Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 | \$2.00



Allan and Joan Kerr from Kernot CFA and Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead are delighted that the Stewart Road Bridge reconstruction can proceed.

KERNOT BRIDGE GIFTED FUNDING

FRUSTRATED and angry over the de- Program (SLRIP). lay in funding for a new bridge at Kernot, local residents are now rejoicing after a \$1.7 million funding commitment from Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, Kristy McBain MP.

The Minister announced late last week that the \$2.21 million upgrade to the Stewart Road bridge will be funded in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council as part of the Federal Government's Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure

"It will address structural and safety issues to future-proof this important crossing," said Minister McBain.

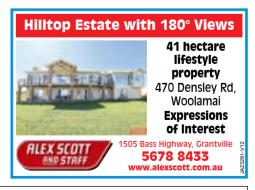
"Locals have called for critical funding for the Stewart Road Bridge, and the Albanese Government is delivering as part of our commitment to investing in the roads regional Victorians need and deserve.

We recognise that regional councils often need additional financial support to assist with meeting rising costs and increased pressure on transport infrastructure due to climate change and extreme weather.

'That's why our government is delivering the funding local governments need to ensure safer roads, allowing more money to be spent on vital local infrastructure and less on administration costs.'

Victorian Senator Jess Walsh said investing in a future-proofed Stewart Road Bridge was vital for emergency services and to connect local farmers and landholders.

Continued page 3







Rushed job - VFF calls on Bass Coast to defer rates review

By Michael Giles

THE Victorian Farmers Federation wants the Bass Coast Shire Council to defer consideration of its new rating strategy.

But, so far, the call appears to have fallen on deaf ears.

They say the shire could not have launched the review at a worse time, while everyone is "flat out doing hay" in the run up to the Christmas period.

And the last thing farmers want to be doing, according to retired Bass VFF branch treasurer and retired farmer Faye Tuchtan, is sitting down in front of a computer and filling out a survey.

"I went to the Newhaven drop-in information session last week but there were only two other people there. We got a good hearing from Cr Tim O'Brien and Cr Tracey Bell, as well as the officers who were there, but it's a busy time of the year for farmers," said Faye.

"Most of them are out doing

But she says farmers in the district are still very concerned about the rate increases, especially where they are jacked up by speculative increases in farm

"There's a 100-acre bare-land farm on Phillip Island for sale at the moment, with no house, for \$2.4 million, which if it sells for that, will bump up the values of other farms in the vicinity and they'll pay more in rates, but without a corresponding increase in income," said Ms Tuchtan.



Retired Bass farmer and local VFF official, Faye Tuchtan, says few local farmers have turned their mind to the Bass Coast Shire's rating review while they were all "flat out doing hay".

You see that happening right along the coast from Phillip Island to Inverloch."

So far the shire has held two of three drop-in sessions on its rates review, at the Wonthaggi Town Hall on Thursday, November 27, which the VFF says members of the shire's own Rural Engagement Group were not advised about beforehand, and another at the Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre at Newhaven on Tuesday, December 2.

Neither session was well at-

Twenty-nine online surveys have so far been completed.

The final drop-in submission and information session will be held at the Corinella and District Community Centre on Tuesday, December 9 (today) between 11:30am-1pm.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead plans to attend the

She has deflected criticism that the rates review, initiated at the November 19, 2025 council meeting, has been a rushed job or that the three options put forward don't respond to what is effectively a general rate review.

"The review has a focus on the level of farm rates because it came out of a submission to the budget by former Bass VFF President Bill Cleeland calling for a lower share of the rates to be shouldered by farmers, but ultimately, if you change one thing it impacts everyone else," said Cr Halstead.

"If you don't like any of those options you can say so in the comments," she said while urging everyone with an interest in rates to go on to the shire's Engage Bass Coast website and fill out a survey about the rating re-

It's interesting to note that while the amount of money levied from farmers in the 2023-24 budget went up by 18.6% as against an increase for householders of 4.1% that year, rates paid by farmers went down 4.8% the previous year while residential ratepayers still paid 2.9% more.

In the 10 years since the 2016-17 budget when farmers paid an average of \$3000 in rates, and homeowners paid \$1365, their rates have gone up by 32.3% (farm) and 23.7% (residential) in that time to an average of \$3969 for farmers and \$1689 for homeowners in 2025-26, not including the \$618 residential waste levy or an average of \$600 paid to farmers in Land Management Rebates.

The VFF have called for the rate differential to be increased to 65% of the general rate while retaining the Land Management Rebate which they say provides a major environmental benefit to the shire's rural hinterland.

Council is scheduled to make its decision at its February 2026 council meeting.

Kernot bridge gifted funding

From page 1

"I am proud to be part of a government that is stepping up for better connected local communities," said Senator Walsh.

"We're tipping increased funding into the Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program, as well as the Roads to Recovery Program and the Black Spot Program, as part of our steadfast commitment to supporting safer and more productive local roads.'

Bass Coast Shire Council said it was delighted to announce that the Stewart Road Bridge reconstruction in Kernot would proceed.

'The bridge is a critical link for our rural community, and this funding ensures we can now move from planning to delivery," said Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halsted.

"The closure has been deeply felt by local residents, and we're thrilled to be able to bring some relief and certainty to Kernot. We thank the Federal Government, Minister Kristy McBain and Senator Jess Walsh for recognising the urgency of this project.

Local residents just want the bridge fixed, according to resident Rob Parsons.

"This is a serious safety concern for the community. The restoration of the Kernot (Stewart Road) Bridge is the single most urgent priority in the Western Port Ward."

Member Federal Monash Mary Aldred MP said she had been closely engaged with the Minister's office on a daily basis to get this across the line and thanked the Minister for recognising the urgency of getting the bridge

"Having worked every day on behalf of the local community, I welcome the funding announcement by the Federal Government.

Ms Aldred thanked the hundreds of local residents who signed her petition calling on the Federal Government to provide urgent funding to fix the bridge and get it

"With summer here it's critical for residents and emergency services that there is efficient access to local properties. I'll always fight hard to secure the investment in infrastructure we need here

POLICE BRIEFS

Single-vehicle collision on leaves driver injured

ON DECEMBER 4, emergency services responded to a serious single-vehicle collision on Loch-Poowong Road, Loch.

According to initial assessments, the vehicle - a dual-cab utility occupied only by the driver – was travelling north-west when it negotiated a right-hand bend. The driver subsequently lost control, causing the vehicle to veer left off the roadway and descend a dirt embankment. The utility then collided heavily with a roadside tree. The force of the impact struck the passenger-side rear canopy area, causing significant structural damage and forcing the vehicle to flip onto its side before coming to rest back on the sealed surface of Loch-Poowong Road. The collision resulted in substantial damage to the vehicle, with parts of the canopy remaining embedded in the tree at the point of impact. The crash was not witnessed, but a passerby came upon the incident shortly afterwards. The passer-by immediately contacted 000 and remained at the scene until emergency responders arrived.

The driver was found mechanically trapped within the cabin. He was conscious, breathing, and able to communicate. CFA crews utilised cutting equipment to safely extricate him from the wreckage, and paramedics attended to him on scene before he was airlifted to hospital for urgent medical treatment. Police investigations continue.

Pull over and let traffic pass

TRACTORS, and vehicles using the road, are reminded that they are obliged to pull over in a safe location and let traffic pass if they are travelling slower than the speed limit. Too frequently, traffic is building up behind slow vehicles, with lines stretching over a kilometre. The reminder comes from local police, who have spoken with a

number of drivers in recent weeks.

You can run, but they'll catch ya

AN EXTENSIVE investigation by Leongatha and Foster Police, have seen a 49-year-old female from Foster arrested for theft and a number of deception related offences across South Gippsland. The female involved was caught red-handed via CCTV stealing a victims' wallet before using the cards to purchase goods at various stores in the townships of Leongatha, Foster, Toora and Sandy Point. The female was interviewed, charged and bailed to appear at Korumburra Magistrates Court.

Personalised legal services



Phone (03) 5674 2644

23 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch www.basscoastlegal.com.au Servicing all areas.



Did you know we sell Recycled crushed concrete?

- Crushed concrete perfect for driveways
- Crushed bricks, tiles and concrete - perfect for concrete base and pipe bedding
- Competitive rates
- Available Monday-Friday 8am-3.30pm



Phone ahead **5672 2056** L1 Skip Lane, Wonthaggi www.wheelawaste.com.au EPA Registered R000301404

Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

South Eastern Newspapers ABN 30 005 353 168

CONTENTS	
Entertainment	36-37
Puzzles	39
Real Estate	40
Farming	41-43
Trades & Services	44-45
Classifieds	46-49

FEATURES

Shop Local this Christmas	21-28
Health and Wellness	32-33

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 Michael Giles

DIRECTOR: **OPERATIONS MANAGER:**

michael@sgst.com.au Jim Akers

ADVERTISING MANAGER: **EDITOR:**

Holly McMaster holly@sgst.com.au Chloe Kent

jim@sqst.com.au

Andrew Paloczi **JOURNALISTS:** Bruce Wardley Nicole May Tayla Kershaw

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

DISPLAY: CLASSIFIEDS:

Advertising closes at 3pm on Fridays 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





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

6 Day Weather **Forecast**

TUE | Dec 9 Possible early shower. Wind AM: W 15-20km/h SOUTH Wind PM: SW 15-25km/h **GIPPSLAND**

13° **19°**

WED | Dec 10 Partly cloudy. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: S 15-20km/h

9° 19°

THUR | Dec 11 Mostly sunny.

Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SE 15-25km/h 8° 20°

FRI Dec 12 Mostly sunny. Wind AM: E 15-20km/h Wind PM: E 15-20km/h

11° 27°

SAT | Dec 13 Shower or two. Wind AM: NW-NE 15-20km/h Wind PM: NW-SW 20-30km/h

15° 24°

SUN | Dec 14 Shower or two. Wind AM: W 25-40km/h Wind PM: W 25-40km/h

11° 19°

IN BRIEF

Star of the South backed as a key priority

Status MAJOR Project has been renewed for the Star of the South Offshore Wind Farm located off the Gippsland coast of Victoria.

When fully operational, the 2.2 gigawatts generated is expected to supply up to 20 per cent of Victoria's electricity, powering 1.2 million homes and underpinning national energy security.

The project is expected to create about 2,000 construction and 300 ongoing jobs.

The Major Project Status provides extra support from the government to navigate the regulatory environment, helping secure and diversify local supply chains and boost regional job opportunities and investment prospects.

Schoolies on best behaviour

THOUGH the weather was less than favourable with half a handful of beach-worthy days, that didn't stop this year's graduates from celebrating in Bass Coast the past fortnight. Police have praised the behaviour of schoolies, noting there were no significant incidents reported.

"Police wish to congratulate all school leavers who attended Phillip Island in recent weeks," Acting Senior Sergeant Adrian Condron, Bass Coast Police, said.

"Police working the event appreciated all the respectful interactions we had, and the consideration shown to local residents while celebrating.

"We're now turning our focus to the Christmas holiday period and New Year's Eve celebrations. Local residents can expect to see an increased police presence in the Phillip Island and Inverloch areas.

"We wish everyone residing in Bass Coast or visiting our lovely area a very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.'

Australia Day photo comp is back

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is once again running an Australia Day photography competition. The theme of the competition is Australia Day: South Gippsland - Our Home. Photos must be taken within South Gippsland Shire or nearby. Entrants can interpret the theme however they choose.

There are two prize categories this year - an open category with a \$500 prize and a junior category (15 and under) with a \$300 prize.

The Australia Day Photography Competition is funded by the National Australia Day Council. The competition is part of a wider South Gippsland Australia Day program, which features a variety of events that are coordinated by local community groups and supported by Council.

To find out more about the South Gippsland Australia Day Photography Competition, or to submit an entry, please visit: southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadaycompetition. Entries close Sunday, January 18. Winners will be announced on January 26, 2026.

Click to support the Island GP

THE Bass Coast Shire Council is leading a push to save the Phillip Island MotoGP beyond 2026 and it is calling on you to help.

If you want to support the retention of the GP which generated state revenue of \$54.6 million in 2023, including \$29.4 million in direct local spend in Bass Coast and 284 full-time equivalent jobs, go to the Engage Bass Coast website's 'Save our race' page.

There you'll find a proforma letter to Premier Jacinta Allan which you are encouraged to customise with your own experience.

Use it or lose it!

Destination Bass Coast council to decide

BASS Coast Shire Council will vote this week on extending the existing partnership agreements with Destination Gippsland and Destination Phillip Island until June 2026.

Council's current agreements expire at the end of this month however the Victorian government is yet to finalise the governance arrangements for Bass Coast as part of statewide reforms under the Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP).

The cost of a six-month extension to the current partnership agreement with Destination Gippsland is estimated to cost \$21,602 and \$54,536 for a six-month agreement with Destination Phillip Island.

The Victorian government's Visitor Economy Partnership (VEP) Reform program commenced in 2023 and was intended to strengthen regional collaboration and create clearer, more efficient governance arrangements across the state.

A final decision regarding Bass Coast's future alignment has not yet been confirmed, and in the absence of a final position council has been advised it needs to maintain short-term arrangements to ensure certainty for partners and industry.

Allowing existing agreements to lapse without replacement would create uncertainty for both organisations and limit the support available to operators and industry groups.

As Bass Coast Shire Council is one of the six Local Government Authorities that own Destination Gippsland, continuing to contribute to the organisation is considered important to maintain council's role within the existing governance structure.

According to Tourism Research Australia (2023-24), tourism contributes approximately \$596 million in gross value added and supports more than 4,900 jobs across

the region.

Bass Coast hosts nationally and internationally recognised events including the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, World Superbikes, and the Phillip Island Pro, which generate significant economic activity, visitation, and global exposure for the region.

Rabbit management role for council?

YOU'VE no doubt heard the term: "To breed like rabbits".

According to a report to the Bass Coast Shire Council meeting this Wednesday, December 10, "rabbits reach reproductive maturity at three months of age, meaning that under favourable conditions one pair of rabbits can become 184 rabbits in 18 months".

That's pretty much the scenario we've seen played out at the 'Jetty Triangle' in Cowes and around the Berninneit Cultural Centre.

While committing to discharging its land management responsibilities on its own land, the shire could elect to play a larger role in supporting other land managers across the shire following the tabling of a report on pest animals in the shire this week.

AusNet conducts safety aerial inspections

AUSNET will be undertaking its annual aerial inspection program from December 8 through to December 15 in South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

Helicopters will provide a bird's-eye view to easily identify and repair any wear and tear on powerlines and poles.

These inspections help support a reliable and safe electricity supply for Victorian communities and are being undertaken as Victorians are urged to prepare for an increased bushfire risk this summer.

ADVERTISEMENT

ABUSE IN THE DIOCESE OF SALE: FATHER GERARD COFFEY AND JAMES RICHARD GUNN

Rightside Legal is working for a number of men who were abused while students at St Joesph's Catholic Primary School in Orbost and St Michael's Catholic Primary School in Traralgon in the 1970's and 1980's. Both Fr Coffey and Mr Gunn were involved in the abuse. Fr Coffey died in 2008.

If you have information or memories of Fr Coffey or Mr Gunn - both in the schools or in the Parish – that may help survivors, please contact us.

> info@rightsidelegal.com.au · 1300 765 702 FREE CALL Not every case is a first, not all cases set records, but every case matters.



Cost of living pressure front and centre as Ley visits Leongatha

By Rick Koenig

FEDERAL Opposition Leader Sussan Ley visited Leongatha on Tuesday to discuss the mounting pressures of the cost-of-living crisis in the leadup to Christmas.

The Liberal Party Leader was joined by Federal Monash MP Mary Aldred for a roundtable discussion at Henriettas Cafe, where community members discussed the ongoing impact increased energy bills and other expenses were having on businesses and families.

During the visit, Ms Ley met with business owners and parents who shared the daily struggles they were facing.

One business owner said they were relying on payment plans to get by, with little room to move after paying staff.

Another said the phone had stopped ringing for tradies and small businesses across the region.

A parent told Ms Ley that children's sport had become almost unaffordable, with registration fees, game fees and tournament costs adding up alongside fuel and travel expenses.

Ms Ley told The Sentinel-Times she was in South Gippsland to understand the pressures facing the region and to discuss the Coalition's new affordable energy plan.

"When electricity is unaffordable, when power is unaffordable, everything is unaffordable," Ms Ley said.

"Talking to families in Leongatha today, I'm getting a real sense that in the lead up



Federal Monash MP Mary Aldred, Leongatha's June McIndoe and Federal Opposition Leader Sussan Ley at Henriettas Cafe on Tuesday. rk07_4925

to Christmas, there's a lot of pressure on families here.

Ms Lev said she had spoken with parents who were struggling to pay for their children to play sport while also juggling the costs of Christmas and holidays.

"It's all adding up to a lot of pressure, and we want to find ways to take that pressure away from families, and affordable energy is number one," she said.

Last month, the Coalition controversially dropped its net-zero by 2050 in a bid to make energy more affordable without committing to a firm carbon emissions target.

Federal Monash MP Mary Aldred said she wanted to show Ms Ley the impact cost-of-living was having on the commu-

"One of the things that people most regularly raise with me is the cost of living for families and the cost of doing business," she said.

"I wanted to take Sussan to a couple of businesses that I'm really proud of, that make terrific products – but they're really struggling right now with input costs rising and electricity and gas prices rising.

"Families locally are doing it very hard at the moment, Sussan appreciates that, which is why she's focusing so much on cost-of-living relief and having a strong plan to tackle that."

Ms Aldred said Ms Ley came from a regional area herself and knew "how important communities like ours are to the rest of Australia."

Ms Ley's Leongatha visit was part of a mini Gippsland tour, with the Liberal Leader meeting with local manufacturers in Warragul earlier in

LochVillage market at the Loch Railway siding This Sunday, **December 14** 8am-1pm Great gifts for Christmas. Free face painting for the kids. Contact Noel 0447 398 822 Lions Club of Strzelecki





If you have a problem... Do something about it, call us now.

First interview free of charge and obligation



Helping clients Gippsland wide

Morwell

5133 7788

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

Pressure for final Cape plan to be released Environment, and it relates

By Michael Giles

THE Inverloch Surf Beach will be one of the battlegrounds for next year's state election, if questions being asked in State Parliament last week are anything to go by.

Both of the Coalition's Upper House MPs for Eastern Victoria, Renee Heath and Melina Bath, put the issue on the notice paper on Thursday, December 4, just as the first initiative of the yet-to-be-finalised Cape to Cape Resilience Plan kicked into gear on the

Notwithstanding the start of protection works on the beach, including Stage 1 of the sandbag wall extension in front of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse, Ms Bath wanted to know if the final Cape-to-Cape resilience plan would be released before Christmas, while Ms Heath wanted to know why it has taken so long to strike a $\,$ blow at Inverloch.

Both are fair questions.

But they're questions that have already been asked by local MP Jordan Crugnale.

Speaking in parliament last month, Ms Crugnale raised the Cape-to-Cape Resilience Plan in the adjournment debate, asking the Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos for the release date of the final plan.

"The draft Cape-to-Cape plan went out for feedback and consultation, which closed in



Despite the start to protection works in front of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club, erosion problems at the Inverloch Surf Beach remain political.

October 2024, and we are all dedication to this project and released now," said Ms Crug-

"We understand it is a living document and not set and forget. Our government has already implemented a number of mitigation treatments in the Inverloch area specifically and has allocated funding and worked closely with agencies including the local council.

"I look forward to sharing when the final plan will be released and welcome another visit, as always. I thank the team at the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action for their work and

keen for the final plan to be our community for being so actively engaged in this adaptation plan."

The final plan has been completed and is doing the rounds of the project partners before its release, within days.

One of those partners, the Bass Coast Shire Council, is believed to have signed off on the final report last week.

But that didn't stop Melina Bath calling for the release of the report and its assessment of the risks around the Inverloch coast in parliament on Thursday, December 4.

"My constituency question is for the Minister for to something that I have been working on for a long time with the constituents down on the Bass Coast, and it is the Bass Coast Cape-To-Cape Resilience Project. "It has been overdue, despite

being launched in 2019. Labor declared coastal works were, and I quote, 'a priority' in information that I received

"They said it was a priority back in 2022; there were \$3.3 million to spend on mitigation works. Meanwhile erosion is continuing to be such a significant issue, both at Inverloch and at Silverleaves, and in that coastal community.

"In the review that you also did a little while ago, Minister, the consultation said that there were community concerns, but they blamed negative feedback on the storm event and indeed a community petition that was tabled here by me only recently on behalf of the committee.

"Minister, on behalf of the Bass Coast residents, will you immediately release the final Cape-To-Cape Resilience Plan as soon as possible - before Christmas?'

Ms Bath also issued a statement about the failure to release the final Cape-to-Cape report which also has implications for parts of the coast in South Gippsland, especially around Tarwin Lower and VeLocal news South Gippsland

Sentinel-Times

and Bass Coast

(10) www.sgst.com.au



LAST week, Bass Coast had a strong voice at Parliament House as our Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari, the CEO, Greg Box and I undertook a full day of advocacy on behalf of our community.

Across 12 meetings with the Premier, Jacinta Allan's Office, the new Opposition Leader, Ministers, Shadow Ministers, we took the stories, aspirations and challenges of our towns directly to the people who can help us make change happen.

We met with leaders across a number of portfolios including Local Government, Planning, Community Sport, Agriculture, Transport Infrastructure, Creative Industries and Emergency Services. We met with Opposition Leader, Jess Wilson, Deputy Leader, Sam Groth and Shadow Ministers whose portfolios influence our region's future. What stood out was the genuine interest in Bass Coast and the shared belief that our community's needs deserve attention and partnership.

A key and urgent priority was the future of the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix. This event means so much to Bass Coast - supporting thousands of local jobs, energising our visitor economy and shaping our identity as a region that proudly welcomes the world. With the current contract ending in 2026, we made it clear that urgent action is needed to secure the event's long-term future here at home. This is a time-sensitive conversation, and we will continue pushing for certainty for our businesses and tourism operators.

Alongside this, we progressed five major long-term priorities that reflect what our community has told us matters most:

- co-funding to renew the 45-year-old Wonthaggi Aquatic Centre; · a consistent statewide approach to coastal
- erosion and inundation; • investment in recreation infrastructure at
- the Phillip Island Recreation Reserve; · partnership to activate the former Wont-
- haggi Secondary College site as a vibrant community precinct; and
- protection of the Western Port Woodlands through an Environmental Significance Overlay.

We also reinforced our long-standing advocacy on the Emergency Services and Volunteer Fund, improved public transport, peri-urban financial sustainability and the implementation of Distinctive Areas and Landscapes into the Planning Scheme.

These conversations were positive and constructive, with several Ministers and Shadow Ministers committing to visit Bass Coast in 2026. Nothing replaces seeing our needs and opportunities firsthand.

Advocacy is about persistence and partnership. We are deeply committed to securing the investment and support our community deserves. I look forward to keeping you updated as these conversations continue

Bass Coast flags MotoGP, funding fears at Spring Street

By Michael Giles

WORRIED about losing the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, after the next scheduled event at Phillip Island's world-famous grand prix track on October 23-25 next year, the Bass Coast Shire Council raced down to Spring Street last Tuesday to press the flesh.

As well as the GP, the Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Deputy Mayor and chief executive advocated strongly for a bundle of other events and projects, holding 12 meetings with ministers, shadow ministers and advisers across one actionpacked day in Parliament.

Council met with a broad cross-section of Government and Opposition members including the office of the Premier, Jacinta Allan, Ministers for Local Government, Planning, Agriculture, Community Sport, Transport Infrastructure, Creative Industries, Emergency Services, as well as Leader of the Opposition Jess Wilson and Shadow Ministers for Local Government, Tourism, Sport and Major Events, Planning, and Outdoor Recreation.

Key focus areas included:

 Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix

Council is seeking urgent support from the state government to secure the event's future in Bass Coast beyond 2026.

 Wonthaggi Aquatic Centre Council is seeking cofunding commitments from all levels of government to renew Bass Coast's ageing

Coastal Erosion

Council is calling for consistent, coordinated statewide Coastal Inundation and Erosion Control, in the form of an overlay similar to the Bushfire Management Overlay.

 Phillip Island Recreation Reserve

Council is seeking funding to deliver a fit-for-purpose, multi-use community sport and recreation hub for Phillip Island.

Activation of the former Wonthaggi Secondary Col-



A Bass Coast Shire Council delegation including Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari and chief executive Greg Box met with a slew of ministers last week, following introductions by Bass MP Jordan Crugnale, including the Victorian Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos.

Council seeks to partner with the state government to develop this key parcel of land into a thriving precinct that best serves the needs of the community.

• Protection of Westernport Woodlands

Council is seeking recognition of the significance of the Westernport Woodlands and an Environmental Significance Overlay to ensure their ongoing protection and preservation.

The delegation was supported by State Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead said reinforcing Council's role as a trusted and solutions-focused partner was central to the conversations.

'We are committed to working constructively with all levels of government and all sides of politics to advance the needs of Bass Coast."

and Cape Paterson.

\$5 per gift Cash only.

Cr Halstead said it was a highly productive day noting that the council would continue pressing for commitments from both sides of the parliament in the run up to the next election.

Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari said the delegation was a success.

"Getting in front of decision makers for face-to-face conversations is a critical part of our advocacy.

"We left Spring Street with no stone unturned, having met with every Minister and Shadow Minister who would open their door to us.'

Cr Halstead said the initial conversations led to some early commitments for visits to Bass Coast in 2026.

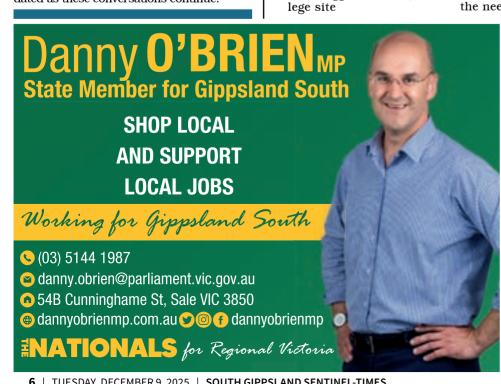
"Now that we've been to Spring Street, I've extended the invitation to all Ministers and Shadow Ministers to visit Bass Coast and see community's \mathbf{needs}

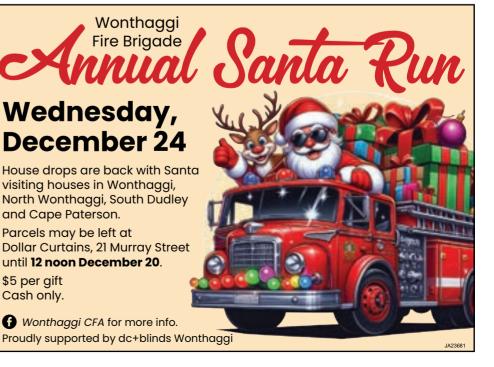
first-hand.

"I'm grateful to everyone that took the time to engage with us, and I look forward to continuing these conversations to translate them into funding announcements and ultimately action for the communities of Bass Coast.'

Further discussions were had to reinforce Council's position on the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF), ahead of the government's announcement last Friday that it will delay the introduction of the new levy on farmers for a further two years.

sustainability Financial constraints for Peri-Urban Councils like Bass Coast, the need to implement the Distinctive Areas Landscape (DAL) into the Planning Scheme, and improved Public Transport connectivity across Bass Coast were other issues raised.





Gardeners and Men's Shed settle month-long standoff

By Bruce Wardley

A STANDOFF between the Wonthaggi Harvest Community Garden and Wonthaggi Men's Shed is over after VCAT mediation.

Keys to the site were returned to both groups last week after a successful mediation process initiated by Bass Coast Shire Council using an independent Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal mediator.

In separate agreements prepared by Bass Coast Shire, the community garden group will access the site on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, and the Men's Shed on Tuesday and Thursday each week.

Garden group volunteer Stella Hitchins said it was lovely to be back in the garden.

"The poppies and sweet peas are all in flower and we have perfect cabbages and garden produce ready to harvest," Ms Hitchins said.

"But we also need to do a lot of weeding."

A member of both groups, volunteer Burt Roos said he hoped there would be no more trouble.

"This should never have happened," Mr Roos said.

"Let's hope it works this time." Garden group secretary Jessica Harrison said both groups now

had equal standing.
"We're looking forward to both groups moving forward and growing," she said.

An open day will be held at the community garden between 10am and 1pm on Saturday, December 20. Plants and clothes will be available for a donation.



Paul Bentley, Carol Sheerman, Jessica Harrison (secretary), Jenny Parsons, Stella Hitchins, Mue Hsay, Ethan and Mary Bool (president) of the Wonthaggi Harvest Community Garden Group return to their garden plots at the Wonthaggi Men's Shed. b05 4925



Cr Rochelle Halstead's selection as a finalist in the Mary Rogers Award recognises her significant achievements and leadership.

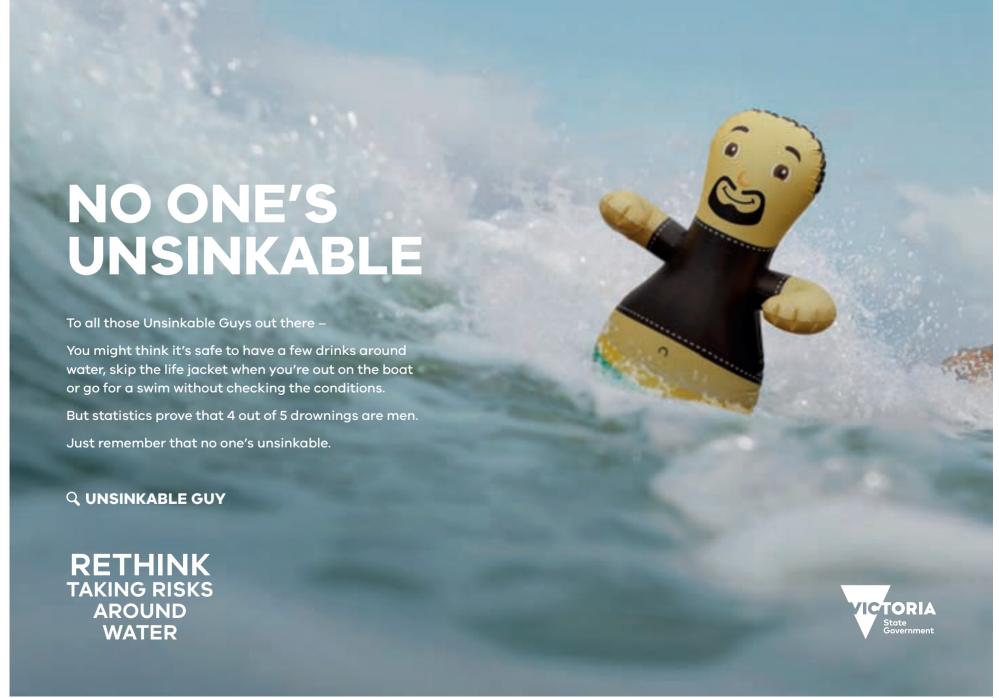
Mayor Rochelle Halstead recognised as finalist for Mary Rogers Award

BASS Coast Shire Council Mayor Rochelle Halstead has been recognised as a finalist for the prestigious Mary Rogers Award, acknowledging her exceptional leadership, resilience and long-standing commitment to community service.

The Mary Rogers Award honours women in local government who embody the spirit of Mary Rogers by championing equality, strengthening community wellbeing, and mentoring emerging female leaders.

Council extended its warmest congratulations to Kylie Spears from Maroondah City Council, who has been awarded the 2025 Mary Rogers Award for her outstanding contributions as a civic leader. Her dedication to equality, community wellbeing and sustainability, along with her commitment to supporting emerging women leaders, reflects the true legacy of Mary Rogers.

Cr Halstead's recognition also reflects her courage and resilience. Having faced profound personal loss and her own breast cancer diagnosis, she rebuilt her life in Bass Coast, was elected to Council in 2020, served two terms as Deputy Mayor, and now leads Council with compassion, integrity and strength.



TAFE VICTORIA Grayson **Engineering (Fabrication)** Turn your passion into a career. Choose from over 80 in-demand qualifications and short courses with no tuition fees. Make it real at vic.gov.au/free-tafe.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

Island 'drowning' possible medical episode, say police

surfer at the popular Surfies Point surf break at Surf Beach on Phillip Island last Wednesday, December 3 may have been caused by a medical episode according to police.

Speaking on ABC Gippsland Radio on Thursday morning, Bass Coast Police Area Commander Acting Inspector Jason Hullick said the incident was a tragic start to summer on local beaches.

"At about 1pm yesterday afternoon, (Wednesday, December 3, 2025) there was a group of surfers out, off Surf Beach on Phillip Island. A 65-yearold gent there appeared to be in difficulty in the water, and some of the other surfers there assisted recovering him to the beach where they commenced CPR with the assistance of an off-duty paramedic.

"So, a very unfortunate set of circumstances there which makes for a tragic start to summer," said Acting Inspector Hullick.

"I will say that it's possible that, obviously, we'll prepare a report for the coroner, but it's possible that the gentleman may have had a medical episode whilst in the water, as he was noticed, sort of floating by his board, I believe, prior to those other surfers coming to his assistance.

"These surfers were experienced, and this gentleman was very experienced too, so doing all the right things

"They're very aware of their



Police were called to the scene of a possible drowning at Surf Beach on Phillip Island last Wednesday afternoon after a surfer was pulled from the water but believe the incident may have involved a medical episode. Tragically the regular visitor to the Island died at the scene.

surroundings as well and they do all help each other out with all sorts of things. And obviously, when they see someone in distress or who needs assistance, they always go and help, which is great too.

"So yeah, a very, very sad start to the summer season and we have put a lot of work into beach safety this year with our local stakeholders but I will say he was an experienced surfer and we are looking at some other sort of factors in relation to this death."

Acting Inspector Hullick confirmed the deceased surfer was a man from Melbourne.

"Yes, a fellow from Melbourne, a 65-year-old man, as I said, yeah, who has just come down for have a surf, and as I said. I think he's been down here quite a bit, and knows the area quite well, and was very experienced."

As much as there may be other factors involved in what was an unusual incident, of a surfer drowning, Acting Inspector Hullick took the opportunity to underscore the beach safety message for summer.

So, obviously, swim at patrolled beaches and safe areas, and if you're unfamiliar with the area, or not a great swimmer, there's plenty of places that you can go where it's safe to swim.

"I'd also say, too, we find a lot of people will put themselves in some situations where they probably shouldn't be, on the rocks, heading down to those rocky areas and sort of accessing places where it is dangerous.

"So, please, be aware of your surroundings.

"Our message would be to take some responsibility on that front. If you need to have a swim. there's plenty of patrolled beaches over summer. There's plenty of safe beaches down this way to utilise with your family and enjoy the water.

"It's a lovely area to come, and we certainly don't want to have any more of these incidents across our summer period this year or any year to be honest."

FRRR grant funding for Korumburra Showgrounds

REMOTE, rural and regional communities across Victoria will share in more than \$170,000 in grants through FRRR's Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program.

This funding supports locally-led projects that foster resilience, social connection and greater capacity in regional communities. It will help them embrace new opportunities and address challenges such as housing and food security, equitable education access, reduce social isolation and preserve cultural and community assets.

Korumburra Showgrounds Amenities Complex joint management committee will share in \$10,000 to improve comfort for volunteers and participants by purchasing new chairs to increase safety and capacity of a community gathering

Jill Karena, head of granting at FRRR, said that while demand for grants continues to grow and far outstrips the funding available, these grants provide an essential lifeline for not-for-profits working tirelessly to bridge service gaps in their remote and rural communi-

FRRR accepts applications to the SRC program year-round, with funding awarded quarterly. Community groups and NFPs are encouraged to review the guidelines and apply at frrr.org.au/src-small-

The SRC program is made possible thanks to the generosity of FRRR's donor partners, including individuals, foundations and corporations. To help FRRR fund more community-led projects, visit frrr.org.au/donate.





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



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 8AM - 12.30PM **COAL CREEK CAR PARK**

Produce grown and made from the South Gippsland region.

f Contact David 0411 413 716





Wellness

Dreamy Head

Massage

Back Massage

\$219

Facial

Includes a Salus Replenish skin set package valued at \$314

Massage \$199

Wellness Body

Massage

Dreamy Head Massage

Face & Décolletage



Ritual Set package valued at \$269



Receive a Revive Soy Candle or Reed Diffuser

Valued at \$35 FREE

Spend

\$150 Or More

Gift

Vouchers

For more information visit www.revivebeautytherapy.com.au Shop 5, 33-39 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi Phone 5672 3800 *Conditions apply



South Gippsland Shire Council News

Enter the Australia Day Photo Competition Now

Get snapping for the South Gippsland Australia Day Photo Competition.

The theme this year is Australia Day: South Gippsland - Our Home. Entrants can interpret the theme however they choose.

With our verdant hills, rugged coastline, quaint villages, fertile farmland, colourful characters and friendly towns, there's sure to be something to spark your inspiration. A fancy camera isn't essential; you can use your smartphone.

Images must be taken within or very close to South Gippsland Shire. Any resident or ratepayer of South Gippsland is welcome to apply.

There are two prize categories - an open category with a \$500 prize and a junior category (15 and under) with a \$300 prize.

The Australia Day Photography Competition is funded by the National Australia Day Council.

Entries close Sunday 18 January 2026.

Winners will be announced on Monday 26 January 2026.

To find out more about the South Gippsland Australia Day Photography Competition, or to submit an entry, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/ australiadaycompetition

Cr. Gilligan - Award Nomination



The Mary Rogers Award celebrates notable civic leadership by women councillors in Victoria.

Councillor Gilligan earned her nomination for championing the protection of South Gippsland's precious coastline, successfully driving three motions through the Municipal Association of Victoria to urge the Victorian Government to action. Her advocacy has also helped secure \$80,000 to explore an innovative solution to coastal storm surges using the Venus Bay

While she didn't take home the award this time, being nominated is a fantastic achievement.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 December 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,

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live

FINAL MONTH - GREEN WASTE AMNESTY

Dispose of green waste free of charge at Council's transfer station until 31 December

Be mindful that some plant species are not accepted in the amnesty.

For more information, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/ greenwasteamnesty

FREE MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA (MMR) **VACCINATIONS**

Council's Immunisation Service is providing free MMR Vaccines to anyone who may not have received two doses.

Measles is a highly infectious disease that can cause serious illness and two doses of MMR vaccine are required for protection.

You are at risk of measles if:

- You were born between 1966 to 1992.
- You were born overseas.
- You are travelling overseas infants as young as six months old can have the vaccine prior to travel.

If you born after 1966 and are unsure if you have had a second dose, get vaccinated. To book in for a session or for more information, 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

SGSC PETS FACEBOOK PAGE

The South Gippsland Shire Pets page is where we share the photos and stories of animals who have been separated from their owners and those who need to be rehomed.

To follow the page, visit: facebook.com/sgscpets

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha 03 5662 9200

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au



One Gippsland Chair Cr Nathan Hersey (centre) and South Gippsland executive director strategy and integrity Tony Peterson (second from right) are pictured with members of the Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee during a hearing in Traralgon in May. The committee members are (from left to right) Member for Monbulk Daniela De Martino, Member for Wendouree and Committee Chair Juliana Addison, Member for Morwell and Committee Deputy Chair Martin Cameron (back), Member for Croydon David Hodgett and Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale.

Housing shortage could stall growth in Gippsland

ONE Gippsland has warned that Gippsland's growth could stall without urgent government investment in housing and infrastructure.

One Gippsland Chair, Cr Nathan Hersey, said Gippsland could not fuel its energy, mining, food, fibre and tourism sectors without homes for the workforce.

"Gippsland powers our state, supplies core materials required for infrastructure and feeds Victorians and many Australians. As our industries grow, so too will the workforce," Cr Hersey said.

"Offshore wind projects slated for Gippsland are expected to create more than 15,000 construction jobs and 7500 ongoing roles. We need somewhere for these workers to live or else they will simply look for jobs elsewhere," he said.

Cr Hersey has backed the findings of a state parliamentary inquiry into the supply of homes in regional Victoria.

The inquiry, undertaken by the Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee, found the construction of new housing outside Melbourne was hampered by a range of factors, including a lack of shovel-ready land.

Cr Hersey, who gave evidence to the committee in Traralgon in May, backed a recommendation that the Victorian Government provide ongoing strategic investment in rural and regional infrastructure and advocate for the Federal Government to provide matching funding.

"Gippsland is home to more than 270,000 people. With natural beauty, cultural heritage and lifestyle and at the forefront of our nation's energy diversification, Gippsland is an attractive place to live, work and visit," Cr Hersey

"We can all see Gippsland growing, some of our communities in Baw Baw and Bass Coast shire are amongst the fastest growing in the country.

"Combine this population growth with some of the state's highest rates of family violence, and we know this region is on a path to failing some of the most vulnerable members of our community without action fast.

'We simply can't open up land to build the homes we need before essential infrastructure such as roads, power, water and sewerage are in

"Local government can't afford to fund this infrastructure itself and wants to partner with the state and federal governments to ensure our region can grow sustainably and thrive," he said.

Cr Hersey also welcomed the committee's recommended measures to address the shortage of social and affordable housing.

"Our region has some of the state's highest rates of family violence and homelessness. The supply of social and affordable housing is not keeping up with demand in Gippsland – and that's a great concern," Cr Hersey said.

Hersey said Gippsland supported many of the report's recommendations, including that the Victorian Government:

- · update and expand existing regional growth plans, including identifying well-serviced locations in urban areas and new greenfield areas for housing developments;
- infrastructure consider funding in the rural and regional context;
- help boost the supply of qualified statutory planners in rural and regional Victoria: and
- encourage greater adoption of and innovation in modern construction methods.

Hersey Gippsland looked forward to working with the State Government to turn the inquiry's recommendations into real outcomes for Gippsland.

"Gippsland is ready to grow and plan for the future," Cr Hersey said.

"We want to partner with the State Government to turn these recommendations into action and get the homes built that our region urgently needs now and in the future," he

Mayor's Message South Gippsland Cr Nathan Hersey

The end of the year is fast approaching. Our final public Council Meeting of 2025 will be held on Wednesday, December 10 from 2pm.

As we all enjoy the Christmas and New Year period, I want to encourage everyone to drive safely and take care on our roads.

Gippsland Leadership Program

The high-quality services that South Gippsland Shire Council provide are made possible because of the dedicated people who work for Council.

It's important that we have opportunities for our staff to grow and learn!

Proudly, the Gippsland Community Leadership Program has seen two of our own recent graduates in Ben Lehmann (Open Space Assets and Projects Officer) and Andrea Phillips (Coordinator Rates and Revenue).

The 10-month program is designed to build strong, connected leaders across the region through collaboration and handson learning. It's great to have people within our organisation who are committed to strengthening their skills and leadership capability for the benefit of our community. Well done and congratulations Ben and Andrea!

South Gippsland Youth Strategy

Council is currently seeking feedback to help inform the development of a new Youth Strategy. This Strategy will guide Council's work on issues impacting young people in South Gippsland and outline how they can have a stronger voice in matters that affect them.

We encourage everyone — especially our youth — to have their say on the Youth Strategy via Council's engagement portal: https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/

Marinus Link

Last week, I attended the Marinus Link "Meet the Contractors" session in Leongatha. With over 300 people turning up, it was a very well-attended event, which provided a valuable opportunity for local businesses to connect with lead contractors ahead of construction commencing next year. The Marinus Link project is significant for our region, and we want to ensure that our businesses - and our local economy are positioned to benefit from the project.

Briefings from the community

Last week, Councillors met with Mirboo North community members Matt Snell (Mirboo North Primary School) and Ruth Rogan (Mirboo North District Foundation) for a cuppa and a relaxed conversation about their strategic goals and challenges.

It was encouraging to connect face-to-face and to hear directly. As part of our commitment to open engagement, we will be holding more Coffee Catch-Ups next year.

Viplus Dairy Toora

Councillor Schelling and Councillor Finlay recently visited Viplus Dairy where they joined a delegation from China to celebrate 10 years of partnership in Toora. It's great to see local businesses like Viplus strengthening trade ties and contributing to increased economic activity in right here in South Gippsland.

Award recognition

Congratulations to Councillor Sarah Gilligan on her nomination for the Mary Rogers Award. This award from the Victorian Local Governance Association celebrates and acknowledges the significant contributions and achievements of women councillors in local government.

Being nominated twice for the same award in the same year, shows that Cr Gilligan is recognised across Victoria for her strong contributions to local government. Congratulations!

Korumburra Police see red after brazen graffiti attack

POLICE investigations are ongoing after vandals sprayed red paint on the Korumburra Police Station and Korumburra Courthouse overnight on Tuesday December 2, also souveniring the Korumburra Law Courts sign in the process.

They also sprayed private property in the town and a parked vehicle.

While attempts have been made to remove most of the paint from the walls and entryway to the police station, and also pathway lighting, and from the walls and glass front door of the courthouse, signs of the damage still remain.

There were also burnout marks left on the police station driveway in the brazen, late-night attack.

they Police say have recovered CCTV footage of the incident and while the alleged perpetrator was wearing a balaclava at the time, they remain confident of identifying the culprit.

Investigations are ongoing.

Anyone with information about the incident on Monday night into Tuesday morning, December 2 is asked to contact the Korumburra police on 03 5655 1244 or Crimestoppers on 1800 333 000 or their website crimestoppersvic.com.au.

RIGHT: Vandals hit the Korumburra Police Station in the early hours of Tuesday morning, December 2 last week, spraying red paint on walls and lights and leaving burnout marks on the driveway.



Gifts, Loans and • Ask yourself: • Will you still cover your essential living Helping Family:

What Retirees Should Know

By David Caporale, **Chief Investment Officer of RELIcapital**

s Christmas approaches, many retirees who are financially able to do so start thinking about how to help family - whether that means a financial gift, a contribution to a grandchild's education or lending money to an adult child trying to get ahead.

Generosity is one of the best parts of this stage of life. But gifts and loans can come with unexpected financial consequences, especially for the Age Pension and your long-term security. Here's what to consider before you hand over money this festive season.

Understanding the gifting rules

Many retirees don't realise that Centrelink has strict limits on how much you can give away without affecting your pension. The current allowances are:

- Up to \$10,000 per financial year, and
- Up to \$30,000 over five financial years,
- With no more than \$10,000 counted in any one year toward that total.

Anything above these limits is treated as if you still own it for five years. This can reduce your Age Pension under the assets or income test.

This matters at year-end, when many people make larger gifts to help children with house deposits, school fees or general support. A quick check of the rules can help avoid surprises.

Loans to family: helpful, but must be clear

Many retirees support family with a loan instead of a gift, often interest-free and flexible. But unless the loan is clearly documented, Centrelink may treat it as a gift. To be recognised as a loan:

- · Put the agreement in writing
- Include a clear expectation of repayment
- Ensure repayments occur, even if small A simple written agreement protects everyone and avoids misunderstandings years later.

Make sure support doesn't weaken your own retirement

Before gifting or lending money, take a moment to consider your own needs. A common regret among retirees is giving away too much, too early.

Ask yourself:

- costs?
- Do you have enough for emergencies?
- How will rising costs affect you over the next decade?
- Are you relying on future help from family that may or may not eventuate? Helping family should never leave you short or stressed later in life.

How gifts and loans affect other parts of your finances

Financial support can influence more than just the Age Pension. It can also affect:

- Estate planning: Should the gift or loan be recorded in your Will so future inheritances remain fair?
- Superannuation pensions: Reducing your balance may change the income you draw.
- Future aged care costs: Your assessed assets can affect government support

Thinking about the flow-on effects now can prevent problems down the track.

Open conversations go a long way

Money conversations can be uncomfortable, but clarity helps everyone. A short discussion can prevent misunderstandings, especially between siblings or extended family.

Consider explaining:

- Whether the support is a gift or a loan
- Whether you expect repayment
- Why you need to follow Centrelink rules
- How the support fits into your overall financial plan

Families rarely disagree when expectations are clear from the beginning.

The bottom line

Helping children or grandchildren is a wonderful part of retirement, especially at Christmas. But gifts and loans come with rules that can affect your pension and longterm security. Understanding these rules means you can be generous and confident.

With a little planning, your generosity can go further - without costing you later.

The information above does not constitute financial or other professional advice and is general in nature. It does not take into account your specific circumstances and should not be acted on without a full understanding of your current situation and future goals and objectives by a fully qualified financial advisor. Before you make any decision about whether to acquire a certain financial product, you should obtain and read the relevant product disclosure statement.



Hailey (East Cowes Foreshore Preventative Action Group), Martin Walker (CRG), and Stephen Lapin (CRG) at Silverleaves for the announcement of \$1.4 million in funding to DEECA to deliver the next stage of the East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan.

\$1.4 million for the East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan

BASS MP Jordan Crugnale last week announced the \$1.4 million in funding to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) to deliver the next stage of the East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan thanks to the National Emergency Management Agency's Disaster Ready Fund.

The additional funding secured for the delivery of the East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan matches past contributions from the Victorian government.

The Bass Coast Shire Council is in the process of obtaining designs, as guided by the East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation

Plan published by DEECA in 2025. These designs will then be constructed in a staged approach, with phase one already funded by the Victorian government.

The Disaster Ready Fund grant will support the delivery of a further stage that will be determined once the designs are finalised in line with best practices and recommendations from coastal engineers.

"We welcome the funding, and its success goes principally to DEECA, which put in a laborious and detailed submission for hotspots across the state. I want to thank the DEECA Gippsland team for the tremendous work that went into the application and for developing the East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan with the local community. This funding program was open for state agencies and councils, and submissions closed back in April this year," Ms Crugnale said.

"Ongoing efforts to protect the Silverleaves foreshore are guided by the East Cowes and Silverleaves Adaptation Plan, with Bass Coast Shire Council currently progressing design work for upcoming stages."

For more information on the Adaptation Plan, visit www.engage.vic.gov. au/silverleaves-coastaladaptation-pathways



Scan For More



Over 45 Years of Investments in Real Estate Loans

Variable interest rates starting from:

Fixed term investment with no entry or exit fees.

Rate current 1 December 2025. An investment with RELI Capital is not a bank or term deposits, and investors risk losing some or all of their money. The rates of return are not guaranteed, and may be lower than expected. Generally there is no right of early withdrawal prior to maturity of the investment term and there is a risk that redemption at maturity may be delayed. Before deciding to invest consider RELI Capital's Product Disclosure Statement and Target Market Determination by visiting relicapital.com.au or



Robert Barron and Gooseneck Pottery invite you to the

& CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION









Saturday & Sunday, December 13 & 14 from 10am to 5pm

• Kiln talk at 12.30pm • Throwing demonstration 11am & 2.30pm Inspect the kiln & workshop
 Wine and cheese



5 minutes Korumburra, 10 minutes Leongatha, 20 minutes Inverloch

Open: Weekdays/Public holidays/Most Weekends Phone first during weekdays 0403 023 761

E-gooseneckpottery@gmail.com W-www.gooseneckpottery.com.au 60 Kardella-Fairbank Rd Kardella 3951

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.



Q TEACH THE FUTURE

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne





JoJo Spook's Blue Ray is made of ocean



Universal Eye #10 by Richard Horstman is made up of acrylic paint and markers alongside imitation gold leafing on Italian linen. Richard's work will be on display in the first and third exhibitions.



Stoneware by Owen Rye will be on display and available to purchase in the small works exhibition.



Sea Garden, acrylic on canvas by Karen Preston. Karen's work will be on display from December 12 to January 1.

Art, community and creativity come alive this summer at Berninneit

THIS summer, the Berninneit Art Gallery in Cowes will once again come alive with colour, conversation and creativity as Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space (PICES) unveils its vibrant 2025–2026 Summer Exhibitions. Running from December 12, 2025, to February 1, 2026, the program brings together 64 artists from across Bass Coast and beyond, showcasing an inspiring range of contemporary artworks - all available for purchase.

Now in its seventh year, PIC-ES continues to strengthen its role as a champion of local creativity. With the ongoing technical support of the Bass Coast Shire Council, the volunteer-led organisation is set to present three distinct exhibitions, introduce new talents, and host engaging public events throughout the summer season.

The program opens with the much-anticipated Small Works Exhibition, running from December 12 to January 1. Building on the success of last year's popular 50 x 50 Exhibition, this year's display features 140 beautifully crafted small artworks, all priced affordably - perfect for a unique Christmas gift. With a "first in, first served" approach and the option to take artworks home immediately, visitors are encouraged to get in early to secure their favourites.

January ushers in the curated Contempora 1 and Contempora 2 exhibitions.

- Contempora 1: January
- Contempora 2: January 17 February 1

These two showcases highlight 18 emerging and established artists, offering an exciting mix of painting, printmaking, pottery, woodturning, sculpture, photography and collage. Together, they promise a rich journey through contemporary artistic expression.

To deepen the connection between visitors and artists, PIC-ES will host Artist Insights 1 and 2 at 2pm on Sunday, January 4 and Sunday, January 18, where exhibiting artists will speak about their creative process, themes and inspirations. These free talks are a rare chance to hear directly from some of the region's most $\,$ engaging artistic voices.

The Small Works Exhibition features contributions from: Marlene Abela, Sian Adnam, Elizabeth Allen, Josephine Allen, Peter Balfe, Joy Brentwood, Lesley Bretherton, Helen Broad, Sonia Camm, Sofia Csernatony, Ken Fisher, Gail Franks, Janie Frith, Stephen Glover, Annie Green, Wendy Habraken-Flack, Susan Hall, Mary Henry, Sandra Lamerton, Deborah Hill, Sue Hoare, Myra Holmes, Richard Horstman, Ying Huang, Carolyne Jane, Andrew Keir, Joe La Pira, Julie Lundgren Coulter, Guilio Marcolongo, Annette Marshall, Lisa Mc-Clure, Jillian Mitchell, Gay Mosby, Jackie Moss, Bronwyn Parry-Fielder, Sandra Peeters, Karen Preston, Jo Quirk, Marian Quigley, Owen Rye, JoJo Spook, Renee Sterling,

Janice Taylor, Candida van Rood, Peter Walker, Chelsea Watson, Deb Watson, Rain White, Rebecca Wilbourne, Cassandra Williams, Kim Wood, Denise Woodley and Martine Zajacek.

Contempora 1 (January 4-15) includes: Helen Broad (painting), Mandy Gunn (printmaking), Melinda Holt (painting), Carolyne Jane (painting), Julie Lundgren Coulter (painting), Gay Mosby (pottery), Ann Parry (painting), Helen Philipp (sculpture) and Kylie Watson (printmaking).

Contempora 2 (January 17 – February 1) features: Guillaume Dillee (painting), Chris Farrell (painting), Stephen Glover (painting), Richard Horstman (painting), Chris Lawry (printmaking), Guilio Marcolongo (woodturning), Jillian Mitchell (photography), Rain White (painting) and Martine Zajacek (collage).

With an impressive lineup and something to inspire every visitor, the PICES Summer Exhibitions promise a season of creativity not to be missed.

PICES Small Works Exhibition

Small contemporary artworks featuring 2D and 3D works - Painting, Photography, Pottery, Printmaking, Sculpture, Woodturning and Textile











From December 12 - January 1, 2026 Open Daily 10am - 4pm (closed Xmas Day)

The exhibition brings together a wonderful range of artworks under 50cm that are perfect for that special Christmas gift, collector piece, or simply to brighten up your home. It's a great chance for art lovers to pick up something original without the big price tags. So make sure you come in and vist us.

Berninneit Art Gallery, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes Vic 3922

Bringing contemporary art to the community



Federal MP slams social media ban rollout

By Rick Koenig

SOCIAL media heavyweight Meta began deactivating accounts for Australians aged under 16 nearly a week early on Thursday despite criticising the new ban as "rushed".

The Facebook, Instagram and Threads owner started enforcing the new law six days before tomorrow's December 10 deadline in a bid to remove more than 500,000 users aged between 13 and 15 from its platforms.

Meta stated it began booting children from the platforms on Thursday morning in a rolling process to meet the official deadline.

The social media giant has stated the legislation ignored "the voices of young people" and undermined what the industry already does "to ensure age-appropriate experiences"

As of Thursday morning, many young Australians were unable to access their Meta accounts and were required to submit a "video selfie" or government ID to verify they were over 16.

Federal Monash MP Mary Aldred told the Sentinel-Times



Federal Opposition Leader Sussan Ley and Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred in Leongatha last week. rk02 4925

the ban was filled with uncertainties including a "lacklustre education campaign".

"The federal Labor government is yet to give Australians confidence the ban is going to work," she said.

"There is still no clarity on what age verification will look like or how it will be implemented, and I'm getting a lot of feedback on this from Monash residents.'

Ms Aldred said there had been a severe lack of education on how the ban would both work and be enforced.

"It is extraordinary that a year on from the social media age minimum being legislated, the federal Labor government is still scrambling over the details of the under-16 social media ban," she said.

"There are still several things the government has not been clear about, including whether a platform can compel Australians to use digital identification for age

verification, and even which platforms are going to be included."

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale said anything that strengthens online safety for under-16s is worth considering carefully.

"The recent amendment to the Online Safety Act is a federal measure, and while it doesn't apply to every platform or prevent young people from accessing social media altogether, it will still have an impact on families in our electorate," she said.

"The rollout will need to be practical and well-communicated. Parents want clarity, not confusion, and I'll be watching closely to ensure the changes genuinely help keep young people safe rather than simply shifting the problem elsewhere."

Last month. South Gippsland Shire Councillor Steve Finlay raised concerns about the ban being a backdoor way to implement a national digital ID system.

Cr Finlay questioned whether the age verification requirements would eventually extend to all Australians, not just children.

Wonthaggi streets ahead after \$3 million upgrade

By Bruce Wardley

A \$3 MILLION upgrade of Wonthaggi's streetscapes has put the town centre streets ahead according to the State Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale MP.

Representing the Minister for Regional Development Jaclyn Symes, Ms Crugnale celebrated the completion of the project with a walk through the town centre accompanied by Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Bass Coast chief executive Greg Box and staff of Bass Coast Shire and Regional Development Victoria.

Funded by a \$2 million government grant and a \$1 million contribution from Bass Coast Shire, Ms Crugnale said the streetscape project had delivered a safer and more accessible space for visitors, locals and businesses in Wonthaggi strengthening its reputation as a vibrant regional cen-

"This swathe of upgrades, plantings and new infrastructure provide better amenity and accessibility to move around well and enjoy the town's many offerings," Ms Crugnale said.

Mayor Cr Halstead said it was wonderful to celebrate the completion of the Graham Street tree planting works and the new planter boxes along Mc-Bride Avenue which are already making the area feel greener, more welcoming, and more people-friendly.

"Over the past few months, we've watched this space take shape. Thirteen new Crepe Myrtle trees have been planted along Graham Street, with Stratavault cells installed underground to help them grow healthy roots and thrive long into the future,' she said.

"Being in the space now, you can feel how much more inviting and peoplefocused the town centre will become. These works are part of our longerterm vision for the Wonthaggi Activity Centre creating streets for people, reinvigorating the character of our town, strengthening our identity as a regional hub, improving pedestrian safety and connectivity, and supporting our traders and local economy.

"It's about future-proofing Wonthaggi with smart, flexible and sustainable streetscapes that will adapt as our community grows.'

Cr Halstead thanked local traders for being incredibly patient and collaborative throughout the works.

"This has been a genuine team effort from planning to delivery, and this is just the beginning. As the trees mature and as we continue to invest in the Activity Centre this space will only grow stronger as the heart of our community.

"The upgrades have improved the Biggs Drive and Murray Street intersection, making it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to safely cross the road, while the redevelopment of Apex Park has delivered a new playground and accessible public toilets.'

Teen surf star caught in social media ban limbo

By Rick Koenig

A JUNIOR surfing sensation has been left in limbo following the federal government's social media ban which could leave the upcoming star unable to fulfil her sponsorship obligations.

Scarlett Rennie, 13, is a competitive surfer from Cape Woolamai who has represented Victoria on the national stage multiple

Her mother Liz Rennie said she had been running Scarlett's Instagram account for five years but had no idea whether it would be taken down under the

She said her daughter had sponsorship commitments and was unsure how the ban could impact her ability to fulfil them.

According to the new legislation, social media accounts run by parents for children under 16 are also not permitted, despite parents like Ms Rennie having sole access to the account to ensure safe online behaviour. However, there are no penalties for young people or their families who circumvent the ban, with all the onus on platforms to enforce the rules.



Scarlett Rennie in action. Photo: Noah Clifford / Surfing Victoria. rk01_4925

Despite Meta beginning to block accounts for those under 16 on Thursday, Ms Rennie said Scarlett's account, which clearly states she is 13, had not been disabled.

"I'm a little concerned, I really don't know what's going to happen," she said.

"I think there has been a real lack of information on how it's going to roll out."

Ms Rennie said she had already witnessed major flaws in Meta's age verification technol-

One 14-year-old she knew had passed the video selfie check by claiming to be 17, while another child who entered their birthdate as 25 was flagged as too young and banned.

"It's such a grey area and it's caused a bit of anxiety," she said. "I don't think it's been executed

Rennie said she be-Mslieved kids would find ways to circumvent the ban regardless.

"There's going to be some way for them to get around it," she

"Then they'll ban it again and they'll find another way around

Ms Rennie said Scarlett also used the account to communicate with surf friends across the world when they could not otherwise stav in touch.

"Kids these days don't pick up the phone and call friends overseas." she said.

"When they can communicate online in a positive environment celebrating achievements, it would be really disappointing to lose that."

Ms Rennie questioned whether the ban had been properly thought through and said it shifted responsibility away from

She said Scarlett had never received anything inappropriate in five years on the platform.

"I don't know what the primary concern is, the grooming or online bullying," she said.

"I don't think it's been very clear.'

The ban comes into full effect tomorrow.

TRADIES BREKKY **Community Bank Inverloch**

Thursday, December 11, 2025 from 6.30am – 8.00am

Come and meet our Business & Agribusiness Specialists Branch Manager Penelope & Director, Kerralie.

Our shout for COFFEE & EGG/BACON ROLL At The Corner Store - 2 Cuttriss Street, Inverloch **RSVP – December 9, 2025 for catering 5674 2800**



Community Bank Inverloch

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 237879 A1400521 OUT 46988362, 09/09/2025



Contractors pack Leongatha for Marinus Link jobs

By Bruce Wardley

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Mayor Nathan Hersey has urged Marinus Link contractors to hire local workers instead of fly-in fly-out staff.

More than 300 potential contractors packed the Leongatha Memorial Hall last week for an industry briefing on the undersea cable project linking Tasmania to the Latrobe Valley.

"We want a workforce that is integrated locally," Cr Hersey said.

According to Marinus Link, it's the biggest thing Gippsland has seen for some time.

Cr Hersey said the industry briefing was an opportunity to showcase Gippsland, with a similar meeting held in Burnie and another briefing in Traralgon the next day.

"Our lead contractors will need strong local business capability to deliver on this massive construction campaign," said Marinus Link chief executive Stephanie McGregor.

With work on the ground expected to start in February, the event was designed to connect local businesses directly with the delivery team to learn what skills and services will be needed as construction ramps up.

That's when the rubber hits the road, according to Marinus Link.

"We're ready to go."

The three big lead contractors TasVic Greenlink (a joint venture of DT Infrastructure and Samsung C&T), Hitachi Energy and Prysmian Powerlink were all in attendance at the Leongatha briefing which was



South Gippsland Shire Mayor Nathan Hersey with Sara Rhodes-Ward (Regional Development Victoria) and Christian Stefani (South Gippsland Shire manager regional partnerships) at the Marinus Link Meet the Contractors industry briefing in Leongatha. $b08_4925$

organised by the Industry Capability Network (ICN).

According to ICN chief executive Nick Foa, ICN's role was to bridge the gap between project opportunity and supplier readiness through the ICN Gateway and face-to-face events.

"We've helped local businesses position themselves with shortlisted Marinus Link contractors, demonstrating the power of collaboration and coordinated supply chain activation," Mr Foa said.

"Capability in the region is very strong, now is the opportunity to get involved."

The Leongatha session was tailored for local suppliers,

subcontractors, manufacturers, consultants and service providers spanning civil construction, electrical, engineering, logistics, accommodation, catering and security. While details of many of the project's work packages are yet to be released, ICN welcomed engagement in the supply chain.

"There will be times when local capability will not meet requirements, and capacity will be sought more broadly. We invite interested suppliers, subcontractors and service providers who haven't already registered their interest, to do so via the ICN Gateway."

"The key to success for a project

of this size is connecting with the local community."

"We're ready and open for business," Cr Hersey said.

"South Gippsland Shire is smack bang in the middle between the Latrobe Valley and Bass Strait. This is one of the most significant projects we've seen for years. TAFE Gippsland and Federation University are ready to skill the community."

"It's an opportunity to come to the area, work in the area and relocate to the area."

Cr Meg Edwards from Bass Coast Shire was also in attendance along with representatives of TAFE Gippsland, Federation University, recruiting consultant Randstad Australia, Prysmian Powerlink, Hitachi Energy, Regional Development Victoria, Latrobe City Council and Workforce Australia.

Marinus Link will be delivered in two stages, initially as a 750 megawatt (MW) project (Stage 1) with a second 750 MW link to follow at a later date (Stage 2). Construction of Stage 1 is expected to be completed in 2030 and a decision on Stage 2 will be made in 2026.

"The cable will come ashore at Sandy Point and Greenlink will take it to the Latrobe Valley, we're here to make as little impact as possible," said Marinus Link.

"The major contractors are looking for local participation and talent. The aim is to get it right first time, as safely as possible. Procurement is about best value, safety, technical performance and social procurement."

Everyone will be given a fair crack at working for the project, according to Marinus Link.

"This is an opportunity to get at the starting gate."

Gippsland ICN industry adviser Colin Young said it had been a long journey with Marinus Link and attendance at the Leongatha briefing was testament to the level of skill and interest from the region.

"Our job is to connect to the supply chain," Mr Young said.

Bernard Norton, managing director of Hitachi Energy, said each stage of Marinus Link would have the same supply capacity as two Yallourn W units, a total of 700 MW.



Wonthaggi Toyota



PRE-CHRISTMAS SPECIALS...OVER 75 CARS TO CHOOSE FROM



2013 Suzuki Swift

11,111 DRIVE AWAY

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



2016 Holden Trax LS TJ

13,990 DRIVE AWAY

Clean as a whistle, 83,822kms, 6 speed auto SUV SN: W102241



2018 Holden Barina LS TM

14,490

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



2017 Ford EcoSport Trend BK

15,990 DRIVE AWAY

Popular choice, 67,894kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV SN: W102242



2023 GWM Cannon-L

Just arrived, 27,104kms, 8 speed sports auto 4WD dual cab SN: W102308



2015 Suzuki S-Cross GL

Fuel efficient, 54,967kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV SN: W102277



2020 Mazda CX-30 **G20 Touring DM Series**

Dynamic handling, 44,445kms, 6 speed sports auto SUV SN: W102300



Aussie icon, 133,180kms, 6 speed sports auto ute SN: W102314

Leongatha Toyota

FINANCE AVAILABLE INSTORE. ASK ABOUT AN EXTENDED WARRANTY.



2022 Mitsubishi Triton GLX+ MR 2021 Ford Ranger XLT PX MK III

King Cab, 68,616kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 ute SN: L101401



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



2022 Toyota **Landcruiser Prado GXL**

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



2021 Toyota Prado Kakadu

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



Landcruiser Workmate

Tough workhorse, 5.667kms, 5 speed CVT manual 4x4 double cab SN: L101411



2024 Ford Mustang GT FO

CVT auto coupe DRA 793



2020 Toyota Landcruiser GXL

Rugged workhorse, 138,833kms, 5 spd CVT manual 4x4 cab chassis SN: L101453 CVT auto 4x4 double cab DOA 167



2024 Ford Ranger Raptor

Demo special, 16,310kms, 10 speed

Wonthaggi Toyota

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

Leongatha Toyota

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



OH WHAT A FEELING



Local water is returning to Westernport taps after more than a year of relying on state grid supply. b07 4925

Local water returns to Westernport taps after year on state supply

By Bruce Wardley

LOCAL water is back in Westernport taps after more than 12 months of relying on the state grid.

Since November 2024, Westernport Water has sourced supply from Victoria's water grid due to low reservoir levels. Water from the grid comes from either the desalination plant or Cardinia Reservoir.

Late season rain of 179mm in November - more than double last year's 83.5mm - has pushed Candowie Reservoir to 72 per cent capacity, up from 61 per cent in 2024.

As local water is blended back in, some customers may notice a slight change in taste.

"Your water remains safe, highquality, and fully compliant with all drinking water standards," Westernport Water assured customers.

With 31 months of available supply heading into summer, the authority said it had sufficient reserves to meet demand and reduce the likelihood of restrictions.

"Victoria is about to enter the summer months when water use is at its highest and rainfall is at its lowest. Although we have access to the Victorian water grid, we urge everyone to be water-wise over the coming months."

Permanent Water Saving Rules remain in place across Victoria. Sprinklers and watering systems can only run between 6pm and 10am, hand-held hoses must be leak-free and fitted with a trigger nozzle, hard surfaces such as driveways and decks must not be hosed as part of general cleaning, and fountains and water features must recirculate water.

Probus Clubs gather in Wonthaggi

AS there had not been a recent Cluster meeting of Probus Clubs in South Gippsland and coinciding with Probus month, the Wonthaggi and District Combined Probus Club decided to host a cluster meeting at host venue the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club recently.

Representatives from 10 surrounding Probus clubs, from Foster to Phillip Island, attended and agreed it was a very successful meeting.

Each president, or representative, spoke about their own club. the challenges they face, and all attending found it interesting and informative.

Attendees then broke off into groups - presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and activities and tour group coordinators - and discussed the various issues, challenges and possible solutions.

There are four active Probus Clubs in the immediate Wonthaggi and Inverloch areas.

If you're retired, semi-retired or retiring soon or new to the area and looking to meet new people while enjoying a varied range of social activities in a friendly atmosphere, contact a local Probus Club today or Google Probus South Pacific.



St Vincent de Paul Conference volunteers collecting the generous donations from under Wardy's Newhaven College Christmas Tree, Jeff Scoble, Cathy Jones and Pauline Scoble, pictured with Newhaven College principal Tony Corr.

Newhaven College helps St Vinnies support the community

IN ADDITION to supporting people experiencing poverty throughout the year, St Vincent de Paul volunteers have been working tirelessly to prepare Christmas food hampers and gift packages for community members facing hardship.

Newhaven College was delighted to once again assist St Vinnies by collecting toys from both the College and the wider community, all donated under Wardy's Newhaven College Christmas Tree.

John Ward, founder of the Christmas Tree initiative and now a resident of Blue Hills Residencies Retirement Village in Cranbourne, sends his warm greetings and heartfelt thanks.

Thank you to all who have supported the tree and kept this Newhaven College tradition alive for another year," he said.

Last week, Newhaven College welcomed St Vincent de Paul volunteers Cathy Jones, Jeff Scoble and Pauline Scoble, who arrived to collect the donated gifts. They were overwhelmed by the generosity shown. Thanks to these donations, 160 local families will receive gifts this Christmas, and the volunteers expressed deep appreciation for the College and the broader commu-

"We are incredibly appreciative of the Newhaven College community for their generosity this year." said St Vincent de Paul Conference member Jeff

"Each year, donations from the College are distributed to families in need across our community.'

St Vincent de Paul also extends thanks to Aldi Cowes and San Remo IGA for their generous contributions.

Newhaven College principal, Mr Tony Corr, shared his pride in the College's involvement.

"Newhaven College is pleased to support St Vincent de Paul in their annual Christmas toy collection. Our community understands the importance of the work St Vincent de Paul does and recognises how much these donations mean to children and families. We look forward to continuing this support for many years to

Aldred blasts 'two-tiered' mobile coverage

By Rick Koenig

FEDERAL Monash MP Mary Aldred has slammed the "twotiered" mobile coverage between metropolitan and regional Australia, as she warned blackspots across South Gippsland were putting lives

Ms Aldred is Deputy Chair of the Standing Committee on Communications, the Arts and Sport and said she had spoken with residents who were struggling with poor to no connectivity in areas including Fish Creek, Sandy Point, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay, Walkerville and North Wonthaggi.

"From a safety perspective, dents in significant blackspot areas who are unable to contact emergency services," Ms Aldred said.

"What we have at the moment is simply not good enough."

The concerns come after telco giant Optus was grilled during a Senate inquiry over a network outage which blocked around 600 emergency calls with three deaths linked to the incident.

Ms Aldred said regional Victoria was too often overlooked by the federal government who needed to invest more in



Federal Monash MP Mary Aldred addresses Parliament. ${
m rk}06$ $_$

regional telecommunications infrastructure.

"It comes down to the federal government investing in regional infrastructure for areas like ours, and I won't take a backwards step in pushing them to do that," she said.

"It's so important to get this up to scratch for small businesses, families, students and tradies."

Ms Aldred said she would bring Shadow Communications Minister Melissa McIntosh to South Gippsland in the new year to highlight the issue.

State Bass MP Jordan Crugnale said mobile coverage is a critical issue for communities across Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

"While responsibility for mobile coverage and the Black Spot Program sits with the federal government, my regular meetings with telcos focus both on specific areas that are raised by community members directly and also the wider hotspot areas," she said.

"Telecommunications is an essential service and I continue to work closely with the Commonwealth and industry partners to support improved connectivity.

Ms Crugnale said the state government had stepped in through its Connecting Victoria program, investing in mobile, broadband and wi-fi infrastructure to deliver upgrades across the state.

She encouraged anyone experiencing issues or who has identified a specific hotspot to contact her office, their provider, or lodge a complaint through the Telecommunications Ombudsman.



New Wave and GDAI representatives joined Yooralla participants for a hands-on celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. W02 4925

Local groups unite for International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Leongatha hub was bustling on Thursday, December 4, as around 30 people gathered for a relaxed lunch to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which fell on the day prior. There was food, games, and photos in front of a bright balloon display, though what mattered most was the purpose behind the

New Wave Bass Coast and South Gippsland hosted the event with support from Gippsland Disability Advocacy Incorporated. New Wave project worker Jess Cottle said the aim was to give people with disability a space to feel recognised and confident.

New Wave is a self-advocacy group led by people with intellectual disability or acquired brain injury. Jess said the group focuses on educating

people about their rights and helping them feel comfortable speaking up in everyday situ-

She said many people with disability still run into moments where others overlook their rights, often without thinking about it. One of New Wave's goals is to remind participants that they deserve the same treatment and opportunities as anyone else.

Last year, they ran a barbecue in Wonthaggi. This year, they chose Leongatha because not many local events in this area focus on disability rights, and they wanted families of Yooralla participants to feel included.

The activities were simple but thoughtful. People made badges that carried messages like 'I have rights too' and 'self-advocacy matters.' Some pinned them on as soon as the paint dried. Others played a card game that asked them to match a right with a reallife scenario. Jess said the game often opened the door for conversations that might not happen otherwise. She said she hoped people left with a stronger sense of their value and the confidence to speak for themselves.

Gippsland Disability Advocacy Incorporated also spent the morning with participants. Disability advocate Tania Ryan said GDAI's role was mostly to be present, offer support and reinforce the message that people have a right to understand and use their voice.

"Today our role is just to be here and celebrate and recognise this day, to promote the rights and awareness of those rights to people in this com-

GDAI provides independent and confidential advocacy across Gippsland. They help people understand their rights, deal with services and navigate otherwise complex systems. Tania said working alongside groups like New Wave and Yooralla strengthens the message that advocacy is not just handled by one organisation but rather shared across the commu-

The event carried a clear point, as Jess highlighted, gatherings like this matter in regional areas where people might not hear much about self-advocacy or disability rights. For the people who came along, it was a chance to connect and feel recognised. For the organisations involved, it was another step in helping build a more inclusive Gippsland.

Community Christmas at The Inlet Hotel

COME together for an afternoon of festive cheer at The Inlet Hotel Christmas Party on Sunday, December 14, from 2pm-5pm. Proudly supporting the region's veteran, farming and nursing communities, the event is all about celebrating the people who give so much to the South Gippsland region.

The afternoon features live music from Inverloch's favourite son, Tristan J Ross, bringing his well-loved acoustic energy to the hotel's relaxed Christmas atmosphere. Entry is free, and all guests can enjoy complimentary finger food throughout the event.

In recognition of their invaluable contribution, veterans, farmers and nurses will receive complimentary beer, wine and champagne as a small gesture of gratitude.

The event also aims to raise vital awareness around veteran suicide, homelessness and the ongoing support work of the Veterans Advocacy Centre in Boronia. A free raffle ticket will be offered to every attendee, with a giant Christmas hamper, generously donated by Terry White Chemmart Leongatha, up for grabs.

Organisers wish to extend a special thanks to The Inlet Hotel, Clancy's Printing, the Veterans Advocacy Centre, and the Inverloch RSL for their support in making the events possible.

For enquiries, contact The Inlet Hotel on 5684 8491.

What's on... this month

Bunjil Place – Dear Santa

Friday, December 12, 9am-3pm Leongatha Community House

2025 Community Gathering

Friday, December 12, 6pm-9pm Sandy Point Community Centre

Coal Creek Farmers Market

Saturday, December 13, 8am-12.30pm Coal Creek Community Park & Market

Kiln Opening and Christmas Exhibition Saturday, December 13 and Sunday,

December 14, 10am-5pm Gooseneck Pottery

Loch Lions Summer Market

Sunday, December 14, 8am-1pm Loch Railway Station Reserve

Kongwak Market

December 14, 10am-2pm Kongwak General Store and Sheds

Bus Event: Local Christmas Lights Tour

Thursday, December 18, 8.15pm 'til late Call 5662 3962 to book Leongatha Community House

Coronet Bay New Year's Eve Fireworks

December 31, 9.30pm Coronet Bay Foreshore

Cowes New Year's Eve Fireworks

December 31, 9.30pm Cowes Jetty, The Esplanade

Inverloch New Year's Eve Fireworks

December 31, 9.30pm **Inverloch Recreation Reserve**

The Old Soldier Stood

By Geoff de Jonge

THE old soldier stood, as he knew he would, over the mass grave of red-gum forests' brave. He saw the thousands slain, now beyond all pain.

As the years rolled by, he raised his fist up high. He cried out loud: "Hast Thou forsaken me" ... And the old soldier stood as a soldier should.

Biggest crowd attends Noah's Gift fundraiser

A NIGHT of entertainment resulted in another successful fundraiser for local charity

Cease and Desist with Leigh, Mauz, Captain Tasty and the Filthy Horns captivated the biggest audience the event has attracted at The Clubhouse, now in its third year.

As a result, \$6120 was raised for the Royal Children's Hospi-

This money will be donated in addition to funds Noah's Gift has raised throughout the

Noah's Gift will be allocating \$13,874 to a partially matched cardiology grant that will aid in additional staffing and research to prolong the life expectancy for children born with congenital heart disease.

Noah's Gift founder Emma Jones was thrilled with the turnout and praised the musicians for another brilliant performance.

"The whole band was amazing and had everyone involved," she said.

"It was very successful with a great atmosphere. Every

little bit helps, and we'd like to thank the band for putting on the event for the third year in a row. We weren't sure we'd be able to organise something like this this year, so we are very grateful."

Ms Jones also thanked the businesses that donated prizes, the major sponsors of the evening and The Clubhouse for hosting.

"The Clubhouse has been amazing each time we've put on this event," she said.

"They always go above and beyond to make it a successful night."

Cease and Desist's Darren Parker said the event is a real buzz for the band. "It's such a heartening and

positive thing. We are happy to be part of something so important," he said. "We love to play for fun, but

the idea that we get to support something so life changing and be part of the Noah's Gift team is just wonderful. We were rapt with how it went."

Mr Parker said the band is absolutely keen to lock in the event again for 2026.



The Clubhouse's Althea Licis with Noah's Gift founder Emma Jones at the recent fundraising event, which resulted in a donation of \$6120 for the Royal Children's Hospital.



FAITH FACTOR

The creation of Christmas!

By Rev. Graeme Liersch, Rector, Anglican Parish of Wonthaggi/Inverloch

WE'RE here, it's happened, the buildup to Christmas has arrived.

The excitement on children's faces, the thrill seen when meeting Santa, and the expectation of a great toy all contribute to the delight and wonder of children. It is great to see joy on their faces

But when and where did it all start?

Some believe that Christmas was born out of pagan traditions, while others have no idea at all, but when you dig deeper, you can find it being remembered and celebrated as early as the second century AD (CE).

Yes, it is amazing. Very few traditions that we celebrate go back that far, but this is one, just as Easter is another.

But why all the fuss? What is it all about?

All it takes is to sing a traditional Christmas Carol, such as 'Silent Night', to get a glimpse of its creator. And who is the creator of this event? His name is Jesus of Nazareth, a Jewish baby born in a stable on a cold winter's night, believed to be the 25th of December.

But why the fuss over one baby? Billions of babies have been born since, and billions more will be born in the future, what was so special about this one?

Allegedly, this baby grew into a man and was crucified by the Romans in Jerusalem at the age of 33 years. But here is the crux of the matter: after His crucifixion, He was seen to be alive by over 500 people, including His disciples and two of His followers on the road to Emmaus.

Such startling news has made a huge impact on society, that continues today.

Once Christianity was legalised by the Roman Emperor Constantine in the fourth Century AD (CE), Christmas has been celebrated throughout the world with relative freedom.

With this bit of history behind the event, and the fact that we still celebrate it roughly 2000 years on, one can't help but wonder if this Jesus was indeed real and that He was who He said He was. Who did He say He was?

Answer: The Son of God and the Son of Man, the Saviour of the World.

For me, I believe He is the Saviour of the World, and as such He is my Lord and God.

What is He to you? Want to find out more? Then come to church at Christmas and learn more about Him.

But please remember, history proves that without Him, there would be no Christmas!

Merry Christmas!



Visitors from Frankston and Yarrambat handing over their gifts to the Phillip Island San Remo Rotary Club after the

Toy run gives Christmas a rev-up at Phillip Island

draped motorcycles broke through the weekend's gloom and into the bright sunshine of Thompson Avenue in Cowes on Sunday as they arrived laden with goodies for the annual Phillip Island Toy Run.

Some were dressed in full Santa suits, complete with flowing white beards, others retained the leathers and topped it off with a simple Santa hat or went for the alternative strip in the garish green of the Grinch.

One bloke was fully kitted out as a two-metre-high Christmas

But there wasn't a "bar-humbug" to be heard anywhere as Christmas officially arrived in

"It's really well organised, and we got a break with the weather, so yeah, it's been great," said Phillip Island San Remo

"They're always friendly and the event's good for the Island

"The gifts we receive go out to those in need in the local community first and then the other local Rotary clubs, so they go out right across Bass Coast."

President of the PISR Rotary Club, Gea Lovell, said the event was run by Samantha and Jason Hampstead of Phillip Island, who organised the Dead-4Eva motorcycle safety events.

"They do a great job. We just organise the traffic control and distribute the gifts," said Mrs

The event could not have gone off better with the riders standing around for coffees or sitting down for a full lunch, outside in amongst the mobile motorbike show enjoying the Island's sunshine.



Keen motorcycle rider, Denise Pedley of Moe attends all the Gippsland toy runs, Bairnsdale, Traralgon and down to Phillip Island, however, while she was cold and "wet through" riding through Rawson and other parts of central Gippsland in the terrible weather on Saturday, it was altogether a different scene as she rode into Cowes on her decorated Indian on Sunday.



Bass Coast Highway Patrol Officers, Peter Pearce and Scott St Clair come face to face with Erik Estrada alias Frank 'Ponch' Poncherello of Chips (Mark Petalas of Cranbourne) at the Phillip Island Toy Run.



Michelle Fry of Berwick hands over her gifts to Phillip Island San Remo Rotarian Owen Trumper.



Ana and Leigh Hibbert of Clyde North and Ragaz and Tracev of Glen Waverley at the Phillip Island Toy Run.



Anthony Short of Rosanna came bearing gifts for the Phillip Island Toy Run.



SHOP LOCAL this Christmas



Fa-la-la-la, la-la-la this December

TUNE up the vocal cords, grab the Christmas hats and flick on the faux candles; carols are rolling into town.

Whether you're a Silent Night traditionalist or more of a Jingle Bell Rock enthusiast, local carol services are set to have the community singing along to festive favourites once again.

Open-air concerts under a summer sky (fingers crossed the weather holds up), Christmas carols remain one of the most cherished lead-ups to the big day, bringing together families, friends and neighbours of all ages, offering a moment to share in the joy of the season

Local choirs, musicians, school groups and community performers will feature across the region, with younger voices often stealing the show.

Add in a visit from Santa, the glow of candles and the unmistakable sound of a mass sing-along, and it's easy to see why carols continue to hold such a special place in the festive calendar.

With free events spread across our towns throughout December, pack a picnic rug, warm up the voice and join in, because nothing quite says Christmas like a crowd united in song, fa-la-la-la and all.



May, Matt, Rupert, Brett, Kade and Ella lined up with their wish list for Santa at the Stony Creek Christmas Races. $B73_4925$

Carols and festive fun at The Glade

CHRISTMAS is coming, Love Dance, and the Wonand that means Community Carols in Inverloch!

We who live in beautiful Inverloch know just how fortunate we are to have The Glade for our Carols. so come along and join in on Saturday, December 13.

Pre-event entertainment starts at 5.30pm with Care

thaggi Youth Brass - and free food.

The Inverloch Lions would love you to sample one of their free sausages, and popcorn and fairy floss will be there too, courtesy of the local churches. Our Community Carols proper will start at 6.30pm, but get there

earlier, The Glade gets pretty crowded!

The program features a number of local artists, including the Inverloch Primary School Choir, Alana Eddy and Jan Blake, plus more. So bring your family and friends to join in with singing your favourite carols with our Inverloch Community!

2025 Christmas Carols

Bass Coast

Carols By The Bay

Thursday, Dec. 11, 2025, at 5pm - Fireworks 9.30pm Cowes Foreshore

Inverloch Christmas Carols

Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025, at 5.30pm The Glade, Inverloch

The Great Bass Christmas Party Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, at 11am

Santa's visit at 1.30pm George Bass Memorial Park

Grantville Christmas Carols and Market

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, at 5pm Grantville Recreation Reserve

Wonthaggi Christmas Carols

Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, at 5.30pm Wishart Reserve, Wonthaggi

San Remo Christmas Carols

Friday, Dec. 19, at 5pm – 9pm Marine Parade, San Remo

State Coal Mine Santa's Picnic Sunday, Dec. 21, 5pm-7pm: See

story next edition. Saturday, Dec. 13 and Sunday, Dec 14 – Christmas Train Carriage open State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi

South Gippsland

Leongatha Christmas Carols

Friday, Dec. 12 at 5.30pm Leongatha Recreational Reserve





INTER CHURCH COUNCIL







BECAUSE WE LOVE VINTAGE VINYL, DISCO, RETRO AND HAND-CRAFTED COCKTAILS.

OPENING HOURS: Thursday 12pm - 10pm Friday & Saturday 12pm - 11pm | Sunday 12pm - 4pm

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE | NOW ALSO OPEN FOR LUNCH

48 BAIR STREET, LEONGATHA 🛾 quirkydistillingco@gmail.com 📵





WOMEN'S CLOTHING, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

21 MC CARTIN STREET, LEONGATHA

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM THROUGH TILL 5.30PM SATURDAY 9AM TILL 1PM.

0447 714 216

www.jorgiakate.com.au

Check our website/socials for extended trading hours over Christmas break



NEW Swimwear & Sleepwear for Summer



shans lingerie lingerie . swimwear . sleepwear

SHOP ONLINE OR IN STORE TODAY

23 Bair Street, Leongatha • 5662 2454 • www.shanslingerie.com

BRING YOUR DIGITAL DESIGNS TO LIFE



(was \$399)

TL4970 - Elegoo

Neptune 4 Filament

3D Printer

NOW \$359

> **Various** Colours

FROM

\$19⁹⁵

3D Printer Filament - PLA, PLA+ PETG and TPU filaments

NOW \$629

(was \$699)

TL4980 - Elegoo Centauri Carbon 3D Filament Printer

3D resin Printers and Resin also available START YOUR 3D PRINTING JOURNEY TODAY



Leongatha Photographics and Electronics Visit us at: 22 Mc Cartin St, Leongatha Phone: 5662 3227



This Christmas may you experience the love and hope that Jesus brings



NEW BEGINNINGS CHRISTIAN BOOKS & GIFTWARE

- Bibles Books Gifts
- Cards Toys CD's & DVD's
- Fair Trade Range
 Bible Studies Resources and opportunities to know and grow in God's love.

May you be blessed in 2026 A big thank you to all who have supported New Beginnings

MON-FRI 9-5PM | SAT 9-1PM 5662 0999 | 0417 698 148

40a Bair Street Leongatha newbeginningsleongatha@gmail.com



Check out our summer range



CHAR 🕆 **FOOTWEAR**

Hours: M - F 9:30am - 4:30pm. Sat 9:30am - 1pm | Ph: 03 5664 4375 www.charandcofootwear.com | 26 Bair Street, Leongatha



Advent Calendar 30pc



85pce Portable Tool Kit 1/2" Drive Metric



Not Sure What To Get **Why Not Get A Gift Card**



ACE INDUSTRIAL HAS ALL YOUR CHRISTMAS CIFTS SORTED



R3 GARDEN WATER HOSE REEL

- RetracataFLEX hybrid polymer hose
- Maximum working pressure: 150 psi
- Trigger Nozzle with 7 adjustable spray patterns

DR425G-03 1/2" x 25m Green

DR425P-03 1/2" x 25m Beige

\$375.00

RETRACTA YEARS AC Corded 1010W 125mm Angle Grinder Kit



WP-IGEN2500



IGen 2500 Inverter Generator Max 2500W, 2200W **Continuous**

Builder Block Series -

Model Contour Workshop

K51960

Christmas

Bon Bon Set

KINCROME

200L Lockable Diesel Tank 12V Pump And Auto Shut Off Nozzle.



L20040PA



\$39.95

SALE PRICE **349.95**

P4112



SHOP LOCAL this Christmas





Jorgia Kate owner Cheryl Noorbergen, with all the beautiful Christmas colours and styles currently available at the Leongatha store. ${\rm rk}20$ 4826



TerryWhite Chemmart pharmacy assistants Poppy Noble and Emily McRae get into the Christmas spirit at the Leongatha store. There are plenty of gift options available and lots of pieces to create your own **hampers.** rk22 4826



Fenna Schroeder from New Beginnings Leongatha has Christmas nativity scenes available at the Christian book and giftware shop. rk25_4826



Char & Co Footwear owner Shelly Price and retail manager Emma Winterburn with Christmas gift ideas at the Leongatha store. rk28_4826

Share the spirit through **Christmas Giving Trees**

Trees are up in all of Bass Coast Shire Council's customer service centres, taking donations to help local families in need this Christmas.

This annual program is coordinated by the Combined Welfare Group, which includes local churches, community groups and charities such as The Salvation Army and the St Vincent De Paul Society.

This year, council is asking for donations of new, unwrapped gifts for all ages, gift cards and nonperishable food items.

Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead encouraged the community to get involved in this program again.

"We've been working together with the Combined Welfare Group for over 20 years and it's great to see how the Bass Coast community come together each year to support one another,"

"We want to help ensure that Christmas is a special day for everyone and knowing that your

donation goes toward helping someone in your own community makes it just a little bit more special.

"The rising cost of living has affected so many people, if you're in a position to make a donation, please do it to help someone who may not be as lucky at this time of year.

"Every donation, no matter how small, goes towards making someone's day enjoyable. Christmas shortbread, biscuits, canned vegetables, rice and pasta are just a few examples of the small, low-cost items that may mean a family can enjoy a special Christmas meal that they might not have been able to afford otherwise."

Christmas Giving Tree are on display at council's customer service centres in Cowes, Grantville, Inverloch and Wonthaggi.

Donations were accepted up until today (Tuesday, December 9) at all centres except Wonthaggi, which will be accepting donations until Thursday, December 11.



Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead with the 2024 Christmas Giving Tree.

Tree of Hope delivers relief this Christmas



THE Salvation Army and Leongatha RSL have overwhelmed and absolutely thrilled by the significant number of gifts donated to this year's Tree of Hope. "We're grateful to our community for all of their donations! the organisations exclaimed, noting it will become an annual collaboration moving forward. Pictured are Kate Gourlay (RSL), Hannah Richards (Salvation Army), Greg Nugent (RSL) and Amanda Hart (Salvation Army) with the incredible number of gifts donated for this year's Tree of Hope.



Come celebrate Christmas and the New Year at Quirky Bar, located behind the old Knights Garage building at 48 Bair Street, Leongatha. Open Thursday to Saturday from midday to late and Sundays until **4pm.** B14 4925



Shans Lingerie owner Shelley Price and retail assistant Ava Lord with Christmas gift ideas at the Leongatha store. rk26_4826



Inverloch stores open late for festive shopping

INVERLOCH retailers are kicking off the festive spirit with a special late-night shopping event on Thursday, December 11, with local stores staying open until 8pm.

The evening offers a relaxed and enjoyable opportunity to shop local, support small businesses, and avoid the stress and crowds of larger centres while soaking up the magic of Christmas.

"A great night of shopping in a nice peaceful environment and a chance for busy people to shop local without having to travel far," said Glenn Morris, president of the Inverloch Tourism Association (ITA).

"Shop local and still have time to get your gifts posted for Christmas."

Inverloch business owner Nicole Griffiths said the event had grown into a much-loved community tradition.

"It's a relaxed, feel-good night where local businesses open their doors with drinks, nibbles and a warm welcome," Nicole said.

"Most importantly, it's a wonderful opportunity to support local traders, shop with friends and enjoy our town at its very best."

Each business will celebrate in its own way, from free gift wrapping and kids' stamp activities to instore competitions, bubbles, eggnog and plenty of festive surprises.

Visitors are encouraged to make

an evening of it by wandering through the shops, soaking up the Christmas cheer and finishing the night with dinner at one of Inverloch's vibrant dining spots.

Glenn Morris emphasised the importance of local spending during the festive season.

"It's so important that we support local businesses as we head into Christmas. It gives them a strong start to the season in what has been a pretty tough year for many small businesses. We want our retailers booming, so our town can continue to offer the great experiences that keep visitors returning."

To help locals and visitors plan their shopping, the Inverloch Tourism Association has launched a Christmas in Inverloch Guide, an easy-to-scroll digital resource showcasing who is staying open late, special offers, gift ideas by price or theme, including teacher gifts, edible treats and Kris Kringle options, and messages from the traders themselves.

Residents and holidaymakers are encouraged to pick up some gifts locally or choose gift vouchers as a thoughtful way to support small businesses while giving loved ones the flexibility to purchase what they enjoy most.

For fabulous gift-giving ideas, go to visitinverloch.co/christmas-in-inverloch.



Mother and daughter team Jac and Chelsea from That Eco Place on A'Beckett Street will be open late offering customers festive eggnog.



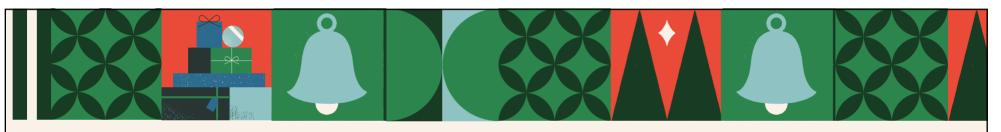
Volunteer Sharyn Jones is reminding everyone that the Bunurong Environment Centre retail store is jam-packed with gift ideas.



Nicole and Leisa Griffiths, owners of Mookah Inverloch are bringing the holiday spirit to life on Thursday, with a giant Christmas tree.



Cheers for Christmas! There are plenty of delicious delights to pop on the table this Christmas at Paul the Pieman.



Inverloch Traders Invite You to Join Them For

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING

THURSDAY DEC. 11TH 5-8 PM

Scan here for all the details



Shop Tocal. Shop Invertoch









It's always Christmas for Jessica Hyde at Santa's Little Helper and Collectables in Graham Street, Wonthaggi. B21_4925



After his first year at Wonthaggi Mensland, Peter Liddle and wife Sharon, co-owners of Mensland and Illa May, have a new summer range in store for **Christmas.** B23_4925



Fiona Fleming from Wonthaggi Newsagency and Lotto celebrating Christmas at the new store at 118 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. B26_4925



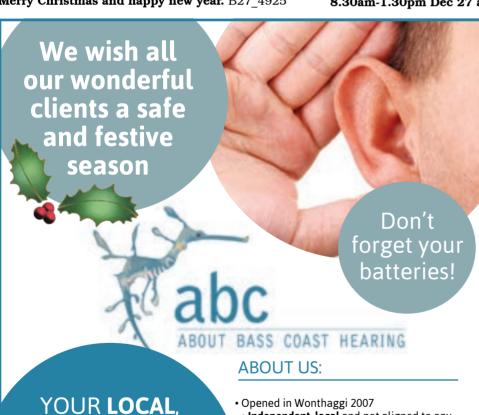
Audiologist Grant Hill from About Bass Coast Hearing in Plaza Walk Arcade, Wonthaggi wishes clients a Merry Christmas and happy new year. $B27_4925$



A Merry Christmas from Jo Troish, Kelly Robertson and Narelle Ashcroft at Miners Dispensary in Wonthaggi which will be open 8.30am-6.30pm Dec 23 and Dec 24, closed Dec 25 and Dec 26, and open 8.30am-1.30pm Dec 27 and Dec 28. B28 4925



Step into a world of vintage, retro, antique and unique curiosities at Murray Street Bazaar, with new and used clothing available. Open seven days a week except public holidays, it's a great spot to find something special for Christmas.



YOUR LOCAL, **PERMANENT AND** INDEPENDENT HEARING CLINIC IN **AROUND AND ABOUT THE** BASS COAST.

- Independent, local and not aligned to any manufacturer so you can be assured of the best advice and a complete choice of devices with the latest hearing technology and comprehensive service
- Our clinicians are not paid a commission or incentive on sales
- · Accredited to provide the Australian **Government Hearing Services Program**
- Free assessments for eligible DVA and Pension card holders*
- * Conditions apply to clients under the Commonwealth Hearing Services Program

Open: Monday to Friday 9.30am - 4.30pm

Closing at 12noon Wednesday, Dec. 24, re-opening Monday, Jan. 5, 2026

Shop 5, Plaza Walk Arcade, 23 Murray Street, Wonthaggi (opposite the new Bass Coast Library)

For bookings, please phone 5672 5598

You're invited to our uristmas V

event

Members only Pre-Christmas shopping VIP event Tuesday, Dec. 9 - Friday, Dec. 19

At our VIP event members will enjoy:



25% off gifts, fragrances and makeup'



Free gift wrapping'



Plus, all sales go in the draw to win 1 of 3 gift hampers

Miners Dispensary is proud to support local families.

\$1 from each non-script sale will be donated to Wonthaggi Salvation Army to support local families with Back to School expenses

Miners' Dispensary

Our Community Pharmacy

169 Graham Street, Wonthaggi Phone: 03 5672 1034 Email: wonthaggi@minersdispensary.com.au Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am-6.30pm Sat 8.30am-1.30pm Sun 9.00am-1.00pm

www.minersdispensary.com.au [7]/Miners-Dispensary/







SUMMER CLOTHING FOR ALL OCCASIONS





Monday-Friday 9am-5pm | Saturday 9am-1pm

Plaza Arcade, 140 Graham Street, Wonthaggi











CFA BRIGADES across Bass Coast and South Gippsland are helping spread the Christmas spirit, currently preparing for their annual Santa and lolly runs, with some even offering gift drop-offs ahead of Christmas. See below for a list of some options, along with details.

DALYSTON

· Santa Run: Wednesday, December 24 from 5pm in the Dalyston area

Present drop-off: Dalyston Fire Station at the following times:

- Sunday, December 14 and 21: 9.30am - 11am
- Wednesday, December 10 and 17: 7.30 pm - 8.30 pm
- Thursday, December 18: 2pm -

Conditions: \$5 per gift, cash only. Each present must be labelled with the child's name and address. Also, children must be accompanied during delivery.

KERNOT-GRANTVILLE

- Santa Run: Sunday, December 21. Present drop-off: Grantville Fire Station at the following times.
- Thursday, December 11:
- 6.30 pm 7.30 pm
- Sunday, December 14: 10.30am - 11.30am
- Thursday, December 18: 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

Conditions: Small wrapped gifts under \$20, labelled with child's name, address and phone number. \$5 donation per gift.

LOCH / NYORA

• Santa Run: Sunday, December 21 from 10am, starting in Nyora. Santa will travel through both Loch and Nyora. More details are available via the brigade's Facebook page.

KILCUNDA

• Santa Run: Sunday, December 21 from 11am.

Present drop-off: Kilcunda Fire Sta-

- Thursday, December 11: 5pm - 6pm
- Monday, December 15:
- 5pm 6pm
- Wednesday, December 17: 5pm – 6pm

Conditions: Wrapped and clearly labelled gifts. \$5 per present and cash only. Children must be accompanied by an adult on delivery day.

PHILLIP ISLAND

• Santa Run: Tuesday, December 23. More details and a full route will be released on Facebook.

CORINELLA

- Santa Run: Sunday. December 21, 3pm at Harold Hughes Reserve
- · Lolly Run: Sunday, December 21, 9am to 1pm through Tenby Point, Corinella and Coronet
- Present drop-off: Information to be released soon.

WONTHAGGI

· Santa Run: Christmas Eve, delivering to Wonthaggi, North Wonthaggi, South Dudley and Cape Paterson.

Present drop-off: Wonthaggi Fire Station, 91 White Road at the following times.

- Monday, December 15: 10am -1pm and 4pm – 6pm
- Thursday, December 11 and 18: 10am - 1pm & 4pm - 6pm
- Saturday, December 13: 10am - 12pm
- Saturday, December 20: 1pm - 4pm

Conditions: \$5 per present.

INVERLOCH

- Santa Run: Christmas Eve, 3pm – 8pm
- Present drop-off: Inverloch Fire Station, Sunday, December 14: 10am - 12pm

Conditions: Gifts must be small (around 220mm), clearly named and addressed, and delivered together for each household. No consumables. Residential addresses only. Bookings may close early and donations are welcome.

KORUMBURRA

• Santa Run: Christmas Eve from 4.30pm

Santa will follow a set route through the town giving out lollies. A live tracking link will be posted on Facebook on the day.

LEONGATHA

• Santa Run: Christmas Eve The brigade is currently gathering route suggestions from the community. A full route map will be provided closer to Christmas.

Santa prepares for CFA tour | Wonthaggi house sets high standard for Christmas lights

IT'S going to be a hard act to follow.

The owners of Number 22 Drysdale Street, Wonthaggi, have set the bar high when it comes to Christmas light shows this year.

But there's still plenty to see right across the main towns in Bass Coast and South Gippsland as residents try to spread the festive cheer in their own ways.

Linda and Andrew Hooton-Shandley started out with a few lights in Hunter Street, Wonthaggi before moving to Drysdale Street in 2009.

We just add a little bit each year," said Linda this week.

"I thought the Christmas tree was going to be my favourite this year, but then I found the present tree, which really lights up well at night.

"But a lot of people love the snowman meeting.

"I like a display that looks good in the day and the night, especially as we've got the primary school and kinder close by. The kids really like to see it.

"We've had a lot of people stopping by at night and



Jade Cobbett and Sara Cox get their Radovick Street home set up for the annual Christmas lights show, one of a number of good ones to visit around the town.

while we've still got a few finishing touches, it's pretty much right now.

'We also do a display at Easter and Jewel (daughter) likes to do one for Halloween. "It's all for a bit of fun."

Over at Korumburra, there's a nice garden light show taking shape at the town end of Radovick Street after Jade Cobbett and Sara

Cox put in some hard work, between the showers, and sometimes getting drenched as well last Saturday.

"This will be our fourth year, with a few extra features this year," said Jade.

"We'll turn it on tonight, but some of our solar lights won't light up until they've had a bit of sun on them,"

Can't do Christmas without a cray from the Co-op

EMBEDDED in storied history of San Remo and Phillip Island since Couta boats brought in the local catch almost 80 years ago, the San Remo Fisherman's Co-operative is a mustvisit for fish'n'chips for locals and visitors alike.

They also have a fine array of fresh seafood, caught and processed locally, for sale all year round, but particularly at this time of the year, it's all go, go, go with Christmas orders closing on December 15 for crayfish and December 20 for all other Christmas seafood and remember there's a five per cent discount for orders online.

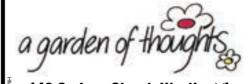
Open seven days a week, except Christmas Day, seafood is always on the menu at the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op.



Crayfish is on the menu for Christmas, according to Emily Dove, Neelam Kaur and Amanda Keilar at the San Remo Fisherman's Co-op, but get your orders in by December 15.







143 Graham Street. Wonthaggi 5672 1622



Best may be yet to come for Wonthaggi Theatre

THE Wonthaggi Theatrical By Michael Giles Group came away with a swag of awards from the Gippsland Associated Theatre (GAT) Awards at Warragul last Saturday night including the Most **Outstanding Production award** for Gutenberg the musical.

The group now looks forward to the Music Theatre Guild of Victoria awards, the 38th Annual Bruce Awards, on Saturday, December 13 at Camberwell Grammar where both of Wonthaggi's 2025 musicals. The Addams Family and Gutenberg! The Musical are nominated for the top gong.

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group claimed the following GAT awards last Saturday:

For Gutenberg: Most Outstanding Production, Most Outstanding Director (Joel Stevenson), Most Outstanding Musical Direction (Malcolm McCaffery and Kerryn Lockhart), Most Outstanding Lead Actor Male (Jonah Van Stekelenburg), and Most Outstanding Small

Ensemble (The Cast).

For The Addams Family: Most Outstanding Lead Actor Female (Kerryn Lockhart), Most Outstanding Supporting Actor Male (Scott Lawrence), Most Outstanding Support Actor Female (Sid Mullins), Most Outstanding Costume Design (Jaida Warren), Most Outstanding Hair and Make Up Design (Jess Purtle and Kerrin Barker), Most Outstanding Lighting Design (Trevor Wyhoon), Most Outstanding Set Design (Tad Hendry), and Most Outstanding Program Design (Meg Dal Masetto).

For The 39 Steps: Outstanding Lead Actor Male (Justin Stephens), Most Outstanding Support Actor Female (Pearl Hunter), Most Outstanding Support Actor Male (Joel Stevenson) and a special shout out to Linda Hamilton for her Silver Ovation award for Cho-



Some of the members of the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group who won awards at the Gippsland Associated Theatre (GAT) Awards last Saturday night at Warragul, including some of the cast and crew of Gutenberg which claimed the Most Outstanding Production award.

Collect a piece of history and an original gift

DURING 40 years of Korumburra Rotary Art Shows, the local service club generated upwards of \$200,000 for its charities, many of them local.

As one of the main social and cultural events in the town, the art shows had run their race by 2017, but the legacy was a wonderful collection of artworks, acquired as part of the show each year, when the club bought several of the show's main winners.

The works were displayed at Federation Gallery in town, a redevelopment of the old shire offices, until the shire building was itself sold for redevelopment by the South Gippsland Shire Council.

"The plan was always to develop a new gallery, as part of the Korumburra Community Hub project, but it missed the brief completely," said Rotarian Mark Holmes.

Most of the paintings continued to be stored by the shire, apart from an art-bank managed by Rotary and displayed at the Korumburra Hospital.

"It got to the point where the shire couldn't keep storing the paintings and we didn't have anywhere to keep them either, so it all moved pretty quickly from there," said another Rotarian synonymous with the organisation of the art show, George Auddino.

"We were fortunate enough to be offered a pop-up shop opportunity, at 95 Commercial Street by Leongatha Rotarian Michael Hollaway and we decided to put the paintings up for sale.

"We had some comment that they should have been auctioned professionally, but by the time we paid all the costs, there wouldn't have been much

"We decided the best place to sell the artworks was locally, giving local Rotary supporters the opportunity to buy a piece of art show history.'

So, more than 100 artworks, most of them winners or runners-up at Korumburra Rotary



One of those who bought paintings at the Korumburra Rotary Art Sale last weekend was Joy Morrison with Bev Hall and an artwork by Barbara Beasley-Southgate.

Art Shows over the years, went on sale over the weekend, and by the end of the day on Saturday, more than 30 had been

"It was a bit hectic there for a while, but the response was good to see," said Rotarian Max Hall.

It was quieter on Sunday, but a few more paintings were sold the next day as well.

The remainder of the paintings, and there are still plenty of bargains to be had, will be on sale from 10am every Saturday and Sunday up until Christmas, and through January, or until the paintings are

"The proceeds will all go to charity, but it might be nice to find something special to put the funds towards," said Mr Auddino.

So, it's the end of the era of Korumburra Art Shows, but not without a final benefit for the community.



Korumburra Rotarians George Auddino and Mark Holmes helped set up 95 Commercial Street in Korumburra for the sale of up to 140 paintings in the club's Rotary Art Show collection.



AS WE wind down the year and families and holiday makers start to arrive, we notice an increase in animals, particularly dogs, and 'chocolate packages' along pathways. Apart from a stint working overseas, I've never known life without a pet. Let's be real, they are a huge investment in time and money; cute when they're young, but like babies, they grow.

Animals are companions for life, not just for Christmas or a seasonal date on a calendar. Choosing an animal should never be a fleeting whim, nor gifted without prior consent. It is a constant commitment to nurture, protect and respect another life. In return, animals gift us with joy, health and unconditional love, sensing when we're feeling sad, lonely, grieving or

Pet ownership may lower blood pressure, reduce cholesterol and decrease the risk of heart disease. Another benefit is the release of oxytocin, the 'feel good' hormone, that calms the nervous system, reduces anxiety and elevates mood.

Walking a dog encourages regular exercise, while engaging with a cat supports relaxation. Smaller companions with fewer requirements include rabbits, guinea pigs and birds, or fish for a peaceful environment. Horses may offer therapeutic riding experiences to aid physical rehabilitation and emotional healing.

For children, pets teach empathy, patience and resilience, whilst nurturing emotional intelligence from an early age.

Practical considerations involve time, attention and money. An approximate yearly calculation estimates \$2700 to feed a cat, \$4200 for a dog (size dependent) and that's without taking into consideration veterinary

Other expenses include proving a comfortable washable bed, bacteria free water bowls essential for hydration and collars with identification tags clearly displaying the owner's contact details. Big business have embraced our enthusiasm for pets, catering for every imaginable desire; multi-level cat trees, chew toys, costume clothing, collars, grooming tools, odour free litter boxes, gourmet foods and sturdy carriers essential for transportation. Animals need stimulation: investing in these ensures pets are comfortable, mentally stimulated and emotionally secure.

So, if you're able to provide the energy and investment required, keeping in mind the possibility of being woken up at dawn by a hungry fur baby, scratched furniture or holes dug in the garden, maybe an appropriate animal may be the choice of a lifelong companion, lasting way beyond the festive season. Check before surprising an unsuspecting recipient and avoiding inundating animal shelters with unwanted Christmas pets. And please, responsible ownership includes microchipping, neutering and picking up 'chocolate packages' deposited by dogs to avoid heartache and distress.

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

The good, the bad, and the ugly

IN THE spirit of goodwill at Christmas, it's congratulations to the Federal Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Kristy McBain and the Bass Coast Shire Council for delivering the best gift of all for Kernot and district residents last Friday.

The shire will get \$1.7 million towards its \$2.21 million bridge upgrade and the community will get its desperately needed community link back - a belated but ultimately great outcome.

The clock is now ticking on how long it takes the shire, notwithstanding the discovery of Gippsland Giant Earthworms, to award the contract and for works to

Another thing worthy of praise is the efforts homeowners and farmers across Bass Coast and South Gippsland go to with their lights and decorations to bring a smile to residents and travellers at what can be a hectic time of the year

Balancing that out, there have been a couple of 'I told you so' moments as well in the past week with the Victorian government continuing to bumble its way through the rollout of its renewables plan in time to pick up the slack from the shutdown of Yallourn (2028) and Loy Yang A (2035), and what's worse, fail to keep the community informed.

We had a third offshore wind project withdrawn last Friday, Gippsland Skies, that's three now, leaving nine proposals for wind farms off the Gippsland coast.

And we had the unimpeachable source of the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) raising serious doubts about the supply of power beyond 2028 and the government's renewable energy targets beyond 2025.

That, my friends, is the 'panic button'. There was also the government's backdown on slugging farmers millions of dollars in Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund levy payments for a further two years, but at the same time, continuing to rip millions off homeowners and business premise owners to help shore up the state's disastrous financial position.

Despite the government's efforts to hose that issue down, the next Victorian election still shapes as a referendum on the new ESVF tax.

We also had another tragic drowning, possibly with an associated medical episode, on Phillip Island last Wednesday reminding us of the dangers that exist at our ocean beaches in particular. Hopefully, the authorities can roll out their new set of eye-catching signs in the next few weeks.

And the "ugly"? The senseless graffiti on the Korumburra Courthouse and Korumburra Police Station overnight on Tuesday night. This is in no way an attack on the good work of our police and justice personnel but it may say something about the lack of manpower in country towns and country police stations.

So, we'll take the good with the bad this week and choose to celebrate the long-awaited news with the Kernot and district community.

Our great postie

MAY I suggest an overdue 'Tsunami of Accolades' be bestowed upon Brad, Inverloch's local postie, who cheerfully 'delivers the goods' come rain, hail, or shine (while, quite unbelievably,)... riding a push bike!

I consider a rarer sight in this day and age, could only be attributed to "a sighting of the 'orange bellied' parrot!?"

John Hennessy, Inverloch

Has the cost of living affected your Christmas?



Kim Gilliland Cape Paterson "Need to be more creative, focussing more on experiences than material



Nicole Hynes West Creek "It's just making sure we consider our purchases more and shop around."



Margaret Smith San Remo "You don't get as good value for money as before with 13 grandchildren, we set a budget of \$100/grandchild."



Tina Snell Buffalo "No, it hasn't. I like to shop local and buy from local artists and take my time in choosing a present and not just at Christmas."

Be grateful for our farmers

I READ with dismay the letter, "Scrap rate differentials" by Frank Schooneveldt, in Your Say Column, Tuesday, December 2.

It appears that Mr Schooneveldt has no compassion for hard-working farmers who get a well-deserved discount on their rates, as they do not make the huge profits he suggests when considering they work seven days a week in often inclement weather with their markets fluctuating in hard times.

I suggest that townsfolk residents should thank their lucky stars that they are not out in the paddocks and give more consideration to the farmers who actually pay the majority of the rate burden.

Barry Gilbert, formerly of Nerrena

Thank you for the digital edition

I LOOK forward to "receiving" my digital edition copy each Tuesday, as it is a bit far to Wonthaggi to pick up a hard copy.

Having grown up on a dairy farm in South Gippsland (Glen Forbes) in the 1960s–70s, I felt extremely blessed to live in such a beautiful place.

Receiving your publication brings back many happy memories when I recognise names of acquaintances through sporting teams, school, church and family friends.

One section I especially like catching up with comes under the heading of "Faith Factor". Our family was very much involved in the Glen Forbes South and Woolamai Methodist churches and later on the Wonthaggi Uniting church. I thank God for the love, support and friendship of such congregations, which I am sure continues still today.

Thank you once again.

John Lorimer, Sale

Panel hears how council failed its seniors

PLANNING Scheme Amendment C-133, to rezone the land at 14 Radovick Street, Korumburra (former Korumburra Senior Citizens) from Public Use Zone 3 and 6, to Commercial 1 Zone and General Residential Zone Schedule 1 was referred to an Independent Planning Panel appointed by the Minister for Planning.

That panel held a hearing last Thursday, December 4 at the Korumburra Community Hub building at which the South Gippsland Shire Council, Korumburra Senior Citizens (Kris Crichton), Harry Prosser, Rene Richard and Andrew McEwen made submissions.

Mr McEwen has provided the following report (edited for space):

The four presentations by community members against the rezoning of the land from public to commercial use were each coloured by a shared sense of betrayal of infrastructure planning to identify any fuour senior citizens by council. The presentations expressed the sense of loss of trust and objections to the callous unwillingness of the councillors to consult with or talk directly to the senior citizens group about the

There was a strong feeling through each of the presentations that the underlying reason for the rezoning proposal was not to cater for future needs for more commercial land for Korumburra, but as a sleight of hand for council to sell the land. This agenda was confirmed by council's representatives at the hearings. One presenter confirmed that a previous mayor had acknowledged that the sale was to help with the massive cost overrun of the Korum-

The chair of the panel, Penelope Smith, was extremely diligent in her empathetic listening. However, she explained that the report of the formal panel legally had to deal with the planning issues. She did comment, however, on the steep slope up to the hub and the obvious difficulty of a less abled person accessing the site, with poor accessibility a major concern for senior citizens.

Two presenters used the saying of "The cart before the horse" - that to rezone before establishing legal ownership through the current legal case was ridiculous and indeed a reprehensible approach to our seniors and a waste of the community's money by council.

Presenters tabled copies of the trust documents that clearly details the requirement to hold the title for the seniors and the legal obligation under State Government grant conditions to not sell the land and to hold it for the seniors.

The Council solicitors have already acknowledged that the trust existed and there is no evidence that it has been dissolved. One presenter said it was cathartic to have the opportunity to present to the real power holders and be heard for once. And to have the opportunity to publish all the evidence of the breach of the contents of the trust. The Hub has only half the meeting space of the Seniors Centre and is incapable of meeting more than 10 per cent of its activities because of its serious access issues.

The proposed rezoning was criticised for the lack of evidence to support the rezoning. No consideration was given to the fact that the old Health Department, the previous elected Council who rejected the Hub site, the local medical practices and numerous seniors have all declared that the Hub site is not accessible for many, including the 20 per cent of Korumburrians who have a disability.

Harry Prosser, an aged care nurse manager, addressed the serious risk of falls on the Hub site with steep slopes and a lack of a footpath on a busy Commercial Street, forcing people to walk on the road and the impact on seniors' wellbeing with the loss of the centre. Further, there is no social

ture needs for public space in the precinct.

The Supreme Court is due to hear the case about ownership of the Senior Citizens building and land in March 2026.

Andrew McEwen, Strzelecki Ward Citizens Assembly

Congratulations to VCE students

THIS is a very important week in the lives of our Year 12 students, with the release of VCE results.

It is the finalisation of 13 years of learning and for many, coincides with other milestones such as turning 18, getting their driver's licence and other coming-ofage activities.

What this time doesn't represent is the end of the story for year 12 students who didn't achieve their desired ATAR, those who completed their VCE unscored, those who completed a Vocational Major, or those who had a vocational career on their minds rather than going to university.

It's the beginning of a new story.

If your ATAR wasn't what you expected to expedite you straight to your desired university course, TAFE Gippsland has a range of pathways to get you there.

No matter where you live in Gippsland, we have a campus close to you, so you can continue working towards your career goal close to home.

We have almost 30 formal pathways with Federation University, which supports diploma students transitioning into undergraduate degrees.

For some courses, there is also a pathway that guarantees you a place at Federation University when you complete your diploma at TAFE Gippsland.

If university isn't for you, we have a great range of great courses from certificate to diploma level that will allow you to study while you earn, pursue your passions and get work-ready sooner.

You can study online, part-time, fulltime, face-to-face, or in the workplace.

Your learning pathway can consist of an apprenticeship or traineeship, university, employment or a promotion. There are plenty of options!

Congratulations to you all for completing your secondary education. It's a great achievement!

Justin Fallu, Interim CEO - TAFE Gippsland

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



The Grantville Quarries Reference group is thanked for their donations. From left to right. Robbie Viglietti, Mark Morse, Anne Westwood, Craig Banthorpe, Rob Parsons, John Mitas [chair], Helen Zervopoulos, Michael Cole, Gunther Benedek, Garry

Grantville Sand Quarries give back to the community

THE Grantville Hall now has an 85" smart television, donated by the local quarries.

"Not only did we get \$2000 for the TV, we also received \$1068 for a 12-month broadband subscription," Grantville Recreation Reserve Committee of Management president Helen Zervopoulos said.

"More recently, we also received further funding for a Video Conferencing System.

"The TV is a welcome addition to the Grantville Hall. It can be used to stream photos at birthday parties, wakes or meetings."

The Grantville Recreation Reserve Committee of Management does not receive ongoing funding to maintain the reserve grounds, the tennis courts, the playground equipment or the hall.

As the recreation reserve and the hall are on crown land, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change (DEECA) and not Bass Coast Shire Council, the committee relies on hall bookings and the Grantville market for the upkeep of the reserve, its amenities and the hall - so any

donations are an added bonus.

"Fortunately, several applications for funding via Bass Coast Council's community grants program have been successful and we have received funding from the shire for five market umbrellas, a community notice board and an upgrade to the hall kitchen," Helen said.

The committee have also secured funding from AusNet for the installation of a solar battery and generator to provide backup electricity during power outages, Bendigo Bank for two new barbecues, a Westernport Water, and a commercial display fridge from the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal/Nutrient Ag Solutions Community Program.

"I know that the Sand Quarries get a lot of flak from environmental groups, but we all need sand and gravel," Helen

"The committee is grateful for their generous donations, and the TV, conference camera and Wi-Fi are available to anyone in the community who hires the hall and wants to use them.'

The Gallipoli Lone Pine bonsai at the Inverloch Community Hub has been described as a living symbol of heritage, healing and hope thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Inverloch RSL, Bass Coast Shire, mentor Tim Reardon, DVA, veterans and their families.

Lone Pine Bonsai finds a new home

A LIVING link to the ANZAC legacy from Gallipoli now resides in the heart of Inverloch.

The Inverloch RSL has proudly placed a bonsai descendant from the famed Gallipoli Lone Pine at the Inverloch Community Hub, recognising the enduring spirit of remembrance and bringing together veterans, their families, and the wider community in a meaningful act of commemoration and support.

The Gallipoli Lone Pine holds a revered place in Australian history, representing courage, sacrifice, and the bonds formed in times of adversity. Descendants of the original Lone Pine serve as living memorials, connecting generations to the ANZAC story and reminding us of the enduring impact of those who served.

This placement of the Lone Pine bonsai at the Inverloch Community Hub was made possible through the generous support of Bass Coast Shire Council, who provided the display space.

Central to the bonsai's journey was Tim Reardon, widely known as The Bonsai Fella from Inverloch. Tim generously mentored a Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) sponsored program, guiding veterans and their families in the art of bonsai cultiva-

Mr Reardon's expertise and encouragement fostered both horticultural skills and a supportive environment for participants to come together and share their stories.

Inverloch RSL secretary Lindsay Guerin reflecting on the program's impact expressed his gratitude to the DVA for this initiative.

"These programs are vital for the wellbeing of our veterans. They offer a creative outlet and a sense of belonging, which is so important for mental health and community connection. Lindsay's appreciation highlights the essential role such activities play in supporting those who have served and for the excellent support we receive from DVA in the conduct of such activities. The response has been fantastic. Veterans and their families have truly appreciated the opportunity to participate, learn new skills, and showcase their work. It's wonderful to see the community come together in support of our veterans."

Tim Reardon said seeing the ten veterans and their families immerse themselves in the bonsai project was inspiring.

"The skills they developed and the friendships they formed are a testament to what can be achieved with a little guidance and a lot of heart."

Inverloch RSL hosts inspiring Veterans' Health Week

held a DVA-sponsored Veterans' Health Week event that left the local veteran community feeling inspired and invigorated.

Aligned with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) theme of Connect, Move and Nourish, the Thrive 365 event featured a series of insightful presentations, interactive workshops, and community introductions all underlining the core message that wellbeing is a year-round commitment.

This year's focus emphasised the importance of holistic health, promoting social and emotional wellbeing, encouraging mobility and physical health, supporting mental and nutritional wellbeing and

THE Inverloch RSL recently reinforcing that wellbeing extends beyond a single week.

The Inverloch event began with a compelling presentation by Professor Peter Hudson, who shared the latest updates in immunotherapies, cancer research, and breakthroughs in Alzheimer's studies in Australia.

Professor Hudson's session provided hope and encouragement, showcasing how Australian medical research is at the forefront of tackling some of today's most pressing health

Attendees left with a deeper understanding of the advances being made and practical advice on staying informed about the latest treatments and sup-

Dr Carla van Laar captivated

the audience with her talk on creative therapies and their significant value for wellbeing. Dr van Laar highlighted how engaging in artistic activities can support mental health, reduce stress, and foster a sense of accomplishment.

Participants were invited to take part in hands-on art exercises offering a unique opportunity for self-expression and reflection. Many found the experience both calming and enlightening, reinforcing the role of creativity as a pathway to enhanced wellbeing.

Recognising the importance of physical activity, Julian Walker, a skilled Inverloch myotherapist, led the group through an hour of chairbased exercises tailored especially for an older audience.

This session demonstrated that everyone, regardless of age or mobility, can incorporate movement into their daily routines. Julian's approachable style and practical tips empowered attendees to maintain and even improve their mobility, flexibility, and overall physical health.

The event also featured a brief introduction from Simon Mills of Inverloch ManWalk, a local initiative that meets on Saturday and Tuesday mornings to promote camaraderie and physical activity among men in the community.

The event not only met but truly embodied the DVA's theme, reminding everyone that health and wellbeing are journeys best travelled together.

Long-time Freemason installed as Master of the South Gippsland Mark Lodge

KEN Barnes has been in- By Bruce Wardley stalled as Worshipful Master of the South Gippsland Mark Lodge - his sixth Freemasons lodge.

The two-hour ceremony was led by Installing Master Chris Hunt, accompanied by members of the Mark Lodge, and followed by a formal dinner at the Wonthaggi Club.

With its origins going back to the stonemason guilds of medieval times. Freemasonry has evolved into a worldwide fraternity active in most countries.

Meetings are held once a month in a formal space with wardens and junior wardens

assembled around symbolic squares and compasses - the squares representing good and bad, and the compasses symbolising moral boundaries. Together the symbols are said to be a reminder for Masons to lead a balanced life.

A Freemason who takes the degree of Mark Master Mason is asked to create his own Mark as a unique signature or identifying badge. The South Gippsland Mark Lodge meets on even months at the Wonthaggi Masonic Centre in Edgar



Mark Lodge Installation Team members Peter White, Chris Hunt and Bruce Jeffrey prepare to install Ken Barnes as Worshipful Master of the South Gippsland Mark Lodge.

HEALTHand WELLNESS

先型》首皇

Victorians urged to seek cancer support

VICTORIANS are continuing to call 13 11 20 – Cancer Council Victoria's vital information and support phone line for people affected by cancer and their families.

From January 1 to October 25 this year, Cancer Council Victoria's team of experienced cancer nurses and counsellors responded to 9810 enquiries, highlighting the ongoing demand for cancer support services – including from individuals and families living across regional and rural Victoria.

Notably, this included an increase in calls seeking financial counselling – approximately seven per cent – compared with 2024 statistics, as Victorians continue to be challenged with the same daily cost of living pressures that have plagued recent years.

Cancer Council Victoria's 13 11 20 cancer information and support line is available to anyone affected by cancer.

Did you know one in two Victorians will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85?

Each year, more than 250 people in South Gippsland are diagnosed with cancer

In Bass Coast, that number is about 400, so chances are that most locals have been touched by cancer in one way or another.

However, according to Cancer Council Victoria's head of strategy and support, Danielle Spence, many Victorians may still be unaware of the breadth of help and support available.

"13 11 20 is free, confidential and available for anyone affected by cancer who has a question or is seeking trusted information, whether it's those living with a diagnosis or their family, friends and carers," she said.

"Our cancer nurses can also refer you to our phone-based counsellors, financial counsellors or peer support network to speak with someone who has had a similar cancer experience.

"We know that well over 10,000 Victorians will call 13 11 20 this year, whether it's seeking information to help them manage their cancer journey or discussing a broad range of issues and challenges.

"We also know this number could and should be bigger. So often our team will connect with someone who has gone through a cancer experience – whether directly or via a loved one – and they will tell us that they wish they had known about our support services much earlier."

Ms Spence urged Victorians to continue to utilise 13 11 20 and spread the word around their local networks, as well as the broader Gippsland community, about the support freely available.

"Nobody should have to go through a cancer experience alone – and that's what makes a service like 13 11 20 so important," she said.

"This year's numbers are again showing us that Victorians affected by cancer are facing various challenges that they are seeking support and guidance around, and this continues to include dealing with cost-of-living pressures. Some are finding this particularly overwhelming – for example, those who are unable to work due to the side effects of treatment.

"Some people are even telling us that, for the first time, they are having to tap into their life savings just to make ends meet."

Call 13 11 20 to talk to a cancer health professional and get the support you need.

Interpreters are also available via 13 14 50.

Fun fundraising for Prostate Cancer Foundation

HARNESS vehicles pulled by equines ranging from huge Clydesdale horses to miniature ponies will drive 83 kilometres along the Great Southern Rail Trail from January 24 to 27, commencing at Alberton West Reserve and terminating at Leongatha Victorian Livestock Exchange.

A biannual event next year will be the fifth drive, with the 2024 drive raising an incredible \$9000, which was gifted to the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCFA).

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia, with an estimated 28,868 men likely to be diagnosed in 2025, and PCFA are at the forefront of working towards a cure.

Organisers hope the harness drive will promote awareness and start conversations about prostate cancer and encourage people to seek information. Checks are as simple as a PSA blood test. Early detection is key to an excellent survival rate and quality of life.

This event will once again be organised by the Eastern Vic Pleasure Harness Club based in Maffra, held over the Australia Day weekend and the various carriages and wagons will be festooned with Australian flags throughout the drive.

The event is huge fun socially and also introduces many horses to bridges, underpasses and other challenges.

Participants are from all over Victoria, with some even making the journey from NSW, and they keep coming back year-on-year, as the drive has now become a much-anticipated event. The lunch stops will be at Hedley Hall, Toora, Hoddles Station and Meeniyan.

The organisers wish to thank Alberton West Reserve committee, Welshpool Arthur Sutherland Recreation Reserve, David



Anita and John participating in the 2024 event.

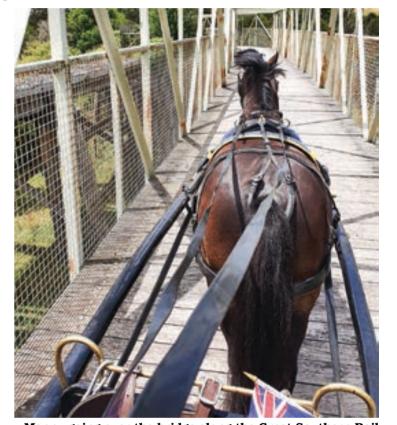
and Kaye Jones Kayden Park, Buffalo Hall, Penny Johnson Coomar Park and the Leongatha VLE for accommodating the horses and drivers for the overnight camps. Thank you also to The Great Southern Rail Trail committee, the Bass Coast Highway Patrol for the escort along the highway and the community groups and businesses in general for the support in the past and hopefully the future.

In return, those participating will be visiting local businesses and dining at local pubs along the way.

There will be a raffle held on the night of January 24 at the Welshpool Hall with lots of great prizes to be won, with all proceeds going to the PCFA.

Donations will be welcomed from the community. Contact Leanne Prosser 0427 924 662, email ranleighponystud@yahoo.com.au or head to fundraise.pcfa.org.au/fundraisers/charityharnessdrive.

For more information regarding PCFA visit pcfa.org.au or call 1800 22 00 99 to chat to a prostate cancer nurse.



Manny going over the bridge along the Great Southern Rail Trail.

New endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic to open in Gippsland

GIPPSLAND PHN welcomes the Australian Government's announcement of a new Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain Clinic (EPPC) to be established in Morwell, significantly expanding access to specialist health services for women and gender diverse people across the region.

The clinic - funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing - will be delivered by Latrobe Community Health Service (LCHS) and is expected to open on December 29, 2025. Gippsland PHN facilitated the commissioning process on behalf of the Department through a targeted Expression of Interest in July 2025, resulting in the Commonwealth government selection of a provider with expertise in a GPled multidisciplinary model, geographic reach and ability to scale the general practice to meet demand.

Endometriosis occurs when tissue similar to the uterine lining grows outside the uterus, causing symptoms such as chronic abdominal pain, heavy bleeding, bloating, fatigue,

infertility, and associated mental health challenges, including anxiety and depression. An estimated 14 per cent of Australian females are affected, with an average diagnostic delay of 6.5 years.

Gippsland PHN CEO Amanda Proposch said this investment marks a major step forward for regional healthcare.

"This funding is a huge step forward for the health of women and gender diverse people, not just in Gippsland, but across the country. It will help provide the right training, equipment, patient resources, and referral pathways so patients can get the care they need," Ms Proposch said.

"Once this clinic opens, Gippsland women and gender diverse people experiencing endometriosis, pelvic pain, or perimenopause and menopause symptoms will be able to access coordinated, supportive care close to home. This service will complement the important work already undertaken by general practice across Gippsland in women's health and pain management, by offering additional

specialised support locally. It's a vital step towards making healthcare more accessible and responsive to the needs of our community."

The new clinic will strengthen specialist health services for women and gender diverse people in Gippsland by providing:

- Improved access to diagnostic, treatment, and referral services for endometriosis and pelvic pain
- Care and symptom management for perimenopause and menopause
- Increased access to allied health and support services
 Inclusive and culturally safe
- care for all patients
 Strengthened workforce ex-

• Strengthened workforce expertise in women's health.

Gippsland PHN will work with Latrobe Community Health Service in the coming weeks to progress service establishment. Further information about the service model, referral pathways, and the clinic's opening will be shared as it becomes available.

For women in Bass Coast, Bass Coast Health welcomes the recent announcement of an endometriosis and pelvic pain clinic opening in Morwell, as gaps in available services have impacted many regional and remote women in Victoria.

Interim BCH CEO Simone Alexander said Bass Coast Health established a pelvic pain clinic in July 2025 by redesigning its women's health and gynaecological clinics.

"This was in response to additional State Government funding we received to undertake more procedures for the treatment of pelvic pain and endometriosis," she said.

"This enables us to help improve the lives of more local women who are living with pelvic pain and endometriosis by offering consultations with our knowledgeable gynaecologists and treatment where required.

"In the future, we will also buy specialist diagnostic and treatment equipment that will enable us to provide more complex care. The purchase of this equipment will be funded by the generous funds raised through the recent successful Ambrose Golf Event held at Wonthaggi Golf Club, which was so well supported by our community."

HEALTHand WELLNESS





Dr Shah Sumeet, Dr Gamini Bandara, Nurse Grace, Dr Ahmad Al-Safi, Dr Gisoo Darban, receptionist Elaine and manager Jocelyn are among the team providing quicker, more accessible bulk-billed appointments for locals at South Gippsland Family Medicine. W01_4925

Fresh faces, faster bulk-billed access at South Gippsland Family Medicine

Gippsland Family Medicine now has a sense of renewed

Following a rather stretched period, during which the clinic only had two doctors available, the practice is now back to a full team.

The recent arrival of two highly experienced practitioners means patients can access same-day bulk-billed appointments more often and enjoy shorter waiting times.

Practice manager Jocelyn Mackie said the difference has already been felt by the community. She said there are now appointments available throughout the day and that same-day bookings are usually still open well into the afternoon. "At the moment we usually still have some appointments available all day, because we've had the new doctors start."

The extra capacity has also

allowed the clinic to expand Her passion lies in prevenits hours. Saturday afternoon appointments have just become available for those with strict working hours, and a Wednesday evening session is currently planned for early in the new year.

The two new doctors bring a broad mix of skills and interests that strengthen the clinic's services. With even more doctors already recruited and on track to join the practice next year, accessibility to bulk-billed appointments will improve even further.

Dr Gisoo Darban Hosseini Amirkhiz joins the practice with six years of experience as a General Practitioner and an outstanding academic background. She graduated from the top-ranked medical school in Iran and has published thirteen research papers in respected international medical journals.

tative medicine, along with women's health, paediatrics, sports medicine and mental health. Dr Gisoo speaks English, Turkish, Azerbaijani and Persian, which has already proven helpful for some patients in the region.

Also joining the South Gippsland Family Medicine team is Dr Gamini Bandara who brings more than sixteen years of clinical experience across Sri Lanka and the Sultanate of Oman. His career has spanned emergency medicine, child and adolescent health, general practice and community care. He holds specialist qualifications from both the Royal College of Emergency Medicine and the Royal College of General Practitioners in the United Kingdom. He has a vested interest in chronic disease management, preventative care, and mental health. Dr Bandara says he aims to build longlasting relationships with patients through trust, understanding and continuity.

Jocelyn said the practice is bulk billing for all Medicareeligible services and is welcoming new patients. Bookings can be made online through the clinic website, and the onboarding process can be conveniently completed there as well. Patients can always ring the clinic if they prefer to book over the

She said the main message for the community is simple. "Our main focus right now is that we have the availability to help people every day."

If you would like to book a consultation or learn more about the clinic's updated hours, visit the South Gippsland Family Medicine website or contact the clinic directly on 5672 4111.

Real stories to combat youth vaping in Gippsland

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council is proud to support YLab's No Filter: Real Stories Gippsland campaign, aimed at preventing vaping among young people

The campaign shares authentic stories from local youth and provides practical resources to help them make informed choices about vaping, understand their habits, and support their friends. These real-life experiences show that quitting is possible - and that no one has to do it alone. Whether it's saving money, breathing easier, or feeling more in control, there are real benefits to putting the vape down and finding what works for you.

"Young people deserve the tools and support to make healthy choices," South Gippsland Shire Mayor Nathan Hersey said.

"By backing this campaign, we're sending a clear message: your health matters, your future matters, and you're not alone in making positive changes. South Gippsland is committed to creating a community where every young person feels empowered to thrive.

This ongoing initiative is led by YLab and supported by several neighbouring councils. It aligns directly with South Gippsland Shire Council's Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan - Improving Wellbeing, which focuses on building connected communities that are healthy, engaged, and empowered. One of Council's key strategies is to reduce the harm of tobacco through policies, programs, and partnerships.



HYPNOTHERAPY & COUNSELLING

Stop Smoking

Relationship Issues

- Anxiety
- Stress
- P.T.S.D.
- Depression
- Addictions • Sports Performance
- Achieve Goals
- Lose Weight
- Phobias
- - Fertility Issues Children & Adults welcome

Private Health Insurance Rebates Available Over 30 years experience in the

health care sector **LEARN Mind Body Techniques based** on Research and Neuroplasticity

Call Danielle Aitken 0409 332 052

Servicing Kilcunda and surrounding districts





scan the code



We specialise in

- Eyelash Extensions
- Lash lifts
- **Brow Sculpts**
- Tinting and Dye
- Spray Tans
- Cosmetic Tattoo
- Lashline
- Enhancement
- Lips



FROM the CLASSROOM

\$1.89 million boost for ECG Secondary College

COMMUNITY College Gippsland (CCG) has welcomed the Victorian State Government's announcement of \$1.89 million in funding to expand the ECG Secondary College (ECG) Leongatha campus, an investment that will significantly benefit the young people and families across South Gippsland.

The expansion will enable the school to accommodate an additional 40+ students, easing enrolment pressure and ensuring more young people can access a supportive, flexible and community-focused education.

The project will deliver new class-rooms, upgraded amenities and enhanced learning environments, including dedicated spaces for Years 9 -12 to strengthen child safety, specialist rooms to expand access to Vocational Education and Training Delivered to School Students (VDSS), and improved facilities designed to support modern learning, wellbeing and engagement.

ECG caters to young people who have found traditional school settings stressful or overwhelming, struggled to keep up in large classrooms, or felt disconnected from learning. The new campus provides a supportive, flexible environment where students can feel safe, build confidence, and reconnect with education, a need that continues to grow in the region.

ECG has experienced significant growth with enrolments rising 63 per cent in recent years.

The Leongatha campus has grown steadily since opening in 2015, from just nine students to 90 this year. The introduction of Years 9 and 10 in 2024 was met with overwhelming community demand, achieving an impressive 90 per cent retention rate.

While a strong endorsement of the program's impact, this growth has placed pressure on existing facilities.

The expansion will ensure the campus can maintain its successful small class sizes, continue delivering a diverse range of learning pathways, and support students to thrive in a safe, inclusive and engaging environment.

The project also includes outdoor undercover learning areas, multipurpose hardcourts for sport and recreation, increased provision of amenities and a dedicated student lounge to support social connection, relaxation and wellbeing, facilities that will contribute to a vibrant and supportive community hub for young people.

"This project represents a major step forward for our Leongatha campus," Dale Gemmell, CEO, Community College Gippsland, said.

"This funding means we can meet the needs of our growing community while staying true to our vision of changing lives through the transformative power of education. We're excited to expand our facilities so more young people have access to safe, engaging and purpose-built learning environments.

"This expansion not only meets the demand for more student places, it also allows us to deliver even higher-quality learning experiences. With modern classrooms, dedicated amenities, and spaces designed for wellbeing, we're creating an environment where every student can



Bass Coast College Year 9 award winners for 2025.

Dudley Campus Year 9s farewelled with awards ceremony

RECOGNISING success is a cornerstone of the community at Bass Coast College, and staff were thrilled to celebrate the incredible Year 9 cohort at the Dudley Campus Farewell and Awards Ceremony on Thursday, November 27.

Dudley Campus principal Jesse Boyd said this special event celebrated the hard work, dedication, and leadership shown by the students across all facets of school life and marked the conclusion of their journey here at the Dudley Campus.

"We extend our deep gratitude to our outstanding 2025 student leaders for their significant contributions to our school culture and community Bec Barclay, Lola Denver, Riley McRae, and Jenson Bremner." said Jesse.

"We also formally acknowledged and congratulated our newly appointed 2026 House Captains, who will lead the campus next year. Annabelle Friswell, Harper Hawking, Torah Boyd Metselaar, Bridie Allan, Amelia Lofgren, Teerawhat Panyo, Chelsea McNamara, and Dylan Fincher."

A broad range of students were recognised for their hard work and commitment in various educational and extracurricular areas. Students were presented with awards for the following achievements:

Sport Awards: Rebecca

Barclay and Asha Olden

Sandy Shively Memorial Art Prize: Kyra Molesworth

Community Service Award: Will Jenkins

Jackie Butterfield ES Award: Lily Egan

Attendance/Punctuality Award: Jett Millen – Jett has been to over 834 classes and has not been late once.

Academic Growth Award: Thor Aitken Atwell and Aurora Quintana Laing

School Values Award: Matilda Henry and Jaidon McLean

"We are immensely proud to acknowledge the exceptional academic performance of our two highest-performing students across all areas of academia, who were named Dudley Campus Dux, Rebecca Barclay and Olive Clifford," said Jesse.

"Congratulations to all our award winners, and to every Year 9 student for successfully completing their journey here at Dudley Campus!

"Finally, a massive thank you must be extended to all the wonderful staff here at Dudley for their unwavering care, kindness, high-capacity teaching, and guidance provided to these fantastic young adults throughout their time with us. Congratulations to all, and we look forward to seeing the great things our Year 9 students achieve in the future!"

Hands-on approach has kids keen to come to school

By Rick Koenig

A TOORA Primary School program, which teaches students real-life skills through sustainability projects, is challenging what a traditional classroom looks like.

Hands-on Learning coordinator Jarryd Guganovic runs the program for students who learn better in a small group environment outside the traditional classroom.

The former staircase builder said the program focused on life skills, gardening and community projects.

"We focus heavily on sustainability and recycling," Mr Guganovic said.

"At a primary school there's a lot of wasted paper so we've been making paper bricks. You mulch it up, press it into a brick and it burns for about half an hour."

Mr Guganovic said about 90 per cent of materials used in the program came from recycled pallets sourced from local shops.

"We ask local shops for their old pallets and pull them apart," he said.

"What would have ended up in the burn pile gets turned into something useful."

Mr Guganovic said it was rewarding hearing the program had actually driven up school



Hands-on Learning coordinator Jarryd Guganovic with students at Toora Primary School.

attendance, as students didn't want to miss out on both the program and the barbecue he cooks them for lunch.

"The kids don't want to miss out on the chance to come out and do some building," he said.

"Knowing they're keen to come to school and get their hands dirty is the most rewarding thing for me."

The program has proven so popular Mr Guganovic is asked daily by students wanting to join, but he can only take four

children per day.

Mr Guganovic recently spoke at a Hands-on Learning conference at Padua College in Tyabb, attended by more than 40 representatives from different schools.

He said most hands-on learning programs operated in secondary schools, so he shared ideas for how primary schools could run similar initiatives.

"A lot of people asked about the paper bricks," he said.

"When I do a project, I put

together a how-to guide so I can pass it on to other schools."

The program also works with Corner Inlet Landcare Group and maintains the Toora community garden.

A raffle for a four-metre load of firewood is being held to raise funds for tools and materials, with tickets available from the school, BP and Windmill Cafe

The raffle will be drawn on Wednesday, December 17 at the school barbecue.

Bass Coast College students | TAFE Gippsland only TAFE for inclusivity adjust to the senior campus

Year 9 students made the transition to the senior campus this week.

The students launched into their Year 10 subjects, whilst also getting to know their new campus and new peers.

For the first time, the junior students from the Dudley and San Remo campuses will be coming together permanently, with a Year 10 cohort of nearly

"It's a big change in a different environment. This program allows the students to experience what the senior campus has to offer," student engagement principal Ross Bramley said.

"In most cases, they have been in classes with the same students and teachers they will be with next year."

The transition has been smooth sailing, with many finding the adjustment less daunting than anticipated.

"I thought it was going to be more confusing to find my classes and get to know my way around the school, but it's not as complicated as I expected it to be," Kienna Payne said.

Although the program was only a week long, it was in the making through most of the second half of the year.

"We had transition visits from Year 10 students going back to their former junior campus and speaking about their impressions of the senior campus," Mr Bramley said.

"I've been out and spoken to them about some of the differences and changes between the junior and senior campuses as well."



Max Abrahamson, Jett Millen, Kienna Payne and Miley Van Der Heyden transitioned into Year 10 at Bass College last week. Tk01_4925

A careers expo was held in the gym earlier in the year, where the students also had the opportunity to tour the school.

Mini tours and information sessions have also been held for students and parents.

"Depending on the level of need for different students, we have had more information sessions and visits to the junior campus, which has all come from student voice," Mr Bramley said.

The transition to the senior campus has also broadened the range of subjects the students can opt to study.

Some of these subjects include various branches of humanities, psychology and filmmaking.

The teachers have worked hard to ensure the students have settled into this new level learning, so they are well prepared for what's to come next

Mr Bramley said the program has been extremely worthwhile.

"For me, the most beneficial part of this program is actually getting to know the new students," he said.

"Being four-campus school, there are a lot of students I don't get to connect with until they are at least in Year 9, and even then, it's probably a minimal introduction. This gives me an opportunity to start to meet people and gives me a chance to start discussions with them and start planning things like their work experience.

"For the students, the best thing is, while there is only one other year level here. it's a great opportunity to be

introduced to the senior campus. They can move freely around the school and explore things without the risk of impacting Year 12s' studying. They get to work out the layout, they have more attention from their teachers and it's good for them to get to know the students from other campuses.'

A number of new students will also be starting Year 10 at Bass Coast College in 2026 and were thrilled to take the opportunity to get to know their new school, teachers and

Students have now finished the 2025 school year at the senior campus.

The teachers will continue on through to December 19, as they will be planning and curriculum designing in preparation for next year.

recognition

TAFE Gippsland is the only TAFE in Australia to be named on Diversity Council Australia (DCA)'s annual list of Inclusive Emplovers for 2025-2026.

The listing acknowledges TAFE Gippsland's commitment to creating a diverse and inclusive workplace where all employees feel valued and supported.

TAFE Gippsland Interim CEO Justin Fallu said the organisation participated in the Inclusive Employer Index, an in-depth workplace survey that measures employee diversity and inclusion experiences.

"The Index has enabled TAFE Gippsland to evaluate the current state of inclusion in our workforce and compare it to the Australian workforce and DCA member benchmarks.

This data empowered us to show our commitment to inclusion, reflect on our achievements and identify ways to do even better."

He said DCA's recognition was a great achievement for TAFE Gippsland and its

"To be recognised by DCA as an Inclusive Employer is testament to the hard work achieved by our staff to ensure we practice inclusion in our everyday work, and it's an attractive proposition to anyone thinking of joining our team at TAFE Gippsland that we work hard to ensure everyone feels valued, respected and that they belong," Justin said.

"Inclusive workplaces deliver better service to our students and better student outcomes.

"It also helps us deliver stronger innovation and deeper trust in the Gippsland community.



Elliot, Vincent and Luca discuss their ideas for the building.

A bright outlook in engineering careers

OUR Lady Star of the Sea level 2-6 students were immersed in the world of engineering last Tuesday through a partnership with Engineers without Borders Australia, Youth Outreach Program.

The program aims to bring engineering concepts to regional schools, embraces diversity and breaks gender stereotypes.

During the session, the students discovered First Nations engineering, what a socio-technical engineer is, the problems communities living in challenging environments face, and how engineers solve these problems.

They thoroughly enjoyed the creative, hands-on workshop that explored the realworld challenge of building structures in natural-disaster-prone areas. The students were given a design brief, budget, environmental sustainability guidelines, and time frame to construct their housing.

Structures were then tested for their ability to survive earthquakes, floods, and cyclones. The session concluded with the students critically evaluating the key role structural engineering plays in building structures resistant to natural disasters.

We are thrilled that several of our students walked away from the incursion excited to pursue the range of engineering pathways that were presented. The future is definitely shining bright for the level 2-6 at OLSS. Thank you to Engineers without Borders and principal Mrs Blackford for organising the amazing incursion.

Newhaven College prepare for 2026 school year

THE school year has ended, but Newhaven College is already thinking about 2026 and is excited to welcome its incoming students next year, with many joining the school from Prep through to Year 7, as well as many in the Senior School. Understanding the importance of starting strong, the College has invested in valuable resources and established a partnership between the College and the home to ensure students are well-prepared for their educational journey at the

The largest influx of students in 2026 is, of course, the Prep cohort. The College's commitment to setting up Preps for success begins with introducing a string of transition days and comprehensive presentations for parents. These initiatives are designed to provide families with essential information and resources to support their child's transition into school, while providing children the chance to feel comfortable in their classroom.

The College has implemented a comprehensive Transition and Orientation



Becoming leaders in the Junior School is an important milestone for Year 3 students. Edward, Fletcher, Nathaniel and Eden ensured that the new student to the College, Luca, was made to feel welcome during the Transition Program.

ages. This program includes parent information sessions, where parents gain valuable insights into what to expect in the coming years. Students participate in transition days, spending time with their future peers, teachers and support staff. The final Orientation Day ensures that students, teachers and parents are familiar with every part of the program. This thorough

Program for students of all introduction helps families understand what is needed to support their child's learning and how they can be partners with the school in extending and reinforcing this learning

Newhaven College believes that school readiness is a collaborative effort between the school and families. The parent presentations and Transition and Orientation Program are just the first steps in this

partnership. The College is dedicated to being proactive in its approach, ensuring that parents and children are equipped with the knowledge and tools to succeed.

As they look forward to the new school year, the College is confident that these initiatives will create a strong foundation for all students, fostering a love for learning and helping them thrive in their educational journey.



Bass Coast College Dudley Campus Sport Captains of 2026.

Dudley Campus Year 7 and 8 celebration ceremony

BASS Dudley campus hosted their annual Year 7 and 8 Awards Ceremony last week, celebrating the extraordinary academic growth, dedication, and leadership of the students throughout the year.

Dudley Campus principal, Jesse Boyd, said the staff were exceptionally proud to announce the students who will be stepping into key leadership roles at the Dudley Campus next year.

"Congratulations to the following exemplary stu-

2026 School Captains

- Kiarra Spinks
- Ruby Barsony
- Lewey Murray-White Jesse DeMenech
- 2026 Sport Captains • Berry House: Will Coyne,
- Emma Patterson • Garnham House: Eden Roberts, Daisy Marotta, Jed Caddy, Nathaniel
- Chetland Lovett House: Diesner
- Luke House: Ella Brauman

2026 Library Leaders

- Flynn Nation
- Ruby Hutchison Field KLA Excellence Awards were also presented; these awards recognise students who have demonstrated consistently high standards of work, exemplary effort, and outstanding achievement in each Key Learning Area (KLA).

Year 7 KLA Excellence Recipients

- English: William Sargent, Lillian Guarascio, Jaida Newman
- Maths: Mackenzie Birt. Xanthe Culberg, Angus **Brodal-Robertson**
- Humanities: Mila Wylie, Sophia Birkett, Amia Titimanu



Bass Coast College Dudley Campus Captains of 2026.

- Health/PE: PE: Anahla Cameron, Health: Chance Wheatley and Overall: William Sargent
- Japanese: Prudence Blackburn, Lillian Guarascio
- Arts (Visual Arts): Grace Songpalee, Mikayla Jef-
- Technology: Isaiah Mc-Cullagh, Lee George, Kayley Lockhart
- Science: Mila Wylie, Max Gammaldi, Neil Villaluz
- Arts (Performing Arts): Abbie Johnson, Cody Linklater

Year 8 KLA Excellence Recipients

- English: Ruby Barsony, Nina Egresits
- Maths: Nina Egresits, Daisy Marotta, Zoe Diesner
- · Humanities: Ruby Barsony, Jalen Koster, Tahlia Radford
- Health/PE: PE: Dusty Rayner, Health: Ruby Barsony and Overall: Daisy Marotta
- Japanese: Ruby Barsony, Axel De Vent
- Arts (Visual Arts): Harlow Reed, Axel De Vent
- Technology: Eden Roberts, Charlie Paull, Ty Railton
- Science: Ruby Barsony, Jalen Koster, Zach Dew-

• Arts (Performing Arts): Zach Dewar. **Hutchison-Field**

"We also celebrated students who embody our core values and demonstrate exceptional commitment across specific areas of school life," said Jesse.

Sport Awards (Contribution and Performance)

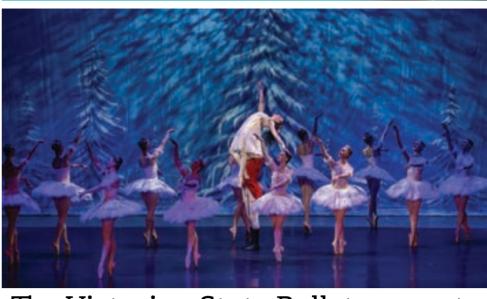
- Year 7: Cooper Brown and Anahla Cameron
- Year 8: Eden Roberts and Jed Caddy Attendance and Punctual-
- ity Award Year 7: Curtis Olden and **Angus Hamilton**
- Year 8: Ruby Barsony and Brody Prowse Academic Growth Award (Greatest Capacity Growth)
- Year 7: Sophia Brown and Jedda Tagell
- Year 8: Asiah Phillips and Aruna Shrestha School Values Award (Selected by all Dudley Campus Staff)
- Year 7: Anahla Cameron and William Sargent
- Year 8: Ruby Barsony and Eden Roberts

"Congratulations once again to all our award winners and to every student for a successful and hardworking year! We look forward to seeing our new leaders thrive in 2026.'



Bass Coast College Dudley Campus Year 7 and 8 Special Awards.

WHAT'S ON YOUR LOCAL GUIDE TO ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT



The Victorian State Ballet presents The Nutcracker at Bernnineit

THE Victorian State Ballet presents The Nutcracker - a full-length ballet in two acts at Berinnenit on December 19 at 7.30pm - a timeless, world-famous traditional classical ballet performance.

Join Clara at her Christmas party, as she ventures into her Nutcracker prince's magical land. Delight in the famous Sugar Plum Fairy pas de deux, breathtaking snow scenes, a beautiful Christmas tree, and party surprises.

This delightful and charming ballet continues to captivate people of all ages.

It showcases an impressive display of classical ballet performed by distinguished artists of the Victorian State Ballet. "The Nutcracker" is a masterful presentation of classical ballet artistry that has persisted in bringing joy to audiences across generations. The narrative is further enhanced by Tchaikovsky's breathtaking musical score.

Do not miss the opportunity to experience the enchanting production by the Victorian State Ballet, Tickets on sale at www.basscoastculturalvenues.com.



The Victorian State Ballet presents The Nutcracker at Bernnineit on December 19 at 7.30pm.



Festival feel as Mick Thomas headlines New Year at Archies Creek

paring to bring in the New Year with what has become one of the region's most loved summer traditions, as Mick Thomas and the Roving Commission return for their seventh annual New Year's Day show. The pub will once again turn itself into a small-scale festival for the afternoon, complete with multiple stages, support acts and a relaxed holiday crowd.

Venue owner and music presenter Peter Foley said the annual event had grown into something quite special.

"It is kind of a mini festival. It is a special event. This is the seventh year that we have done the Mick Thomas New Year's Day traditional show. It has sold out in all previous years, and we generally make it into a mini festival with some supports," he said.

This year, the hotel is leaning into a lively fiesta feel, helped along by three support acts, including the all-female mariachi band Queen of Hearts. Music will run across two stages, with crowds able to wander between sets, while the kids can play on the grass. Indulge with tacos, tequila and margaritas available at the event.

"It is very much a festival vibe. Kids under four are free, so we encourage families to come. They can all have picnics out on

the grass. There are lots of areas where people can sit and gather in a festival kind of atmosphere. It is very relaxed and lots of people are on holiday. It's a really good vibe," he said.

The bond between the venue and the artist runs deeper than a single annual date. Foley described Thomas as part of the event's heart and soul. The singersongwriter has long held a fondness for the small Gippsland pub and its music community. Earlier this year, Mick Thomas and the Roving Commission even rehearsed for their national tour in the Archies Creek front bar.

"We are a musical entity that celebrates and embraces tradition. We love things that build over the years and this is a significant event. Mick tells Australian stories. His songs are about us. They are songs about Australian experiences and people connect to it emotionally. That is why people come to gigs," Foley said.

Thomas said the affection went both ways. For him, the New Year's Day show offers the right mix of a regional setting and a strong holiday crowd that brings together locals and visitors from across the coast.

"We keep coming back because we fill it every time. It is a really great way to start the year, and we just really love the pub. I think the way they run it is fantastic. The other thing I really love about it is because it is technically a regional gig, but at that time of the year there are so many people from the metropolitan area down at Phillip Island or Wonthaggi, you get a great mixture of both," he said.

With the band wrapping up its GoTourComeBack tour, Thomas said the Archies Creek show would carry the energy of a long and well-worn tour. The new album was recorded almost a year ago, and the band has spent months bringing the songs to life on stage.

"The audience can expect a band that is really played in. It's the last show of the tour, so you'll get a real palpable sense of relief from us that we think what we have done is really good and important," he said.

Thomas said it felt fitting to end the tour where it quietly be-

"The first two rehearsals for the tour were at the Archies Creek Hotel and we are finishing off there, so it really is very provident that this is where it is finishing," he said.

Mick Thomas and the Roving Commission will play Archies Creek Hotel on Thursday, January 1. Doors open at 2.30pm. Tickets are available through the Archies Creek Hotel website.



Mick Thomas is set to headline Archies Creek Hotel's New Year's Day celebration, closing his national tour where it began with a festivalstyle afternoon of music.

Ribbon sandwiches

with poultry filling

By Meg Viney

Chicken filling

- 200g steamed chicken (recipe in October 28 edition)
- 2 tbsp each mayonnaise and sour cream
- A few chopped walnuts
- A couple of celery sticks, finely chopped
- · A handful of finely chopped parsley
- · Mix well and taste for season-

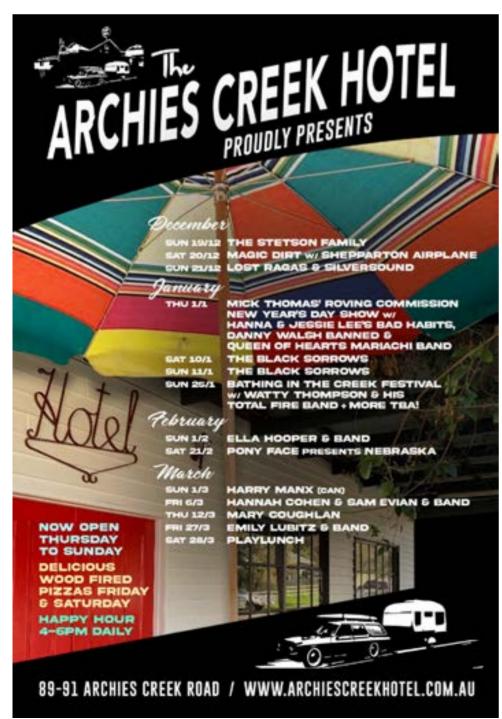
Cream cheese filling

- 250g cream cheese
- · Mayonnaise to make it spread-
- ¼ cup green or black olives, finely chopped
- · Mix the cream cheese with a little mayonnaise so it is spreadable, and add the chopped ol-

Smoked turkey filling

- 200g smoked turkey
- Mayonnaise
- 1 tsp curry powder
- Salt and pepper to taste
- · Shred the turkey and mix with the mayonnaise and curry powder. Season to taste.

Spread the fillings on the bread, make into sandwiches, remove the crusts and place on a platter. Keep moist until serving time.







Jenny Parsons and Richard Cantwell enjoy a warm summer's day working in the Harvest Group community garden in Wonthaggi. B02_4925



Wonthaggi Community Harvest Garden Group volunteer and Wonthaggi Men's Shed member Burt Roos was back at work in the community garden with Stella Hitchins. B04_4925



Support worker Cameron Brown with gardener Ethan and a garden bed of potatoes, squash and geraniums at the Wonthaggi Community Harvest Garden. B06_4925



Coco and Isla from Grade 5 were a big help at the junior athletics carnival at Inverloch Primary School. Tk03_4925



Stuart Quigley (TAFE Gippsland) and David Roberts (Regional Development Victoria) at the Marinus Link Meet the Contractors industry briefing at Leongatha. B10_4925



Pictures of you and your friends at the Wonthaggi Community Harvest Garden, Marinus Link Meet the Contractors session, junior athletics at Inverloch Primary School, Phillip Island Toy Run and Stony Creek Races.



Vivian and Penelope from Grade 1 competed at Inverloch and Kongwak Primary Schools' junior athletics carnival on Friday. Tk04_4925



Grade Prep students Bella and Maddy participated in the junior athletics carnival held at Inverloch Primary School on Friday. Tk05_4925



Clare Gleghorn and Holly Williamson from Marinus Link at the South

Gippsland Meet the Contractors

industry briefing in the Leongatha

Memorial Hall. B12_4925

Sarita Torres, Stuart Quigley and Shannon Egan from TAFE Gippsland at the Marinus Meet the Contractors industry briefing in South Gippsland. B15_4925



Sentinel-Times

>>> ORDER THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS 5672 1888

delighted to hear the Blue Wrens had won the junior athletics carnival held at Inverloch Primary School. Tk06_4925

Grade 1 students Cody and Ruben were



Tony Imrie from Sunbury dressed for the Toy Run with his own white beard.



Dane Jones (Regional Development Victoria) and Kristy Nicholls (South Gippsland Shire) met with contractors at the Marinus Link industry briefing in Leongatha. B16_4925



Keegan Brown from Grantville and Valentino Auddino from Korumburra at the first race meeting of the year at Stony Creek. B32_4925



Michael and Sheryl Lock of Mirboo North at the Phillip Island Toy Run.



Adding some colour to the day were Darren and Piper of the Gippsland Motorcycle Club.

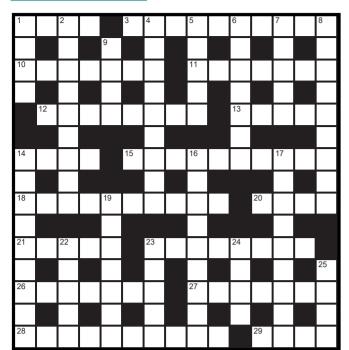


Jo Brunt (Indigenous Employment Latrobe City Council) and Luke Arber (Workforce Australia) at the Marinus Link Meet the Contractors industry briefing in Leongatha. B17_4925

Sentinel-Times Puzzles CHALLENGE



CROSSWORD



No. 310

- 26 Inocculation (7) 27 Denial (7)
- 28 Study of surface features (10)
- 29 Ladies' man (4)

DOWN

- Pontiff (4)
- Disputed Spanish region (9)
- **Ancient Roman**
- Bygone (5)
- Feudal Japanese warrior (7) Boredom (5)

Individual from Belgrade,

- Preceding day (9)
- say (4) Written declaration under
- Father, as head of family (9) Travelling (2,7)
- 19 Latter part of the day (7)
- 22 Rundown (5)
- 23 Musical drama (5)
- 24 Data (coll) (4)
- 25 Shortened form of boulevard (4)



ACROSS

- Strike with the beak (4)
- 3 Furniture covering (10)
- 10 Long-suffering (7) Requirements (7)
- **Ancient Roman lower** classman (8)
- 13 Elevate (5)
- 14 Adolescent skin problem (4)
- 15 Made easy (10)
- 18 Brotherhood (10)
- 20 Abide (4)
- 21 Mournful song (5)
- 23 Fresh (8)

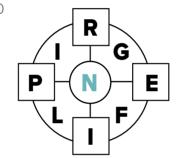


No. 310 Using the nine letters in the grid, how many

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

14 words: Good 21 words: Very good 28 words: Excellent



uədu 'buu rein, rifling, riling, pine, ping, reign, PILFERING, piling, liner, linger, grin, infer, lien, line, tringe, genii, glen, finger, firing, fling, filing, fine, finer,

elfin, feign, fern,

WORDFIT

3 LETTERS ACE STEP AGO TAGS ATE TEEM AXE TSAR CAP

DAB DAD **ABATE ERA ABBOT**

EVE ALERT EYE **GFF APPLE GET**

GOO **MRS** OAK **BRATS**

OUR REV ROE

SEA TEE **UFO**

UPS URN USE

GHOST 4 LETTERS GNOME EBBS EDGE EYED

IOTA LOTS PATH RAFT **MESSY SELL METER**

SMOG

2 3

> 4 5

2

6

5 4

4 7

8

SPED

5 LETTERS

AGENT ASIDE ASPEN BONES

CANES DENSE

DUETS ELOPE EXERT FEARS FETES

GAMUT GERMS

HOSES **INANE JUMPS KNEES LAYER LEMME** **7LETTERS**

SPREE MULTI **MUTER** TASTE **MYTHS TORCH PAPAS TRADE PASTA** TRASH **URBAN PLEAS**

POLKA

PREYS

QUACK

RELAY

RELIC

REUSE

SEEDY

SLIME

8

7

5

2 3

6

8

6

9

3

4

No. 220

2

USURP 6 LETTERS COARSE

JUMBOS QUIVER RECESS

4

9

3

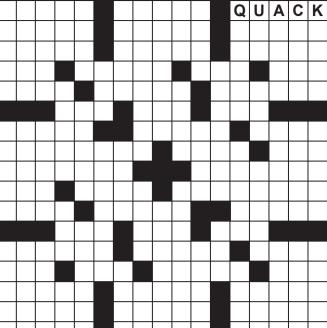
1 5 9

4

7

9

3



ALIASED BLOTTERS BELIEVE RADIANCE REROUTED ERECTED RESTORES MUNDANE REALEST TELLERS

8 LETTERS



0512 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters

CODEWORD

for you, can you work out the rest?

No. 300

Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in

15 16 17 12 W 5 18 19 6 23 13 12 20 21 20 10 22 9 10 23 11 24 12 25 W 13 17 18 13 14 26

SUDOKU

3

8 5

3

1

8

2

2 6 No. 309

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box

MOUSE

EASY

8

6

4

3

MEDIUM

							EΑ	SY
ŀ	9	ε	G	Þ	6	Z	2	8
Þ	6	Z	8	ω	7	9	9	L
9	2	8	9	Z	_	Þ	6	ε
6	Z	7	7	8	G	ω	ŀ	9
ε	8	G	Þ	ŀ	9	2	7	6
7	_	9	ω	6	Z	ഗ്വ	8	Þ
9	ω	6	Z	G	8	_	Þ	2
8	G	2	1	9	7	6	ε	7
Z	Þ	T	6	2	ω	8	9	9

SOLUTIONS

					-	ME	DII	JM
9	ŀ	Z	8	2	6	G	Þ	ε
9	ε	2	9	_	Þ	۷	6	8
8	6	Þ	Z	G	ε	2	9	┷
2	Z	8	ε	9	9	6	_	Þ
6	9	T	Þ	8	7	ω	2	9
Þ	9	ε	2	6	ŀ	8	G	۷
L	Þ	G	6	ω	8	9	L	2
3	7	6	T	۷	9	Þ	8	ഗ്വ
7	8	9	G	Þ	7	_	ε	6

11 = 2, 18 = 4, 19 = 4, 20 = 6, 21 = 4, 22 = 4, 23 = 4, 24 = 4, 26 = 4, 26 = 4**CODEMOMD:** I = O' S = S' S

QUICK QUIZ

- 1. The Virgin Suicides (1999). Lost in Translation (2003) and Marie Antoinette (2006) are all films by which American filmmaker?
- Stretching roughly 30,000km from Alaska to Argentina, what is the name of the longest motorway in the world?
- 3. Published posthumously. Ariel is a 1965 collection of poetry by which American writer?
- 4. Corsica is an island belonging to which nation?
- 5. Which animal has the largest eyes of any land animal?
- **6.** True or false: monocytes are a type of red blood cell? Spicks and Specks is a 1966
- song by which band? 8. Paccheri, garganelli and bucatini are all kinds of
- 9. Which Greek god was the twin brother of Artemis?
- 10. Emma Thompson (pictured) plays which character in the Harry Potter film series?



WORD SEARCH UNDRAYTSRIHTFU

9 4

ITACIF ITRESED HNOITATIPICERPL OGRAMETHSADDYLL SANDSTOGFTEARAB CAFIHDEADHDTD DIUESATCSSCEO LBOITTRHRAKEAAR EAOLRCVLHMUOMUM NRYGDARAOALAEDA ORNDLDRAZILLLUN SEOLNARABIANSST BNESIMPSONELITN IYIRRIGATIONEYS

GKARAKUMSMOJAVE

Can you find all the words listed?

ARABIAN **GECKO** SIMPSON GIBSON SKULL GOBI THAR **ATACAMA HOSTILE THIRSTY BARREN IRRIGATION TUNDRA CAMELS** KARAKUM

COLD LIZARD DASHT-E MARGO MESA DEAD MOJAVE DEATH VALLEY **OASIS** DESERTIFICATION PLATEAU DORMANT **PRECIPITATION** SAHARA

DUSTY SAND **FERLO** SHADE

SECRET MESSAGE: Full of beauty and loneliness

they are white blood cells Λ The Bee Gees 8. Pasta 9. Apollo 10. Professor Sybil Trelawney ANSWERS: 1. Sofia Coppola 2. Pan-American Highway 3. Sylvia Plath 4. France 5. Ostrich 6. False;







🛏 5 💳 3 🛏 2 36 Acres*

150 Dawsons Road, Wooreen For Sale \$1,600,000 **Agent** Nutrien Harcourts Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449 kellie.thomas@nh.com.au *Approximately

Stunning property with dual occupancy

HERE is a stunning property located only 15 kilometres from Leongatha, offering absolute privacy and tranquillity. Set on approximately 36 acres, it features a quality brick veneer home built by reputable local builders, along with a gorgeous second dwelling-perfect for elderly parents, a teenage retreat, or the option to run a B&B. Surrounded by mature trees and manicured gardens, every window captures a beautiful garden outlook.

Features of this property include:

- Four generous bedrooms, including a massive master suite with walk-in robe and ensuite
- Lovely central bathroom, separate toilet, and a spacious laundry
- Stylish kitchen with ample bench space, high-quality appliances, and excellent storage - ideal for entertainers
- Conservatory-style dining room overlooking the gardens, perfect for gatherings
- · Large study with beautiful views, ideal for working from home
- Formal dining/lounge room that is warm, inviting, and

perfect for relaxing with family and friends

- Additional features include solid fuel heating, RC/AC, higher ceilings, and verandahs surrounding the home
- Immaculate self-contained one-bedroom second dwelling with kitchen/living area, bathroom, modern facilities, and RC/AC-so comfortable you won't want to leave! Outside:
- Undulating acreage with good fencing, a dam with reliable water supply, and quality stock yards
- Large open-bay machinery shed and a double lock-up shed with a concrete floor and power

The current owners are to be commended for the impeccable presentation of this property - homes of this calibre are rare. From the moment you arrive, you will appreciate the care and attention given to every detail. Offering the perfect lifestyle for running cattle, keeping horses or sheep, or simply enjoying the peace and quiet of this beautiful part of South Gippsland, this property is one not to be missed.

Call Kellie Thomas today on 0438 647 449 to arrange your inspection.

Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha



47 Bair Street (03) 5662 2292 nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha

 \implies 3 $\stackrel{\longleftarrow}{=}$ 2 $\stackrel{\frown}{=}$ 2

== 3 **==** 2 **==** 5

4 4 3 2



LEONGATHA

= 5 **=** 3 **≈** 2

Prestigious Family Home

- Stunning home on 968m² block with farmland views. • Luxury chefs kitchen with WIP & quality appliances.
- Entertaining area, 8 person spa and oversized garage.
- \$995,000 \$1,050,000



MIRBOO NORTH

- · Contemporary home on 2.9 acres with stunning views.
- Open-plan living, renovated kitchen, alfresco area & pool.
 Open-plan living, large master suite, study/4th bedroom.
- Shedding, studio/workshop & 2 paddocks for livestock.

\$1,250,000



= 3 **=** 2 **=** 2

Lovely Lifestyle Property!

- Open-plan living, renovated bathroom, parents' retreat.
- Double garage, shed, and established gardens.
- Charming 1.8-acre property in vibrant Meeniyan village.

MEENIYAN



MARDAN Lovely Lifestyle Property!

- Renovated homestead with north-facing verandah.
- Open-plan living, modern kitchen and cosy wood fire.
- Shedding, stock yards, 5 paddocks and spring-fed dam.



Spectacular Views!



KORUMBURRA

Contemporary Living

- 3 BR, 2 bathroom brick veneer home with 2 living areas.
- Open-plan kitchen, dining, living area with alfresco.
- Double garage and low-maintenance backyard.

\$650,000



LEONGATHA Lovely Outlook!

- Quality-built brick home with master ensuite and WIR.
- North-facing living, spacious kitchen with breakfast bar.
- Double lock-up garage and peaceful rural outlook.



- Immaculate Presentation!
- On approx. 3 acres with gardens and rural views.
- Town water, solar, and just minutes from Fish Creek.

\$1,150,000



PORT FRANKLIN

Impeccably Presented!

- 2-storey home, resort-style bathrooms, elegant kitchen.
- Open-plan living, alfresco, built-in BBQ, quality finishes.
- 30m shed with rumpus room, kitchenette, powder room.

\$995,000

== 3 **==** 2 **==** 2



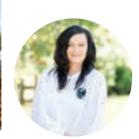
BERRYS CREEK

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.



Barry Redmond Director / Estate Agent 0477 622 292



Kellie Thomas Licensed Estate Agent 0438 647 449



Marketing & Administration (03) 5662 2292

 \longrightarrow 3 $\stackrel{\longleftarrow}{\longrightarrow}$ 1 $\stackrel{\frown}{\bowtie}$ 2

ON THE LAND





Jordan Crugnale MP with Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) Board members Simon Richardson, Paul Speirs, Dave Bateman, EGM BCLN, Peter Nuttman, John Carney, Dani Carr, BCLN Nursery assistant and Stevie Wynen, BCLN Manager.

\$200,000 for Bass Coast Landcare Group to install a seedbank at Bass Nursery

MEMBER for Bass, Jordan Crugnale MP, has announced a \$200,000 grant for the Bass Coast Landcare Group to install a seedbank at the existing Bass nursery, collect seed and propagate seedlings annually, undertake a small expansion of the seed-production area, provide seed-collection training to volunteers and Traditional Owners, and produce a propagation handbook.

The funding is part of the \$77 million BushBank program, which will restore important habitat for native wildlife across Victoria and reduce carbon emissions.

This investment will ensure

Victoria has the seeds and plants needed to restore ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and create healthier environments for future generations.

"We are so excited to be expanding our capacity to develop a seed bank and increase our indigenous plant production, working with our dedicated volunteers through this BushBank grant program," said Dave Bateman of BCLN.

The BushBank Seed Sector Support Grants will help expand and upgrade seed orchards and provide a more reliable seed supply in areas across the state.

The funding will help seed

sector businesses, organisations and Traditional Owner groups create new regional jobs, purchase machinery to improve harvesting, expand and upgrade nurseries and propagate hundreds of thousands of seedlings per year – supporting their work to restore habitat across Victoria.

It will also support First Peoples' participation in the sector, provide workforce training and capability uplift and help establish a strategically located seed centre to build regional capability.

Most native seed used in the BushBank program is currently collected from existing native vegetation, with availability dependent on local, seasonal weather conditions and the health of plants.

BushBank's program partner, Cassinia Environmental, continues to work with landowners for planting on private properties, working towards a target of revegetating 20,000 hectares of land by 2035.

"This grant is a testament to the outstanding dedication of our Bass Coast Landcare Group, and will set them up to grow more native plants required to rebuild ecosystems and safeguard biodiversity."

Store sale closes year on a firm note

THE final major store sale of the year for Everitt, Seeley and Bennetts, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Phelan and Henderson & Co, and SEJ was held last Thursday, delivering a solid result ahead of the quieter December 18 fixture.

A total of 4098 head were penned, up 450 head week-on-week, with agents noting an impressive offering of cows and calves alongside strong lines of quality young cattle. Nutrien Ag Solutions agent Brian McCormack described the sale as "exceptionally good," with values fully firm on recent markets.

"Quality cattle were exceptional," Mr Mc-Cormack said.

"There were a few bigger lines of vendorbred cattle which sold above average rates, and while the crowd was mostly regular buyers, feedlot operators were present."

One of the standout offerings was a dispersal of cows and calves from Allan and Julie Coulter, Mardan, as they relinquished their cow and calf operation. A lead pen of second-calvers with calves aged two to three months made \$3660 per cow-and-calf unit, with other lines selling from \$3320 to \$3440. All cattle were pure Leawood bloodlines and were purchased locally.

Mr McCormack said the market remained firm moving forward, with supply and seasonal conditions likely to influence demand into the new year.

"We're probably the last area," he said, referring to the north already seeing fires.

"The north is two months ahead, while our season is ticking along reasonably well."

According to MLA market reporter Brendan Fletcher, quality across the yarding was excellent, including almost 800 heavy Angus steers and several well-bred onemark lines. Heavy yearling cattle eased slightly, while lighter-weight weaners recovered losses from the previous sale.

Weaner steers topped at \$2200 a head for 386kg Angus, with the category averaging \$2005. Yearling steers reached \$2930 for 600kg Herefords. Weaner heifers sold to \$1890 for 375kg Angus, while yearling heifers peaked at \$2480 for 533kg Angus.

The December 18 sale will be the final offering for the year, before the market breaks for Christmas and the New Year.

Farmers breathe sigh of relief as fire services levy paused

THE Victorian government's decision to freeze the Emergency Services Volunteer Levy for a further two years and increase the property value threshold for volunteer exemptions from \$5 million to \$10 million has been welcomed by the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF).

VFF president Brett Hosking said the move is a huge relief for farmers and comes after a huge backlash against what the VFF described as a fundamentally wrong cash-grab.

"This tax was set to rip hundreds of millions out of the pockets of cash-strapped farmers in the middle of a record-breaking drought. Freezing the levy and increasing the exemption threshold acknowledges the massive pressure farmers have been under, particularly following years of drought and escalating operating costs," Mr Hosking said.

Foster North farmer and South Gippsland councillor Scott Rae famously got his hands dirty delivering a much-publicised message about the controversial Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund (ESVF) to state parliament in May this year.

Now he's doubled down on the message after the state

By Bruce Wardley

government announced they were freezing the primary producers' levy at the old Fire Service's Levy rate of 28.7 cents per \$1000 CIV, with no plans to raise it anytime soon.

Cr Rae reckons that means the levy is history.

"Unless we're stupid and vote them back in, that's the last we'll see of the Emergency Services levy (ESVL)," Cr Rae said.

"Danny O'Brien doesn't want it, Jess Wilson doesn't want it, Bev McArthur (Shadow Minister for Local Government) and Nicole Werner (Shadow Minister for Youth) don't want it. Nobody wants it."

Faye Tuchtan from the Bass Coast Branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation said branch president Peter Miller and local farmers said it was fine that the levy had been put off until 2027.

"But it's a tax that shouldn't be on farmers," Ms Tuchtan said.

"The exemptions don't apply if the farm is in the name of a company, trust or the wife of a farmer who is a volunteer. Why should farmers be treated any differently?"

Bass Coast Mayor Rochelle Halstead said council was raising local concerns around the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund as recently as last week.

"While the freeze extension is welcome, repealing this levy entirely would give our farmers and regional communities the certainty they deserve beyond the election cycle."

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Nathan Hersey said council had remained firm in its position opposing the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund.

"While we fully support and value the vital work of our emergency services, we cannot support the inequitable burden the ESVF places on primary producers and rural communities," Cr Hersey said.

"It's good to see that the Victorian government has been listening to the strong advocacy of South Gippsland. We welcome the additional deferment and hope that during this period the proposed increases and method of the ESVL can be reconsidered in the interests of all Victorians."

Treasurer Jaclyn Symes said the levy for farmers would be frozen at the present level with no plans in the forward estimates to reinstate the crippling levy anytime soon.

After providing details of an

improvement in the state's finances and economic outlook, Ms Symes said farmers would be sitting easier at the dinner table.

"As you know, the Emergency Services Volunteer Fund replaced the fire services property levy last year. What we announced at budget time was to ensure that the farmer land rate was to be kept the same as the fire services property levy."

Ms Symes thanked the VFF for their advocacy and the numerous farmers that had provided her with direct feedback in relation to how they were going.

"I'd also like to remind people that there is a rebate available for active and lifelong volunteers of the CFA and Victorian SES, and thousands of volunteers are taking up that opportunity. Victorian farmers told us the Emergency Services Volunteer Levy was their number one issue, and we've been moving heaven and earth to get to today's decision."

The VFF said it will engage with the Victorian government over the next two years in a serious and transparent discussion about how emergency services are funded in the long term.



ON THE LAND



Leongatha couple's cow takes top prize

By Rick Koenig

A LEONGATHA South dairy farming couple has claimed the top prize at one of Australia's largest on-farm competitions with their three-year-old cow beating 385 other entries.

Jason and Maree Deenan took out the Overall Champion award at the 2025 Leading Edge Genetics On-Farm Challenge with their Holstein cow Bridgestone 2505, which also won the three-year-old class against 75 entries.

The couple, who run Carisma Holsteins, also claimed the two-year-old class with another entry, Mogul 2590, and were named Most Successful Exhibitor.

Ms Deenan told the Sentinel-Times she knew she had a quality animal but was not confident due to the animal's age.

"There were nearly 400 entries, so to be picked the best cow out of all those was pretty exciting," she said.

"I knew I had a nice cow but not often does a three-year-old win over the mature cows."

Ms Deenan said presentation played a key role in their success.

"I like cows that have got what I call dairy wedge – they are in form, not too fat, not too skinny, in the goldilocks area I suppose," she said.

"I was brought up where presentation was everything, so I think I might focus on that a bit more than others."

The competition is now in its 16th year and attracted 386 entries from 57 breeders across Gippsland, with judging taking place over four days.

Leading Edge Genetics owner Brad Aitken said Bridgestone 2505 was a deserving winner.

"When that cow was seen at Jason and Maree's we thought it would need a pretty good cow



Fish Creek dairy farmers Peter and Helen Thomson with judge David Jones and Brad Aitken after winning the four-five year old class and the Group Class.



UK judge David Jones with Maree Deenan and Leading Edge Genetics owner Brad Aitken after Deenan's cow Bridgestone 2505 was named Overall Champion at the Leading Edge Genetics On-Farm Challenge.

to beat that – she was a standout in her class," Mr Aitken said.

"Each year I marvel at the quality of cows presented in this competition. It truly has become one of the leading on-farm competitions here in Australia."

Fish Creek dairy farmers Peter, Helen and Michael Thomson also enjoyed success, winning the four-five year old

class with Summerday 412 and the prestigious Group Class with three Summerday daughters.

World-renowned UK judge David Jones flew in specifically for the event and spent four gruelling days travelling across Gippsland.

"It was certainly a competition of great depth," Mr Jones said.

"Each farm had animals of tremendous quality. I was looking for the most correct, wellbalanced cow."

The awards were presented at a luncheon at Drouin Golf Club attended by 130 farmers and 15 agribusiness representatives, with more than 700 watching a livestream of the

MARKET REPOR

Brought to you by

CLAAS Harvest Centre ELAAS

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025 Steers

N & J Clem 14 Angus	624kg	\$4.88	\$3050
A Lane 20 Angus	615kg	\$4.97	\$3060
EST A Birss 14 Hereford	600kg	\$4.88	\$2930
M Rowles 20 Angus	579kg	\$5.00	\$2900
EST A Birss 11 Angus	577kg	\$4.98	\$2880
G & L Davis 10 BB	554kg	\$5.01	\$2780
D Sutton 15 Charo	539kg	\$4.80	\$2590
Kuch Grazing 20 Angus	529kg	\$5.28	\$2750
Kuch Grazing 20 Angus	522kg	\$5.28	\$2760
Kuch Grazing 20 Angus	519kg	\$5.28	\$2700
Kuch Grazing 20 Angus	512kg	\$5.26	\$2700
B Densley 18 Angus	512kg	\$4.99	\$2560
Nalajule 20 Angus	508kg	\$5.28	\$2690
Kuch Grazing 20 Angus	506kg	\$5.13	\$2600
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	505kg	\$5.22	\$2640
M Rowles 14 Angus	478kg	\$5.41	\$2590
A Jebart 14 Angus	467kg	\$4.91	\$2300
Nalajule Nom 20 Angus	474kg	\$5.39	\$2560
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	461kg	\$5.20	\$2400
Coonmoor 18 Angus	462kg	\$5.42	\$2510
Balas Holdings 18 Angus	460kg	\$4.77	\$2200
Blackwood Grazing 13 BB	448kg	\$5.03	\$2260
Coonmoor Past 189 Angus	448kg	\$5.63	\$2530
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	449kg	\$5.23	\$2350
Blackwood Grazing 13 Angus	445kg	\$5.16	\$2300
Blackwood Grazing 13 Angus	436kg	\$5.27	\$2300
MJ Beef 17 Hereford	439kg	\$4.84	\$2130
Ponderosa Herefords 22 Hf	437 kg	\$5.27	\$2310
Latrobe Park 24 Angus	431kg	\$4.98	\$2150
Hookey Past 21 Angus	424kg	\$5.20	\$2210
Blackwood Grazing 10 Angus	421kg	\$4.98	\$2100
S Price 14 Angus	428kg	\$4.90	\$2100
A & A Missen 24 Angus	409kg	\$5.36	\$2200
J & B Dunbar 25ang	393kg	\$5.33	\$2100
Ponderosa Herefords 22 Hf	400kg	\$5.64	\$2260
Ponderosa Herefords 22 Hf	399kg	\$5.66	\$2260
Heifers:			
M Rowles 21 Angus	519kg	\$4.58	\$2280
M Rowles 19 Angus	545kg	\$4.84	\$2200

B & P Svenson 14 Angus 486kg \$4.57 \$2240 B & P Svenson 17 Angus 457kg \$4.89 \$2240 479kg Nalajule 11 Angus 433kg Nalajule 13 Angus \$5.03 \$2180 Nalajule 13 Angus 433kg \$5.03 \$2180 Burns & Cliff 17 Angus 436kg \$4.58 \$2000 405kg \$4.81 \$1950 Nalajule 19 Angus R Castello 21 Angus \$4.73 \$1790 Latrobe Park 16 Angus \$4.91 \$1840 374kg J & B Dunbar 24 Angus 375kg\$4.03 \$1890 373kg A & A Missen 15 Angus \$4.71 \$1760 357kg \$4.66 \$1670 SJC Farms 22 Angus T Beamish 18 Angus 353kg \$4.61 \$1630 Latrobe Park 16 Angus 337kg \$4.82 \$1630 Maitlin Downs 12 Angus 459kg \$3.19 \$1470 H & S Friend 10 Angus 281kg \$4.05 \$1140

\$5.01

\$4.84

\$4.69 \$1180

\$4.89 \$1920

\$4.62 \$19400

275kg

251kg

392kg

\$1380

RLEX SCOTT

LIVESTOCK AGENTS, LICENSED REAL ESTATE AGENTS, PROPERTY MANAGERS, AUCTIONEERS www.alexscott.com.au

36 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA PH: 5655 1133 FAX: 5655 2480

Livestock Sales

David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
LEONGATHA		Brian Vuillermin WONTHAGGI	0429 436 040
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
WARRAGUL		Alan Bolding PAKENHAM	0419 723 255
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

Heat Boute Suies								
KORUMI	BURRA	LEONG	ATHA	MELBOURNE LAND				
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711			
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer Emily Hillberg		COWES				
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Tony Giles		Greg Price	0419 337 441			
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Brian Silver	0407 347 509			
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0410 334 601	Chase Watters	0423 272 819			
CDANT	CRANT/ULF WARRAGUL							
GRANTVILLE Angus Hall 0466 326 487		Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	VENUS	S BAY			
		DA1/EN		Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252			
INVERLOCH Marni Lee Redmond 0403 525 413		PAKEN Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489			
BERWICK		LANG LANG		KOO WEE RUP				
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Angus Hall	0466 326 487 🖣			
SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE								

ELECTRIC FENCE ENERGIZER REPAIRS

Paul Vassil

(Formerly Vassil Electronics) 38 Lower Gordon St, Korumburra

0408 515 184 _{JA2121}

SMALL ACREAGE CULTIVATION

- Pasture mulching
- Slashing

Krg Ross 15ang

Maitlin Downs 35 Angus

Maitlin Downs 20 Angus

PJR Development 13 Angus

A & B Wilkin 10 MG

- Hoeing & ripping
- Fertiliser spreading
- 10m² Tipper hire





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

LIVESTOCK RATES				
250+ KG/DW	\$7.80			
200 то 249	\$7.60			
160 то 199	\$7.10			
120 то 159	\$5.10			
BULLS PLEASE CALL FOR A BOOKING				

BEN BOULTON 0488 445 467

OFFICE: 0429 445 461 www.wellingtonlivestock.net

ON THE LAND

Dairy bull rankings move after system updates

THIS week's release of Australian Breeding Values has seen significant movements in dairy bull rankings, as a result of enhancements to DataGene's genetic evaluation system.

Peter Thurn, DataGene stakeholder relations specialist, said the enhancements bring the system closer in line with the evolving needs of dairy businesses, new knowledge and breeding technologies.

"We listened and acted on the farmer preferences and industry feedback we received during the five-yearly review of the National Breeding Objective. The enhancements enable dairy farmers to breed the herds that meet the future needs of the industry," he said.

Peter said that while individual bull rankings had changed, high genetic merit animals continued to rank well with some reshuffling on the ladders for Balanced Performance Index (BPI), Health Weighted Index (HWI) and Sustainability Index (SI).

"About half of the top 25 Holstein bulls for BPI in August are still in the top 25, but they now have some different neighbours." Peter said the three main enhancements

to the system involved: • Updating milk prices to better reflect

- current and future payment systems.
- Updating the 'base' so that breeding values are compared to a more relevant population of animals.
- Including calving ease and gestation length in the Health Weighted Index to better suit seasonal calving herds.

He outlined the main impacts that people may notice in this week's ABV release. Firstly, breeding values for most traits



DataGene's latest Good Bulls Guide has significant changes in bull ABVs and rankings as a result of enhancements to the genetic evaluation system.

have dropped as a result of updating the base.

"While updating the base changes the absolute values of ABVs, animal rankings are not affected," Peter said.

Secondly, the magnitude of indices (BPI, HWI and SI) has increased, with bigger numbers for BPI in particular.

"This is mainly due to the increase in

weightings for milk price, the balance of protein to fat as well as updated feed, input and labour costs," he said.

"Generally, when you update the base, the lower ABV values flow through into the indices. But in this case, the updated milk prices and input costs have offset

Thirdly, Holstein and Jersey breeders

may notice a big increase in the values for Overall Type ABV and Mammary ABV.

"This is because the base group for the type evaluation has been expanded so that we are now comparing bulls and cows to a more representative group," he said.

Fertility ABVs for Holsteins and Milk Litres for Jerseys have both dropped due to the updated base.

This is actually good news because the drop reflects exceptional genetic improvement for these traits over the past 10 years. The fact that the 'base' or 'average population' has improved dramatically translates to lower breeding values.'

DataGene also introduced two additional changes with the December ABV release: enhanced expression of type traits with intermediate optimums and a new model for the Survival ABV.

Type traits with intermediate optimums now carry a letter beside their ABV value with 'O' indicating optimum.

"There's no change to the way these ABVs are calculated. We have just enhanced the way they are reported to make it easier to identify animals that are close to the optimum.

The new model for Survival ABV combines early and late survival data, giving a better prediction of productive life. Some re-ranking of animals for Survival ABV has occurred with the implementation of the new model.

"While there have been significant movements in bull rankings this release, we are confident the adjusted models will enable farmers to breed herds that better meet their future needs," Peter said.

A/c Locklier & Smith, Drouin West (ELDERS) 8 Char X mix sex weaners, 10 mths, weaned

5 Angus mix sex weaners, 10 mths, weaned

A/c Deep Creek Farm, Woodleigh (ELDERS)

A/c Mareeba Park, Nyora (ELDERS)

registered herd

XBRED & DAIRY

8 Angus steers, 9-10 mths, VB, GF & ABF

A/c Prospect Farms, Seaspray (ELDERS)

Speckle Park Herd Dispersal (ELDERS)

A/c B & N Bannigan - 'Property Sold'

2 X Speckle Park Bulls, 4 yo and 7 yo

COWS & CALVES / JOINED FEMALES / BULLS

30 Speckle Park cows, Predominantly 1st - 4th

calvers, with 2-3mth Sappy Speckle Park CAF.

herd (Vendor Bred) for genuine replacements.

Heifers low birthweight genetics themselves

7 Speckle Park heifers, 2 yo, unjoined, retained from

A/c Gairnshiel Shorthorns, Carisbrook (ALEX SCOTT)

4 White Shorthorn heifers, 22 mths, PTIC to calve

April. Joined to low birthweight Roan Shorthorn bull,

A/c Tibooburra Angus – Hoddles Creek (ELDERS)

20 Angus Friesian X heifers, 12 mths

A/c Breeder, TC Miller, Caldermeade (ALEX SCOTT)

Drenched October 16, By purebred Speckle Park bulls

10 Speckle Park m/s weaners, 8-9 mths, 2 x 5 in 1,

9 Hereford steers, 9-10 mths, Meikle bood, weaned

A/c Gairnshiel Shorthorns, Carisbrook (ALEX SCOTT)

6 Shorthorn heifers, 12-14 mths, unjoined, from



Australian Shepherd, Hinto. Photo: Puppy Tales Photography.

The pawsuit is on for 2026 Australian Dog of the Year

lian Dog of the Year.

Now in its sixth year, the Puppy Tales Australian Dog of the Year awards aim to sniff out the doggo who best embodies the true-blue Aussie spirit of love, courage, inspiration, assistance and fur iendship.

"The awards are about shining a national spotlight on the often-unsung heroes making a paws-itive difference every day, whether in homes, schools, hospitals and communities across the country, often without asking for anything in return," says Kerry Martin, award-winning pet photographer, author and founder of Puppy Tales.

The Awards are inspired by the remarkable dogs - including her own -Kerry has met and photographed dogs throughout her years of travel across this beautiful country. From therapy and assistance dogs to hardworking farm dogs, conservation heroes, and the

PUPPY Tales is once again proud to fearless hounds in rescue teams, dogs in launch the search for the 2026 Austrathe military and the police force.

"Our canine companions are as diverse as Australia itself! These dogs aren't just remarkable; they truly change lives," said Ms Martin.

"The 2025 Australian Dog of the Year, who communicates through sign language and supports school children facing anxiety and behavioural challenges, spreading joy wherever she goes. Elle is even part of the school staff photo, a testament to the incredible difference she's made in her community."

The nominations have been so doggone impressive that Puppy Tales has added fresh new awards to keep up, including the Canine Home Hero Medal and Dog of Talent Medal.

Nomination deadline is 8pm on Monday, January 12, 2026. Finalists will be announced on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, and winners will be announced on Monday, January 26, 2026.

VLE - LEONGATHA

CATTLE 20

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c F Pendergast, Benambra (ELDERS)

60 Hereford steers, 2 yo, Ex Mountain Sale weaners,

NE Accred, GF & AF A/c Glensheil, Bairnsdale (ELDERS)

50 Black Baldy (AA/HH X) steers,14 mths, GF & ABF A/c Fawlin Downs, Hedley (ELDERS)

20 Angus X steers, 2 yo A/c R Zelouf, Main Ridge (ALEX SCOTT)

15 Angus steers, rising 20 mths

Western district bred, GFO, ABF

A/c B & M Wright, Nyora (ELDERS)

A/c B.L.H. Farming, Labertouche (ALEX SCOTT)

14 Angus steers, 24 mths, drenched 1.10.25, "Yarra

A/c Cattleman Shahin, Loch (ELDERS) 10 Angus steers, 20 mths

A/c Breeder, Pepper Hill Trading Co, Willow Grove

60 Angus and Black Baldy steers. 8-10 mths, by stud "Absolute" and "Wattlewood" Angus bulls.

Weaned, 2x 5in1, 3x Multimin, Drenched A/c Copperleaf Pty Ltd, San Remo (ELDERS)

44 Angus steers, 10-11 mths Battersby & Leawood blood, yard weaned, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred, extremely quiet

A/c Somers Electrical-Binginwarri (ELDERS) 40 Angus mix sex weaners, 9-10 mths

A/c Breeder, T & K Barwick, Caldermeade (ALEX SCOTT)

14 Angus steers, 8-10 mths, 2 x 5 in 1, 1 x Multimin, By "Banquet" blood bulls







1 Angus Bull, 3 yo

2 Angus Bulls, 20 mths



SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS

Registered all treatments up to date

TRADES%SERVICES



SAVE UP TO \$5,000 WHEN YOU REPLACE YOUR GAS DUCTED HEATING



Ask us how! MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC SALE, INSTALLATION & REPAIR

citytocoastair.com 0400 001 465

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

CURTAINS & BLINDS

shutters



dc b value in every dollar





outdoor

dollar curtains + blinds

21 Murray Street, Wonthaggi 5672 2915 www.dollarcurtainsandblinds.com.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

AIR CONDITIONING



DAIKIN

03 5678 5190 office@picra.com.au

 Coastal Refrigeration and Airconditioning AU22840

BUILDER



Specialist builder of period style custom homes.

FOR ALL YOUR CARPENTRY

0428 496 266

brad@bradmccormackhomes.com.au CDB-U 6601

Deck Seal Specialists in restoration & preservation of timber decks **Residential & Commercial**

SERVICING ALL OF BASS COAST

1800 332 525 www.deckseal.com.au

FLOORING





Site Cuts Site Clean Ups Driveways | Drainage Auger | Rock Grab

BILLY HUITEMA 0458 757 062 www.bjhexcavations.com.au

CARPET ONE SHOWE

Live beautifully for less

AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING



AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS



TRENT 0434 557 936

■ Bass Coast Carpentry & Maintenance

DINGO SERVICES

- Dingo (rubber tracks) 2 ton excavator
- Bucket work
- Rotary Hoe
- Trenching Operating locally

since 2001 0408 387 722



LET US GIVE YOU A QUOTE

carpetone.com.au 21 Murray Street, Wonthaggi

5672 2915

BOOKKEEPING

J L BAS &

BOOKKEEPING

SOLUTIONS

Julie Appleyard

0429 425 252

info@jlbbs.com.au

ASPHALT

nick@basscoasthvac.com.au

Schoolgrounds, Driveways Carparks & repairs

Mike Rowley 0411 412 707

66 Nardoo Street, Cape Paterson 3995

Cleaner Carpets

- · Carpets Tiles Cars
- Upholstery
 Mattresses

Reasonable rates and friendly service. Call David Britt today

0400 907 201

Carpet Cleaning • Tile and Grout

Upholstery • Pressure cleaning

25 years experience,

no obligation free quotes

ozziecarpetandtilecleaning@gmail.com

BOOK NOW 0438 357 736

EARTHMOVING & 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

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



OUIBACK

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.

GUTTER CLEANING

VACUUM GUTTER CLEANING

Tree Pruning & Removals | Solar Panel Cleaning Fully insured and 20 years experience

Advertise your business in the

Sentinel-Times

TRADES<mark>&</mark>SERVICES

\$33.70 per edition mono

(Min of five consecutive editions)

Send the details of

your advertisement to:

ads@sgst.com.au

or phone 5672 1888



ADVERTISING

Phone Lochie 0417 315 846

Servicing all areas impacttg@bigpond.com

BUILDER

Renovating your bathroom? We specialise in bathroom

Xero Advisor

renovations and general carpentry.

David Cowan Builder

0425 811 443 Reg. DB-L71510

VANDERMEER & SONS

Over 25 years experience

CONCRETING

CONCRETING

REINFORCED CONCRETE SOUTH GIPPSLAND

For all your concreting needs Phone: 0447 137 009

Email:

reinforcedconcreteaustralia@gmail.com

/ ELECTRICIAN



- 24/7 Emergency
- Domestic
- Backup generators
- Undergrounds

lames 0402 135 292

ELECTRONICS



Leongatha, Vic, 3953 5662 3891

Gardner Electronics

REC 32780

Electricians

- Commercial
- Renovations
- Switchboard upgrades

allaboutelectricalcontracting.com.au



We accept:

per edition

full colour

FREE QUOTES 44 | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Bathrooms a speciality • Decking • Concrete retainer walls • Kitchens

BUILDER

• Bathrooms • Plastering • Painting • Pergolas • Renovations Doors & window installation
 Built-in robes

PAUL VANDERMEER Mobile: 0427 750 568

James Dell

Security/Access control • CCTV • TV Data/Phone • Home Theatre • PA

10 Ashenden Street

admin@gardnerelectronics.com.au

TRADES%SERVICES



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 experience

John 0414 917 468 Call now for a quote!

Years of quality



RESTUMPING & RELEVELLING

Restumping, levelling, house raising and repacking, all renovation works.

CALL 0418 506 788

Licence DBL24625

WALL & FLOOR WATERPROOFING & SCREEDING ♦ Providing Quality Service ◆

Servicing Nyora, Loch and Korumburra

Steve **0425 815 764**

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



Leo: 0423 272 332

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

- 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 0448169 258

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 clean Servicing all of
- · FREE clinical and related waste audits

• Confidential document disposal service

www.medicoservices.com.au 100% Australian owned and open

Phone: 1800 medico (1800 633 426)

LANDSCAPING & CONCRETING

A.B LANDSCAPING & CONCRETING

- Retaining Walls Paving
- Small Brick Repairs
- Concreting Landscaping SMALL JOBS WELCOME

Phone Andrew 0408 822 263

To advertise your business in the Sentinel-Times



\$50 per edition full colour

\$33.70 per edition mono (Min of five consecutive editions)

> Send the details of your advertisement to:

ads@sgst.com.au or phone 5672 1888

We accept:





Advertise your business here

DO

Contracting Cherry Picker **Qualified Arborist Qualified Climber**

Chipper/Tree Removals

Stump Grinding www.treex.com.au

Duane Thomas 0409 968 040



Matt Harris 0407 245 381

Arborists · Large Ewp Mulching • Insured
 Tree Removals **FREE QUOTES**

10+ Years Experience

LAWN MOWING



Call 131 546

- ✓ FREE QUOTES
- ✓ Fully insured ✓ Police checked ✓ OH&S compliant
- ✓ All work guaranteed Jim's the One RISK FREE

Lawn mowing, gardening, pruning, hedging, rubbish removal, gutter cleaning, weeding, mulching, odd jobs

CFMOTO

WELSHPOOL

OUTDOORS

Ph: 03 5688 1304

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

ORIGIN GAS DELIVERIES

welshpooloutdoors@bigpond.com.au 19 Main Street, Welshpool, VIC, 3966

www.jimsmowing.com.au

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



SOLAR

The second

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!



EPA Registered R000301404 LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED

Weed season is upon us! We Specialise In Difficult To Access Hill Country



We can help Weed Spot Spraying or Broad Acre Fertilising

CALL OR TEXT MARTIN 0499 024 480 www.hillcountryagdrones.com.au/

PAINTER

BRUSH STROKES PAINTING SERVICE



MIKE FERNLEY 0488 158 556

LOOKING FOR A PLASTERER? All aspects of

Rendering & Plastering New and existing homes FJ MAKUTIA **RENDERING & PLASTERING** 0400 599 170

PLUMBING

Cape Paterson Plumbing



Paul Macdermid Domestic

 Maintenance Renovations 0409 744 891 5674 4801 Lic no. 48525 STEEL & ROOFING SUPPLIES

islande

McRae Engineering

SOLAR - BATTERIES - OFF GRID

1300 534 110

GENERAL FABRICATION, STRUCTURAL STEEL, FARM AND EARTHMOVING. **MACHINERY REPAIRS, SHEDS, DAIRIES ETC.**

CONSIDER IT DONIT Streemit DELIVERIES ARRANGED OR PICK UPS WELCOM

5664 7408 | 0427 343 498 | 134 Whitelaw St, Meeniyan shaun@mcraeengineering.net.au

WINDOW REPLACEMENT

WINDOWS AND HOME MAINTENANCE

MARK

P: 0418 686 583 ALUMINIUM & TIMBER WINDOW REPLACEMENT

DECKS | PERGOLAS | VERANDAS

DEATHS

ALLEN (nee Reidy), **Dianne Margaret:**

26.06.1947 - 05.12.2025

Passed away peacefully surrounded by family at the Korumburra Hospital.

Daughter of Audrey and Martin Reidy (dec.).

Dearly loved wife of Brian.

Loved and adored Mum of Trevor and Lizzie, Katrina and Bruce, and Bronwyn

Adored Nanny of Dylan, Nathan, Gavin, Cameron, Nicole and Matthew.

Loved Great Nan of Ashia and Jemma.

Loved sister of Kevin, Adelia, Kathy, Glenn, Patricia (dec.), Graeme, Brenda (dec.) John, Eileen, Michael, Greg, Edna, and all their extended families. Adored Aunty of many.

> Forever in **Our Hearts**



ALLEN, Dianne:

Over 60 years of a special friendship,

Di.

You always somehow make me smile and the kind things that you do make me feel so very glad that I have a friend like you.

I count myself as lucky for I could travel and never find myself a friend who is as special as you are.

All my love, Libby Carr.

DEATHS BRUINEWOUD, Ted:

Passed 02.12.2025

A loving husband and father.

A valuable member of the Shire of Woorayl, outdoor staff and a conscientious and loyal leader and friend. A life well lived.

At Peace.

--- Keith Godridge.

CLEELAND. Vernon William:

08.11.1945 - 03.12.2025

Passed peacefully with his family by his side.

Dearly loved husband of Gail for 58 years.

Loving father of Jason. Andrea, Pj and Kate.

Adored father-in-law of Sam and Terry

Much loved grandfather of Carly and Jasmine.

Aimee and Ben, Jack and Chloe, and Luke

Great grandfather of Ezra and Milev

You have climbed Mt Everest for the last time

Rest peacefully my beautiful, brave, strong man (the other half of me.)

All my love until we meet again,

Your loving wife Gail

Locally owned

and operated by

Scott & Sharon

Anderson

5672 1074

Handley Anderson

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

Funerals Australia

www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au

DEATHS

CLEELAND, Vernon William:

His kindness, strength, and love will remain with us always. We are grateful for the time we had with him and for the memories that will forever live in our hearts

Love Jason, Carly and Mitchell, Jasmine and Adam, Ezra and Miley ΧO

Dear Dad, You were my favourite hello and my hardest goodbye.

We will always treasure your loving guidance and support in every step of our lives.

A life well lived and a heart full of love. Enjoy your next chapter, Dad

Love Andie, Aimee and Ben XO

Thank you for your kindness, support and being the most amazing Dad and Pa.

We will treasure every memory and miss you every day.

> Love you beyond words Dad.

Pj, Terry and Luke

We miss you dad.

Forever grateful to have you in our lives

Thank you for all the wonderful memories.

Your love stays with us always.

> Love Kate, Sam, Jack and Chloe

A life lived to the fullest, treasured memories in our hearts forever.

As per Vern's wishes a private service will be held.

DEATHS

DEATHS

MALE, Kenneth

Maxwell:

Of Caldermeade.

27.05.1932 - 07.12.2025

Aged 93.

Loved son of Edwin

Sevior and Lillian Edith

(both dec.).

Brother of Harry (dec.),

Bruce (dec.), Rex (dec.)

and Trevor.

Adored husband of

Beverley.

Father of Geoff, Neil,

Leanne and Darren.

Father-in-law of

Melinda, Shelli, Phil

and Christine.

Grandfather of Katie,

Dave, Peter, Celia,

Ross, Rebecca;

Jena, Joel, Jason,

Bridgette, Kassy, Ash;

Scott, Mark, Lauren,

Elise, Lachie, Anthony;

Nic, Bec, Matt and

Kerryn

Great Grandfather to

22 precious Great

Grand Children.

Cherished memories of

a wonderful man.

A life well lived, will be

in our hearts forever.

Please see

www.handlevand

andersonfunerals.com.

au for funeral details.

DESPY. **Derek Austin:**

In memory of an amazing and beautiful man

A treasured and dearly loved friend

Always a smile and a cheerful word for everyone.

Free to keep walking the beaches at Cape

Miss you heaps. Shannon, Di and Jo.

EDNEY. Allan Edward:

Born February 22, 1930.

Passed away December 4, 2025.

Loved husband of Stella (dec.).

Father of Tony, Martin, Steve and Tim.

Father-in-law to Jen, Annette, Jane and Wene

Loved grandfather AI to 10 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren

Deeply loved and deeply missed.

We express our gratitude for the care afforded Dad at Carinya, Korumburra.

HENRY. Peter John:

Born on February 28. 1948. Passed away December 3, 2025.

Loving husband to Erica.

Loving dad and father-in-Law to Tim and Kylie, Michelle and Steve, Liam and Trish Mistee and Levi, Emily, and Lucy

Much loved poppy to Kaiden, Billie, Tyson, Noah, Alvina, Jaiden, Ruben, Bobbi, Alijah and Braylen.

To our beloved dad and poppy, you will always be in our hearts.

> We will miss you dearly.

See you later, Alligator.

Connect

with us

@sentineltimes

MILLER (nee Pryor), Elaine Charlotte:

16.05.1936 - 07.12.2025

Loving wife of Jack for 68 years.

Loving and treasured Mum and mother-inlaw to Peter and Sharon, Russ and Barb. Steve and Deb. Alan and Janene, and Dale (Willy).

Adored Gran to Michael, Tim, Matt and Jessie, Ben, Ellie and Nic. Tom. Dan and Els. Romany and Dan, Elise and Reuben, Ross, and Claire.

Great Gran to Maeve. Lola, Harper, Govi, Joe, Eden and Rome

The joyous presence in our lives.

So loving and kind, your warm embrace beautiful smile and warm-hearted laughter will always be in our hearts forever

Our beautiful angel, rest easy Gran.

For funeral details go to www.handleyand andersonfunerals.

DEATHS

MURDICA, Vincenzo (Vince):

Born on May 1, 1929. Passed away December 4, 2025

Loving husband of Francesca for 72 years.

Proud father and father-in-law to Dominic and Lynda, John and Vicki, Rocky and Lynne, Cathy and Peter, Vince and Felicity, Frank and Natalie.

Adored by his 15 grandchildren and partners, as well as his 14 great grandchildren. A hard working man. who was loved by all who knew him and will be sadly missed.

"Rest in Peace"

MURDICA, Vincenzo (Vince):

Dad, you taught us hard work and respect.

You showed us courage and love for the family.

You can rest in peace now, as your work is

You will be missed but never forgotten!

John and Vicki, Sheree and Steve, Alyce and Justin, Nick, Tahli, Jack, Shylah, Sianna, Kelsey, Spencer and Scarlett.

We would also like to personally thank the Doctor, Nurses and Staff of Kooroman House, for their loving care of dad.

PROBERT, Robert George (Bob/Crow): 22.11.1937 - 04.12.2025

Loved husband of Coral (dec.). Loving father and father-in-law of Donna.

Janie and Jason. Adored Pop to Louise, Jessica and Sheree. Great grandfather to Jack, Cody, Jasper and Tyler.

Resting in Peace.

PROBERT, **Robert George** 'Bob or Crow':

Passed away peacefully 22.11.1937 - 04.12.2025 aged 88.

I was your daughter, friend, carer, nurse, your everything. No more daily cuppa's in bed. Every special occasion, especially towards the end were special moments, you are a tremendous loss to me. Your chair is empty.

DEATHS

PROBERT, **Robert George** 'Bob or Crow':

Through good times and the challenging, we worked together as a team avoiding a nursing home as you wished with success. Lots of love, despair, laughter and tears.

The medical industry knock off work, carers never do. No more falling over in the middle of the night unable to get up without my help. I wouldn't change being your carer for the world, precious memories

Our trips hold great memories, you loved the dogs, they know something is going on. Trips to the Blue Pool, Carneys Creek,

Glenmaggie and Paradise Valley and other camping spots, you taught me how to swim. I loved Yarrawonga, the

pontoon is still in the shed from the 70's, great memories floating up and down the Murray river, us kids doing bombs off the top and the famous inbuilt esky labelled the "thirst aid box".

A wise old owl you were, a man of few words, you did it your way. A shed bloke with your famous last words "it will come in handy one day" rarely did. An honest and clever man who loved a challenge and was there to help anyone out, good loyal blood.

I listened to your advice and no dad I won't waste monev as it's just like winding down my car window and throwing the cash out, you just wouldn't do it, you kept reminding me.

Thanks for everything Dad, my hero and my world. Reunited with mum (Coral), your family, friends and your dogs, you told me you were looking forward to seeing them all.

Gone from my life, but never from my heart, my memories are of the happy times - we are only distance apart. Fly high with the mutton birds Dad, you will be sadly missed.

Your loving daughter, Donna.

DEATHS

SANDERS, Joan:

In Loving Memory of Joan Sanders.

19.9.1946 - 01.12.2025 Loved wife of 56 years to Steve (dec.), mum and mother-in-law to Shelley, Ingrid and Paul. Adored Jaj to Austin and Lewis.

It is with broken hearts that we announce the passing of our beloved mum, Joan or Jaj as she was affectionately known.

A force of nature, full of life and love. She will remain the voice in our heads and leaves a space that can never be filled

Our thanks to Bass Coast Health -Wonthaggi Hospital and Armitage House who took wonderful care of Jaj.

In accordance with Joan's wishes a private family garden party will be held.

Forever loved and deeply missed.

TILLEY, Alex Paul:

14.6.1991 - 2.12.2025 Passed away after a long five-year battle. Loved son of Chervl and Paul (dec.).

Loving brother to

A dearly loved grandson, nephew, cousin and friend.

We will always love you.

In accordance with Alex's wishes a private cremation will be held.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS To place a notice on this page please call 5672 1888 or email

ads@sgst.

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**



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 Funerals Australia

HARWOOD Family owned and locally based Funeral Directors. We bring 25 years experience to families in Traralgon, Morwell,

and surrounding areas. THE CHOICE IS YOURS

Churchill, Moe, Trafalgar, Korumburra

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



• 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

46 | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Just as we have in Gippsland for over 65 years

Classifieds -

DEATHS

Wilson (nee Hickey), **Betty (Janet** Elizabeth):

23.8.1920 - 03.12.2025. Aged a wonderful 105 years.

With deep sadness and profound gratitude for a long life well lived, we share the news of the passing from this life of Janet Elizabeth (Betty) Wilson.

Much loved wife of James (dec. 1957), beloved and loving Mother of Janet, Ian and Val. Treasured Grandmother of Andrew and Cristie, Christine and Gavin, Matthew (dec.), Stephen and Prue Janelle and Dale. Great-grandmother of Oscar and Lexie, Brock and Noah, Hamish and Gabrielle, special friend of Dakota and Chloe.

Each one blessed by her loving presence and inspiration in their lives

We have loved her so deeply and now know that she goes to be with her saviour Jesus. A beautiful person who has so touched so many hearts with her strength of character and integrity.

FUNERALS

ALLEN:

A Graveside Service to celebrate the life of Diane Allen will take place at the Korumburra Cemetery, Kardella Road, Korumburra on Thursday, December 11, 2025, commencing at 12pm.

A livestream will be available for those unable to attend, via visionswest.com.au/ live

Please join us for Light Refreshments at Korumburra Recreation Reserve, Cricket Club Rooms, 3 Richard St. Korumburra, following the service

Forever in our hearts.



EDNEY:

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr. Allan Edward Edney will be held at St. Peter's Anglican Church, 2/4 Bruce St, Leongatha on Friday, December 12, 2025. commencing at 11am.

Allan's service will be live streamed. Please go to www.handleyand andersonfunerals.com. au for details.

Handley Anderson

FUNERALS

HENRY:

The Funeral Service and Committal for Cremation for Mr. Peter John Henry will be held at the Handley Funeral Services Chapel, 24 Anderson Street,

Leongatha on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, commencing at 1pm

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Alchera House Residential Aged Care Facility



MURDICA:

Funeral Prayers for the Repose of the Soul of Mr. Vincenzo Murdica (Vince) will be offered at Śt. Laurence O'Toole Catholic Church, 31 Ogilvy St, Leongatha on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 11:30am.

At the Conclusion of Prayers, the Funeral will leave for the Leongatha Cemetery



WONTHAGE!

PROBERT:

The Graveside Service for Mr. Robert (Bob/ Crow) Probert will be held at the Lang Lang Cemetery, McDonalds Track, Lang Lang on Thursday, December 18, 2025, commencing at 11am.

Handley Anderson

WILSON:

A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Betty (Janet Elizabeth) Wilson will take place at the Bena Hall, 41 Main Rd, Bena on Monday, December 15, 2025 commencing at 2pm.

To be preceded by Private Cremation.



WANTED TO BUY

WANTED ANTIQUES, COLLECTABLES, **ESTATE LOTS,** JEWELLERY AND SHED ITEMS:

Cash paid. 0417 108 286

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS

IN MEMORIAM



MISALE:

In memory of Cheryl Grace Misale. 15.06.1949 - 08.12.2024.

> My beloved wife Cheryl.

Not a day goes by That I don't think of you You're forever in my heart

Always on my mind too

I will forever love you And wait out the rest of my life Until we meet again

To hold you, my dear wife. Your loving husband, Serafino

MISALE:

Cheryl Grace Misale 15.06.49 - 08.12.24.

Mum, If love could have saved you You'd have lived forever.

Karena xx

MISALE, Cheryl Grace:

15.06.1949 - 08.12.2024. Big loving sister to Colleen

With all my love Cher, Love Col.

FOR SALE

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:

Large collection of RC scratch built models and accessories. Cowes 0401 728 557.

MEETINGS

GRANTVILLE AMBULANCE AUXILIARY:

Is holding their A.G.M. on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at Grantville Ambulance Station, commencing 6pm.

New members welcome.

Enquiries to Kathy Power 0439 000 148.

USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS

ΑΑΑΑΑΑΑΑΑΑΑ Car Removai 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.

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

ANDERSON INLET ANGLING CLUB INC:

OPEN DAY Sunday, January 4, 2026.

9am - 4pm at the club rooms, 88 The Esplanade Inverloch.

Club trash and treasure, car boot sale, marine gear and gifts, sausage sizzle, Devonshire tea, cake

stall, club desk and fishing gear raffle. Bar open from 1pm

Interested 3rd party vendors should contact The Secretary - aiac. inverloch@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

CORINELLA COMMUNITY **MARKET**

Community Market, Smythe Street, Harold Hughes Reserve

December 13. 9am-2pm

Saturday,

All enquiries to 0490 852 753

FIREWORKS NOTICE:

Notice to all animal owners in and around Leongatha area.

A Fireworks display will be held on the Friday. December 12, 2025.

Approx. 9:00-9:15 pm

Please ensure your animals are secure at this time, thank you.

Further info contact, 0430 021 100

HELP IS AS CLOSE AS THE TELEPHONE

PUBLIC NOTICES

ROADWORKS:

Roadworks will take place on Bass Highway at Wonthaggi, just north of the intersection with Korumburra Road.

The works will commence on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, and aim to be completed by Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

The works involve an extension to the Centre Island.

During this time a 40km work zone speed limit will be in place.

SITUATIONS VACANT

REGISTERED NURSE:

Position **VENUS BAY** Call Alex: 0400 753 502 Email: alex@ adamsupport.or.au

REGISTERED NURSE COORDINATOR:

Position **VENUS BAY** Call Alex: 0400 753 502 Email: alex@ adamsupport.org.au

SITUATIONS VACANT

Ray White.

Property Manager

What you can look forward to is being welcomed into a well known and highly respected team. You will manage all aspects of a manageable portfolio and will receive an abundance of support from a wonderful team. A fantastic remuneration package is on offer and dependent on experience.

Previous property management experience is desired, however, we are more interested in individuals who have the right attitude.

To succeed in this role you'll have:

- Previous property and/or client management experience preferred;
- A current Real Estate Licence or Certificate of Registration (or be willing to obtain one ASAP);
- Exceptional customer service skills;
- Excellent communication skills; • High levels of professionalism;
- The ability to manage and prioritise
- your time: • A valid drivers licence.

In return you'll receive:

- Extensive support and training;
- A supportive and amazing team culture:
- The backing of Australasia's largest real estate network; If this sounds like you, please email

your resume & cover letter to peter. bellingham@raywhite.com, or contact Peter to discuss further 0439 178 653.

DEADLINES

Classified single column Mondays 12.00 noon Classified double column

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.

Fridays 3.00pm

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

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

Employment

Complete jobs listing online www.sgst.com.au

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.



Bookkeeper

Bass Coast Team

Love what you do and where you do it! At Highview, we believe that great work starts with the right people and a supportive environment.

We're an award-winning accounting and financial advisory firm with offices across Victoria and Queensland, and we're looking for an experienced Bookkeeper to join our Bass Coast team, based in Wonthaggi.

Key Duties:

- Bookkeeping & payroll processing
- BAS preparation
- · Liaising with the ATO
- Assisting with client queries
- Bank reconciliations & general bookkeeping tasks.

About You:

- Experienced in Xero, QuickBooks Online, MYOB & Reckon
- Strong communication skills
- Public Practice experience preferred
- Primary production industry experience essential

Why Join Us:

- Flexible work options and hybrid arrangements
- Study support and ongoing professional development
- Clear career progression pathways

This is a permanent full-time role. Applicants must have full Australian work rights.

Keen to learn more? Send your CV and a cover letter sharing why you're the right fit for the role to our People & Culture Manager, Rosanne Brownlee, at rosanne@highview.com.au.

BASS COAST COLLEGE

ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN A CARING AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT

STUDENT SUPPORT – EDUCATION SUPPORT LEVEL 1, RANGE 2

Student Support – Education Support Level 1, Range 2 Five days per week, 8.30am to 3.45pm (0.82 Time Fraction) Job ID: **1509148**

Student Support – Education Support Level 1, Range 2 Five days per week, 8.30am to 3.45pm (0.82 Time Fraction) Job ID: **1509145**

Student Support – Education Support Level 1, Range 2 Five days per week, 8.30am to 3.45pm (0.82 Time Fraction) Job ID: **1509126**

Student Support – Education Support Level 1, Range 2 Three days per week, 8.30am to 3.45pm (0.49 Time Fraction) Job ID: **1509151**

Applications need to be made via School Jobs Vic:

www.vic.gov.au/school-jobs

ALL POSITIONS ONGOING, to commence Tuesday, January 27, 2026 **Applications close:**

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 Contact: Gabe Windsor on 5611 4000

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 3.00pm

Sentinel-Times



PICES is seeking a

Secretary and Treasurer

We are a dynamic, not-for-profit membership organisation exhibiting contemporary artworks from the Bass Coast and beyond.

Our Secretary or Treasurer's role offers you an ideal opportunity to enrich your community engagement, supported by our proactive and supportive committee. No need to be an artist nor live on Phillip Island.

Email an expression of interest and short CV or queries to pices3922@gmail.com by Friday, December 19.

For more information on PICES go to pices.com.au



Labourer/ Handyman

Two part-time jobs at Yanakie, travel time and good wages paid.
Suit willing candidates able to start asap.

David 0409 080 610



ACHIEVING SUCCESS IN A CARING AND CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT

CLASSROOM TEACHERS

Classroom Teacher – **English**Full Time, Fixed-Term:
January 27, 2026 to April 19, 2026
Job ID: **1509379**

Classroom Teacher – **Physical Education**Full Time, Fixed-Term:
January 27, 2026 to April 19, 2026
Job ID: **1509387**

Classroom Teacher – **Food Technology** Full Time, Ongoing, to commence January 27, 2026 Job ID: **1509362**

Classroom Teacher – **Generalist**Full Time, Fixed Term:
January 27, 2026 to January 26, 2027
Job ID: **1509371**

Applications need to be made via School Jobs Vic: www.vic.gov.au/school-jobs

Applications close Thursday, December 11, 2025 Contact: Leith Cummins,

College Principal on 5611 4000



Station Manager

Lead our vibrant community radio station South Coast FM is seeking a skilled business manager to oversee operations, manage staff, and drive our strategic vision. This part-time role (30 hours/week) offers the opportunity to make a real impact in regional media and community engagement.

About the role:

- Manage daily operations and staff performance
- İmplement business strategy in collaboration with the Board
- Ensure compliance and financial accountability
- Foster community connections through local broadcasting

What we're looking for:

- Proven business and people management experience
- Strong organisational and communication skills
- Understanding of media operations or community organisations
- Passion for community radio and local engagement

Permanent position \$35.55 - \$40 per hour + super Flexible office/remote arrangements

To apply, or for more information, contact Nicky Chung via phone: 0475 871 589 or email: president@southcoastfm.au

Roads get worse, and Victorians get nothing

LESS than one per cent of Victorians seeking compensation for damage to their vehicles caused by the state of the roads have been successful this year, according to evidence heard by a Parliamentary committee on Wednesday, November 26.

The Public Accounts and Estimates Committee was told 196 Victorians have made claims for damage arising from the roads so far this year, but just one of those was successful.

It comes as Department of Transport and Planning figures provided to the committee show how dramatically the Allan Labor government has failed to meet its own road maintenance targets.

The Department itself identified road maintenance as one of its failures in 2024/25, with just 500,000 square metres of road patching achieved in regional Victoria against a target of more than one million.

That target has been revised down again this year to just 70,000 square metres.

Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien, said Labor can't manage money, can't manage roads, and it's Victorians paying the price.

"Our roads are going backwards at a rate of knots, and Victorians are suffering damage with no compensation at a time of a cost-of-living crisis.

"Recently, we saw several dozen motorists suffer tyre and wheel damage from a massive pothole on the Princes Highway at Nar Nar Goon, and the odds are none of them will receive any recompense from the government.

"It was extraordinary to hear Department Secretary Jeroen Weimar say he was proud of his Department's performance on roads when every Victorian motorist can see how badly they are being maintained.

"The Committee also heard the government patched 200,000 potholes over the financial year – that's nearly one for every hundred metres of state government road in the state, and that figure has not improved in the past three years.

"Pothole patching is not a measure of success; it's a measure of how badly the government has failed on preventative maintenance of our roads."

Labor's digital-only licence renewal freezes out thousands of hunters

THOUSANDS of Victorian hunters face a licence renewal headache as the state government moves to an online portal, according to Shadow Minister for Outdoor Recreation, Melina Bath.

Under current rules, hunters must renew duck and quail licences online via the Game Management Authority (GMA)'s My Game Licence portal, requiring an individual email address and completion of online education modules.

Ms Bath has criticised the move, calling it discriminatory and impractical.

"Minister Steve Dimopoulos is burying the truth, Labor's digital-only approach is locking out law-abiding hunters who simply don't have internet access or digital skills," Ms Bath said.

"This is an equity issue. Many hunters live in areas with poor connectivity or limited infrastructure."

Viotoria has thousands of licensed

Victoria has thousands of licensed duck hunters, with a significant number required to renew each year.

Many hunters struggle with the mandated online system, and a large proportion cannot complete the process independently.

Labor and the GMA have created a licensing system that measures digital literacy instead of hunting competency.

Ms Bath said Minister Dimopoulos must immediately reinstate a paper-based pathway to ensure hunters aren't unfairly excluded from renewing their licences.

"Minister Dimopoulos must act now

and provide a paper-based option for education modules and licence renewal, so hunters aren't unfairly excluded.

"Labor must stop testing digital skills instead of hunting competency."

FORM 7



Court Chaos, back, from left, Imogen Lockhart, Gavin Board, Olivia Watson, Josh Truman (Best and Fairest Boy Award), Hannah Carew (Best and Fairest Female Award), Carly Zammitt, and Shane Long. Absent: Jason Zammitt. Jaguars, front, Charlene Birkett, Amaya Malcolm, Codi Duscher, Lucas Ton, Sharlotte Hogan, Claire Satchwell, Eva Brown, and Vivian Carfarae. Absent: Bailey Duscher, Felicity

Chaos erupts as champions

WONTHAGGI and District Netball Association wound up its 19th Annual Charity Mixed Senior Competition on Sunday, December 7. What a beautiful evening to play netball, the sun was out and no wind, which was so much better than the wet season's games.

The Grand Final saw a solid and very polished Court Chaos, whom were undefeated throughout the draw play The Jaguars, whom had a few players missing, but gave it their all. However, Court Chaos just wouldn't let the Jaguars get

full momentum. It was worth watching all the talented, clean and constant intercepts. There were many very skilful plays. Congratulations to both teams on getting to the Grand Final. Court Chaos 39 to 18

Thank you to all the captains for entering their teams and also to the umpires for supporting this annual event. Collectively, it was a terrific and fun competition. The funds raised this year will be donated to the Wonthaggi Owl Ute Community Pantry.



Pictured at the first South Gippsland Swimming Association carnival of the season are head coach Lorri McKenzie, club president Bec Kranen, team captains Brooklyn Packer and Jayden Saario, along with four of the Sharks' younger swimmers - Lyndsay and Georgia Kranen, Maycie Campbell and Navy Morehouse; with a generous cheque donation by Pakenham Trophies & Awards.

Strong start to the season for Leongatha Sharks

THE Leongatha Sharks made a splash experienced swimmers stepping up to hosting the first South Gippsland Swimming Association carnival for the 2025-26 summer season, welcoming more than 100 swimmers from four clubs across the region.

Swimmers from Leongatha, Korumburra, Corner Inlet and Phillip Island gathered for the exciting season opener, which showcased both experienced competitors and enthusiastic newcom-

A highlight of the carnival was the introduction of the club's new timing system, making it easier for swimmers to track their progress and improvement throughout the season. The system received positive feedback from competitors, coaches and families alike.

The event also highlighted the strong community spirit within the South Gippsland swimming clubs, with many support and encourage the newer members.

"It was fantastic to see all the families and clubs pulling together to make the day so enjoyable for the kids," a club spokesperson said.

"It was also great to see the club captains being so involved and really making the younger swimmers feel comfortable. The atmosphere was positive, supportive and full of excitement."

With a successful carnival now behind them, the Leongatha Sharks are looking ahead with enthusiasm and confidence as the 2025-26 season gets underway. The club is also looking forward to competing at the upcoming carnivals held at the region's beautiful outdoor pools and is excited to support the other clubs in the same way they so strongly supported Le-

Land Acquisition and Compensation Act 1986

Notice of Acquisition

Compulsory Acquisition of Interest in Land

The South Gippsland Shire Council declares that by this notice it acquires the following interest in part of the land contained within Certificate of Title Volume 9935 Folio 127:

Interests acquired: An easement in gross for drainage purposes over the land marked E-1 on the Plan below, the terms of the easement are as set out in Schedule below.

The acquisition is made pursuant to section 112 of the Local Government Act 2020 for the purpose of drainage infrastructure.

A notice of intention to acquire the interest in the land was served on 22 September 2025.

Published with the authority of the South Gippsland Shire Council.



For and on behalf of the South Gippsland Shire Council

CATHERINE REISKE Signed: Name: Catherine Reiske, 27 November 2025 Date

SCHEDULE

TERMS OF EASEMENT TO BE ACQUIRED (DRAINAGE)

1. Definitions

In these Terms of Easement:

- (a) Grantee includes the Grantee's administrators, successors, transferees, assigns, lessees, licensees, employees, agents, contractors and sub-contractors, each of whom may exercise the rights granted under these Terms of Easement;
- (b) Grantor includes the Grantor's administrators, successors, transferees, assigns, lessees, licensees, employees, agents, contractors and sub-contractors; and
- (c) Permitted Purposes means the activities described in clause 2
- (d) Works means pipelines and any other works and items in connection with or incidental to the use of the Servient Land for drainage purposes

2. Permitted Purposes

The Grantor grants to the Grantee the full and free right and liberty for the Grantee, at all times, to carry out the following activities on the Servient Land:

- (a) construct, install, lay or place the Works in, on or under the Servient Land;
- (b) enter and remain upon the Servient Land and obtain ingress to and egress from and pass over the Servient Land with or without plant, machinery, vehicles, equipment or materials;
- (c) use and operate the Works;
- (d) inspect, modify, maintain, repair, monitor, alter and replace the Works;
- (e) temporarily locate and store plant, machinery, vehicles, equipment and materials in connection with the purposes described in clauses 2(a) to 2(d) inclusive;
- (f) keep the Servient Land free of anything (whether above or below ground) which is or may be an obstruction to the rights hereby conferred by these Terms of Easement, including, without limitation, structures and vegetation;
- (g) without limiting any other power or right granted under these Terms of Easement, exercise any rights, powers, duties and functions of the Grantee that arise under any legislation from time to time or under any licence granted to the Grantee under any such legislation.

3. Ownership of Works

Despite any rule of law or equity to the contrary or any affixation of Works on the Servient Land, the Works will at all times remain the property of the Grantee and may be left in, on or under the Servient Land

4. Grantee's covenants incidental to the easement

- (a) The Grantee acknowledges that the Grantor may continue to use and enjoy the Servient Land so long as that use and enjoyment does not interfere with the rights of the Grantee under these Terms of Easement.
- (b) The Grantee must when exercising the rights conferred by these Terms of Easement: (i) do as little damage to the Servient Land as is reasonably practicable;
 - cause as little interference to the operations of the Grantor on the Servient Land as is reasonably practicable; and
 - (iii) as soon as reasonably practicable after completion of those works, restore the surface of the Servient Land to as nearly as reasonably possible the condition in which the Servient Land was immediately prior to the commencement of the work.

5. Grantor's covenants incidental to the easement

- (a) The Grantor acknowledges and agrees that the Grantee must at all times, have uninterrupted access to the Servient Land.
- - (i) plant or permit to be planted any trees or shrubs on the Servient Land;
 - (ii) erect any structure, foundation, pavement or other improvements on the Servient Land (iii) undertake any excavating or digging or similar activities on the Servient Land
 - (iv) do or permit to be done any act, matter or thing on the Servient Land or on any land in the proximity of the Servient Land which interferes or is likely to interfere with the rights conferred on the Grantee under these Terms of Easement or with the Works unless with the prior written consent of the Grantee (which consent may be withheld in the Grantee's absolute discretion).
- (c) Where the Grantee provides consent in accordance with clause 5(b) of this Terms of Easement, the Grantee may as a condition of consent require that the Grantor enter into a deed of indemnity under the terms of which the Grantor indemnifies the Grantee against all suits, actions, claims or demands for any compensation, damages, expenses or costs arising out the matters the subject of the consent.

Nothing in these Terms of Easement affects or limits the functions, powers, duties, rights or obligations of the Grantee under any statute which applies to the Grantee, including those which may apply to the Assets and where necessary these Terms of Easement must be read down to the extent required to give the relevant statutory provision legal effect.

7. Interpretation

In these Terms of Easement, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (a) the singular includes the plural and vice versa; and
- (b) where any form of the word 'include' is used it is to be read as if followed by the words 'without limitation'
- (c) An agreement, representation or warranty in favour of 2 or more persons is for the benefit of them jointly and severally and an agreement, representation or warranty on the part of 2 or more persons binds them
- (d) Unless the contrary intention appears, the word "person" includes a firm, a body corporate, an unincorporated association or an authority.



Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club is a recipient of the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grant of \$20,730 - a contribution towards a new All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV).

All-Terrain Vehicles an essential vehicle for Venus Bay SLSC patrol

VENUS Bay Surf Life Saving Club were a successful recipient of the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grant of \$20,730, and secretary Richard Moore said the grant is a contribution to the purchase of a new All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) for the club.

"The ATV is an essential piece of lifesaving equipment for the club. Also known as a "Side by Side Vehicle" (SBSV), it is a four-seat off-road vehicle that is used for all our beach patrolling," said Mr Moore.

"It carries lifesavers and their gear (including rescue tubes and boards) to and from the beach, and also tows our inflatable rescue boats down to the beach and launches them for pa-

Once on the beach, the ATV provides essential mobility for the lifesavers to be able to attend rescues beyond Beach One. Venus Bay beach is more than 20km long and has five access points, known as Beaches One-Five, with only Beach One being patrolled. It is ranked the third most dangerous beach in Victoria, with an average of 23 rescues annually, and it is also ranked as a high-risk beach due to its high swell, strong rip currents and lack of shelter from ocean swells.

'Since the implementation of the Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) at the entrances to Beaches One-Five, it is increasingly important that we can get to Beaches Two-Five quickly, and the ATV allows us to do that, as the only vehicular access is via the beach itself," Mr Moore explained.

"The ATV allows us to carry lifesayers with critical first aid and rescue equipment (e.g. defibrillators, spinal boards) to these remote sections of the beach quickly. Ambulance Victoria and Police are unable to access these areas, making our ATV essential for emergency response and patient transport.

"We always maintain a fleet of two ATVs, and as one of our current ones is reaching its end of life, the new one will be essential in our ability to continue to provide a safe beach for holi-

Rennie claims equal seventh at Australian Junior Titles

nior surfer, Scarlett Rennie of Phillip Island, has finished equal seventh at the Australian Junior Surfing Titles, progressing through to round four in a week of unpredictable conditions in Wollongong, New South Wales.

In round three, competitors made the most of an increased southerly swell, and with two - to threefoot punchy runners on offer, they got to work before the competition site moved mid-morning from Thirroul Beach to Sandon Point.

Despite challenging surf, Scarlett said she was proud of how she approached her heats – particularly round three, heat seven, where she put together one of her strongest performances, securing a combined score of 8.06, finishing 3.75 points clear of Western Australian competitor, Poppy Vernon.

"I really wanted to attack every wave. The conditions were small and pretty



Phillip Island Junior Scarlett Rennie on Round 1, Heat 4 U14 Girls at the Australian Junior Surfing Titles in Wollongong, New South Wales.

choppy. I went into that heat with a positive mindset. I was happy to surf strongly throughout the heat and finish all my turns," said Scar-

The competition was tightening up, and every heat mattered, but Scarlett said that the best part about the Aussies was surfing in the Victorian team.

"Surfing is such an individual sport, but at the Aussies we can all come together,"

"We are all really close, and it's such a fun environment supporting each other."

Scarlett made it to round four, finishing third in heat one with 7.92, needing a 3.55, placing her an equal

seventh at the Junior Titles. However, Scarlett, who said she prefers to surf bigger waves, said she has been trying to go out in smaller surf to get better in smaller conditions.

"There's been lots of practice at Smiths on small onshore days."

Scarlett's been coaching with Surfing Victoria through the emerging talent program with Adam Robertson and James Easton, which she said has been great. She has also been working with Phillip Island Boardriders Club (PIBC) captain Walter Hiatt, which I'm loving," she said.

"I'm really looking forward to the first State round at Bells at the end of January. It's always fun to travel to surf new sports, and we had so much fun in Wollongong.'

Rain didn't stop the SGB GSI 9 swimmers



Gippsland swimmers showed their determination, taking on the GSI 9 in the rain in Warragul.

THE weather didn't dampen the spirits of the 150 swimmers competing at GSI 9, hosted by Warragul Swimming Club on Saturday. December 6. The swimmers from across Gippsland gave their all, with many trying to get qualifying times for the Country Swimming Championships in January.

The weather went against many of them, and they are hoping for better weather in Sale in January for their last chance. It was also a great opportunity for many of the juniors to have another go at racing outside, an experience that they won't forget as the heavens

opened on them.

The mental strength of the swimmers was on show, with them bouncing back after races to give their all in their next race.

The swimmers were incredibly thankful for the officials who were out in the weather, helping to ensure the meet could go ahead.

All attention turns to MSAC, where the State Long Course Championships begin, with relays and the 1500m events starting on Wednesday and running through till Monday, with 103 swimmers from Gippsland being part of the event.

Spectacular haul leaves the boat

NINE anglers from Andersons Inlet Angling Club ventured out from San Remo on Wednesday morning, December 3, aboard the Sharon Lee II with Island Offshore Charters. The weather was good, and the fishing was excellent, with a good variety of fish caught.

The Sentinel-Times can ertainly attest to impressive haul passing them on the jetty upon their return.



TUESDAY December 9

4.03am 1.77m

9.28am 0.63m 3.38pm

1.51m 9.42nm

WEDNESDAY December 10

4.50am 1.73m

10.17am 0.58m 4.30pm

11.08am 0.53m 5.23pm 1.44m 11.18pm

THURSDAY

December 11

5.35am

1.68m

0.35m

FRIDAY December 12

6.17am 1.61m 11.58am

0.50m 6.20pm 1.39m

SATURDAY

December 13 12.03am

0.47m 7.00am 1.54m

12.46pm 0.49m 7.27pm 1.34m

SUNDAY

December 14 **12.47am** 0.59m

7.40am

1.47m 1.34pm

0.48m 8.36pm

MONDAY December 15

1.33am 0.71m

8.20am 1.40m 2.23pm

0.48m 9.40pm



Mirboo North Golf returns to the fold

WHEN Mirboo North's cyclone hit the town in February 2024, the worst affected areas fell along a relatively narrow path, from the eastern entrance to town, through the swimming pool area to the recreation re-

The golf course was at ground

In a matter of minutes, an estimated 600 to 700 trees were torn out by the roots, many of them huge natives, and it took members two days just to cut their way down Galvins Road to the clubhouse, and the best part of two weeks to clear fallen trees and limbs from the tees and greens.

They were closed for four months, and it almost broke them.

But, nearly two years later, and with a power of work behind them, the course has never looked better and it's onwards and upwards for a picturesque, challenging layout that still enjoys the best of its bush setting.

"It's been a lot of work, but the course is looking great at the moment," said newly elected president Neil Rutledge recently.

In other good news coming out of the Mirboo North Golf Club, the organisation has rejoined the South Gippsland Golf Association District (South Gippsland Golf Inc) after a long time away, as a member of the West Gippsland Association.

"We just think it's a better fit for us now with clubs like Meeniyan, Korumburra, Foster, Woorayl and the others. There are a lot of big clubs in West Gippsland; Warragul, Moe, Traralgon and Garfield, and we felt like we were getting a little lost. We're looking forward to it," said Neil.



Mirboo North Golf Club captain Peter Draper says the course looks substantially different to what it did before the February 2024 cyclone ripped out hundreds of trees, but some say it has never looked better.

Mirboo North is set to field a couple of teams in the South Gippsland Pennant Competition, including a Division 1 team, and as part of their welcome back into the fold, they look set to host the pennant final in 2026.

Club captain, Peter Draper, is looking forward to it.

"We hosted the country week team across here recently for some practice rounds, and I think quite a few of them were surprised how tough the course was," said Peter Draper.

"Tim Trail set a new course record the other week, after we changed the ninth to the 18th, which I think is a much better finishing hole, and he carded a 69, so no one is really tearing it up.

"We'd like to invite all South Gippsland golfers to come across and give it a go," he said.

The opening hole is something of a hit and hope off the tee, with the flagstick unsighted below the hill. The second tee has you hitting away towards the forest and there's plenty of interest up hill and down dale before you return to the clubhouse on the new ninth hole.

Take the opportunity to test yourself at Mirboo North, before or after Christmas, and you're sure to be pleasantly surprised with how you find it.



Whether it's up hill or down dale, there's a lot to interest golfers of any standard at Mirboo North.

Local football clubs share in road safety awareness funding

LOCAL football netball clubs Dalyston, Bass Coast Breakers, Fish Creek, Korumburra Bena, Meeniyan Dumbalk United and Poowong have shared in statewide grants of up to \$10,000 each for promoting road safety in their communities.

AFL Victoria-affiliated football and netball clubs from across Victoria were invited to apply for the program and show how they supported road safety throughout the year, including taking part in the TAC's Road Safety Round and promoting the 'Be the Difference' message.

were Rewards allocated based on the demonstrated efforts of the clubs.

Only a handful of clubs, including the Garfield Football Netball Club, received the maximum grant of \$10,000, recognising an outstanding level of commitment to road safety.

Around 44 per cent of successful applications came from regional Victoria, where serious road trauma risk is highest. Successful clubs can use the money for a range of initiatives, including education programs, club transport initiatives, new equipment and uniforms.

Head of AFL Victoria, Greg Madigan, said grassroots football clubs are often the heart of local communities, meaning they are a great platform to promote behaviour change and awareness.

"Footballers in regional communities cover hundreds of kilometres on the road each season, travelling to and from games and training, so road safety needs to be front of mind for us all.

"Throughout this football season, many of our clubs have demonstrated a significant commitment to promoting road safety and education, and on behalf of AFL Victoria, I am thrilled to see those clubs rewarded for their efforts through the TAC Club Rewards Program."

Alambee Mirboo and District Tennis

Association

SECTION 1 Results:

Leongatha 5.38 defeated Westernport Red 3.26, Koonwarra v Westernport White – WASH OUT, Korumburra v Outtrim -WASH OUT

Ladder: Leongatha 63, Westernport White 42, Koonwarra 40, Korumburra 37, Westernport Red 35, Outtrim 23

Section 2 Results

Outtrim v Leongatha – WASH OUT, Baromi v Korumburra -WASH OUT

Ladder: Leongatha 45, Baromi 45, Korumburra 36, Outtrim 34

Another round was interrupted with wet weather, with only one match able to be played. Leongatha's Section 1 side travelled to San Remo to play Westernport Red.

The Gatha Round next week is a great social day and is a great way to welcome in the Christmas break. For further details on the Gatha Round, please visit the 'AM and D Tennis Association' Facebook page or contact the Secretary, Noelene Cosson, 0438 551 605.

Martin Carlson Foundation supports Team Shorin Kempo



Team Shorin Kempo are competing at the MKA National Championship in Sydney last week.

FOUR young people have been sponsored by the Korumburra-based Martin Carlson Foundation to attend the 2025 Okinawa Rookies Cup in Japan this week.

The four competitors from Casey Elite Martial Arts travelled to Okinawa assisted with part sponsorship of four thousand dollars from the Martin Carlson Foundation.

Trustees Gary Brittle, Darren Polglaise and Dennis Halloran said they were proud of Team Shorin Kempo and were happy to have assisted them on their journey.

Casey Elite Martial Arts said it was a great way to support young athletes while being part of their journey and success on the world stage.

Australian Champion Anika took first place at the recent MKA National Championships in Sydney with team mates Ankitha, Nehaal, Josh and Nate all finishing in the top five.

A podium finish is always great, but for developing athletes experience is the name of the game, according to Casey Elite Martial Arts.

"We are so proud of our young people, which proves that anything is possible and dreams can come true. Think of the skills and experience that this brings back to our community and inspiration moving forward."

Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun, event 271

THE air was warm, and it looked like summer as 50 participants met for their favourite Saturday morning activity. With a brief shout-out to all the visitors and volunteers, they were off.

Participants enjoyed congratulating people on their great work and then chatting at the finish line about their favourite parkrun events, or summertime plans.

This week was also International Volunteer Day, and the Grand Ridge Park Run have a great team of volunteers that assist and make the events so welcoming and inclusive.

The teamwork was seen this week as the finished tokens were out of order, which almost led to Joe earning 10th place instead of 1st. This was easily sorted out over coffee and with the help of many great minds.

Thank you to the volunteers this week, Robert Gray, Julia Groves, Leon McDonald, Carmel Quirk, Steve Quirk, Evie Samarias, Rebecca Samarias, Greg Smith, Audrey Valentine and Libby Belton.

RIGHT: The Grand Ridge Park Run start line hustle with 50 people eager to travel five kilometres.



SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025 | **51**

SPORT | BOWLS



Linda Newman, Jan Clark and Rhonda Rattenbury celebrated another win at Breakaway Bowls on Monday.



The winners by one at Breakaway Bowls on Friday were Graeme McAlpine, Mandy Irvine and Gordon Peters.



The winners of Jack Attack at the Foster Bowls Club were RAM, Adam, Roxy and Molly.



Andrew Krantz, Roger Wittingslow, Laurel Lee and John Cook won the Thursday social bowls at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



Robyn Coulson (3), John Nicholson (S), John Williams (2) and John Kappler (L) were the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners.



Best one game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group were Peter Taylor (L), Louis Magri (S), Max Williams (2) and Neil Andreatta (3).

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

THE club has the same winners again.

There may need to be some practice in the off time.

The winners were Linda Newman, Jan Clark and Rhonda Rattenbury.

They finished with +14.

Another great day was had on Friday, with relaxation being the order of the day.

Winners with +5 were Graeme McAlpine, Mandy Irvine and Gordon Peters.

They finished with +5 – winners by one.

Good job, guys.

FOSTER

LAST Wednesday's Jack Attack was the last round of competition.

Some solid wins for the night will see a reshuffle for the top four in Section B and Section A's Minor placings may have changed.

Can't divulge till next week at presentation night.

The winners for the night were RAM, Adam, Roxy and Molly, receiving the Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored by Roosters Plumbing and Earthmoving.

The runners-up for the evening were Edmund F, (a rename for the unknowns), Ethan, Mae and Lucas, winning the chocolate prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

As usual, the night was finished off with some great raffle prizes from the club, Prom Meats, Cellarbrations and Jasmine. Awesome thanks to all.

This week is the final night with bowls and presentations and Chrissy dress up.

Be sure not to miss it.

Some great Pennant results for Midweek with both Divisions bringing home the wins.

Division 1 battled it out with Phillip Island to win with two rinks up.

Division 3 did the same over San Remo.

Saturday Pennant saw very different results for both divisions.

Division 3 took on the challenge of Port Welshpool – a formidable team on its home green, and anywhere for that matter. Two rinks were holding their own until rain interrupted play, changing the rink conditions.

Sadly, the losing margin grew, and the rest is history.

Division 4 had a great game away at Phillip Island, but couldn't quite manage the win, going down by only six shots.

The club is still holding its own overall in ladder positions.

It just needs to keep up the good work in the second half of the season.

INVERLOCH

INVERLOCH Bowling Club held its usual social bowls day last Thursday.

It was a very unusually hot and windy day.

Thirty-two bowlers attended to play two games of 10 ends with a social lunch break in between.

Two teams won both their games.

Runner-up on the day with 31 points was the team of Bill Brown, Sue Floyd, Nic Van Grunsven and Keith Cousens.

The winning team with 35 points was the team of John Cook, Roger Wittingslow, Andrew Krantz and Laurel Lee.

KORUMBURRA

IN MIDWEEK Pennant, Division 1 went to Wonthaggi with the only bright light being Katrina Evans, who had an 18 all draw. Grumpy went down 21 shots to 18 and Ben Peachey lost 29 shots to eight.

Division 2 visited Lang Lang and came home victorious.

Cheryl Moore won 29 shots to 18, Peter Hearn won 22 shots to 15 and Jim Garnham won 20 shots to 16 – well done to all concerned.

In Saturday Pennant, Division 1 hosted Tarwin Lower and came out victors.

Charle Edgarton won 30 shots to 11, Shane O'Loughlin won 23 shots to 10 and Rob Cosson won 22 shots to 15.

Division 3 travelled to Lang Lang. Rob Sund went down in a close one 18 shots to 19, Jo Lomagno lost 28 shots to 15 and Grumpy went down 23 shots to nine.

Division 4 travelled to Inverloch. Andy Robertson won 21 shots to 20, Peter Hearn lost 16 shots to 20 and Ken Parkinson lost 35 shots to six.

The club enjoyed a very well-presented Christmas dinner on Friday night with more than 70 enjoying a beautiful meal.

Well done to the caterers.

LEONGATHA

ONLY 10 teams entered the Mixed Medley on Thursday, which was a bit short of what was expected.

Unfortunately, this meant numbers were down this year, but it still went ahead.

It seemed most people had a good time.

The first game was a nightmare. Many bowlers were totally confused, which added to the fun and a few laughs.

The day was sponsored by South Gippsland Homes.

Without these sponsors, there would be none of these days, so a big thank you for supporting the club.

The winner was the Foster team of Nancy, Anne, Jenny and Linda with five wins.

Runner-up was Wonthaggi with four wins – Stan Jackson, Joy Phillips, Caz Donohue and Trevor Teer.

Wednesday social bowls winners were Scotty and Michael.

Only 10 rocked up, which with the weather being so nice you would have thought a few more would of come down to play. Never mind, it's a busy time of the year.

Tuesday Pennant saw Division 4 have the bye.

Division 1 travelled to Tarwin but didn't bring home the winning points which would have helped to go up the ladder.

There were only four points in it but it was not meant to be – maybe next time.

Tarwin 62 to 58.

The traders' night is running very smoothly thanks to a number of volunteers.

Whether it's handing out snags, serving up drinks or helping in any shape or form, without you it just wouldn't happen.

The club would like to say thank you to everyone.

Six teams are all on six points and in the running for next week's last game, which will decide who plays off in the big granny.

The pressure is on – who will take home the bragging rights this year?

Congratulations to the Leongatha bowlers who made it to the Region Championship, which will be played at Ballarat.

Good luck to all who are

participating.

Saturday Pennant:

Division 1 had a good win over Mirboo North 63 to 56.

Division 2 had a loss 82 to 59.

Division 5 had a draw. Keep up the good work everyone.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

THIRTY-THREE bowlers attended Lang Lang Bowls Club for the weekly challenge on Thursday, December 4.

They were greeted by a very hot and windy day.

It was a welcome change from the bleak conditions experienced over the last few weeks.

They were signed in by president John Nicholson while Bev and Vern Elliott arranged the teams for the day.

Once the teams were organised, vice-president Vern Elliott welcomed everyone and advised all to remain well hydrated for the first hot day of the season.

A testing day of bowls followed due to the heat and the very gusty wind.

As a result, there was only one two game winner on the unusually low score of 32.

They were Robyn Coulson (3), John Nicholson(S), John Williams (2) and John Kappler (L). Runners-up on a score of 25

were Vern Elliott (S), Peter and Pauline McWilliams (2), Gwen Jeffery (3) and Frank Verco (L). Best One Game with a score of 20 was Peter Taylor (L), Louis

Magri (S), Max Williams (2) and Neil Andreatta (3). Thanks go to Lang Lang members Neville Kitchen for setting up the green, Marianne and Colin

Scales for running the bar, and John Williams for cleaning up afterwards. Also, thanks go to Laurie Bell for

his work in the rooms at the end of the day.

Next week, the club will be at

Loch and District Bowls Club for the weekly challenge.

Please be in attendance by 10am

Please be in attendance by 10am to allow time for the teams to be organised.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another good week at the club.

Tuesday saw Division 1 play host to Korumburra at Wonthaggi on a fine but cool morning.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 68, Korumburra 44.

Division 2 travelled to Fish Creek looking for a win.

Two rinks had draws with the other going down.
The final scores: Wonthaggi 51,

Fish Creek 63.
Division 3 played host to Phil-

lip Island at Wonthaggi looking for another win.

All rinks played well to record

a solid win.
The final scores: Wonthaggi 66,

Phillip Island 46.

Tuesday night saw a very good number of barefoot bowlers on the greens in warm, mild conditions.

ples played on a warm day with a slight breeze.

Both greens were full, which is

Wednesday saw the Turkey Tri-

Both greens were full, which is always a good result for the club.

There were three teams that were four-game winners, with the unlucky team being the Ken Cecil team from Korumburra. Runner-up were the team of Peter Forrest, Marilyn Forrest and Lindsay Meredith from Phillip Island with a score of four wins and 24 shots up.

BOWLS | SPORT



Leongatha Bowls Club's Mixed Medley winner on Thursday was the Foster team of Nancy, Lyn, Jenny and Anne.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Turkey Triples winners were Darren Rowe, Chas Buccilli and Steve Snelling.

From page 52

The winners were Darren Rowe, Chas Buccilli and Steve Snelling with a score of four wins and 36 shots up.

Best game went to the team of Rod Beech, Colin Ormerod and Stan Jackson with a score of plus 19 shots.

much-sought-after Naba Award went to the Cunningham team from Phillip Island.

Thursday morning went off well with good numbers on the green.

There was no social bowls at 1pm as most people were looking for a rest after two days of bowls.

Friday night was a good and busy night with two Christmas break-ups plus

the members draw. The members draw didn't go off, with Ray Hin's name

being called out. Next week it will be worth

\$70.

Joy was a happy meat tray winner, along with Karen, taking home the chicken tray. Norm and Stan each won a brekky pack.

winners Dennis, Mike, David and Paul.

Saturday saw Division 1 venture to Corinella with a win in mind.

Two rinks had wins to record a good result on the day. The final scores: Wonthag-

gi 66, Corinella 55. Division 2 played host to

Fish Creek at Wonthaggi on a day with rain in the air. All rinks played well to re-

cord a good win. The final scores: Wonthag-

gi 80, Fish Creek 37. Division 4(3) had a washout at Tarwin.

Division 4(4) played host to Fish Creek at Wonthaggi. All rinks played well to re-

cord a solid win. The final scores: Wonthaggi 84, Fish Creek 38.

Division 6, also against Fish Creek at Wonthaggi, was looking for another win.

Both rinks played well to record a win.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 37, Fish Creek 25.

Bowls this week: Tuesday: Pennant.

Tuesday evening: Barefoot Bowls - doors open at 4pm, bowls start at 6pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 9.30am and 1pm.

Friday: coaching at 10am. Saturday: Pennant.

Don't forget the Friday night members' draw, now \$70 this week, plus meat trays and other prizes to win.

Doors open at 4pm. Members' draw at 6pm.

good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT WAS another enjoyable week of bowling.

Tuesday's winners were Robert McLaren, Helen Rook, Pat Smith and Eric Thorpe scoring +6 (two games).

Rook, Teresa Ireland, Pam Russell and Theo Scholey+1 (one win and a draw).

Jenny Bakker, Lia Smith

were Max Sweetnam, Glen-

Have a good week and

Runners up were John

Friday saw two teams winning both games. Winners were Ed Henry,

and John Rook with +20. Runners-up with +10da Binch and Ray McCurrie.



The Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were Ed Henry, Jenny Bakker, Lia Smith and John Rook.



Robert McLaren, Helen Rook, Pat Smith and Eric Thorpe won Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls on Tuesday.

ATHLETICS | **Spor**1



Grade 2 students Noah, Freddie, Jake, Tyson and Cayden competed in the junior athletics carnival at Inverloch Primary School on Friday. Tk07 4925



Prep student Will took on the high jump at the junior athletics carnival held at Inverloch Primary School. Tk08 4925

Blue Wrens win junior athletics carnival

INVERLOCH and Kongwak Primary Schools held their junior athletics carnival on Friday.

The carnival gave students from Grade Prep to Grade 2 the opportunity to try out a range of track and field competitions, competing in their house colours.

Ultimately, the Blue Wrens won the day, followed by the Golden Honeyeaters, the Red Robins and the White Seagulls.

PE teacher Rob Van Rooy said the day was a great success.

"We were lucky with the weather, and we had a really great turnout of parents and loved ones to support the kids," he said.

The students prepped for the day by learning about the events during their PE sessions

They also had four practice sessions to get used to the rotations, which allowed the carnival to run smoothly.

The event was run by the Grade 5 students with the assistance of the Grade 6 leaders.

"They were on point all day and did a great job. They really stepped up, and it was a great day for everyone," Mr Van Rooy said.

"Our kids are very active kids, and it's good to be able to give them this sort of opportunity."

New to the athletics carnival were the 2025 Prep students, who were made to feel more comfortable with their Grade 5 buddies there to support them through the day.



Hudson from Grade Prep clears the hurdles at Inverloch Primary School's junior athletics carnival. Tk09_4925



Woorayl Golf Club's B Grade winner and Monthly Medallist Jo Fennell, A Grade winner Jean Hayes, B Grade runner-up Sherrill Winkler and A Grade runner-up Elly Berryman.



Chris Hamilton, Robyn Wilkinson and Marg Johnson were Wonthaggi Golf Club daily winners, with Robyn winning the Star Medallist playoff for 2025.



Korumburra's December Saturday RB MM Winner Julie Hillberg.



Korumburra's December Wednesday MM winner Trudi Mantell.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, December

Stableford: 19 players.

A Grade: Greg Wilson 36 points.

B Grade: Ian Morris 36 points. NTPs: first Wayne Knights, 10th Greg Wilson and 13th Wayne Knights.

Thursday, December 4:

Stableford: 20 players.

A Grade: Steve Duffield 31 points.

B Grade: Peter McMaster 35 points.

NTPs: first Tim Fowles, seventh Rob Gallagher, 10th Steve Rose and 13th Steve Duffield.

Saturday, December 6:

Sponsor: Ray Drummond-Fountain Gate.

Stroke: 43 players. Medal and B Grade winner:

Jack Clink 68 net C/B. A Grade winner: Steve Duff-

ield 68 net. Gross winner: Shayne Harland

NTPs: first Jason King, seventh Mat Wrigley, 10th James Williams and 13th Mat Wrigley.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY we had a perfect Summer's day to play our Dec Monthly Medal kindly sponsored by Tiny Teapot Cafe.

Congrats to Trudi Mantell (25) winning with a handy score of 71nett.

Our 18 hole comp, A Grade was won by Trudi Mantell with 96(25)71. Runner-up and best scratch score: Shelley Snooks 89(17)72.

B Grade winner was Kim Enbom 109(29)80 on c/b Diarne Maskell 119(39)80.

BDTL went to Julie Hillberg 73net and Lyn McIvor 75net.

Our nine hole comp was won by Lyn Leppin with 7pts.

NTP's on the first Gail Beer (Kelly's Bakery), seventh (2nd shot) Jenny Blackmore (KGC) and 13th Barb Twite (Burra Garden Supp).

We also celebrated our 2025 season with a Christmas dinner and Kris Kringle for all to enjoy! It was great to see so many old and new faces, past and present players, a fabulous night had by

Thursday night was our twilight comp with an extra twist of a 'Joker Hole'.

Congrats to Colette Pearl and Tim Morgan winning with a great score of 25pts having 10pts on their joker hole.

NTP went to Tim on the first. Saturday was our RB MM round kindly sponsored by Luscious Cafe.

Congrats to our Dec Medallist Julie Hillberg winning with a great score of 92(23)69nett.

Runner-up was Lyn McIvor with 72nett. BDTL went to Kerri Besley 73nett who also had the best scratch score of 89, Trudi Mantell 74nett on a c/b.

NTP's on the first (Kellys Bakery) and 13th greens Kerri, 10th green was Karen Sorrell.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, December 2: Stableford.

Tuesday was a Stableford round with a field of 64 members/guests entering the competition.

Overall winner: John McInnes (14) with the high score of the day of 42 points.

A Grade winner: John McInnes (14) with 42 points.

A Grade runner-up: Anthony

Sparkes (12) with 40 points. B Grade winner: Barry Attwood

(16) with 38 points. B Grade runner-up: Norman

Hughes (15) with 37 points. C Grade winner: Bradley Hines

(24) with 39 points. Grade Zeller (24) with 34 points on a

countback. NTP fifth second shot: Peter Waters (23) at 6.00m.

NTP 14th: Rene Zeller (24) at 2.28m. NTP 16th: Neil Gray (7) at

.67m. Thursday, December 4: Evans

Petroleum Par Plus Event. Thursday had a turnout of 77 members/guests hitting off with

a shotgun start and playing a Par Plus round of golf. As always, the club thanks Ev-

ans Petroleum for its excellent sponsorship of the day.

Overall winner: Adrian Banks (27) with +2 on a countback.

A Grade winner: Alan Starkey (10) with -1. A Grade runner-up: John Mc-

Innes (12) with -2 on a countback. B Grade winner: David Richards (17) with +1. B Grade run-

ner-up: Renato Monacella (14) with -1. C Grade winner: Adrian Banks

(27) with +2 on a countback. C Grade runner-up: Michael Gibbons (35) with ± 2 . NTP fifth second shot: Andrew

Smith (17) at 1.91m. NTP 14th: Lyndon Thompson

(29) at 2.35m. NTP 16th: John Ryan (10) at 4.23m.

Saturday, December 6: Monthly Medal Stroke Event.

Saturday saw a field of 54 members/guests entering the

Monthly Medal Stroke Event. Overall winner: Martin Fuller (15) with the low score of the day of -5.

A Grade winner: Jamie Grenville (13) with a score of E.

A Grade runner-up: Nicholas Byrne (12) with a score of +1 on a countback.

B Grade winner: Martin Fuller (15) with a score of -5. B Grade runner-up: Mile Wrig-

ley (18) with a score of -1. NTP fifth second shot: Alan

Starkey (11) at 3.54m. NTP 14th: Renato Monacella

(15) at 3.49m.

NTP 16th: Russell Williams (7) at 4.00m.

Ladies

FORTY-FOUR women enjoyed perfect summer conditions for the 4BBB last week.

Winners on the day were Sue Bowler and Joc Howson with 46 points on a count back from runners-up Bronwyn Debenham and Teresa Bennett.

Down the line balls went to 40 points: Nervl Hopcraft and Else Gedye, Cheryl Borg and Sue Bowler, Nan Meagher and Jenny Teasdale, Jo McNaughton and Karen de Groot, Lianne Adamson and Kay Dumbleton, Colleen Touzel and Jill Steer, Shirley Welsford and Fran O'Brien,

Delia Perry and Glenyce McRobert, Helen Mackenzie and Libby Seebeck, Jenny Fraser and Karen Murchie, Janet Monk and Karen Bear, and Robin Smith and Mel Willder.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, December 2: Stableford.

A Grade: T. Bradshaw, 41 points. B Grade: J Smeriglio 36 points.

DTL: M. Woodall 39, N. Rutledge 36 and N. Whichello 34

NTP: fourth M. Payne, sixth C. James, 13th T. Bradshaw and 16th G. Renwick.

Birdies: 16th T. Tomada. Saturday, December 6: Stroke. A Grade: P. Draper 67 net.

B Grade: F. Fernandez 69 net. DTL: S. McKenzie 69, Tim Traill, T. Whitelaw 71, N. Bickerton and J. McFarlane 72.

NTP: fourth C. Bourne, sixth N. Whichello, 13th F. Fernandez and 16th C. Bourne.

Birdies: sixth Tim Traill, N. Bickerton and J. Hughes, and 13th T. Baker.

Lowest putts: T. Whitelaw (25).

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: December 4. Competition: Stableford 18hole.

Winner: Peter Ali 36. Runner up: Glen Turner 36.

BDTL: Graeme Campbell 35, Malcolm Stephenson 35, Andrew Hooton-Shandley 35 and Gino Hennequin 34.

Results: December 4. Competition: Stableford back nine-hole.

Winner: Peter Sullivan 19: Ball DTL: Secondo Tiziani 18 and Bill Howard 18.

NTP: 17th Secondo Tiziani. Results: December 6. Competition: Monthly Medal

Stroke and putting. Monthly Medal: Gary Youlton

A Grade: Blake Cornelis 69. B Grade: Rohan Todd 69. C Grade: Martin Jays 69.

BDTL to 75. Ball sweep: Jarvis Harvey 69, Rod Walker 70, Frank Loughran 70, Bill Howard 71, Rohan McRae 72, Kevin Bayley 72; Glen Rielly 73, Mat Johnson 73, Messy Chand 73, Jim Jordan 73, Secondo Tiziani 74, Ray Hender 74, Ian McDonald 74, Ross Lovett 74, Ben Clark 74, Eric Van Agtmaal 75 and Aaron Yann 75.

NTPs: Norm Burne second, Rohan Todd fourth, Joshua Kilgour propin eighth; Inoke Baudromo 13th and Ross Lovett money hole 17th.

Putting: Don Paproth 26 putts C/B.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was the Star Medallist playoff for 2025.

Well done to all the girls who won a Monthly Medal during the year, and last month's winner Robyn Wilkinson kept her great form, and a round of the day with 101(29)72 net.

Robyn was also the B Grade winner.

Other daily winners were A Grade Marg Johnson 89 (16)73, and C Grade Chris Hamilton 108 (33)75.

NTP second Marg Johnson, fourth Kaylene Hodgetts and eighth Jenny McRae.

BDL went to Andrea Grenville 72, Donna Brosnan 73, Patsy Britt 74, Geraldine Prentice 75, Bev Sloan 75 and Marg Ryan 75.

WOORAYL

MONTHLY Medal was contested by 19 women in beautiful conditions, sponsored by AG Warehouse.

The format was Stroke, and they had to count their putts.

The A Grade winner with 24, 101, 77 net was Jean Hayes. B Grade's winner and the

Monthly Medallist 35, 103, 68 was Jo Fennell. A Grade's runner-up 77, was

Elly Berryman and the B Grade runner-up 75, was Sherrill Win-BDL: Bev Bridge 78, Janet

Thompson 79 and Carol Johnson 79. Putting was won by Anne Grist

28 putts. NTPs eighth and 11th Sharyn Rayson, and 17th Heather Sul-

HORSE RACING | SPORT



Retiring Treasurer of the Stony Creek Racing Club, Stephen Bradford, was farewelled by committee members Sarah Bourke, Phillip Cavill, CEO Jason Benbow, Robert Meyer, Mary Hefel, Paul Boag, Adam Leys, Tony Livingstone and John Schuijers (president). B63_4925



Eibhlin with strapper Louisa Penn, unlucky to be unplaced in Race 1 at the Stony Creek Christmas Races with jockey Carleen Hefel, who later claimed a win in the last race of the day onboard Magic Drum. B68_4925



Winning connections for the race one owners and trainers of Rodriquez, Joe McGrath, Clive McArthur, Don Hemel, Paul Rodriquez, Dave Jamieson and Rupert, of the Meeniyan Hotel Maiden Plate at Stony Creek. B31_4925



Carl (Big K) and Mark Lynch (back) were joined by Cam Byers, Krista Scott, Cathy and Dennis Anderson, and Ronald Stainsby, all from Inverloch, at the Stony **Creek Races.** B70_4925



Matthew Pavlas from Inverloch and Ingrid Ploke from Cranbourne soaked up the sunshine at the Stony Creek Christmas Races. B36 4925



Jess Lester, Breeanne Adams, Kristy Bourke and Sam Godsmark from Leongatha, Lyndhurst, Nathalia and Euroa celebrated a 40th birthday at the Stony Creek races. $B40_4925$



Geoff and Hery Logan with Sandra Logan and Robyn Davidson from Leongatha and Meeniyan enjoyed a day out at the races at Stony Creek. B71_4925



Tim, Les and Gavin Armstrong from Port Albert enjoyed a glorious day's racing at Stony Creek. B35_4925



Brad October, Jackie Blair, Natalie Donald and Nikita Blair travelled from Traralgon, Boolarra and Toongabbie to enjoy a day at the races at Stony Creek. B34_4925



Lee Ann Elliston and Shirley Skinner travelled from Churchill and Morwell to attend the annual Stony Creek Christmas Race Meeting. B33_4925

WONTHAGGI TABLE TENNIS

THE humble Wonthaggi Table Tennis Club celebrated another fine year of camaraderie and competition with medal handouts to winners, near winners and club champ Jack Duff.

Yeti and his culinary wizardry grilled a barbecue so delicious that rumbled bellies and struck chords with the Richter scale. All food groups were covered and some discovered.

Yeti deserved another medal.

Great work from the committee led by Justin and tireless star performer Trish.

PHILLIP ISLAND **BRIDGE CLUB**

MONDAY saw Caroline Shaw and Anne Hodgson as winners over five and a half tables with 58.5 per

Wednesday was a Nationwide event with five tables competing.

Winners were Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour on 66.2 per cent.

Christmas lunch and a Duplicate 'Red Point' game will be held on Monday, December 15, with an early start at 11am.

STH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE CLUB

MONDAY night play is well on track, led last week by Linda and Grant Austen with an impressive

Then Susan Ruffin and Clive Hope (60.42), Bruce Higgs and Sean Munley (59.72), and Mary Brewis and Neville Chapman (59.03).

Tuesday's Nationwides in Wonthaggi saw Ruth Harvey and Penny Lanser with 60.71, Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston tying, Ruth Stevenson and Anne Gibson (52.08) in N/S.

In E/W, Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd (63.69), Ann Rinder and Neville Chapman (55.36), and Matti Shub and John Quayle (52.98).

Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson scored 57.35 on Friday seated N/S, followed by Matti Shub and John Quayle (55.53), Alan Johnston and Clive Hope (53.91), Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs (52.46), and Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh (51.04).

In E/W, Marie Sands and Maureen Stiles led with 62.92, then Faye Rowlands and Bron Sund (60.68), Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka (58.56). Fred Meiselbach and Anne Marie Tyler (52.28), and Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd (51.69).

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 or secretary Kathy on 0438 859 561.



Bass Valley Primary School's girls' teeball team won the state title for the fifth time in term three.

Three state titles for **Bass Valley Primary School**



The girls' cricket team from Bass Valley Primary School was proud to win its third state title in a row.



Not only has Bass Valley Primary School's girls' softball team won the state title three years in a row, the girls' teams won three state titles across multiple sports in 2025.

BASS Valley Primary School celebrated state titles across three sports recently.

The school's girls' softball, teeball and cricket teams were crowned champions in recent weeks - each for the third year

running.
Bass Valley's girls' teeball team were also state champions in 2019 and 2022.

"Everyone has been really excited for them. They are a pretty modest group of kids, but it was an amazing team effort," Bass Valley Primary School's Jon McCormick said.

education support staff who allowed time for these teams to make it to this level.' The cricket state title was won

"We'd also like to thank the

against St Joseph's Primary School from Warnambool. The match was played at

Junction Oval in St Kilda.

As winners of the state title, Bass Valley Primary School was invited by Cricket Victoria to stay and watch the WBBL Melbourne Renegades vs Perth Scorchers T20 match, and the girls were featured on the television.

The softball championship was played at the Mount Waverly Softball Complex, and the girls defeated Viewbank Primary School to claim the title.

Teeball was played earlier in term three, and the girls won the state title against St Anthony's Primary School, Alphington.

The girls also had to win at a district and regional level to make it through to the state titles.

The girls really put the time into honing their skills in the lead up to these championships," Mr McCormick said.

"They are all really keen and our staff were happy to give them the opportunities they needed to prepare."

This included practices during recess and lunchtimes, and even a few practices after school.

The school thanked coaching staff Mr McCormick, Kylie Lansdown and Todd Smith for their support, and is extremely proud of the girls' extraordinary feat.

Goannas represent

Victoria at National

Championships
THE weather has again stymied the Goannas as both the Over 60s game on Sunday and the Over 70s game on Tuesday

The next game for the Over 60 team

will be an away game against the Barkly

St mob on Sunday, December 14, and

the next game for the Over 70 team will

be the deferred round five game against

the South Gippsland Kookaburras on

Wednesday, December 10, probably at

This year, more than 20 of the Gippsland

For the first time, there have been cham-

pionships in five-year age brackets, with

an inaugural championship for the Over

75 age group, and two rep games for Over

Goannas players have participated in Na-

tional Championship matches.

Toongabbie.

have been abandoned or postponed.

Valuable lessons for U13s after delayed clash with Valley

AFTER a few false starts because of the weather, the LDCA U13s finally got a GCL game against the Latrobe Valley played on Sunday.

LDCA 5/104 def by Latrobe Valley 7/153

Captains Clancee Salmon and Dihen Yuthmika won the toss and elected to bat. Two quick wickets had the LDCA on the back foot early against some really good bowling from the LV boys. Ryder Pedlow 40 played a very mature innings with support from Dihen and Flynn Belvedere 19no, Alfie Russo playing some nice shots late in the innings. The boys recovered well against a very disciplined bowling and fielding display from the Latrobe Valley team.

Needing early wickets Hunter Bettles delivered courtesy of a great catch from Angus Rowe. Bettles is a very promising young fast bowler, swinging the ball both ways with



The LDCA Under 13 team took to the pitch over the weekend. Photo: Andrew Meyer.

good pace. Todd Ferguson then played a good innings for the LV, Todd is a very talented young player, and it took a great catch from Hugo Luff to dismiss him. The LDCA boys kept taking wickets regularly and kept up their enthusiasm for the full 40 overs; however, the LV boys were a bit too

strong on the day. Spencer Ozols ran in hard to claim two wickets, Hunter, Dihen, Louis Sorensen and August Lidstone all claiming one wicket.

The boys will no doubt learn from the experience and continue to improve.

Thanks to Andrew, Owen and Kathryn for their umpiring and

scoring. Imperials for hosting the game and Town for the lunches.

Manders Plumbing and Gas Fitting and MJA Accounting for their continued support of the U13 team.

The U13s next game is Sunday, December 14 v Warragul.

Kookas take on the Yarra Valley Vikings

LAST Sunday saw the resilient Kookas' road trip to Wandin North. Skippa Ol Gryza Wighty won the toss and he and Pete Miller (fresh from representing Victoria!!) opened up.

Milzy then proceeded to maul the Vikings with a dazzling 37. Enter Ian Thorne with an elegant 40no. and Phill Richards 22no to have the Kookas humming at 1/99 at the halfway mark!!

The Vikings then raided and ripped through the Kooka. Old Miner Boys Pieter Loos and Brendon Thomas, both with six, put up stern resistance to get the Kookas to 5/142.

After another sumptuous lunch, the Kookas took the Pill. The vicious Vikings then continued their raid, smashing up 3/144 off only 27 overs to complete a well-earned victory. The best of the bowlers were Phill Richards 2/21, master blaster Loos 1/7 and new recruit Rick Murphy 0/23. Man of the match young Phill Richards. Sometimes the other team, in this case, Yarra Valley are just too good.

The Kookas will continue to have fun playing the game they love.

Kookaburras win inaugural Wilson/Moore perpetual trophy

AT JINDIVICK Cricket Club oval on December 2, South Gippsland Kookaburras visited West Gippsland Wombats for a 40-over per side match in the Over 70s competition.

Having won the toss, Kookaburras' captain Rob Francis (16 runs) opened the batting with Warrick Hayes (17) to set the team up for a good score.

There followed notable notout scores off a 25-ball limit to Fred Debono (13), Pieter Loos (38), Keith Houghton (24) and Neil White (16).

Wombats' bowlers Jim Gregory (2/30) and Russell Vincent (3/16) curtailed the scoring somewhat to a total of 163 runs.

Upon resumption of play after a nice lunch from the home-team members, economical bowling and two runouts limited the Wombats to a total of 96 runs off 40 overs.

Mike Newton (1/23), Keith Houghton (1/8) and Neil White (1/17) took wickets while the rest of the Kookaburras bowled tightly.

Graeme Davey (17) was the best of the Wombat batters.

A presentation of a newly made perpetual trophy was

made to the Kookaburras captain Rob Francis.

This was the first game between the two now standalone over 70s cricket teams.

During the previous five seasons, all over 70s cricketers in West and South Gippsland played for the Wombats only.

This combined team was instigated by John Moore and Trevor Wilson.

Now the two teams will battle it out for a well-designed trophy made by Mike Newton, which is now called the Wilson/Moore perpetual trophy.



John Moore and Trevor Wilson pictured with the trophy that is in their names.

AROUND THE GROUNDS...

NERRENA

DESPITE the threat of inclement weather, Nerrena's A Grade side went out to the Outtrim Recreation Oval, hoping to make a start on the round seven match.

Nerrena won the toss and chose to bat.

"We lost Jack Curtis in the first over and then two wickets fell pretty quickly," club president Zack Trease said.

"We were in trouble at three for five, then we came off for the rain and lost 17 overs."

When the Red Caps returned to the crease, Mitch Clark and Tadgh Gannon hit 63* and 49* respectively, steadying the ship.

Nerrena still has 32 overs left to bat this Saturday.

C Grade managed to get 15

Nerrena was 1/49 before the game was washed out.

NYORA

NYORA's games were washed out across the board on Saturday.

This weekend, A2 will play a one-day match against Koonwarra/LRSL at the Nyora Recreation Reserve, B2 will take on Kilcunda Bass in a one-day match at the Poowong Recreation Reserve, and C2 will have the bye.

When C2 returns in round 11 – the final round before the Christmas break – it will take on Glen Alvie at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve.

Nyora has had a dream start to the season, sitting undefeated on top of the A2 ladder.

However, this one-day match against second-placed Koonwarra/LRSL will determine who the top dog of A2 is just ahead of the Christmas

Koonwarra/LRSL is also undefeated at this stage but is sitting a game behind Nyora on the ladder due to an abandoned match against Kilcunda-Bass in round six.

OMK

ALL grades were washed out for The Diggers over the weekend.

C2 had the bye this week. A Grade managed to play 40 overs against Nerrena.

OMK bowlers Travis Pickering and Jugraj Singh had Nerrena on shaky ground at 3/5

However, the Red Caps regrouped after a break in the rain and recorded a score of

3/118 before the end of the day.

The Red Caps have 32 overs

left to play.

B1 and C1 were called off early in the day due to the

B Grade will play a one-day match against Inverloch, C1 will play Phillip Island and C2 will be back on to play Wonthaggi Club.

OMK's A Grade side is sitting comfortably on top of the ladder and B Grade is in second place behind Wonthaggi Club as the first half of the season looks to wind down before Christmas.

C1 is sitting third on the ladder and the club is hoping to see more success from C2 in the second half of the season

"C2 is yet to have a win. Numbers can be a little low before Christmas, so we are hoping to see them get a few wins on the board after the break," OMK's Jordan Myors said

"A and B Grade have been our most consistent teams, which has been good to see. A Grade hasn't dropped a game vet"

There are two more weeks to go before the Christmas break.

WONTHAGGI CLUB

ALTHOUGH attempts were made to get the round seven matches underway, Wonthaggi Club's games were washed out on Saturday.

A1 managed to play 35 overs against the Imperials at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve.

The Imperials won the toss and chose to bat.

Rowan McLennan faced 21 balls and made four runs before Wonthaggi Club bowler Fraser West claimed his wicket.

The partnership of Lucas Anderson and Aydan Williams made 17 and 33 runs respectively

Williams was caught by Alexander Geyer off the bowling of captain Joel Brann, which saw Imperials captain Jack Ginnane at the crease.

The game was called with the Imperials sitting on 2/65.

B1 managed to get onto the ground for a short time, but persistent rain pushed the clubs to abandon the game.

Club will return to Wonthaggi's McMahon Reserve to play a one-day match against Phillip Island.

C1 will have the bye in round 10 and C2 will play OMK at Bass Coast College's Dudley campus.

South East Metro too good for Goannas

SUNDAY, December 7 saw South East Metro host Gippsland Goanna 50's at South Caulfield Cricket Club – Princes Park #1 (Turf), in round five of Veterans Cricket Victoria 50's Division 1 Saxon Sports Shield

South East won the toss and sent Gippsland in (but Gippsland were planning to bat anyway). Catani CC's Brad McDonald (20) and Churchill's Simon Forbes (16) opened up and got the score to 40, before former Australian O/55's Captain, Richie Saniga, cleverly threw the stumps down at the bowler's end, seeing McDonald short of his ground, going for a quick single.

A steady flow of wickets saw Gippsland 4/46, before Latrobe's Anthony Bloomfield (38) dug in and combined with debutant Adnan Rasheed (40), getting the score to 105.

A further partnership of 43 between Rasheed and Mirboo North's Chris Anders (26*), progressed the Gippsland score to 8/158. The best of the bowlers being Saniga, with 2/18 from six overs.

After a superb afternoon tea, the Gippsland bowlers toiled hard, but the South East Batters were never really troubled, passing the Gippsland score in the 31st over. Best of the batsmen were Andrew Kahoffer, who retired on 50, and Adnan Rasheed, who bowled well with 1/13 from six overs.

Gippsland's next game will be against Ballarat at Eastern Oval (Turf), Ballarat East, on January 18.

LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Mitchell Clark (Nerrena) 63*; Travis Pickering (OMK) 2/24

A2: Matt Donohue (Glen Alvie) 13*; Reuben Foster (Korumburra) 1/3

B1: NO GAMES PLAYED

B2: Lucas Ton (Glen Alvie) 30*; Ben Davison (Koon L/RSL) 3/10

C1: Michael Cleary (Phillip Island) 25; Peter Francis (Phillip Island) 3/8

C2: Karl Aeschlimann (Town) 24; Elijah Le Serve (Nyora) 2/11



Cnr Carneys Road & Bass Highway,

Wonthaggi. 5672 2148



Reuben Foster bowling for Korumburra against Glen Alvie on Saturday. Tk16_4925 LADDERS

LADDERS					ש שו		
Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%		
C GRADE, Div	rision 1		C GRADE, Division 2				
Club	60	2.029	Club	78	2.514		
Phillip Island	60	1.006	Glen Alvie	60	0.825		
OMK	54	0.963	Koonwarra L/	RSL 48	1.638		
MDU	42	1.341	Inverloch	48	1.235		
Nerrena	42	0.960	Nyora	36	0.583		
Kilcunda Bass	36	0.728	Town	36	0.582		
Korumburra	18	0.700	OMK	18	0.529		

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 7 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 (DAY 2)

A GRADE, Division 1

Imperials v Club OMK v Nerrena Town v Inverloch **Phillip Island - BYE** Leongatha Turf Outtrim Scorpion Park 1

Shane Moore John Schelling Ashleigh Stride

A Grade, Division 2

Nyora v Koon L/RSL **G-Alvie v Korumburra K-Bass v Foster MDU - BYE**

Nvora Wonthaggi Turf

Brad Phillips Ken Scrimshaw Michael Thomas

B GRADE, Division 1

Inverloch v OMK Korumburra v Town Club v Phillip Island Nerrena - BYE

Inverloch Turf Korumburra McMahon

Geoffrey Parkinson Les White **Graham Wightman**

B GRADE, Division 2

Geoff Birnie Imperials v MDU **East Campus** G-Alvie v Koon L/RSL Glen Alvie Nyora v Kilcunda Bass Poowong **TBC**

ROUND 10 - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

C GRADE, Division 1

MDU v Korumburra Nerrena K-Bass v Nerrena Poowong **TBA OMK v Phillip Island** Bass 2 TBA Club - BYE

C GRADE, Division 2

Town v Glen Alvie Scorpion Pk 2 Koon L/RSL v Inverloch Koonwarra Club v OMK Wonthaggi SC TBA Nyora - BYE

Subject to Confirmation. Any prospective umpires can contact Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421



Glen Alvie batsman Matthew Donohue playes a straight drive in the A2 match against Korumburra.

Rain plays havoc on another cricket round

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

A WET and unpredictable day left many cricket games in the balance over the weekend.

Among those waiting out the afternoon to see if play could go ahead was Korumburra and Glen Alvie cricket clubs, which were set to play an A2 match at Wonthaggi's Butch West oval.

"It was certainly a rain-affected Saturday. We all want to play as much cricket as possible, but in these cases, a little bit of strategy comes into it. It just adds an element of excitement," Glen Alvie president David Hynes said.

"There are always four types of people in these situations - those who want to play, those who are thinking a little more strategically,

open the bar, and the young guys who are still learning and waiting to find out what to do next."

Korumburra and Glen Alvie waited out the afternoon and opted to take to the ground at around 3.55pm, keeping the two-day format in play.

They managed to play 16 overs before the game was washed out.

Glen Alvie won the toss and chose

Korumburra bowler Reuben Foster made a quick impact on the game, dismissing Steven Smith for a duck.

Archie Donohue's wicket was taken by Harry McNeil for seven runs, and Matthew Donohue and Matthew Dakin made 13* and 11* before the game was called.

"The umpires do a fantastic job

sion," Hynes said.

"Without umpires, there's more pressure on the captains to decipher the rules and come to an agreement. There's still a lot of positives that come out of days like these, and opportunities to learn.

"At this point of the season, it's not as much about the ladder positions. It's more about keeping everything safe and fair for the clubs involved.

Korumburra president Glen Barrett said every result is helpful leading into Christmas.

"A Grade has been competitive this season, so we are right around where we want to be," Barrett said.

"B Grade is still in its development stage, and we are hoping to see them get going in the second half of the season.



Father/son duo Matthew and Archie Donohue added a few runs to Glen Alvie's score in A2. Tk14 4925

AROUND THE GROUNDS...

GLEN ALVIE

GLEN Alvie's C2 side faced seven overs against Koonwarra/LRSL before the game was abandoned.

The highlight of the match was Caroline Moore making her debut as the wicketkeeper.

Nate and Grace Luff bowled to Koonwarra L/RSL batters Ashley Boxall and Alexander Stanley, who each made 13*.

C2's round 10 match will be played against Leongatha

In B Grade, the clubs were on and off the field all day due to the rain.

Koonwarra L/RSL bowler Louis Read bowled brilliantly, which had Glen Alvie on the ropes early.

However, Jack Brown and Lucas Ton steadied the ship before the game was called off due to the rain.

The two-day match format will continue for B Grade this weekend.

THE IMPERIALS

THE Imperials got 35 overs in against Wonthaggi Club before the rain disrupted the A1 game on Saturday.

Club bowler Fraser West bowled Rowen McLennan out early, but Lucas Anderson and Aydan Williams went onto make 17 and 33* respectively.

Captain Jack Ginnane was at the crease with Williams when the match was called off for the day.

Should the Imperials choose to continue batting this Saturday, Club will be defending on reduced overs.

B2 was washed out and will play a one-day match against MDU at Leongatha's East Campus.

For A1, this is the last chance for the Imperials to get a win on the board before the Christmas break.

The Imperials will have the bye during the T20 round.

"We haven't won a game yet, but we've had a few injuries. We are hoping to be back at full strength after the break," Ginnane said.

"In the second half of the season, we will be focusing on our batting performance. Our bowlers have stood up all season, but we've had trouble getting the runs on the board. Our main focus will be getting those decent scores up.

INVERLOCH

INVERLOCH's matches were washed out on Saturday.

Next week, the Stingrays will head to Scorpion Park for a one-day match against Leongatha Town in A1 and B1 will host OMK for a one-day match at Thompson Reserve.

C2 will head to the Koonwarra Recreation Reserve to take on the Cougars.

With the season break in sight, Inverloch is sitting in fifth place on the A1 ladder.

A win against sixth-placed Leongatha Town will be an important one this weekend to stay within reach of fourthplaced Phillip Island.

However, the round eight T20 to finish off the first half of the season will be a challenging one for the Stingrays, as they will come face to face with the undefeated OMK side.



Thomas Blackwell batting for Phillip Island before the B1 match was called off due to rain at Wonthaggi's McMahon Reserve on Saturday. Tk11_4925

KILCUNDA-BASS

THE C1 match between Kilcunda-Bass and Phillip Island was played to a result, despite the inclement weather on Saturday.

Playing at the Cowes Recreation Reserve, Kilcunda-Bass won the toss and chose to bat.

Phillip Island's bowlers were too strong for Kilcunda-Bass, with Jaxen Marshall and Peter Francis taking three wickets

The fielding side stormed through the batting order, with Brent Wallace top scoring with nine runs.

Kilcunda-Bass made 9/54 at the end of 35 overs.

Kilcunda-Bass bowlers Andrew Blackney and Hunter Bettles forced Phillip Island into a similar start, taking out Sebastian Di Falco for one run, Drew Fusinato for a golden duck and Oliver Hodson for

Captain Michael Cleary steadied the ship with 25 runs.

David Ivey and Tony Hornsby got the runs Phillip Island needed with 12* and 1* respectively.

Phillip Island won with a score of 4/58.

A2 and B2 were impacted by Saturday's wet weather.

This weekend, A2 will play Foster in a one-day match at the Bass Recreation Reserve.

B2 has also been reduced to a one-day game and will play Nyora at the Poowong Recreation Reserve.

KOONWARRA L/RSL

RAIN disrupted another game for Koonwarra L/RSL.

Coming up against top of the table Nyora, the Cougars managed to play five overs.

The conditions were slipperv. and the score was at 2/20 when the game was aban-

Koonwarra L/RSL also had no result against Kilcunda Bass in round six due to the weather.

"It would've been good to get a result last week because Kilcunda Bass, Nyora and Koony are all top four sides," Koonwarra L/RSL president Nick Arnup said.

"We'll play a one-day match against Nyora this weekend, which will be interesting. Hopefully we'll be able to get a result."

B2 played 36 overs at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve.

It was a rocky road for Glen Alvie, as opening batsmen Glenn and Archie Moore were dismissed for five and two respectively off the bowling of Ben Davison and Louis Read.

The bowlers' reign continued as Davison and Read went on to dismiss Jarvis Hynes, John Cuttriss and Edward Spiteri-Stevens for ducks.

Things were looking dire for Glen Alvie when the score was sitting at 4/10.

However, Jack Brown and Lucas Ton made 11* and 30* before the game was called off for the day, leaving the score at

The game will continue with reduced overs next.

The C2 match against Glen Alvie was abandoned after seven overs.

Playing at the Dalyston Recreation Reserve, Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bowl.

Ashley Boxall and Alexander Stanley opened for Koonwarra L/RSL and both made 13*.

KORUMBURRA

KORUMBURRA'S Tom Sorrell launched into his 100th game for the club in C1 on Saturday.

Unfortunately, the game was abandoned due to the rain after 15 overs.

Playing at the Nerrena Recreation Reserve. Nerrena won the toss and chose to bat.

Cohen Harris made four runs before his wicket was claimed by Sorrell, and Brian Gannon and Gerard Murphy made 24* and 10* respectively.

Korumburra will return to the ground in round 10 to face MDŪ.

B1 was washed out and will play a one-day game against Leongatha Town at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

Korumburra and Town are sitting at the tail end of the

ladder, so will likely produce a competitive match up.

LEONGATHA TOWN

LEONGATHA Town's C2 side played 13 overs before the match was abandoned against Nyora on Saturday.

Playing at Scorpion Park, Town captain Karl Aeschlimann and Shem Hickey opened well with 24 and 18 respectively.

Third order batsman Melvin Mathew Kezhuvanthanam added 20*.

Nyora bowlers Tristan Dowel and Elijah Le Serve began quickly moving through the middle order, ending with two wickets each before the game was called.

The score was 5/77 when the match was abandoned.

A Grade and B Grade were called off early in the day, and one-day matches will be played this weekend.

A Grade will face Inverloch at Scorpion Park and B Grade will play Korumburra at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve.

Town president Cameron Dowling said the A Grade side is looking forward to coming up against Inverloch and expects it will be an interesting game to watch.

With just two rounds left before the Christmas break, A1 is sitting sixth on the ladder, but has been competitive each week.

MDU

MDU's games were washed out over the weekend.

The B2 side is set to play a one-day match against the Imperials at Leongatha's East Campus.

Both A2 and C1 had the bye. C1 will be back in round 10 to face Korumburra at the Meenivan Recreation Reserve.

A2 has a tough ask in round eight, as it will come up against top of the ladder Nyora.

This will be the last match before the Christmas break and will be a T20 game.

At this point, MDU is sitting sixth on the ladder, and will be looking to put more wins on the board during the second half of the season.

LDCA - DECEMBER 6 HIGHLIGHTS

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

Imperials 2/65 v Club

Imperials Batting: A Williams 33*, L Anderson 17, R McLennan 4,

Club Bowling: J Brann 1/11, F West 1/11, J Thomas 0/5, R Thomas 0/8, M Thomas 0/8

OMK v Nerrena 3/118

Nerrena Batting: M Clark 63*, T Gannon 49*, B Trotmans 1, J Curtis 0, J Kelly 0

OMK Bowling: T Pickering 2/24, J Singh 1/18, V Sharma 0/16, A Trotto 0/15, E Lamers 0/7

Town v Inverloch Day 1 abandoned.

Phillip Island - BYE

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

Nyora 2/26 v Koon L/RSL Day 1 abandoned.

Glen Alvie 2/38 v Korumburra

Glen Alvie Batting: M Donohue 13*, M Dakin 11*, A Donohue 7, S Smith 0 Korumburra Bowling: R Foster 1/3, H McNeil 1/4, J Whiteside 0/26

Kilcunda Bass 2/34 v Foster Day 1 abandoned. MDU - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

Inverloch v OMK

Day 1 abandoned.

Korumburra v Town Day 1 abandoned.

Club v Phillip Island 1/13

Day 1 abandoned. Nerrena - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Imperials v MDU

Day 1 abandoned. Glen Alvie5/60 v Koon L/RSL

Glen Alvie Batting: L Ton 30*, J Brown11*, G Moore 5, A Moore 2.

Koon L/RSL Bowling: B Davison 3/10, L Read 2/8, S Kaneshathasan 0/6, R Pedlow 0/7, C Riseley 0/11

Nyora v Kilcunda Bass Day 1 abandoned.

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

Nerrena 1/49 v Korumburra

Nerrena Batting: B Gannon 24*, G Murphy 10* Kroumburra Bowling: T Sorrell 1/17 Game abandoned.

Phillip Island 4/58 d Kilcunda Bass 9/54

K-Bass Batting: B Wallace 9, D Bettles 7 team Bowling: H Bettles 2/11, A Blackney 2/28 P-Island Batting: M Cleary 25, D Ivey 12* P-Island Bowling: J Marshall 3/13, P Francis 3/8

Club v OMK Game abandoned.

MDU - BYE

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Inverloch 2/42 v Club

Inverloch Batting: D Harris 17, J Foote 10* Club Bowling: R McGuirk 1/24, H Crump 1/6 Game abandoned.

Koonwarra L/RSL 0/31 v Glen Alvie

Koon L/RSL Batting: A Boxall 13*, A Stanley 13* Glen Alvie Bowling: G Luff 0/12, N Luff 0/17 Game abandoned.

Town 5/77 v Nyora

Town Batting: K Aeschlimann 24, MM Kezhuvanthanam 20*

Nyora Bowling: E Le Serve 2/11, T Dowel 2/29 Game abandoned.

OMK - BYE

Local

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

Sentinel-Times



www.sgst.com.au







And they're racing in the Thank You Stephen Bradford Handicap over 1600 metres at the Stony Creek Christmas Races. $B49_4925$

Stony Creek says thank you to Stephen Bradford

WHAT better way for a race club to farewell a long-serving committeeman and immediate past treasurer than to name the feature race for their first meeting of the year the Thank You Stephen Bradford Handicap.

And that's exactly what the Stony Creek Racing Club did.

Perfect weather and an impressive line-up of trainers, including Anthony and Sam Freedman, Peter Moody and Ciaron Maher, with Carleen Hefel and Jason Maskiell among the top jockeys, the Stony Creek Christmas Races attracted a big crowd.

Pleased with acceptances for the day, Stony Creek Racing Club CEO and former jockey himself, Jason Benbow, said trainers and owners had come from throughout the state.

'We're hoping for a thousand racegoers today," Jason said.

"I'd like to be on the other side

of the fence on a day like this."

The Stony Creek Racing Club and its committee extended its deepest gratitude to Stephen Bradford for his unwavering dedication and tireless contributions to the club over the past few decades.

Jason Benbow said Stephen's legacy at the Stony Creek Racing Club had been truly remarkable and the committee was grateful for the commitment he had

shown throughout his time with them.

"As he transitions into the next chapter of his life, we wish him and his family all the very best. Thank you, Stephen, for everything."

Stephen Bradford said the Stony Creek Racing Club was a wonderful club for South Gippsland and punched well above its weight.

"It has a very strong committee

and membership," he said.

Recalling COVID as one of the club's biggest challenges, Mr Bradford said the new stalls and female jockey changerooms during his time as treasurer were great achievements.

"I love horse racing," said Stephen.

With shares in four horses, Stephen is in no hurry to leave the racing industry just yet.

Photos on page 55.

