



LINE IN THE SAND

Former State Liberal Party Leader Alan Brown with newly elected Leader of the Victorian Liberal Party Jess Wilson and Member for Narracan Wayne Farnham MP expressing their concern over the temporary sand-bag solution to combat erosion at Inverloch. B23_4725

RATES RIP-OFF

FARMERS in Bass Coast are paying too much in rates, they say, and too great a share of the overall rate burden of \$61 million. And the Bass Coast Shire Council seems to have acknowledged this by proposing to cut the farm rate from 80 per cent of the general rate this year to as low as 65 per cent next year. But there's a catch, and it's a big one, according to farmer representatives. Under each of the three options put out for public consultation this week, the Land Management Rebate, costing the shire \$675,000

this year, but generating millions of dollars in environmental benefits on-farm, would be scrapped. As a result, hundreds of farmers, particularly those with big landholdings, will be worse off under a scheme that's supposed to deliver rate relief. Under Option 1, where a 65 per cent differential is proposed, only 64 per cent of farmers will be better off or breakeven (doesn't say how much of each). Under Option 2, where a 70 per cent

differential is proposed, only 57 per cent will be better off or breakeven. Under Option 3, where a 75 per cent differential is proposed, only 53 per cent of farmers will be either better off or breakeven. And there's no guarantee the council will even deliver on those options with some concern expressed, during debate last Wednesday, about the limitations of the options and that stressed homeowners might be more deserving of a rate cut than the farmers. Continued page 3

16 DAYS
OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST
GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE
Pages 24-25

Hilltop Estate with 180° Views



41 hectare
lifestyle
property
470 Densley Rd,
Woolamai
Expressions
of Interest



1505 Bass Highway, Grantville
5678 8433
www.alexscott.com.au



COASTAL
REFRIGERATION & AIR-CONDITIONING
Refrigerant Trade Auth No: AU 51426 - PI 48651

RICK NORTH
PH: 5678 5190

Servicing the Bass Coast area
Factory 1, 60 Genista Street, San Remo



Authorised Daikin Dealer

- Sales, Installation & Service
- Licensed Split System Installer
- Commercial & Domestic

Refrigeration & Air Conditioning

**AFTER HOURS COMMERCIAL BREAKDOWN
EXPERT AFTER SALES SERVICE**

MICHAEL'S

Leongatha & Korumburra Only



SAVE **4¢** 
On Fuel OFF Per Litre

SEE INSTORE & OUR STORE'S FACEBOOK PAGE FOR THE *Pick of the Crop* FRUIT & VEGETABLE SPECIALS





\$19⁹⁹ kg

GRASS FED AUSTRALIAN
BEEF RUMP STEAK





\$9⁹⁹ kg

STEGGLES SKINLESS
CHICKEN BREAST FILLETS





\$36⁹⁹ kg

GRASS FED AUSTRALIAN
BEEF SCOTCH FILLET STEAK





\$13⁹⁹ kg

DON KABANA





\$9 ea

SLAPE & SONS
BURGERS 480G
Mediterranean Lamb or Cracked
Pepper & Worcestershire
\$8.75 per kg





\$16⁹⁹ kg

AUSTRALIAN LAMB
BBQ CHOPS





\$2⁵⁰ ea

Michael's Bakery
CINNAMON DONUTS
6 PACK
Equates to 42¢ per donut



Leongatha store only!

Sushi&Co.
Taste the Freshness



\$8 per serve

TERIYAKI CHICKEN SANDWICH



\$12 per serve

SALMON ONION DRAGON ROLL

2 for \$84
Multi Buy



Jim Beam White Label or Canadian Club
Cans 375ml x 24 Pack Varieties

\$44⁹⁹ ea



Canadian Club, Jim Beam White Label
Bourbon, Smirnoff Red Label Vodka,
Grant's Scotch or Vickers Gin 700ml

Win
A MITCHELTON EXPERIENCE

2 for \$33
Multi Buy



Purchase any bottle of
PREECE WINE
for your chance to WIN!
*SEE IN-STORE FOR DETAILS

Rates Rip-off: Hundreds of Bass Coast farmers worse off

From page 1

And, of course, any rate burden lifted off the farmers will automatically flow back to the other classes of ratepayers, including homeowners, business and vacant landowners unless council cuts rates overall.

There's fat chance of that.

The farmers have a very good case for a reduction, according to outgoing president of the Bass Coast branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation, Bill Cleeland, a warrior for a fairer deal on farm rates, and his successor, Peter Miller, elected at the local branch AGM last Wednesday.

Under the rating schedule included in the 2025-26 Bass Coast Budget, farmers will be paying 6.1 per cent more in rates than they did last year, compared to residential property owners who will pay 3.8 per cent more, but the previous year, in 2024-25, the farmers paid a whopping 18.6 per cent more in rates, compared to a 4.1 per cent increase for homeowners.

According to VFF state president Brett Hosking, such increases in farm rates show the Victorian Government's rate-capping policy isn't working.

"When you've got one group of taxpayers in some cases facing double-digit rate increases and little to no increase for others in the same area, there can be no doubt the system is flawed," Mr Hosking said recently.

"We've long argued for the Victorian Government to require councils to apply the rate cap to each class of land to stop this mess," he said.

Locally, Peter Miller and Bill Cleeland would like to see debate about the benefits of the Land Management Rebate and the virtues of cutting farm rates separated, but ultimately, they want to see the levy retained and the rates cut to 65 per cent as a minimum.

"I don't think the council places enough value on the rebate and what it achieves for the environment. They're looking at paying the money out as a negative," said Bill Cleeland, now vice president of the Bass Coast VFF.

"They're actually getting tremendous bang for their buck from the rebate, with farmers adding their contribution to plant trees, control weeds and pests and take on other projects which deliver benefits for the whole shire, including adding links for wildlife," said new VFF branch president Peter Miller.

"And I don't think it's right, what the council says, that they're the



New President of the Bass Coast Branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation Peter Miller says the shire should keep the Land Management Rebate as a major environmental initiative while also dropping farm rates, and he has encouraged council to debate the two issues separately.

only ones with a Land Management Rebate," said Mr Cleeland.

He said the local VFF branch would be making a submission, but argued none of the options was appealing in their present form.

"We've asked for support from a senior policy advisor at the VFF on this and we'll be holding a BBQ get-together soon, inviting Brett Hosking and others down, but we'd urge all Bass Coast farmers to take an interest in this and consider making a submission," said Mr Miller.

The farmers have a willing supporter on council, in the form of Cr Meg Edwards, for both keeping the rebate and offering a more generous differential.

"I think this is definitely a move in the right direction, and I'm really keen to see what consultation comes out of it but I'll be open, I'm not keen on seeing the removal of land management rebate," said Cr Edwards.

"I think, for all the talk on environmental action, this is action, not words, the land management rebate, and it's going directly into the farming community who are the main land managers of the whole environment and we need to encourage that.

"And certainly, at 65 per cent we will be matching our neighbours at South Gippsland on their farm rate differential. We are well above the recommended farm rate differential at the moment across the state," she said.

Cr Edwards said in terms of what farmers receive in income, as opposed to what their asset was worth, they paid a lot in rates and their situation deserved to be



reviewed.

Cr Jon Temby said he was uncomfortable about the options going out for consideration because they didn't recognise that other groups of people in the community were in dire need of a rates discount, especially hard-pressed urban homeowners, while some farmers didn't need a discount.

The Bass Coast Shire expects to collect \$4 million in rates from its 1000 farm assessments this year, but many primary producers are paying between \$4000 and \$10,000 in rates annually, effectively a tax on the infrastructure they need to make a living, but with few services coming back their way.

And looming next year is the full force of the State Government's unpopular Emergency Services and Volunteers Levy, expected to add a further \$1000 or more to the annual farm rates notice.

Drop-in sessions

Community Drop-in sessions are planned on these dates:

- Wonthaggi Town Hall – Thursday, November 27, 2pm–3.30pm
- Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre, Newhaven – Tuesday, December 2, 12.30pm–2pm
- Corinella and District Community Centre – Tuesday, December 9, 11.30am–1pm.

No closing date has been set for community feedback, but council has advised that the final rating strategy will be considered by Council in February 2026.

Learn find out more and to complete the survey go to the Engage Bass Coast website at: engage.bass-coast.vic.gov.au/rating-strategy.

Protection works start at Inverloch

CONTRACTORS for the Bass Coast Shire Council started their important coastal protection works at Inverloch on Monday, this week.

Their focus initially will be on extending the sandbag wall to the west of the existing structure, which will also be repaired, and they hope to get much of that work done by Friday, December 19.

In the meantime, the main access point to Inverloch Surf Beach, at the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving clubhouse, will be closed and visitors will have to use the next access point further to the west.

The surf club will also use that access point for foot traffic but will have to take their vehicles down to Flat Rocks, at the far western end of the beach, and drive them back for the start of patrols.

The club's officials met with contractors last week and have been agreeable to the arrangements while works are proceeding over the next month.

Work on the extension of the bagwall east, towards Ozone Street, will be started at the end of the January holiday season with the sandbag wall being extended by 110 metres in total, divided between the west and east extensions.

And according to Glenn Arnold, president of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club, this is just the beginning for the beach at Inverloch.

Speaking on Gippsland ABC Radio this week, Mr Arnold said the next stage, to start in February 2026, will involve the dredging of 110,000 cubic metres of sand from Anderson Inlet to be deposited in degraded beach areas, with revegetation of the renourished dune areas to follow.

But, asked if the present scope of works offered a permanent solution, Mr Arnold gave an emphatic "absolutely not".

"Is it a solution that will see us through the next few years? I guess it is," he said, describing the works, but he's also interested in the offer of a more permanent solution coming from the Liberal Party, including new leader Jess Wilson and the Member for Narracan Wayne Farnham, who visited the

site last Friday.

"It's a positive conversation. Jess Wilson came down here late last week and reconfirmed the Liberal Party's position. Will it happen? I guess that's what we have to keep focused on, but they're talking about it, which is great," he said.

According to the shire, the \$700,000 sandbag wall extension project, funded by DEECA will "help safeguard public land, community assets and vital access points from ongoing wave erosion".

Funded by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), the \$700,000 project will be delivered by Landshape Earthmoving and Excavations following a competitive tender process. Works are expected to take around six weeks, subject to weather, tides and contractor availability.

"For safety reasons, there will be temporary restrictions on traffic and pedestrian access around the lifesaving club carpark and beach access track. Traffic controls, spotters and other safety measures will be in place throughout the works," said the shire.

"Residents and visitors can expect periods of noise from machinery such as dump trucks and earthmoving equipment as sand is extracted, delivered and used to fill the new sandbags.

"Council acknowledges that these works may cause inconvenience and appreciates the community's patience as we complete this important coastal protection project."

Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead welcomed the start to works.

"I'm really pleased to say that finally we will see some coastal protection works starting around the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club. The community has rightly been very concerned about this area, and we're really pleased that there will be works starting on Monday," said Cr Halstead.

"This is just the beginning. It's a tough one to fix as a council or as any organisation trying to protect public land assets and, of course, private properties as well, but this is what the experts have suggested is the right course of action, and so finally, we'll see that starting on Monday."

NEW LOTS

NOW SELLING

Lot Sizes from 409m² to 792m²

Pricing from \$230,000 to \$299,000

Build your dream home and experience Bass Coast living.

Register your interest now!

1300 WONTHAGGI (966 842)

parklandswonthaggi.com.au

Parklands

WONTHAGGI

parklea.

Thinking about fixing up the place?

Let's nail your reno loan together!

LS Finance Broking

Lynda 0429 121 082

Disclaimer: Your full financial situation will need to be reviewed prior to acceptance of any offer or product. LS Finance Broking Pty Ltd, Credit Representative (495763) is authorised under Australian Credit Licence 389328.

EXCESS WASTE?

Permanent waste solutions

Call the commercial and residential waste specialists today!

Locally owned and operated

accounts@wheelawaste.com

www.wheelawaste.com.au

5672 2056

EPA Registered R000301404

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025 | 3

CONTENTS

Entertainment	30-31
Puzzles	32
Real Estate	34
Farming	35-37
Trades & Services	38-39
Classifieds	40-42

FEATURES

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence	24-25
---	-------

CONTACT

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

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

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

DISPLAY:	Advertising closes at 3pm on Fridays
CLASSIFIEDS:	Advertising closes at 12 noon on Mondays
The South Gippsland Sentinel-Times is published on Tuesdays.	
*Please note changes occur as a result of public holidays.	

ONLINE

sgsentineltimes
@sentineltimes



www.sgst.com.au

Produced and published by Michael Giles, of 47 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi for South Eastern Newspapers Pty. Ltd. A.B.N. 30 005 353 168. Printed by Express Print, 5 Jones Road, Morwell. Registered by Australia Post Publication No. VAC 336188/00002.

AC057-V47

MARY
ALDRED
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MONASH



03 5614 3600
mary.aldred.mp@aph.gov.au

Authorised by M Aldred,
46C Albert St, Warragul VIC 3820

6 Day
Weather
Forecast

SOUTH
GIPPSLAND

TUE Nov 25 Possible storm. Wind AM: E-NE 25-35km/h Wind PM: NW-SW 20-30km/h 13° 20°	WED Nov 26 Showers. Wind AM: N-NW 15-20km/h Wind PM: W 25-40km/h 10° 18°	THUR Nov 27 Shower or two. Wind AM: NW-SW 25-35km/h Wind PM: NW-SW 25-35km/h 10° 16°	FRI Nov 28 Shower or two. Wind AM: NW-SW 15-25km/h Wind PM: NW-SW 15-25km/h 10° 19°	SAT Nov 29 Shower or two. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: W-SW 20-30km/h 11° 18°	SUN Nov 30 Shower or two. Wind AM: W-NW 15-25km/h Wind PM: W-NW 15-25km/h 10° 19°

IN BRIEF

Cr Bell’s secret weapon

FIRST-time Bass Coast Shire councillor Tracey Bell revealed one of her secrets to success, getting elected and settling in as an effective representative, in her councillor report tabled at last week’s council meeting.

“Throughout this year, I have been a member of a small group of first-time councillors receiving coaching from Ruth McGowan,” said Cr Bell of the mentoring of former Baw Baw Mayor and also the author of ‘Get Elected’ referred to as ‘the candidate’s bible’ for aspiring politicians.

“It also gives me a network of councillors to refer to and work together with when we need to advocate to other levels of government as a sector,” said Cr Bell.

Stage 2 Inverloch Hub works to tender

HAVING completed Stage 1 of the Inverloch Hub Refurbishment works in March 2024, the Bass Coast Shire Council has just put the Stage 2 works out to tender, closing on December 10, 2025.

While the Stage 1 works cost \$225,000, the council has set aside \$1 million in its 2025-26 budget for the “Inverloch community hub renewal program”.

The scope for Stage 1 included kitchen renovation, skylights and ceiling works in the stadium, new stairs and store and handrails in the passage, but there’s still more to do.

The latest works are part of a program of \$14.6 million to upgrade community facilities, including the old Wonthaggi Post Office renewal (budget \$1.1 million, Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre building renewal (\$900,000) and Powlett River Pedestrian bridge renewal (\$650,000).

Bass Coast bus failures

BASS Coast and South Gippsland is something of a public transport black hole, and as identified by ‘Oliver’ in a question to the Bass Coast council, the buses aren’t cutting it.

“As a regular public transport user I am often stung by a bus being late or missing a bus and having to wait hours. What is the council doing to improve our bus services in Bass Coast and will they commit to working with the state government to improve them?”

The council acknowledged public transport advocacy was one of its key challenges and is committed to calling on State Government to improve bus services in the shire.

Can we apply for drains only

WHO knew? Seems residential property owners can apply for a “drainage only” Special

Charge Scheme, according to a Bass Coast Council answer to a question last week from Louise Lyell.

They can ask for street schemes to alleviate dust, drainage and safety issues or any one of the above.

Managing pets isn’t cheap

THE new Bass Coast Shire Council’s Domestic Animal Management Plan is history now, but 940 community members responded to its development through surveys, submissions, and pop-up conversations earlier this year.

And, as has been revealed by the answer to a question posed by Peter Fogarty at last week’s council meeting, preparation of the plan didn’t come cheap, with consultancy fees alone of \$29,260.

No sign of new Cowes’ ovals

THE question on the lips of many sporting families on Phillip Island, and certainly officials of the local football club, is when will the Island get its new ovals.

And at last week’s council meeting, Kym Lightfoot asked the question, however, there was no timeline provided.

“Two new football ovals are planned as part of the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve Master Plan adopted in September 2023,” said CEO Greg Box.

“Council has committed funds to commence the functional design of the precinct in its 2025/26 Annual Budget and is advocating for contributions from all levels of government.”

Council to engage on skate parks

AFTER the debacle at Ne-whaven about the development of a regional skate park, Bass Coast Council was questioned by Bill Wilson about progress on the project.

According to shire CEO Greg Box, there have been challenges in establishing a new location for the facility.

“The strategy now provides for two sub-regional facilities located in Wonthaggi and Cowes. Council will be engaging with the community to develop designs for Wonthaggi sub-regional facility in the coming months. The Strategy and Review document is available on Council’s website,” said CEO Greg Box.

Jurassic Park or Rainbow Park?

THERE were three questions to council last week about the progress being made on the shire’s ambitious Dinosaur Trail project.

According to Bass Coast CEO Greg Box, it’s coming along.

“Council is progressing the Dinosaur Trail project by prioritising the redevelopment of the Wyeth-McNamara Park Playground (commonly known as Rainbow Park) as the first stage,” he said.

“The immediate next step is completing the detailed design work, which will guide future stages of the Trail’s development. Further information on the project can be found on Council’s Engage Bass Coast website.”

Not much income from solar

IT’S all about the savings from using the “free” power from solar rather than the feed-in tariffs, according to the Bass Coast Shire.

Asked at last week’s council meeting what the shire was being paid for excess power generated by all the panels on shire-owned buildings, shire CEO Greg Box revealed it wasn’t much.

“The feed-in tariff Council receives for exporting excess solar power to the grid varies from 0.04 to 0.044 cents per kilowatt hour, depending on the size of the solar power system,” said Mr Box.

“The main financial benefit to Council and the community arises from using the free solar power on site as it is.”

Fake surveys a dog act

MEMBERS of a Bass Coast lobby group have been accused of submitting multiple surveys to the shire’s Domestic Animal Management Plan review process in an effort to skew the outcome.

In a question to council last week Peter Fogarty said the behaviour was reported to council but did council make a report to police and if not, why not?

The shire’s CEO Greg Box played a straight bat.

“Council’s community engagement platform, Engage Bass Coast, provides controls to ensure that community engagement submissions are genuine and unique,” he said.

“Through the Domestic Animal Management Plan engagement process, Council heard from a broad range of community members representing a diverse collection of interests.”

Council up and riding on MTB tracks

THERE’S no Bec Henderson on the Bass Coast Council’s staff, but they’re on track to developing several mountain biking facilities, admittedly at a pedestrian pace.

Questioned about progress at last week’s council

meeting, CEO Greg Box had some good news.

“Council is working on the delivery plan for its Mountain Bike/BMX/Pump Track Strategy which outlines high-level concepts for a Pump Track at Cape Woolamai and Mountain Biking facilities at Sunset Strip, Ventnor and Wonthaggi,” he said.

“Design work for the Pump Track at Sunnyside Reserve, Cape Woolamai is progressing in the current financial year, and the community will be consulted early next year.

“Council is also working with The Bass Coast Mountain Bike Association to progress design at Sunset Strip, Gap Road at Ventnor and West Area Road at Wonthaggi sites.

“Once complete, these designs will give Council shovel-ready projects ready to apply for external funding for construction, with opportunities already identified through Sport and Recreation Victoria and similar programs.”

Aldred welcomes funding for Silverleaves

FEDERAL Member for Monash Mary Aldred has welcomed the announcement of federal funding to address coastal erosion at Silverleaves, after strong advocacy in the federal parliament.

Since calling for a national framework to address coastal erosion in her maiden speech to the Parliament in July, Ms Aldred has repeatedly called for funding and support for Phillip Island and Inverloch.

“As recently as the last sitting period I spoke in the House of Representatives about residents in Silverleaves staring down the barrel of losing their homes to inundation. It goes to show that constructive, persistent advocacy as a local MP can secure outcomes for our community,” said Ms Aldred.

Ms Aldred added that she was keen to ensure the overall funding announced was sufficiently invested into Silverleaves to address its inundation challenges, and would continue working with local residents on this. Ms Aldred also said Inverloch was a critical priority she would continue to pursue action on at a state and federal government level.

Bushfire under investigation

POLICE are currently investigating a grass and scrub fire in the Wonthaggi wetlands that is believed to have been lit by youth on Monday just after 4pm.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Wonthaggi Police Station or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime.

Line in the sand

By Bruce Wardley

A SANDBAG solution for the Inverloch surf beach is no solution at all, according to the newly elected Leader of the State Liberal Party, Jess Wilson.

Taking over the Liberal leadership role from Brad Battin, who himself was no stranger to the coastal erosion problem at Inverloch, Ms Wilson was invited to inspect the local surf beach in her first week as Liberal leader.

"What's the timeline?" asked Ms Wilson.

Acknowledging that several months had already been lost in addressing the beach erosion problem at Inverloch, Ms Wilson said it was absolutely clear the State Government could spend \$5 million on a temporary sand solution.

"We need to save the area behind us and preserve the area around the RACV," she said.

"It's a band-aid solution."

Applauded by members of the Inverloch Coastal Advisory Network (I*CAN) and the Inverloch Foreshore Action Group (IFAG), Ms Wilson said what she had seen was a coastal community fighting for their homes.

"A permanent solution is needed," said Ms Wilson.

Ray Edwards from IFAG said it was important for the new Leader of the Liberal Party to see what a major problem Inverloch had with the loss of its foreshore and to investigate DEECA's proposal to pump more sand onto the beach only to see it washed away.

IFAG estimated a total of \$5.5 million had already been expended by State and Federal governments on a non-permanent solution.



Former Woorayl Shire Engineer Keith Godridge with newly elected Leader of the Victorian Liberal Party Jess Wilson looking at erosion damage at the Inverloch SLSC. B22_4725

"It's a scandal," IFAG claimed.

Paul Douglas from I*CAN said a long-term plan was needed to protect the beach.

"The Surf Life Saving Club could well lose its sand in one to two years," said Mr Douglas.

"Do we have to see a catastrophe before we see decent action?" he asked.

"That's not good enough."

Former State Liberal Party Leader Alan Brown told the new Liberal leader, 350 people had turned up to a mid-winter rally at the Inverloch Community Hub.

"We had widows, pensioners and young people just starting out on their mortgage journey attend the rally," said Mr Brown.

Kim White from IFAG said meetings to date with DEECA had not been overly satisfying.

"They know what's the right thing to do," said Jess Wilson.

Mr Douglas estimated it would cost \$12 million for rock groynes to stop the sideways movement of sand on the Inverloch surf beach.

"It's a matter of what we can afford," said Mr Douglas.

"Without a terminal rock barrier, we've got no final protection."

Mr White said the sand they had already loaded had just been washed away.

Former Woorayl Shire Engineer and member of IFAG, Keith Godridge said Silverleaves on Phillip Island had got a proper rock solution with rock bags.

"The rock bags at Silverleaves were put there five months ago," said Alan Brown.

"The local member is not even pretending to put up a fight," said Ms Wilson.

"Most people are not prepared to see 30 to 40 homes lost," said Mr Brown.

Member for Narracan, Wayne Farnham MP, said

another problem was that if the road to Cape Paterson was lost, there was no other road to the RACV resort.

Mr Godridge said Inverloch would also lose its main sewer line.

"Inverloch's utilities?" asked Ms Wilson.

"\$400 million to \$500 million in assets," replied Mr Douglas. "Noosa is a good example of working with nature."

"This place doesn't rate with the Gold Coast," said Mr Brown.

"I*CAN says pump up the sand, but put in protective works first. It is time for this town to enter the modern era. We need rock bags that can be lifted and put where they're wanted. The rock bags can then be lifted and taken away if the sand returns."

"Rock bags work beautifully already in Inverloch," said Mr Godridge.

"Sandbags will only last five years."

Mr Brown claimed Cape Paterson was about to be cut off by storm surges.

"It's very likely to be cut off next year," he said.

Mr Godridge said ten hectares of established foreshore vegetation had been lost.

Ms Wilson said what we have is a government that's ignoring the problem.

On her first visit to the Bass Coast since being elected Liberal Leader, Ms Wilson also said local schools were desperately in need of an upgrade.

"I want to listen to local people and their concerns and issues," she said.

Undertaking to return to the Bass Coast and South Gippsland, Ms Wilson later gave an address to a dinner in Wonthaggi organised by the local branch of the Liberal Party.

Shire in 'heartfelt' appeal for Neighbourhood House funding

THE tears welled up in Cr Ron Bauer's eyes when he started to speak about his first experience visiting his local Neighbourhood House, the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL), and saw all the food bank meals lined up for needy people in the community.

Speaking in support of Cr Mat Morgan's notice of motion at last week's Bass Coast Council meeting, calling for funding to Neighbourhood Houses to be restored to historical levels, with a 25 per cent increase, he said anyone in government with a heart must support it as well.

"Madam Mayor, fellow councillors and ratepayers watching this meeting," said Cr Bauer, starting with his now familiar refrain.

"The thing that really stood out to me when I first stood for election all those years ago now was when I was given the guided tour of PICAL.

"And the thing that really shocked me, and it still affects me today, is when he opened the kitchen door, and there was all those food



Bass Coast Councillors, including the Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Cr Meg Edwards and Cr Jan Thompson together with Janice Orchard president of the Corinella and District Community Centre, wasted no time, after last week's endorsement of the Neighbourhood House funding campaign, in raising the plight of local community houses with new state Liberal Party Leader, Jess Wilson, during a visit to Bass Coast last Friday.

bank meals, to think that I was lucky enough to go home for lunch and have a bowl of soup," said Cr Bauer.

"These Neighbourhood Houses are critical, critical for our people that have not got the ability to look after themselves.

"I thank Cr Morgan for

this motion. I endorse it and anybody with a heart in the government must endorse it too."

And everyone on council, it seemed, wanted to have their say as well.

Having passed the motion unanimously to formalise council's support for

Neighbourhood Houses Victoria's 'Keep Our Doors Open' campaign, while also calling for a boost to NHV's core funding from \$300,000 annually to \$500,000, councillors wasted no time in prosecuting the case with the new State Liberal Leader, Jess Wilson, during her visit to the area last week.

In question time, during a community meeting with Ms Wilson last Friday in Wonthaggi, Cr Jan Thompson raised the need for increased funding for Neighbourhood Houses Victoria with some houses were struggling to keep the doors open and meet demands for services.

"Just recently the Corinella and District Community Centre ran out of the basic staples of bread and milk. The number of those seeking support are growing while the shelves are now close to empty," said Cr Thompson.

"NHVIC needs more funding from the State Government and that is the message that Jess Wilson will take back to the parliament," she said.

Read more on the Sentinel-Times' website at sgst.com.au.

Personalised legal services



Phone (03) 5674 2644

23 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch

www.basscoastlegal.com.au

Servicing all areas.

Melina BATH MP

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon VIC 3844

melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au

5174 7066

MelinaBathMLC

Wills & Estate Claims



Protect your rights and secure your future

First interview free of charge and obligation

SIMON PARSONS & CO
LAWYERS

Helping clients Gippsland wide

Morwell 5133 7788

Sale 5144 7788

Warragul 5622 2387

www.simonparsons.com.au
enquiries@simonparsons.com.au

Local news

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

Sentinel-Times



www.sgst.com.au

Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



I AM deeply honoured to have been re-elected as Mayor for the coming year, and I want to sincerely thank my fellow Councillors for their trust and support. Over the past 12 months, we have worked diligently – together with our community – to set strong foundations for the years ahead. Through the development of our Council Plan, Long-Term Financial Plan and Budget, we have established a clear, strategic and community-driven direction for Bass Coast.

These achievements have only been possible because of the dedication, insight and collaboration of Councillors, supported every step of the way by engaged and passionate community members. Thank you to everyone who contributed your ideas and feedback – your voices have shaped the path we are now on.

I also extend my heartfelt congratulations to Cr Brett Tessari, elected as Deputy Mayor for 2025–2026. Brett brings experience, enthusiasm and a deep local connection to this role, and I look forward to working closely with him as we continue our shared drive to deliver the very best outcomes for our much-deserving community.

Advocacy will continue to be a major focus for us over the coming year. We know how important it is to secure investment and support for the projects and services our growing community relies on, and we remain steadfast in championing priorities such as the future of the former Wonthaggi Secondary College site, improved transport links, and the long-awaited Aquatics facilities. In December, we will lead a delegation to the Victorian Parliament to meet with Ministers and MPs and ensure Bass Coast's needs are clearly understood at the highest levels.

At today's Council Meeting, Councillors also supported a Notice of Motion to protect our community's voice in the State Government's new Planning Amendment (Better Decisions Made Faster) Bill 2025. We are calling for the Bill to be paused to allow proper consultation with councils and communities, and for the legislation to include stronger requirements that safeguard third-party review rights. We have requested an urgent meeting with the Minister for Planning and will continue supporting the Municipal Association of Victoria's advocacy on this important matter. Planning decisions shape the character of our towns and environment, and they must not be rushed or removed from community influence.

As I step into this next term, the foundations are in place, the direction is clear, and now it's time to get back to work, advocating strongly, planning thoughtfully and delivering the outcomes our vibrant and resilient community deserves. Thank you, Bass Coast. I'm ready for the year ahead.

Bass Coast Mayor and Deputy Mayor re-elected unopposed

IN A display of council solidarity, Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari were re-elected unopposed at this month's council meeting to serve a second 12-month term in their current roles.

Cr Tessari thanked his fellow councillors for the support they had shown him.

"It's been a big 12 months," Cr Tessari said.

"I've enjoyed representing the community to the best of my ability and congratulate the Mayor on the job she's done. She has been quite inspirational as far as getting around to as many community events and members of the community as possible."

In response, Cr Halstead said serving as Mayor had been both an honour and a privilege.

"A role that has allowed me to witness firsthand the passion, generosity and community spirit that make Bass Coast so special.

"Advocacy has remained at the heart of Council's work. We continue to champion major priorities such as the former Wonthaggi Secondary College site, a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Our push for modern aquatic facilities in both Wonthaggi and Phillip Island also remains strong, ensuring our growing community has access to safe, inclusive and contemporary recreation spaces."

One of the greatest privileges of the role, according to Cr Halstead, was working alongside a dedicated and capable



Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari were applauded by their fellow councillors after being re-elected for a second term unopposed. B09_4725

team of councillors.

"We don't always agree, we'll certainly continue to have those disagreements, but that's the beauty of good local democracy. We share deep respect for one another and a genuine commitment to doing what's best for our community. As a group, we have concentrated on delivering the best outcomes possible for Bass Coast."

Mayor Cr Halstead made special mention of Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari.

"An old hat at this, an experienced councillor, an experienced mayor and an experienced deputy mayor his support has been unwavering."

Thanking the community for the energy, ideas and belief in what can be achieved together, Cr Halstead expressed her

gratitude for their support and encouragement.

"Many individuals and groups quietly achieving incredible things, without fuss but with generosity and dedication. The challenges are never insurmountable, and the rewards are always well worth the effort."

Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead said she was honoured to continue leading a council that had worked hard to strengthen its planning foundations and partnerships.

"We've established a solid framework that gives us confidence in where we're heading.

"Council is well-positioned to deliver on the priorities as outlined in its long-term plans."

With no other nominations, Cr Halstead was elected Mayor and Cr Tessari elected as

Deputy Mayor for a one-year term from November 19, 2025. Council voted to increase expenses and allowances for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors for the next year.

Councillor and Mayoral allowances paid during the former term totalled \$352,805 with Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead receiving \$95,899, Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari \$48,369, and Councillors Meg Edwards, Mat Morgan, Ron Bauer, Tracey Bell, Tim O'Brien, Jon Temby and Jan Thompson receiving \$29,790.86.

Expenses ranged from \$28,556 for Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, \$12,037 for Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari to between \$3281 and \$12,068 for Cr Edwards, Cr Morgan, Cr Bauer, Cr Bell, Cr O'Brien, Cr Temby and Cr Thompson.

Special charge scheme hits a speed hump

THE brakes have been put on a proposed special charge scheme for The Esplanade between Sunderland Bay Road and Zephyr Court in Sunderland Bay after Bass Coast Shire Council resolved not to proceed with the scheme in its current form.

The decision to restart the process was blamed on a change within the scheme area, which affected the number of benefiting properties and the distribution of the special charge. The legislation for imposing a special charge

is very strict, and this change meant that the process was no longer compliant and would need to be restarted.

The special charge scheme was initiated by property owners on this stretch of road through a petition to council. All affected property owners have been formally notified of council's decision and thanked for their patience and understanding.

Council heard that a property within the scheme area had lodged an approved plan of subdivision, resulting in a

change to the number of benefiting properties with implications for the benefit ratio and the distribution of the special charge.

To ensure compliance with legislative requirements and to maintain fairness in the allocation of costs, a revised scheme will now be prepared and presented for council's consideration at a future date, at which time council will give public and statutory notice of its intent to declare a revised special charge.

Property owners will again

be provided with the opportunity to make written submissions and/or objections in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

The total cost of the original project was originally estimated at \$1.55 million with property owners asked to contribute \$409,000 and council the balance of \$1.11 million.

This original estimate now appears to have blown out to \$1.85 million.

Bass Coast Shire will reassess the costings and begin the formal process again.

Danny O'BRIEN_{MP}
State Member for Gippsland South

SHOP LOCAL
AND SUPPORT
LOCAL JOBS

Working for Gippsland South

(03) 5144 1987

danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au

54B Cunninghame St, Sale VIC 3850

dannyobrienmp.com.au

THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria



end of season
shutter sale



FREE measure+quote

**dollar
curtains
+blinds**

value in every dollar

Save 10%
Sale ends November 30

dc+b Wonthaggi

21 Murray St, Wonthaggi
Ph. 5672 2915



dollarcurtainsandblinds.com.au

Fearful legacy for new hospital chiefs

THE annual reports from our local hospitals have been tabled in State Parliament ahead of their local reporting season, starting this Thursday, November 27, with the annual general meeting of Bass Coast Health (BCH) in Wonthaggi.

It's a pivotal time for local health services as it will be the last time they report on their performance as independent organisations ahead of full integration into their Local Health Service Networks.

As well as revealing the financial health of our local hospitals at Cowes, Foster, Korumburra, Leongatha and Wonthaggi, these annual reports also dig deeper into service delivery, achievements and challenges in the year to June 30, 2025.

And a worrying statistic, underscoring the rising problem of violence in the general community, but also highlighting the hidden impact on health staff and increasing security costs for hospitals, is the number of occupational violence incidents reported locally.

Pleasingly, while still of concern, Bass Coast Health at Wonthaggi and Cowes (20.1 incidents per 100 EFT), and South Gippsland Hospital at Foster (12.9 per 100) have recorded the lowest rates of occupational violence in the Gippsland region, other

than the Yarram and District Health Service, which reported 13 incidents at a rate of 10 per 100 staff members.

Bass Coast Health reported 147 occupational violence incidents in total for the year, but with none of those resulting in injury or illness for staff.

The hospital at Foster reported 15 incidents for the 12 months to June 30, 2025.

Gippsland Southern Health Service, which operates hospitals at Korumburra and Leongatha, reported a higher rate of occupational violence at 35.5 incidents per 100 staff EFT, or 114 incidents in total with only one per cent resulting in injury or illness for staff.

But they also reported a significantly safer workplace in the past year.

"Occupational Health and Safety (OHS): Time to complete investigations into OHS matters and employee grievances improved significantly this year, contributing to a safer, more accountable workplace culture and a 15 per cent reduction in lost time for workers compensation claims and a 12 per cent reduction in Occupational Violence and Aggression (OVA) incidents. These gains reflect stronger systems and clearer responsibilities, aligned with our commitment to early resolution and staff



One of the challenges for new Local Health Service Network CEOs, including Adjunct Professor Adam Horsburgh, recently appointed the inaugural Chief Executive of Bayside Health, will be addressing the incidence of occupational violence in local hospitals.

wellbeing," quoted from the GSHS annual report.

At Warragul Hospital, the West Gippsland Healthcare Group did not report the number of incidents of occupational violence, but did record a dramatic reduction in the rate of violent incidents at their facility, down from a concerning 47.71 incidents per 100 staff the previous year to 24.14 in 2024-25.

Leanne Coupland, West Gippsland Healthcare Group (Warragul) acting director of people and culture, listed action on occupational violence and aggression as a key achievement for the health service during the year.

"Occupational Violence

and Aggression: In 2024, WGHG established a multi-disciplinary steering committee to develop an Occupational Violence and Aggression Prevention and Management Plan with the aim of improving preventative measures and incident management. The organisation reviewed its systems, policy and procedures, benchmarking against like organisations and developing new procedures. A review of OVA training and staff supports led to better management of difficult situations, and strengthened early intervention and de-escalation."

Kooweerup Regional Health Service reported 33 violent incidents in the

year at a rate of 23 per 100 staff, but elsewhere in Gippsland, the statistics paint a much more concerning picture.

Latrobe Regional Hospital reported an alarming 1842 violent incidents in 2024-25 at a rate of 91.5 per 100 staff, six per cent of which resulted in injury or illness for staff, the highest number of incidents and rate of occupational violence of any hospital in the region.

The annual report for Bairnsdale Regional Health Service, which operates the Bairnsdale hospital, revealed the second-worst result for violence and aggression across the region with 305 individual incidents during the year at a rate of 47.3 per 100 staff. The hospital reported that 17 per cent of these incidents resulted in injury or illness for staff.

Occupational violence is described as "any incident where an employee is abused, threatened or assaulted in circumstances arising out of, or in the course of their employment."

The incidence and rate of occupational violence at our hospitals, and its impact on staff safety and wellbeing, presents a significant challenge for the new Local Health Service Networks, including the Gippsland grouping of hospitals, which includes

Foster, Latrobe Regional, Warragul and Bairnsdale, and the Bayside Health grouping, which includes Korumburra, Leongatha, Cowes and Wonthaggi integrated with Kooweerup, Peninsula Health and The Alfred.

Officially established as a Local Health Service Network on July 1, 2025, the Bayside Health group will be fully integrated as one health service on January 1, 2026.

Earlier this month, the Designate Board of Bayside Health announced the appointment of Adjunct Prof Adam Horsburgh as the inaugural Chief Executive of the new Bayside Health.

Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath, said any level of occupational violence was unacceptable in a health care setting.

"Violence in our regional hospitals is unacceptable; our staff safety must be a priority," said Ms Bath.

"Zero tolerance for abuse is essential, but it requires proper resourcing, training and leadership.

"Rising incidents reflect a health system under strain, with staff managing surging patient volumes and complex behaviours.

"The Allan Labor Government must provide adequate budgets for training and support to de-escalate violent incidents, instead of leaving hospitals to struggle," she said.



BLACK FRIDAY DEALS





\$500 OFF
TRAEGER 885
PELLET GRILL



FIREHAWK KAMADOS
FROM
\$1499



25% OFF
ZIGGY BBQS
& ACCESSORIES



25% OFF
MAXIHEAT & MASPORT FIREPITS



SAVE
HUNDREDS ON SELECTED
ELECTRIC & WOOD
FIREPLACES

LIMITED STOCK!

Open 6 days a week - 6/6 Cyclone St, Wonthaggi - Ph. 5672 2543 - www.hpfire.com.au



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



\$7.2 million landfill rehabilitation project on time on budget

By Bruce Wardley

LANDFILL rehabilitation works behind the Transfer Station in Cameron Street, Wonthaggi, are about to enter a critical phase.

Despite the intermittent and ongoing wet weather, construction crews have begun testing soil beneath the surface to prepare for the next stage of works, and the project remains on budget. Subject to the ground drying out, geocomposite matting will be rolled out this month.

The first shipment of cuspated geocomposite sheeting arrived on October 10 and shipments are now arriving every two weeks. While shipping delays had pushed the schedule back by about four weeks, the project timeline was not affected because the wet weather had already paused on-site works.

To make sure everything meets required standards, samples from the new rolls have been sent for quality testing. According to Bass Coast Shire Council, this is a routine step and will help confirm the material hasn't been damaged during transport.

As soon as the weather improves and the site dries out, work will restart.

The next steps include completing the final preparation of the sub-grade (the layer beneath the road surface), installing the cuspated geocomposite sheeting once all test results are approved, and continuing with installation activities as more material arrives and is cleared for use.

The capping of the Wonthaggi closed landfill site is a groundbreaking world first for Council's Infrastructure Services Department and has been conducted in accordance with EPA-approved technical specifications, associated construction drawings and construction quality assurance plans. The final capping will be done in layers with an intermediate layer, sub-soil and topsoil mulch applied before the installation of an infiltration drainage system, and the cuspated sheet geo-composite drain and stormwater infrastructure.

Application refused for transport depot in rural residential zone

A PLANNING application for a transport depot in a rural residential zone in Boyd Street, Wonthaggi, has been refused by Bass Coast Shire Council, although the way was left open for a separate application to park a local school bus.

Council was told retrospective approval was sought as the applicant had been conducting an earthmoving business from the site in some capacity since 2002.

A total of 24 objections were received against the proposal, which was considered at odds with the guidelines for a Rural Living Zone despite the applicant having purchased and lived on the land for many years.

The application proposed to reinforce existing boundary landscaping and construct an additional internal screen to enhance the buffer between the contractor's depot and abutting properties.

The land was contained in an isolated residential estate of approximately 23 rural lifestyle lots known as Pommy Town, situated east of the Cape Paterson Road.

It was noted that a section of the Wonthaggi to Inverloch shared pathway runs alongside and crosses Moores Road and the intersection of Moores Road and Boyd Street.

It was recognised that Boyd Street and adjoining local access roads were unsealed and



Bass Coast Council rejected a planning application for a transport depot located at the southern end of Boyd Street, Wonthaggi, where the road terminates. B20_4725

did not currently meet the 6.2-metre carriageway width prescribed for rural living.

While it was noted that the proposed earthmoving business contributed to the local economy and fulfilled a commercial and community need, it was decided the depot would be more appropriately sited within a commercial or industrial zone.

Local residents had complained about dust, fumes, noise and vibration from the movement of large earthmoving vehicles to and from the site, but not all the objections were accepted as valid.

Because the land was used to park school buses, it was considered that use did not form part of the application. Bus Depot was not a defined land use and as the applicant

did not seek permission for the storage of buses onsite this was not under assessment.

Cr Mat Morgan said Pommy Town estate was a wonderful little community and thanked residents for their engagement in this sensitive issue.

"I take no pleasure in this," he said.

Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari said he had met with the applicant and a number of the objectors, who were sitting in the gallery to try to come up with a better solution.

"Unfortunately, this is a business that has grown," said Cr Tessari.

"He has been forced to operate the business from there because over the years we have used industrial estates for the wrong reasons, and

now we have a shortness of industrial land."

Cr Jon Temby said this development was incompatible with the expectations of a rural residential area and additionally to the rail trail (shared pathway).

"This contractor's depot should be located elsewhere in the shire," said Cr Temby.

Cr Meg Edwards urged council to pull out every stop to help this business in every way possible to be able to find alternative land that is more suitable for what they were wanting to do.

A majority of councillors agreed the proposal was at odds with the primary purpose of a rural residential zone and voted to refuse the application. Cr Tessari abstained.

GET
WHAT
YOU
REALLY
WANT

*Recommended driveaway price for ABN Holders Ranger Wildtrak Double Cab V6 MY26 & prior, while stocks last. Vehicles must be purchased and delivered by 31/12/2025. Non ABN Holders \$75,000. LMCT \$179

FROM
\$72K DRIVE
AWAY*
FOR ABN HOLDERS

RANGER WILDTRAK
MY26

Leongatha Ford 1 Hughes St, Leongatha
5662 4144 | www.leongathaford.com.au

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2025 | 9



South Gippsland
Shire Council

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Free Business Mentoring Sessions with NEX

Council is proud to partner with NEX Business, Farming, and Wellness, to provide mentoring to local businesses.

As a part of the partnership, NEX are offering free, confidential one-on-one mentoring sessions. The sessions are available throughout the day or early evening, in-person or online, so they can fit around your busy schedule.

Whether you're looking to find work-life balance, improve your cash flow or plan your next chapter, support is available.

NEX are based locally and have a strong understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities faced by South

Gippsland businesses. Formerly known as the Rural Financial Counselling Service, NEX are a not-for-profit organisation who have been offering agri-business advice in Gippsland for 40 years.

Farms are businesses too, and they're the backbone of South Gippsland's community, environment and economy. The mentoring sessions can provide advice on funding opportunities, coaching, succession planning and development for farming operations.

For more information and to sign up for a session, visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/business-support

Walk Against Family Violence



To support the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Council will host an event featuring a walk and a respect-themed photo pop-up activity run by PollyannaR.

Wear orange and join the walk towards a future free from violence.

Date: Wednesday 26 November.

Where: Leongatha Memorial Hall.

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

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

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 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

GREEN WASTE AMNESTY

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

For more information, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/greenwasteamnesty

COMMUNITY IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

Date: Thursday 4 December.

Where: Leongatha Early Learning Centre, 13 Symmons Street.

When: 9.30am to 11.30am

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation

SUBSCRIBE TO [IN THE KNOW](#)

Sign up to Council's fortnightly newsletter to stay up to date with the latest news, events, community consultations and grants.

To subscribe, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/intheknow

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.

RFT/452 – Design and Construction of All-Abilities Pontoon at the Port Welshpool Boating Facility

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 9 December 2025.

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha

03 5662 9200

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Nathan Hersey back in the Mayor's chair

By Andrew Palocz

NATHAN Hersey has returned for a second term as South Gippsland Shire Mayor, his vote combined with those of Councillors Brad Snell, Scott Rae, John Kennedy and Steve Finlay ensuring a majority decision in Cr Hersey's favour, Cr Rae having also been nominated for the mayoral election.

Cr Snell was elected Deputy Mayor, with the other nominees for that position, Cr Rae and Cr Kennedy, withdrawing from the process.

When asked by the Sentinel-Times, the newly appointed Mayor expressed confidence that he and Cr Sarah Gilligan will work productively together despite her obvious disappointment at the result, having like Cr Hersey put forward a strong case for election.

"We'll work on that," he said, commenting that serving the community is a shared goal.

He stressed that he loves democracy and making a difference and is a big believer in putting yourself forward when you feel you can step up and do the role, with that in no way detracting from what others can contribute.



Nathan Hersey has returned to the Mayor's role in South Gippsland Shire, with Brad Snell stepping into a leadership role as Deputy Mayor. A03_4725

Cr Hersey expressed his appreciation of the support shown in him, having stated that more needs to be done to convey to people the positive results council is achieving, committing to lead and enhance communications and strengthen council's public image.

"I expect more videos and short clips, and engaging clips with members of the community; I would say that the

visual side of things is what gets attention," he said, arguing sometimes it takes only one negative person to detract from the good work council is doing.

He'd like to see council be more responsive in explaining the situation when unfair criticism occurs, with that often left to individual councillors.

Before the Mayoral election, Cr Hersey outlined why he chose to run.

"I'm nominating for Mayor, because I know I have the capacity, the skill and the time to do the role and I understand the scale of the organisation and the responsibility we hold to our region and our people," he said, noting his strong involvement in politics at all levels over 13 years.

Cr Hersey highlighted the need for clear, steady and focused leadership and working as a team, pointing out South Gippsland Shire Council manages a budget of more than \$90 million a year and \$1 billion worth of assets for the community.

Cr Hersey was asked by Sentinel-Times what he has learned from his previous term as Mayor.

"The organisation needs very clear direction from the councillor group through the Mayor to the CEO, and that direction needs to come from each of us as we listen to our community and make sure we're in tune with where the community is at," he said.

Having tipped Cr Gilligan as the Mayor, based on her being given the chance to build on her experience as Deputy Mayor, this scribe will stick to facts, having demonstrated he's not much of a punter.

Brad Snell declares he's ready for Deputy Mayor role

ONE year into his first term as a South Gippsland Shire councillor, Brad Snell is confident he's ready for a leadership role, the councillor group having appointed him as Deputy Mayor on Wednesday, and he is excited to be working with newly elected Mayor Nathan Hersey.

"There's some great ideas and great strategy coming out of that space; it's forward thinking and it's going to elevate us," Cr Snell said, confirming he was referring to Cr Hersey.

Cr Snell elaborated that such ideas and strategy will tie in with the Council Plan and Vision.

He spoke of the importance of "making sure we can continue to deliver services that

represent the community's values, needs and wants", also stressing that current economic constraints apply to council as well as households.

Measures to boost tourism and advocating for business are ideas Cr Snell touched on as ways to improve the economic outlook in South Gippsland Shire.

"They're not structural investment things like buildings and assets, but they're organisational investments," he said.

Improved communication and better representation are a couple of developments the new Deputy Mayor would like to see council deliver, believing the process of community consultation can be improved, with that linking into services

and how money gets spent by council.

In response to a Sentinel-Times inquiry about how community consultation can be improved, Cr Snell referred to volunteer organisations running council assets, such as Recreation Reserve committees, arguing council sometimes needs to do a better job in communicating the state of those assets and helping with planning.

He sees scope for council to provide greater guidance in relation to things such as Budget submissions and grant applications.

"Instead of having higgledy-piggledy consultation methods over minor details, proper centralised plans help emphasise strong communication,"

Cr Snell said.

He said he is inspired by having other leaders around and is not daunted by the challenge of his role.

"I have been in leadership positions before with much higher physical risk, as opposed to risk in a governance space, where the risks are immediate and the effects can be very detrimental, so working hard and adapting to this space isn't difficult for me," Cr Snell said.

His past leadership roles were in alpine environments, involving large teams, having to deal with fast-moving situations, and he stressed he is experienced in forming connections with stakeholders in industry and in the recreational tourism space.

Buzzing bumper crowds for Melbourne Cup long weekend

LOCAL tourist operators are preparing for a busy summer ahead after South Gippsland experienced one of its busiest Melbourne Cup long weekends ever.

With bumper crowds at local events and strong visitor numbers across the region, the Visitor Information Centre team at Foster reported large numbers of travellers stopping at the Visitor Centre to enquire about what South Gippsland had to offer.

Glorious warm summer weather attracted large numbers to local beaches right across the region. Wilsons Promontory was especially busy on the sunny Sunday with several car parks reaching capacity, while Monday's

cool change brought steady traffic to the Information Centre as families sought indoor activities and rainy-day options.

With many interstate and international visitors not aware of the long weekend, a large number struggled to secure last-minute bookings for accommodation and camping.

Visitors were drawn to an impressive range of events spanning the region, including Halloween celebrations, Cup Eve and Cup Day festivities, concerts, markets, art exhibitions, author talks, wine dinners, and garden shows.

The Bendigo Bank Tarwin Lower Festival reported a record attendance of 3000

people enjoying 50 market stalls, free children's entertainment, music acts, classic vehicles, and popular attractions such as tractor pulls and horse and cart rides.

Overall, the strong visitor numbers and vibrant event program highlighted the region's enduring appeal as a premier holiday destination for both locals and visitors, according to South Gippsland Shire councillor and former Mayor Cr John Schelling.

"South Gippsland was buzzing over the Melbourne Cup weekend, and it was fantastic to see so many visitors enjoying what our region has to offer. From vibrant local events to the natural beauty

of Wilsons Promontory, the strong turnout highlights just how special this part of the world is. Our community, volunteers, and event organisers should be proud of the experience they created for visitors and locals alike."

President of the Tarwin Lower Festival committee, Mike Davey, said it had been a record-breaking year with more stalls, live music and patrons than ever before.

"It was a great day for all involved. We couldn't have done it without our sponsors, 50 volunteers, and our hard-working committee. It's a fantastic example of the community coming together to deliver an event by the community, for the community."

Mayor's Message



South Gippsland
Shire Council

Cr Nathan
Hersey



It is an honour to serve as your Mayor once again. After previously holding this role in 2023, I am looking forward to leading our Councillor group as we continue working together to achieve great outcomes for our community. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Councillor John Schelling for his leadership as Mayor over the past 12 months. Cr Schelling's ability to bring people together is to be admired. I'm sure many will agree that we saw passion and conviction to guide Council through its first year following the election.

The role of Mayor can be demanding and often thankless, but it is also deeply rewarding when we work toward shared goals for the benefit of our region and our people.

My sincere and genuine thanks to Councillor Sarah Gilligan for her energy and passion in the role of Deputy Mayor over the past year. The clear commitment to supporting the Mayor has been outstanding. Cr Gilligan has and will continue to ask the questions we all need to consider as we focus on bright future for South Gippsland.

Thank you to John! Thank you to Sarah! Congratulations to Councillor Brad Snell on his appointment as Deputy Mayor. I'm looking forward to working closely alongside Cr Snell.

Upcoming Council Meeting

Our next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 26. I encourage our residents to watch via livestream or join us in the gallery to stay informed about the decisions shaping your local area.

Walk Against Family Violence

On the same day, Council will participate in the Walk Against Family Violence as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign. Please join us at 12.30pm from Memorial Hall, Leongatha, and wear a splash of orange to show your support for a future free from violence. PollyannaR will also host a Respect-themed photo pop-up outside the hall from 10am to 2pm – come along and get involved.

New Mural for Leongatha

If you've been through Leongatha recently, you may have noticed activity on Bair Street.

Internationally renowned artist TWOONE has returned to South Gippsland to create a large-scale mural at 23 Bair Street, alongside local youth artists Riam Chilver and Eileen Tanaka.

This project, funded through the Victorian Government's Amplify program, celebrates creativity and youth engagement. I encourage you to check out the mural in progress and share your photos at <https://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/TWOONE>.

Sporting Success for South Gippsland

I also want to acknowledge an incredible local achievement – Foster's own Willem Duursma was selected as the West Coast Eagles' top pick in the AFL Draft. Congratulations, Willem! We're proud of your success and wish you all the best for the 2026 season.

Meeniyah Hub Community Asset Committee

Finally, Council is seeking nominations for the Meeniyah Hub Community Asset Committee. If you're interested in helping manage this important community space, please submit a nomination form online or collect one from Council's Main Office or the Meeniyah Hub. Submissions close Wednesday 26 November, with inductions starting early December.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meeniyahub

It's good night to unlocking rural tourism

YOU'VE got to go way back to a hare-brained proposal in February 2017 to develop a \$28 million resort-style hotel at 92 Norsemans Road, Coronet Bay, primarily for Chinese tourist groups, to find the genesis of the "Bass Coast Unlocking Rural Tourism (BURT) Strategy".

The resort proposal, which involved a 173-unit hotel, 354-space carpark, hospitality and function facilities, with a residential component to follow, and expected to generate a \$20 million economic benefit annually for the Bass Coast economy, attracted a lot of criticism locally.

The council of the day, of which only Cr Brett Tessari remains, reportedly backed the local opposition and rejected the proposal, which ultimately didn't progress to VCAT, although the now deregistered company behind the project, Ausco Investment Group, is listed as taking four other municipalities to VCAT around the same time: Whitehorse, Monash, Kingston and Greater Dandenong.

As well-intentioned as the development of the BURT strategy was then, as a way of giving council the necessary tools to protect itself and the community from unwanted developments of that sort, especially in rural zones, the adopted strategy was at risk of doing the exact opposite.

As a result of a motion at last Wednesday's council meeting, the BURT has now been dropped, and with it goes the \$100,000 grant the shire received in 2020 from the Victorian Planning Authority to undertake the research work for the strategy.

But it would be unfair to say the present council is responsible for the \$100K loss.

Much has changed since 2017. At last week's meeting, council unanimously voted to discontinue the strategy after receiving a report from council officers, at the initiative of Island Ward Councillor Tim O'Brien.

At the September 2025 council meeting, Cr O'Brien said the "ill-conceived" strategy put at risk the preservation of the region's sweeping ocean vistas and shorelines, framed by its scenic landscapes and undulating farmlands."

Speaking at council last Wednesday, he said the BURT proposed radical changes to land use planning, changes which would become permanent once those new uses are approved.

"The opposition to the BURT from our community is clear. It is not supported by farmers and their representative bodies, the REG group and VFF representatives there, who will be hurt by its outcome, who will see piece by piece, land around them bought up by land bankers and speculators waiting to capitalise on rezoning opportunities.

"It is clearly not supported by the community, for that majority who survey after survey nominate the preservation of character as a key objective of Council.

"We have too much at stake, too much too easily lost to not put this unwelcome strategy to bed. So, it's good night BURT," said Cr O'Brien.

Read more on the Sentinel-Times' website at sgst.com.au.

Bupa Nature Regeneration Project

IN A healthy move towards achieving its net zero ambitions, Bupa announced on Wednesday, November 18, a significant nature regeneration and decarbonisation project through the purchase and regeneration of a 250-hectare farm in Victoria's South Gippsland region.

Over the coming 25 years, the Bupa Nature Regeneration Project at Mount Eccles intends to bring back local wildlife and rejuvenate the site with more than 200,000 native trees and shrubs, including Blue Gum, Blackwood and Silver Wattle.

The amount of carbon intended to be captured in plants, trees and soil over the life of the project is estimated to be around 200,000 tonnes.

The Bupa Nature Regeneration Project at Mount Eccles will have no impact on health insurance premiums or other healthcare delivery costs for customers and has been registered by the Clean Energy Regulator.

TWOONE team embarks on new Leongatha project

SO SUCCESSFUL was this year's artistic collaboration that gave South Gippsland Shire Council's ArtCubes a stunning new look, the same artistic trio has recently tackled a completely different Leongatha project, this time a long and high wall near the pedestrian bridge connecting the town to the railway precinct.

The creative team consists of renowned artist Hiroyasu Tsuru, known as TWOONE (pronounced two-one), and up-and-coming local talents Eileen Tanaka and Riam Chilver.

Before a design was created, former Leongatha Secondary College pupil Riam visited the school's Year 9 art students, getting their ideas about South Gippsland and what they would like included. And while they were initially a little shy, ideas soon started to flow.

As with the ArtCubes, flora and fauna in the local area played a big part in the design, the students particularly enthusiastic in naming various types of birds to include.

While the subject matter between the two projects was related, more planning was required this time, Hiroyasu describing the challenge of painting the wall as an extension of July's ArtCube project.

"This time we took it further," he said, explaining the long wall required a different approach to the square cubes,



Riam Chilver, Hiroyasu Tsuru and Eileen Tanaka have been busy creating a new nature-inspired mural for Leongatha locals and visitors to enjoy. A14_4725

leading him to suggest a design that flowed from one end to the other.

Therefore, a swooping Magpie, a hopping rabbit and other featured wildlife are moving from Bair Street towards the railway precinct.

Among the tools used, spray bottles containing paint and water create a spatter effect, while extension poles with paint rollers are used to define details.

Eileen said doing another project together has been exciting.

"We can work off our traits

and what we can do better," she said of the advantage of having gotten to know each other.

Eileen feels that the wall's brick surface is easier to paint on than the corrugated surface of the ArtCubes, also drying quicker.

However, the wall's height introduces a new element, having to constantly go up and down a ladder, painting a little and then checking the perspective from a distance.

The sun's glare has also been difficult at times.

When Sentinel-Times came

to view progress on Thursday, the project had advanced surprisingly well, having only begun on Monday and being repeatedly disrupted by rain.

Council's arts development officer Mary Sullivan visited the artists on site on Thursday, delighted with how the mural has gone and the way in which Hiroyasu involves Riam and Eileen, being excited to see the trio reunited as a team.

Their latest project was made possible through the State Government's Amplify grant program, formerly known as FReeZA.

ExxonMobil Australia Decommissioning Update: The biggest vessel in the world coming to Gippsland



November Update:

Esso Australia is preparing to welcome the world's largest and most-advanced construction vessel to Bass Strait as part of Australia's largest offshore decommissioning campaign.

After reliably delivering reliable energy to Australians for more than 50 years, several of our offshore platforms have reached the end of their productive life.

As we responsibly decommission our offshore facilities that are no longer producing oil and gas, Esso Australia has contracted the Allseas vessel 'Pioneering Spirit' to do the heavy lifting – removal of 12 retired facilities from the Gippsland Basin.

The Pioneering Spirit will travel all the way from the Netherlands to arrive in Bass Strait in 2027, marking its first-ever deployment in Australian waters.

The vessel is a game-changer in offshore engineering. At nearly 400 metres long – that's equivalent to almost three MCG fields laid end-to-end, and almost one MCG wide, it is purpose-built to install and remove entire offshore platforms in 2 lifts – one for the top section above water and one for the support structure below water which can

be as tall as a 25 storey building.

Removing the platforms in single lifts improves safety and efficiency and reduces the risk of environmental impacts.

Once removed by the Pioneering Spirit, we will transfer the structures to shallow draft heavy transport vessels and transport them to Barry Beach Marine Terminal, where they will be safely dismantled with more than 95% of the materials being recycled and given a second life.

Planning and engineering to support the Pioneering Spirit's arrival is already underway, led by ExxonMobil Australia and Allseas teams in Melbourne and Perth, with support from our global decommissioning centre of expertise. We're looking forward to welcoming this world-class technology to Australian waters for the first time.

We remain committed to meeting all regulatory requirements, collaborating on best practices, and engaging with stakeholders throughout this process. For more information or to share your feedback, please contact us at consultation@exxonmobil.com.



Now
comes with a
\$305
fine for riding if
you're under 16!

**If you think e-scooters
are a toy, think again.**



They're still watching you despite cuts

THE installation of two surveillance cameras at Maher's Landing has given boat owners and fisheries officers 24/7 on-line coverage of local boating and fishing activities. Powered by batteries and solar panels, fisheries officers and the boating community can view conditions at the ramp regardless of weather conditions or power outages. Undersize fish left on the deck of a boat or multiple fishing trips on the same day to avoid catch limits can all be detected and prosecuted using evidence from land-based cameras.

The Victorian Fisheries Authority revealed in its annual report inspections and compliance activities were scaled back prior to cutting fisheries officer positions.

The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria and Shadow Minister for Outdoor Recreation, Melina Bath has claimed cuts have left Victoria's waterways vulnerable to poaching, criminal activity and environmental degradation.

In 2024/25 recreational angler licences and catch limit inspections fell by 35 per cent, dropping from 43,877 in 2023/24 to just 28,395, while detected offences declined by 36 per cent.

Ms Bath has demanded answers from the Allan Government saying the figures confirm the fears of local coastal communities.

"Westernport, Gippsland Lakes and Port Welshpool communities rely heavily on commercial and recreational anglers to support their livelihoods. The Allan Government's decision to slash fisheries officers further exposes Victoria's waterways to the threats of poaching and overfishing."

Ms Bath said cuts were reckless and jeopardised local jobs, marine biodiversity and Victoria's reputation for world-class fisheries.

"Anglers, fishing and industry advocates are deeply concerned about the consequences for our coastal communities and world-class seafood. Compliance checks are vital to stop illegal fishing and protect the sustainability of fish stocks and health of our waterways," said Ms Bath.

Stony Creek set for festive start to the racing season

THE countdown is on for the Stony Creek Racing Club (SCRC) 2025/26 summer racing season, with the highly anticipated Brandt Christmas Races kicking off on Sunday, December 7.

As the first race meeting of the season, the Christmas Races promise an exciting return to country racing for the region, bringing together families, friends, work groups and racegoers to celebrate the festive season in true country racing style.

SCRC CEO Jason Benbow said preparations are well underway, with upgrades and improvements across the grounds ensuring an exceptional start to the season.

"We've been busy doing upgrades around the grounds ahead of the first race meeting. Everything is looking fantastic, and we can't wait to welcome the community back to the track," he said.

The Christmas Races will deliver an unforgettable day out, with something for everyone. Kids can enjoy Santa's Workshop, pony rides, face painting, and interactive activities, while racegoers enjoy live music, food trucks, and the relaxed atmosphere that makes Stony Creek so unique.

Racegoers can bring their own picnic setup or choose from a range of packages available, including private marquees, picnic tables,



Racing season is well and truly underway in Victoria with Stony Creek kicking off on Sunday, December 7.

umbrellas, and bean bags. With something for everyone, the Christmas Races offer the perfect opportunity to gather with friends, family or your work team to kick off Summer and celebrate the festive season.

The 2025/26 Summer Racing Season includes five race days, culminating in the much-loved Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup Day on Sunday, March 8, over the long weekend.

Tickets are just \$20 for adults, \$15 concession, and kids are free. There are also a range of ticketing packages and bus services to make

getting to and from the track easy and stress-free.

It's not too late to become a member and make the most of the season. SCRC memberships offer exceptional value, including free entry to all five race days, exclusive access to members' areas and bars, happy hour drinks and discounts on marquee bookings. Members also enjoy reciprocal rights at neighbouring clubs, including Moe, Sale, Bairnsdale, and Traralgon.

Memberships start from \$55 for Full Members, \$50 for Seniors, and \$240 for Corporate

Memberships (includes four passes).

Secure your tickets and find out more at country.racing.com/stony-creek.

2025/26 race dates:

- Sunday, December 7 – Christmas Races
- Tuesday, December 30 – Family Races
- Sunday, January 18, 2026 – Triple Dead Heat Anniversary Races
- Sunday, February 15, 2026 – Publicans Day Races
- Sunday, March 8, 2026 – Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup Day

MARINUS

LINK

Meet the contractors delivering Marinus Link

Construction begins next year on this national infrastructure project – register now to attend upcoming industry briefing events

Leongatha

4 December

←

Traralgon

5 December

events.humanitix.com

◇ Network with Marinus Link, lead contractors and industry agencies

◇ Learn about upcoming work packages and construction timelines

◇ Discover diverse supply chain opportunities

ICN Industry Capability Network Victoria

AS REAL AS IT GETS

BRANDT CHRISTMAS RACES

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER 2025

BOOK ONLINE NOW

stonycreek.com.au

racing@stonycreek.com.au

(03) 5664 0099

YOU CAN TEACH IN REGIONAL VICTORIA

The future is calling, and we need your help to educate the next generation. With secondary teaching scholarships, employment-based degrees, and a range of supports to help get you into the classroom, there's never been a better time to become a teacher in Victoria.



 **TEACH THE FUTURE**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne



Latest ambulance response times in the Gippsland Region

AMBULANCE Victoria (AV) paramedics faced a record-breaking winter with demand for critical emergency care surging as seasonal illness spread throughout the state.

AV acting executive director regional operations Michael Georgiou said between July and September, demand for 'lights and sirens' ambulances across Victoria increased by 2.8 per cent compared with the previous quarter.

"Winter consistently brings the highest emergency call volumes, and this year was no exception. This was our busiest first quarter on record with 101,632 Code 1 emergencies in just three months, and overall, it was our second busiest quarter ever," Mr Georgiou said.

"We sincerely thank our people who worked tirelessly to meet record levels of demand this winter. Their dedication and commitment to consistently deliver best care and saving lives under pressure is remarkable.

"Despite this record demand, we continue to lead the way in pre-hospital patient care, including the best cardiac arrest survival rates in Australia and third best anywhere in the world."

During the July to September quarter, AV crews responded to 64.1 per cent of Code 1 cases within the state-wide target of 15 minutes. The state-wide average response time to Code 1 emergencies was 15 minutes and 46 seconds.

In the Gippsland Region, crews responded to 6181 Code 1 cases between July and September 2025 – which is 2.06 per cent more than three months ago (6,056).

The biggest improvements in the Gippsland Region were in the major population centres of Sale and Bairnsdale and the East Gippsland Local Government Area (LGA).

Bass Coast recorded 715 Code 1 first responses with the average response time of 16 minutes and 42 seconds, down 16 seconds on the previous quarter. Code 2 average responses, however, jumped to 45 minutes and 15 seconds from 43 minutes and 35 seconds in the previous quarter.

South Gippsland saw an improvement of two seconds on average response times for Code 1 with 506 calls, one less than the previous quarter. Code 2 responses were similar to the previous quarter, coming in at 40 minutes and 37 seconds compared to 40 minutes and 15 seconds in quarter four.

Gippsland Regional Director Ross Salathiel said the support of the community can also help save lives – if you need help but it's not life-threatening, we encourage you to consider the most appropriate care for your situation.

"Our paramedics are focused on reaching the sickest patients first – but every day, about one in five calls to Triple Zero (000) do not need an emergency ambulance response," Mr Salathiel said.

"Getting the right care fast can make all the difference and means more paramedics are on the road for people who need our urgent lifesaving care the most.

"There are many options people can access when they need timely medical care and health advice, at any time of the night or day – but not an emergency ambulance or calling Triple Zero (000), including the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED), Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse-on-Call, GPs and pharmacists."

Mr Georgiou said AV is working closely with hospitals, emergency services and government partners to keep patients moving through the system as quickly as possible and get ambulances back on the road sooner.

"The Standards for Safe and Timely Ambulance and Emergency Care are already making a difference transferring patients into hospital care in a consistent, safe and timely way," Mr Georgiou said.

"As part of this work, our crews have made steady improvements to improve our hospital clearing times and return to the community faster. Every small improvement – from more efficient handovers to quicker clearing times – adds up to better care for all Victorians."

Mr Georgiou said AV's Triage Services team – staffed by nurses and paramedics – also plays a vital role by connecting people with the right care and freeing up ambulances for life-threatening emergencies.

"Between July and September alone, our Triage Services team redirected 49,353 non-urgent calls to Triple Zero (000) away from an emergency response," Mr Georgiou said.

"Since its launch in October 2020, we have also referred more than 85,000 patients to the VVED for appropriate online emergency care, and more than 673,000 patients have benefited overall from this free, 24/7 service."

In a life-threatening emergency always call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Jobs erased as the Yarram sawmill closes

A COMPLETELY unforeseen announcement came without warning on Tuesday, November 20, and left both Yarram and the surrounding community stunned.

Associated Kiln Driers (AKD) announced that its Yarram sawmill would be closing immediately, leaving 73 people suddenly out of work, 38 days out from Christmas. In a small town with an even smaller job market, this news landed heavily.

AKD explained the decision in a statement. The company said the national slowdown in housing construction has pushed demand down across the sector. Meanwhile, operating costs have continued to climb. After an internal review, the business decided the Yarram operation can no longer continue.

The mill specialised in lower grade plantation pine used for pallet and packaging manufacture as well as landscaping products. That work will still continue at AKD's larger sites in Colac, Caboolture, Tumut and Oberon.

"This has been an extremely difficult decision to arrive at, but a necessary one to take when we consider all the external factors at play and prioritise what's best for AKD's long-term future," said AKD CEO, Shane Vicary.

He said staff would be offered support through an employee assistance program and talked about redeployment options elsewhere, but also acknowledged the impact this closure would have on the community.

"Having operated in regional communities for 70 years, the significance of our departure from Yarram is not lost on us. We understand how important our operations have been to the fabric of this region and we are committed to working with local stakeholders in Gippsland to reduce the impact of the closure where reasonably possible," he said.

Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, called the closure a "devastating blow."

"Seventy-three jobs lost in a town the size of Yarram is enormous," he said.

"These are local families, local businesses and a whole community that will feel the impact of this closure immediately."

Mr O'Brien said the pressures AKD are facing within the sector have been significantly worsened by the Allan Labor Government's high property taxes



The Yarram community has been left stunned after the closure of the Yarram sawmill on Tuesday last week.

and bungled housing policy.

"AKD has outlined the pressures facing the sector, but broader economic conditions under Labor are also compounding difficulties for businesses across the state. That slowdown in construction directly affects mills like Yarram, where demand for timber products has fallen while operating costs continue to climb. This is a further blow to Yarram after Labor's decision to end native timber harvesting which also cost jobs in the town," he said.

"It's concerning that the decision has been put down to the slowdown in the housing construction sector at a time when we need more houses built than ever."

Wellington Shire's new Mayor, Cindy Madeley, expressed the same shock. She said the closure was heartbreaking, particularly so close to the holiday period.

"We share the pain and uncertainty this brings and will do everything we can to support affected workers and their families, especially with this news coming so close to Christmas," Mayor Madeley said.

"We are pushing the State Government to provide appropriate levels of support for the families affected."

The closure also sits against a wider backdrop that has been building for some time. Forestry in the region does not look the way it once did. The Victorian Government ended native timber harvesting in state forests in January 2024, and this is just another step in that same direction.

While AKD works entirely with plantation pine and is not part of native harvesting, the atmosphere around forestry in Gippsland has shifted. Timber once felt like a dependable source of work in places like Yarram; however, the industry is now more fragile. The state-wide end of native harvesting, combined with economic pressures and lower demand for timber products, has left smaller mills more vulnerable and small towns more exposed. The closure of the AKD mill may not be an isolated event but rather reflect a broader pattern of change that regional community members have been watching unfold.

"Although this is a softwood mill, there have been flow-on effects from the closure of the native timber industry, given the mill has usually sold its woodchips to Opal at Maryvale and that market has since become volatile," said Mr O'Brien.

A major employer does not disappear quietly in a regional town. There's no doubt that Yarram will feel this. Not only is there the immediate loss of income for 73 families, but also the second wave, where small businesses will likely begin to sense the absence. Shops, cafes, mechanics, schools. It takes time, but the ripples can reach them all.

Wellington Shire Council has promised to advocate for economic diversification and has said it is willing to talk with any industry investor who might have interest in the mill site, though no future plans have been outlined yet. For now, the focus is on those who walked into work last Tuesday and walked out unemployed.

SGH enters a new era of electronic healthcare solutions

ON NOVEMBER 10, South Gippsland Hospital went live with Sunrise Electronic Medical Record (EMR).

This follows a \$12 million investment from the Victorian State Government aimed at expanding the availability of electronic medical record (EMR) software to hospitals across the Gippsland region relying on paper-based patient records.

This expansion is being implemented by the Gippsland Health Alliance with Altera's Sunrise EMR clinical suite.

The EMR provides many clinical benefits, including a reduction in risks and medical errors, improved clinical decision-making, and improved patient health outcomes. Access to clinical results in the medical record is essential to ensure healthcare professionals have accurate patient information, maximising the quality of care provided to patients and streamlining work for medical staff.

Chief Information Officer of GHA, Adrian Shearer, says that the successful implementation of Sunrise EMR has established the foundation for future digital growth and development in healthcare across the region.

"The public health industry is rapidly evolving, and technological solutions are rapidly improving information management and patient outcomes



South Gippsland Hospital staff mark the launch of the new Sunrise Electronic Medical Record system, introduced to improve patient care and streamline clinical workflows.

within health services. The EMR has created the opportunity for South Gippsland Hospital to work in greater partnership with the other health services across the region, creating a more streamlined experience for patients across Gippsland," said the CIO.

Chief Executive Officer at South Gippsland Hospital, Paul Greenhalgh, said that staff at South Gippsland Hospital were instrumental in preparing for and adopting the EMR system.

"This accomplishment reflects the

behind-the-scenes efforts of our incredible staff at every project stage. They thoroughly tested the EMR's functionality with other systems, embraced both online and classroom training, and collaborated during Go-Live. Thanks to their active engagement, South Gippsland Hospital has smoothly adopted the EMR," said Paul.

South Gippsland Hospital would like to thank staff for their active participation in and engagement during the implementation of EMR.



Rob and Narelle from Bass Coast Specialist School collected a cheque for \$3000, which will go towards a defibrillator for the school. Pictured with Community Bank Inverloch non-executive director Kerralie Shaw, branch manager Penelope Rowe and chair Mark McCormack. C02_4725



South Gippsland Yacht Club received \$1500 that will go towards the 12th Inverloch Wooden Dinghy Regatta in 2026. An event that attracts over 50 boats in a spectacular display on the water each year. Pictured from left are: Community Bank Inverloch chair Mark McCormack, South Gippsland Yacht Club Simon Wilson, Community Bank non-executive director Kerralie Shaw, and branch manager Penelope Rowe. C03_4725



Lyrebird Arts Council were the proud recipient of \$5000, which will go towards improvements at the venue to maintain the high-quality production, which recently included upgraded stage lighting. From left, Community Bank Inverloch chair Mark McCormack, Lyrebird Arts Council Rod Murray, Community Bank non-executive director Kerrie Giles, and branch manager Penelope Rowe. C04_4725

Community Bank Inverloch & District returns profits to the community

ELEVEN lucky local organisations walked away with shares in \$40,303 thanks to Community Bank Inverloch and District on Thursday night at The Inlet Hotel, Inverloch.

Both non-executive director Louise Martin-Litchfield and chair Mark McCormack highlighted the difference the bank can make in the community, thanks to those who bank with the branch.

Unlike commercial Bendigo Bank branches, Community Banks are owned by shareholders within the community and give back to those within the community.

"It makes a real difference in the community," Mark explained.

"We share our profits with

the community, and over the years, we have been able to give back over \$700,000 to the community."

Mark thanked all the organisations who applied through the second round of grants, and acknowledged that it was a tough decision in allocating the monies.

"It would be fantastic to give everyone what they want. Congratulations to those who are receiving grants tonight, and apologies to those who missed out."

Mark encouraged all local businesses, organisations and individuals to pop into the branch and have a chat with the team, recognising that the impact saves and changes lives directly within the local community.



Inverloch will welcome back a second Equinox Festival next year, thanks to a grant from Inverloch Community Bank for \$5000. Pictured are branch manager Penelope Rowe, chair Mark McCormack, Inverloch Tourism Association's Sandy Norton and Inverloch Community Bank non-executive director Tristan Creed. C05_4725



\$1000 was granted to Uniting Church Inverloch to continue the Memory Café program (see separate story for more details on the program), pictured are Community Bank Inverloch chair Mark McCormack, non-executive director Nanette Gibson, Uniting Church Inverloch's Max Dusting and branch manager Penelope Rowe. C06_4725



First aid is at the top of the agenda for Wonthaggi Woodcrafters, with their \$2700 going towards 15 level 1 and five level 2 first aid courses for members. Pictured with Wonthaggi Woodcrafters president Peter Myers are Community Bank Inverloch chair Mark McCormack, non-executive director Robert Murphy and branch manager Penelope Rowe. C07_4725



'Sunny', the electric bus, will be around a little longer thanks to Community Bank Inverloch, with a \$5500 grant presented on Thursday evening to Venus Bay Community Centre. Pictured are Community Bank Inverloch chair Mark McCormack, Venus Bay Community Centre manager Alyson Skinner, non-executive director Kerrie Giles and branch manager Penelope Rowe. C08_4725



Twenty new chairs and a trolley will be purchased for Tarwin Lower Community Health Centre, thanks to a grant on Thursday night to the Venus Bay and District CERT team for \$1603. The new items will benefit not just the CERT training volunteers but all who use the facility. Pictured is Community Bank Inverloch chair Mark McCormack, CERT volunteers Bev Franklin and Michelle Ford, Community Bank Inverloch non-executive director Kerralie Shaw, and branch manager Penelope Rowe. C09_4725



The Stand Up project will head to Inverloch Primary School as part of the school's anti-bullying program, thanks to a \$10,000 grant. The Grade 5 cohort will spearhead the project, taking responsibility before passing on their learnt knowledge to staff and students in the peer-led initiative. From left, branch manager Penelope Rowe, non-executive director Louise Martin-Litchfield, Natasha Bird and principal Ben Soumilas, and bank chair Mark McCormack. C10_4725



Inverloch Men's Shed will soon include a new bandsaw (\$4500), replacing the old, worn-out version. Taking receipt of the cheque were Graeme Beakley (secretary) and Trevor Key (president), pictured with Community Bank chair Mark McCormack, non-executive director Tristan Creed and branch manager Penelope Rowe. C11_4725



A Christmas favourite, the local carol services coordinated by Wonthaggi Inverloch Interchurch Council are looking a lot brighter after a grant of \$500 from Community Bank Inverloch. Accepting the cheque on behalf of the council was Rev. Capt. Graeme Liersch, pictured with Community Bank Inverloch chair Mark McCormack, non-executive director Nanette Gibson and branch manager Penelope Rowe. C12_4725

Worshipful Master installed at the Powlett Masonic Lodge

MEMBERS of the Powlett Masonic Lodge and visitors from Masonic Lodges across Gippsland attended the recent installation of a new Worshipful Master at the Powlett Masonic Lodge in Wonthaggi.

Ted Cross of Inverloch was installed as the new Worshipful Master along with his Officers in a two-hour ceremony followed by a formal dinner at the Masonic Lodge in Edgar Street, Wonthaggi.

The ceremony was carried out by the East Gippsland Ceremonial Team led by David Thexton from Orbost and accompanied by Robert Billings of the Commonwealth Lodge in Mirboo North, who provided a trumpet fanfare.

This annual ceremony is carried out by Masonic lodges throughout the world.

Freemasonry is described by members as an organisation of good men supporting each other, their families and the local community with a focus on self-improvement and charitable activities.

Wonthaggi Freemasons have raised in excess of \$50,000 for Armitage House at Wonthaggi Hospital, which provides geriatric evaluation and management, rehabilitation, palliative care and stroke rehabilitation.

Freemasonry is not a religion, and the title 'Worshipful' is a mark of respect only.

Like any other community-based organisation,

Freemasonry is looking for new members and seeks good men of mature age, sound judgement and strict morals.

Freemasons say they cannot make a bad man good, but they can make a good man better. One does not so much join a Masonic Lodge; he actually becomes a Freemason.

The core values of Freemasonry include universal charity, opportunities for self-development, building friendships, fostering moral standards and seeking excellence in all pursuits.

"In society these days we see that many men are unsure of their place and what is expected of them. We also see a number of support groups springing up, such as coffee groups and discussion forums, workshops and seminars in support of men."

Freemasonry addresses many of these issues and has been supporting and developing men for over three hundred years in its present form and has been in existence since the thirteenth century and earlier.

Family is foremost, followed by employment, before masonic activities.

If you know a Freemason personally, then he can propose you to become a member; otherwise, go to freemasonsvic.net.au/joinfreemasonry or contact the secretary of the Woolamai Daylight Lodge, Peter Thick, on 0429 851 004.



Formal procession for the Powlett Lodge installation ceremony at the Wonthaggi Masonic Centre. B05_4625



Robert Billings provided a ceremonial fanfare for the Powlett Lodge installation ceremony at the Wonthaggi Masonic Centre. B07_4625



Freemason Ted Cross was installed as the new Worshipful Master of the Powlett Lodge in Wonthaggi. B01_4625

Think you know the Freemasons? Think Again



Making good men even better • Whatever life throws at you your brothers will help you catch it



Freemasons
Victoria

TRADITION

Centuries old tradition that has evolved into a modern non-discriminatory organisation. The timeless core values of Mateship, Moral Action and Community Service are as important now as they were then.

CHARITY

Supporting and helping our community through various platforms. Grants, volunteering, and fundraising are part of who we are. Commitment to giving is what we do.

SUPPORT

Freemasons support each other through the hardest and the best chapters of life. We believe men do not have to have the same last name to be brothers

WHY BECOME A FREEMASON?

A Freemasons journey is one of self-discovery. It focuses on personal development and improvement, the importance of family and community, and teaches us to act with integrity.

Ready to Start your Journey? CALL DAVID - 0418 384 768 www.freemasonsvic.net.au/joinfreemasonry

Death.

By Daniel Prior, Partner, Prior Law

IT comes to us all.

Sometimes we can be prepared for a death and at peace with its inevitability. And sometimes it is cruel and comes too soon.

In all circumstances, death is hard and sad.

I remember saying goodbye to my granddad - I will never forget looking into his eyes and saying goodbye. The handshake lingers, both hands knowing that this was the last time you would be in each other's company.

Many would have had a similar exchange, with their friend or family member who has died. It comes to us all.

We see a bit of death in our line of work. Not on the front line in the moment like our healthcare workers (I would be a blubbing mess) but certainly in the lead up, and the aftermath. And I can assure you that there are many ways you can see yourself out. My mum has always said it doesn't really matter how good you have been in life; you have to make sure that you are well behaved until the end. Because it is the end that people remember.

I agree with my mum.

It also doesn't work the other way. If you have been crummy throughout your life, a period of good behaviour at the death knell won't be the cure to make people miss you, or reflect fondly. One exception might be the cheeky ones, who have behaved badly but done so with a certain pizzazz that people will miss them regardless. My mum's uncle Brian, who spent years playing footy in Gippsland, was one such character.

We see a lot of people who know that they are dying. Some on the fast track, some on a slow decline. Some perhaps don't even know they are dying, having lost their marbles some time ago - their families are dealt the sad task of seeing their loved ones they know

leave them, leaving a different person in the same spot. Death almost comes twice, the death of the person they knew and the death of the person they became through the luck of the draw.

I don't think anyone should live their life based on how they might be remembered by all those around them. It isn't enough.

But when you or a loved one is on the way out, you need to consider how those last days, weeks or months will be remembered. Not just about the person who is dying or has died and how they conducted themselves when death stared them in the face, but also about the people around did - how they approached it.

We often see rifts exposed after the death of a parent. Siblings hold their enmity, their think skinned hostility, to themselves whilst their parents are alive, but it spills out after their death - often over money, but not always. Sometimes it can be a comment made, or an action done, just after a parent's death that confirms a sibling's suspicions or prejudice - and in that moment of intense emotion, the rift is formed. That moment where people should be reflecting on their departing family member, is forever intertwined with a regrettable exchange with a sibling that tarnishes the memory of that time when are saying or have just said goodbye.

I spoke to a colleague last week about a family who navigated the death of their father to perfection - working together, sensitive to each other's sensitivities, ensuring that their memory of the last days of their father's life, and those that followed, will be remembered as a time that they worked together and celebrated the life of their father.

Because life is to be celebrated.

Our time will come, but in the meantime, tell your family and friends you love them, thank them for being in your orbit, thank them for sharing their precious time on the planet with you and make the most of this great gift we have of being alive.



Community members heard from a panel of Eastern Region Bass Coast Police Service Area members including, Acting Inspector Simon Ross, Superintendent Tracie McDonald, Inspector Cath Middleton and Detective Inspector Graeme Carter. C01_4725

Victims of crime attend police forum

MULTIPLE victims of crime and interested community members attended last Thursday's Eastern Region Bass Coast Police Service Area (PSA) Neighbourhood Policing Forum.

Voicing questions around post-reporting communication and crime prevention, attendees emphasised their desire for a 24-hour manned police station on Phillip Island.

Officers acknowledged the public's concerns, noting that a rotating roster does see Cowes Police Station officers working nights, but highlighted that having a police station manned 24/7 requires a significant amount of resources and results in fewer police officers being available for patrols.

Superintendent Tracie McDonald also acknowledged the long-standing concern regarding one-way access to and from the island, asking members of the public to submit their initiatives and ideas to a dedicated email address, which officers can then escalate through the Victoria Police chain of command.

There were very few surprises in the statistics presented by the members of Victoria Police.

A spike in youth crime in recent years has seen more children (10 to 17 years of age) commit crimes compared to their youth counterparts (18 to 24 years of age), reversing the trend prior to 2022. Recent changes to bail laws also mean that several local youth offenders are currently on remand awaiting their court cases.

Proactive Policing Unit Leading Senior Constable Nick Carlson spoke of the current programs and organisations working together within the Bass Coast PSA to reduce and prevent youth crime.

"We don't have a textbook that says you do it this way," Leading Senior Constable Carlson stated.

"A lot of the time, we are inventing things on the run - finding programs, finding support and finding

community needs.

"Bass Coast and South Gippsland tend to lack support for youth. Go over to the Valley, go to Dandenong and the southeastern suburbs... there are a lot more services, we don't have those supports."

Leading Senior Constable Carlson also spoke of MST (multi-systemic therapy), which is having great success overseas and works with both parents and youth, and has recently been introduced locally.

Both Superintendent McDonald and Leading Senior Constable Carlson spoke of disparaging remarks on social media, who question police resources being allocated to sessions like the policing forum and Coffee with a Cop, noting that such community sessions are valuable opportunities to gather concerns and intelligence from the community.

Cross-border offending was another popular topic, with police highlighting that while years ago offenders usually committed crimes in their own areas, young offenders can now be recruited by peers across Melbourne, steal cars elsewhere and move quickly between regions.

With questions taken at the end of each topic, one member of the public congratulated local police on their holistic approach to problems.

"Given that you have limited resources, it's so refreshing to hear that you take a holistic, multi-approach to a specific problem," a member of the public stated.

"We can never really expect 100 per cent compliance, we can't stop offending altogether, but we can try to understand why [particular groups] are over-represented. If it has to do with disadvantage, or care, attendance at school, other kinds of social skills, and then as a society we have to make sure that particular group isn't more affected than any other," Superintendent McDonald replied.

Drug offences were discussed, with cannabis taking

the top spot locally, followed by methylamphetamine and 1,4-Butanediol, which, at this stage, is still named as 'not recorded' in statistics, and has only recently been recognised as a drug.

"We really try and concentrate our investigative efforts on the drugs that cause the greatest community harm - ice, heroin... They change people's behaviours, they make them violent, unpredictable, and sometimes make them very dangerous.

"We know [drug crime] feeds into other offending."

Police reminded the public to secure their belongings and remain vigilant, highlighting that much of the crime is opportunistic, with theft and drug offences increasing during popular holiday periods.

"It's very rare that we have confrontations [in aggravated burglaries]. Crooks want to get in, and they want to get out. It's very rare that we're finding crooks will go into someone's bedroom because they don't want that confrontation, and they are learning and evolving. They're learning that if confrontation occurs, that's when there will be consequences, and they're likely to get caught," Acting Inspector Simon Ross explained.

Victims of crime in the audience were disappointed they hadn't been contacted by police following their incidents and initial reports.

Acting Inspector Ross acknowledged it as an area needing improvement but explained that only personal crimes - not property crimes - require police to update victims on outcomes.

He also acknowledged that as much as they would like to contact victims with information of their job, they're not equipped to do so.

It's worth noting that police at the forum did arrange for victims in the audience who wanted an update to receive one.

"We do have a good solve rates [in rural areas]," Superintendent McDonald confirmed.

PRIOR LAW

SOUTH GIPPSLAND'S PROPERTY LAW EXPERTS

Book your appointment today with Daniel Prior, a Partner of Prior Law and an Accredited Specialist in Property Law.

Call (03) 5662 3401

Prior Law
28 Bair Street, Leongatha VIC 3953

info@priorlaw.com.au
www.priorlaw.com.au



Something different for Christmas

THE festive season is almost upon us and the Annual Wonthaggi Woodcrafters Christmas Shop will return for the 23rd consecutive year. Once again, it will be held at the Woodies workshops at 239 White Road, behind Bass Coast Adult Learning and adjacent to U3A and South Coast FM radio studios.

The Christmas Shop will be open every day for three weeks from Saturday, November 29, until Saturday, December 20. We're open each day from 10am to 4pm. Look out for road signs and banners.

On display and for sale will be the usual huge range of quality locally crafted timber products. There will be beautifully turned bowls, platters, vases, wall displays, containers and pens, wall and mantle clocks, kitchenalia, chopping boards, small furniture, artistic display items, and so much more. Children's toys feature a new range of wheeled toys, completed or for the kids to paint at home.

This year, a highlight will be creations of Kumiko, the art of traditional Japanese joinery. Kumiko is a woodworking technique for creating intricate, geometric patterns from thin strips of wood joined together without nails, screws or glue. The method relies on precise cuts, angles, and grooves to interlock the pieces, and it is famously used for decorative elements in architectural pieces like shoji screens and latticework. Many Woodies members are now creating beautiful work in this discipline. Some



This year's Woodies Christmas shop will include a beautiful display of Kumiko, which is available for purchase.

have even done training with Japanese masters in the field in Tasmania and Sydney.

The shop will open with over 600 items, all made by Woodies members and all at very reasonable prices. Get in early for a great choice, although stock will be topped up along the way. If you're looking for that really unique and special Christmas gift, what could be better than something locally made from beautiful, resilient, natural timber?

If you would like to call in and browse, you will be made

very welcome. Have a talk to the Woodies on duty about how they create some of their fabulous works – they love a chat. Or ask how to become a Woodies member yourself. There are currently 100 members, both ladies and men. You can learn how to create your very own wonderful products from timber. No prior experience is necessary, as all Woodies workshop sessions are supervised and guided by experienced and skilled woodworkers.

The Woodies offers a broad range of woodcraft activities

in three spacious, well-equipped workshops. Skill areas include woodturning, segmenting, toy-making, joinery, pyrography, scroll-sawing, carving and Kumiko.

If it's made of timber, it's likely available at the Woodies Annual Christmas Shop.

If you're interested in joining the Woodies, or would just like to find out more, email the secretary at woodiessec@gmail.com, visit the Woodies on the web at wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au or look us up on Facebook and Instagram.

Have the right gear this fire season

By Sean Carson,
Meeniyar – Stony Creek Fire Brigade

WHATEVER the action you are planning to take in the event of a bushfire, it's crucial that you have the correct clothing on hand.

We suggest that you have a separate bag containing the essentials, labelled and stored away for the fire season. Radiant heat is responsible for the most bushfire deaths and protecting the body from it is the key.

We've all seen the figure with a garden hose pointed at an encroaching fire front in nothing more than shorts and a singlet. This is a demonstration of how exactly not to do it. Instead, a long sleeve collared shirt and long pants are essential, as is a broad brimmed hat.

Some people have suggested using wool, including a beanie, but it is crucial to understand the heat being generated by a fire front. Its heat release rate can be around 1500 to 3500 Kilowatts per metre (kW/m), but an intense fire can generate 10,000 kW/m. To put that in perspective, a standard household heater might generate 1-3 kW per metre. So, it won't take you long to overheat and dehydrate. This is where the problem of wool lies. Also, synthetics may melt, so something like cotton work wear including overalls is ideal.

The eyes need protection. A fire can generate extensive smoke which can be blinding. Also, thick smoke can turn day into night, creating hazards of branches and other foliage which are at head height.

You need a mask capable of filtering fine particles. Bandanas, surgical masks and cloth wraps are not designed for this purpose and are ineffective. We recommend a P2 rated mask.

Sturdy leather gloves are essential to protect the hands.

Finally, sturdy footwear is essential. They need to be tight enough fitting so that they can't inadvertently pull off if trapped in vegetation. Wear them with wool or cotton socks.

OPTICAL
EXTRAS

ACT FAST - BENEFITS EXPIRE DEC 31

Call 0356624811 or book online.
70 Bair Street, Leongatha 3953.
leongathaoptometrists.com.au

Pat Cummins wears CARRERA 331PAT with Carrea Authentic Prescription Lenses.
*Applies to health fund cover where optical extras expire on December 31

LEONGATHA
OPTOMETRISTS

See Better See Us.

Premontory

RESTAURANT & WINERY

Restaurant / Functions
Cellar Door

Saturday & Sunday Lunches
Friday & Saturday Dinners

5682 1538
23 O'Grady's Ridge Road, Foster.

WONTHAGGI
WOODIES
Christmas Shop

3
WEEKS
ONLY

OPEN EACH DAY FROM 10AM TO 4PM
Nov 29 - Dec 20
AT THE WOODIES WORKSHOP
239 White Road, Wonthaggi with BCAL. U3A and South Coast FM
LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

Conservation dog team expanded to keep Phillip Island fox-free

PHILLIP Island Nature Parks, in partnership with the Penguin Foundation, has expanded its team of highly trained conservation detection dogs as part of efforts to keep the island fox-free and safe for native wildlife. Funding of \$50,000 from DEECA as part of the Building our Conservation Dog Team for an Island Safe Haven Project has been matched with support from the Penguin Foundation to recruit a trainee dog handler to improve the response and capability of the dog team.

The traineeship combines a Certificate III in Dog Behaviour and Training with mentorship from senior vertebrate pest officer at the Nature Parks Craig Bester, who brings over 40 years of expertise in dog training and handling.

New trainer Zoe Kellett has joined Craig and the next generation of detection dogs, Marbee, Milly, Macey and Blaze. The Nature Parks conservation dogs have all been instrumental in investigating fox incursions on Phillip Island, including a two-month investigation in 2022. Before this, Phillip Island had been fox-free for five years.

Earlier this year, the conservation dogs were used to search for a fox after a series of sightings were reported from members of the public. A three-week search ultimately resulted in the team using night surveillance and thermal equipment to locate and remove the fox, which was later humanely euthanised.

Win for the Mirboo North Native Forests and Community

By Marg Thomas, convenor, Preserve Our Forests

THERE has been an exciting development eight years after VicForests announced intentions to log 112 hectares of native forest in Mirboo North. And six years since the Victorian Labor State Government declared the same forest to be an Immediate Protection Area (IPA).

Late on Tuesday, November 18, Preserve Our Forests received exciting news that the Immediate Protection Area will be formally protected as a Conservation Park. After passing the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) and many hours of discussion by the Legislative Council (Upper House), the Bill was passed, designating the IPA into the Mirboo North Conservation Park. This Act of Parliament will undergo formalities to be written into law by the Governor and gazetted.

The Conservation Park classification acknowledges Mirboo North's native forests as having high conservation value and needing protection, particularly in the largely cleared landscape of the Strzelecki Ranges and South Gippsland.

Mirboo North's forests are important refuges, currently sustaining multiple threatened animal species and threatened ecological vegetation communities, such as Warm Temperate Rainforest and Wet Forest. Preserve Our Forests has surveyed, researched and advocated for this forest to be protected on this basis, as well as the positive impacts of intact forests have on the town's tourism, economy and social cohesion.

Once gazetted and the Conservation Park is official, Susan Koci (Biodiversity Working Group Coordinator, Preserve Our Forests) says, "It is then incumbent on the Victorian Government to provide appropriate funding to reflect the importance of this new park ecologically and culturally to the community, by investing in restoration, pest management, education and building partnerships between land managers, Traditional Owners and local people".

Located adjacent to Lyrebird Forest, the new Conservation Park (440 hectares) will provide a greater immersive nature experience for the community and visitors to soak in and enjoy. Like Lyrebird Forest Walk, this area will be an asset to the community and become part of its identity.

This win is for you and our native forests!



Paul and Kevin Taranto, Mark Dobbie, Mark Taranto and Scott Stewart at the celebration of Mark Dobbie's 40 years working at Taranto Glass. A02_4725

40 years' service ensures Dobbie is the man for tough jobs

WHILE Mark Dobbie is happy to go about his business with no fuss, the team at Taranto Glass ensured he was the centre of attention at a Wonthaggi celebration last Tuesday to mark his 40 years of service to the business.

Determined not to make the occasion a big deal, Mark left it to his workmates to chat to the Sentinel-Times, politely declining the chance to share recollections and highlights of his four decades of commitment.

Despite a penchant for Coca Cola and cigarettes that might alarm members of the medical profession, Mark has rarely needed a sick day.

While he has recently started working at the Leongatha branch, almost all his time with the business has been based in Wonthaggi, where he was managed by Paul Taranto for 27 years, working for Kevin Taranto for six years, then Mark Taranto for seven.

The latter said that while Dobbie won't say much about himself, he is undoubtedly one of the best fitters Australia-wide, explaining Mark's expertise goes well beyond basic installations of shower screens and other fittings.

"When a builder says, 'This is a Dobbie job', we all know exactly what they mean," Mark Taranto said.

He explained that Dobbie draws on his experience, having a great memory of related challenges and how they were solved.

"In the building industry, there are always things that get done architecturally a bit differently to your normal house, and they're the sort of jobs that everyone calls a 'Dobbie job'," Mark elaborated.

"Not many people have seen so many different types of wall claddings, floor coverings, roof fittings and shower screen brackets."

While Dobbie's built a reputation for his precision, manager of the Leongatha branch,

Scott Stewart shared a story about one time Mark took measurements to fit a security door.

"He's measured the wrong house, and he went to fit it to the right house, and it fitted," Scott said.

Despite that one fortunate hiccup, Scott described Mark as "very reliable, never late and a very hard worker".

"He's also got a dry sense of humour," Scott said.

Although 40 years is a great milestone, Mark Taranto is confident Dobbie won't be retiring anytime soon, and regardless, he's already a huge part of the Taranto Glass story.



Leongatha Business Association committee members Christie Nelson (vice president), Barry Ferguson, Evangeline Ellis, Daniel Mochrie, Scott Cameron, Marty Reidy (president) and Brenton Williams (treasurer). A11_4725

Leongatha Business Association looking ahead to 2026

LEONGATHA Business Association (LBA) held a relaxed Christmas networking event on Tuesday evening.

"Everyone gets along so well," Scott Cameron of Tricky Tree Works said, pleased with the variety of businesses in which LBA members are involved, including shops, hospitality venues, financial planning and tradies.

He sees broad-reaching benefits in the diverse group. "If we get together, we can make it better for the town, business-wise and socially," Scott said.

Daniel and Ilyssia Mochrie established Safe and Sound Locksmiths in Leongatha in

January after a move from Doncaster, Daniel saying he feels it is important in a small community to help give back, that encouraging him to quickly become part of LBA.

LBA's vice president Christie Nelson said Tuesday's event encouraged a few people who aren't members of the organisation to get in touch and say they would like to meet other local business operators and learn more about the Association.

Last year's Christmas evening encouraged new members to join.

Tom Williamson of BJS Insurance Brokers joined LBA to get involved with the local

community, keen to be part of the advocacy group, the business being the major sponsor of the Christmas networking event.

NAB Leongatha, Holt Constructions and South Gippsland Homes also sponsored the evening.

While Tuesday's function was essentially an opportunity for local business operators to catch up socially, LBA has run business coaching sessions featuring guest presenters, something it is keen to continue.

Kerryn Vaughan, leadership coach and author, spoke at a dinner about building high-performing, cohesive

teams and ways to interact more effectively with others.

Earlier in the year, Foster identity Tristan White delivered a breakfast presentation on business culture and tips for recruiting staff.

The LBA committee invites suggestions about the types of activities people would like to see in 2026.

Email hello@lba.org.au to make suggestions or to request a call to chat about your ideas.

The Leongatha Business Association Facebook page is a great spot to look for details of upcoming events and to see local businesses featured.

Wonthaggi Toyota



PRICED TO GO... 8 VEHICLES ALL UNDER 18,990



2013 Suzuki Swift

11,888 DRIVE AWAY

Price Drop, 155,705kms, 4 speed auto hatch, ABS, airbags. SN: W102156



2015 Volkswagen Polo 81TSI Comfortline GR

14,990 DRIVE AWAY

Economy plus, 124,195kms, 6 speed manual hatch SN: W102293



CAR OF THE WEEK

2018 Holden Barina LS TM

14,990

Low kms, 66,661kms, 6 speed auto hatch SN: W102220



2017 Kia Cerato S

15,990 DRIVE AWAY

Well-equipped, 110,000kms, 6 speed sports auto hatch SN: W102266



2022 MG MG3 Excite

16,990 DRIVE AWAY

Great first car, 38,685kms, 4 speed auto, hatch SN: W102254



2015 Mazda CX-5 Maxx KE Series 2

16,990 DRIVE AWAY

Quiet & Comfy, 165,345kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV SN: W102282



2015 Toyota Yaris Ascent

17,990 DRIVE AWAY

Reliable Small Car, 98,505kms, 4 speed hatch SUV SN: W102247



2016 Mazda 6 Touring GJ Series 2

18,990 DRIVE AWAY

Family favourite, 151,401kms, 6 speed sports auto wagon SN: W102253

Leongatha Toyota

FINANCE AVAILABLE INSTORE. ASK ABOUT AN EXTENDED WARRANTY.



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



2021 Ford Ranger XLT PX MK III

41,990 DRIVE AWAY

Work or adventure, 95,418kms, 10 spd CVT auto 4x4 double cab L101466



2023 Toyota RAV4 Cruiser

49,990 DRIVE AWAY

Comfortable SUV, 77,522kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN: L101430



2022 Toyota Landcruiser Prado GXL

54,990 DRIVE AWAY

Capable off road, 174,753kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN: L101444



2025 Ford Transit 350L VO LWB

65,990 DRIVE AWAY

Demo bargain, 1,588kms, 10 speed CVT auto van DRA 826



2021 Toyota Prado Kakadu

70,990 DRIVE AWAY

Exceptional quality, 105,242kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN: L101440



2023 Toyota Landcruiser Workmate

99,990 DRIVE AWAY

Tough workhorse, 5,667kms, 5 speed CVT manual 4x4 double cab SN: L101411

4X4 OF THE WEEK

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



Toyota Finance



Toyota Used Cars

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.

See it, hear it, report it

IT'S the double-edged sword, on one hand Victoria Police hope to see family violence decreasing, fewer incidents would mean less gender-based violence and less family-based violence within the community on the whole, however, they are also glad to see reports of family incidents on the increase.

You see, for every one of the 1536 incidents in the financial year ending 2025 that is one incident that has been reported to police, and as Eastern Region Bass Coast Police Service Area Superintendent Tracie McDonald and Detective Senior Sergeant Rod Findlay explained at Thursday's Neighbourhood Policing Forum, the earlier it's reported, whether to police or services like Orange Door, the earlier intervention can prevent it from escalating.

"There are different ways of reporting family violence," Detective Senior Sergeant Rod Findlay said.

Whilst he would hope people are comfortable in reporting family violence to police, he understands this is not always the case and is urging people to report it, no matter how they do so.

Following the Royal Commission in 2015, 227 recommendations were made, of which all recommendations have since been implemented. The Commission was established after a number of family violence-related deaths in Victoria, with the Commission tasked with finding ways to prevent family violence, improve support for victim survivors and hold perpetrators to account.

"Victoria Police had a significant shift in culture. One of the best things to come out of the Royal Commission was the significant expansion of the service sector around family violence and family violence support.

"For years, as a policeman, used to go to an incident, and we'd take a report, and often the only place to refer was a local agency, for example, the Salvation Army, or child protection...

"[Now] once a police member attends a family violence incident, submits a report, it goes into a portal that's then triaged by the Orange Door. The Orange Door then look at the best opportunities for those involved, and they then refer off to different agencies, or they might case manage themselves. A lot more people are getting the help that they need earlier on to avoid any further crisis or escalation."

Wonthaggi Police Station is also equipped with two social workers thanks to Project Alexis, one who speaks with the victim survivor and one with the perpetrator – read more about Project Alexis in next week's Sentinel-Times.

"For every 10 reports [to Victoria Police] Orange Door gets one walk in."

Detective Senior Sergeant Findlay also acknowledged the fantastic local support and relations with organisations including Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault (GCASA) and Bass Coast Health, in particular.

Support

In an emergency, call Triple 000.

Orange Door: The Orange Door is a free service and operates during business hours (9am to 5pm) from Monday to Friday (closed public holidays). You do not need a referral or an appointment. You can attend in person or reach out by phone (1800 319 354). Wonthaggi: 149 McKenzie Street. Leongatha: 2 Long Street.

1800Respect (1800 737 732): Available for free 24 hours a day, seven days a week to support people impacted by domestic, family or sexual violence.

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). A free, private and confidential, telephone and online counselling service for young people aged between five and 25.

Safe Steps: 1800 015 188 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week). For anyone in Victoria who is experiencing or afraid of family violence. A web chat support service is available Monday to Friday 9am until midnight.

From victim survivor to accused

WHEN misidentification occurs in family violence responses, the consequences can be devastating. For AB, a mother and long-time partner to a man living with significant acquired brain injuries, one moment of crisis in 2000 spiralled into years of being treated not as a victim-survivor of 20 years, but as the perpetrator. Her story is a stark reminder of how easily systems can get it wrong – and how a moment of crisis, without support, can completely change the trajectory of one's life.

AB met her partner at 17. They were together for two decades and had two children.

"He'd already had brain damage from a car accident," she said.

"Then another accident years later made it worse."

As his cognitive injuries deepened, so too did his alcoholism and volatility. AB endured domestic violence, including an incident that forced her into a refuge when her daughter was a baby, and with a young son. With no support network at the time, as they were living interstate, she eventually returned to him.

The family moved back to Victoria, settling in South Gippsland, but the drinking worsened and the relationship grew increasingly unstable. AB took out an intervention order for her own safety. After her partner received a compensation payout, she helped him purchase a small house along the coast – the moment AB says everything shifted.

"That's when the evil witch came into our lives," she said.

The woman initially presented as helpful and friendly, the couple even lending her a car, but her influence quickly escalated. While AB was in Melbourne with her siblings for Christmas, intervention orders were taken out against her by her partner and police. When she returned, she says she was told she had to pack everything, organise the children and leave immediately. She had one hour.

"I just lost the plot," she said, acknowledging the pair had had a verbal disagreement before Christmas about her plans – he wasn't welcome around her family, they were aware of his family violence tendencies.

"I had kids due at school the next morning. The police told me to take them out of school and move to the city. I couldn't do it."

Instead, she took the children to her brother's remote property. Soon after, she was served a 50-kilometre exclusion zone, cutting her off from local towns and even her daughter's dance school.

Meanwhile, the other woman had moved into her partner's house and eventually lent it out to friends.

"She went through all my photos, cut me out of them," AB said.

"She even wore my daughter's clothes."

The woman, a social worker



The tables turned against AB when a woman stepped into their lives. Photo charlesdeluvio, Unsplash.

who had previously worked in child protection, lodged reports against her. As a result, her daughter moved in with a family friend, and her son returned to his father's house.

AB's teenage son drifted between the woman's home and his father's, falling into drug use and being expelled from school.

"I took him to a naturopath and he finally started healing," she said, noting that attempts to raise concerns for his welfare were dismissed. According to AB, Child Protection told her that because her son was 16, "he could do whatever he liked."

"But to think of what he went through..."

The harassment continued by the woman and even by the woman's friends.

"They followed me in my car and from court."

AB admits that the stress and trauma of the situation led her to react poorly at times, and court appearances became constant as AB fought the IVOs against her.

"I stopped counting after 30," she said.

She was jailed twice following breach of intervention order incidents, even coming out to find her sister-in-law had died in a car crash, and later attempted to end her life. She credits a friend from Al-Anon, an older woman in her 80s, for helping her survive.

"She was amazing – she's helped a lot of people," AB said.

access to her daughter. She eventually re-established contact with her partner. They later travelled together with their children for her 50th birthday interstate to see his sister-in-law, after his brother died – an act that breached a long-standing order, but she explains necessary for family healing.

"I'd tried to get the order dropped (he was in agreement), but the policeman just wouldn't drop it," she explained, having noted one police officer involved in their case was biased and corrupt. He was eventually removed from the area.

"They stopped us from communicating. We'd never had any issues communicating with each other – we'd always gotten along. It was all these other people."

Reflecting on the years-long ordeal, AB still struggles to understand how the situation took hold so quickly – and how it was allowed to escalate unchecked.

"I was the one who'd lived through the violence for 20 years," she said.

"Yet, I ended up the accused. Nobody listened. Nobody looked deeper. Even the Royal Commission in 2015, I came back from travelling specifically to attend, and the Royal Commission didn't want to hear from me, because I was a woman and had an Intervention Order against me."

She hopes that by sharing her story, she can prevent others from suffering the same experience.

"There has to be mandatory counselling immediately when an intervention order is issued, particularly family violence. And, people with lived experience should be involved in the process, as they understand what the parties are going through."

Had AB understood her rights and had access to support services when the initial intervention order was issued, then everything could have been different. Likely, she would never have lost the care of her children, though thankfully, as she says, her children "are amazing" and she has a good relationship with them now.

The Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor recognises that 'the exact prevalence of misidentification is unknown', but according to Crime Statistics Agency data, showed that 'of family violence incidents in 2020 where police identified a female respondent, 58.7 per cent of the women had been identified as a victim of family violence in the past five years (31.3 per cent by the person they are alleged to have perpetrated against)'.

Furthermore, 'Victoria Police estimate that of female respondents on Family Violence Reports relating to intimate partner violence, misidentification occurs approximately 12 per cent of the time.'

"If someone had just stopped and listened – really listened – so much harm could have been prevented," AB said.



Schoolchildren in Leongatha get the message about the importance of respect at last year's Community Walk Against Family Violence, with that message included in the curriculum.

Walk against family violence and learn about available services

THE annual Community Walk Against Family Violence in the Leongatha Education Precinct is on Friday, November 28, coinciding with the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

Students and staff from Leongatha Primary School, Leongatha Secondary College and Leongatha Specialist School all take part in the event, with community members encouraged to join in.

The walk is intended to raise family violence awareness and encourage open conversations, also promoting where support is available for those who need it.

Walk participants are urged to wear orange to show their support for the cause as they stride around the Leongatha Primary School oval.

A range of local organisations and services will be represented at the event, including Anglicare, The Salvation Army, Gippsland Women's Health, Headspace, Berry Street, South Gippsland Shire Council, and the emergency services.

Representatives of those groups will share information about the important work they do in the community, being available for a chat.

Leongatha Primary School's

respectful relationship coordinator Steph Martin explained there is a focus this year on a broad range of services that can support students and families.

"Students are going to be encouraged to stop and have a conversation and find out what (the organisations) do in our community and how they can help, not just with family violence but with supporting families in general," she said.

That will take a treasure hunt style approach, with students earning a stamp or sticker for each organisation they visit, being rewarded

with a sausage sizzle for their efforts.

The extensive respectful relationships curriculum addresses the issue of gender-based violence along with teaching students coping strategies and how to manage emotions, and ways of seeking help and solving problems.

Steph was pleased to see so many members of the public join school staff and students in last year's Community Walk Against Family Violence.

She stressed that it is important to ensure the messages children are getting about respect are shared with the broader community.

Safety planning, what you need to know

NO TWO safety plans will ever be the same, nor should they. Every person's circumstances and needs are different, and as such, every plan is different.

Safety plans can be created individually, with the help of a friend or family member or with the guidance of a support service.

But what is safety planning?

1800Respect clarifies it best, "safety planning is thinking about things you can do to be safer when living with violence or abuse."

So what could be included in your safety planning, as advised by 1800Respect?

Safety at home

- Speak to neighbours you know and trust. Ask them to call the police on 000 if they hear violence or abuse
- If you are in assisted living, speak to a carer or other person you trust about what is happening
- If you have children, help them to know the warning signs of danger.
- Have a safe place to go if you need to leave
- In your wallet or mobile phone keep a list of important contacts you can call on in an emergency: Local taxi services, crisis accommodation centre, phone number of the local police station
- Download the Daisy app to your mobile phone to connect to local services
- Learn how to increase your safety when you are using technology, like mobile phones or social media.
- If possible, have a spare mobile phone with prepaid credit. This will mean you can contact support people and services without being monitored through phone bills or call logs.
- Pack an escape bag in case you need to leave the house quickly
- Have an escape plan ready for when you feel that it's not safe to stay where you are.

Making an escape plan

- Plan and practise the quickest way to leave where you are
- Have a small escape bag ready with keys, money and other important things
- Leave spare keys and copies of important papers with a family member, friend or someone you trust
- Let a trusted person know that you may be calling on them if you have to leave quickly. Some people have a code word they agree to use. That way, you can call even if the perpetrator can hear you.
- If you have any mobility issues or disability, arrange in advance for a friend or other support person to come straight away if you ring or text them

For a full checklist of suggestions and safety tips after leaving a violent situation, head to 1800respect.org.au/help-and-support/safety-planning/checklist.

Call out bad behaviour

HEAD of Eastern Region Family Violence Investigation Unit, Detective Senior Sergeant Rod Findlay, is calling on the community to sound out inappropriate behaviour within the community, not just during the 16 Days of Activism, but all year round.

Urging the community to not only report incidents of family violence, Detective Senior Sergeant Findlay said prevention also starts much earlier, with everyday actions that help shift attitudes, expectations and behaviours.

He emphasised the importance of calling out bad behaviour when it occurs, noting that comments or actions once culturally dismissed as harmless "banter" often play a role in normalising disrespect.

"It's about stopping the bravado that comes at the expense of gender," he said.

The responsibility for cultural change rests with the entire community. Addressing entrenched attitudes, including those associated with toxic masculinity, is a crucial step in reducing harm.

"We all have a role to play every day – whether that's reporting violence, supporting someone experiencing harm, or simply refusing to stay silent when we see or hear something that's not okay."

Register for your Santa Letter for Safety this Christmas

AS COMMUNITIES unite for the 16 Days of Activism from November 25 to December 10, focusing on ending gender-based violence, local initiative Change for Sam continues to advocate year-round on keeping victim survivors safe. This Christmas, Lija Matthews has developed a Santa Letters for Safety campaign, a heartfelt offering that spreads joy this Christmas, whilst fostering a sense of security, especially during the holidays.

"It's essential that we keep victim survivors safe, especially during this time. Every child deserves a magical Christmas, and for many, that includes a letter from Santa,"

said Lija.

"For a \$5 donation, parents can send their child a personalised handwritten letter from Santa, crafted especially for them and sent straight from the North Pole."

The proceeds raised are pivotal; every dollar aids in providing 24/7 monitored personal safety devices to victim survivors across Victoria.

With an impressive 220 devices already distributed within the community in just 18 months, these safety measures have become a beacon of hope for many who feel vulnerable.

"These devices are more than just tools; they'll save

lives," said Lija.

"Just knowing there is someone on the other end who is ready to help can make all the difference."

The devices are designed to ensure that victims of family violence have immediate access to support whenever they need it.

"These letters from Santa are a small push to get more devices out in the community."

The free 24/7 monitored personal alarms are distributed through a 'loan library' system and is in partnership with The Salvation Army, Gippsland Centre Against Sexual Assault (GCASA) and

WRISC Family Violence Support.

The alarm devices are discreet, administered with two separate GPS trackers, and any audio captured is recorded and can be used as admissible evidence in court.

Help play a part in keeping family violence victims safe; a small contribution can have a profound impact. Join the Change for Sam mission to keep families safe.

Visit changehorsam.com.au/letters-from-santa to make a donation and register for your Santa Letter for Safety or for more information on the monitored alarms, visit changehorsam.com.au.

Foster community walks together to stand against family violence

THE second annual Corner Inlet Walk Against Family Violence is being held again after a well-attended event last year. Many more organisations are collaborating this year to make it even more meaningful for our community to come together, raise awareness, and make our community a safe place for everyone.

This year, the event is proudly supported by South Gippsland Hospital, Foster Primary School, Foster Secondary College, Corner Inlet

College, Gippsland Women's Health, Manna Gum Community House, South Gippsland Shire Council, Respect Victoria, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, Myli, State Emergency Service and many more.

Meeting at the Foster Football Oval at 10.30am on Wednesday, December 3, beginning with aerial photos taken by Foster Secondary College media students, the walk will continue along to Station Road Reserve to listen

to guest speakers and then along to Manna Gum Community House for a cuppa and a chat.

The Foster Walk Against Family Violence is part of the worldwide campaign 16 Days of Activism, and is an opportunity for people across every community all over the world to unite and take action to help prevent and eliminate family and gender-based violence.

It runs for 16 days, beginning on November 25 and

continuing until December 10.

These are key dates as they mark International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25) and International Human Rights Day (December 10).

The colour orange is used throughout this campaign as a symbol of hope for a brighter future for all.

Everyone is welcome to come along, wear a splash of orange, and walk together to help prevent family violence.

South Gippsland Hospital Board expands and CEO re-signs

AT THE November Board meeting last week, three new Directors joined the South Gippsland Hospital (SGH) Board, and it was announced that the incumbent CEO, Paul Greenhalgh, would remain in the role for at least another three years.

In an email circulated to the Board earlier that week, Board Chair Damon Stynes communicated that he was delighted the Hon Mary-Anne Thomas, Minister for Health, had appointed the three applicants who were put forward following a rigorous recruitment cycle.

Vimi Desai, who has a strong background in Accounting and Finance, joins Katherine Dowson, who has a background in Clinical Governance, and well-known local Trish Shee, who holds an MBA and strong ties to the Community. Trish was also the former president of SGH Auxiliary.

“Each applicant brings diverse skills and experience to the SGH Board, which will strengthen our collective performance going forward,” Mr Stynes explained.

Ms Desai, Ms Dowson and Ms Shee join Mr Stynes, Dr Judith Bennett, Mr Jamie Sutherland, and Ass. Prof Noel Cran-swick, Dr Michelle Kermode, Dr Kate Maxfield, Ms Jan Fitzgerald and Mr Paul O’Sullivan to form the SGH Board.

Parallel to these Board appointments, there has been a formal offer and acceptance of a three-year extension to the CEO, Paul Greenhalgh’s, current contract, taking his term through to December 2028.

Paul was first appointed interim CEO in April 2020 and received a five-year contract in December later that year.

“We are pleased to see Paul remain in the role. He has led the organisation very well through a complex time in our history, including the COVID pandemic, major State and Commonwealth reform, and he has overseen many major capital projects. During his time, SGH has been acknowledged for providing high-quality care, excellent workplace culture and was awarded the Premier’s Small Health Service Award in 2023.”

CFA staffing shortages worsen as fire season looms

VICTORIA has entered one of its most dangerous fire seasons in years, yet a new report has revealed serious and ongoing staffing shortfalls in the Country Fire Authority (CFA), according to Leader of The Nationals and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Danny O’Brien.

The Fire Services Implementation Monitor’s 2024–25 Annual Report, tabled in Parliament, makes clear that chronic vacancies and insufficient relief are now entrenched across key operational roles within the CFA.

Mr O’Brien, said the State Government has allowed vacancies and relief gaps to grow despite repeated warnings.

“This has been a major failure by the State Government from the start of fire services reform,” Mr O’Brien said.

“CFA personnel have long advised that their resourcing needs are not being met through the secondment model, under which Fire Rescue Victoria provides paid staff to the CFA.

“These warnings have been repeated by the Fire Services Implementation Monitor, Niall Blair, and this year, he warns fatigue is worsening, wellbeing is declining, and the community suffers from a lack of leaders when emergencies occur.”

The report warns that a lack of senior operational decision-makers on the ground risks slower response times.

“This isn’t just a workplace issue – it directly affects the safety of all Victorians,” Mr O’Brien said.

“With a dangerous fire season already here, the CFA and Victorians deserve a government that prepares, not one that ignores critical workforce shortages.”

The Nationals and Liberals are calling on the State Government to adopt the Monitor’s recommendations and ensure fire services have the staffing, leadership and relief support needed to protect Victorians.

ADF Mobile Careers travelling to Wonthaggi

THIS week the Mobile ADF Careers Centre (MACC) will be stationed in Wonthaggi after travelling last week through Warragul, Traralgon and Sale.

The MACC provides the opportunity for those interested in a career in the ADF to meet with career specialists and discover the variety of roles available in the Navy, Army and Air Force.

The ADF offers a rich blend of career and lifestyle opportunities, subsidised housing and medical support, rewarding, well-paid work, memorable experiences, world-class training and job security.

In attendance at the MACC last week was Lieutenant Jonty Paterson, an engineering officer in the Australian Navy. Specifically, Jonty graduated with a Bachelor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from the University of Adelaide in 2020. He mentioned being employed directly as a mechanical engineering officer and has progressed to the rank of Lieutenant.

Jonty’s early career involved basic training at HMAS Albatross in Jervis Bay, followed by training at HMAS Cerberus, and then posting to a frigate where he helped recommission the ship.

Jonty is currently working at a Career Centre as a recruiter, which he described as a short posting.

His advice for potential recruits is refreshingly honest.

“It’s worth giving it a go. We’re getting a whole bunch



Lieutenant Sarah Lister and Leading Seaman Scott Rheinberger from the Mobile ADF Careers Centre located at Centennial Park are in Wonthaggi this week, opposite ArtSpace, and is inviting anyone from school leavers, university students and career changers to enquire about a job with the Australian Defence Force. B45_4725

of new equipment – new ships and submarines. It’s an exciting time to be part of something bigger than yourself,” said Jonty.

“Being away from family can be challenging, but the ADF provides incredible support. For those with young families. The ADF has relocation assistance, reunion travel and financial allowances that recognise the personal sacrifices military personnel make.”

Jonty’s career is one of personal growth.

“I can already see where my career is going in the future, and I’m following that path. There is always room for growth,” said Jonty.

The recruitment process includes an initial online

application, and no specific job role needs to be selected initially.

“At these career events, we are targeting those 18 to 25 years,” said Jonty.

Applicants will then take an aptitude test, which is a cognitive ability assessment. This test determines potential job opportunities, as different roles require different cognitive ability levels.

“Practice test can be found online.”

Potential recruits will then go through career coaching, gaining an understanding of financial support, accommodation, and financial benefits.

“There are many financial benefits with the ADF, including mortgage subsidies.



Lieutenant Jonty Paterson official portrait at sea. Photo: Department of Defence.

“The process typically takes six to eight months from application to enlistment, with support throughout the journey. Give it a go. Attend the MACC events and talk with a career specialist to see where the future can take you.”

Wonthaggi sessions at Wonthaggi Centennial Centre car park, Fincher Street Reserve, Bent Street:

- Tuesday, November 25: 10am – 5pm
- Wednesday, November 26 9.30am – 5pm

An information session will also be held on Tuesday, November 25, from 6pm to 8pm at Wonthaggi RSL at 60 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Book online at visit adfcareers.gov.au, or just pop in.

Nerrena Fire Brigade celebrates 70 years

NERRENA Fire Brigade’s recent 70th anniversary celebration was a terrific day, attracting about 60 people to the Nerrena Hall next door to the Fire Station, including community members, people from neighbouring brigades and local headquarters personnel.

The brigade was established by a group of farmers who recognised its need, being registered on November 14, 1955, only about a decade after the CFA was formed.

A booklet of the brigade’s history was published to mark the anniversary, having been written by its newest member.

It may be a while before more copies are available, given it was the initial draft.

As well as acknowledging that history, tribute was paid at the event to Nerrena Fire Brigade’s late secretary Dianne Clark.

Service medals were awarded and a brigade photo was taken, the latter being rare.

“We haven’t been big on photographs over the years, which is unfortunate,” current captain Samantha Smith said.

Celebration of such a significant milestone is a reminder of the brigade’s ongoing importance, with Samantha calling for more locals to join.

While Nerrena Fire Brigade currently has 12 members and another in the process of joining, it has a core turnout group of three and a second tier consisting of another trio.



Vince Campisi prepares to cut the Nerrena Fire Brigade’s 70th anniversary cake, accompanied by Pearl Christoffersen.

The other half of the membership serve valuable roles but are non-operational, the low number of operational members negatively impacting efforts to achieve the goal of having crews that can turn out 24 hours seven days a week.

Accomplishing the specified turnout time of eight minutes is another difficult challenge.

Although understanding people have busy lives, Samantha stressed there are a couple of high fire risk areas locally, increasing the importance of having sufficient volunteers available.

When people say they don’t have the time, she asks how much safety of the local area means.

“You might be saving your house one day,” she said.

She noted that even if one person from each local family joined, it would be a tremendous boost to Nerrena Fire Brigade and its ability to regularly service the community.

As well as demonstrating community spirit, there are great benefits for those joining.

“It’s teamwork, camaraderie and helping each other out,” Samantha said, also noting the array of skills you can gain that are beneficial in other areas of life and stand out on a resume.

“Depending on the pathway that the member wants to take, there are a lot of courses out there,” she said.

There’s a command pathway building people’s confidence in their leadership ability.

Samantha remarked that CFA is working towards national accreditation for some courses.

First Aid is a skill you gain that can be applied anywhere.

This fire season is likely to be challenging, with Samantha pointing out that the considerable quantity of rain recently has nowhere near offset the deficit in ground moisture resulting from earlier sustained dry conditions.

She explained that it is particularly the case in bushland areas, where the tree canopy has absorbed much of the recent rainfall.

Abundant grass growth also presents a risk with the potential to become a dangerous fuel source if hot and windy summer conditions hit.

As for the brigade’s 70th anniversary celebrations, the efforts of the organising committee are greatly appreciated, secretary Jess Templeton being instrumental and putting in a lot of work as did Ken Koetsveld who tracked down and invited previous brigade personnel.

Koonwarra CFA members ran the barbecues, with support for the event from Thorn-ton’s Bakery, Meenyan Red Cross, IGA Leongatha, Leongatha Meat and Fish Supplies, and the Nerrena Hall Committee.

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

Why it's still about the 'three Rs'

THEY say local government is all about 'roads, rates and rubbish'.

Certainly, that's a little simplistic these days, but there's no doubt that the 'three Rs' are still right up at the top of the priority list or should be for local councils.

Unfortunately, several past council regimes have been unable to make progress on a number of key projects under those headings, including the Gap Road transfer station on Phillip Island, the Sunderland Bay/Surf Beach Special Charge Scheme, and a fairer rates system; because they've been distracted by popular politics.

The new council, one year in, has finally turned its mind to reviewing its rating structure, but making a number of fundamental mistakes from the outset.

First of all, there simply isn't enough time to conduct a meaningful rating review between the middle of November and the middle of February, effectively with the loss of a month of Christmas holiday downtime in the middle.

Makes you suspect that, once again, they're not serious about grappling with the complex issues involved with rejigging the rate structure.

Secondly, the council has also put up three ridiculous options for the community to consider as a starting point.

When you appreciate that this rating review comes out of a need to address the level of farm rates in particular, as a result of some step increases in farm values in recent years that bear no relationship to farm income, it's simply not good enough to put up three options in isolation that benefit only half of the farming community.

And the proposed removal of the Land Management Rebate is an own goal of epic proportions for a council that claims to have the protection of the environment and the rural hinterland as central to its vision for a beautiful Bass Coast.

So, what to do? Turn up!

The shire has three consultation opportunities coming up, see below, and there's a 'survey' tab on the 'Rating Strategy Review' page of the Engage Bass Coast website, so get to it. And remember, a shift in the rate burden off farmers will impact other classes of ratepayers, including householders and business operators.

Consultation dates:

- Wonthaggi Town Hall – Thursday, November 27, 2pm-3.30pm
- Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre (Newhaven) – Tuesday, December 2, 12.30pm-2pm
- Corinella and District Community Centre – Tuesday, December 9, 11.30am-1pm.

Remembrance for Bill Mathews

I AM a veteran and past secretary of the Wonthaggi RSL with a passing interest in the Wonthaggi Cemetery veterans' burials.

First, my congratulations to the family and the Phillip Island RSL sub branch for their act of "Remembrance" to mark the grave of this WWI veteran with a memorial plaque. It is very sad that the graves of many veterans remain unmarked in many cemeteries.

In the Wonthaggi Cemetery, some 80 veterans lie in unmarked graves, despite the unsuccessful efforts to date of the

Vox Pop

Should we have lower speed limits on dirt roads?



Kate McWhirter

"100km/hr is too fast on dirt roads, where there is wildlife, speed limits should be less."



Vic Saunders

"No, keep them as they are. They've done a fair bit of work over the last six months, and a lot of dirt roads have been improved."



Kelly Scott

"On the town dirt roads, especially on the outskirts of Wonthaggi."



Rodger Kinney

"Speed limits should be lowered in summer because of the dust. You should drive sensibly for the condition of the road."

Wonthaggi RSL and local volunteers in Wonthaggi to try and correct this issue. It is hoped that this will change in the future with the transfer of the Wonthaggi Cemetery, operated by the BCSC to the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust.

The article says that the cross on this grave was removed, and many graves were destroyed. It is more likely this cross was burnt along with many other timber crosses when the Borough of Wonthaggi reportedly tried many years past to burn off the long grass in the cemetery at the time.

Readers may know that the late Noelene Lyons was invited by Paul Buckley, a past CEO of The Bass Coast Shire Council, to survey the Wonthaggi Cemetery with the then "Friends of The Wonthaggi Cemetery" in order to correct its poor burial records. This survey is complete. Concurrently with that survey, a volunteer, wife of a Vietnam Veteran and daughter of a WWII veteran, past secretary of the Wonthaggi RSL and also a man killed in a stone fall at the mines, commenced a separate survey of the Wonthaggi Cemetery veteran burial with the twin aim to identify veteran graves and their condition, and produce a historical profile of each veteran. That work is now substantially complete with the recent printing of a "Directory of Veteran Graves".

The results are impressive. Some 710 veteran burials have been identified, 80 lie in unmarked graves, 76 are veterans who were miners, there are 51 Commonwealth War graves and 15 prisoner war burials.

During this survey, I was approached as the then secretary of the Wonthaggi RSL by a Vietnam Veteran to make up grave markers for the unmarked graves. This veteran had already produced 100 small crosses with poppies, which he placed around the Wonthaggi Cemetery flagpole on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. I told him to proceed with this project.

Bunnings donated the timber. The Wonthaggi Wood Turners engraved the crosses, and the veteran assembled and installed them using the survey results. Given the response from the BCSC as the then Trustee of the Wonthaggi Cemetery, you would have thought we had murdered the Pope.

Demands to immediately remove the crosses, a Councillor calling them ugly, and uncomfortable Cemetery Trust meetings followed, where the Wonthaggi Volunteers reluctantly resigned, and the BCSC followed up by closing the "Friends of Wonthaggi Cemetery", with a brief one sentence statement along the lines of "Thank you for your Service". I wrote to the Wonthaggi Cemetery administrators, BCSC staff, asking what standards they would accept for memorial crosses. I still wait for an answer.

Today, that is the reason there are no crosses on the unmarked veteran graves in the Wonthaggi Cemetery, caused by a total lack of leadership and support, and no interest from the BCSC.

Rod Gallagher, Inverloch, Vietnam Veteran

Thank you from Korumburra RSL

A SPECIAL thank you to our "Green-thumb" members for growing and supplying many hundreds of plants for our fundraising effort.

These funds will be used to support Veterans and update Korumburra RSLs building.

We have some unsold plants which will be offered for sale at a discounted price. A Garage and Plant sale will be held on Saturday, November 29 from 8am to 2pm at 8 Little Princes Street, Korumburra.

Come along and have a free cuppa, biscuit and a chat! We would love to see you there.

An open day will be held early next year for anyone wishing to view the updated RSL clubrooms.

For and on behalf of the Korumburra RSL Sub Branch, Hugh Hendry, WWII Veteran

A new leader for the Libs

THE Nationals congratulate Jess Wilson on becoming the Leader of the Opposition.

We look forward to working with Jess, who has already demonstrated a deep commitment to improving the lives of Victorians with her sharp mind, a great grasp of policy, and commitment to holding the State Government to account.

I look forward to working with Jess as the Nationals and Liberals provide a strong, viable alternative to Labor.

I thank Brad Battin for his camaraderie, hard work and support.

Brad's gracious and humble attitude over the past two days is a mark of the man, and I wish him the very best.

In just over 12 months' time, Victorians will have the opportunity to remove the Allan Labor Government and our focus is squarely on holding it to account.

Danny O'Brien, Leader of the Nationals

Tighten the purse strings and advocate for the people

LIKE many community members, I'm feeling the impacts of increased cost-of-living pressures.

Inflation and increases in taxes and charges have made many everyday essential items so much more expensive.

And it could be that Bass Coast Shire Council is preparing to add its own further impost onto the financial challenges already faced by ratepayers.

Responding to a public question at last week's meeting, Councillors reaffirmed that they are not planning to advocate for the continuation of rate capping. Instead, their CEO bemoaned Council's own

ability to keep pace with rising costs.

I believe it likely the CEO and senior bureaucrats are softening up our elected representatives for a bigger rate hike.

Rate capping legislation was introduced to put an end to Councils' gouging rate-payers.

The Minister at the time was quoted, saying, "Councils need to put a stop to over-the-top executive pay rises and needless waste".

It's worth remembering that prior to the introduction of rate capping, the previous Bass Coast Shire Council increased residential rates by an average of four times the inflation rate in each of its first three years.

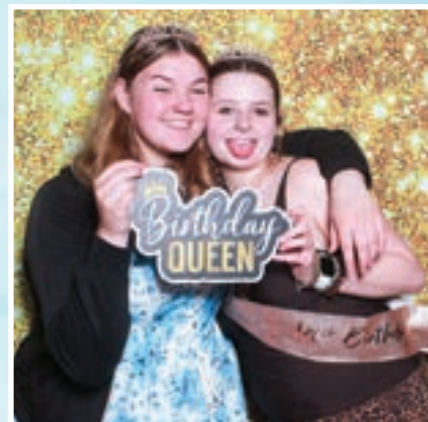
And had it not been for rate capping, Council's gouging would have continued beyond 2015 as their long-term financial plan sought average rate increases of 4.7 per cent, nearly double the 2016 cap of 2.5 per cent.

So rather than simply seeking a return to the lazy option of gouging ratepayers, our Councillors should now be more financially disciplined, and they should instruct their CEO to maintain strict financial efficiency within the declared rate cap.

In the interest of their constituents during these difficult economic times, all our Councillors should be loudly advocating for the continuation of rate capping.

Kevin Griffin, Wonthaggi

LIFE Moments



CONGRATULATIONS to Chloe Lawson and Madi Bailey, who celebrated their joint 18th birthday with a wonderful private party in Wonthaggi over the weekend. The event was well attended, and their friends, along with Mum-Melissa and Dad-Dan, send their love.

Send your photos to news@sgst.com.au



Gippsland Southern Health Service has welcomed Anna Van Niekerk on board as the Bayside Merger Transition Support Lead

From global systems to local healthcare impact

AFTER years leading major transformations in some of the world's largest industries, Anna Van Niekerk is applying her expertise to the heart of community healthcare at Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS). As GSHS's Bayside Merger Transition Support Lead, Ms Van Niekerk will support the transition as GSHS moves toward the merged Bayside Health.

"I've always loved working with complex systems and finding ways to make them work better for people," she said.

"Healthcare is the perfect intersection of complexity, human interaction and community impact."

Ms Van Niekerk will work across teams to align processes, systems and people, ensuring the change is well planned, communicated and supported.

"My focus is on operational readiness, stakeholder engagement and strengthening care for the South Gippsland community," she said.

From the start of 2026, GSHS will voluntarily merge into the new Bayside Health alongside Alfred Health, Peninsula Health, Koowereup Regional Health Service and Bass Coast Health.

Ms Van Niekerk's career began in industrial engineering and supply chain transformation with multinational organisations, but her shift to healthcare was born out of purpose.

"I realised the skills were incredibly transferable, but the purpose was so much more meaningful," she explained. "Understanding flow, identifying requirements, removing bottlenecks – it's the same thinking. Only now, the outcome is people's lives."

Her background in engineering and business gives her a systems-thinking lens: "Health systems are like any network – interconnected pieces that must work together. My studies in public health and health administration taught me to balance efficiency with empathy, and to remember that every data point represents a real person with real needs."

Transitioning from private enterprise to public health meant a fundamental mindset shift.

"In the private sector, success is often measured in profit and efficiency. In public health, it's about equity and impact," she said. "I'm learning to value progress over perfection, and collaboration over control."

Ms Van Niekerk's decision to join healthcare was inspired by a personal story.

"Watching a close friend's husband navigate a complex health issue through an even more complicated system made me want to understand how it all fits together – and how it could be made easier for people during such difficult times."

Her move to GSHS marks more than a professional transition – it's a return to her roots.

"I grew up in a rural community in South Africa, but I've lived in cities ever since finishing school. Coming back to a regional area feels like coming home."

What excites her most about GSHS is the opportunity to help shape something new.

"The merger work happening through Bayside Health is especially exciting. It's not every day you get to help shape something this significant for a region. Having led post-merger integrations before, I know how challenging and rewarding it is to bring organisations together."

"In any merger, people worry about losing their identity, their autonomy, their voice. It's not about one organisation absorbing another – it's about creating a shared vision. Success happens when people can see themselves in the new future being built."



Karen Price, Dawn Kew, Carol Woodford, Diana Taylor, Janet Snashall-Woodhams (pastoral care coordinator), Graeme Dark, Jorja Hartley (dementia access and support worker, Latrobe Community Health Services), Kaye Dark and Bev Phillips at the Inverloch Uniting Church Memory Café. B07_4725

Tying a rubber band around your finger not always reliable

PLACING a rubber band around your finger (loosely) was once thought to be a relatively simple way to remember things, but not anymore. Not only is a rubber band considered unreliable, but it could also cut off the circulation to your finger.

The Memory Café held on the third Wednesday of every month at the Inverloch Uniting Church, might be a better idea for those with memory problems.

Retirement communities such as Inverloch are increasingly having to deal with

memory issues, according to Uniting Church Memory Café volunteer Bev Phillips.

"Although café participants tend to be of an older age, our group is open to the whole community. We're here to help anyone with memory problems."

Pastoral care coordinator Janet Snashall-Woodhams said a need was identified in the church community, and the wider community for help with memory problems.

"It's a retirement community and a lot of people live with memory loss."

Setting up a café to support

people in the whole community was very much something the members of the Uniting Church in Inverloch thought they could do.

"It's inclusive," said Janet.

Speakers are invited to the café on a monthly basis to discuss cognitive difficulties and tables are kept small to encourage conversations.

"It's not only memory loss," said Janet.

"It includes those who may have lost cognitive functions."

"Remember we're all getting a bit older," said Bev Phillips.

Bev's advice is to do

crosswords, exercise and keep connected socially.

"Making friendships to preserve our memory."

Dementia awareness and support worker Jarja Hartley said talking helps.

"Within the ageing community many people are reluctant to seek out services."

"We can help them connect with My Aged Care providers."

Music and entertainment is planned for the café in the new year.

The Wonthaggi and Inverloch Uniting Church memory café can be found on Facebook.

Calls for early COPD testing after new warnings

A TOORA woman living with emphysema is urging South Gippsland residents to take their breathlessness seriously. This comes as new figures show Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is costing Australia almost \$25 billion a year.

Sheryl Jones, 67, has lived with asthma all her life. She was diagnosed with emphysema at 56 but says the condition only really "rose its head" about three years ago.

"Previously, I was a chronic asthmatic, but my inhalers would always fix my symptoms," she said.

"Then I started getting puffed out all the time. No matter how many times I did my asthma spray, it just was not working. I would get puffed out just from walking from the lounge room to the kitchen."

After she first thought her symptoms could be bronchitis or a chest cold, a visit to her doctor and a series of scans showed otherwise. She was told her emphysema had progressed.

"I was devastated. Absolutely devastated," Sheryl said.

"I had already had it for ten years, and I thought, oh no, it is going to get really bad, and it will all be over very soon."

For Sheryl, breathing illnesses are deeply personal and painfully familiar.

"My grandfather died at 56 with emphysema, my mother was diagnosed at 69, and my son, who is 38, has COPD,"

she said.

"So, it really runs in the family. Unfortunately for my son and my grandfather, it was smoking-related. I smoked a lot, too. But nowadays, they are finding other things are contributing to COPD. It is not only smoking. Some very healthy people have COPD."

New data released for World COPD Day shows chronic obstructive pulmonary disease is costing the Australian health system an estimated \$24.98 billion each year. Lung Foundation Australia says around one in 13 people over 40 live with COPD and more than half of them aren't even aware of it.

"COPD is a hidden crisis in Australia. Half a million people are living with it, and more than half do not even know it," Lung Foundation Australia chief executive Mark Brooke said in the organisation's World COPD Day statement. He is urging anyone with ongoing breathlessness, a persistent cough or trouble keeping up with everyday activities to speak with their GP and ask for a simple breathing test called spirometry.

Spirometry measures how well the lungs are working and remains the best way to diagnose COPD. An early diagnosis can help people reduce flare-ups and stay active longer.

For Sheryl, managing emphysema has meant reshaping her life.

"Your lifestyle needs to

change," she said.

"I do get a lot of flare-ups, and I just have to sit down. Moving down to South Gippsland has made a big difference. The air is so much fresher."

Sheryl is now semi-retired. She says she can no longer work much because of her condition.

One turning point came when her doctor referred her straight to Lung Foundation Australia after her emphysema diagnosis. A nurse from the foundation, Rebecca, now calls her every three months.

"The first call she explained some misconceptions and that I was not going to die in the next five years," Sheryl said.

"She said you can live until you are 80, maybe even 90 with emphysema. Your lifestyle just has to change a bit. After speaking with her, I became proactive, and I honestly believe she saved my life. If it was not for her, I would have genuinely believed I only had 10 years maximum left to live."

World COPD Day just passed on Wednesday, November 19, and Sheryl wants more people in South Gippsland to recognise the signs and seek help.

"Not enough people know about it," she said.

"COPD is an umbrella for multiple breathing illnesses like emphysema and chronic bronchitis, and a lot more people need to be aware."



Toora resident Sheryl Jones is urging locals not to ignore breathlessness this World COPD Day.

Her message to anyone living with unexplained breathlessness or a nagging cough is simple.

"Go to the Lung Foundation's website. There is a test on that website that only takes a couple of minutes. Take that test," she said.

"If you cannot get to the website, go to your doctor. They can put you on a plan and the Lung Foundation has lots of resources."

For Sheryl, sharing her story is about giving others hope.

"I used to think once you get emphysema that is it, 10 years and you are out," she said.

"But that's not the case."

Visit lungfoundation.com.au for more information.

Georgia's Brave Shave at Newhaven College

NEWHAVEN College's unique Year 9 Horizons Project is designed to ignite students' curiosity and foster active participation in their learning journey by engaging with community groups and organisations.

Last week, Newhaven College Year 9 student Georgia Sanders, cheered on by a supportive crowd, underwent a rather dramatic haircut. She is raising much-needed funds for the Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

Georgia gave an emotional speech about how she and her family have been touched by cancer too many times. They are also grieving the recent loss of a dear friend, Ray Howard, an active member of the Phillip Island community. Georgia wants to help find a cure for cancer and support those undergoing treatment.

Chloe Kidder from Elements Hair Room started the proceedings by braiding Georgia's hair. The braids were then cut off and will be donated to 'Wigs4Kids', which provides wigs for children undergoing treatment that causes hair loss. Then, Georgia's hair was all removed right down to a Number 1 shave!

Georgia, who is thrilled to have raised over \$3300 so far, is incredibly proud of her fundraising efforts.

"Doing a shave for cancer research has been something I have wanted to do for a few years now. I have lost quite a few family members and close family friends to this horrible disease, so when I was offered to do a fundraiser at the school for my year 9 studies, I took it," she says. "Doing this shave was



Newhaven College Year 9 student Georgia Sanders shows off her 'Brave Shave' – raising funds for the Australian Cancer Research Foundation, pictured with Colleen Howard, Chloe Kidders from Elements Hair Room, Georgia's mum Fiona King-Drummond and Stepdad Ed Drummond.

never for me, it was for Ray, Merryn, Paul, Sue and all the others who lost their courageous battle or who continue to fight. This is for you."

Year 9 Teacher, Simon Furniss, is very impressed by Georgia's dedication to this cause: "At some point, young people choose the causes that matter to them. Georgia has shown a remarkable commitment by fundraising for the Australian Cancer Research Foundation through her Brave Shave. She is an inspiration to us all, showing determination and selflessness by donating her own hair. Georgia, you're a star!"



Newhaven College Year 9 student Georgia Sanders gets the finishing touches to her Brave Shave, raising funds for the Australian Cancer Research Foundation

Bass Coast College students leap into new school year

STUDENTS at Bass Coast College are jumping right into the 2026 school year.

With the end of the year in sight, next year's intake of Year 12 and Year 11 students are spending their final weeks in their new classes.

This time will give them the opportunity to prepare for their new subjects.

"The Year 12 students will do two weeks of 2026. The main premise is for them to get to know their classes, get to know their teachers and get a bit of a headstart before the holidays," student engagement principal Ross Bramley said.

"It's a great opportunity for teachers to give them things to prepare for next year. This includes things like reading their English novels and starting work on some of the key elements to their assessments."

The headstart will help the Year 12s dive right into their studies, as they will also be heading off to the tertiary camp during their second week of school.

"These two weeks are absolutely essential. There can be a fair bit of disruption at the start of the year. The first two weeks used to be a bit of a write-off due to tertiary camp, but now they get those two weeks during this headstart," Mr Bramley said.

The Year 11 students will be undergoing three weeks of



Students at Bass Coast College will be starting their 2026 subjects over the next few weeks. Back from left, Luke Augier, Lily Cengia, Xavier Bertacco and Nate Pugh have gone into Year 11 and, front, Millie Shaw, Chloe Larsen, Arieta Fergie and Alanah Susic have started Year 12. Tk06_4725

their 2026 classes.

"The three weeks are particularly important because this is their first introduction into VCE and the first time they've chosen subjects that are directly in line with where they want to be in the future," Mr Bramley said.

"If they aren't 100 per cent about their pathway, it's an opportunity to give subjects a try, see how it's all going to

fit together and make adjustments."

The students can make subject amendments with their year-level coordinator.

Bass Coast College has once again organised opportunities for students to access subjects through Virtual Schools Victoria.

"If we can't offer the subjects they need or if there are clashes with timetables that we

can't overcome within school, this gives us an opportunity to have it ready for the start of next year," Mr Bramley said.

"Subjects like IT can be a bit of a challenge. We tend to have one or two students who are interested, but not enough to run a class."

The students have enjoyed their transition into the new year and have set the goal to do their best throughout 2026.

Help restore prom beaches from invasive Sea Spurge weed

OVER the past five years, Friends of the Prom have significantly reduced sea spurge across the area by ongoing hand-weeding, supported by funding from Coastcare Victoria for targeted spraying.

Parks Victoria has introduced trials of biological control, a naturally occurring fungus that affects the weed's stems and leaves, limiting its growth and spread.

Spend a day (or a weekend) in one of Victoria's most spectacular coastal settings while helping protect the native Hooded Plover. Friends of the Prom is inviting volunteers to join their upcoming Sea Spurge Weeding Days at Squeaky and Picnic Bay beaches this week, November 28 and 29.

Sea spurge is a toxic and fast-spreading coastal weed. Left unchecked, it can overtake native vegetation on the sand dunes of Squeaky and Picnic Bay and threaten the Hooded Plover's crucial nesting sites.

Register for the activity via ParkConnect: parkconnect.vic.gov.au.

For any assistance, don't hesitate to get in touch with Friends of the Prom by email: info@friendsoftheprom.org.au.

• FAITH FACTOR

Christmas is coming

By Janet Snashall-Woodhams,
Ministry Team: Inverloch-
Wonthaggi Uniting Church

AS THE Christmas season approaches, shops brim with tinsel, carols float through the air and there is a general sense of joy and expectation. In many households, children begin counting down the weeks and days until Christmas morning, and adults are kept busy planning the family festivities.

Christmas may be coming, but for some in our community, it can be a very hard time of year. Beneath the sparkle, loneliness and hardship can be present. For many, this time of year can highlight loss, isolation, grief, financial strain, and fractured families.

At our church, we have a big poster that is put up at this time of year – Love came down at Christmas. The words are accompanied by a baby in a crib with a star above its head. We remember that Jesus came into the world as a baby – just like all of us.

The story of Jesus is one of love lived out in practical, loving and inclusive ways – especially to those on the margins.

I believe that love comes down every Christmas (and in fact every day!) and it is our job to make sure that happens. We are the hands and feet that can make a difference to those around us.

The true spirit of Christmas is found not just in the church services and festivities, but in the love we show. This Christmas, maybe the greatest act of faith isn't in the rituals, but in checking in, knocking on a door, or sharing a cuppa with someone who might need company. So let's look out for our neighbours, lend a hand, and make room at our tables – and in our hearts – for those who find Christmas hard.

John 13: 34 A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another.

And to that I say – Amen! (so be it)

Blessings to you all this Christmas Season



Grammy winner Ruthie Foster will be playing at the Meeniyah Town Hall in May next year

Grammy winner to play at Meeniyah next year

GRAMMY-award winning blues and folk singer, Ruthie Foster, has announced dates and venues for her 2026 Australian tour, and the Meeniyah Town Hall is on the list.

Foster will be here with her band on Sunday, May 10, back in Australia after touring the USA earlier in the year.

It's part of a special program of events from the Lyrebird Arts Council in December, January, February and March starting with Liz Stringer with special guest Kyarna on Saturday, December 13. That show already sold out.

But not so Ruthie Foster with tickets still available online at lyrebirdartscouncil.com.au/ruthie-foster.

Frequently compared to Aretha Franklin for her emotional range and powerhouse delivery, Foster moves fluidly between blues, gospel, folk, and soul. Her masterful guitar work is as revered as her spine-tingling vocals, creating performances that blend intimacy, authenticity and sheer musical force.

And as a special treat for the boutique Meeniyah audience, Foster will bring her whole band to town for the evening show.

Sing We Now for Christmas cheer

WHEN two local choirs join forces for a Christmas-themed concert, excitement is guaranteed!

Don't miss the Bass Coast Chorale (BCC) and the South Gippsland Singers (SGS) performing in Wonthaggi on Saturday, November 29, and Leongatha on Sunday, November 30, with both concerts starting at 2pm. The Wonthaggi Town Hall and the Dakers Centre in Leongatha are set to be buzzing with festive sounds.

Following last year's highly successful collaboration with the Australian Welsh Male Choir, BCC and SGS are thrilled to come together again in joyous song and bring festive cheer to the community. And all they hope to see in return is a hall full of happy faces.

Bass Coast Chorale, led by musical director Larry Hills and accompanist Karen Vincent, is deep in rehearsals for the combined performance, while SGS musical director Jen Holm and accompanist Dorothy Warren are keeping their singers in fine voice.

Each choir will present five pieces from their own repertoire before joining together for five Christmas classics, including Gloria In Excelsis Deo, O Holy Night! and a fun,



Join the Bass Coast Chorale (BCC) and South Gippsland Singers (SGS) in Wonthaggi and Leongatha this weekend. Larry Hills, Bass Coast Chorale musical director, Jen Holm and South Gippsland Singers musical director Dorothy Warren.

quirky take on The Twelve Days of Christmas. There's even a whisper that the audience may be invited to join in on some carols.

The SGS program includes favourites such as the serene Still, Still, Still and the vibrant Sing We All Noel, with its toe-tapping African rhythm.

BCC's bracket features a

lively West Side Story medley, the dreamy Walking in the Air from The Snowman, and the gorgeous Seal Lullaby, with lyrics drawn from Rudyard Kipling's The White Seal.

Tickets are \$20, with free entry for children under 16, and each concert includes a complimentary afternoon

tea. (Don't forget some spare change for the Leongatha raffle.)

The Bass Coast Chorale and South Gippsland Singers can't wait to share a musical celebration of the season with you.

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

November

FRI 28/11 QUIZ NIGHT w/ JON VON GOES & CELIA CHURCH

SAT 29/11 MISS EILEEN & KING LEAR ALBUM LAUNCH

SUN 30/11 TEX PERKINS & MATT WALKER * SOLD OUT

December

FRI 5/12 KEVIN BENNETT & THE FLOOD

SAT 6/12 FLORIST (J&S)

SUN 7/12 THE AUDREYS (DUO)

SUN 19/12 THE STETSON FAMILY

SAT 20/12 MAGIC DIRT w/ SHEPPARTON AIRPLANE

SUN 21/12 LOST RAGAS & SILVERSOUND

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

SUN 11/1 THE BLACK SORROWS

SUN 25/1 BATHING IN THE CREEK FESTIVAL w/ WATTY THOMPSON & HIS TOTAL FIRE BAND + MORE TBA!

February

SUN 1/2 ELLA HOOPER & BAND

SAT 21/2 PONY FACE PRESENTS NEBRASKA

March

SUN 1/3 HARRY MANX (GANG)

FRI 6/3 HANNAH COHEN & SAM EVIAN & BAND

THU 12/3 MARY COUGHLAN

FRI 27/3 EMILY LUSITZ & BAND

SAT 28/3 PLAYLUNCH

NOW OPEN THURSDAY TO SUNDAY DELICIOUS WOOD FIRED PIZZAS FRIDAY & SATURDAY HAPPY HOUR 4-6PM DAILY

89-91 ARCHIES CREEK ROAD / WWW.ARCHIESCREEKHOTEL.COM.AU

Bass Coast Chorale and South Gippsland Singers



Wonthaggi

2pm Saturday

29 November

Wonthaggi Town Hall

Leongatha

2pm Sunday

30 November

Dakers Centre

Tickets at the door \$20 Children free

Afternoon tea provided



The Australian Welsh Male Choir during last year's performance with the South Gippsland Singers and Bass Coast Chorale in Leongatha. A10_4824

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir returns to The Union

HAVING wowed audiences in Wonthaggi last year, the Melbourne Welsh Male Choir are back due to popular demand for a special matinee performance at the Union Theatre this December!

A Christmas special event featuring a truly splendid 40-voice ensemble for attendees to enjoy traditional Welsh songs, some Christmas carols, a little bit of

poetry and some audience participation – sing-alongs!

This incredible performance delivers a world-class program, having toured the USA, Canada, and the UK, including the Royal Albert Hall and Wales's own Cardiff Arms Park, where they performed with Tom Jones and Dame Gwyneth Jones.

In its 41 years, the choir has crafted a unique sound,

blending traditional Welsh songs with a distinctly Australian flavour, and its vibrant performances draw fans of all backgrounds.

The Melbourne Welsh Male Choir are no stranger to Bass Coast and South Gippsland, having also performed alongside a large audience last year in Leongatha's Memorial Hall with South Gippsland Singers

and Bass Coast Chorale.

"The best choir I've heard in Australia... unique ability to engage and hold its audience." – Professor Jane Highfield of the Guildhall School of Music, London.

For tickets, visit trybooking.com/events/landing/1340623.

Melbourne Welsh Male Choir, Saturday, December 6 | 2.30pm

29TH NOVEMBER



SCAN CODE FOR TICKETS



Send us your photos

If you're having a 21st, club function, wedding, or other social event, take some photos, name the people in the snaps and email to news@sgst.com.au

Sentinel-Times

It won't cost a cent to see them in print!

2025 Christmas Carols

Bass Coast

Carols By The Bay

Thursday, December 11, 2025,
at 5pm - Fireworks 9.30pm
Cowes Foreshore

Inverloch Christmas Carols

Saturday, December 13, 2025,
at 5.30pm
The Glade, Inverloch

The Great Bass Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14, 2025,
at 11am
Santa's visit at 1.30pm
George Bass Memorial Park

Grantville Christmas Carols and Market

Sunday, December 14, 2025,
at 5pm
Grantville Recreation Reserve

Wonthaggi Christmas Carols

Sunday, December 14, 2025,
at 5.30pm
Wishart Reserve, Wonthaggi

San Remo Christmas Carols

Friday, December 19,
at 5pm – 9pm
Marine Parade, San Remo

South Gippsland

Christmas in Loch Village

Friday, November 28,
between 5pm and 8pm
On Victoria Road and Clarence Street, Loch Village

Christmas in the Boo

Friday, December 5 at 5pm
Baromi Park, Ridgeway,
Mirboo North

Foster Christmas Carols

Sunday, December 7 at 5pm
Pearl Park, Main Street, Foster
(opposite the library)

Leongatha Christmas Carols

Friday, December 12 at 5.30pm
Leongatha Recreational Reserve

What's On

Quiz Night

November 28, Doors 5pm,
Quiz 8pm
Archies Creek Hotel

Curse of the Voodoo Surf Gods

November 29
Riverview Hotel, Tarwin Lower

Pierce Brothers – Moonrise Launch Parties

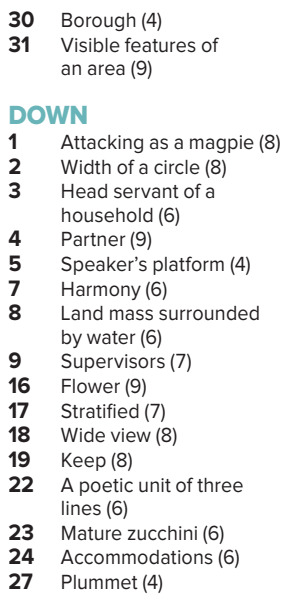
December 4
Riverview Hotel, Tarwin Lower

WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm
THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★

No. 217



1	Credenza (9)	13	Reply (6)	25	glass applied
6	German car	14	Desideratum (4)		to surfaces for
	manufacturer (4)	15	Preserved with		protection (6)
10	Eggs (3)		sugar syrup (7)	26	Poisonous (8)
11	Formal statement	20	Gala (7)	28	Reciprocal (11)
	re character (11)	21	Just (4)	29	Tune (3)

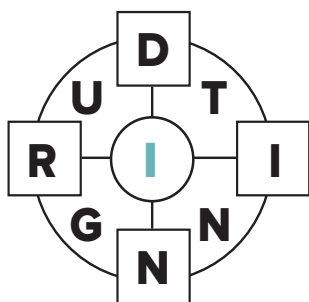
Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

Today's Aim:

15 words: **Good**

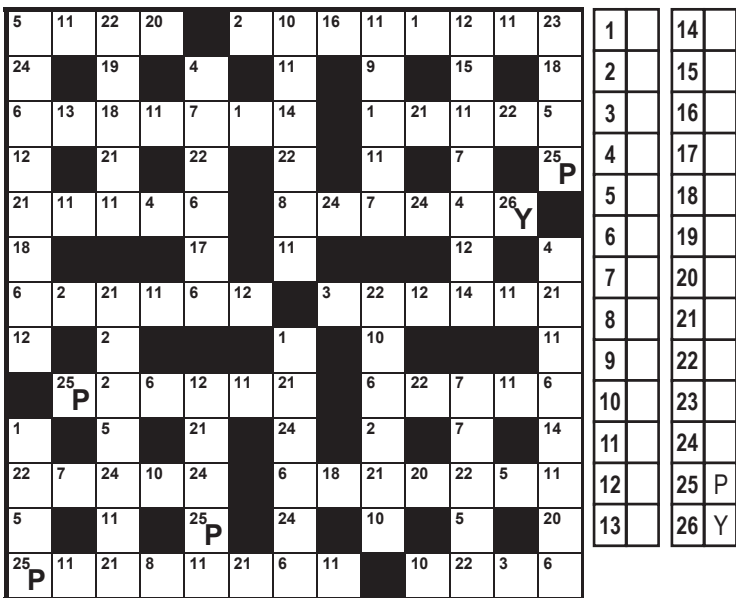
22 words: **Very good**

30 words: Excellent

[illegible]

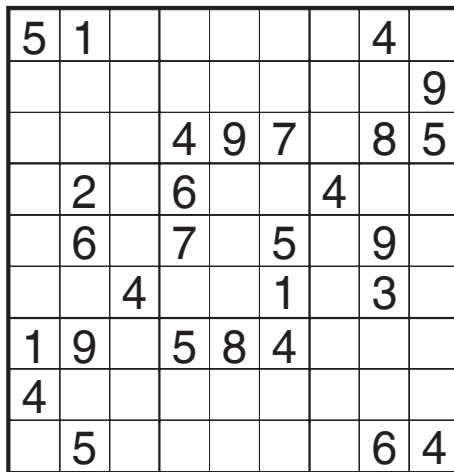
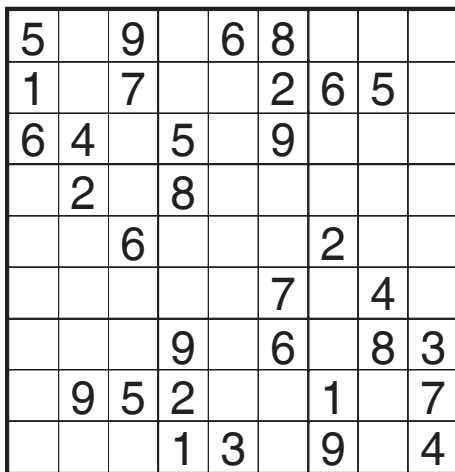
No. 307

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



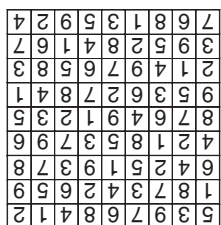
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3×3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

MEDIUM

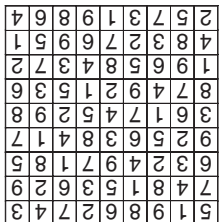


SOLUTIONS

EASY



MEDIUM



CODINGWORD: 1=C, 2=O, 3=G, 4=F, 5=M, 6=S, 7=L, 8=V, 9=X, 10=B, 11=E, 12=I, 13=Q, 14=H, 15=W, 16=J, 17=K, 18=U, 19=Z, 20=N, 21=R, 22=A, 23=D, 24=I, 25=P, 26=Y

No. 218

1. Sardinia is an island belonging to which nation?
2. The spirit Ariel appears in which Shakespeare play?
3. What makes up 60 per cent of the human brain?
4. The song *Norwegian Wood* appears on which album by The Beatles?
5. Which prince governed the United Kingdom as 'Regent' during the years 1811–1820?
6. 'Stay gold, Ponyboy, stay gold' is a famous line from which novel?
7. The common barbel is a species of what?
8. What literary movement began as a reaction to the rise of bourgeoisie and 18th-century romanticism?
9. True or false: champagne is only produced in the Champagne wine region of France?
10. Starring Julia Stiles (pictured) and Heath Ledger, the 1999 movie *10 Things I Hate About You* was based on which Shakespeare play?



ANSWERS: 1. Italy 2. *The Tempest* 3. Fat 4. Rubber Soul 5. George, Prince of Wales 6. *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton 7. Freshwater fish 8. Realism 9. True 10. *The Taming of the Shrew*

No. 218

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



- | | | |
|------------|------------|---------|
| ALL FOURS | FIFA | RISK |
| BATTLESHIP | GOLF | SAMBA |
| BELOTE | GOOSE | SHOGI |
| BINGO | GRAND | SIMS |
| BOARD | THEFT AUTO | SKAT |
| BOGGLE | HALO | SNOOKER |
| CANASTA | MONOPOLY | SPADES |
| CASINO | OLD MAID | SPORE |
| CHESSE | PINBALL | TAG |
| CRIBBAGE | POKER | TETRIS |
| DARTS | PONG | TWISTER |
| DICE | POOL | WII |
| DOOM | PYRAMIDS | YAHTZEE |

SECURITY MESSAGE: Advance token to the nearest railroad



Inverloch Primary School's Grade 3 student Flossy and Gayle Huther assisted during the school's Colour Run on Friday. Tk07_4725



Rhys Butler, Jed Pye and Zac Higgins help celebrate Mark Dobbie's immense contribution to Taranto Glass. A09_4725



Ryan Stewart and Brendan Moody settle in at the celebration of Mark Dobbie's 40-year milestone at Taranto Glass. A10_4725



Andrew Ross of Woorayl Lodge and Daniel Mochrie of Safe & Sound Locksmiths enjoy the Leongatha Business Association's Christmas networking evening. A04_4725



Grade 1 students Saskia and Willow had fun during the Colour Run at Inverloch Primary School. Tk08_4725



Jayden and Brody of Grade 6 showed off their splash of colour at Inverloch Primary School's Colour Run. Tk09_4725



Grade 3 students Hattie, Mali and Bronte were having a ball at the Colour Run held at Inverloch Primary School. Tk10_4725



Scarlett and Luka from Grade 2 at Inverloch Primary School took part in Friday's Colour Run. Tk11_4725



Hudson and Riyoshan of Grade Prep cut laps of the oval during the Colour Run at Inverloch Primary School. Tk12_4725



Pictures of you and your friends at Inverloch Primary School Colour Run, celebration of Mark Dobbie's 40 years working for Taranto Glass and Leongatha Business Association Christmas networking evening.



Zoe Baker, who works for Christie Nelson Real Estate, Donna Pearce of Mess Solutions Bookkeeping, and Natasha Mackenzie, who is an accountant in Inverloch with Evergreen Accounting, socialise at the Leongatha Business Association evening at McCartin's Hotel. A07_4725



Sonia and Steve Webber are currently running two Leongatha businesses, Elsie's Florist and Quirky Bar, taking the opportunity for a break at Tuesday's social Leongatha Business Association event. A05_4725



Tom Williamson of BJS Insurance Brokers, Scott Cameron from Tricky Tree Works and Kristian Gray of Engage Wealth Solutions at Leongatha Business Association's recent event. A06_4725



Geoff Nelson and Neil Barrett take it easy at the Leongatha Business Association Christmas networking gathering. A08_4725



Rhani and Summer from Grade 3 participated in Inverloch Primary School's Colour Run. Tk16_4725



Grade 1's Winnie and Isla were all smiles at Inverloch Primary School's Colour Run. Tk13_4725



Grade 6 students Charlotte, Lyla and Heidi enjoyed their time at Inverloch Primary School's Colour Run. Tk14_4725



Inverloch Primary School students Ted, Henry and Franklyn got muddy during the Colour Run. Tk15_4725

Sentinel-Times

>>> ORDER THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS 5672 1888



2 1 2 3.16 Acres*

85 Hughes Road, **Nerrena**
For Sale \$820,000
Agent Nutrien Harcourts
Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449
kellie.thomas@nh.com.au
**Approximately*

Charming renovated home!

DISCOVER this rare small-acreage property, perfectly positioned just 10 minutes from Leongatha and boasting a stunning rural outlook.

Light and bright, the two-bedroom home retains echoes of the local Nerrena farming families who lived and worked here in the past. Extensively renovated by the current owner, the house has been fully insulated, re-lined and structurally reinforced. It is enhanced with a large north-facing deck constructed from locally milled timber.

This 3.16-acre (approximately) property is nestled in rolling hills, protected from prevailing northwesterlies and surrounded by broad-acre farms. It offers a move-in-ready home for anyone seeking space and scenic rural living.

The property incorporates a full-size hay shed with power installed, a carport and extensive water storage for domestic, garden and stock use. High-quality water filtration has been installed to the house supply.

The garden has been planted with fruit trees, raised garden beds for vegetables and flowers and hundreds of native trees to create habitat for birds. Fencing has been upgraded on the property, and there is plenty of space for grazing a few animals.

Other features of the house include:

- Two generously sized bedrooms
- A cosy living area offering a wood heater for warmth and ambience, and supported by a reverse cycle air conditioner for the warmer months
- Spacious kitchen at the centre of the house with loads of bench space
- A second large and flexible living and entertaining area with a wood heater overlooking the garden and opening up onto the large deck area.
- Starlink satellite Wi-Fi and mobile phone signal boosting for reliable communications.
- A contemporary bathroom full of easterly light and views with a combined laundry and a separate toilet.
- Outdoor bath perfect for soaking in the serenity.

An incredible amount of work and effort has gone into this property both internally and externally, and from the moment you enter, you can feel the love! This is the opportunity to create the perfect balance of peace and quiet, with the ability to embrace serene rural living. The current owner has cleverly created something special both inside and out, and it's definitely worth a look!

Enquire today to arrange a viewing, call Kellie Thomas on 0438 647 449.

Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha

We make it possible

47 Bair Street (03) 5662 2292
nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA
JL & Co Boutique

- Bair Street location with great exposure & loyal clientele.
- Modern, fully equipped salon and giftware boutique.
- Ready to operate with all fittings, fixtures, and stock incl.

\$80,000



PRICE ADJUSTMENT

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.

\$759,000



FOR SALE

FISH CREEK 3 2 2

Immaculate Presentation!

- On approx. 3 acres with gardens and rural views.
- Open-plan living, large master suite, study/4th bedroom.
- Town water, solar, and just minutes from Fish Creek.

\$1,150,000



Barry Redmond
Director / Estate Agent
0477 622 292



FOR SALE

MARDAN 3 1 2

Lovely lifestyle Property!

- Renovated 3 BR homestead on 41 acres with views.
- Modern kitchen, spacious living, north facing verandah.
- Productive paddocks, dam, sheds, and excellent fencing.

\$1,280,000



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 4 1 2

Montville

- Elegant 1913–14 federation home on a spacious block.
- Period charm, modern kitchen and renovated bathroom.
- Immaculate gardens and excellent shedding including.

\$950,000



FOR SALE

MEENIYAN 3 2 2

Lovely Lifestyle Property!

- Charming home on approx. 1.8 acres in Meeniyana.
- Spacious kitchen & living and renovated bathroom.
- Tranquil rural setting with double garage, carport, shed.

\$950,000



Kellie Thomas
Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449



FOR SALE

LEONGATHA 3 2 2

Attention Developers and Investors!

- Brick home on approx. 1,015m² in Leongatha location.
- Kitchen/dining, master with ensuite, second living area.
- Potential for renovation or development (STCA).

\$650,000



FOR SALE

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

BERRYS CREEK 4 3 2

Peaceful Rural Retreat

- Stunning rural views, just 15 minutes from Leongatha.
- Spacious open-plan living, stone kitchen with WIP.
- Covered alfresco and a peaceful lifestyle setting.

\$945,000



Monique Wightman
Marketing & Administration
(03) 5662 2292



The ZADF delegation at Genetics Australia's Camperdown collection centre.

Zimbabwe dairy farmers look to Australia for growth

ZIMBABWEAN dairy farmers are looking to Australia to boost their herd numbers and productivity.

Genetics Australia has this month hosted 12 representatives from the Zimbabwe Association of Dairy Farmers (ZADF) on a week-long tour that is set to expand connections between the two countries.

Zimbabwe is seeking to become more food self-sufficient with less reliance on imported milk solids.

ZADF CEO Paidamoyo Patience Chadoka said the chance to see Australian herds and how farmers use data would inspire Zimbabwean farmers to grow and improve their output.

ZADF represents more than 4500 members, mostly from small farms producing less than 200 litres of milk per day, but also medium and large-scale farmers with more than 2000 cows.

Mrs Chadoka says Zimbabwe's dairy industry can use breeding to save on feed and production costs while producing more milk at a more competitive price.

"We believe our smaller farms have the capacity to grow and that we can increase milk production," she said.

"We have been aggressively trying to grow our dairy herd size; that's why we're here. We don't just want more numbers, we want higher productivity from the existing cows, especially through our breeding."

While Zimbabwe's milk production has grown by more than 10 per cent in recent years as a result of a value chain multi-stakeholder approach and now sits above 130 million litres, Mrs Chadoka says that

growth needs to accelerate, and breeding and data will be the key.

"Some Zimbabwean farmers have used Australian semen, but very few are doing genomic testing or using breeding indexes when the rest of the world has gone in that direction," she said.

"We are part of a global industry and cannot be ignorant of the developments in breeding."

"That's why it has been invaluable to look at the breeding framework in Australia to see what we can benefit from. Australia has been investing in research and systems, and we don't need to reinvent the wheel. We can use that information; that's the power of knowledge sharing."

The ZADF delegation visited Genetics Australia's collection centre at Camperdown, Dairy Australia, Ellinbank Research Farm, DairyBio, DataGene, Holstein Australia, Jersey Australia, and Kings Ville Jerseys, Jelbart dairy farm, Kate and Jason Kirk, Wallacedale Jerseys, Homedale Australian Reds, Dehne and Sarah Vincombe, Loxleigh Jerseys, Long Road dairy farm, Emu Bank Holsteins and Jerseys, and Tesbury Holsteins.

"We saw a wide cross-section of farms, and while there's no right or wrong breed, it's obvious you should have data support," Mrs Chadoka said.

"Data management is the biggest takeout – we need data to promote sustainability for the future."

"Everyone will develop at different speeds, but I encourage all dairy farmers at home to make decisions today from a focused sustainability perspective. You need

to be deliberate on what traits are you trying to address and we need a pool of expertise to share.

"Farmers need to follow breeding systems in great detail and know what they're breeding for. All the farmers we spoke to in Australia had breeding information at their fingertips."

Mrs Chadoka said there were a lot of dairy industry similarities between Zimbabwe and Australia.

"I can see our connections growing, and from a breeding perspective, we can look at using genetics and genomics to promote growth. The farmers on this Genetics Australia tour are dairy farmer representatives, lead farmers from different areas, and they will share their knowledge."

To become self-sufficient and potentially export dairy products, Zimbabwe needed to look for smaller-framed, heat-tolerant cows that could produce on pasture or total mixed ration systems, she added.

Mrs Chadoka, who sits on the International Dairy Federation as part of the science and program coordination committee, said the delegation also learnt about the power of Australia's associations in tackling environmental, political and social issues and supporting farmers.

"We might not necessarily mimic these supporting pillars of the industry, but we'll take out different functions from them," she said.

ZADF, established in 2013 to promote, advance and develop milk and dairy product production in Zimbabwe, is pursuing a strategic plan with nutrition, breeding, policy and environment, and economic pillars.

ZADF advocates for levypaying dairy farmers and provides extension services and communication. It aims to reduce the cost of feed and compliance, improve competitiveness to create a sustainable environment for dairy farmers, introduce new technologies such as solar and biogas, and reduce the cost of production to allow Zimbabwe to sell milk at a competitive price while maintaining margins for farmers.

"This is critical for survival of the Zimbabwe dairy industry in view of various regional and international trade, especially the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement," Ms Chadoka said.

ZADF also aims to promote the role of women and youth in dairy, is pushing for a school milk program and plans to run trials on multi-species pastures and emissions reductions.

Genetics Australia export manager Rob Derksen said the Zimbabwe dairy industry had a lot of challenges in the past, but was now growing.

"We feel the use of Australian genetics would set a great platform to build on in the future," Mr Derksen said.

"I am sure the ZADF delegates will go home and spread the word on the importance of using genetics best suited to their farming systems. Australian genetics are performing exceptionally well in South Africa, and we are confident we will see the same performance in several other African countries, including Zimbabwe."

Mr Derksen acknowledged the openness of Australian organisations and farmers who were keen to share information with the delegation on what made them successful.



ZADF CEO Paidamoyo Patience Chadoka discussed breeding and data-driven herd improvement during the group's Australian study tour.

Kill the WEED
Plant the SEED
Grow the FEED



FASTRAK DRONES

Scan for our services info



Call now - 0413 445 093

FIRST STAGE COMPLETE HERD DISPERSAL

A/c Antrim Park
S&J Loughridge, Ripplebrook

Friday, December 5
11am ON FARM

Selling an incredible
250 Spring calved Holstein cows

A truly superb line of tremendously well-bred, Holstein cows with generations of AI breeding. 'Antrim Park' has been a member of the Leading Edge Genetics breeding program for 15 years, using the best Holstein AI sires available. Bulls include; Summerday, Salt, Kingboy, Butler, AltaRoss, Fondoo, Alum, Alta Omega, Alta Regal, Caliber, Fedora, Budlight, Kingpin, Luster P, Delta Lambda, Alta Rabo, Farmdealer, Altalce, Nighthawk, Alta Mopan, Main Event, Medallion, Augusta, Hunk, Viewpoint, Mirand, Hunter, Samite, Maestro, Mecca, Remedy, Remover, Larson & Network.

Spring calving commenced 1st of August through to 31st of October. Cows are currently being rejoined for Spring 2026 to the very best AI sires. Using both sexed and conventional Holstein semen. Bulls such as; Dynasty, Larson, Rubles, Hickory, Parbo, Maestro, Komet, Habulous, Rembrandt.

An extremely youthful herd introducing 100 heifers per year.

Spring and Autumn herd combined, 400 cows currently averaging 33.5 Litres, 3.85 ButterFat, 3.30 Protein. BMCC consistently in between 100,000 and 130,000.

Sale will be Live-streamed with Stocklive. Catalogue available prior to sale. Vendor terms available to approved buyers, please contact Michael Robertson.



For further details contact:

Michael Robertson 0484 041 653
Phil Malcolm 0408 559 408
Matt Loughridge 0419 446 152
Tom Hanrahan 0437 718 055



MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre



Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025 Nutrien Ag Solutions Steers

Bass Coast Caravan & Storage			
6 Angus	610kg	\$4.59	\$2800
T & S Poynton, 7 Angus	604kg	\$4.81	\$2910
Seanakem, 16 Angus	547kg	\$5.20	\$2850
D & P Newnham, 32 Angus	542kg	\$5.27	\$2860
D & P Newnham, 20 Angus	524kg	\$5.30	\$2780
D & P Newnham, 20 Angus	527kg	\$5.27	\$2750
D & P Newnham, 20 Angus	502kg	\$5.13	\$2580
Seanakem, 15 Angus	498kg	\$5.20	\$2590
PJR Dev., 13 Euro X	477kg	\$4.91	\$2350
Mills & Sopenlehto, 22 Her	465kg	\$4.78	\$2230
D & P Whiteley, 16 Angus	463kg	\$5.27	\$2450
D & D Cameron, 20 Angus	458kg	\$5.02	\$2300
Fleming Holdings, 10 Angus	451kg	\$5.25	\$2370
C & T Mccaughn, 22 Angus	450kg	\$5.41	\$2440
Vic Ag Solutions, 17 Angus	448kg	\$5.57	\$2500
A & A Missen, 20 Angus	391kg	\$5.74	\$2250
P & A Chisholm, 20 Angus	358kg	\$5.93	\$2130
RJ Harris, 13 Charo	354kg	\$5.52	\$1960
A & A Missen, 13 Angus	335kg	\$5.49	\$1950
R Whitehead, 12 Angus	330kg	\$4.90	\$1620
P & A Chisholm, 20 Angus	314kg	\$5.97	\$1880
M Berry, 31 Angus	250kg	\$5.99	\$1500
A Stollery, 21 Angus	279kg	\$5.94	\$1660
M Berry, 31 Angus	250kg	\$5.99	\$1500

Heifers			
B & L Newnham, 20 Angus	447kg	\$5.04	\$2260
D & P Whiteley, 18 Angus	440kg	\$4.88	\$2150
Rosslawson, 17 Angus	421kg	\$5.10	\$2150
Rosslawson, 14 Angus	421kg	\$5.07	\$2030
B & L Newnham, 21 Angus	392kg	\$5.40	\$2120
A Conisbee & Co, 17 Angus	383kg	\$5.00	\$1920
B & J Henwood, 13 Angus	343kg	\$5.00	\$1720
Hollyridge Pastoral, 10 Hereford	332kg	\$4.90	\$1630
Hollyridge Pastoral, 11 Hereford	306kg	\$5.11	\$1570
Calafiore FT, 14 Angus	262kg	\$5.33	\$1400
A & R Jones, 11 Angus	235kg	\$5.02	\$1180
A & L Whitaker, 11 Angus	205kg	\$4.85	\$1000

Lardner Park Calf Market Report Monday, November 17, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$20 to \$32
Friesian Bulls	\$45 to \$54
Beef Bulls	\$110 to \$260
Beef Heifers	\$110 to \$220
Friesian Heifers	\$135 to \$220
Number of Calves:	64
Number purchased to rear:	38

Strong Leongatha Store Sale with something special ahead



Brian McCormack sells for Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock, with the market buoyant in Leongatha on Thursday. A15_4725



Michael Jolly auctions for Everitt Seeley & Bennetts. A17_4725

WITH limited lighter-weight calves currently available, buyers pounced on some well-bred animals in that category at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock's Brian McCormack describing them as "selling excessively well" on a cents per kilo basis.

While pens of those calves were not weighed, he said they achieved every bit of \$7 a kilo with many buyers having a certain dollar value they are able to pay, often around the \$1500 to \$1600 per head mark, and a specific number of cattle they are after.

"Naturally, they keep coming down in size until they get the number of cattle they want with the price they've got to spend," Brian said.

Nine Angus steers from R A Jones in Glen Forbes, he described as "well-bred little calves" sold for \$1420.

Eleven Angus steers from P and A Chisholm in Archies Creek made \$1540.

Another pen of 10 Angus steers by Bowman stud, from M C Berry in Wonthaggi, achieved \$1400.

Twelve Angus steers, coming from R Whitehead in Shoreham sold for \$1450.

Brian said you could

throw a blanket over all of those in terms of their high quality.

Michael Jolly of Everitt, Seeley & Bennetts sold a pen of 18 Angus steers weighing an average of 260 kilos for \$1580, equating to \$6.07 a kilo.

Grazier competition was strong across the board with plenty of feed about the area.

Attendees had excellent quality animals to bid on.

"The whole sale right the way along was all very good," Brian said, noting there was no dropoff in standard anywhere.

While there was less available for feedlot- ters at Thursday's sale, he said the situation will be different at the December 4 Store Sale.

"There'll be an outstanding run of cattle there from ourselves and ES & B, so that'll test the feedlotters on where they're up to and what they're doing, because there'll be enough of the right cattle there for them," Brian said.

With a lot of annual drafts available, high-quality breeding will be on show.

"I'll see you there in a fortnight's time, and have plenty of battery power in your camera," Brian told this writer in anticipation of plenty of highlights.

Connect with us @sentineltimes

ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF Est. 1886 LIVESOCK AGENTS, LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENTS, PROPERTY MANAGERS, AUCTIONEERS www.alexscott.com.au 36 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA PH: 5655 1133 FAX: 5655 2480 Livestock Sales KORUMBURRA David Ryan 0408 311 895 LEONGATHA Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager 0408 176 063 Jack Curtis 0427 762 670 WARRAGUL Neil Darby - Livestock Manager 0418 595 265 Terry Ahearn 0438 562 816 Jordan Sim 0448 058 435 Mark Malacarne 0418 654 590 Georgie Snell 0417 100 657 FOSTER Dick Faulkner 0408 595 174 Brian Vuillermin 0429 436 040 WONTHAGGI Rob Ould - Livestock Manager 0408 595 183 David Holden 0428 749 390 Alan Bolding 0419 723 255 PAKENHAM David Setches - Livestock Manager 0409 443 473 Glenn Barwick 0408 975 476 Morgan Croucher 0457 001 877 Tim Gibson 0420 306 599 Imogen Price 0417 225 498 Real Estate Sales KORUMBURRA Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898 LEONGATHA Andrew Newton 0402 940 320 Peter Dwyer 0428 855 244 Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299 Tony Giles 0407 528 192 Dan Huther 0418 334 801 MELBOURNE LAND Matt Koster 0474 781 711 COWES Greg Price 0419 337 441 Brian Silver 0407 347 509 Chase Watters 0423 272 819 WARRAGUL Alan Steenholdt 0409 423 822 VENUS BAY Daniel Lawrie 0417 631 252 Sue Lawrie 0419 885 489 INVERLOCH Marni Lee Redmond 0403 525 413 PAKENHAM Tom Gibson 0438 574 472 LANG LANG Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898 KOO WEE RUP Angus Hall 0466 326 487 Tom Gibson 0438 574 472 SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE

ELECTRIC FENCE ENERGIZER REPAIRS Paul Vassil (Formerly Vassil Electronics) 38 Lower Gordon St, Korumburra 0408 515 184

SMALL ACREAGE CULTIVATION Pasture mulching Slashing Hoeing & ripping Fertiliser spreading 10m² Tipper hire ALL AREAS Phone Greg 0419 393 375

Wellington Livestock 'Where loyalty counts' For sale Registered Angus bulls, two year old, low birth weight, \$4,400 including GST more EXPORT ORDERS more LIFESTOCK OPTIONS more MONEY IN YOUR POCKET more LOYALTY & BETTER SERVICE ABS Direct: Cattle processed from Friday to Friday BEN BOULTON 0488 445 467 OFFICE: 0429 445 461 www.wellingtonlivestock.net LIVESTOCK RATES 250+ KG/DW \$7.80 200 TO 249 \$7.80 160 TO 199 \$7.80 120 TO 159 \$5.10 BULLS PLEASE CALL FOR A BOOKING



DataGene celebrates a decade of genetic progress

DATAGENE last week celebrated a decade of significant genetic progress and productivity gains since the release of the Balanced Performance Index (BPI) in 2015.

Over the past 10 years, the average genetic merit of Holstein 'Good Bulls' has more than doubled – rising from a BPI of 175 to 441.

It's a similar story with Jersey "Good Bulls" lifting their average BPI from 198 to 328 over the decade, while Australian Red Breeds have also experienced a decade of genetic gain with the average "Good Bull" now at 259 BPI, up from 184 in 2015.

Speaking at Thursday's AGM in Melbourne, Chair Tim Jelbart said the figures confirm that consistent selection delivers lasting progress.

"Every joining is an opportunity for dairy farmers to improve the genetic merit of their herds," he said.

"The beauty about genetics is that the gain is permanent and compounding. Genetics accounts for about 30 per cent of productivity gains on dairy farms. The gain over the past decade represents nearly 13 per cent per cow improvement every year, a sharp increase on previous decades and proof that genomics and data-driven breeding are delivering results like never before."

Mr Jelbart said the decade of progress reflected a whole-of-industry effort – from farmers who contribute data to researchers



DataGene Chair, Tim Jelbart reported on impressive genetic gains over the past 10 years at the AGM held in Melbourne recently.

and breeding companies who turn that data into value.

"Together, we're accelerating genetic progress for a more productive and sustainable dairy future," he said.

Reporting on the year's activities, Mr Jelbart said DataGene continued to provide farmers with accessible genetic and herd management information to support confident decisions in uncertain times.

"It's more important than ever to be making decisions underpinned by data from our own businesses. The environmental and market challenges faced by many farmers this year have left no room for uncertainty in decision-making," he said.

Today, two out of every three dairy farmers use the Good Bulls App. There are now almost 18.5 million cows in the

Central Data Repository, and the DataConnect project continues to link more data sources.

Despite the market uncertainty, DataGene was able to post a small net deficit of \$122,842, a significant improvement from the previous year's \$575,444 deficit.

"Although DataGene was affected by the collapse of heifer exports to China and some external projects not going ahead, expenditure was held well below budget to account for this, putting DataGene in a more favourable cash position than expected at the end of year," he said.

Mr Jelbart thanked all members for their support throughout the year, particularly Dairy Australia, which provides significant financial funding.

During the AGM, Mr Jelbart and Jeff Odgers were reappointed to the board.

Call for statewide strategy to safeguard farmland

THE Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is calling on Victorians to pledge their support to grow and protect the State's prime farmland by signing a new petition as part of the new 'Help Protect Victorian Farmland' campaign.

VFF President Brett Hosking said Victoria's farmland represents a huge asset that needs protecting.

"Our farmland is an economic powerhouse that underpins more than 150,000 jobs and contributes in excess of \$20 billion to the Victorian economy each year," he said. "Victoria is Australia's food bowl, and our farmland is a national treasure, producing almost a quarter of the Nation's food, from just three per cent of arable Australian land."

"Our farmers protect and conserve our state's incredible biodiversity, as well as being industry leaders in the emissions reduction our planet

needs so urgently."

"Farmers and the soil they farm are irreplaceable, and I'm urging everyone to back our farmers. We must send this message loud and clear to governments right across the nation," Mr Hosking said.

Across Victoria, productive agricultural land is facing challenges from competing land use, such as housing estates, mining approvals, transmission corridors and large-scale energy projects. The rate of our prime farmland loss is alarming. 100,000 hectares have been lost to housing alone in the past 10 years.

The petition is designed to remind governments and decision makers that farmers and the rural communities they support are vital to our state's success.

The VFF is calling for a change in how land use decisions are made, with a particular focus on food security, local communities, and long-term

sustainability.

The VFF is urging the Victorian Government to develop a statewide strategy that protects high-value agricultural land from fragmentation, ensures real consultation with local communities, provides fair compensation for landholders and communities, and guarantees shared benefits for regional areas impacted by development.

"We're not asking for development to stop. We're asking for it to be planned with intelligence, respect and an eye to the future," said Mr Hosking. "It's time we looked at our Victorian farmers and rural communities as an icon to be celebrated for all they provide to our economy, community and environment. I'm asking you to join us and help celebrate them with me."

Victorians can support the campaign and sign the petition at vff.org.au/help-protect-victorian-farmland.

Melbourne turns out to support National Ag Day

VICTORIAN farmers were front and centre in Melbourne last week as the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) hosted its Ag Day Farm Shop, drawing strong crowds keen to support drought-affected producers.

Held at Farrer House on Collins Street over two days, Thursday, November 20 and Friday, November 21, more than 1000 people visited the pop-up

shop, which showcased an impressive spread of Victorian-grown and Victorian-made goods. Visitors browsed and bought an array of award-winning produce, from cheeses and honey to artisanal wines, craft spirits, lamb, beef, fruit, vegetables, salami, butter and more.

Thousands of dollars were donated to the VFF's Disaster Relief Fun to help drought-stricken farmers.

"Victorian farmers produce the world's best food and fibre," said Victorian Farmers Federation President, Brett Hosking.

"There's no better way to bridge the city and country divide and showcase our industry than bringing farmers and produce to the heart of the city."

"The support we received was overwhelming and it was a celebration of what makes agriculture great."

VLE - LEONGATHA

STORE SALE 2500 CATTLE 2500

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c Hine Vegies (ELDERS)

110 Angus & BB steers, 18-22 mths, GF & ABF

A/c P Nation, Hill End (ALEX SCOTT)

54 Angus steers, 18 mths, by Langi Kal Kal & Barwidgee bulls. Ballarat Dist bred. 1 mark. GF & ABF

30 Angus steers, 18 mths, Yea Dist bred, GF & ABF

A/c Gem-Brae Ag, Nyora (ELDERS)

60 Angus & Angus X steers, 15-16 mths, Te Mania blood, VB, GF & ABF

A/c "Shoreham Pastures" Shoreham (ALEX SCOTT)

30 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, By "Fernleigh" Angus bulls

A/c GC & RA Robinson (ALEX SCOTT)

20 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, "Kunuma" blood, East Gippsland bred

10 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths, Ex mountain sales. Full Newcomen blood

A/c Melville Farming, TYNONG (ALEX SCOTT)

30 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths, By stud "Allendale" and "Days Whiteface" Hereford bulls, Drenched and Multimin

A/c "Boon Wurrung Angus", Lang Lang (ALEX SCOTT)

20 Angus & Black Baldy steers, 22-24 mths, Vetmec drenched 10 weeks

A/c "Davenport" - Shoreham (ALEX SCOTT)

18 Angus steers, 22 mths

A/c M, E, & P. Gibson, Koo Wee Rup (ALEX SCOTT)

15 Angus / Hereford steers, 18-20 mths, By stud "Annesdale" Angus bulls, Ex "Harlock Pastoral" Bred cows

A/c The Breeder, JR & CJ Bermingham (ALEX SCOTT)

15 Angus steers, 20-21 mths, By Pinora & Rennyale blood, GF & ABF, NE Accred, extremely quiet

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c The Breeder, A/c JR & CJ Bermingham (ALEX SCOTT)

15 Angus heifers, 20-21 mths, By Pinora & Rennyale blood, GF, ABF & NE Accred, extremely quiet

WEANERS

A/c The Breeder, P. Evans, Bass (ALEX SCOTT)

150 Angus steers and heifers, 9-10 mths, By "Rosedale" Angus blood bulls, GF & ABF

A/c Eastern Cattle Co, Dargo (BAW BAW)

130 Angus mix sexes, Millah Murrah blood, VB, NE Accred

A/c Nethercote Trading P/L Rosedale (ELDERS)

100 Angus heifers, 12-14 mths, weaned. Bowman Angus blood, GF & ABF, NE Accred

A/c Dawn-Raine (BAW BAW)

100 Angus heifers, 10-12 mths, weaned 3 mths, Dollar Angus bulls, VB, NE Accred

A/c Malanda Pastoral P/L Stradbroke (ELDERS)

40 Angus heifers, 12-14 mths, weaned. Leawood Angus blood, GF & ABF

A/c The Breeder, R. Stivy, Tynong North (ALEX SCOTT)

30 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, By stud "Tibooburra" Angus bulls, Ex "Te Mania" blood cows

A/c The Breeder, "Gnoorong Ent.", Cardinia (ALEX SCOTT)

30 Angus and Murray Grey X calves, 8-10 mths, By "Glenburn Station" bred Angus bulls

A/c Manooka Pastoral (BAW BAW)

16 Angus heifers, 12-13 mths, weaned

A/c Mondamac Pastoral Co, Mirboo North (ELDERS)

25 Angus mix sex weaners, 13-14 mths

A/c MRM Earthworks, Woodleigh (ALEX SCOTT)

10 Angus steers, 10 mths, By AI Paratrooper, weaned, GF & ABF

A/c Koyuga Downs, Willow Grove (ALEX SCOTT)

20 Angus steers, 9 mths, by Leawood bulls, 2 x 7in1

A/c The Breeder, Pulman Bay P/L, Willow Grove (ALEX SCOTT)

20 Red Angus steers, 8-10 mths, By Hicks Profit Maker Brimar Park Payload bull, Ex Neerim View Langdon cows, weaned, NE Accred, Vac 7 in 1 x2

A/c Breeder, Sha-Valley, Krowera (ALEX SCOTT)

20 Angus heifers, 10 mths, By Tibooburra bulls, GF & ABF

A/c P Cashman, Stratford (ELDERS)

18 Hereford Angus X mix sex weaners, 8-9 mths, weaned, GF & ABF, NE Accred, Mawarra blood

A/c Breeder, Old MacDonalds Farm, Garfield (ALEX SCOTT)

12 Angus & Angus x Char steers, By Stud "Absolute Angus" Bulls, weaned

A/c MJ & PF Williams, Glen Forbes (ALEX SCOTT)

12 Hereford/Angus steers, 10 mths, weaned, 10 weeks, Drenched & 5 in 1 By "Banquet" blood bulls, VB

A/c C & B Butcher, Tarwin Lower (ELDERS)

10 Angus steers, 9 mths, VB, GF & ABF, Harris blood

XBRED & DAIRY

A/c Breeder, KJ, LC, CD & AR Snell, Poowong (ALEX SCOTT)

4 Angus Friesian X steers

4 Angus Friesian X heifers

14 mths, By A.I Angus Bulls, weaned, GF & ABF

A/c O & J Luff, Woodleigh (ALEX SCOTT)

8 x Angus cross steers

2 x Angus cross heifers

12 mths, GF & ABF

JOINED FEMALES

A/c B. Garcia, Foster North (ALEX SCOTT)

5 Angus Heifers, PTIC to the Cheltenham Park Angus bull for Feb calving. Heifers are Coolana and Millah Murrah bloodlines. Well grown. Drenched, B12 and Multimin injections 14/11. NE Accred, VB & ABF



5658 1894

5655 1133

5941 4666

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS

South Gippsland Water helps build community resilience



South Gippsland Water's acting general manager, service delivery and environment, Bree Wiggins, was a guest speaker at the Fish Creek emergency response dinner that attracted over 80 people.

SOUTH Gippsland Water is proud to announce the latest recipients of its Community Resilience Grants program.

When a routine water sample detected potential bacterial contamination within the Fish Creek system earlier this year, a Boil Water Advisory was issued as a safety measure. As part of South Gippsland Water's commitment to customers and service standards, the lifting of a Boil Water Advisory triggers a \$10,000 community grant, recognising the community's cooperation during that time.

"By supporting locally led initiatives, South Gippsland Water aims to empower communities to stay connected, prepared and supported – particularly during times of uncertainty or

disruption," explained South Gippsland Water managing director, Robert Murphy.

The Community Resilience Grant was open to all not-for-profit community groups and organisations in Fish Creek. The successful applicants were:

Fish Creek Kindergarten – Community pathway for well-being. Fish Creek Kindergarten was awarded funding to design and create an interactive community pathway at its entrance.

Buckley Park Community Farm – Maintaining our water filters and drip-line watering system: Funding will help replace annual water filters and update drip-line fittings to ensure a reliable, efficient water supply for both established and expanding garden

beds. The improvements will strengthen the farm's ability to grow fresh, affordable produce for the community.

Fish Creek Community Development Group – Kitted Up: Fire, Flood and Storm Ready:

Funding helped deliver a community preparedness dinner in partnership with local emergency services. The event provided residents with practical information on fire, flood and storm readiness while offering a free catered meal to ensure inclusive participation.

South Gippsland Water congratulates all successful applicants and acknowledges the vital contribution each project will make in building stronger, more connected and more resilient communities.

TRADES & SERVICES

DIRECTORY

AIR CONDITIONING

SAVE UP TO \$5,000 WHEN YOU REPLACE YOUR GAS DUCTED HEATING

Ask us how!

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC
DIAMOND DEALER
SALE, INSTALLATION & REPAIR

citytocoastair.com
0400 001 465

AU39230 HM11363

BUILDER

Renovating your bathroom?
We specialise in bathroom renovations and general carpentry.

David Cowan
Builder

0425 811 443
Reg. DB-L71510

COWAN
BUILDING BATHROOMS

LB1083

CARPET CLEANING

Brittys Cleaner Carpets

- Carpets • Tiles • Cars
- Upholstery • Mattresses

Reasonable rates and friendly service.
Call David Britt today
0400 907 201

HM6631

CURTAINS & BLINDS

dc b value in every dollar

- curtains blinds
- shutters outdoor

dollar curtains + blinds

21 Murray Street, Wonthaggi 5672 2915
www.dollarcurtainsandblinds.com.au

JA19734

AIR CONDITIONING

COASTAL
REFRIGERATION & AIR-CONDITIONING

DAIKIN
03 5678 5190
office@picra.com.au

Coastal Refrigeration and Airconditioning
AU22840 HM6629

COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC
SERVICE, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND SALES

BUILDER

VANDERMEER & SONS
Over 25 years experience
Bathrooms a speciality

- Decking • Concrete retainer walls • Kitchens
- Bathrooms • Plastering • Painting
- Pergolas • Renovations
- Doors & window installation • Built-in robes

PAUL VANDERMEER
Mobile: 0427 750 568
FREE QUOTES

VV0124

CARPET & TILE CLEANING

ozzie

Carpet Cleaning • Tile and Grout
Upholstery • Pressure cleaning

25 years experience,
no obligation free quotes
ozziecarpetandtilecleaning@gmail.com

BOOK NOW 0438 357 736

AE0076

DECK RESTORATION

DeckSeal

Specialists in restoration
& preservation of timber decks
Residential & Commercial

SERVICING ALL OF BASS COAST
1800 332 525
www.deckseal.com.au

BEFORE AFTER

LB0378

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

Bass Coast HVAC
HEATING, VENTILATION & AIR-CONDITIONING

Heating & A/C install and maintenance
FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE
Nick 0421 170 827
nick@basscoasthvac.com.au

JA21755

BUILDER

SCHMIDTBUILDERS
TRADITIONAL QUALITY CARPENTRY

Specialising in:

- Extensions
- Renovations • New Homes
- Decks & Pergolas
- Stairs-Internal & External
- Private Jetties • Retaining Walls

Adam Schmidt 0418 139 352
ABN 75092084574
aschmidtbuilders@bigpond.com

VV0088

CONCRETING

REINFORCED CONCRETE SOUTH GIPPSLAND

For all your
concreting needs
Phone: 0447 137 009

Email:
reinforcedconcreteaustralia@gmail.com

LB0686

DINGO SERVICES

BEN'S DINGO SERVICES

- Dingo (rubber tracks)
- 2 ton excavator
- Bucket work
- Post hole boring
- Rotary Hoe
- Trenching

Operating locally
since 2001
0408 387 722

HM2689

ASPHALTING

ASPHALT

Schoolgrounds, Driveways
Carparks & repairs

Mike Rowley 0411 412 707
66 Nardoo Street, Cape Paterson 3995

HM5568

BUILDER

Brad McCormack Homes

Specialist builder of period style custom homes.

0428 496 266
brad@bradmccormackhomes.com.au

f @ CDB-U 66015

JEN1971

CONCRETING

SG CONCRETING LANDSCAPING

House Slabs - Driveways
Shed Floors - Paths
Retaining Walls
Property Maintenance
s.g.concreting@hotmail.com
IAN 0431105213

HM0644

EARTHMOVING & TREES

EARTH MOVING & TREES
TREVOR BUNN 0427 572 270
E: tbunn@outlook.com.au

MACHINERY:

- CAT326 Excavator 26 tonne
- CATD7 Bulldozer 25 tonne
- Giltrap Tip Trailers 16 tonne
- MF 7615 4WD tractor with front end loader (180 horsepower)
- Power grader
- Scraper • Large wood chipper that can handle any size logs, alternative to burning

LB1212

BOOKKEEPING

J L BAS & BOOKKEEPING SOLUTIONS

BAS Agent
26280606

Julie Appleyard
0429 425 252
info@jlbas.com.au

Xero Advisor

ME0680

CARPENTER

FOR ALL YOUR CARPENTRY AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS

BASS COAST
CARPENTRY & MAINTENANCE

TRENT 0434 557 936
Bass Coast Carpentry & Maintenance

HM13143

CONCRETING

BASS COAST CONCRETING
0491 950 640

HM0644

ELECTRICIAN

JES ELECTRICIANS

For all your electrical works including

- Domestic upgrades
- Maintenance and Repairs
- TV, data and home networking
- Lighting installations & upgrades
- Kitchen appliances install

JOEL SHARPE 0412 950 720
www.jselectricians.com.au

HM0101

TRADES & SERVICES



DIRECTORY

ELECTRONICS



James Dell
10 Ashenden Street
Leongatha, Vic, 3953
5662 3891
admin@gardnerelectronics.com.au

Gardner Electronics

Security/Access control • CCTV • TV
• Data/Phone • Home Theatre • PA

HYGIENE SERVICES

medico

HYGIENE SERVICES
WASTE DISPOSAL



- Collection of clinical and related waste including sharps
- Servicing ALL washroom related products
 - Sanitary units, nappy units
 - Air freshener units, W/C & urinal deep cleans
- FREE clinical and related waste audits
- Confidential document disposal service

NEED
A SOLUTION?
WE HAVE IT!

Servicing all of
Victoria and Southern
New South Wales

Phone: 1800 medico (1800 633 426)

www.medicoservices.com.au 100% Australian owned and operated

PAINTER / DECORATOR

M & J PAINTING

All aspects of painting

**SPECIALISING IN
PRE-SALE MAKEOVERS**



Commercial/Scheduled maintenance
Reliable and prompt

Call Mal 0448 101 771

STEEL & ROOFING SUPPLIES

McRae Engineering

GENERAL FABRICATION, STRUCTURAL STEEL,
FARM AND EARTHMOVING,
MACHINERY REPAIRS, SHEDS, DAIRIES ETC.

CONSIDER IT NOW!

DELIVERIES ARRANGED OR PICK UPS WELCOME

5664 7408 | 0427 343 498 | 134 Whitelaw St, Meeniyah
shaun@mcraeengineering.net.au

ENERGY SAVING REPORTS

**Let me help you
save on energy costs!**

**Home visits with
Independent advice
tailored to suit your home**

- NO SALES - Ian 0412 019 716
econergy@optusnet.com.au

LANDSCAPING & CONCRETING

A.B LANDSCAPING & CONCRETING

- Retaining Walls • Paving
 - Small Brick Repairs
 - Concreting • Landscaping
- SMALL JOBS WELCOME

Phone Andrew 0408 822 263

PICTURE FRAMING

Artlife Framing

CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING LEONGATHA



- Artworks • Photos
- Posters • Float Frames
- Jerseys and Objects

Phone Angela 0418 360 988

angela@picframing.com

TILING



APOLLO TILING

WALL & FLOOR
WATERPROOFING & SCREEDING

Providing Quality Service

Servicing Nyora, Loch and Korumburra

Steve 0425 815 764

FLOORING

CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME

Live beautifully for less

LET US GIVE YOU A QUOTE

carpetone.com.au

21 Murray Street, Wonthaggi
5672 2915

LAWN MOWING



Call 131 546

- ✓ FREE QUOTES
- ✓ Fully insured
- ✓ Police checked
- ✓ OH&S compliant
- ✓ All work guaranteed

RISK FREE

Lawn mowing, gardening, pruning, hedging,
rubbish removal, gutter cleaning, weeding,
mulching, odd jobs
www.jimsmowing.com.au

PLUMBING

Cape Paterson Plumbing



Paul Macdermid

- Domestic
- Maintenance
- Renovations

0409 744 891

5674 4801 Lic no. 48525

TREE SERVICES



- Free Quotes.
- Qualified Arborist
and Fully Insured.
- Over 10 years
expertise.

• Firewood Sales

- Tree care and advice • Pruning
- Removal • Mulching • Stump grinding

CALL BRENDAN RYAN 0448 169 258

GARAGES & SHEDS



Ask us about our patios.
Your local, qualified project specialist.
Permits, construction. 1st class service.

Contact Gavin 0433 902 969

www.gippslandgarages.com

FREE QUOTES Site visits subject to T&C's.

MECHANICAL SALES & REPAIRS



WELSHPOOL OUTDOORS

Ph: 03 5688 1304



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT
WORKSHOP REPAIRS
ORIGIN GAS DELIVERIES



welshpooloutdoors@bigpond.com.au
19 Main Street, Welshpool, VIC, 3966

REMOVALISTS & STORAGE



- Local &
Interstate
- Domestic
Cleaning
- House
Cleaning
- Storage

Call Steve or Theresa (Freecall)

1800 441 259 or 0418 303 652

Email: stevesuckling007@gmail.com

TREE SERVICES



- Contracting
- Cherry Picker
- Qualified Arborist
- Qualified Climber
- Chipper/Tree Removals
- Stump Grinding

www.treeex.com.au

Office 0493 425 800 | Duane Thomas 0409 968 040

GUTTER CLEANING

VACUUM GUTTER CLEANING

Tree Pruning & Removals | Solar Panel Cleaning
Fully insured and 20 years experience



FREE QUOTES

Phone Lochie
0417 315 846

Servicing all areas
impacttg@bigpond.com

PAINTER

BRUSH STROKES PAINTING SERVICE



No job too small

MIKE FERNLEY

0488 158 556

ROOF RESTORATION

S.O.S. ROOFING

YOUR LOCAL ROOFER

- Find and fix leaks • Roof repainting
- Roofing repointing • Valley renewal
- Roof demossing • Guttering • Gutter cleaning

ALL WORK GUARANTEED
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

Call Steve 0412 160 071

TREE SERVICES



Gippsland Tree Services

**Matt Harris
0407 245 381**

- Arborists • Large Ewp
 - Mulching • Insured
 - Tree Removals
- FREE QUOTES**
10+ Years Experience

HOME & GARDEN

Gippsland Home & Garden Maintenance

- Lawns - small acreages, large residential blocks
- Customised holiday property packages
- Seasonal fruit tree pruning
- Complete bathroom reno's
by qualified tradesman
- Tiling, painting,
pressure cleaning

Years of quality
experience

John 0414 917 468

Call now for a quote!

PAINTER

LOCAL PAINTER

Aden Vandermeer.
Wonthaggi and
surrounding areas.
FREE QUOTE.

0455 527 714

SECURITY



South Gippsland Security Services

- Patrols • Guards • Alarm responses
- Alarm monitoring

Your local security company for
Leongatha, Korumburra & district
Call Peter & Lesley Allman 5662 4280
Mob. 0427 516 317. Fax 5662 4259.

Lic. No. 655-194-50S sgsecurity@bigpond.com

WASTE SOLUTIONS

Permanent waste solutions

Call the commercial and residential
waste specialists today!



5672 2056

www.wheelawaste.com.au

EPA Registered R000301404

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

HOME MAINTENANCE

Bass Coast HOME MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS

For all repairs and
improvements to your home.
Quality workmanship at affordable prices.

Call Peter: 0466 115 776

Registered Builder - No: DB-U 4466

PAINTER



Leo: 0423 272 332

SOLAR



SOLAR - BATTERIES - OFF GRID

1300 534 110

WINDOW REPLACEMENT



WESTERNPORT WINDOWS AND HOME MAINTENANCE

MARK

P: 0418 686 583

ALUMINIUM & TIMBER WINDOW REPLACEMENT
DECKS | PERGOLAS | VERANDAS

BIRTHS

McNIELL AND WILSON:
Lyss and Toby.
A girl Sadie Allison.
All our love Grandma and Pop Wilson.
9 xxx

DEATHS

BOTTRELL, Edward Charles (Ted):

Passed away, surrounded by his loving family on Monday, November 17.

Aged 87 years.

Loved and loving husband of Sandra.

Father and father-in-law of Gordon (dec.), Daryl and Cheryl and John and Jenny.

Loving Pop of Ronald, Krystle and Mitcheal.

Cory, Bianca and Tim.

Great Pop to Bella, Darcy, Sophie, Harry, Eloise and Lucas.

Jonathan, Charlotte and Hudson.

Peacefully at rest.

Service has been held.

MURPHY, Allan William:

04.10.1952 - 15.11.2025.

Passed away peacefully with his family by his side, after a brave battle for four years.

Loved husband of Merralyn.

Loving Dad and father-in-law of Elizabeth, Mathew and Keith.

Always Remembered.

FUNERALS

MURPHY:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Allan William Murphy will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Thursday, November 27, 2025, commencing at 2pm.

A Private Cremation will follow.



IN MEMORIAM

CHAMBERS:

Father Sam
22.12.1979.

Mother Mary
02.02.1989.

Sister Frances
10.12.2010

Loved Dad, Mum and Sister of Blanche and James.

Gone but not forgotten.

LESTER, Bill:
03.12.1983
Dearly loved husband of Blanche.

True love never dies.
xxx

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE
12 NOON MONDAYS
Call 5672 1888 to place a notice

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

50th Wedding Anniversary

50 Years of Love & Laughter
Congratulations to Joe and Josie Tumino of Inverloch, who will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, 29 November 2025. Their children and grandchildren send them heartfelt love and happiness as the family celebrates this wonderful milestone together.

FOR SALE

ABBYS:
Stock clearance.
New/used furniture.
32 Merrin Crescent, Wonthaggi.
Saturday November 29 and Sunday November 30.
10am - 3pm.

FILING CABINETS

Brand new with an anti-tilt safety feature
Available in 2, 3 and 4 drawers.
Over 8 colours to choose from.
Order now at the Sentinel-Times Wonthaggi office
47 McBride Avenue
5672 1888

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD:
2 cubic metre loads.
\$300.
Contact-5657 3291.

HOUSES FOR REMOVAL:
Call Kevin, any sort,
0411 103 745.
Anytime, Anywhere.

GARAGE SALES

KORUMBURRA:
8 Little Princes Street.
Saturday, November 29, 8am - 2pm.
Plants, Bric a Brac, other stuff.
In support of Korumburra RSL.

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA:
93 Parr Street.
Saturday, November 29, 9am - 4pm.
Something for everyone.

MEENIYAN:
31 Brendan Street.
Saturday November 29, from 9am.
Everything must go.
Massive moving house sale.

Bedroom furniture, dining room furniture (medieval style), kitchen table and eight chairs, shelving, rocking chair, crystal cabinets, outdoor table setting. Rhino metal toolbox, corded, battery and petrol-powered tools and equipment, assorted hand tools, garden tools, chainsaws, mower, camping gear, shade cloth, insulation bats, fencing wire and equipment, bar fridge, microwave, electric oil heaters, TVs, artists supplies, and more.

USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS

FREE CAR REMOVAL WE PAY YOU*
Bass Coast Recyclers
5672 2946 0417 556 593
*Conditions apply

BASS COAST CAR REMOVALS

We pay you for your unwanted cars, 4x4's & trucks

We can remove farm scrap metal for free.
Towing now available.
Call Shane 7 days a week 5678 2002 or 0407 599 616

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

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.

**Connect with us**
@sentineltimes

**BARRY WAKLEY SCULPTORS AND MONUMENTAL MASONS**
"Memorials of Distinction"
Solid Granite monuments in many colors and designs to suit any budget.
Letter cutting and renovation.
18 Inverloch Road, Wonthaggi 5657 3341
info@barrywakleysculptor.com.au

**Keenan Memorials**
Servicing South Gippsland & Bass Coast
Just as we have in Gippsland for over 65 years
• Granite Memorials
• Renovations & Additions
• Plaques & Accessories
On-site and in-home appointments
Pensioner discounts
Jamie 0402 850 603
Lou 0400 076 736
Office 5134 2885
keenanmemorials@gmail.com
www.keenanmemorials.com.au
Let Us Create That Final Gift

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED ANTIQUES, COLLECTABLES, ESTATE LOTS, JEWELLERY AND SHED ITEMS:
Cash paid.
0417 108 286.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Ready to Make Changes?

Jason Crestani, your local Psychologist!

Over 28 years experience
Local resident.
Sees children & adults too NDIS and Medicare
ASD, IQ & ADHD Assessments
www.inspiredhoney.com
P: 0425 764 733

**HELP IS AS CLOSE AS THE TELEPHONE**
13 11 14

PERSONALS

FEMALE COMPANION:
Male 69yo widower, slim.
Seeking lady up to 70yo for companionship.
Gary, 0451 776 821

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.

**1st Year Apprentice**
Edney's of Leongatha is seeking a 1st year Apprentice to join its expanding Nissan/Hyundai dealership.
If you are looking at getting into the trade and willing to take the next step then this is for you.
The successful applicant will be given the latest dealership training throughout their employment while working in a friendly and modern environment.
Forward applications to:
Edney's Leongatha
Attention: Nick McRae
PO Box 72, Leongatha 3953
service@edney.com.au

**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

**BASS COAST COLLEGE**
ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN A CARING AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT
STUDENT WELLBEING COORDINATOR - EDUCATION SUPPORT
FLOW Campus
Ongoing role, commencing January 27, 2026
Full Time
Applications close on Thursday, November 27, 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 **1506331**
Further details are available on School Jobs Vic or for more information contact Emily O'Brien - Assistant Principal (Student Wellbeing & Disability Inclusion) on 5611 4000

**Handley & Anderson FUNERAL DIRECTORS**
Locally owned and operated by
Scott & Sharon Anderson 5672 1074
Caring and personal 24 hour Service
Main office Wonthaggi
3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi (P.O Box 35)
Cowes office (by appointment)
15 Warley Avenue, Cowes 5952 5171
Email: info@handafunerals.com.au
www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au


**HARWOOD FUNERALS**
Family owned and locally based Funeral Directors. We bring 25 years experience to families in Traralgon, Morwell, Churchill, Moe, Trafalgar, Korumburra and surrounding areas.
THE CHOICE IS YOURS
Practical, sensible and affordable. We offer both at-need and pre-paid funerals. Dignity and Respect, always.
CREMATION PACKAGES FROM \$3,300
www.harwoodfunerals.com.au
For 24/7 support 0405 669 532

**Milkins FUNERALS**
A trusted name in Wonthaggi for over 50 years
SERVICING ALL DISTRICTS
CHAPEL FACILITIES AVAILABLE
Services provided to suit your needs
OFFICE HOURS
9AM – 5PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY
Phone 5672 3123
102 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
www.milkinsfunerals.com.au


**HANDLEY FUNERALS**
Proudly supporting families across the Gippsland Region
Office & Chapel
24 Anderson Street, Leongatha
03 56 622 717
www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au
24 hours, 7 days a week
Member of Funerals Australia

Sentinel-Times Classifieds

SITUATIONS VACANT

Chaplain

MIRBOO NORTH SC & PS
0.8 FTE (4 days) 2 days at each

Korus Connect is seeking a Chaplain who is passionate about supporting the wellbeing of the school community. Successful applicants will have a minimum Cert IV in Youth Work, Counselling, or equivalent and a valid WWCC. Applicants are required to demonstrate personal commitment to the Christian faith and values by providing a Minister endorsement and adherence to Korus Connect's Statement of Faith.

Contact impact@korusconnect.org.au or call (03) 9811 0900 for more information and a full list of selection criteria.

Korus Connect is committed to child safety and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.

AF0082



Early Childhood Teacher

Meeniyan Preschool has an Early Childhood Teacher vacancy for 2026. The Position is 5 days a fortnight (Thursday, Friday and alternating Wednesdays.)

Prerequisites:

- Bachelor of Early Childhood Education
- Current VIT registration
- Current First Aid, CPR, Asthma and Anaphylaxis Certificates
- Current Working with Children check
- Enthusiastic and cheerful disposition
- Understanding of the VEYLDF, NQS and NQF
- Passion for high quality education and care

For a position description or for further enquiries please contact Courtney Murray via email director.meeniyan@kindergarten.vic.gov.au Applications including cover letter to be returned via email by close of business **Monday, December 8, 2025**

AF0083



HOLIDAY PROPERTY MANAGER INVERLOCH OFFICE

Our busy Holiday Team is seeking a dynamic Property Manager to join our office in Inverloch.

The successful applicant will possess:

- Excellent customer service and communication skills.
- Proficient computer skills.
- The proven ability to multi-task.
- A genuine passion to grow the business.

What we offer:

- Above Real Estate award wages.
- An amazing team environment.
- Flexible work arrangements (weekend work is required during busy seasons).
- Full training provided to our HomHero holiday system.

All enquiries strictly confidential.
TO APPLY: Email applications to: marniredmond@alexscott.com.au
For a confidential discussion, contact Marni Redmond on 0403 525 413.
7 a'Beckett Street, Inverloch, 3996.

JAC2850

SITUATIONS VACANT



South Gippsland Hospital

Positions Vacant

Positive Ageing Advocate

Welfare Worker, Class 2A
0.84 EFT part time, fixed term, funding dependant position
(21/12/25 up until 30/6/27)

Registered Nurse or Registered Nurse Midwife - Acute

Grade 2
0.63 EFT permanent part time

Dietitian
Grade 2
0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

For more information:
<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

Volunteer Expression of Interest

Community Information Volunteer
Volunteer Catering Administration Assistant
Ward Assist Volunteer
For more information call Annie on 5683 9704
www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers

AF0081



NEWHAVEN
COLLEGE



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12

Newhaven College is seeking applications for:

MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR

Permanent ongoing FTE 0.60 (Part Time) job share. Working Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.

Commencement 23 January 2026.

This role is specific to our Middle School comprising approximately 300 students in Years 5 to 8.

For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website.

Applications close Monday 8 December 2025, 4pm and should be submitted to recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

PUBLIC NOTICES



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

If you can give, please give where you live.
www.bccf.org.au

HW7077

Planning and Environment Act 1987 SOUTH GIPPSLAND PLANNING SCHEME Notice of Approval of Amendment Amendment C131 sgip

The Minister for Planning has approved Amendment C131sgip to the South Gippsland Planning Scheme.

The Amendment comes into operation on the date this notice is published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

The Amendment rezones 108 and 110 Parr Street, Leongatha from Farming Zone to General Residential Zone Schedule 1, and makes changes to overlays affecting the land.

The Minister has granted the following permit under Division 5 Part 4 of the Act:

- **Permit No.** – CP 131/2024
- **Description of Land** – 108 and 110 Parr Street, Leongatha being Lot F PS448885 Certificate of Title Volume 10635 Folio 158 and Lot 1 TP177904 Certificate of Title Volume 8988 Folio 043

A copy of the Amendment can be inspected, free of charge, at the Department of Transport and Planning website at www.planning.vic.gov.au/public-inspection or by contacting 1800 789 386.

To arrange a time to view the Amendment and permit documentation. A copy of the Amendment and permit can also be inspected, free of charge, during office hours, at the offices of the South Gippsland Shire Council located at 9 Smith Street, Leongatha.

STUART MENZIES
Executive Director,
State Planning Policy
Department of Transport
and Planning



South Gippsland
Shire Council

JAC2860

DEADLINES

Classified single column
Mondays 12.00 noon

Classified double column
Fridays 3.00pm

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

TO ADVERTISE



Phone:
5672 1888



Email:
ads@sgst.com.au



In person:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi



Mail:
47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi

Office Hours:
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

Payments accepted:



Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

Sentinel-Times

Is your employment opportunity listed online?

Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a **FREE** listing in our online and searchable directory at

www.sgst.com.au

Email your job adverts to: ads@sgst.com.au

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

Sentinel-Times

Learn to protect against invasive species

A SOUTH Gippsland Landcare Network workshop for controlling foxes and other feral animals will be held at Leongatha Memorial Hall on November 29.

From 11am until 3pm, the event will include an engaging and informative session about efficient strategies for managing invasive species.

Learn how tackling these threats can help protect the native wildlife and restore ecological balance.

While this event will be fox-focused, attendees will also be provided information on the management of feral cats, rabbits and introduced deer.

The session will include expert presentations from Aaron Stephens from Bass Coast Landcare Network, Dr Alex Maisey on lyre-bird behaviour, and David Laird from the Sporting Shooters Association Victoria.

Attendees will have the opportunity to borrow South Gippsland Landcare Network's camera traps to monitor pest activity or capture images of the amazing native species that call your property home.

Whether you're a landholder, nature lover, or curious local, this is a chance to deepen your understanding of invasive species management and how you can make a real difference.

Lunch is included – please email dietary requirements or other questions to Kirby kirby@sgln.net.au.

This project is supported by the Victorian Government through the Partnerships against Pests program.



New Inverloch Tourism Association (ITA) committee members Glenn Morris (president), Louise Litchfield, Sandy Norton (treasurer), Rebecca Wright (secretary), Mick Asbury (vice-president), Sarah Vesty and Kate McDonald. B46_4725

Inverloch preparing for a record number of tourists

THE new committee of the Inverloch Tourist Association is predicting an unprecedented number of tourists this summer in a race against time to replace the damaged sandbags at the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club.

With the new committee meeting for the first time at Inverloch this week, president Glenn Morris said the Inverloch Tourist Association was keen to

extend its membership beyond Inverloch to South Gippsland and the Bass Coast.

"We already have several new members from Wonthaggi," said Glenn.

Welcoming three new committee members was a reflection that the Inverloch community was evolving and continuing to grow. Buoyed by the large number of beachgoers over the Cup weekend, Mr Morris said

tourist numbers have already increased and are likely to go higher.

"Our website and digital platforms are growing exponentially," Mr Morris said.

"Visitor numbers are up by 15 per cent in the last three weeks. "It could be our busiest Christmas and New Year ever."

New ITA committee member Louise Litchfield, who is also a director of the Inverloch

Community Bank Bendigo, said people are holidaying closer to home because of the economy. As a member of the Inverloch community for many years, Ms Litchfield said she was keen to see how she can assist and help.

As part of its growth strategy, the Inverloch Tourist Association has also funded a part-time administration position, which will be filled by secretary Rebecca Wright.

PUBLIC NOTICES



**GIPPSLAND
SOUTHERN
HEALTH
SERVICE**



THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS REQUEST
THE PLEASURE OF
YOUR COMPANY AT
THE GIPPSLAND
SOUTHERN HEALTH
SERVICE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us to celebrate GSHS!

Light refreshments
provided and chance to
engage with our Board
and Executive Team.

**11
DECEMBER
2025**
4:00PM - 5:30PM
IPCC MEETING
ROOM, LEONGATHA
HOSPITAL

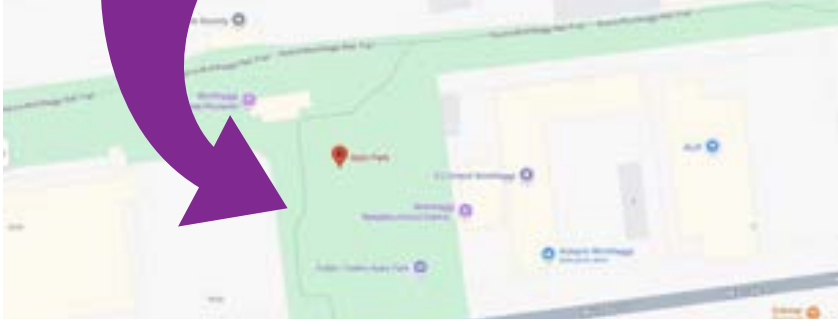
RSVP's Welcomed :
Rebecca.Shaw@gshs.com.au
or call (03) 5667 5504

PUBLIC NOTICES

Voices of Bass

29th of November, 1pm

Come and have a chat with us in
Wonthaggi at Apex park



Residents of the Bass State Electorate have formed a 'Voices of Bass' group to recruit an Independent community-endorsed candidate for the November 2026 state election.

Voices of Bass is committed to ensuring residents of the electorate are represented by a strong, quality Independent candidate - one who is not tied to the party politics of the outmoded Two Party Political Model.

The successful Voices of Bass Independent candidate will be committed to listening to the voices of the Bass Electorate community, and develop policies based on what the community needs and expects. You have to register as a member to be eligible to vote for the Voices of Bass candidate. There are no member fees.

Voices of Bass would like to share its ideas and hear those of the wider community. Everyone's invited to have a listen and have a say and be a part of things.

**Become a part of
Voices of Bass.**

**Have a say about
who you want to
represent you
and what you
want them
to fight for
in parliament.**

Voices of Bass

Seven top junior surfers head to Australian Junior Titles

SURFING Victoria has announced the 2025 Victorian Junior Surfing Team presented by Surf Better Now, and Victoria's top juniors from Bass Coast are set to compete at the Australian Junior Surfing Titles at Wollongong this week.

The Opening Ceremony will be on Friday, November 28, with surfing to begin on Saturday, November 29. The event will be completed on Friday, December 5.

Held in Wollongong in NSW, the seven-day event will feature over 180 competitors from across the country. Originally scheduled for South Australia's Fleurieu Peninsula in late November, the decision was made to relocate due to the unpredictability of conditions associated with the algal bloom.

Thirty-one of Victoria's top junior surfers will compete across the event including, U18 Junior Women, Lillian Bassed (Sandy Point), U16 Cadet boys, Arch Rayner (Inverloch) and Angus Kennedy (Cowes), U16 Cadet girls, Evie Lutz (Cowes) and Savannah Bennett (Cape Woolamai), U14 Grommet boys, Dusty Rayner (Inverloch) and U14 Grommet girls, Scarlett Rennie (Phillip Island).

"Representing Victoria at the Australian Junior Surfing Titles is something truly special," said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

"Our athletes have put in the hard work, and I can't wait to see them rise to the challenge in Wollongong. I've got no doubt they'll give it everything they've got and

do the state proud."

Lillian Bassed from Sandy Point said that she's really excited to be a part of the Australian Junior Titles this year and looks forward to competing against the best girls in the country.

"In the lead-up to the event, I've been trying to focus on the skills I am going to want for the short, sharp, fast waves at Wollongong," said Lillian. "I've been surfing as much as I can around home and have been to some state team training sessions at Urbnsurf wave pool and Cape Woolamai with Adam Robertson and James Eastern from Surfing Victoria, as well as weekly training sessions on the island with Adrian Sorati."

Surfers will compete in individual divisions, including Under 14, 16 and 18 age groups, along with the prestigious MR Shield School divisions.

Full coverage of the Victorian Team at the Australian Junior Surfing Titles can be found by following Surfing Victoria's Instagram page @surfingvictoria and @surfbetternow. More information on the event can be found at www.australianjuniorsurfingtitles.com

The Victorian Junior Surfing Team is presented by Surf Better Now and supported by Surfing Victoria.

RIGHT: Lillian Bassed (Sandy Point) is on the Victorian Junior Surfing Team set to compete at the Australian Junior Surfing Titles in Wollongong in the U18 junior women division.



U16 Cadet Angus Kennedy from Cowes will head to the Australian Junior Surfing Titles. Photos: Surfing Victoria.



Title race heats up at Phillip Island darts

THIRTY dedicated darters descended upon the venue Monday night for another thrilling week of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League, setting the stage for a nail-biting finale to the spring 2025 competition.

The team of Jamie, Dave, Kirk, and Ian delivered a commanding performance, securing a decisive five-to-two victory and walking away with the coveted chocolates.

Their dominant win stood out against three other clashes that went right down to the wire, all ending in incredibly tight four-to-three results, proving the league's competitive spirit is stronger than ever.

The excitement didn't end there.

Jamie had further cause to celebrate, finally breaking his long-running meat tray raffle drought, thanks to the generous support of the San Remo Butchers.

As the league heads into the final week, the individual competition is fiercely contested.

Paul Gleeson currently leads with a slim margin on 68 points, but Bob Hee is hot on his heels with 66 points.

David Healey remains in third on 47 points.

Next Monday promises a spectacular duel as these three battle it out for the top spot and the title of 2025 Champion.



Dave, Kirk, Jamie and Ian were this week's winners at Phillip Island and Districts Darts League's spring competition.

Life Saving Victoria launches strategic vision for 2030

LIFE Saving Victoria (LSV) unveiled its LSV 2030 Strategic Plan and released the 2024/25 Annual Report yesterday (Monday), marking a major milestone in the organisation's mission to prevent drowning and promote water safety across Victoria.

The launch follows LSV's Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, November 22, where members, staff, volunteers and stakeholders came together to reflect on the year's achievements and look ahead to a bold new chapter.

The 2024/25 Annual Report highlights the significant impact of LSV's work across life-saving services, education programs, volunteer development and community outreach.

From the beach to the classroom, the report showcases the collective efforts of more than 45,000 members and partners.

At the heart of the new LSV 2030 Strategic Plan is a powerful vision:

"Together preventing drowning. Together thriving around water."

The plan outlines six key goals – three strategic and three enabling – each supported by clear initiatives and actions to strengthen community impact, member experience and water safety outcomes.

"As we look to 2026 and beyond, LSV is committed to deepening collaboration with our partners through cross-functional working groups that ensure accountability, innovation, and shared success," said LSV CEO Cath Greaves.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

SUSAN Ruffin and Clive Hope (64.58) topped Monday night's play by a goodly margin from Anne Marie Tytler and Fred Meiseloach (56.25), Ruth Stevenson and Kathy Dowd (54.86) and Linda and Grant Austen (54.17).

Glad to play again on a Tuesday after the Cup/Remembrance Day hiatus, Matti Shub and Denise Allitt leading (67.71).

Then Ann Rinder and Neville Chapman (58.33), Bron Sund and Michael Dooley (52.08), Marie Sands and Ken McKenzie (50.56), Philip Chapman and Philip Rinder, and Ruth Stevenson and Catherine Burton, tied on 49.48.

Alan Johnston and Clive Hope led N/S on Friday (63.19), Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka (57.87), Anne Gibson and Ruth Harvey (56.94), Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh (55.09), and Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson (49.54).

In E/W, Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd (63.19), Marie Sands and Maureen Stiles (60.65), Moya Crowley and Michael Dooley (60.19), Faye Rowlands and Bron Sund (59.03), and Catherine Burton and Robyn Synan (52.78). All figures are percentages of total points available.

Anyone wanting to learn the game or join the club, please contact president Mary on 0427 338 598 secretary Kathy on 0438 859 561.

PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE

THE club teams' annual competition is played over two weeks with aggregate scores recorded.

Round one was held on Monday, November 17. Six teams of four competed.

Leading the field at the halfway mark are the indomitable Neville Chapman, Lorrie Read, Bronwyn Sund and Shirley Stewart.

Back to normal Duplicate Bridge on Wednesday saw Caroline Shaw and Janusz Wolnik take the honours with 63.89 per cent. Nine pairs competed.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY November 25	WEDNESDAY November 26	THURSDAY November 27	FRIDAY November 28	SATURDAY November 29	SUNDAY November 30	MONDAY December 1
▲ 4.07am 1.67m ▼ 9.48am 0.68m ▲ 3.47pm 1.40m ▼ 9.46pm 0.31m	▲ 4.42am 1.64m ▼ 10.22am 0.67m ▲ 4.25pm 1.38m ▼ 10.17pm 0.33m	▲ 5.16am 1.61m ▼ 10.56am 0.66m ▲ 5.03pm 1.35m ▼ 10.47pm 0.38m	▲ 5.53am 1.56m ▼ 11.30am 0.64m ▲ 5.45pm 1.33m ▼ 11.22pm 0.43m	▲ 6.30am 1.51m ▼ 12.07pm 0.62m ▲ 6.33pm 1.30m	▼ 12.04am 0.51m ▲ 7.11am 1.46m ▼ 12.48pm 0.58m ▲ 7.32pm 1.30m	▼ 12.55am 0.61m ▲ 7.56am 1.42m ▼ 1.38pm 0.52m ▲ 8.45pm 1.32m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au

ALLAMBEE MIRBOO
AND DISTRICT TENNIS
ASSOCIATION

SECTION 1 results: Westernport White 7.48 defeated Outtrim 1.23; Korumburra 5.46 defeated Westernport Red; 3.35Leongatha 5.34 defeated Koonwarra 3.33.

Ladder: Leongatha 48; Westernport White 35; Koonwarra 30; Westernport Red 29; Korumburra 27; Outtrim 11.

Section 2 results: Outtrim 7.50 defeated Korumburra 1.33; Baromi 7.47 defeated Leongatha 1.26.

Ladder: Leongatha 37; Baromi 35; Korumburra 24; Outtrim 24.

It was good to see Luke Nicholson back playing and in the only winning set for Outtrim this week in Section 1.

Korumburra was the winner against Westernport Red – Red winning three of the four mixed sets, but it wasn't enough to come away with the win.

Koonwarra v Leongatha was the match of the day, with just a one game win to Leongatha.

Section 1 is having some fantastic matches this year, even if the scores don't always reflect that.

Plenty of younger players are up in the section too, which is great to see.

In Section 2 this week, both matches were 7/1, with Outtrim and Baromi coming away winners at the expense of Korumburra and Leongatha respectively.

RIVERSIDE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION

ROUND seven results:

Section 1 doubles: Neerim District 8 – 51 defeated Drouin Maroon 1 – 25; Moe 6 – 46 defeated Warragul 3 – 21; Drouin Gold – bye.

Ladder: Moe 53; Neerim District 49.5; Drouin Gold 34.5; Drouin Maroon 33.5; Warragul 22.

Section 1/2 singles: Trafalgar Red 3 – 37 defeated Moe White 3 – 34; Drouin Maroon 6 – 49 defeated Moe Blue 0 – 27; Warragul 6 – 48 defeated Drouin Gold 0 – 0 (forfeit); Trafalgar White – bye.

Ladder: Moe White 42; Trafalgar White 40; Trafalgar Red 36; Warragul 29; Drouin Maroon 20; Drouin Gold 14; Moe Blue 13.

Section 2 doubles: Poowong 2 – 24 defeated by Warragul 7 – 51; Trafalgar 5 – 39 defeated Drouin 4 – 38; Hallora 7 – 47 defeated Neerim District 2 – 21.

Ladder: Hallora 51.5; Warragul 47.5; Neerim District 43.5; Drouin 35.5; Trafalgar 33.5; Poowong 19.5.

PHILLIP ISLAND
TENPIN BOWLING

RESULTS: 2sCompany – week 15: first place Pin Pushers on 29 points; second place Jail on 28 points; third place King Pins on 27.5 points.

ABL – week 16: first place Just Bowl Already on 202 points; second place Pin Pals on 183.5 points; third place Fairlanes on 177.5 points.

Phantom – week 12: first place Spin King on 301 points; second place Lala on 284 points; third place Cobalt on 254 points.

Business early – week seven: first place Wooly Balls on 15 points; second place NTC on 14 points; third place Balls Deep 12 points; fourth place The Redundants on 10 points.

Business late – week seven: first place City Lights on 16 points; second place S&R Clarke Auto on 12 points; third place Gym Rats on 12 points; fourth place The Ex Men on eight points.

Top scores for this week across each league:

Men: Justin Porterhouase 231, Scott Lynch 212 and Raff Merante 209.

Women: Valma Peterson 170, Jacky Dow 158 and Mary Dardha 155.

Probus: Cornella defeated Phillip Island 849 to 770 pins

Top scores: Men: John 271 pins, Ladies: Loraine 191 pins.

Patrol season begins in
preparation for a busy summer

PATROL flags are back up after the summer lifesaving season officially kicked off on Monday, November 17, and local surf life saving clubs say they're ready for what will almost certainly turn into another busy stretch of long days, shifting tides and unpredictable crowds. For now, things are still fairly calm, but both Woolamai Beach and Venus Bay surf life saving clubs are warning people not to be complacent.

At Woolamai Beach, club president Jason Close said the biggest danger this summer won't be where most people assume. The trouble, he said, lies in the parts of the coastline where the red and yellow flags aren't flying.

"The key issue for us is people swimming at remote unpatrolled beaches," he said.

"We patrol Woolamai and Smiths Beach, but by far the biggest danger is when people go to places like Forrest Caves or Surf Beach. That's when we tend to get callouts and people getting in trouble, because if we can't see them, then we can't save them."

Patrols are now running every day across Woolamai Beach and Smiths Beach, with paid lifeguards working alongside volunteer lifesavers until mid-February. Cowes Beach will also have daily lifeguards on duty through to February 6. The first week has been quiet thanks to cool weather, but Mr Close said that won't last long. Once school wraps up, the sun comes out and holidaymakers start drifting down to the island, the beach fills very quickly.

"Numbers usually start out low in November, but once you hit the school holiday period they really jump," he said. "After Christmas through to Australia Day is one of the busiest times all year."

Over the winter break, the club spent a lot of time getting its equipment into shape. In-



Early-season patrols are already underway, with inflatable rescue boat crews ready for changing conditions.

flatable rescue boats were serviced, rescue boards repaired and ATVs given the usual checkup. Life Saving Victoria inspectors have already done their annual checks. Volunteers have been requalifying too, which means running, swimming, CPR refreshers and all the other small but necessary requirements that allow them to get back on the sand.

Mr Close said beachgoers can do their part before they even leave the driveway.

"We'd really like people to plan a day at the beach," he said.

"Check if the beach is going to be patrolled. The Beachsafe app is really easy to use, and it shows exactly which beaches have patrols and when."

He also wants people to pay attention to signs and to bring their own shade and water, after several heat-related incidents last summer, including a case at Smiths Beach where lifesavers treated a woman for heat exhaustion before paramedics arrived.

Across at Venus Bay, the focus is much the same, though the beach itself presents a different set of challenges. The 2025/26 patrol season runs from November 15 to April 19, with volunteer lifesavers starting their weekend patrols from November 22. Paid lifeguards are already working weekdays. Beach One is the only patrolled spot, and each patrol generally includes eight to ten trained volunteers.

Club president Kimberley Gee said Venus Bay has a reputation for strong rips and powerful, unpredictable surf.

"These conditions can change quickly, even on calm days," she said.

The hazards they deal with are familiar but serious: swimmers drifting into unpatrolled areas, people trying to help others without flotation support, inexperienced swimmers underestimating the surf and children entering the water without close supervision.

"We strongly urge all visitors to swim between the flags, stay

close to shore and keep a close eye on children at all times," she said.

Crowds have been slowly picking up since lifeguards arrived on November 15, which Ms Gee said is exactly what they expect at this time of year. Things are expected to escalate once the weather warms up, especially during the busy Christmas to New Year window, and also the whole of January. Venus Bay traditionally draws many holidaymakers during the school break, and so far, there is nothing to suggest this summer will be any different.

The club has spent the off-season maintaining its rescue equipment, preparing its Nippers program, and supporting young volunteers moving into patrol roles. Community education remains a focus for the club also.

Ms Gee kept her message to the public simple: swim at a patrolled beach, stay between the red and yellow flags, listen to directions and never underestimate the ocean.



Inverloch lifesavers rugged up as patrol season starts on the rainy side

Mathais, Sam, Kirk and Hannah from the Inverloch S.L.S.C. kept a close eye on surf conditions at the Inverloch surf beach for the first statewide patrol over the weekend amidst wet conditions. B39_4725



U15 Underwater State Hockey coach Emma Le Mar in the pool with the team to go to the National Titles on the Gold Coast in January. B31_4725

Going for gold, State underwater hockey team trains in Wonthaggi

VICTORIA'S U15 and U19 state underwater hockey teams trained in Wonthaggi over the weekend ahead of the national titles on the Gold Coast in January.

"The U15s have a good chance of bringing home a medal," said Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club president and Victorian U19 coach Tim Ogden.

U15 coach Emma Le Mar has just returned to Wonthaggi with a silver medal after representing Australia in the Elite Women's International Championship held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Emma has represented Great Britain as well as Australia in underwater hockey and is co-coaching the U15s with Victorian Underwater Hockey junior development officer Michael Milnes, who works hard to engage and develop young players throughout the state.

Although at least half of the state junior competitors came from South Gippsland and the Bass



Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club president and Victorian U19 coach Tim Ogden with U19 state player Ethan Milnes training at the Wonthaggi Aquatic Centre. B29_4725

Coast for the weekend training camp at the Wonthaggi Aquatic Centre, many also travelled from Geelong and Melbourne.

Wonthaggi club member 16-year-old Devlin Rowe has played twice for the U19 team and came away with a bronze medal from the State Championships as a junior in Ballarat.

Tamsyn Walsh is also a key player and captained the U15 squad.

"The U15s have been training hard and are a good chance at winning gold," said Tim.

A 20-year veteran of underwater hockey, Tim represented Victoria as both a junior and in the elite men's competition for Australia in the U24s.

Currently boasting 50 members, the Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club was established 45 years ago and took their first team to the nationals in the 1980s.

The club has enjoyed considerable success, including a U19 gold medal in 2010.

The Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club trains on Thursday nights during school terms with players coming from as far as Foster, Phillip Island, Leongatha and Korumburra.

"It's a lot more demanding than people expect," said Tim.

"We're often compared to a school of piranhas in a feeding frenzy," said Tim.

As a boy, Tim found underwater hockey inclusive and welcoming.

"And that tradition continues today."

To learn more, go to wonthaggiunderwater-hockey.com or look for Wonthaggi Underwater Hockey Club on Facebook.



Brad, Lee Lee, Braden and Jake competed in the Wonthaggi Table Tennis grand final.

Double Fish claim table tennis premiership

DOUBLE Fish defeated Nittaku three to two.

Howard Cosell said that sport is the toy department of human life, so surely by extension grand finals are Christmas days.

The first two singles matches went to script when the number ones, Double Fish's Brad and Nittaku's Braden, took care of the opposing number twos, Jake and Lee Lee, making it one all.

The predictable start was no harbinger for the unpredictable and crucial doubles.

All players knew it.

When Nittaku held a two-set-to-one advantage and held two set points in the fourth set to possibly take a commanding Doubles lead, Double Fish's undaunted Lee Lee decided to bring the vroom vroom.

When Nittaku's Braden and his apex predatory wingspan sizzled a sure winner, Lee Lee, like an unflinching barracuda, responded with her own sizzle and angle to shake Jake out of victory mode and scrambling to unsuccessfully save the point.

The humble hall gasped as one.

Braden slapped another missile and Lee Lee repeated the play, stunning the humble hall again and playing partner Brad, who stared bug-eyed and shocked like a harpooned flounder.

Now oozing oodles of confidence and derring-do, Double Fish won the Doubles in seven entertaining sets, making it two to one.

In the reverse singles, Braden devoured the flounder to make it two all.

Now the whole season came down to the last game.

Lee Lee again brought the barracuda boom boom to defeat a gallant Jake four sets to one to carry Double Fish to premiership glory and earn an upsized stocking under the Yuletide tree.

As a side quest, Wonthaggi sent five of its finest to Bairnsdale to play in a one-day tournament with much success.

Jack Duff: B Grade Champion.

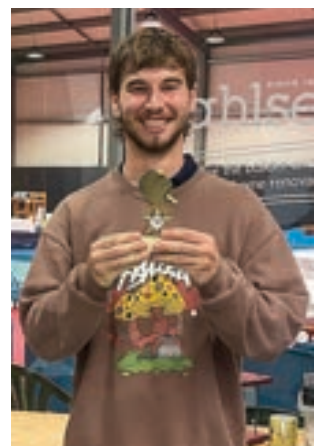
Braden Andrighetto: B Grade runners-up.

Luke Hiddle: C Grade Champion.

Braden's Scottish Love-lies: Best YouTube doco.



B Grade Champion Jack Duff.



B Grade runner-up Braden Andrighetto.



C Grade Champion Luke Hiddle.

Swimmers compete at qualifying event

IT WAS a fun weekend for the 54 South Gippsland Bass swimmers competing in GSI 8 at Traralgon on Saturday.

The meet was the last chance for swimmers to qualify for the State Age Championships next month, with many swimmers giving their all, in their races, hoping to meet the qualifying times for the event.

There were also a number of swimmers trying to get qualifying times for the Country Championships in January.

The District 21 group, selected as they were swimmers close to getting qualifying times, did a special training session in the morning and then competed in the break to try to get their qualifying times.

There was a lot of excitement and cheering from the stands as family and fellow club members cheered them on, with



South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club was well represented at GSI 8 in Traralgon on Saturday.

several swimmers achieving their times.

There were also a number of younger swimmers who were still gaining their confidence while swimming in the 50 metre pool, with more personal bests and even greater experience.

The young swimmers

were supported by the older members of their clubs, hoping to one day emulate their performances.

With university and Year 11 and 12 exams over, the club has been happy to welcome back some of its older swimmers who are now competing in a couple of weeks of competition so

they can race at Gippies in March.

Next weekend, racing heads to Melbourne for the State Sprint Championships, where those who have qualified will race in just 50 metre races on Saturday, with the top 10 returning for finals on Sunday.



Foster Bowls Club's Jack Attack winners were Prom Meats' Carla and Lyndon. Absent: Hannah.



Doug Archer, Martin Hannaford (skip) and Glen Davis were the November Triples winners at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



Ken Barnes (2), Bob Arnold (L), Neil Andreatta (3) and Mark Hanrahan (S) were the winners of the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group challenge on Thursday.



The best one game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group were John Nicholson (S), Max Summers(3), Lou Capsalis (2) and Gary McAllister (L).



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Thursday social bowls winners were Stan Noad and Allan Ireland.



Ed Henry, Lia Smith and Elaine Grabham shared a win at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls on Friday.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

WHAT a fantastic day was had by the members on Monday. The winners were Les Stanbury, Lorraine Bain, Brian Newman and Peter Grenville. They had +8 – well done, guys. What a great day for bowling on Friday – great attendance by the members. The winners were Pat Novak, Liz Low and Margaret Morgan. They returned a great score of +18.

FISH CREEK

LAST week's Tuesday Pennant saw Division 2 have a washout at Korumburra and Division 4 travel to Mirboo North and lose by the narrowest of margins 44/2 to 45/8. Paul Kerr's rink won 23 to 21 and Bruce Cooper rink lost 21 to 24. The Saturday Pennant had three teams at home. Division 2 continued its good form against Toora by winning 69/16 to 45/0. Scott Jennings' rink won 25 to 13, Rob Mortlock won 24 to 14 and Bill Symmons won 20 to 18. Division 4 was outclassed by Wonthaggi 72/14 to 44/2. The Heywood rink again held the team together winning 23 to 16, Rob Poletti's rink lost 15 to 21 and Ray Watkins' rink was soundly defeated seven to 34. Division 6 had another great win with scores of 51/10 to Toora 37/0. Kelvin Flanders won 25 to 15 and Rob McLaughlin won 26 to 22. This Thursday is the Turkey Triples and sponsored by the Charlton family in honour of Jack. The club recently hosted a community evening, which was very well attended by many locals with the main focus on how to prepare for any emergency situation. A very beneficial night was presented by all the emergency services. Barefoot bowls will start on January 13, so please contact Rob McLaughlin on 0476891161 to get your teams in. Good bowling.

FOSTER

THE Jack Attack competition is cruising along with another great night last week. The winners, taking home the Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored by Roosters Plumbing and Earthmoving this week, were Prom Meats, with Carla, Lyndon and Hannah. Runners-up for the night were the Robblecocks, Leigh and Chelsea, taking home the chocky prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens. The club has great support all round from local sponsors, which is totally awesome. Prom Meats and Cellarbrations contribute weekly to the raffle prizes also, which is great. A big thank to you all. A dress-up theme is due, so the club has gone for a pyjama party this week. There should be some fun photos for the Facebook page. There's been a slight shuffle on the team ladders. It was a close competition all round. With only two weeks left, the others will have to step up to the challenge. You can also check out the ladders on the Facebook page. The Pennant competition is

going well. All divisions are holding their own in the top half of the ladders. Another washout on Tuesday for Division 1 at Korumburra was disappointing. They were two ends short of a constituted game. The weather conditions and the soggy green was against them. Division 3 had a nice win against Tarwin Lower. The Saturday Pennant saw both Division 3 and 4 clock up wins at home. Division 3 came home with a comfortable win in the end, but Mirboo North put the pressure on. Division 4 battled on against Korumburra to bring home the win by three shots. Great work all round by everyone. Keep up the great work.

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. The Monthly Wednesday Triples saw 22 teams play four games of 10 ends each. Competition was fierce between the bowlers despite the cool conditions. The winning team on the day was comprised of Martin Hannaford (skip), Doug Archer and Glen Davis. They finished with three wins and a draw. Runners-up on three wins, 14 shots up and 26 ends were Geoff Coleman (skip), John Kappler and Bill Brown. The hard luck story was the team led by Andy Robertson with three wins, 14 shots up and 23 ends. Best first game went to the team led by Richard Cove +16. Best second game went Arthur Newsome's team with +16. Best third game went to C. Fishur's team with +9. Best fourth game went to Maureen Taylor's team with +16. The next Triples game is on December 17.

KORUMBURRA

UNFORTUNATELY, Midweek Pennant was washed out again last week. In Saturday Pennant, Division 1 hosted Corinella. Charlie Edgerton had a good win with a 28 shot to 12 victory. Rob Cosson won 21 shots to 16 and Shane O'Loughlin lost 19 shots to 20 – still a good overall win. Division 3 travelled to Corinella all to no avail. Rob Sund went down 16 shots to 20, Grumpy lost 24 shots to 18 and Garry Dorling lost 29 shots to 18 – not a good day. Division 4 travelled to Foster and went down by three shots overall. Jo Lomagno got up 24 shots to 12, Di Ashton lost 15 shots to 18 and Peter Hearn lost 30 shots to 18. Division 6 hosted Inverloch and had a good win. Cheryl Moore won 27 shots to 11 and Judith Nicholl won 19 shots to 15 – well done to all. Don't forget Christmas counter tea is on December 5. The cost is \$35 per head and the money is to be paid the week before.

LEONGATHA

AFTER two weeks of no Tuesday Pennant, it was nice to at least step foot on the green and have a roll. That was short-lived – the rain came down more on than off, which dampened the whole morning and was quite unpleasant. Everyone just wanted the warm comfort of the clubrooms. Both teams were at home, which unfortunately was no advantage to either one. Division 1 lost to Phillip Island 59 to 54. Division 4 lost to second on the ladder Loch by only two points 38 to 36. Thanks to the fill-ins. The weather improved for the traders' night. At the moment, all is running very smoothly. There are 32 teams this year, which means both rinks are full. It's great to see people from the town interested in having a go. The good thing about what's coming out of these nights are a lot of bookings to hire out the clubrooms for different kinds of functions, which is a bonus. Winners so far are Amber Fluid and close behind are the Home Hardware team. There are still four weeks to go – anything can happen. Wednesday social day was another dry day much more enjoyable than Tuesday and the winners this week were Chris and Janis with three wins. Runners-up were Len (a visitor), Lloyd and Rob with two wins and a draw. Anthony, John, Nathan and Allan – the awesome foursome – played the young top gun Mirboo North side at Loch for the State Fours competition. Unfortunately, the guys lost 14 to 11 – it was a great effort to even get that far. Saturday Pennant Division 1 was away this week with a long drive to Phillip Island and came home with the win 58 to 56 while Division 2 and 5 played at home. Meeniyan had a win over the Division 2 by just two single shots. Division 5 had a good win over top side Corinella 81 to 40. The club has its Fours Mixed Medley on Thursday, December 4. There are plenty of vacant spots, so come on down put your teams in. Don't forget the Monthly Triples next Wednesday week again – fingers crossed the weather will be kind. December 12 will be the end-of-year Christmas breakup. Names need to be on the board as soon as possible. Now there are only two left, as the saying goes. Ladies Club Champion grand final will be held on Sunday at 9.30am, alongside the men's semi-final. The winners of that game will be in the grand final for the Men's Club Champion. If you're not doing much on Sunday, come down and see some skilled bowling. Good luck to everyone participating. Keep up the good work.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

FORTY-SEVEN bowlers arrived at Corinella Bowls Club for the weekly challenge to be greeted by rain and a very wet green. They were signed in by John Nicholson while Bev and Vern Elliott arranged the teams for the day.

Continued page 47



The Tuesday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were Helen Rook, Fred Demenech, Jean Wyld and Bob Curtain.

From page 46

Once the teams were organised, the players went out onto the green after the brief rain delay.

Thankfully the rain cleared and play continued uninterrupted for the whole day.

The initial wet conditions resulted in a very fast green and extremely wide biases; however, this improved as the day proceeded.

As usual, a few wrong bias bowls contributed to the Royal Children's Hospital tin.

After a very competitive day of bowling the following teams prevailed.

Winners on a score of 38, winning 10 ends in the afternoon session, were Ken Barnes (2), Bob Arnold (L), Neil Andreatta (3) and Mark Hanrahan (S).

R/up on a score of 36 were Raff Merante (3), Ron Hughes (L) and Louis Magri (S).

Best one game on a score of 19 was won by John Nicholson (S), Max Summers (3), Lou Capsalis (2) and Gary McAllister (L).

A big thank you to the Corinella members for all their efforts in the kitchen preparing the morning tea and cleaning up afterwards and to Phil Wright for setting up the green.

Also, thanks to Terry Floyd and Steve Bray for their very responsible work behind the bar keeping the thirsty bowlers happy.

A special mention goes to Laurie Bell, who has requested some assistance after five years of continuous writing of these weekly articles.

As a result, the club will now have a number of different scribes supporting Laurie on a weekly basis.

Next week, the club will be meeting at Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club for the weekly challenge.

Please be onsite by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams.

Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching the 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 overcast conditions for Pennant.

Division 1 played host to

Corinella at Wonthaggi.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 73, Corinella 50.

Division 2 travelled to Phillip Island looking for another win.

Once again, all rinks played well to record a solid win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 63, Phillip Island 51.

Division 3, also at Phillip Island, was looking for another win.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 74, Phillip Island 47.

Tuesday night barefoot bowls was a success, with a little sunshine to make the night more comfortable.

Thursday morning social bowls saw a good number of bowlers grace the greens on a cool morning.

Thursday 1pm social bowls saw 23 bowlers play two games over 10 ends.

There were three teams that were two-game winners, with the winners being Stan Noad and Allan Ireland with a score of two wins and 34 points.

The team of Bob Powell, Rod Vawdon and Allan Lowe had a score of two wins and 31 points.

The other unlucky team were Frank Tagell and Scott Miller with a score of two wins and 32 points.

Friday night was a busy night with the members draw plus the first Christmas break-up.

Bill Davidson was there to collect the members draw of \$70.

John was a happy meat tray winner, while Allan was pleased to take home the chicken tray.

Raye and John D each won a brekky pack.

All meat was supplied by Wonthaggi Meat Supply.

Other winners were John, Allan B and Paul.

Saturday saw Division 1 travel to Tarwin on a fine but overcast day.

The day didn't go as planned, with one rink having a win but the other two going down in a close match.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 56, Tarwin 60.

Division 2 played host to Phillip Island at Wonthaggi on a day when conditions were good for bowls.

Two rinks had wins, with the other going down in

a close match to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 61, Phillip Island 50.

Division 4 (3) travelled to Fish Creek looking for a win against a good team.

All rinks played well to record a solid win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 71, Fish Creek 45.

Division 4 (4) played host to Tarwin at Wonthaggi looking for another win.

After a close match all day, Wonthaggi was able to get a win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 59, Tarwin 56.

Division 6, also at Wonthaggi, played host to Lang Lang and were looking for another win to keep the season going.

Both rinks played well to get a win. The final scores were Wonthaggi 37, Lang Lang 31.

Bowls this week:

Tuesday: Pennant.

Tuesday night: Barefoot bowls with doors open at 4pm, bowls at 6pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 9.30am and social bowls at 1pm.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Friday night: members' draw with doors open at 4pm, draw at 6pm.

Saturday: Pennant.

Don't forget the Christmas Lunch on Sunday, December 7, at the Wonthaggi Club.

Make sure you put your name or names on the list for a good lunch.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT WAS another great week of bowling with like-minded friends.

On Tuesday, the club had 24 players with the winning team consisting of Helen Rook, Fred Demenech, Jean Wyld and a new member Bob Curtain +6 (two games).

Runners-up were Ray McCurry, Jeannie Slocombe, Betty Huitema and Ian Bice.

On Friday, the only team to take the win with two games were Ed Henry, Lia Smith and Elaine Grabham +15.

The runners-up were Max Sweetnam, Maggie Scapin, Glenda Binch and Philip Fowler.

Well done to all.



Winner of Woorayl Golf Club's Stroke, two-person Ambrose event was Sherrill Winkler, pictured with runners up Nicki Rendon and Jo Fennell. Absent: Elly Berryman.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, November 18.

Stableford: 17 players.

Winner: Greg Wilson 36 points.

NTPs: first Greg Jones, 10th Don Hislop and 13th Athol Worthy.

Thursday, November 20:

Stableford: seven players.

Winner: Jaarl Enbom 38 points.

NTPs: first Steve Duffield, 10th Steve Duffield and 13th Steve Duffield.

Annual tournament:

Friday, November 21:

Ricky Johnson 4BBB: 40 players.

Winners: Neil Spargo and Peter McMaster 46 points.

NTPs: first Owen Kindellan, seventh Levi Perkins, 10th Mark McKelson and 13th Greg Wilson.

Saturday, November 22:

Sponsors: Drummond Golf, Excelsior Concreting and Korumburra Golf Club.

18-hole net: 31 players.

A Grade: Matt Burns 69.

B Grade: Ross Crawford 74 C/B.

27-hole gross and net: 16 players.

27-hole gross: A Grade Mark McKelson and B Grade Peter Van Agtmaal.

27-hole net: A Grade Jacob Wrigley and B Grade Levi Cocksedge.

NTPs: first Ross Crawford, seventh Ollie McKelson, 10th Darryl Brain and 13th Ian Morris.

Ladies

THE women played two events in fine spring weather last Wednesday.

Eleven individual players qualify for the Star Medal playoff.

This event is for all players who have won a Wednesday Monthly Medal throughout the year.

The club is very excited to announce the new 2025 Star Medallist is Julie Hillberg with a great score of 94 (23)71 net – congratulations.

Runner-up was Trudi Mantell 73 net on a c/b from Lyn McIvor.

The Stableford competition had seven women play.

Well done to Kim Enbom (29) winning with 33 points.

Runner-up was Barb Twite (25) with 29 points on a c/b from Karen Sorrell (36).

NTPs: first Kerri Besley (Kelly's Bakery), seventh (second shot) Kim Enbom, 10th Merrissa Cosson and 13th Shelley Snooks.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, November 11: Stableford.

Tuesday was a Stableford round with a field of 54 members/guests entering the competition.

Overall winner: Dave Brownnett (15) with the high score of the day of 37 points.

A Grade winner: Dave Brownnett (15) with 37 points.

A Grade runner-up: Jeremy de Silva (18) with 36 points.

B Grade winner: Ian Trease (19) with 36 points.

B Grade runner-up: Bert Borg (21) with 35 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Colin Bear (15) at 2.58m.

NTP 14th: Ian Trease (19) at .90m.

NTP 16th: Frank Kauhausen (22) at 1.05m.

Thursday, November 20: Stableford.

Thursday had a turnout of 72 members/guests, hitting off with a shotgun start and playing a Stableford round of golf.

Overall winner: Peter Hodder (17) with the high score of the day of 38 points on a countback.

A Grade winner: Jeremy de Silva (8) with 35 points on a countback.

A Grade runner-up: Paul Deery (10) with 35 points.

B Grade winner: Peter Hodder (17) with 38 points on a countback.

B Grade runner-up: Doug Clemann (15) with 38 points.

C Grade winner: Fred Debono (26) with 37 points on a countback.

C Grade runner up: Martin Burggraaff (20) with 37 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Peter Hodder (17) at 1.45m.

NTP 14th: John McInnes (14) at 1.90m.

NTP 16th: Andrew Seccull (16) at 1.35m.

Saturday, November 22: Stableford.

Saturday was another great day on the course, with an excellent field of 101 members/guests entering the Stableford competition.

Overall winner: Ian Blencowe (19) with the high score of the day of 40 points on a countback.

A Grade winner: Jamie Grenville (13) with 39 points on a countback.

A Grade runner-up: Jeremy de Silva (8) with 39 points.

B Grade winner: Ian Blencowe (19) with 40 points.

B Grade runner-up: Darren Read (15) with 37 points on a countback.

C Grade winner: Anna de Bondt (31) with 40 points.

C Grade runner-up: Delia Perry (39) with 39 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Stephen Butler (11) at 2.15m.

NTP 14th: Jason Dennerley (13) at .70m.

NTP 16th: Paul Richardson (15) at .88m.

Leongatha Golf Club held its annual Top Gun Tournament on Sunday, November 23.

After a two-month qualifying period the top 19 qualifiers hit off on the first hole at 9am.

Each hole one player was eliminated. First to go earning the title of Popgun 2025 was Alan Starkey.

Finishing in third place being eliminated on the 17th hole was Doug Clemann a regular past winner.

The final hole was battled out by Dave Brownnett and Ray Matthews with Ray being the winner.

Continued page 48



Nineteen qualifiers competed in Leongatha Golf Club's annual Top Gun Tournament on Sunday.



Winner of the Hartley Wells Betta Electrics A Grade Stableford event at the Leongatha Golf Club was Kay Dumbleton.



Korumburra's Julie Hillberg is the 2025 Wednesday Star Medallist.



Wonthaggi Golf Club's daily winners Marg Johnson, Robyn Wilkinson and Karen Sheerin with Jenny McRae, who won the Golf Australia state final of the Silver Spoon event.



The winner and runner-up of Leongatha Golf Club's annual Top Gun Tournament was Ray Matthews and Dave Brownnett.



Korumburra men's captain Ian Cash with Ricky Johnson 4BBB winner Peter McMaster. Absent: Neil Spargo.



Korumburra's 27-hole A Grade gross winner Mark McKelson and 27-hole B Grade gross winner Peter Van Agtmaal.

From page 47

Ladies

A LARGE field played in the Hartley Wells Betta Electrics sponsored Stableford event.

An excellent score from Country teams' representative, Kay Dumbleton, finishing with 40 points on a handicap of 21.

Deb Miller was the runner-up in A Grade with 34 points.

The B Grade winner was Jan Brownlie, winning on a countback from Else Gedye, with a score of 33.

Bad luck Else – two weeks in a row.

Balls down the went to 31: Sue Bowler, Anna de Bondt, Neryl Hopcraft, Marianne Leaver, Jenny Fraser, Di Williams, Robin Smith and Joc Howson.

It was cheap round for the club this week – no nearest the pins.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, November 18: Stableford.

A Grade: T. Whitelaw 40 points.

B Grade: J. Smeriglio 34 points.

DTL: P. Woodall 35, and N. Whichello and D. Taylor 34.

NTP: fourth P. Woodall, sixth G. Shandley, 13th M. Payne and 16th N. Rutledge.

Birdies: fourth G. Shandley and P. Woodall, and 13th M. Payne and T. Whitelaw.

Saturday, November 22: Stroke, Final Club Championship.

Day winners:

A Grade: T. Baker 69 c/b.

B Grade: J. McFarlane 69.

C Grade: S. Evison 73.

DTL: N. Bickerton 70, Tim Traill 72, F. Fernandez, and R. Kratzat and L. Gilliam 74.

NTP: fourth T. Baker, sixth D. Felmingham, 13th J. Smeriglio and 16th F. Fernandez.

Birdies: sixth D. Felmingham and Tim Traill, and 16th F. Fernandez.

Lowest putts: Tim Traill.

Championship:

A Grade scratch: Tim Traill.

HCP: Tim Traill.

B Grade scratch: A. Liebe.

HCP: S. Hill-Smith.

C Grade scratch: S. Evison.

HCP: S. Evison.

Vets scratch: (Division 1) T Bradshaw; (Division 2) J Smeriglio.

HCP: J. McFarlane.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: November 20.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner A Grade: Joshua Kilgour 38.

Winner B Grade: Peter Ali 45.

BDTL: Neil Beer 40, Rod McBride 38, Martin Cox 38, Keith Ridout 37, Mark Casey 36, Jamie Davidson 35, Kevin Loughran 34 and Tony Schipano 33.

Results: November 20.

Competition: Stableford back nine-hole.

Winner: Bob Cornelis 19.

Ball DTL: Secondo Tiziani 18.

Results: November 22, S.R 71.

Competition: Stableford.

A Grade: Mark Tiziani 38.

B Grade: Mark Nicholson 38.

C Grade: Norm Burne 38.

Balls down the line to 34: Darcy O'Halloran 38, Inoke Baudromo 37, Rod McBride 37, John Geyer 36, Alan Jones 36, Russell Parker 36, Harrison Jays 35, Stephen Judd 34, Simon O'Halloran 34, Glenn Hewlett 34, Kevin Loughran 34, David Hynes 34, Shane Osborne 34, Shaun Stirton 34 and Garry O'Connor 34.

NTPs: Mark Tiziani second, Rod McBride fourth, David Hynes propin eighth, Darcy O'Halloran 13th and Eric Van Agtmaal money hole 17th.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY saw 22 players check in for the November Monthly Medal.

While the 32 mls since Monday had changed the course again, the day stayed dry, and the normal wind will dry it out soon.

The B Grade winner Robyn Wilkinson with the round of the day with a score of 100 (29)71 net, won the November Medal. Having only 30 puts on the day was a great help.

A Grade's winner was Marg Johnson 90(16)74 net.

Marg was also the best scratch and won NTP second.

C Grade's winner and NTP eighth winner was Karen Sheerin 109(35)74 net.

Other NTP was fourth and 17th Kaylene Hodgetts.

BDL went to Simone Lindsay 73, Geraldine Prentice 74, Patsy Britt 75, Donna Brosnan 76 and Jan Beaumont 76.

WOORAYL

SPONSORED by Kath Davis and Linda Forrester, the ladies played Stroke, two-person Ambrose.

The weather was overcast with moments of sunshine.

There were 15 players, one being a swinger.

Each person had to get six drives away.

The winners were Sherrill Winkler and Elly Berryman 13 86 73net.

Runners-up were Nicki Rendon and swinger Jo Fennell 20.25 96 76.25.

BDL: Janet Thompson and swinger Jo Fennell 76.25. and Linda Forrester and Inge Giliam 76.75.

NTP: eighth Kath Davis, 11th Ann Poole and 17th Elly Berryman.



Celebrating the success of the Ambrose Golf Day were, from left, Bass Coast Health Executive Director Chris Henderson, Alison Adams of Revive Beauty and Spa, helper Faye Zappa, Michael Turton of The Cape Tavern, Melissa Stirton of Headlines Hairdressing and Bass Coast Health interim CEO Simone Alexander.

Golf day raises \$35,000 for endometriosis equipment

BASS Coast Health is closer to being able to offer surgical services for endometriosis after yet another successful fundraiser driven by three local businesses and backed by many other businesses and the wider community.

The annual Ambrose Golf Day fundraiser at Wonthaggi Golf Club raised approximately \$35,000 for the purchase of theatre equipment to support the diagnosis and treatment of endometriosis at Wonthaggi Hospital.

The fundraiser featured a golf game with more than 100 players and a lunch on Sunday, November 9, along with the famous Golf Ball Drop.

Supporters bought a numbered golf ball, which was placed in a basket and dropped from a cherry picker over a green.

The ball that landed in the hole won \$2500.

The winner was Simon Pegg.

Christine Burns won the mega raffle of two nights' accommodation in a three-bedroom apartment at Docklands.

The annual fundraiser is organised by Alison Adams of Revive Beauty and Spa, Melissa



Bass Coast Health's Gavin Jayasena, Kai Allison, Dean Van De Waterbeemd and Andrew McNeel enjoyed a fun round of golf during the annual Ambrose Golf Day fundraiser.

Stirton of Headlines Hairdressing, and Michael and Sue Turton of The Cape Tavern.

Speaking on behalf of the organisers, Melissa thanked supporters and participants for helping to ensure the fundraiser was a success.

"What an incredible day. The event was such fun and there was an amazing community atmosphere," she said.

"We are always thrilled with the generosity shown by our

community and their support of this year's event was no exception.

"Thank you so much to everyone who played, donated, sponsored, volunteered and cheered us on. Your support has made a real impact for women's health in our region."

Bass Coast Health interim CEO Simone Alexander said the health service was extremely grateful for the significant support shown by Melissa, Alison, Michael and Sue – as well as the

community – over many years.

"It's events like this that remind us of how highly our community values their public health service," she said.

"The amount of money raised by this event is tremendous and will enable us to provide an even greater range of care to our community, closer to their homes. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to the success of this fundraiser."



All abilities skate training session at Foster Showgrounds on Friday, November 28 at 4pm.

All abilities skating frame session in Foster

AN ALL-ABILITIES skate training session will be held on the basketball court of Foster Showgrounds on Friday, November 28 at 4pm. The Skate Frame session will run for 90 minutes (weather permitting). Participation is free and open to anyone – all ages and experience levels.

Enable Skate is primarily aimed at kids with a variety of physical disabilities, but is just as applicable to 'first-time' skaters wishing to experience and enjoy skateboarding.

Noel Forsyth of Enable Skate said, the engineer-certified Skate Frame has numerous safety features built in to provide upper and lower body support, stability and assurance for skaters with any level of experience.

"I have been running skate/surf weekends at Sandy Point in late November for over a decade now. The Enable Skate all abilities skate frame is an outgrowth of our MOSS (Melbourne Old School Skaters) Foundation charity work," he said.

"The frame itself was developed from scratch two years ago by Wodonga-based skater Al Taylor. Al worked closely with the family of a local woman with cerebral palsy, Jany McRoberts."

The original frame design has been improved and updated through several prototypes and is now set to 'roll out' at locations across Victoria.

"Enable Skate will shortly obtain their own skate frame, intended to service an area taking in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, and all the way to Gippsland."

"The primary Enable Skate trainers are myself (Glen Iris/Sandy Point), Rob Francis (Mornington Peninsula) and Carey Hazelbank (Inverloch)."

In the last year, Enable Skate have been conducting numerous training sessions at Noble Park skatepark, the Glenallen Special Education School in Glen Waverley and more recently, the Officer Specialist School near Pakenham.

"Although our focus has been on running skate experiences for the disabled, the frame can also provide a very safe 'training wheels' experience for anyone interested in skateboarding but may not be confident with their balance or safety early on."

Walk up and try – everyone welcome.

Students launch into Colour Run at Inverloch and Kongwak Primary

INVERLOCH and Kongwak Primary Schools brought the week to a colourful close with a Colour Run on Friday afternoon.

This event was held at the Inverloch school two years ago, and the students who were there excitedly anticipated its return.

Obstacles were set up around the school's oval, where the students could cut laps, enjoy a sausage sizzle and splash their white t-shirts with coloured powder.

Principal Ben Soumilas was thrilled with the turnout and thanked the team of parents and friends who organised the event.

"This is one of those events that our committed parents

and friends come together to organise. It's called a fundraiser, but essentially, we are trying to create wonderful memories and experiences for our kids," he said.

"All the work is done behind the scenes. The load is off the teachers and off the school. It's the parents saying, 'we'll contribute to the community and make sure there's something special for the kids to do'. We couldn't be more excited."

"A tiny bonus at the end is the fundraising aspect. We'll put that towards school improvements. We've got plans to improve our oval surface and create a junior basketball court, but the main thing is fun for our students. Everyone was bubbling with excitement."



Grade 5 students Hazel, Coco and Isla enjoyed the Colour Run at Inverloch Primary School. Tk03_4725



Willem flies West

From page 56

And the cheers went up, soon posted on Facebook, of a proud club sending another of their favourite sons or daughters on their way.

Foster vice president Deb Allott said the club couldn't be happier for a young man and a family that has been so involved in the club.

"Dean was obviously the coach of our 2010 premiership team and Susie and her family have been heavily involved too. They'll all be involved again when we have our Easter BBQ.

"But all the kids have been fully engaged here, playing and doing whatever they could on game days as trainers, running water and whatever.

"We had Willem playing in our seniors the year before, but once they get into Gippsland Power and all the rest, it's hard to get them back.

"But he came along to training every Thursday night he was available and was fully involved, so it's a celebration for the whole club really.

"For anyone to get drafted is exciting, but to go as the Number 1 pick is something special."

And what's it going to take to get Willem's picture up above the bar with the club's other sporting champs?

"He's just got to play one AFL game, and he'll be up there," said Deb.

"We've got Xavier, Zane and Jasmin up there and Ryan Angwin as well, but that's only as far back as 2000. There'd be others as well."

Willem has done tons of interviews before and after being drafted, including a nice piece on 7 News, at Foster during the week.

Getting drafted has always been the dream.

"Ever since I've really picked up a footy, I've just waited for this moment trying to get drafted and then, yeah, it's finally here," he told 7NEWS.

And what about the dancing, recalling that AFL great James Hird credited his ballet experience as one of his secrets to success.

"It's definitely helped, you know, especially being 193cm, so obviously you've got to be able to move well," Willem said last week after performing in three shows, displaying his ballet and tap moves.

"But I think that it's definitely helped, I think that, as much as I hate to say it, and mum claims it."

Seeing another South Gippslander drafted into the big league was also a thrill for local sports fans who'll take a keen interest in where Willem's journey takes him, and given the talent they've added in recent years, it wouldn't surprise to see the West Coast Eagles re-emerging as a power from 2026 onwards.

Heppell loving his post-Bomber chapter

By Andrew Palocz

WHILE most of Dyson Heppell's talk at the recent Lardner Park Beef Day was about his footy journey and life, he shared a humorous saga that tied in with the event and once saw the then Essendon player from Leongatha appear to lug a body from Windy Hill in a sack.

It wasn't long after becoming a Bomber that Heppell received a generous but rather cumbersome donation from Essendon player sponsor Rob Radford of Radford's Abattoir, a speaker at the Beef Day.

The gift was a massive hessian sack of meat delivered to Windy Hill.

"I'm dragging this bloody sack of meat out of the back door of the club and there was a camera across the road filming me," Heppell said, explaining he hoisted the bag onto his shoulder, not having seen the camera.

The incident resulted in him copping some light-hearted grief on the Footy Show, its hosts delighting in suggesting there was a dead body in the bag and awarding Heppell 'Tool of the Week'.

Rob remained Heppell's player sponsor throughout his career, continuing to provide him with choice cuts, although hopefully in smaller quantities.

Perhaps all that protein played an important part in the recent Leongatha Premiership player's distinguished career at Essendon, in which he managed 253 games and was a long-term captain of the club.

Heppell said he is still celebrating the 2025 flag, his first Premiership since his junior days, having relished the opportunity to play alongside brother Aaron.



Rob Radford of Radford's Abattoir introduces Dyson Heppell at the Lardner Park Beef Day. A01_4725

Stepping away from the AFL system at the end of the 2024 season had its challenges, with Heppell taking a while to adjust to the loss of the day-to-day routine after 14 years at the Bombers, but he's now loving life's next chapter.

It was a friendship he made while at Essendon that has provided him with a new direction, leading to a business venture.

"I was fortunate enough to meet a little fella, Harrison Pennicott, 'Haych Man'," Heppell said, explaining the youngster has autoimmune disease Scleroderma, a condition that claimed the life of Heppell's grandmother.

Heppell first met Harrison at age five, who'd been given only two years to live but is now 13, the pair now in business together.

"We're running a clothing label called Haych," Heppell said, explaining Harrison loves drawing and creates the

designs featured on the clothes.

The proceeds of sales help tick off things Harrison wants to do.

It's been a busy period, with Heppell driving Harrison around in Lamborghinis, going on helicopter rides, flying on Adrian Portelli's private jet into Sydney for a day with Nick Kyrgios, and having an inner sanctum session with the Melbourne Storm.

The business venture has pretty much become a full-time gig, with Heppell's wife Kate also involved.

Being an AFL player was one of the aspirations Heppell outlined in a letter written while in Grade 2, the alternatives being an NBA basketball player or an astronaut, albeit the latter was ruled out not too far down the track.

While his time in the AFL has ended, he's enjoying the experience of playing footy for Port Melbourne in the VFL, where

he has reunited with former Bombers coach James Hird and past Essendon assistant coach Brendan McCartney.

"Hirdy was an enormous mentor for me," Heppell said.

Asked by a Beef Day attendee about Leongatha's startling onfield success for a club from a small town, Heppell attributed much of that to the response to Beau Vernon's spinal injury playing for the Parrots in 2012 and his subsequent coaching role.

"He came back to coach the club and he is such a lovable character that all the guys who grew up in Leongatha and had moved to various clubs over the years came back to play for Beau, and that set off a chain of success," Heppell said.

The Parrots' ability to develop young players and the perception of Leongatha as a destination club has kept the success going.

Panthers welcome new netball pavilion

KILCUNDA-Bass Football Netball Club's new netball pavilion is expected to be completed in April.

The club is hoping the completion of the pavilion will coincide with the beginning of the 2026 season.

Construction of the multi-million-dollar project got underway four weeks ago.

The pavilion will include female change-room facilities which is set to benefit the club's netballers and women's cricketers, with hopes it will be used by women's footballers down the track.

To make way for the new pavilion, the old Scout Hall was demolished.



Kilcunda-Bass Football Netball Club president Shea Eden is looking forward to seeing the new netball pavilion completed. Tk02_4725

and Bass Coast Shire Council.

Eden said the club is grateful for the funding – without which this project wouldn't be possible – and the support shown by council.

"This project happened for us very quickly, thanks to council," he said.

"The new pavilion will complement the whole ground. We've been fortunate to have our courts redone and we have a new canteen on the netball side. Council helped us out

with our commercial kitchen there. We are fortunate to have the social rooms that we do, so all our facilities are becoming something we can be proud of."

Eden said the netballers are excited to see the new pavilion coming to fruition.

"To say that the facilities in the old Scout Hall were a bit ordinary was probably an understatement. We were very fortunate to have Les Watson – one of our life members – and his helpers renovate part

of it a couple of years ago. The facilities got a bit of a lift due to that, but in general, it was a haven for a few native animals," he said.

"Everyone is excited and our netball is really evolving. There are strong numbers in the juniors, and our senior netball is going to be boosted this year with Erin Bell coming on as our development coordinator, so we're really looking forward to that.

"We are starting to think premierships might be possible in the coming years, which is pretty exciting. We'd love to see it happen."

Netball trials were recently held at the club, and pre-season will not be impacted by ongoing construction.

As a whole, the Kilcunda-Bass Football Netball Club is looking healthy and is ready to jump right into the next season.

"We are pushing to get our U18s back up this year. We haven't had an U18s side for two years, which has had a huge impact on the club," Eden said.

"We've had good numbers through the Seniors and U16s down to our U10s. We're looking forward to the next season – we can't get to it quick enough."

Woolamai Races set to commence this Saturday

RACING'S spring carnival 2025 continues when racing resumes at Woolamai this coming Saturday, November 29.

The usual six-race program kicks off around 1pm with the last around 4.30pm.

Recent rains have ensured the track will have good grass cover, with even going right across the track.

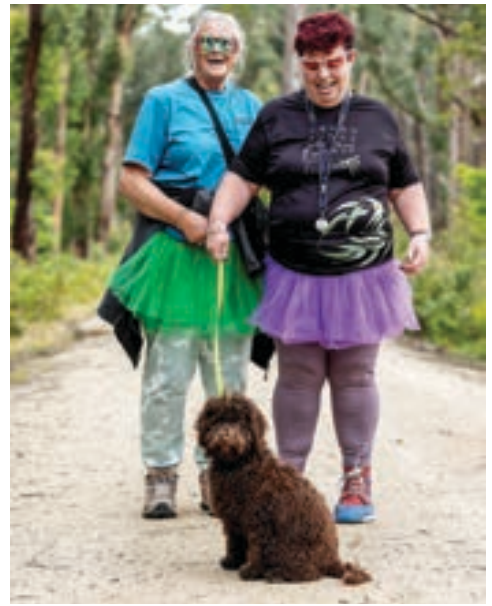
The club has been busy off-season, improving conditions for patrons. Most notably, the viewing area under the famous elm trees has been extended by around 50 metres west, giving patrons more room to spread out their picnic chairs and mats and giving a longer on-course view of the straight.

The big screen will again be a feature at meetings, showing local, metropolitan and interstate races along with musical and kids' entertainment.

Tickets can be purchased online at Woolamairaces.com.au or on the day at the course, four kilometres east of the Bass Highway turnoff.



That's one! Jockey Grant Seccombe brings the Troy Kilgower-trained Combustion back to the winner's circle after the first race, with the assistance of Clerk of the Course Andrew Taylor, the first of three winners on the six-race card at Woolamai during last year's December 3 event.



Tutus for the ladies at Mirboo North for the 22nd Grand Ridge Rail Trail park run.

Day of the tutus at Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun

THE weather put on a show for the Grand Ridge Rail Trail on Sunday and so did the participants with 49 walkers, joggers and runners wearing lots of colourful tutus.

Among the fast finishers were Paul Krausz, Steve Quirk and Leon McDonald.

Achieving personal bests were Patrick Ruyter, Paul Ashton, Hilary Dorling, Arica Smith, Cecily Vuzem, Gail Smith and Arica Smith.

A big Mirboo North welcome was extended to first timers Ronald Dyer, Ros Dyer, Chantal Luci, Leonie Clarke, Robyn McCulloch and Margaret Rowley.

Daniel Smith completed his 100th parkrun cheered on by visitors who drove all the way from Werribee picking up friends along the way. Ronald Dyer completed his 50th run.

Frank Krausz, Julia Groves, Carmel Quirk, Anne Holland, Margaret Rowley, Alan McKenzie, Georgia McIlwaine, Deidre Kruze, Laura McIlwaine, Greg Smith, Helen Reeves and Peter Reeves all volunteered on the day.

The next Parkrun Tutu Day will not be until August 2026, but another Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun will be held next week for more fun, fitness, and community frolics.



Phillip Daniel enjoying his 100th parkrun on the Grand Ridge Rail Trail at Mirboo North.

Annual croquet tournament in Wonthaggi a great success

THE annual Level Play Singles Croquet Tournament sponsored by the Wonthaggi Workers Club was held in perfect playing conditions at the Wonthaggi Croquet Club.

The two-day event was a great success, attracting a field of ten clubs from throughout Victoria, including Mornington, Sandringham, Sale, Lilydale, Monash, Drouin, Bairnsdale and Traralgon, with some excellent croquet played over two Sections.

The green was in excellent condition, and the clubhouse was sporting new signage.

In a close hard-fought result, section one was topped by Heather Bradbury from Bairnsdale with five games (+11 hoops) from David Budge of Sandringham also with five games but +10 hoops.

In Section 2, we saw Bob Quayle from Drouin win with six games (+30 hoops), triumphing over Betty Clissold from Sale with five games (+8

hoops). Our own Philip Bool, standing in at short notice in this section due to a late withdrawal, acquitted himself admirably, winning four games (-3 hoops) and finishing fourth.

"We had a very tight contest through the hoops," said Club President Tom Lacey.

"Strategy is all important, a little like snooker or billiards with excellent jump shots and long range scoring from the boundary straight through the hoop."

Thanks went to all the club members who contributed greatly over the two-day tournament, with special thanks also to Haymes Paint Shop, who continued to support the club with line marking paint and have done so for many years.

Social days are played at the Wonthaggi Croquet Club on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday all year round depending on the weather. Look for Wonthaggi Croquet Club on Facebook.



Richard Parks from Williamstown played in Division 2 at the annual Level Play Singles Croquet Tournament in Wonthaggi. B37_4725

Country racing, as real as it gets at *Woolamai*



ALL PACKAGES SOLD OUT
General admission tickets available
Pre-purchase on-line or at the gate

Saturday 29 November 2025

End of Year Celebration Races

Live entertainment + face painting

Future events:

Bendigo Bank Christmas Race Day **20 December 2025**

Woolamai Kids Day Out **3 January 2026**

Alex Scott & Staff Woolamai Cup **7 February 2026**

Woolamai Whirlwind Race Day **28 February 2026**

Phillip Island Health Hub Race Day **21 March 2026**

For more info: woolamairaces.com.au | contact@woolamairaces.com.au | Phone Abby: 0459 211 244

Kookas take on the Rebels at the home of the ashes

By Graham Wightman

LAST Sunday saw the rampaging Over 60s Kookas take on the Rupertswood Rebels in Sunbury. Skipa Grayza Wighty lost the toss, and the Rebels took the Willow.

In slippery conditions, the oldies toiled magnificently, finally containing the Rupa Lads to 6/175 – game on!

Best of the trundlers were Phill Richards 2/15, Pieter Loos 2/24 and Mr Cricket Gary Adams 1/17. An added highlight were three brilliant run outs by “Yungun” Phill Richards!

After a dose of “Bloody Good Tucka”, the Kookas opened up!

Skippa Ol Grayza Wightman then proceeded to secure a bronze duck with a shot that would even make the current poms look good!?

To the rescue came the stylish Ian Thorn. 42 and man of the match, Phill Richards 24, Gary Adams 33 and Master Blaster, Pieter Loos 25. This got the Kookas close, but alas, at 9/166, nine runs adrift in what was a great game of cricket.

Next week it’s Ol Mates, the Goannas – beware the bruised Kookas, ready to rebound! We know that fun, friendship and the wonderful game called cricket will be the winner!

LDCA Junior cricket results

KORUMBURRA

A FANTASTIC performance from the U17s saw the team post a strong total.

Levi Gooch led the way with an impressive 54* featuring two fours and three sixes, while Evan Belvedere provided excellent support with 42 off 60 balls, including four boundaries.

The middle order kept the momentum rolling, with Jhai Townley contributing a patient 18 off 41 (one four) and Jayden Douglas adding a handy 15 off 28, also finding the rope once.

A well-rounded batting display from the group.

GLEN ALVIE

GLEN Alvie’s U17s played an exciting game under lights on Friday night.

Playing against Phillip Island, the U17s played the full 80 overs in a game that came down to the last ball.

“There was a huge crowd, and the kids got a taste of what it would be like to play for Australia. They felt like rockstars,” Glen Alvie president David Hynes said.

“The game went until 10pm, but the kids didn’t care. They absolutely loved it.”

A barbecue was put on for the players and everyone enjoyed a great night.

Goannas fall short against Essendon



Gippsland Goannas president Neil Meredith cuts during his innings of 34 not out. Ian Southall is the square leg umpire.



The Goannas' Dick Noble defends.

AFTER losing the odd game to the weather and forfeit, the Gippsland Goannas Over 70 cricketers travelled to Ormond Park, Moonee Ponds, on Sunday to meet up with the Essendon/St Bernards team.

It was cool with showers forecast as the Goannas tried to arrive for an early start.

They eventually got going at about 10.50am on the artificial pitch as the Moonee Ponds Cricket Club was playing a competition game on the turf.

Essendon won the toss and batted with Gordon Cowling and Neil Meredith opening the bowling.

Zimbabwe Over 70 World Cup player Craig Hodgson opened the innings with ‘super-vet’ Arthur Pritchard, taking the score along nicely before Arty retired for 16 from his 30 balls.

The rain came, so play was adjourned for a while, and it was decided to shorten the game to 36 overs per side.

On resumption, Hodgson retired for 28 and Gary Adams played all around a Cowling straight one.

The score was 1/45 after 11 overs.

Another rain delay saw lunch taken early and play resumed soon after.

Skipper Osborne was bowled by Dick Noble for 14, Ian Southall made a smart return to Ian Gibson for a runout and Chris Bowen also hit the stumps as Essendon completed its innings at 4/153 from 36 overs.

Goannas’ bowling figures were Cowling 1/14 from six, Noble 1/19 from four and Bowen 1/14 from three.

The Goannas’ innings started straight away, and Meredith and Donald Cameron took the score to 33 in the eighth over when Cameron was bowled.

Next ball, Murray Moore was

caught in the deep, Mero retired at 27 from 30 balls as Gibson and Phill Higgins came together.

It was 3/46 after 15 overs when Gibson was stumped and 4/58 after 19 when Higgins was caught, first ball after another rain delay.

Noble 10, and Cowling 40, scored some vital quick runs, each retiring after 25 balls.

Southall two, Chris Bowen 19 retired, Ron Milnes 13, Andy Slevin a golden, and Barrie Nunn 4x edged the score closer to the required target, as Meredith came back in after the 12th batter and hit a huge six in the 34th over.

The Goannas needed six from the last over to win, and unfortunately, Nunn was unable to turn the strike over to the big-hitting Meredith.

The Goannas finished at 7/148 at the end of the 36th over.

The Goannas fielding was again very good, and very few catches went to hand, then ground, whereas the Essendon fielders took five good catches.

Deidre Hunter, who fielded for several overs, and did the scoring for the rest of the game was given the Goannas Player of the Match, whereas John Prent who took the catch to dismiss Moore, made a few runs towards the end of the innings and took a wicket with his bowling, was awarded the ‘Blue Gables Player of the Match’ for Essendon.

The other Goannas teams have a bit of time off as players compete in National Championships around the country, and in New Zealand.

This will be reported when all the championships are completed by the end of the month.

The next scheduled game for the Goannas is the Over 70 play away at Warrandyte on Tuesday, December 2.

Training will continue at the Duncan Cameron nets in Traralgon on Wednesdays from about 4.30pm.

Leongatha and District Under 15s win shortened GCL fixture

THE LDCA U15 and U13 teams travelled to Bairnsdale on Sunday, November 23, for round three GCL games.

Overnight rain left Bairnsdale City Ovals one and two sodden. LDCA junior chairman, Scott Checkley, said, unfortunately, the conditions meant play in the U13S was not possible; however, the U15 game was able to be moved down the road to a drier Meerlieu oval to play a shortened 30-over each game.

“Thanks to Bairnsdale, CA, for their efforts in getting a game for the boys under trying circumstances.”

LDCA 4/129: Max Johnston 32, Toby Nicholas 29no, Noah McMillan 14, Blake Ton 11no

Bairnsdale 9/62: Reggie Read 2/1, Aedan Parker 2/5, Nate Luff 2/15

Toby Nicholas, Frazer Livingstone and Isaac Richardson all claimed one wicket.

“A great effort from the players to have an all-round performance, and I’m sure the boys will continue to grow through the series,” said Scott.

“Thanks to Coach Lucas McMillan, Team Manager John Richardson and all the parents for their efforts on a difficult day. Special thanks to Evans Petroleum for their continued support of the U15 team.”

The U15s next game will be a re-scheduled round two game v Warragul on December 14. The U13s will play Latrobe Valley on December 7.



The LDCA U15 team. Photo: John Richardson.

AROUND THE GROUNDS...

KORUMBURRA

ON A day where the ball firmly had the upper hand, the match is finely balanced and perfectly set for a grandstand finish when play resumes next week.

Before the start, A Grade caps were proudly presented to Rueben Foster and Jayden Douglas.

Batting first, Korumburra struggled to convert early starts into meaningful scores against a disciplined Nyora attack.

Simeon Foster (10 off 61), Rumesh Rangana (12 off 30) and Mitch Young (10 off 41) were the best of the bats in a grinding innings.

Nyora also found scoring difficult, with opening bowlers Jacob Whitside and Rueben Foster keeping things extremely tight. Rueben made the early breakthrough, removing the dangerous Henry Dolphin to give the Cobras early momentum.

Skipper Harry McNeill then turned the match on its head, bringing himself into the attack and delivering a superb spell.

His outstanding figures of 6/15 off 10 overs dragged Korumburra right back into the contest and ensured the game remains evenly poised heading into day two.

Batting first in C Grade, the Cobras made a steady start with Peter Edwards in full control at the top of the order.

He compiled a well-made 54 off 61 balls, featuring three fours and two sixes.

Rhys Butler was the only other batter to reach double figures, finishing unbeaten on 17 off 28 deliveries, including a towering six.

Despite an early breakthrough with the ball, the Cobras were unable to make enough inroads into the OMK lineup during the middle overs.

However, disciplined bowling kept the pressure on and pushed the game deep into the innings before OMK reached the target with four overs to spare.

Tom Sorrell and Peter Edwards collected two wickets each, while George Edwards added one to round out the wicket-takers.

LEONGATHA TOWN

TOWN won the toss and chose to bat, with Ash and Shem Hickey opening the innings in C Grade.

Ash got a start with 10 before Shem fell early, bringing Melvin Kezhuvanthanam to the crease.

Melvin played a superb knock, anchoring the innings with a brilliant 71 as Town reached 137 all out.

With the ball, Nijo Devassy, Callum Smith and Alyssa Edwards each claimed a wicket, while keeper Kate Oates impressed behind the stumps with two excellent catches.

Despite the effort in the field, Wonthaggi chased down the total in the 30th over.

In A Grade, Town batted first and put together a solid team performance with the bat.

Captain Jesse Giardina led from the front with a handy 24, while Max Carter looked composed at the top of the order.

Seb Kyle top-scored with 34, and a strong late partnership between Archie Fixter and Birendra De Saram added 50 valuable runs.

Several players made starts but couldn't push on to a big score; however, contributions



Korumburra Cricket Club's Glen Barrett (far left) and Mitch Young (far right) presented Rueben Foster and Jayden Douglas with their A Grade caps. Glen and Mitch coached Rueben and Jayden in juniors.

across the board lifted Town to 177.

It was a tough day in the field for Town in B Grade, with Hugh Livingstone the standout bowler, working tirelessly for his two wickets.

Captain Col Bruce claimed the only other scalp, while Ethan Smith put in a huge effort, sending down 14 overs.

Wonthaggi declared at 343, and Town began its reply late in the day but struggled to build momentum, finishing the first day trailing by 315.

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Leongatha Town Scorpions Comedy Night on November 22, and all of the individuals and businesses who donated auction and raffle items.

The club couldn't play cricket without the support of the wonderful community.

MDU

MDU competed in its first two-day game against Glen Alvie in A2 on Saturday.

Playing at the Meeniyen Recreation Reserve, MDU bowled out Glen Alvie for 224.

Archie Casey took 2/52 off 20, Scott Brown took 2/47 off 13 and Mark Cantwell claimed 3/9 off six.

B Grade also had its first two-day game and bowled against Glen Alvie.

Glen Alvie made 5/262.

Jake Palmer took 2/59 off 19, Kurt Sinclair took 2/41 16 and Riley Prosser took 1/13 off four.

C Grade played a one-day game against Wonthaggi.

Club batted first making 5/261.

MDU made 4/179 in reply.

MDU's top bowlers were Kieran Brown 1/28 off seven, Matt Portelli 1/47 off seven and Craig Hooper 1/54 off seven.

The pick of MDU's batsmen were Matt Olden 71 off 77, Portelli 43 not out off 37 and Gary Webster 32 of 45.

NERRENA

NERRENA took on The Imperials at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve in A1 on Saturday.

The Red Caps won the toss and chose to bowl.

The Nerrena bowlers were able to take a couple of early wickets, but a breakthrough from Imps

batsmen Jack and Damon Ginnane ensured a decent score.

Archie Gannon and Tim Wightman were the best bowlers for Nerrena, taking three wickets each.

Nerrena's bowlers had the Imps all out of 144.

Jack Curtis and James Kelly opened the batting for Nerrena.

Curtis is coming off his good form from last week and will back at the crease with Mitch Clark next week.

The Red Caps made 1/36.

"The side is looking good and hopefully they can get the job done," Nerrena president Zack Trease said.

"We are sitting third on the ladder at the moment, having only lost one game with Wonthaggi. Hopefully we can keep getting those wins and stay a few games clear of fifth and sixth heading into Christmas."

In B1, OMK won the toss and sent Nerrena into bat.

The first wicket fell swiftly when Kade Berryman was dismissed LBW by Adam Trotto.

The Red Caps regrouped, and Billy Trotman and Gerard Murphy delivered a solid partnership.

Damien Symmons and Cameron Baudinette stepped in, making 74 and 52 respectively.

Nerrena managed to lift the score to 230 before it was bowled out.

OMK played six overs to launch its innings.

NYORA

A COOL four-wicket haul from Nyora's Reece Cordeux kept Korumburra to a manageable score of 71 on Saturday.

The A2 match was held at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve.

Korumburra won the toss and chose to bowl.

Nyora claimed early wickets and the only ray of hope was Korumburra's fourth change batsman Rumesh Rangana, who made 12 runs.

Mitch Young added 10 runs and Simeon Foster top-scored with 15 runs.

Cordeux claimed 4/36 and three wickets were taken by Trent Breen.

Nyora opened its innings and

was off to a healthy start as Daniel Esler made 30 runs.

However, Korumburra bowlers Harry McNeil and Jacob Whiteside stepped up the bowling and Nyora found it difficult to put runs on the board.

Nyora finished the day with 8/67 – results that should deliver an interesting day two this weekend.

OMK

A CLOSE contest was battled out between OMK and Korumburra in the C1 match at Digger Park on Saturday.

Korumburra won the toss and chose to bat first.

OMK demonstrated some tight, consistent bowling, which held Korumburra to 108.

"We fielded well and kept things pretty tight despite a couple of dropped catches," OMK's Jordan Myers said.

"Peter Edwards was the standout batsman for Korumburra, so once he was out, we were able to get through the rest of the order."

Joel Cuman and Steven Loader were OMK's top bowlers, claiming two wickets each.

OMK lost an easy wicket early, which saw Russ White dismissed, but Mathew Walker and Cuman were able to steady the ship.

After Walker was dismissed, fourth change batsman Luke Walker stepped up to the crease and put another 27 runs on the scoreboard, which helped to get OMK across the line.

OMK has the bye next weekend and will be taking on Wonthaggi Club in round nine.

This week, the Diggers will be putting their attention towards Bogan Bingo.

PHILLIP ISLAND

IN a closer encounter at Rhyll Cricket Ground on Saturday, November 22, the Phillip Island Districts Cricket Club C Grade Sharks defeated Nerrena in round seven of the Division One summer 2025/26 season.

Phillip Island Sharks won the toss and elected to bat. Setting a competitive total, finishing their innings at seven wickets for 175 runs after 35 overs. Oliver Hodson was a standout competitor, contributing a solid 43 runs to



Max Carter opened for Leongatha Town in the A1 match against Wonthaggi Club on Saturday. Tk17_4725

the Sharks' total, well supported by captain Michael Cleary, who remained not out on 38 runs, a strong finish for the Sharks.

In response, Nerrena accumulated 163 runs in 32.3 overs. The Sharks clinched victory by 12 runs.

WONTHAGGI CLUB

A MIGHTY partnership between David Britt and Ian Hughes resulted in an impressive score for Wonthaggi Club in B1 on Saturday.

Playing against Leongatha Town, openers Britt and Hughes made 97 and 161 runs respectively.

"This is Ian's first season back in 12 years," Club president Luke McGuirk said.

Drew Herbert was the pick of Club's bowlers with four wickets, and 14-year-old Chase Adams claimed three wickets.

Club declared with a score of 3/343.

In C2, Club had a good win against Leongatha Town.

Town made 137 runs, which Club successfully chased down.

A big batting effort from Justin Lisis saw him record 58 runs and Heath Crump backed up his performance from last week by opening with 20 runs.

Angus Benetti brought it home with 36 not out.

"It's our first year in C2 and we are sitting undefeated on top of the ladder, which is largely to the credit of our younger players," McGuirk said.

Wonthaggi Club held a successful trivia night on Saturday night.

The night was sponsored by the Wonthaggi Club, which provided the first-place prize, and the second-place prize was provided by the Coal Mine Café.

The event was catered by Nyojos Pizza, which has been a sponsor of the club for around five years, and 50 people attended.

Next week, C2 will be playing Glen Alvie.

"We have a good relationship with Glen Alvie, so we are expecting a high-quality match," McGuirk said.

"Glen Alvie is sitting behind us in second place on the ladder, so it will be a big test for us."



Hartley Wells

Betta

Leongatha
www.hartleywells.com
Phone: 5662 2930

LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Jack Ginnane (Imperials) 70 ; Thomas Niven (Phillip Island) 6/50

A2: Matthew Donohue (Glen Alvie) 97* ; Harry McNeil (Korumburra) 6/15

B1: Ian Hughes (Club) 161 ; Drew Herbert (Club) 4/15

B2: Steven Smith (Glen Alvie) 110* ; Tully Bernaldo (Nyora) 3/41

C1: Matrix Chisholm (Club) 118* ; Michael Cleary (Phillip Island) 4/30

C2: MM Kezhuvanthanam (Town) 71 ; Jayden Battersby (OMK) 3/9

Choices
The floor you've been searching for

BEAUMONT TILES
Looking good!

8-10 Koonwarra Rd, Leongatha. 5662 5030
Cnr Carneys Road & Bass Highway,
Wonthaggi. 5672 2148



Wonthaggi Club's Fraser West sends one down to Leongatha Town's Max Carter in A1. Tk18_4725



Leongatha Town captain Jesse Giardina made 24 runs on Saturday. Tk19_4725

LADDERS

RD 7

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
C GRADE, Division 1			C GRADE, Division 2		
OMK	54	0.963	Club	60	2.639
Club	48	1.517	Glen Alvie	54	1.103
Nerrena	36	1.198	Koonwarra L/RSL	36	1.544
Kilcunda Bass	36	1.116	Inverloch	36	1.269
Phillip Island	36	0.790	Town	30	0.585
MDU	30	0.759	Nyora	24	0.481
Korumburra	12	0.657	OMK	12	0.529

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 6 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29 (DAY 2)

A GRADE, Division 1

Inverloch v P-Island Club v Town	Inverloch Turf	Ken Scrimshaw
Nerrena v Imperials	Wonthaggi Turf	Shane Moore
OMK - BYE	Leongatha Turf	Ashleigh Stride

A Grade, Division 2

MDU v Glen Alvie	Meeniyen	Michael Thomas
Koon L/RSL v K-Bass	Koonwarra	John Schelling
Korumburra v Nyora	Korumburra	Brad Phillips
Foster - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 1

Town v Club	Scorpion Pk 1	Graham Wightman
OMK v Nerrena	Outtrim	Les White
P-Island v Inverloch	Cowes	Geoffrey Parkinson
Korumburra - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 2

K-Bass v Imperials	Bass 1	TBA
Koon L/RSL v Nyora	Mary Mac	Tyson Tootel
MDU v Glen Alive	Dumbalk	Geoff Birnie

ROUND 8 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

C GRADE, Division 1

Nerrena v MDU	Nerrena	TBA
Korumburra v P-Island	Poowong	TBA
Kilcunda Bass v Club	Bass 2	TBA
OMK - BYE		

C GRADE, Division 2

Koon L/RSL v Nyora	Leongatha Vel.	TBA
Club v Glen Alvie	McMahon	TBA
OMK v Inverloch	Digger Park	TBA
Town - BYE		

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective umpires can contact
Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421

AROUND THE GROUNDS...

THE IMPERIALS

THE Imperials kicked off its two-day match against Kilcunda-Bass on Saturday.

Playing at the Bass Recreation Reserve, the Panthers won the toss and chose to bat first.

The Panthers batted well, recording a score of 9/261.

Joel Dickson and Andrew Leighton were the stars of the show, making 77 and 52 runs respectively.

“The ground was pretty quick, so we are feeling optimistic that we will be able to chase down their score and take the win,” Imperials captain Sam Vagg said.

“We had some tight bowling. The pick of our bowlers was Cooper Rickard, who took four wickets.”

James Jeffery and Cameron Bruce also put in a solid effort with the ball.

“We played Kilcunda-Bass in round two and made 229. They had Adam Miller fill in for that game, who made 129 of their runs. We’re hoping to put on a good performance next weekend and get the win this time.”

INVERLOCH

INVERLOCH played its first game on the turf this week against Phillip Island.

“We haven’t been able to play on the turf because of the poor weather, so it was good to have the first hit out,” senior coach Dylan Clark said.

“We lost the toss and were sent in first, which was unlucky because we probably would’ve chosen to bowl first.

“It was a rocky start. We lost our first wicket for next to no runs. However, the partnership of Dave Newman and Ron Abeyasinghe got things going for us.

“There was a little collapse through the middle, but the tailenders did a good job to get the score to 185.”

Inverloch was aiming for 200-210, but Clark said 185 was still a good score and the Stingrays are confident they will be able to defend it on a challenging pitch.

“Dave was our best batsman for the day. He made just under 50 with a sore hamstring, which was gutsy of him,” Clark said.

“His son Rhys also had a good day.”

Historically, Phillip Island have been strong competition for Inverloch with great batsmen up top.

In particular, the Stingrays will be keen to try to dismiss Daniel Mock before he can do too much damage on the scoreboard.

KILCUNDA-BASS

KOONWARRA-Leongatha RSL had a strong opening day of the two-day clash, posting a strong 9/248 declared before Kilcunda-Bass reached 0/8 at stumps in A Grade.

After being sent in, Koonwarra-Leongatha were steadied by a series of patient middle-order partnerships.

Callum Buckland (49 off 124) anchored the innings with a gritty knock, while William Cashin (46 off 77) and Kayden Scrimshaw (35) added valuable support.

Late cameos from James Rushton (29) and Harry Scrimshaw (16)* helped push the total towards 250 before the visitors shut the innings down in the 68th over.

Killy-Bass battled hard with the ball across a long day in the field.

Cameron Davidson was the stand-out, finishing with 3/48 from 14 overs, including key wickets in the middle order. Harrison Berry chipped in with 3/17, striking twice late before a timely declaration from Koonwarra-Leongatha.

Set 248 for victory, Kilcunda-Bass safely negotiated the final overs of the day, reaching 0/8, with both openers looking settled heading into next week’s chase. They will resume needing a further 240 runs with all ten wickets in hand.

A tight second day looms, with the match well poised.

Kilcunda-Bass produced a strong batting display on day one, reaching 9/261 from 70 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat against Imperials in B Grade.

The innings was built around a classy knock from Joel Dickson (77 off 99), who set the platform with seven boundaries. Andrew Leighton (52 off 83)* anchored the later stages, guiding Killy to a competitive total.

Important middle-order contributions came from Zac Crow (36), Benjamin Lucas (30) and Vijai Kumar Gopal (20) as partnerships

continued to build throughout the day.

Imperials shared the wickets – Cameron Bruce (2/51), James Jeffery (2/77), Gary Sauvarin (2/33)

With 261 on the board, Kilcunda-Bass feel well placed heading into next week as Imperials look to mount a chase.

KOONWARRA L/RSL

THE Cougars played its first two-day game on Saturday.

In A2, Koonwarra L/RSL declared with a score of 9/248 against Kilcunda-Bass and made 10/258 against Nyora in B2.

For Jimmy Rushton, this week marked his 100th Senior game.

Koonwarra L/RSL is hosting Orange Round games this coming weekend in support of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.

Join the club in supporting the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence through our Orange Round games on November 29 and 30.

The club would like to remind everyone that when there is equity in sport everyone wins.

The campaign aims to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls.

This year the theme is “A violence-free Victoria. It all starts with respect”.

Respect is promoting equality and respect, on and off the field.

Sport has the power to create positive change.

It can bring communities together and give a sense of belonging.

Celebrating everyone’s participation in sport, regardless of gender, helps create a culture where everyone feels safe and equal.

At Koonwarra Leongatha RSL Cricket Club, the members are proud of what the women’s team has achieved so far and thrilled with the outstanding contribution across the whole club from women and girls.

Join the 16 Days of Activism and help build communities where women are safe and equal. It all starts with respect.

To learn more about 16 Days of Activism visit: bit.ly/47n1ziQ.

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

Inverloch 185 v Phillip Island
Inverloch Batting: D Newman 52, R Newman 36, K Rotthier 35, H Butcher 20
Phillip Island Bowling: T Niven 6/50, J Williams 2/28, G McCausland 1/32, K Lane 1/57
Club 0/32 Town 177
Town Batting: S Kyle 34, A Fixer 25, J Giardina 24, B De saram 24
Club Bowling: M McCall 2/25, J Thomas 2/28, F West 2/42
Nerrena 1/36 v Imperials 144
Imperials Batting: J Ginnane 70, D Ginnane 34, A Williams 12
Ner. Bowling: A Gannon 3/18, T Wightman 3/46, W Croatto 1/18, S Murphy 1/23, J Hoy 1/27
OMK – BYE

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

MDU v Glen Alvie 7/206
Glen Alvie Batting: M Donohue 97*, M Dakin 30, B McRae 30, A Donohue 15
MDU Bowling: A Casey 2/42, S Browne 2/48, S Chathura Lakshan 2/80, A Battersby 1/13
Koonwarra L/RSL v Kilcunda Bass
Koonwarra L/RSL Batting: C Buckland 49, W Cashin 46, T Namalge 37, K Scrimshaw 35
Kilcunda Bass Bowling: H Berry 3/17, C Davidson 3/48, J Tregear 1/34
Korumburra 71 v Nyora 8/67
K'burra Batting: S Foster 15, R Rangana 12
K'Burra Bowling: H McNeil 6/15, R Foster 1/16
Nyora Batting: D Esler 30, J Watts 16
Nyora Bowling: R Cordeux 4/26, T Breen 3/19
Foster – BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

Town 7/28 v Club 3-d/343
Club Batting: I Hughes 161, D Britt 97, G Britt 44*
Club Bowling: D Herbert 4/15, C Adams 3/5
Town Batting: H Livingstone 10, L Bowman 4
Town Bowling: H Livingstone 2/36, C Bruce 1/45
OMK 0/23 v Nerrena 244
Nerrena Batting: D Symmons 74, C Baudinette 52, B Trotman 30, G Murphy 29
OMK Bowling: T McGeachin 3/26, A Trotto 3/4, J Greenwood 2/34, T Nicholas 1/14
Phillip Island v Inverloch 9/192 - Abandoned
Inverloch Batting: J Mottram Carter 56, J Dugard 30, C O'Flynn 28*, L Jacobs 22
Phillip Island Bowling: A Williams 3/35, T Niven 2/29, S McMillian 1/10, D Holmes 1/36
Korumburra – BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Kilcunda Bass 9/261 v Imperials
Kilcunda Bass Batting: J Dickson 77, A Leighton 52*, Z Crow 36, B Lucas 30
Imperials Bowling: G Sauvarin 2/33, Fill-in 2/37, C Bruce 2/51, J Jeffery 2/77
Koonwarra L/RSL 258 v Nyora
Koonwarra L/RSL Batting: L Read 71, A Drury 56, K Thorne 23, S Kaneshathasan 18.
Nyora Bowling: T Bernaldo 3/41, R White 2/48, L Brock 1/29, M Lynch 1/34, V Peiris 1/34
MDU v Glen Alvie 5/262
Glen Alvie Batting: S Smith 110*, L Ton 51*, D Tiziani 27, E Spiteri-Stevens 16
MDU Bowling: K Sinclair 2/41, J Palmer 2/59, R Prosser 1/13

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

OMK 5/109 d Korumburra 5/108
K'burra Batting: P Edwards 54, R Butler 17*
K'burra Bowling: T Sorrell 2/18, P Edwards 2/20
OMK Batting: J Cuman 31, L Walker 27
OMK Bowling: J Cuman 2/14, S Loader 2/16
Club 5/261 d MDU4/179
Club Batting: M Chisholm 118*, J Caddy 43
Club Bowling: A Babu 2/36, M Chisholm 1/20
MDU Batting: M Olden 71, M Portelli 43*
MDU Bowling: K Brown 1/28, M Portelli 1/47
Phillip Island 7/175 d Nerrena 163
P-Island Batting: O Hobson 43, M Cleary 38*
P-Island Bowling: M Cleary 4/30, S Angelo 3/24
Nerrena Batting: B Gannon 48, B Croatto 39
Nerrena Bowling: M Croatto 3/37, C Marinou 2/17
Kilcunda Bass – BYE

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Town 137 lt Club 3/138
Town Batting: M Kezhuvanthanam 71, A Sasidharan 13
Town Bowling: N Devassy 1/17, A Edwards 1/20
Club Batting: J Licis 58, A Benetti 36*
Club Bowling: A Benetti 2/11, M Sharp 2/15
Nyora 7/118 d OMK 6/116
OMK Batting: M Whiteside 34, M Greenwood 25
OMK Bowling: J Battersby 3/9, G Wilson 1/10
Nyora Batting: W Dixon 27, G Alsem 20
Nyora Bowling: G Alsem 2/23, E Le Serve 2/26
Glen Alvie 8/142 d Inverloch 115
G-Alvie Batting: I Thorn 47, P Roberts 39
G-Alvie Bowling: J McNally 3/16, C Andersen 3/26
Inverloch Batting: D Cashin 63, L Richardson 15
Inverloch Bowling: J Drenen 2/9, A Terlich 2/20
Koonwarra L/RSL – BYE



Captain Ian Thorn made 47 runs for Glen Alvie in C2. Tk22_4725

Cricket celebrates changing culture

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

GLEN Alvie enjoyed a great win over Inverloch in C2 on Saturday, but the real winner of the day was the continued evolution of cricket.

The diverse match featured families, women and juniors in a true demonstration of the changing attitudes across the sport.

Glen Alvie's team selection included members of the Luff family – a father/mother/daughter combination.

“Once again, Grace Luff really stepped up in C Grade, bowling out Inverloch's opening batsmen,” club president David Hynes said.

“Some batsmen get out there and just see a 13-year-old girl, only to discover a really talented cricketer.

“It's great to see those family combinations getting out there together. For a while now, our focus as a club has been on providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive space for everyone, and it's really satisfying to see when families get to play together. It's special in itself, but it gives a lot of hope for the future of local cricket. It's very reassuring.

“The only downside is the extra afternoon tea that has to be prepared in the Luff household. Hopefully we'll be seeing all six of them playing together in the future.”

Inverloch also had good representation from the Stingettes playing in C Grade, as well as a couple of juniors.

“It was good to have the Stingettes and the juniors filling out the side. Amy (McRobert) got a wicket,” Inverloch senior coach Dylan Clark said.

“We pride ourselves on being a family club and there's a good vibe out there. We have a few father/son and mother/son combinations.

“The Stingettes have been



Grace, Hugo, Jess and Owen Luff at Glen Alvie's C2 match on Saturday. The Luff family had great representation in Glen Alvie's C2 side with Grace, Jess and Owen selected. Tk26_4725



Inverloch's Dean Cashin bowls to Glen Alvie's Ian Thorn. Tk24_4725

one of our most successful teams in the last few years. They've been leading the charge at the club and it's time for the guys to get on board.”

Hynes said cricket has come leaps and bounds in terms of inclusion, but there is still work to do.

“It's good to see C Grade becoming a bit of a mixed

competition. You still have your older guys out there who share their experience and help the younger players. C Grade is played in the really good spirits for the right reasons,” he said.

“However, there are still elements that need to be changed. Occasionally, you'll hear things like 'you got bowled out by a girl'. We

have some work to do to change up that thinking and the use of that sort of language. We want to see everyone out there be treated the same, and it's great to see more people are calling it out. When you know better, you do better, and we want to see language become more inclusive.”

The C2 game was played at Glen Alvie.

Inverloch won the toss and chose to bowl first.

The partnership of opening batsman Peter Roberts and fourth change batsman captain Ian Thorn delivered 39 and 47 runs respectively, which provided the runs Glen Alvie needed to stay ahead.

For Inverloch, Archie Terlich and Jarrod Drenen took two wickets each, with single wickets claimed by Dean Cashin, Jordon Foote, Mitchell Woods and McRobert.

Inverloch was chasing 8/142.

Although the opening partnership was dismissed early by Grace Luff, Cashin kept Inverloch in the game with 63 runs.

Jude McNally and vice-captain Charlie Andersen took three wickets each and ran through the rest of Inverloch's batting order.

Inverloch conceded defeat with a score of 10/115.

Glen Alvie had good scores across its two-day games.

In A2, Glen Alvie made 7/206 against MDU with Matthew Donohue making 97 not out.

Despite losing a wicket early, the Glen Alvie batsmen settled into a consistent game.

B2 also played MDU and made 5/262.

Steven Smith compiled 110 not out and young Lucas Ton made 51 not out, achieving his best innings this season.



Whether it's by luck, superior genetics or good management, it's quite incredible to think that four siblings from the one Foster family have now been drafted into AFL football including Zane (North Melbourne), National Draft Number 1 for 2025, Willem Duursma (West Coast Eagles), Jasmin (Carlton) and Xavier (Essendon).

Willem flies West

MAKING the easy transition from a dance version of Disney's 'Tangled', on the small stage with his mum's dance school, to the biggest sporting stage of all in Australia, was all in a week's work for new AFL football sensation Willem Duursma.

As the fourth Foster sibling in the one family to be drafted onto an AFL list, the story was always going to grab headlines, but to go Number 1 in the National AFL draft last Wednesday night was quite something else again.

Xavier, who at 25 is the eldest, went at pick No. 18 to Port Adelaide in 2018 before moving to Essendon at the end of 2023.

Zane just completed his second season at North Melbourne after being taken with pick No. 4 in 2023, while sister Jasmin was originally taken by Port Adelaide with pick No. 45 in 2022 before joining Carlton.

But the bragging rights certainly go to Willem.

And the whirlwind start to his AFL career doesn't look like slowing down anytime soon with the Gippsland Power prodigy winging his way to Perth on Sunday, after a bit of family time at the weekend, and according to his mum and dad, Susie and Dean, he was straight into training on Monday in Western

Australia.

"The Eagles did it all really well. They got all the parents together the next day after the draft and explained what was going to happen next," said Dean this week.

"They will fly all of us over to Perth in December to take us to training, show us around the club, take a tour of Optus Stadium and all that, which I expect they'll do with Willem this week.

"He was just raring to go and get into it," he said.

Certainly, the experience of seeing how his other three siblings went about it has helped a great deal.

"Yes, and as part of the AFL Academy, he was able to spend a week training with Hawthorn, so he knows how things work at club level. He just wanted to get started," said Dean.

So, how does it happen that four members of the one family go on to play league football?

"We just feel incredibly blessed and lucky. Just a mishmash of genetics I guess, Susie's and mine."

But, as they say, you make your own luck, and talent alone can only take you so far. Willem has ticked all the boxes in that regard from his comprehensive involvement in the Foster

Football Club, to playing basketball with his mates, and last year, as part of the Leongatha Lightning team that went within an ace of winning the Victorian Country Championship.

It was a nice touch to see Lightning coach and Foster Secondary College teacher Kyle Materia on the Duursma table on draft night.

The news of the fourth Duursma being drafted was greeted with great excitement at the Foster Football Club, where dozens of people joined together in the clubrooms last Wednesday night to see the draft live.

Continued page 50

Sales, Service & Parts
Now open.

Under New Management.



KIA
WONTHAGGI

342 Bass Highway, Wonthaggi
(03) 5672 1122

KIA
LEONGATHA

1 Hughes Street, Leongatha
(03) 5662 4088

LMCT 8179