend all five sessions.

Register online, agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/event-listing/morning-tea-water-webinar-all-you-need-to-know-about-water.

The Farm Drought Support Grants provide eligible farmers up to \$5000, as a

co-contribution grant to support activities like water infrastructure upgrades (pipes, tanks, troughs and dams), along with other eligible activities.

Farm businesses across the state can book a free one-on-one session through The Farm Advisory Service with a specialist of their choice from Agriculture Victoria’s panel of farm advisors. These advisors include water experts, farm business advisors, livestock nutritionists, soil and pasture specialists, and veterinarians.

Find more information about drought support at agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

FARMING BRIEFS

Hooded plovers nest on South Gippsland Bass Coast beaches

NEW and returning pairs of hooded plovers have been sighted nesting on local beaches.

Although the forces of nature have taken their toll on some parts of the coastline, pairs of hooded plovers have been seen starting to nest a little higher up in the dunes to adapt to the rising tides.

According to Friends of the Hooded Plovers Bass Coast and South Gippsland, small groups of hooded plovers have been found on local back beaches along with sooty oystercatchers hidden below the sand and rocky ledge.

Friends of the Hooded Plovers have two workshops coming up in the Bass Coast, at Wonthaggi on Sunday, November 16 and Kilcunda on Sunday, December 14. Both workshops are open to the public and new volunteers are always welcome.

Bass Coast and South Gippsland Friends of the Hooded Plovers is a group of devoted volunteers who monitor breeding hooded plovers along the mainland coastline on Victoria’s Bass/Bunurong Coast from San Remo to Inverloch, and South Gippsland from Point Smythe to Corner Inlet.

\$2.6 million funding to the Making Our Farms Safer project

THE State Government has announced a \$2.6 million funding agreement between WorkSafe and the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) to deliver the next phase of the Making Our Farms Safer project.

The funding will expand the project’s dedicated safety advisory service, which delivers on-farm, in-person support to identify and help manage key risks.

The project also supports farmers with a range of tools and resources that help them adopt better on-farm health and safety practices.

This next phase of the Making Our Farms Safer project will have a stronger focus on high-risk areas such as cattle handling and the use of machinery, including tractors and attachments, quad bikes and side-by-sides, which together account for more than a quarter of all farm injuries.

As part of this funding boost, the VFF will visit hundreds of farms, organise more safety activations, presentations and events, and help provide farmers with more practical support from industry experts and peers who understand the unique realities of farm life.

Last chance to apply for Rabbit Control Bootcamp with South Gippsland Landcare

SOUTH Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN), along with the experts from the Victorian Rabbit Action Network, are hosting a two-day comprehensive rabbit control management course on November 20-21 in Leongatha. Along with theory lessons, this course will have a practical element, including a rabbit warren implosion.

As we move into peak rabbit breeding season, we are likely to see rabbit numbers increase even more. Rabbits are wreaking havoc in multiple ways across South Gippsland, digging up sporting fields, decimating veggie gardens, competing with livestock for feed, providing sustenance for feral foxes and battling with our native species for food and habitat. We have just a few spots left for this free course. Contractors, private landowners, and public land managers are all welcome to apply. Please contact Kirby at kirby@sgln.net.au or go to sgln.net.au/2025/10/10/rabbit-control-bootcamp/ for more information.

VLE - LEONGATHA

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PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c Hine Vegies (ELDERS)
110 Angus & BB steers, 18-22 mths, GF & ABF
A/c Curbem Pastoral Co (BAW BAW)
70 Angus steers, 14 mths, East Gippsland Bred
A/c D & M Shaw Cattle Co (BAW BAW)
65 Angus steers, 14 mths, 1 mark, East Gippsland Bred
A/c D & B Cook, Bairnsdale (ELDERS)
40 Angus steers, 18 mths, GF & ABF, East Gippsland bred
A/c P Nation, Hill End (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Angus steers, 18 mths, by Langi Kal Kal & Barwidgee bulls, Ballarat Dist bred, 1 mark, GF, ABF
20 Angus/Hereford X steers, 18 mths, by Mawarra bulls, 1 mark, GF, ABF
A/c David Wigg (BAW BAW)
40 Charolais steers, 16-18 mths, VB, Kenmere bloodlines, NE Accred
A/c Andy Purdon (BAW BAW)
30 Angus steers, 17- 18 mths, VB, NE Accred
a/c Leslie Pastoral (BAW BAW)
30 Hereford steers, 16-18 mths, East Gippsland bred, NE Accred
A/c A & J Rigano. Loch (ALEX SCOTT)
24 Hereford steers, 2 yo, by Karoonda & Glenellerslie bulls, East Gippsland bred, 1 mark, GF, ABF
A/c D Young, Ensay (ELDERS)
20 Hereford steers, 18 mths
A/c R & L Sutton, “Ryslea Lodge” (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Angus steers, 15 mths, 3 x 5 in 1, Multimin, NE Accred, Weemalah Angus blood
A/c Matt McDonald, Bundalaguah (BAW BAW)
17 Hereford steers, 19 mths, GF & ABF
A/c MW & JA Thompson, Warragul South (ELDERS)
14 Angus steers, 20 mths
A/c B&S Phillips, Almurta (ELDERS)
15 Angus steers, 14 mths, Merlewood & Harris blood, NE Accred
A/c Pukenui Pty Ltd, Mirboo North (ELDERS)
10 Angus steers, 16 mths, Te Mania blood, VB, GF & ABF

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c Peter Covino (BAW BAW)
103 Angus heifers, 15 -18 mths, 1 line Ex Ballarat Feb feature sale, GF & ABF
16 Angus heifers, 16-17 mths, Ex Ballarat Feb feature sale, GF & ABF
A/c Bayrook Pastoral (ELDERS)
60 Hereford and Hereford Shorthorn x heifers
14-16 mths, Yavenvale, Kanimbla, Bowen & Malton Shorthorn Genetics, 3x 5in1 & Dectomax V in September, JBS FA, NE Accred
A/c N Ireland, Labertouche (ALEX SCOTT)
18 Angus heifers, 18 mths, by Turrum Creek bull
A/c B&S Phillips, Almurta (ELDERS)
15 Angus heifers, 14 mths, Merlewood & Harris blood, NE Accred
A/c D Young, Ensay (ELDERS)
20 Hereford heifers, 18 mths

WEANERS

A/c Breeder, “The Ridge Pastoral”, Rosedale (ELDERS)
250 Angus & Black Baldy steers
250 Angus & Black Baldy heifers
12-14 mths, weaned, selected Bowman Angus Genetics bloodlines, 2 x 7 in 1 Vaccination, EU Accred, NE Accred, GF & ABF, JBS FA and Coles Graze programs Accred
These steers and heifers represent 60 plus years of breeding. Sires all ranked in the top 10% of \$ index values plus an emphasis on EMA, IMF and yield. Proven performance in feedlot and grass finishing programs.
A/c David Wigg (BAW BAW)
30 Charolais /Angus X steers, 12-14 mths, GF & ABF
60 Charolais heifers, 10 -12 mths, GF & ABF
22 Charolais / Angus X heifers, 6 mths, GF & ABF

A/c Breeder, P. Evans, Bass (ALEX SCOTT)
100 Angus steers and heifers, 9-10 mths, By Banquet and Rosedale blood bulls, GF & ABF
A/c T, C & M Hulls, “Narra Tingha”, Leongatha (ELDERS)
80 Angus steers, 10-11 mths, Sparta blood, weaned, 3 mths, VB, GF, ABF & Greenhams NE Accred
A/c Eastern Cattle Co, Dargo (BAW BAW)
80 Angus steers, 7-8 mths, VB, NE Accred
A/c Langley Farms (ELDERS)
60 Angus heifers 12-14 mths, Leawood blood
A/c Dawn – Raine (BAW BAW)
50 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, VB, NE Accred
A/c Tablelands (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Hereford steers
20 Hereford heifers
All boxes ticked, NE Accred, Warragundi blood
A/c Deep Creek Farm, Woodleigh (ELDERS)
22 Hereford & B/Baldy steers
14 Hereford & B/Baldy heifers
10-11 mths, Meikle blood, weaned, very quiet, VB, GF & ABF
A/c B & R Cashin, Stony Creek (ELDERS)
35 Angus m/s weaners, Battersby blood VB, GF & ABF, weaned
A/c N Ireland, Labertouche (ALEX SCOTT)
30 Angus steers, 8 mths by Al Landfall Summit, weaned, 2 x 5in1
A/c Dingo Transport (BAW BAW)
30 Angus mixed sex weaners, 8 mths
A/c Mitchell Valley Growers (BAW BAW)
22 Angus steers, 13 mths, VB, NE Accred
A/c Will Hector (BAW BAW)
20 Angus steers, 12-13 mths, VB, NE Accred
A/c M & D Crawford, Strzelecki (ELDERS)
20 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-11 mths
A/c Hayden Ward (BAW BAW)
20 Angus steers, 11-12 mths, VB, NE Accred
A/c Bimbimbie (BAW BAW)
20 Angus mix sex, 10-12 mths, Innesdale Angus bloodlines, VB, NE Accred
A/c R&H Dajland (BAW BAW)
20 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10 mths, VB, NE Accred
A/c D Camilleri, Callignee South (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Angus mixed sex, Battersby blood, 11-12 mths
A/c R&R Jourdain (BAW BAW)
18 Angus mixed sex weaners, 7-8 mths, VB, NE Accred
A/c D&A Heyne (ALEX SCOTT)
18 Limo and Limo x mixed sexes, 14 mths VB, GF & ABF
A/c D & A Nicklen (BAW BAW)
16 Red Angus mixed sex, 14 mths, 1 mark, Bootehill Genetics, NE Accred
A/c B Aabryn, Korumburra (ELDERS)
10 Angus steer weaners, VB, GF & ABF
A/c Cam Smyth (BAW BAW)
10 Angus steers, 11-12 mths, East Gippsland bred

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c Burnfarmers (BAW BAW)
100 Angus/Friesian, mixed sex, 7-8 mths, VB, weaned 3 mths
A/c Glenda Hall (BAW BAW)
25 Speckle mixed sex, 6-14 mths
A/c Leathorne Dairies, Newry (ELDERS)
22 Angus/Friesian X heifers, 15-17 mths, very quiet
A/c Sassafra Creek Pastoral, Shady Creek (ELDERS)
10 Hereford x steers
8 Hereford x heifers
7-8 mths, quiet

COWS & CALVES

A/c Leneva Pastoral (BAW BAW)
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DEATHS

BLEESER, Mary Louise
4.2.1968 – 9.11.2025
Aged 57 years
Passed away peacefully at BCH, Wonthaggi.
Beloved daughter of Richard & Margaret (both dec.).
Loving sister and sister-in-law of Anne, Julie, Michael & Jo, Paul & Lynda.
Loved Auntie to Jake, Mitchell, Angus, Josh, Luke, and Nicholas.
Treasured Memories
For Funeral details go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au

CUMMINS, Patrick Joseph (Paddy):

17.09.1939 - 03.11.2025.
Son of John Joseph (Timothy Patrick) Cummins (dec. 1962) and Monica Agatha, nee Dunne (dec. 1984).
Loved brother of Mary (McCaughan) and Jack (John Patrick) Cummins (dec. 2018).
Respected brother-in-law of Bill (dec. 2001).

Loved uncle of Christopher (dec. 1994), Daniel, Peter, Andrew and Timothy.
Love and gratitude.
Adieu, dear Paddy.
R.I.P.

DAVIES, William Morgan (Bill):

30.01.1931 - 01.11.2025.
Loved husband of his late wife June, and devoted partner of Agnes. Cherished father of John and Mohya, Gayle, Sue, Malcolm and Gen, and Phil and Sally.

Adored Pa to 17 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

DEATHS

DAVIES, Bill:
30.01.1931 - 01.11.2025.
Always kind and loving partner of Agnes of the past 27 years.
He will be remembered with great affection by her children, John, Vivi and Irene, their partners and their children, Finn, Silas, Nelly, Casper and Frankie; Aidan and Caelan; Luke and Ella.

Bill's warmth, humour, and unwavering generosity will be deeply missed.

HANKS, Leonard Arthur:

Passed away in Calvary Strzelecki House, Mirboo North, with his family by his side.

Late of Meeniyan.
Loved by his wife Ethel for 66 years.

Caring and loving father and friend to Pam and Shane (dec.), triplets Elizabeth and Sheila (both dec.), Trevor and Mitch, Sue and Steve (dec), twin daughter Dianne (dec), Karen and Leo, Linda and Scott, Douglas and Twila.

Pa to 25 grandchildren.

Great pa Len to 18 great grandchildren.

I loved you dearly, we may meet again at the gum tree xx

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS

DEATHS

HANKS, Leonard (Len) Arthur:
19.03.1936 - 04.11.2025.
A life well lived.
Beloved father and father-in-law of Karen and Leo.

Adored Pa to Larissa and Jamie, Steven (dec.), Rebecca and Neil, Bridget and Dale, Nicholas and Johannah and Anthony and Melissa.

Pa Len to Zoe and Alex.

Give Steven a hug from all of us.

Off on his last tractor trek with his trusty Grey Fergie.

-- Karen and Leo Argento

HANKS, Len:

Eldest son of Arthur and Molly Hanks (both dec.), stepson of Joe Reilly (dec.).
Much loved older brother of Joy and John (dec.), Lorna and Kevin (dec.) and Bill (dec.), Mavis and Geoff (dec.), Alan and Leonie, Gwen and Arthur (dec.) and Peter, Sylvia and Keith, George and Kaye.
Loved and remembered always.

HANKS, Len:

Loved brother of Joy and John (dec.) Hayward.
Adored uncle of Wayne and Linda, Garry and Robyn (dec.), Stephen (dec.), Darren and Natalie, Brett and Sandra, Jodie and their families.
Forever in our hearts.

DEATHS

HORAN, Patrick (Pat):
Passed away peacefully at Ashleigh House Sale on November 5, 2025, aged 93.
Loved son of Tom and Greta (both dec.).
Brother of Brian (dec.), John (dec.), Michael (dec.), Noreen (dec.), Margaret and Eileen.
Loved and loving husband of Elsa for over 71 years.
Loved father and father-in-law of Michael and Brenda, Denise, Jenny and Paul, Peter and Heather, Paul, Justin and Nella and Melissa.
Much loved Pa to all his grand and great grandchildren.
In God's care, Rest in Peace.

LEE, Lorraine:

Passed away unexpectedly at home.
Aged 79 years.
Loved wife of Robert (dec.).
Loving Mum and mother-in-law of Kelly and Adam, Andrew and Kellie, Michelle and Mark.
Adored Grandma of Brodie, Bailey, Indigo, Summer, Maddison, Cooper, Millie, Poppy and her fur babies Ally and Christie.

For funeral details go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au.

DEATHS

RICHARDS, Meagan Sheree (Meags):
22.05.1995 - 03.11.2025
Passed away surrounded by her loving family at the West Gippsland Hospital Warragul.
Precious daughter of Gary and Carolyn.
Treasured younger sister of Jarrod (dec.), Kirstin and Matt, sister-in-law of Heidi.
Adored Aunty of Raavi, Oliver and Blake
Much loved partner of Davern.

Cherished granddaughter of the late Ray and Isobel Robins, Jack and Mary Richards.
A laugh, a smile, a joke or two, That's the way we'll remember you.

RICHARDS, Meagan (Meags):

In loving memory of Meagan Richards.

Beloved partner of Davern and adored by the Goss family.

Although our time together was too short you felt like the missing piece in our family puzzle. You were always up for a Goss family gathering and embraced all our quirks.

Your intelligence, love for animals and most of all your strength even through all the adversity you faced were qualities we admired and can never forget.

You were taken from us far far too soon, but we will treasure the time we had with you forever.

Rest in Peace beautiful Meags.

FUNERALS

DAVIES:
A celebration of Bill's life will be held at Foster Football and Netball Club Rooms on Friday, November 14 at 1pm.
A graveside service will be held beforehand at 11am at Foster Cemetery.
Further details can be found at online-tribute.com/BillDavies.


www.gippsslandfuneralservices.com.au

HANKS:

A Funeral Service to Celebrate the life of Mr. Leonard Arthur Hanks will be held at the Leongatha Football Netball Club, 54A Roughead St, Leongatha, on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, commencing at 11am.
This Funeral will be live streamed, to view please go to www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au.
Following the Service, the Funeral will proceed to the Leongatha Cemetery for interment.



HEIDE:

A service will be held to honour Rosemary's life and legacy at St Peter's Anglican Church, 2/4 Bruce St Leongatha, on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, commencing at 1pm.

Rosemary's service will be live streamed, to view please visit www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au

FUNERALS

RICHARDS:
A Service to honour the life of Meagan (Meags) Richards will be held at the Nielsen Funeral Chapel, Korumburra Rd, Warragul on Thursday, November 13, at 1.30pm

The Service will also be live-streamed. To view Meagan's Service please visit: www.nielsenfunerals.com.au.

Following light refreshments, a Private Family Burial will be held.


Warragul & Drouin 5623 2771

SLACHTER (Cochrane) - Dorothy Joan:

16.04.1947-30.10.2025

The Funeral Service to celebrate the life of Dorothy will take place at St Paul's Anglican Church, 3 Queen St, Korumburra on Thursday, November 13, commencing at 11am. Dorothy will be laid to rest within the Poowong cemetery, 646 Loch-Poowong Rd, Poowong at approximately 1pm.

The church ceremony will be livestreamed. Please visit www.harwoodfunerals.com.au for digital link.

Please join us for light refreshments at Poowong Football/ Netball club, Drouin-Poowong Road, Poowong from 1.30pm

Forever in our Hearts



IN MEMORIAM

DUNN, Malcolm Vivyan:
1946 - 2018.
Remembered every day, forever in our hearts.
--- Diane, Stephanie and families.

IN MEMORIAM

TON, Grietjie:
15.11.2016
Nine years have passed.
Mum you are in my heart every day and many memories.
A wonderful mum.
-- Your loving Elly, Elleke. Kisses

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

CHETLAND (nee Smullen) Evelyn Mary:
11.11.1943 - 26.06.2025.
We lay the ashes of a mother of 51 descendants to rest on your birthday.

We know we will see you again.

Love Raelene, Darlene, Kathleen, and Jasmine.

BEREAVEMENT THANKS

JESSICA:
Greg, Lauren and family would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and support on the passing of Jessica.

Thank you to everyone for joining our celebration of Jessica's life.

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HMC15019



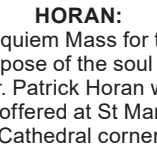
Slachter (Cochrane), Dorothy Joan:
16.04.1947 - 30.10.2025.
Passed away peacefully at Alchera House, Korumburra, after a brave battle with motor neurone disease. Loving daughter of Roy and Nancy Cochrane (both dec.). Dearly loved wife of Ken (dec.). Beloved mother of Leanne and Chris, Andrew, Steven and Jade and Bruce. Treasured nan of Madeline and David, Nicole and Ryan, Caitlin and Tom, Kasey and Riaan, Chloe and Blake, Callum and Zoe, Samantha and Kyra. Adored great nanny Dorothy of Layla and Charlie (dec.).

Special friend of Tracie, Lisa and Alex.
Family and friends were Dorothy's greatest joy.

**Forever Loved
Forever Remembered
Forever In Our Hearts**

The loss is immeasurable, but so is the love left behind.

JENC5061



HORAN:
Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Mr. Patrick Horan will be offered at St Mary's Cathedral corner Pearson and Foster Streets, Sale, on Friday, November 14 at 11am.

Following Mass, the funeral will leave the above church for the Sale Lawn Cemetery.

For those unable to attend a livestream broadcast will take place, please check Gippsland Funeral Services website for details.

No flowers by request, donations in lieu may be made to The Royal Children's Hospital. Envelopes will be available at the service.

JENC5061



IN MEMORIAM
DUNN, Malcolm Vivyan:
1946 - 2018.
Remembered every day, forever in our hearts.
--- Diane, Stephanie and families.

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44 | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Sentinel-Times Classifieds

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Series 1, 5.7 litre V8.

HSV factory stroker
based on last Holden
V8 to be engineered
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Excellent original
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GOLF CART:

Construction in
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Rain cover and
club cover.

\$4000

Call 5674 2143.

GARAGE SALES

INVERLOCH:

21 Bird street.
Saturday, November
15, 9am - 2pm.
Vintage, retro goods,
books, bric a brac.
Some furniture.

Part of the proceeds
go to support Jan's
Plan, a Cambodian
charity.

KORUMBURRA

89 Victoria Street.
Saturday, November
15. 8am - 2pm.
Homewares, jigsaws
and furniture.

USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS

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WE PAY
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scrap metal for free.
Towing now available.

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7 days a week
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Advertisements offering a
used motor car for sale must
include in the advertisement:

- (a) The cash price of the
motor car; and
(b) Whichever of the
following is applicable...
- If the motor car is
registered, the registration
number; or
 - If the motor car is
unregistered, the engine
number of the vehicle.

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WANTED ANTIQUES,
COLLECTABLES,
ESTATE LOTS,
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SHED ITEMS:

Cash paid.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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and Medicare
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BASS MARKET

Community Market,
Hade Ave,

**Saturday
November 15,
8am - 1pm**

All enquiries to
0490 852 753

Lifeline

HELP IS AS
CLOSE AS THE
TELEPHONE

13 11 14

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.



ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN A CARING
AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT

2026 TRAINEESHIPS

Three Sport & Outdoor Recreation
AFL Traineeships available in 2026!

Perfect for those who love sport, fitness
or the outdoors and are looking to gain
paid experience while completing a
nationally recognised qualification
(Cert III/IV).

To apply, email to request further
details and application form:
Saskia.Schmidt@education.vic.gov.au

**Applications close 4pm,
Monday, November 17.**



Manager Position

The Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre
is seeking an enthusiastic and visionary
manager to lead and develop a well-
established community organisation
focused on providing a safe and
welcoming environment for community
members to learn, share ideas and skills
and build relationships.

This role requires strong interpersonal
and networking skills, and a passion
for working with diverse community
members to drive meaningful community
development. The manager is responsible
to a committee of management and
guided by a strategic action plan,
community development principles,
DFFHS funding and applicable legislation.

Award: Social & Community
Services (SACS) Award

Classification: Level 6

Hours: Permanent Part Time

24 hrs per week Monday - Thursday

Commencement date:

Monday, January 19, 2026

Applications close

Monday, December 1, 2025 at 3pm

For a position description and application
details please email president@wonthaggi-neighbourhoodcentre.com

Applications must include a resume
and a separate document addressing
the key selection criteria.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Qualified Motor Mechanic

Edney's of Leongatha is seeking a qualified
motor mechanic to join its expanding
Nissan/Hyundai dealership.

The successful applicant will be given the
latest dealership training throughout their
employment while working in a friendly
and modern environment.

2nd, 3rd or 4th year apprentice
will be considered.

Forward applications to:

**Edney's Leongatha
Attention: Nick McRae
PO Box 72, Leongatha 3953
service@edney.com.au**



Junior Office Assistant Full-Time

Are you a motivated, organised, and
enthusiastic individual looking to start your
career in a professional office environment?
We're looking for a Junior Office Assistant
to join our team at MJA Accounting.

About the Role

This entry-level position is ideal for
someone eager to gain experience in office
administration and learn the day-to-day
operations of a professional services firm.
You'll work closely with our administration
and accounting staff to ensure the smooth
running of our office.

We welcome applications from students
soon graduating from secondary school
who are looking to begin their career in
an office or accounting environment. Full
training and support will be provided.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assisting with general office
administration (filing, scanning, data entry,
mail handling).
- Answering phones and greeting clients in
a professional, friendly manner.
- Preparing and formatting correspondence
and documents.
- Maintaining office supplies and stationery.
- Supporting accountants and senior staff
with ad hoc administrative tasks.
- Assisting with document management
and compliance filing.

About You:

- Strong attention to detail and good time
management skills.
- Confident using Microsoft Office (Word,
Excel, Outlook).
- Excellent verbal and written
communication.
- A positive attitude and willingness to
learn.
- Professional presentation and a friendly
manner.

This role offers an excellent opportunity
to build practical office experience and
develop long-term career skills in a
professional yet relaxed team environment.

Study Allowance & Support

- We promote further education for this
role. We offer the successful candidate
financial support and study time allowance
for the pursuit of a Certificate IV or similar
in a related course.

Please email your resume and a short
cover letter to practice@mjacpa.com.au
explaining why you'd be a great fit for the
role.

**Applications close
Friday, November 14, 2025 at 5pm**

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



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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

SITUATIONS VACANT

Situation Vacant



Audit and Risk Committee Member

Monitor Council's financial and performance reporting, and oversee internal and external audit functions, as an Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a period of three years.

Key skills:

- Risk management
- Audit or financial management and accounting
- Analytical and strategic management skills, ideally within public sector management
- Knowledge of environmental sustainability (beneficial)

Applications close 5.00pm on Friday, 21 November 2025.

Visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/careers for more information.

SITUATIONS VACANT



NOW HIRING

Paul The Pieman Bakery Gippsland's awards winning bakery is looking to add to our ever expanding team

Customer Service Team Members

We are looking for enthusiastic customer service team members that may have experience in customer service relations, sales, coffee making and food preparation.

Apply in person or email resume to: paul@paulthepieman.com.au
Paul the Pieman
5 Abeckett Street, Inverloch

HMT2095

Ray White Leongatha
03 5662 5800
15 Bair Street, Leongatha
raywhiteleongatha.com.au

Ray White



6 Minns Road, Koonwarra

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- Freshly painted inside and out
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Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

Auction Friday, November 21 at 11am

3 1/2, 1 1/2 2 1/2

JAC2342

THANKS GOUGH!



Celebrating 50 years since the visionary work of the Whitlam Labor Government introduced life-changing reform and legislative changes to our Legal, Health, Education, Social Welfare, Housing, Arts, Culture & Heritage systems & organisations.

A total of 508 Bills passed in three short years all designed to improve the lives of everyday Australians!

Amazingly, we're all still benefitting from them
- thanks Gough & Australian Labor!

AF0089

Shape the future

Make a difference in the world of water.

Senior Engineer

Engineering & Construction

Phillip Island, VIC

Join our Engineering and Projects Team as a Senior Engineer and drive the successful delivery of water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

Applications close 30 November

More information: westernportwater.com.au



ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN A CARING AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT

STUDENT SUPPORT ROLE - EDUCATION SUPPORT ES 1-2

FLOW Campus

Ongoing role, commencing January 27, 2026
2 days a week 8.45am to 3.30pm

Applications close on Thursday, November 20, 2025

Bass Coast College is seeking a suitably qualified and/ or experienced person to join its team in 2026 for the above position

Applications need to be made via School Jobs Vic: www.vic.gov.au/school-jobs
Job Vacancy I.D 1504304

Further details are available on School Jobs Vic or for more information please contact Gabe Windsor - Business Manager on 5611 4000

JAC2632

PUBLIC NOTICES

Korumburra Secondary College

Cleaning Tender



Tenders are invited for the cleaning of the above school under DET guidelines for the period commencing January 27, 2026.

Further terms 2 x 1 year contracts until January 27, 2029.

To request documentation, contact: korumburra.sc@education.vic.gov.au or Kim Cross for inquiries 5655 1566.

125 Jumbunna Road Korumburra, VIC, 3950

AF0086



Annual General Meeting

Woorayl Lodge warmly invites all stakeholders, including staff, residents, families, volunteers, and community members to attend our Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 5pm

Space 47, Leongatha
Light finger food provided

Please RSVP by Friday, November 21 to enquiries@woorayllodge.com.au for catering purposes.

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing updates on the year's achievements and future plans for Woorayl Lodge.

AF0058

Change of venue: Stirton Room, Wonthaggi Hospital

BCH
Bass Coast Health

Board Chair Ian Thompson and the Board of Directors request your company at the

Bass Coast Health Annual General Meeting and Open Access Meeting

to discuss the future of the health service with the Hon. Martin Foley, Chair Designate Board, Bayside Health, and Adjunct Prof. Adam Horsburgh, CEO, Bayside Health

Thursday 27 November 2025, 2pm-3.30pm
Stirton Room, Wonthaggi Hospital
235 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
Light refreshments to follow

Please contact: publicrelations@basscoasthealth.org.au to RSVP by 5pm, Friday, 14 November 2025



Meeniyan's simply outrageous and fabulous

IT'S by far the most sparkly event on the calendar in South Gippsland and this year's Meeniyan Marty Gras did not disappoint on October, 25 with guests dressing in their most outrageous and colourful outfits. A significant sum of money was raised on the night and there was plenty of dancing to be had! Photos: Kim Keltie



Despite constant rain tumbling down on Saturday, the big garage at this Walton Street home in Cowes hosted the successful auction of number 27.

Opportunity knocked at this central Cowes auction

THE rain might have been tumbling down outside when Alex Scott and Staff auctioneer Greg Price called "sale-o, sale-o" out the front of number 27 Walton Street, Cowes last Saturday.

But thankfully, as advertised, the property had "an extra-large double garage" for the interested crowd of 30 to assemble in, and plenty more besides.

Situated on a "massive 1784m² allotment", backing onto Bluegum Reserve, right in the heart of town, it is equidistant between shops, schools, the RSL and the golf club, clearly an attraction for the owner of the home, with a handsome golf cart parked in the corner of the garage.

There seemed to be little doubt that the property would be sold on the day with one person opening that bidding at \$1 million and progressing through to \$1,090,000 on several vendor bids.

The auction was closed at that figure and the property sold immediately afterwards for an undisclosed amount.

The property, which features an attractive brick veneer home built for the occupants, a long-time Phillip Island family, by a local builder, has a ton of potential, with a separate large workshop/bungalow, connected to a double carport and space for all the toys.

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

Will this planning application affect you?

The land affected by the application is located at: **122-124 Shetland Heights Road, SAN REMO**
The application is for a permit to:

- Subdivide land into two (2) lots
- Vary a covenant to add an additional building envelope

A permit is required under the following clauses of the planning scheme:

Clause 32.03-3 (Low Density Residential Zone):
Subdivide land
Clause 52.02 (Easements, Restrictions and Reserves): Vary a restriction

APPLICATION DETAILS

Application Number: **PDPLANPER-2025/000316**
Address: **122-124 Shetland Heights Road, SAN REMO**

Applicant: **Beveridge Williams & Co Pty Ltd**
For further reference contact: Kerri-Anne
Phone number: 1300 BCOAST (226 278)

How can I make a submission?

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority. If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision. This application has not been decided and you can still make a submission before a decision has been made.

An objection must:

- be made to the responsible authority in writing by emailing basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au or posting it to: **Bass Coast Shire Council, P.O. Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995;**
- include the reasons for the objection and;
- state how the objector would be affected.

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available for any person to inspect free of charge until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before: Wed, Nov. 26, 2025

Scan the QR code for more information for this application or visit basscoast.vic.gov.au/planningads



JA29636

Our water, our future through careful regional planning

SAFE, reliable and affordable water is essential for our health and wellbeing, and for the economic prosperity of our region. South Gippsland Water is proud of the role we play in supporting our region.

Our climate is changing, and we are seeing and experiencing the impacts. It is getting hotter, and rainfall is increasingly unreliable. Long-term trends show that winter and spring are becoming drier, with more unpredictable rainfall.

Dry conditions over the last couple of years in the west of the state are well known, with farmers being heavily impacted. Meanwhile, East Gippsland is experiencing more typical rainfall and water storage conditions. Lake Glenmaggie, near Maffra, is full. Further north, Sydney and Brisbane have experienced frequent floods over the last few years, with many streamflow records being the highest on record since 1975.

Our region is also experiencing highly variable rainfall. Our reservoirs at Deep Creek near Foster and Battery Creek near Fish Creek are both full. On the other hand, we have experienced much lower than average rainfall in the western part of the region for the last two years. Leongatha and Lance Creek reservoirs are both at very low levels for this time of year. Like farmers in the west of the state, our local agriculture sector has also been impacted over late summer and autumn, with low water and feed availability.

The relatively small size of our reservoirs reflects the

By **Robert Murphy**,
South Gippsland Water
Managing Director

historically reliable rainfall in South Gippsland. Known as "fill-and-spill", our reservoirs typically fill to the point of spilling during the winter and spring and draw down in summer. This means that if we don't get the winter/spring fill, there is a risk of low storages and restrictions the following summer.

Our system is partially connected to the state's South-Central Water Grid – a highway for water that underpins water security for much of the state. The grid connects water sources, via a vast network of pipelines, pumps and rivers throughout Victoria, and supplies more than 80 per cent of the state's population. Its interconnectedness allows water to be moved to where it is needed. The Victorian Desalination Plant is a key part of the water grid, providing a reliable source of water that does not rely on rainfall. To ensure future water security, the Victorian Government is investigating a range of options for new water supplies that are rainfall independent, as outlined in its recently released Water Security Plan.

In 2018, we connected the Lance Creek system, which historically supplied Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Korumburra, to the South-Central Water Grid and expanded the system to Korumburra, Poowong, Loch and Nyora. This system is now not reliant on local rainfall alone, which is why we are not currently

contemplating restrictions in these towns.

Our long-term water resource modelling has identified the Leongatha system, which supplies Leongatha and Koonwarra, as our most at-risk water resource system. As an isolated system that relies entirely on rainfall in its catchment, its storage levels have fallen to 54 per cent. We started early planning for a long-term solution for the Leongatha system's water resource deficit some time ago. Given what we have experienced this year, we have accelerated this planning work. The long-term solution will involve extending the South-Central Water Grid from Korumburra to connect Leongatha and Koonwarra. This will significantly increase the water security for Leongatha and Koonwarra. We are also considering the feasibility of further extending this connection to Meeniyan and Dumbalk to also increase their water resilience into the future.

Infrastructure projects of this scale have a long lead time, and it could be up to five years until we have the connection in place. Short-term measures may be needed to get us through the period until we have implemented the long-term solution. We are currently developing an interim option to support the reservoir levels in the Leongatha system, which can be delivered quickly if required. This involves connecting disused dams around Korumburra to the Leongatha reservoirs. We are working through the

planning and approvals for this project, which involves recommissioning disused pumps and pipelines, and laying about eight kilometres of above-ground pipework. We believe we could have this in place by late January 2026, if all goes well. This pipeline would be able to transfer about 50 per cent of Leongatha and Koonwarra's daily demand, meaning the severity and duration of water restrictions would be lessened. We have further contingency options that we could enact if the extreme dry conditions persist into 2026 and beyond.

Water efficiency measures will continue to play a key role. On-site water saving measures have helped a major customer in the Leongatha system to reduce their consumption by over 30 per cent over the last few years. Without these savings, reservoir levels would be a lot lower today than they are. We have recently asked customers in Leongatha and Koonwarra to voluntarily limit their water use. In terms of water savings, every drop counts. If these dry conditions persist, we may have to enact water restrictions over summer.

Along with the help and understanding of our customers and community, we will get through this dry period and ensure the impacts are minimised. We will continue to invest in a range of options that ensures safe, reliable and affordable drinking water supplies across all our systems are maintained into the coming decades.



As much as the annual theatre awards are an acknowledgement of what you've done, the show still goes on with the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group launching its next production, 'Come from Away', recently.

Swag of nominations for Wonthaggi Theatrical Group

MEMBERS of the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group will have circled Saturday, December 13 as a red-letter day for the organisation after receiving a swag of nominations from the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria for their 2025 stage productions.

As well as being the only theatre company in Victoria, city or country, to win nominations for two productions, Gutenberg! The Musical and The Addams Family, they also received directors' nominations for both productions and a large number of other nominations across acting and production roles.

The 38th annual 'Bruce Awards' will be staged at Camberwell Grammar on December 13.

"Wonthaggi Theatrical Group is beyond proud to announce their nominations and commendations for the 2025 Music Theatre Guild of Victoria Awards," said the group on social media recently.

"We congratulate each and every person who put time and effort into our productions of 'The Addams Family' and 'Gutenberg', we wouldn't be here without you," they said.

"An incredible achievement, thank you to our WTG family who continue to support us each and every season."

This year's judging season commenced from November 1, 2024, through to October 31, 2025. Shows presented after this date will be included in the 2026 judging year.

Production of the Year (The Bruce McBrien Award):

- Pippin, Williamstown Musical Theatre Company
- Billy Elliot, Footlight Productions
- Come From Away, CentreStage
- Nice Work If You Can Get It, CLOC Musical Theatre
- The Addams Family, Wonthaggi Theatrical Group
- Shrek the Musical, Stars and the Moon
- Gutenberg! The Musical, Wonthaggi Theatrical Group
- The Drowsy Chaperone, Western Arts Theatre

- Wonthaggi Theatrical Group's nominations are as follows:
- Director: Rafal Pyka, The Addams Family, Joel Stevenson, Gutenberg! The Musical.
- Musical Director: Malcolm McCaffery and Kerry Lockhart, Gutenberg! The Musical.
- Choreography: Linda Hamilton, The Addams Family.
- Settings: Tad Hendry, The Addams Family.
- Lighting: Trevor Wyhoon, The Addams Family.
- Creative Design and/or Technical Achievement: Rafal Pyka, Projection Design, The Addams Family.
- Lead Performer in a Male Presenting Role: Jay Nelson, Gomez Addams, The Addams Family. Jonah van Stekelenburg, Bud Davenport, Gutenberg! The Musical.
- Lead Performer in a Female Presenting Role: Kerry Lockhart, Morticia Addams, The Addams Family.
- Supporting Performer in a Female Presenting Role: Sid Mullins, Alice Beineke, The Addams Family.
- Junior Performing in an Open Production: Jude Fisher, Pugsley Addams, The Addams Family.
- First Feature Performance: Asha McMahon, Wednesday Addams, The Addams Family.
- Ensemble The Company: Gutenberg! The Musical.

Commendations: Settings Tad Hendry, Mark Harrison and Joel Stevenson, Gutenberg! The Musical, Costumes Jaida Warren, The Addams Family, Lighting Emlyn Blackman, Gutenberg! The Musical, Sound Brett Van Hoorn, Gutenberg! The Musical, Creative Design/Technical Achievement Joel Stevenson, Mural Design, Gutenberg! The Musical, Lead Performer (Female) Asha McMahon Wednesday Addams, The Addams Family, Cameo Role Jude Fisher Pugsley Addams, The Addams Family, Wonthaggi Theatrical Group.

Quirky Bar off to a flying start

SOME patrons stuck to beer and wine while others got adventurous and savoured cocktails, with people flocking to the opening of the new Leon-gatha venue Quirky Bar on Friday night.

While this scribe was happy to unwind with a local Burra beer and a baked bean and cheese jaffle after another busy week, others tried concoctions such as 'Mr Orange', a cocktail combining orange curacao, vodka, sage gin, orange syrup, lemon juice, orange bitters and soda.

A selection of classic cocktails, including a Negroni, a Martini and an Old Fashioned sat alongside an extensive list of new flavour combinations invented by Quirky Bar co-owner Sonia Webber, ensuring everyone had choices that appealed to them.

While Sonia and husband and co-owner Steve have continued running Elsie's Florist in Leon-gatha, Steve is a chef and



Some of the friendly Quirky Bar team pause for a moment for a photo during a busy opening night, with Kelly Martin, owners Sonia and Steve Webber, and Emma Coughlan. A19_4525

Sonia has been working on cocktail flavour combinations for a couple of years.

Shared platters, either cheese or antipasto, nachos, and gourmet toasties

such as 'The Reuben' or the 'Croque Monsieur' are among the available food options.

There was a relaxed vibe on opening night, people taking the chance to kick

back after the working week and catch up with friends, the Quirky Bar team friendly and welcoming, with those making cocktails kept particularly busy.

Flower and Photo Show delights in Poowong

THE Poowong Garden Club held a very successful Flower and Photo Show over the long weekend.

Many people from far and wide attended, including strolling around the gardens that were open to the public on Saturday.

The sun shone beautifully for the garden walk and the Poowong Public Hall had an abundance of stunning floral displays.

Decorated bollards were this year's theme and decorated the foyer of the hall and the main street.

Bollards had been made by members of the Poowong Garden Club.

Christine Robinson won the Julie Cantwell Encouragement Memorial Award.



Wendy Cecil with a vase of irises.

The Dorothy Slachter Memorial Award was won by Carolyn.

Both Julie and Dorothy were club members who had recently passed, and the annual Neil Harvey

Memorial Award was won by Maureen Benson.

Other section winners were: Cut Flowers – Janice Elliott; Trees and Shrubs – Maureen Benson; Pot Plants – Pam Henry;

Floral Art – Linda Harvey; Oriental Influence – Sue Thompson.

In the photography sections, the winners were: Colours in the Sky: first Danni Heron; second Janice Elliott.

Landscape: first Danni Heron; second Danni Heron.

Animals: first Jenny McCormack; second Carolyn.

Children's section winners: Saucer of Fresh Flowers: first Tess Drew; second Ella Maher.

Decorated Boot: first Remedy Gray; second Holly Drew.

Lego Creation: first Ella Maher; second Rae Maher.

Coloured Drawing: first Ella Maher; second Ella Maher.

Wonthaggi turns out for BCH Ladies Auxiliary fundraiser

THE weather may have been miserable, but nevertheless, chatter and the smell of yummy goods filled the Stirton Room and rear car park at Wonthaggi Hospital on Saturday, November 8, as the Bass Coast Health Ladies Auxiliary hosted its annual fete from 9am to 1pm.

Stalls lined the walls inside the Stirton Room and spilled into the car park outside. Shoppers browsed hand-crafted gifts, cheeseboards and plush toys, then moved on to cakes, slices, and other sweet treats. Kids were able to queue for face painting and henna tattoos while families settled in for a Devonshire tea or a sausage from the barbecue.

The event is organised and run by the Bass Coast Health Ladies Auxiliary, a small band of volunteers who give their time to support the health service and the wider community. Their selfless work regularly turns things like cups of



Kerry Redmond and Raye Bolam-Tucker share a smile as community members browse the many stalls at this year's BCH Ladies Auxiliary Fete. W05_4525

tea and knitted goods into real-life improvements for patients.

"We have raised money in the past for things like the resuscitation cot for newborn babies, and now we're fundraising for syringe drivers for palliative care and pain management. That's what the money raised today will go to," said Raye Bolam-Tucker,

president of the BCH Ladies Auxiliary.

For Bass Coast Health, the support is felt every day. "We'd be lost without our volunteers. We've got five auxiliaries all across Bass Coast, and this is one of them today, showing their support year in year out. They do a fete and numerous other events throughout the year. Also, some

of the ladies volunteer their time in theatre. It's invaluable what they bring to the community," said Kerry Redmond, BCH volunteer and fundraising manager.

The efforts clearly add up. "Last year we raised about \$1500, and last week we had a sausage sizzle at Bun-nings and we raised \$2220," Raye said.

The auxiliary currently has eight members, five of whom were on deck at the fete.

"We love working together, everyone knows what each other is doing, it's very rewarding," she said.

Asked what she enjoys most, Raye smiled.

"Mixing with everybody. I also volunteer in theatre, and I really love it. I also just love fundraising."

Kerry offered a final word. "Just thank you to the Bass Coast Health Ladies Auxiliary. They've been going for many years and are doing amazing things for our health service."

Scarlett Rennie wraps up third at Victorian Micro Groms Cup

THE Victorian Micro Groms Cup, presented by Surf Better Now, has wrapped up on the Surf Coast in wild surf that saw the future of Victorian surfing on show.

Over 60 of the next generation of surfing talent competed in the 5500 rated event held at Torquay Point, that saw Victory at Sea conditions on Saturday before slightly improving conditions on Sunday for finals.

In the Under 14 Girls final, it was local Stevie O'Day (Torquay) who was the standout across the event. O'Day was dominant in the final with a near perfect wave score of 9.33 (out of a possible 10), finishing on a heat total of 16.66 points.

"It was really fun out there," said O'Day.

"There were heaps of close-out sections to hit, I had such a good time."

O'Day took out fellow Surf Coast surfer and 2024 champion Estella Carbonelli (Jan Juc), who finished in second on 14.50 points.

Scarlett Rennie (Phillip Island) finished in third on 12.70 points with Sophie Day (Rye) in fourth on 10.50 points.

Surfing in his first nationally ranked junior event, Levi Vosloo (Barwon Heads) took to the challenging conditions with ease, locking in an excellent heat total of 16.66 (out of a possible 20) in the Under 14 Boys final.

"The waves got way better this afternoon for the final", said Vosloo.

"I just tried to go big on every wave!"

Finishing in second was 2024 champion Teddy Robertson (Torquay), who finished on a 12.20 heat total. Harry Cleary (Sorrento) finished in third on 11.00 points with Eden Hawken (Torquay) on 10.30 points.



Stevie O'Day (Torquay) finished first, Estella Carbonelli (Jan Juc) in second place, Scarlett Rennie (Phillip Island) in third, followed by Sophie Day (Rye) in fourth. Photos: Ange Zorica/Surfing Victoria.



Scarlett Rennie (Phillip Island) finished in third on 12.70 points at the Victorian Micro Groms Cup in Torquay.

SGB swimmers race in readiness for state events

IT MAY have been cold outside, but times were hot inside as the 39 South Gippsland Bass swimmers competed in GSI 5 at Traralgon on Saturday.

The supporters were thankful it was an indoor meet with the torrential rain outside, though the humid conditions inside were tough at times for those there for the day.

The wet weather meant there were a lot of the general public in the kids play areas, meaning there was more noise and people than usual for everyone.

There were a number of the younger swimmers rising to the challenge of swimming in the 50 metre pool; some for the first

time, while the older swimmers were busy ticking off qualifying times for upcoming events, as well as setting personal bests in events that they hadn't raced in a while.

Coach Dylan was pleased with their efforts.

"It was great fun, and I saw some of the swimmers really pushing themselves that little bit, to get some of those times. I'm really looking forward to seeing many of them at MSAC at the big events in the coming weeks," he said.

Next week, racing returns to the outdoors, with GSI 7 at Warragul in the outdoor 50 metre pool.



South Gippsland Bass swimmers competed in GSI 5 at Traralgon on Saturday.



A snapper caught in Port Phillip.

Baby snapper boom paying dividends

SNAPPER season is underway and recreational anglers can expect another solid spring in Port Phillip and Western Port, according to modelling undertaken by fisheries scientists.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said modelling predicted last year's snapper boom would continue to pay dividends through the rest of spring and into summer.

"Last year was one of the best snapper seasons in many years, with land and boat-based fishers getting into the great outdoors and catching plenty of fish," he said.

"Victoria is home to some of Australia's best snapper fishing in Port Phillip and Western Port, and the season is eagerly anticipated by thousands of keen anglers."

"With commercial nets removed from Port Phillip, free parking and launching at the state's public boat ramps and the last seven years delivering two of the best snapper spawning events on record, it's a great time to be enjoying the sunshine and catching a fresh feed of fish."

To assess the abundance of baby snapper and compare breeding seasons, scientists collect fish measuring between three and 10 centimetres at night using specialised nets.

Results are then compared to a dataset of more than 30 years.

Spawning success varies depending on environmental conditions and strong seasons are often followed by weaker years, typical of natural variation within wild fisheries.

"We had record spawning in 2017 and what we saw in 2024 was an unprecedented snapper season in terms of catch rates according to our creel surveys," Mr Dowling said.

"Creel surveys involve interviews of fishers to ascertain what they caught, what they kept and how long they fished for, and they're funded by your recreational fishing licence fees."

"We did see a spawning drop-off in 2018, but fish from the 2017 year class will continue to be caught over the next few years as they migrate into our bays."

"That's not the only good news for snapper anglers. Our more recent 2022 monitoring showed the third highest abundance of baby snapper since surveys began in 1993, so we expect to see great fishing continue in coming seasons."

Recreational anglers are reminded that the minimum legal size for snapper in Victoria is 28cm, and the daily bag limit is 10, of which no more than three can equal or exceed 40cm.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Torradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY November 11	WEDNESDAY November 12	THURSDAY November 13	FRIDAY November 14	SATURDAY November 15	SUNDAY November 16	MONDAY November 17
▲ 5.02am 1.75m	▲ 5.50am 1.66m	▲ 6.39am 1.57m	▼ 12.20am 0.42m	▼ 1.10am 0.55m	▼ 2.05am 0.67m	▼ 3.09am 0.77m
▼ 10.26am 0.61m	▼ 11.12am 0.60m	▼ 12.01pm 0.60m	▲ 7.30am 1.49m	▲ 8.22am 1.41m	▲ 9.15am 1.36m	▲ 10.07am 1.32m
▲ 4.38pm 1.51m	▲ 5.28pm 1.46m	▲ 6.22pm 1.38m	▼ 12.55pm 0.61m	▼ 1.55pm 0.61m	▼ 3.01pm 0.60m	▼ 4.09pm 0.56m
▼ 10.44pm 0.20m	▼ 11.31pm 0.30m		▲ 7.30pm 1.30m	▲ 8.54pm 1.27m	▲ 10.11pm 1.28m	▲ 11.18pm 1.34m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au

SOUTH GIPPSLAND
BRIDGE CLUB

OVER the weekend, the Club hosted a Bridge Congress in South Gippsland. Approximately 12 hours of gameplay, over two days, is both challenging and concentrated enjoyment.

Congratulations to the winners of the Teams event (pictured), Jean Barbour, Kaye Douglas, Caroline Shaw and the invisible Greg Nicholson, and to pairs winners, M and W Sieredzin-ski .

Wonderful to see competitors from Melbourne and as far afield as Bright. "Thanks to all for taking part," said Kathy, secretary of the South Gippsland Bridge Club.

In less exalted news, John Quayle and Neville Chapman led Monday night's play with 70.24, Susan Ruffin and Clive Hope 61.9, Marie Sands and Ken McKenzie 52.98, Ruth Stevenson and Kathy Dowd 50.6.

Friday again saw 11.5 tables, Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson leading N/S with 59.52, Caroline Shaw and Jean Barbour 58.77, Ruth Harvey and Neville Chapman 55.01, Bron Sund and Julie Perriam 53.04, Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 52.95. E/W was dominated by Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh 66.28, Anne Gibson and Tom Kudelka 58.69, Faye Rowlands and John Currier 58.63, Maureen Stiles and Marie Sands 54.62, Moya Crowley and Michael Dooley 53.24.

Anyone wanting to learn the game or join the Club, please contact the president Mary on 0427 338 598 or the secretary Kathy on 0438 859 561.

PHILLIP ISLAND
BRIDGE CLUB

IT WAS a festive start to the week at the Phillip Island Bridge Club, with members embracing the Halloween spirit on Monday.

Jenny brought a delicious witch-themed cake from Azucar Cakes in Cowes, setting the stage for a spirited afternoon of competition.

Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson emerged as the standout pair, securing victory with an impressive 65.33 per cent over six tables.

The club also ran a Melbourne Cup sweep, adding an extra layer of excitement to the proceedings.

The energy continued into Wednesday as winners of the Melbourne Cup sweep were awarded their prizes.

Once again, Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson proved to be a formidable duo, topping the leaderboard with a 61.57 per cent.

PHILLIP ISLAND
TENPIN BOWLING

RESULTS:

2's company – bye: first place Jail on 25 points; second place King Pins on 24 points; third place Pin Pushers on 24 points.

ABL – week 14: first place Just Bowl Already on 180 points; second place Pin Pals on 171.5 points; third place Fairlanes on 161.5 points.

Phantom – week 11: first place Spin King on 277 points; second place Lala on 258 points; third place Co-balt on 228 points.

Business early – week five: first place NTC on 11 points; second place Balls Deep on 11 points; third place Woolly Balls on 11 points; fourth place Woolly Rollers on six points.

Business late – week five: first place City Lights on 13 points; second place The Ex Men on eight points; third place Gym Rats on 7.5 points; fourth place The Ballbarians on 6.5 points.

Top scores for this week across each league:

Men: Justin Porthouse (205), Jason Bence (201) and Scott Lynch (195).

Women: Kerri Lambert (176), Bec Bertram (172) and Mary Dardha (153).

You're never too young or old
to learn to sail at the SGYC

SAILING lessons to help both young and older-aged sailors get started on their sailing adventures begin next month at the South Gippsland Yacht Club in Inverloch.

The SGYC is running 'Off the Beach' full-day sailing courses from 9am to 3pm on Saturday, December 6 and 13, and part-days on Thursday and Friday, January 15 and 16.

The sailing school will provide everything you need to get sailing, including one-on-one coaching on the water, plus onshore demonstrations and basic theory.

It's never too late to start your sailing journey using the club's two RS Feva dinghies, two Pacers and a confidence-inspiring Corsair. Becoming a sailing member at the SGYC also gives you access to the club's facilities as well as free use of the club boats.

Club boats include a Mirror and two Optimist dinghies, perfect for younger sailors, plus newer RS Feva and Pacer dinghies for older crews and a Laser and a Sabre for solo sailing.

A family-oriented club, the emphasis at SGYC is on participation and fun for all members,



The South Gippsland Yacht Club is taking enrolments for sailing training courses at Inverloch in December and January.

regardless of skill level or class of boat sailed. The club boats give young or beginner sailors the opportunity to develop their sailing skills until they have their own boat.

The main classes of dinghies sailed at Inverloch are Impulse, Laser, Aero and Sabre, plus Taipan and Mosquito catamarans. Sailing begins in November with racing between 11am and 2pm each Sunday, depending on the weather.

Regattas are held every public holiday weekend with the Inverloch Classic Dinghy Regatta in February attracting a growing number of wooden sailing dinghies every year.

The sailing courses cost \$250 per person with an option to join the club at a heavily discounted rate. Discounted membership is also available for family groups of three or more. Contact Terry on 0420 460209 or email terrykirby283@gmail.com.

FISHING DAYS
YIELD SUCCESS

THE Venus Bay Angling Club had a couple of good fishing days over the weekend. Quite a few fish weighed in.

The winner was Kerry Field with a 1.48kg trevally. Kerry won a \$50 voucher from The Cavity.

Second was Phil Nebel with a perch of 920g. Phil won a BCF voucher donated by Amar Window Tinting.

The next competition will be held on November 28, 29 and 30.

RIVERSIDE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION

ROUND four results:

Section 1 doubles: Moe 7 – 45 defeated Neerim District 2 – 30; Drouin Maroon 3 – 41 defeated by Drouin Gold 6 – 47; Warragul – bye.

Ladder: Moe 32.5; Neerim District 25; Drouin Maroon 21.5; Drouin Gold 19.5; Warragul 11.5

Section 1/2 singles: Trafalgar Red 5 - 46 defeated Moe Blue 1 – 15; Warragul 4 – 39 defeated Drouin Maroon 2 – 20; Moe White 6 – 48 defeated Drouin Gold 0 – 13; Trafalgar White – bye.

Ladder: Moe White 28; Trafalgar White 24; Trafalgar Red 22; Warragul 16; Drouin Maroon 8; Moe Blue 6; Drouin Gold 6.

Section 2 doubles: Hallora 8 – 51 defeated Poowong 1 – 20; Neerim District 6 – 48 defeated Trafalgar 3 – 42; Warragul 4 - 35 defeated by Drouin 5 – 40.

Ladder: Hallora 30; Warragul 29; Neerim District 28; Drouin 22; Trafalgar 14; Poowong 9.

Round five results:

Section 1 doubles: Moe vs Drouin Maroon (washout); Drouin Gold vs Warragul (washout); Neerim District – bye.

Ladder: Moe 38; Neerim District 30.5; Drouin Maroon 27; Drouin Gold 25; Warragul 17.

Section 1/2 singles: Moe White vs Trafalgar Red (washout); Drouin Gold vs Drouin Maroon (washout); Trafalgar White vs Warragul (washout); Moe Blue – bye.

Ladder: Moe White 32; Trafalgar White 28; Trafalgar Red 26; Warragul 20; Drouin Maroon 12; Moe Blue 10; Drouin Gold 10.

Section 2 doubles: Poowong vs Trafalgar (washout); Hallora vs Warragul (washout); Drouin vs Neerim District (washout).

Ladder: Hallora 35.5; Warragul 34.5; Neerim District 33.5; Drouin 27.5; Trafalgar 19.5; Poowong 14.5.

LEONGATHA SMALL
BORE RIFLE CLUB

2025: 20m Bench Pennant – Section B. Round seven: Leongatha A 598.29 defeated Frankston B 590.09.

Bradley Hall 200.10; Christopher Sargent 199.13; Peter Gallus 199.06; Kenneth Hart 198.06.

Ladder: Leongatha A 24; Brunswick 16; Oakleigh A 16; Hamilton A 16; BERC A 12; Frankston B 0.

2025: 20m Bench Pennant– Section G. Round seven: Sale D 594.04 defeated Leongatha B 592.16.

Robert Clements 199.08; Robert Spratt 197.04; John Cafarella 196.04; Jack Sargent 195.05.

Ladder: Sale D 28; Leongatha B 20; Fairfield B 12; Frankston D 12; Sale C 12.

2025: 20m Prone Pennant – Section H. Round seven: Leongatha C 581.09 defeated Warburton C 575.12

Cameron Davidson C 195.06; William Ross C 193.02; Allan Ross C 193.01; Mathew Eldridge C 192.02.

Leongatha D 578.08 (bye).

Hannah Hengstberger D 194.04; Brianna Kelly D 192.04; Leah Considine D 192.00; Iesha Considine D 191.03; Agan Hengstberger Dx 186.02 –x: not nominated.

Ladder: Shepparton 28; Leongatha D 24; Portland 16; Leongatha C 12; Warburton C 4.

The club shoots on Friday nights at 8pm at the rifle club on the Leongatha Recreation Reserve. Any inquiries, please call R. Spratt 5664 2358.

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Strong showing from Bass Coast MTB at Eildon

BASS Coast riders made their presence felt at the final Round of the Joyride Rookie Cup in Eildon on the weekend, delivering a series of confident performances across four junior categories. The Phillip Island contingent handled the fast and technical course with maturity, collecting multiple top 10 finishes.

U11 Men

Two of our youngest local riders produced standout efforts.

- Kody Sheers continued his impressive season, securing second place in 2:58.76. The result also places him second overall in the series, confirming his position among the leading riders in his age group.
- Will Walker put together a composed and consistent run to finish seventh, recording a time of 3:14.60.

U13 Men

Three Bass Coast MTB riders contested the large and competitive U13 field.

- Flynn Wright placed 42nd with a steady run of 3:08.33.
- Eli Rogan followed in 47th, stopping the clock at 3:18.87.
- Judd Foster finished 53rd with a time of 4:29.08, gaining valuable experience in his first downhill race.



Will Walker in U11's at the final Round of the Joyride Rookie Cup in Eildon.

U15 Men

The U15 category saw a strong Phillip Island representation, with six riders on course.

- Maxen Mills led the Bass Coast group, finishing seventh in 2:23.17, showing his usual control and confidence and securing an impressive fourth overall in the series.
- Miller Micallef claimed an

ultra-competitive 14th, posting 2:28.84.

- Ry Sheers followed closely in 16th, recording 2:29.05.
- Hugo Wright delivered a solid effort for 32nd, finishing in 2:39.53.
- Zac Basterfield placed 56th with a time of 2:54.52, continuing to build confidence through the season.
- Bodhi Cooper was unable to complete his run after a crash and recorded a DNF.

U17 Men

Two Bass Coast MTB riders also took to the hill in the highly competitive U17 division.

- Hamish Dakers-Hock finished 36th with a time of 2:29.59.
- Zac Sund posted 45th, crossing the line in 2:33.91.



Bob, Laurie, Tony, and Di enjoyed a win in round nine of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League spring competition.

Solid darts turnout defies long weekend lure in round nine

THE Phillip Island and Districts Darts League proved its dedication in round nine of the spring competition, with a very solid turnout of 24 darters fronting up to the oche, even as the Melbourne Cup long weekend beckoned.

No horses here, just high-stakes dart-throwing.

Team Bob (Bob, Laurie, Tony, and Di) delivered a sweet and decisive five-to-two victory over Team Snow.

It seems a Cup long weekend doesn't dull the competitive edge on the Island.

The real fireworks, however, were on the scoreboard.

A huge well done to Paul Gleeson and Scott Lethbridge, both of whom blistered the board with a spectacular 180 each.

Paul is clearly carrying that form into the overall standings.

Speaking of standout shots, Alby Russell showed his precision with a sharp 124 peg, while Brendon Corvino wasn't far behind, checking out on a crisp 103.

In the most delicious news of the night, Alby, who's been winning the chocolates most weeks, had a change-up by sinking the winning raffle ticket to take home the magnificent San Remo Butchers' meat tray.

The league table is tightening up dramatically! Paul Gleesons' strong performance rockets him into first place on 56 points, closely followed by Bob Hee on 53 points.

David Healey holds firm in third with 41 points.

Finally, congratulations to the winners of the Cup Sweep – collect your spoils next week.

Tennis great set for Island visit

WINNER of six grand slam singles titles, the great Frank Sedgmen also left his mark on one his favourite places in the world, Phillip Island.

Together with tennis mates Ken Rosewall and Lew Hoad, he developed the Wimbledon Heights Housing Estate, which bears the names of numerous tennis greats including Kramer Rise, Fraser Street, Rosewall Court, Hoad Street, Laver Drive and Emmerson Way.

Together with a group of others, he also owned the famous Isle of Wight Hotel.

But little is known of his golfing prowess, including winning a number of golf trophies during his regular visits and extended stays on Phillip Island.

All will be revealed, however, this Sunday, November 16 when 98-year-old Frank Sedgman is expected to be the special guest of the golf club and the Phillip Island and District Historical Society at a heritage golf day, gourmet afternoon tea and historical display... hopefully including some pictures of Mr Sedgman and his trophies.

The historical society is calling on the community to help bring the club's history to life by contributing old photos or items from the early days. Get in touch with Mary Whelan on 0408 055 867.

Leongatha's Harrison Bell achieving his umpiring goals

By Andrew Palocz

LEONGATHA'S Harrison Bell clearly impressed in his AFL boundary umpiring appearances this season, earning a spot on the 2026 AFL umpire list.

He's made strong progress since taking up officiating at the age of 12, having performed well at State league and AFLW levels in recent seasons, saying a lot of time and effort has gone into achieving that.

While acknowledging umpiring has its ups and downs, he notes it offers plenty of rewards.

"You've got the best seat in the house," Harrison said, having had the good fortune to officiate in the St Kilda versus Melbourne match in which Nasiah Wanganeen-Milera led the Saints to a stunning comeback win.

Just like players at a footy club, umpires are a team supporting each other onfield, with lots of communication on positioning. Boundary umpires also play an important role in assisting goal umpires. The close teamwork required ensures umpires form strong bonds.

"You make some awesome friends out of it," Harrison said.

Boundary umpiring runs in the family, his dad Michael having officiated in 217 AFL matches, a mark Harrison is already striving to beat.

Harrison's brother Rylan also patrols the boundary and is hopeful of VFL action next season.



Harrison Bell's boundary umpiring career continues to progress as he joins the AFL umpire list.

Along with its other rewards, boundary umpiring at a high level keeps you fit, Harrison having recently completed a 15-kilometre training run when Sentinel-Times chatted to him on Sunday, with lots of umpires having athletics or cross country backgrounds.

While fitness is a positive, the traditional approach to throwing the ball in is unsurprisingly demanding on the back, Harrison explaining there has been a significant adjustment made to how that task is performed.

The newer approach involves a slinging action in which you throw the ball across your body rather than over your head.

"I had to change how I threw a few years back; if you're throwing it traditionally, you end up with a stuffed lower back because of how much it's forcing you to extend your back in a way that it shouldn't go," Harrison said.

He played a little footy with Leongatha as a junior and says that if he continued, it may have offered some similar rewards to umpiring,

being happy to be on the path he is and enjoying the challenges umpiring presents.

Learning to speak to people effectively and deal with different situations are skills umpiring helps develop that can be applied in life generally.

"You get some kids who are so shy and really hesitant and then they start to get involved with the football and learn some of those life skills," Harrison said, recalling his turn at field umpiring as a 14-year-old officiating for players a few years older than him.

While a naturally shy and reserved person, umpiring has ensured that doesn't hold Harrison back.

He's still involved with the South Gippsland Umpires Association.

"I love the group; it's a very inviting place, great numbers and the coaches are out to get the best out of you," he said, the community feel and support making it worth people's while to brave the cold training nights at Korumburra.

Still living in Leongatha, Harrison combines his work as a mechanic and auto electrician at the town's Autopro with regular travel to Melbourne for umpire training, which at VFL level is in Collingwood.

AFL preseason training is likely to be in Bundoora, with a shift to Docklands then on the cards.

He doesn't mind all the driving apart from petrol costs and is happy he can service his own car.



Thursday's South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners were Frank d'Unienville (2), Steve Edge (3), Gary McAllister (L) and Kirk Humphry (S).



Terry Floyd (S), Max Summers (2) and Rob Jeffries (3) were South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's best one game winners. Absent: Bob Arnold (1).



Maggie Scapin, Jo McIntyre, Bill Featherston and Theo Scholey were the winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls on Friday.



Les Stanbury, Mandy Irvine, Jan Clark and Gordon Peters were the Breakaway Bowls winners on Friday.



FOB's Justin and fill-in Benny were the Jack Attack winners at the Foster Bowls Club.



Fish Creek's runners up Lee McKenzie, Brad Darcy and Neil Whitelaw pictured with Andrew Oldroyd from the Bendigo Community Bank.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

WHAT a difference in weather recently – 30 degrees one day and 18 the next.

The winners on Monday were Rhonda Rattenbury, Ken Webb and Marj Ford.

They had a fine score of +12.

Another great day of bowls was enjoyed by the members on Friday.

The winners were Les Stanbury, Mandy Irvine, Jan Clark and Gordon Peters.

They had a very good win with +26 – well done.

Come along and enjoy a game of bowls on Mondays and Fridays from 1pm at the Cape Paterson Community Hall.

FISH CREEK

NO Tuesday pennant due to the Melbourne Cup and a washout on Saturday saw a quiet week of bowls.

Sunday was the Bendigo Community Bank Toora/Foster sponsored Invitational Triples Day.

Despite a few showers, the bowlers managed to get enough bowls in to have a result.

A full field enjoyed the break in the weather to complete two and almost three games of eight ends.

A halt was called in the third game when the weather turned nasty after five ends.

Andrew Oldroyd from the Bendigo Bank attended and gave an overview of this year's grants to the community, and in particular what they have given to the Fish Creek Bowls Club.

It is a substantial amount for which the community, and in particular the bowls club, is very grateful.

The team of Dave Christie, Don Cripps and Neil Cook were successful and second was the Traralgon side of Lee McKenzie, Neil Whitelaw and Brad Darcy.

Best last game was won by Col Pulham, Rab Best and Dave Collier.

Thanks go to greenkeeper Rob Poletti, and the volunteers in the kitchen, Bokka, Glenys and Mal, and to all the members and friends who sent along afternoon tea.

Fish Creek Bowls Club also thanks the players who come along to make this day once again very successful.

The early season trip to Moama is this week with about 15 members away for four days.

The next Turkey Triples on November 27 will be sponsored by the Charlton family in recognition of Jack.

Good bowling this week.

FOSTER

IT was another great night for the Jack Attack competition.

There are 13 teams this season. If you'd like to have a go, come on down.

The evening's winners were the FOB's.

Well one of them anyway – Justin plus Benny as a fill-in, winning the weekly Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored by Roosters Plumbing & Earthmoving.

Runners up were RVCA, Matt, Paul and Kylie, winning the chocky prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

Lots of fun was had by all, both on the green and then afterwards in the clubrooms with presentations and raffles.

This week will be round three, halfway through the competition.

Ladder positions can be found on the Facebook page.

The Saturday Pennant was called off due to the wet weather.

There was no break on the horizon, so equal points were allocated to each team.

Division 3 was to play Loch and Division 4 Inverloch.

The whole Strzelecki South playing area ended up a washout.

INVERLOCH

CLUB members are reminded that the finals of the Men's and Ladies Major Championships Singles are scheduled to be played on the morning of Friday, November 28.

This is always a great event to watch, so put the date into your diary.

Inverloch Bowling Club enjoyed a great day on Tuesday Melbourne Cup Day.

Twenty-eight members played one game of bowls of 10 ends.

Two teams had a win and two teams a draw.

The winner on the day was the team of Reg Varty, Pam Sutcliffe, Veronica Muir and Doug Slater.

Forty members then enjoyed a chicken and salad lunch followed by apple pie and ice cream.

There was the usual fun hat parade with the winners of the ladies, Lyn Gaskin and the winners of the men Jon Justin.

Lots of sweeps were held and many happy punters taking home some winnings – a great day.

Thursday saw a perfect bowling day with a slight breeze for social bowls.

Twenty-nine bowlers enjoyed the calm conditions that produced a tight tussle for honours.

Four teams finished with a

draw and a win.

These needed to be separated by points and shots up.

The hard luck story finished on 26 points and six shots up.

This team consisted of Graham Turton (skip), Joyce Arnold and Chris Nevill.

Runners up on 29 points were led by Mal Marshall with Pat Mackay, Peter Gentsch and Andrew Rowe making up the rest of the team.

The winners were the only team that won two games.

This team consisted of Chris O'Donnell (skip), Pam Sutcliffe, Liz Jacobs, Jill Kennedy and Roger Wittinslow.

LEONGATHA

THE club hopes everyone enjoyed the day off for the Melbourne Cup and had a win with not too many sore heads the next day.

No Tuesday Pennant was played, so no results.

A few rocked up for social bowls on the Wednesday, even with the weather not knowing if it's Arthur or Martha.

They still managed a couple of games with the winners of the day being Marg and Scotty.

Scotty was very excited about his win.

After that, Vanessa from Sterling first aid gave the bowlers a very informative hands-on lecture on CPR and how to use the defibrillator.

Around 30 people listened and joined in and were all impressed with the down to earth and easy understanding polished demonstration that Vanessa did.

Vito put his hand up to be the guinea pig and, not without some laughter, did a great job.

Marg Barter also put her hand up to take over and look after the club's defibrillator.

Thank you and to all that attended – you never know when you might need to use it.

Saturday Pennant was all washed out.

Don't forget bare foot bowls starts on Tuesday, November 11 – plenty of time to put a team in.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

WHAT a marvellous day it was on Thursday – beautiful weather in the mid-20s with great friends to play with and against, and a wonderful green to play on.

Forty of the family of bowlers turned up at Loch and District Bowls Club for the weekly challenge.

They were signed in by Bev and John while Vern arranged the

teams for the day.

Once the bowlers were told their teams and went onto the green, the fun started.

As usual, there was lots of laughter and plenty of friendly banter as friend challenged friend for superiority on the green.

There were a few wrong bias bowls, but they are always welcomed by the Royal Children's Hospital.

There was some great bowling across all the greens along with a few wild shots, but lots of laughter from all quarters.

As usual, not all the wonderful bowlers can win each week, and this week is no different.

The winners on a score of 35 were Frank d'Unienville (2), Gary Mc Allister (L), Steve Edge (3) and Kirk Humphry (S).

Runners-up on a score of 33 were Mark Hanrahan (S), Peter Thorley (L), Max Williams (2) and Phil Wright (3).

Best one game on a score of 19 was won by Terry Floyd (S), Max Summers (2), Rob Jeffries (3) and Bob Arnold (L).

A big thank you to the Loch members for all their hard work, especially to Trevor who does so much for the group.

Next week, the group will be meeting at Corinella Bowls Club to fight it out for team of the week.

Please be on site by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams.

Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching capacity, the club will have to be strict on a 10am cut off time.

Meanwhile till then, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another busy week at the club.

Tuesday saw a cool to cold day with a few bowlers having a roll-up and a light lunch.

The cup sweeps were done, and the sheets were on display on the tables.

In total, there were eight sweeps, which is a good number and gives all members a chance to have a horse in the cup.

Well done to Joy, Rob, and everyone else who did the work to make it happen.

There was no Midweek Pennant because of Cup Day.

Thursday morning social bowls saw a very good number of bowlers enjoy fine mild conditions.

A couple of the group were also able to collect their winnings from the cup sweep.

Thursday 1pm social bowls

saw a good turnout of 35 bowlers grace the greens in good weather.

Teams of three and four were the order of the day to square up the numbers.

There were only two teams that were two-game winners, with the winners being Lorraine Stanes, Wally Leijen, and Lyn Tagell with a score of two wins and 34 points.

The runners-up were Bob Cornelis, Joy Phillips, Syd Gostling, and Adrian Gray with a score of two wins and 33 points.

Saturday was a washout across all divisions, so points were shared.

Bowls this week:

Tuesday: Midweek Pennant; Tuesday night Barefoot Bowls starts. Doors open from 4pm and bowls start at 6pm.

Check our Facebook page details

Thursday: Social bowls at 9.30am and 1pm.

Friday Coaching at 10am, followed by the Friday night members draw.

Saturday: Pennant.

Friday night went off well, with the members draw not going off – Fred Kellow's name was called out, so next week the draw will be \$60.

Paul Hill was a happy meat tray winner, with Sylvia taking home the chicken tray.

Karen and Glenys each won a brekky pack.

Other winners were John, Teresa, John, and Dave.

Saturday night was an outstanding success, with more than 80 people enjoying the night.

The dance floor was busy all night, with the band playing great music until midnight.

Have a look at the Facebook page for some photos and a video of the night.

It was another great way to showcase the bowls club to non-bowlers.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THIS week, the club had a total of 50 players.

On Tuesday (Cup Day), the bowlers enjoyed one game, which was followed by a lovely afternoon tea which was shared whilst watching the running of the big race.

On Friday, the club had its usual two games.

The winners with +11 (two games) were Maggie Scapin, Jo McIntyre, Bill Featherston and Theo Scholey.

The runners-up, also with two games +8, were Max Sweetnam, Lia Smith and Pam Russell.



Woorayl Golf Club's C Grade winner Jenny Riseley, B Grade winner Jean Hayes, and A Grade winner and Monthly Medallist Elly Berryman.

FOSTER

ON THE first day of the month, Graeme “Paddy” Watkins (7) trumped the field to win his second monthly medal in three months. Paddy’s 79/73 nett round clinched him the daily A grade victory, Scratch and he won the medal by one shot from Will Cashin (28) who finished 102/74 and took out B grade. The 41 players formed the biggest field that has played for this season as the sun came out. Andrew Naylor put forward the trophies on the day that included runner-up prizes for both David “Dicky” Knee (10) and Logan Roberts (41) who both finished with scores of 75 nett. Vanessa Roberts (36) laid down a quality score of 76 nett to lead the way for the ladies, she will have to wait to see if that was enough to clinch her first monthly medal as the Wednesday medal competition was washed out this week.

The larger field saw balls down the line go all the way down to twelfth, Olly Ward (15) with 75 nett, Peter Cambridge (15) 76 nett and also the putting award with 29 putts. It was a six-way countback for the final balls as all players ended on 75 nett, Bruce Knee (15), Garry Buckland (15), Ben Cooper (10), John Pruy (17) and Ben Thompson (23) the lucky recipients. Nearest to pins went as follows, Hardy Dusterwald (fourth), Stu Canning (sixth), Trent Price (13th), Ben Cooper (15th) and Ben Thompson (17th). Next week we return to Stableford with Stu Canning generously putting forward the trophies.

The second biggest comp for the week again was Chicken Run. This week 30 players took to the back nine with some very impressive scores carded. Merle Barham (21) took out the week with a stunning 20 points. Kevin Flett (6) cruised into second place with 19 points. Gary Phelan (12) excelled to 18 points on his way to finishing third. The final three balls down the line all went to players with 17 points, Anouar Cunningham (10), Kelsay Dusterwald (20) and Paddy Watkins (3).

Tuesday’s Stableford was back to a battle of the Peter’s. Peter Cook (15) claimed bragging rights amongst the 12 players with his score of 33 points. His round also included a nearest to pin on the 17th while the fourth green lay untouched by the competitors. Paddy Watkins (6) fell just short of the win when he lost via a countback on 33 points. Peter Jordan (24) finished in third with his 32 points and rounded out the balls down the line.

Rachel Brown generously donated the trophies for the final Wednesday event in October. Nine players ended up playing between both the nine and 18 hole events. Beth Curram (21) smashed the field by winning with 31 points, five whole points ahead of Shirley Cook (31) in second. Francis McGlead took out the nine-hole event with a well-crafted 14 points. Viv Reid showed her accuracy by winning the nearest to pin on the 17th.

With the Spring classic just around the corner, 22 players fronted for Thursday’s Stableford. Kylie Collins (10) won with 35 points. Paddy Watkins is never far from the awards, Thursday was no exception as he took out nearest to pin on the 13th. Garry Buckland claimed the same award, this time on the sixth with his exceptional tee shot. The final Ball down the line was awarded to Graham Cottam (23) when he won via a countback with 31 points.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, November 4.

Stableford: 15 players.
Winner: Rob Gallagher 38 points.

NTPs: first Nick Besley, seventh Rob Gallagher and 13th Rob Gallagher.

Thursday, November 6:
Stableford: 20 players.
A Grade winner: Jaarl Enbom 39 points.
B Grade winner: Dale Wyhoon 37 points.
NTP: first Ian Gibson, 10th Mark Marotti and 13th Steve Duffield.

Saturday, November 8:
Sponsors: Club.
4BBB Net Stroke: 33 players.
Winners: Richard Johnson and Matt Burns 66 net.
NTPs: first Iain Riddell, seventh Malcom Garnham and 13th Paul Hopkins.

Ladies

LAST Wednesday, the women braved the course for the November Monthly Medal, kindly sponsored by Tiny Teapot Café. Congratulations to Julie Hillberg (23), the Medal and A Grade winner this month in a close contest with a 74 net on a c/b from Jenny Blackmore (25).

BDTL went to Kim Enbom (29) with a 75net.

Scratch winner with a 93 was Shelley Snooks.

NTPs: first Shelley (Kelly’s Bakery), and seventh (second shot) Jenny Blackmore and also had the nearest on the 13th green (Burra Garden Supplies).



Wonthaggi Golf Club's net winners (back row) Marg Hancock, Nancy Alderson, Kaylene Hodgetts, Bev Sloan, Leanne Costello and Jo McNaughton, and scratch winners (front row) Jean Hayes, Jo Fennell, Lorraine Theofanis, Gilliam Chandler, Karen Sheerin and Layla Robertson.

Saturday was a washout due to inclement weather.

The club has rescheduled the RB Medal playoff to this Saturday, November 15.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, November 11: Melbourne Cup Stableford event.

Tuesday’s Stableford round had 60 members/guests entering the competition.

Overall winner: Bill Wassink (27) with the high score of the day with 44 points.

A Grade winner: Rod MacKenzie (11) with 35 points on a countback.

A Grade runner-up: Craig Hutchinson (8) with 35 points.

B Grade winner: Jacob Kirkwood from the Lang Lang Golf Club (16) with 38 points.

B Grade runner-up: David Richards (17) with 37 points.

C Grade winner: Bill Wassink (27) with 44 points.

C Grade runner-up: Cathy Gifford from the Box Hill Golf Club (46) with 36 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Frank Kauhausen (21) at 3.90m.

NTP 14th: Renato Monacello (14) at 1.93m.

NTP 16th: Geoffrey MacDonald (20) at 1.44m.

Thursday, November 6: Stableford.

Thursday had a turnout of 86 members/guests, hitting off with a shotgun start and playing a Stableford event on a very pleasant day.

Overall winner: Timothy McCarthy (21) with the high score of the day with 41 points.

A Grade winner: Malcolm Gin (10) with 36 points on a countback.

A Grade runner-up: Nicolas Byrne (11) with 35 points.

B Grade winner: Ken Smirk (15) with 35 points.

B Grade runner-up: Renato Monacella (14) with 33 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Bernard Skerys (17) with 37 points.

C Grade runner-up: Peter Read (18) with 35 points.

D Grade winner: Timothy McCarthy (21) with 41 points.

D Grade runner-up: Adrian Banks (28) with 36 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Bernard Skerys (17) at .59m.

NTP 14th: Paul Kennedy (14) at 1.88m.

NTP 16th: Dave Brownnett (15) at .06m.

Saturday, November 8: Stableford.

Saturday was a real challenge with wet and windy conditions on the course, with a field 46 members/guests braving the elements.

Overall winner: Andrew Rowe (19) with the high score of the day of 38 points.

A Grade winner: Glenn Marsham (13) with 35 points on a countback.

A Grade runner-up: Jeremy de Silva (8) with 35 points on a countback.

B Grade winner: Andrew Rowe (19) with 38 points.

B Grade runner-up: Darcy O’Halloran (17) with 36 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Craig Hutchinson (8) at 2.98m.

NTP 14th: Craig Hutchison (9) at 2.09m.

NTP 16th: Andrew Rowe (19) at 1.20m.

Ladies

THE rain was almost avoided for the 19 women that played in the November Monthly Medal last week.

All the Monthly Medal winners from last November, competed to earn the title of Star Medallist.

The top honours go to Bec Brown who played her Monthly Medal round on Saturday finishing with a net 72: November Monthly Medallist and Star Medallist.

The winner of the event on Wednesday was Michelle Roberts, just one stroke behind Bec, finishing with 101/28/73.

Di Williams was runner-up with 98/24/74.

Lianne Adamson had the best score in the nine-hole competition, 34 points.

Balls down the went to 77 net: Kay Dumbleton, Joc Howson and Shirley Welsford.

Nearest the pin on the 16th was Marianne Leaver.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, November 4: Stableford.

A Grade: P. Draper 39 points.

B Grade: J. Hughes 43 points.

DTL: J. Smeriglio, S. McKenzie and M. Payne 38 c/b.

NTP: fourth S. Hill-Smith, sixth P. Draper, 13th S. Woodall and 16th T. Whitelaw.

Birdies: sixth P. Draper and 13th T. Bradshaw.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: November 6.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Glenn Hewlett 35.

Runner-up: Philip McCrimmon 32.

Results:

Competition: Stableford back nine-hole.

Winner: Bob Cornelis 19.

Ball DTL: Norm Burne 17 and Kevin Bayley 17.

Results: November 8.



Korumburra's November Monthly Medal winner Julie Hillberg.

Competition: Par 18-hole.

Winner: Andrew Hooton-Shandley 0.

Balls down the line to -4: Alan Cubbon -3 and Simon O’Halloran -4.

NTPs: Simon O’Halloran second, and Simon O’Halloran money hole 17th.

Results: November 8.

Competition: Par 9 holes one to nine.

Winner: Martin Jays +1.

Balls down the line to -2: Dio Apostolopoulos +1, Mark Tiziani -1, John Walsh -1 and Jim Jordan -2.

NTP: Bill Howard eighth.

WOORAYL

Ladies

THE second round of the Club Championships and the November Monthly Medal were played on Wednesday.

The ladies weren’t sure if they would even get out on the course due to the rain overnight and what was predicted.

Seventeen ladies challenged the Stroke event, sponsored with thanks by Amcal Pharmacy.

They had it all – rain, wind and sunshine.

The course is in great condition – the ground staff and volunteers have done an amazing job.

The A Grade winner and Monthly Medallist was Elly Berryman 16, 89, 73.

B Grade’s winner was Jean Hayes 24, 98, 74.

C Grade’s winner was Jenny Riseley 32, 106, 74.

BDL: Bev Bridge 77, Sherrill Winkler 77 and Jo Fennell 80.

NTPs: eighth Heather Sullivan, 11th Anne Grist and 17th Jean Hayes.

Elly Berryman won the putting with 26 putts.



It's not too late to secure your season pass for Stony Creek Racing!

Have you got your season pass yet?

STONY Creek Racing Club (SCRC) are gearing up for the 2025/26 Summer Racing Season, which will feature five race days, beginning with the Brandt Christmas Races on Sunday, December 7.

- The full season calendar includes:
- Sunday, December 7 – Brandt Christmas Races
 - Tuesday, December 30 – Evans Petroleum Family Races
 - Sunday, January 18, 2026 – Triple Dead Heat Anniversary Races
 - Sunday, February 15 – Publicans Day Races
 - Sunday, March 8 – Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup Day
- Memberships for the 2025/26 season are now open. For more information, visit stonycreek.com.au.

Stony Creek Racing Club (SCRC) is the home of thoroughbred racing in beautiful South Gippsland and the site of the 1987 triple dead heat, which made worldwide news. Located two hours from Melbourne on the South Gippsland Highway, it's a wonderful place for a family day out. Stony Creek races five times a year, starting in December and finishing with the feature event being the Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup on the Labour Day Weekend. Tickets: Adults \$20, Concession \$15, kids are free. There is a range of ticketing packages available, including annual memberships and bus routes to get you to and from the track.

SCRC are also proud to support Meeniyen Men's Shed through their Community Fund Initiative and are helping promote the Meeniyen Men's Shed Annual Open Day on Tuesday, November 18.

The community are invited to come along and enjoy a BBQ lunch from 11am to 12pm at Recreation Reserve, Hanily Street, Meeniyen, and to see the great work being done by local members.

Get your bare feet on the green

THE Wonthaggi Bowls Club is kicking off its popular Barefoot Bowls season today, Tuesday, November 11, inviting locals to grab a few mates, or just turn up solo, and enjoy a relaxed evening on the greens.

The bar opens from 4pm, with a BBQ sausage sizzle firing up at 5.30pm before team competition gets rolling at 6pm. It's a great way to unwind, meet new people and have a laugh, whether you're a seasoned bowler or a complete beginner.

Entry is \$15 per person, which includes a sausage sizzle and raffle ticket.

To register or learn more, contact Wonthaggi Bowls Club at wonthaggi@bigpond.com.

Wildcats proved unstoppable strength at the Southern Peninsula tournament



12 girls Division 3 Winners. Back row: Team manager, Katrina Spark, Mabel Cruickshank, Bella Spark, Paige Wyatt, Evie Rodwell, Phoebe Moriarty, assistant coach Ryan Cruickshank, and absent coach Leilani Lightowler. Front row: Lorelei Besley, Heidi Hamilton, Jocelyn Humphrey, Charli White, and Zara Wyatt.

THE Wildcats Korumburra Basketball Association showed their talent at the recent Southern Peninsula tournament, sending nine teams to compete across various divisions.

Each team delivered commendable performances, showing their skill in their age groups.

The 12 girls division three and 14 girls division three teams each took away a win with outstanding teamwork in their division.

The 14 boys division four recorded one win alongside three tight losses, with every match showing fight, all within five points.

The 16 girls in division three played to a draw, narrowly missing a victory with a one-point loss, and secured two wins, showing great resilience.

And the 16 boys division two secured three wins and a narrow one-point loss; this pushed their competitive edge and recognised the Wildcats' strength in the competition.



Event Director and Founder Gavin Slavin alongside his daughter, Georgia Sharp at the Bass Coast Cycle Challenge. W06_4525



Photo: Doug Pell Photography.

Cyclists brave weather to support road safety

From page 56

"He left six kids behind and a beautiful wife, and a few years later said 'Let's do something for our friend Bernard', so I started this event. We brought this RYDA program from New South Wales to Victoria and it keeps expanding through Victoria."

Across the journey, the event has raised more than \$100,000 for road safety education.

It seems the weather is what most riders will remember this

year. The first finishers from the 121-kilometre group, James McGillivray and Sam Oliver, summed it up neatly.

"The first hours were pretty good, it wasn't raining too much then," Sam said.

James added, "After the first two hours, it got pretty diabolical. You get these pockets where everything seems fine, and then all of a sudden you'll come to a clearing and the wind will make you lose control."

On the shorter course, the theme was the same. Theo Janse Van Nieuwenhuizen, among the earliest home on the 40 kilometre, put it plainly.

"The rain isn't the thing that's bad; it's the crosswind that comes in from the ocean," he said.

Even so, the scene at Inverloch felt upbeat. People lingered, compared routes, and swapped stories about gusts of wind that came out of nowhere and climbs

that felt longer than they looked on the map.

At its heart, the Bass Coast Cycle Challenge remains what it has always tried to be, a welcoming community ride that showcases a stunning corner of Victoria and turns pedal strokes into something bigger. It connects riders with a cause, helps educate young riders, and sends people home with salt on their lips and a sense that they were part of something good.

Super Swim contender Amy Hodson sets a 67km goal to raise funds for Starlight

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Amy Hodson continues her mission to brighten the lives of sick kids in the children's hospitals right across Australia, and this coming February, Amy has set a personal goal to swim 67 kilometres over the month.

Committing to her fourth Starlight Super Swim Challenge, the 67 kilometres is matching the "6...7" craze, and she's using it as a fun way to raise funds and give back.

Amy's mum, Robyn, said, Amy has spent a lot of time at the Royal Children's Hospital.

"During those visits, the Starlight Express Room has been a special place – filled with laughter, games, creativity, and

joy. It's a space where sick kids can forget about treatments for a while and just be kids again.

"Now, Amy wants to give back and help Starlight continue spreading smiles to kids and families everywhere – through hospital programs, wish-granting, and so much more."

"Please consider donating, \$6.70, \$67 or whatever you can spare to support Amy's swim challenge and help brighten the days of sick kids all across the country."

To donate, visit superswim.org.au/a-hodson.

"Every dollar helps Amy reach her goal. Thank you so much for cheering Amy on and helping her swim for smiles!"



Amy Hodson is diving into her fourth Starlight Super Swim Challenge, setting herself a goal to swim 67 kilometres over February. Help back Amy as she raises funds for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

Mixed results for the Goannas

THE Gippsland Goannas cricketers travelled to Geelong on Cup weekend for a 'double header' against the Geelong Veterans.

The matches were played at the Leopold Cricket Club grounds on Sunday, where the Over 60 team played on the turf, and the Over 70s played on the adjacent ground, which had a synthetic pitch.

The new clubrooms were roundly praised by all in attendance.

In the 60s game, Geelong won the toss and batted first, amassing 230 runs for the loss of five wickets from its 40 overs.

The best of the Goannas bowlers were Adrian Quirk with 1/11 from five overs, Bernie Symons 1/24 from five, Ray Smith 1/25 from five and guest player Mark Ross (from Ballarat) with six overs, 1/27.

Catches were taken by Smith and Ross, who also had a runout.

In reply, the Goannas could only reach 5/136.

Smith retired for 33 (65 balls), Graeme Ingle 11, Chris DeVent 22 ret, Keith Orchard five, Ray Floyd one, Ross nine, Symons 20 ret, Peter Anton 14 ret, Andy Slevin five and Bob Penrose seven no were the contributing batsmen.

On the synthetic, the Geelong Over 70s also won the toss and batted first, reaching 186 from its 40 overs.

Ian Southall, eight overs 20 runs, and Gordon Cowling eight overs, 1/21, got the Goannas off to a good start.

Chris Bowen with five overs 2/25, and Neil Meredith eight overs, 0/43, bowled well, as Geelong were 3/90 at the 20-over drinks break.

Derek Morris five overs 1/14, Bob Duljas two overs 1/12, Phill Higgins two overs 1/18, and 'guest' player Graeme Lewis (Geelong) two overs for 13 runs did the rest of the bowling as Geelong were 6/186 at the close.

There was a small hiccup during the lunch break as one of the Geelong players had a heart attack, but the ambulance arrived promptly and transported him to hospital, where he had had a stent implanted before the game ended.



Gippsland Goannas Over 60s player Chris De Vent plays a classic defensive shot.

Meredith 40 from 22 balls, and Murray Moore 30 retired from 30 balls, got the Goannas off to a great nine runs per over start. Southall, 13 from 13, Bob Duljas, 23 ret, Ian Gibson 16 from 25, Bowen 32 ret, and Higgins 19x took the Goannas past the Geelong score in the 30th over.

The Geelong captain made a special mention of the Goannas ground fielding, especially the work of Heather Farley and Deidre Hunter, who fielded for the entire innings.

Wicketkeeper Gibson had a catch and a very smart stumping, and Chris Bowen was awarded the player of the match for the Goannas.

The Goannas Over 50 team have a home game against Geelong this coming weekend, while the 60s have a two-week recess as the respective Over 60 and Over 65 National Championships are held in the Illawara and Christchurch, New Zealand.

Rob Taylor has been selected in one of the Over 60 teams, while Bernie Symons, Rino Metlikovec and Peter Anton will travel to New Zealand with Victorian teams.

The Goannas Over 70 team had a home game, in Traralgon, against the South Gippsland Kookaburras on Sunday.



Graham Ingle faces the Geelong bowling, while Ray Smith backs up in the Gippsland Goannas' Over 60s match.



Goannas' Phill Higgins cuts in the Over 70s game against Geelong.

Wet weather forces widespread cricket cancellation

LOCAL cricket was called off over the weekend after inclement weather caused a league-wide washout.

Cricketers have been off the field for two weeks, following the rainy weather this weekend past and the league bye over the Cup Day weekend.

Leongatha and District Cricket Association (LDCA) discussed the potential of getting in a few overs on Saturday, but by 9am on Saturday morning there were eight unusable grounds.

This weekend was slated to be the start of the first two-day games of the 2025/26 season.

One day games will be played this coming weekend instead.

LDCA has delivered some exciting match ups in the first few rounds, and league

president John Schelling predicted the game between Leongatha Town and Nerrena will be one to watch in round five.

This game will be held at Leongatha's Scorpion Park.

Whilst Nerrena and Leongatha Town are sitting third and sixth on the ladder respectively, the competition remains reasonably close in its early days, and Town will be hungry to record another win.

Across the league, the competition has been going well so far with some great games played.

Schelling said the clubs have embraced the seven-team competition format and have appreciated the bye.

The women's and juniors' competitions are also underway with promising results for the season.



It was a washout across South Gippsland on Saturday with rain dampening the pitches a little too much, though many farmers will no doubt be rejoicing with the extra water added to the dams. w100_4525

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 5 (DAY 2) - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

A GRADE, Division 1

- Phillip Island v Club
COWES - Ken Scrimshaw
- Town v Nerrena
SCORPION PARK 1 - Shane Moore
- OMK v Inverloch
OUTTRIM - Ashleigh Stride
- Imperials - BYE

A Grade, Division 2

- Nyora v MDU
NYORA - Geoffrey Parkinson
- Kilcunda Bass v Korumburra
BASS 1 - Michael Thomas
- Glen Alvie v Foster
WONTHAGGI TURF - Ian Salmon
- Koonwarra L/RSL - BYE

B GRADE, Division 1

- Korumburra v OMK
KORUMBURRA - Geoff Birnie
- Inverloch v Town
INVERLOCH TURF - Les White
- Nerrena v Phillip Island
LEONGATHA TURF - Tyson Tootel
- Club - BYE

B GRADE, Division 2

- Imperials v Nyora
EAST CAMPUS - TBA
- MDU v Koonwarra L/RSL
MEENIYAN - TBA
- Glen Alvie v Kilcunda Bass
Glen Alvie - TBA

ROUND 6 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

C GRADE, Division 1

- Kilcunda Bass v OMK
BASS 2 - TBA
- MDU v Phillip Island
DUMBALK - Graham Wightman
- Korumburra v Club
POOWONG - TBA
- Nerrena - BYE

C GRADE, Division 2

- Club v Nyora
McMAHON - TBA
- OMK v Glen Alvie
DIGGER PARK - TBA
- Koonwarra L/RSL v Town
LEONGATHA VEL. - TBA
- Inverloch - BYE

Subject to Confirmation.
Any prospective umpires
can contact
Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or
Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421

WONTHAGGI & DISTRICT NETBALL ASSOCIATION

AGM

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12
AT 6.15PM

Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road
Courts Clubroom.

All positions declared vacant
Nomination forms
wdnawonthaggi@outlook.com
EVERYONE WELCOME



Photo: Doug Pell Photography.



James McGillivray and Sam Oliver enjoy some well-earned food after finishing the 121 kilometres before anyone else. W09_4525

Cyclists brave weather to support road safety

INVERLOCH turned on some wild weather for the Bass Coast Cycle Challenge on Saturday, yet the energy at the start and finish line never dipped.

Coffee vans steamed, the sausage sizzle crackled, crepes flipped, and everyone did their best to lift spirits as rain fell and the wind sang. It was the 15th year of the event, and, despite the conditions, riders kept rolling in, soaked yet smiling through it all.

The first group left at 8am for the 121-kilometre route, with the day's final start at

9.45am. Five options gave everyone a chance to participate, from the big 121-kilometre and the 100-kilometre gravel through to the 85-kilometre, 53-kilometre and the 40-kilometre.

Event director and founder Gavin Slavin said the numbers stacked up well considering the difficult forecast.

"We had approximately 450 registered, and we've had 85 per cent attending today out of that 450, which is a really good turnout considering the weather," he said.

For Slavin, the ride has always

been about more than a great day on the bike.

"It's all about our charity. The event is amazing and it's a beautiful place to ride. People have come from everywhere to ride the event. But the important thing is our charity. It's the RYDA program, which is the Rotary Youth Driver Awareness Program," he said.

"This is our 15th year running the event and supporting the RYDA program. We've put over 3000 kids through the program, and there's been a lot of deaths in the roads of Victoria over the

last five years, but particularly in Bass Coast and South Gippsland, where we do this program, there hasn't been one death in two years, from anyone driving a car or for any cyclist. So, we know the program works and we keep educating our kids, and after 15 years it's starting to show statistically out on the road."

The community has helped the event evolve over the years.

"Fifteen years ago, it was just me trying to get some friends together to get it organised," Slavin said.

"Now we have the support of professional organisations.

EventOps from Phillip Island do all of our traffic management, our water stations and our signage. The core committee are all volunteers and are amazing."

Out on the course there were 83 volunteers, with many more at Inverloch keeping riders fuelled and the village humming.

The purpose has a personal heartbeat.

"The reason I started this event was in 2000, one of my best friends got knocked off his bike and killed," Slavin said.

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