

68-PAGE  
SUMMER  
TOURIST  
LIFTOUT



Inside: Top beaches, attractions, picnic spots and more...

# IMPACT SIGNS AT KILLER BEACHES

IN THE wake of an horrific run of drownings along the Bass Coast beaches in recent years, Life Saving Victoria and its partner agencies, including the Bass Coast Shire Council, are stepping it up this summer.

And the first thing beachgoers will notice when they arrive at often hazardous locations like Cape Woolamai Surf Beach, Kilcunda Beach and Forrest Caves Beach is a series of different warning signs, some with explicit images.

It's all part of a trial now underway on the Mornington Peninsula and in Bass Coast of new high-impact water safety signs to warn the public when visiting some of Victoria's most dangerous beaches.

One of the signs, co-designed by Life Saving Victoria and Monash University and presented to locals in workshops at Berniniet in Cowes last October, using VR headset technology, is especially graphic.

It depicts a middle-aged man in difficulty, in the water, waving his arms with the words "Drowning deaths have occurred here".

The sign reflects the statistics that males

**By Michael Giles**

are almost three times more likely than women to drown, with the male age group 25-64 accounting for 40 per cent of all drownings in Victoria in 2024-25.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, has welcomed the new initiative.

"These locations are breathtaking but unpredictable. The new signage makes the risks clear and easy to understand, helping people make safer choices before they enter the water. We welcome these upgrades and the detailed research behind them," Cr Halstead said.

Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club President Jason Close, who is involved in the signage trial, welcomed the project reaching this key stage.

"We've seen too many fatal drowning incidents occur at these beaches. It's my hope that this new signage will hit home to people just how dangerous it is to go in the water at these locations," Mr Close said.

Bass Coast Shire Council Coordinator Community Safety and Resilience Nick

Grant-Collins thanked all involved in the initiative.

"This project has been an important collaborative effort of all land managers and stakeholders on the key issue of water safety in the community," Mr Grant-Collins said.

"I encourage visitors to our beaches to heed the warnings on these signs to ensure they keep themselves and their loved ones safe."

The signage trial will run at Gunnamatta Beach, Rye 16th Beach, Mills Beach, Woolamai Surf Beach, Kilcunda Beach and Forrest Caves Beach.

The beaches involved in the trial have been the setting for major drowning tragedies in previous years.

In the worst of these incidents, on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, four family members visiting Forrest Caves from Melbourne's south-east lost their lives in a drowning incident: Jagjeet Singh Anand 23 from Cranbourne, Kirti Bedi 20 from Clyde, Suhani Anand 20 from Cranbourne, and Reema Sondhi 42 from India.

**Continued page 5**



New graphic warning signs, including this one with the message "drowning deaths have occurred here" are being trialled at some of Bass Coast's most hazardous surf beaches this summer.

**Hilltop Estate with 180° Views**

**Craftsman built home on 103 acres**  
470 Densley Rd, Woolamai  
**Expressions of Interest**

**ALEX SCOTT AND STAFF**

1505 Bass Highway, Grantville  
**5678 8433**  
[www.alexscott.com.au](http://www.alexscott.com.au)



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

**RICK NORTH**  
PH: 5678 5190

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



Authorised Daikin Dealer

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

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





## SEASONS GREETINGS



AUSTRALIAN  
WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPES

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
kg



AUSTRALIAN CHERRIES  
500G PRE PACKED

**\$6<sup>99</sup>**  
ea



AUSTRALIAN TRUSS TOMATOES

**\$4<sup>99</sup>**  
kg



AUSTRALIAN SPRING ONIONS

**\$1<sup>99</sup>**  
bunch



AUSTRALIAN EXTRA LARGE  
TIGER PRAWNS

**\$21<sup>99</sup>**  
kg



AUSTRALIAN LAMB LOIN CHOPS

**\$22<sup>99</sup>**  
kg



**INGHAM'S**  
*Always Good*

INGHAM'S CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS

**\$3<sup>99</sup>**  
kg



AUSTRALIAN PORK LOIN ROASTS

**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
kg



SNOWDONIA CHEESE  
150G VARIETIES  
\$5.32 per 100g

**\$7<sup>99</sup>**  
ea



FRENCH STICKS

**\$1<sup>99</sup>**  
ea

*Michael's Bakery*

**GRAB  
A 10 PACK!**

**\$29<sup>99</sup>**  
ea



Carlton Draught or Dry,  
Victoria Bitter or Hahn Super Dry 4.6%  
Cans 375ml x 10 Packs  
or Asahi 5% Cans 330ml x 10 Packs

**2 \$12**  
for

*Multi Buy*



Wolf Blass Red Label  
750ml Varieties

**2 \$25**  
for

*Multi Buy*



Vidal Marlborough Sauv Blanc or  
Villa Maria Private Bin Marlborough  
750ml Varieties

**SAVE 4¢ OFF**  
*On Fuel Per Litre*

Specials available from Wed 17th to Tues 30th December 2025. While Stocks Last.

We reserve the right to correct printing errors. Images are for illustration purposes only.

Michael's IGA Liquor supports the responsible service and consumption of alcohol.



Find us on  
**Facebook**



# Bass Coast crime surges 12.37 per cent

By Chloe Kent

CRIME in Bass Coast has risen by more than 12 per cent in 12 months, with 423 additional offences recorded in the latest crime statistics released this morning.

The figures show local offences jumped from 3417 to 3840 in the year to September 2025, a 12.38 per cent increase on the previous year.

The spike outpaces the statewide trend, with Victoria recording a 10.8 per cent rise overall, equating to an extra 62,671 offences and a total of 634,860 crimes.

Meanwhile, South Gippsland remained largely stable, recording an increase of just six offences over the same period.

According to Victoria Police, repeat offenders remain the most significant contributor to Victoria's overall crime rate, with intelligence showing 6600 chronic offenders committed 10 or more offences during the period.

Number plate theft from motor vehicles jumped significantly in both local areas. Bass Coast recorded 73 offences, almost double the 37 recorded in 2024, and the highest figure in the past decade. South Gippsland recorded 79, an increase of 33 on last year and well above the previous 10-year average of 20.

Theft at farm locations in



**New figures reveal crime in Bass Coast surged by more than 12 per cent over the past year; however, part of the increase has been linked to proactive policing by the family violence division and a rise in reported breaches of family violence orders.** C35\_5125

Bass Coast rose from four to 17, while in South Gippsland, overall offences at farm locations rose by four, driven by an increase in non-aggravated burglaries.

"Opportunistic crimes, including home burglaries, vehicle break-ins, and car thefts, continue to be a major focus for police," Local Area Commander for Bass Coast, Inspector Cath Middleton said.

"With the warmer weather coming up, we encourage the community to take simple precautions, such as removing valuables and always

locking property.

"Our number one priority is community safety, which is why police are on patrol in the community every day and night across Bass Coast and South Gippsland areas to deter crime."

## Bass Coast

Offenders aged 45 years and over topped the alleged offender age group with 374 incidents compared to 260 for those aged 10-17. Alleged male offenders accounted for 1104 incidents.

The largest percentage increase in Bass Coast was

firearm offences, which rose 142.9 per cent from 28 to 68.

Breaches of family violence orders jumped 23.05 per cent to 790, while breaches of bail conditions fell from 67 to 43.

"The family violence order breaches are due to the proactive work of our specialist family violence unit Detectives who work every day to target perpetrators and keep victims safe," Inspector Middleton said.

Serious assaults in both family violence and non-family violence categories declined, while family violence common assault jumped by 22 offences. Drug trafficking fell 72 per cent from 25 to seven offences.

## South Gippsland

Alleged offenders 45 years and over recorded 214 incidents, compared to 129 for 10-17 year olds. Alleged male offenders accounted for 657 incidents and female offenders 190.

Assaults against police, emergency services and authorised officers rose sharply by 375 per cent to 19 incidents. Arson rose 170 per cent, up 17 offences, while obtaining benefits by deception dropped 83.7 per cent.

Breaches of family violence orders rose 6.43 per cent to 414 incidents. Both family violence and non-family violence serious assaults declined.



## Horror start to festive period

SOUTH Gippsland Highway was closed in both directions from the Lang Lang overpass for South Gippsland Highway Korumburra/Leongatha bound traffic and Kettles Road after a collision between a car and milk tanker just before 1pm yesterday.

The driver and sole occupant of the car died at the scene, while the driver of the truck was taken to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Investigations into the circumstances surrounding the incident remain ongoing with anyone who witnessed the incident, with footage or information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or anonymously at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au).

## Leongatha man sentenced for burglary, drug offences

A LEONGATHA man has been sentenced to a 15-month community corrections order and 60 hours of community service for a string of offences spanning two years.

Rhys Wilson faced the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court on Wednesday, December 17 on consolidated charges from 2023, 2024 and January 2025.

The charges included failing to stop under police direction in Leongatha in September 2023, drug possession and possession of a weapon after police intercepted him on an electric scooter in Wonthaggi in March 2024, burglary at a business in The Gurdies in August 2024, and dangerous driving in January 2025.

Mr Wilson was ordered to undergo drug treatment as part of the order.

He has been on remand since January on a separate county court matter and was granted bail on December 12, with a directions hearing set for April 2026.

## Man arrested on five warrants

WONTHAGGI Police have arrested a 32-year-old man at a residential property on Graham Street on Saturday afternoon, December 20.

The man was wanted on five outstanding warrants and was located following a public appeal by police.

Police thanked the local community for the large amount of information provided which led to the arrest.

An application is currently being made to remand the man in custody.

If you know where a wanted person is, contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000 or at [crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime). Information can be provided anonymously.

# Traders slugged with new footpath fees

THERE look set to be some unintended consequences of the South Gippsland Shire Council's new Footpath Trading Permit fees, hitting some of the most vibrant businesses in towns across the shire.

At the heart of the issue is a notice sent to cafe owners, hoteliers, retailers and other traders earlier in the month advising them of a change to the fee structure.

Instead of paying a flat fee of \$140 annually, they'll now pay \$75 a square metre.

While the shire anticipated that the majority of cafes would pay between \$150

By Michael Giles

and \$225, others this week feared they would be paying considerably more.

Leongatha Business Association President Marty Reidy said he had been contacted by cafe operators who estimated they could be paying as much as \$1500 to \$2000 annually instead of \$140.

"This is an extra cost they hadn't budgeted for," said Mr Reidy.

"We want to be promoting an active and vibrant streetscape not taxing it out

of existence.

"Honestly, if this is how it comes out, it sucks."

One local business operator was concerned he might be asked to pay as much as \$3500 annually.

South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor Cr Nathan Hersey said the new fee structure was motivated by equity and was not a money-making exercise.

"However, if we do find some are paying considerably more, we could review it," he said.

A spokesperson for the shire said previously all

businesses paid \$140 but under the new system fees would be based on the size of footpath space used.

"Based on 2024/25 figures, around 150 businesses would see a reduction in fees under the new model.

"Of the businesses with outdoor dining, most would pay between \$150 and \$225. The largest businesses (3) in the shire are expected to pay between \$500 and \$1200."

That's a far cry from the shock calculations by some traders in Leongatha, where they anticipated fees of \$1500 to \$2000 or more.

## Personalised legal services



Phone (03) 5674 2644

23 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch  
[www.basscoastlegal.com.au](http://www.basscoastlegal.com.au)

Servicing all areas.

## Melina BATH MP

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR  
EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon VIC 3844

[melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au)

5174 7066

MelinaBathMLC

## The small local business with a big difference

- ✓ No service agreements
- ✓ No contracts
- ✓ No excess weight charges
- ✓ No on-call charges
- ✓ No equipment removal charges
- ✓ No hidden fees



EPA Registered R000301404

Commercial, industrial and farm services

[accounts@wheelawaste.com](mailto:accounts@wheelawaste.com)

[www.wheelawaste.com.au](http://www.wheelawaste.com.au)

5672 2056





CONTENTS

Entertainment	28-29
Puzzles	30
Real Estate	31
Farming	32-33
Trades & Services	34-35
Classifieds	36-37

FEATURES

Discover South Gippsland  
and Bass Coast **LIFTOUT**

CONTACT

OFFICE:	47 McBride, Avenue, Wonthaggi, VIC, 3995
HOURS:	Monday-Friday 9am-5pm
PHONE:	(03) 5672 1888
EMAIL:	<b>EDITORIAL &amp; LETTERS</b> news@sgst.com.au <b>ADVERTISING</b> ads@sgst.com.au <b>ACCOUNTS</b> accounts@sgst.com.au
MANAGING DIRECTOR:	Michael Giles michael@sgst.com.au
OPERATIONS MANAGER:	Jim Akers jim@sgst.com.au
ADVERTISING MANAGER:	Holly McMaster holly@sgst.com.au
EDITOR:	Rick Koenig
JOURNALISTS:	Andrew Paloczi Bruce Wardley Chloe Kent Nicole May Tayla Kershaw Trent Westaway

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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

ONLINE

sgsentineltimes  
@sentineltimes



www.sgst.com.au

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

AC0757-V51

6 Day  
Weather  
Forecast

SOUTH  
GIPPSLAND



**TUE | Dec 23**  
Showers easing.  
Wind AM: NW 15-20km/h  
Wind PM: W 20-30km/h  
11° **19°**



**WED | Dec 24**  
Shower or two.  
Wind AM: W 25-40km/h  
Wind PM: SW 25-40km/h  
12° **20°**



**THUR | Dec 25**  
Possible shower.  
Wind AM: SW 25-35km/h  
Wind PM: SW 25-35km/h  
11° **18°**



**FRI | Dec 26**  
Cloudy.  
Wind AM: S-SW 15-25km/h  
Wind PM: S-SW 15-25km/h  
10° **18°**



**SAT | Dec 27**  
Sunny.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h  
9° **23°**



**SUN | Dec 28**  
Sunny.  
Wind AM: Light  
Wind PM: E 15-25km/h  
11° **28°**

IN BRIEF

Sealers Cove walking  
track rebuild starts

CONSTRUCTION has started on the major rebuild of the Sealers Cove walking track at Wilsons Promontory National Park.

The walking track to Sealers Cove has been closed since severe storm damage and flooding caused washed-out sections and unsafe conditions along the route.

After extensive planning, environmental assessments and site preparation, crews are now on the ground to rebuild the track to a safer, more resilient standard.

The upgrade will include improved track surfaces and a higher boardwalk to withstand heavy rainfall and coastal flooding.

Parks Victoria Manager of Regional Delivery Andrew Davies said beginning construction on the Sealers Cove walking track was a big moment.

“We’re excited to be able to bring this hike back stronger and more resilient than before.”

Track works will continue through the first half of 2026, with the project expected to be completed by late autumn, subject to weather. Visitors have been reminded that the Sealers Cove track remains closed during construction.

Free water safety sessions  
for kids in January

FREE water safety sessions for kids aged five to eight will be held at Wonthaggi and Phillip Island libraries on January 7.

Myli (My Community Library) has collaborated with Surf Life Saving Victoria (SLSV) to deliver the summer water safety program.

The SLSV education team will teach young kids water safety, lifesaving and emergency response skills in a practical and engaging way.

Participants will learn about

different aquatic hazards, how to identify them and what to do if they or someone else is in danger. The sessions cover supervision and never swimming alone, swimming between the red and yellow flags, identifying people who can help, reading safety signs and checking conditions, life-jacket safety, how to identify and avoid dangers, knowing what to do in an emergency and being SunSmart.

The Phillip Island session runs from 10am to 11am and Wonthaggi from 1pm to 2pm.

New Director of  
Nursing to join SGH

KYLIE Osborne will be joining the South Gippsland Hospital (SGH) team on Monday, January 5, 2026, as the Director of Nursing (DoN) and Chief Midwife.

For the last six years, Kylie has held a senior leadership and management role at Latrobe Regional Health as the General Manager Quality and Innovation, whilst concurrently associated with Safer Care Victoria, as an Academy member of the safety branch.

Prior to these roles, Kylie was the Gippsland Regional Midwife Consultant, supporting birthing services, including SGH, and served as the Chair of the Australian College of Midwives (Gippsland) for a period of time.

In addition to her management and clinical experience, Kylie comes to SGH with a Bachelor of Nursing, Masters of Clinical Midwifery (Major Education) and a Graduate Certificate in Consumer and Community Engagement.

Kylie looks forward to meeting and working with the SGH staff and the community, to contribute to the collective effort of serving and improving the health and wellbeing of the Corner Inlet Communities and more broadly, Gippslanders.

“I’m thrilled to be joining

SGH in this capacity. I have enjoyed working with the capable team at SGH in various roles from outside the organisation, and it is exciting to become an active member of the healthcare team in the new year,” Kylie said.

“I look forward to continuing the great work that Lilli Lush undertook as the interim DoN for ten months following Claire Kent’s five-year tenure in the role,” Kylie acknowledged.

CEO, Paul Greenhalgh is equally thrilled.

“SGH is fortunate to appoint Kylie to the role. She comes with the requisite experience and knowledge required for this critical senior leadership role, and the whole team are already very supportive of her joining us next month.”

Hundreds of nappies  
delivered to families

GIPPSLAND South MP Danny O’Brien has handed hundreds of donated disposable nappies to Vinnies, which will distribute them to families in need across the region.

The nappies were collected through The Nappy Collective’s Giving Project, with Mr O’Brien’s Sale office and The Sentinel-Times serving as local drop-off points.

Mr O’Brien said the generosity shown by the community had once again been outstanding.

“This is a simple but powerful way for locals to support other locals,” Mr O’Brien said.

“Gippslanders have faced more than their fair share of challenges in recent years, yet the willingness of people to donate and look after one another hasn’t wavered.

“These nappies will make a real difference for families who are under pressure.”

Mr O’Brien also thanked the team at The Sentinel-Times for getting behind the initiative.

“It’s been great to have The Sentinel-Times on board this year.

“Its support helped spread the word and made it easier for more people to contribute.”

The Nappy Collective is an Australian charity dedicated to helping families experiencing “nappy stress”, when parents cannot afford enough nappies to keep their children clean, dry and healthy.

The organisation estimates nappy stress affects hundreds of thousands of Australian children each year.

Mr O’Brien said he will continue to support The Nappy Collective’s efforts and encouraged anyone with spare, unused nappies to drop them into his Sale office throughout the year.

“I’m grateful to everyone who contributed and to Vinnies for ensuring these donations reach the families who need them most.”

Applications open for  
rural women’s leadership

APPLICATIONS are open for the Victorian Rural Women’s Network 2025/26 Leadership and Mentoring Program.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence announced the program will help more women take part in professional development to increase their ability to influence their sector.

The 2026 cohort will receive mentorship and leadership training from highly skilled leaders from both industry and government equipping women with skills, confidence and networks needed to participate in leadership and decision-making – advancing gender equality, economic participation and empowerment. Costs are covered for each participant, including a bursary towards accommodation, childcare and travel costs in acknowledgement of the financial barriers that prevent many women from participating in leadership programs.

To learn more about the program, including viewing the program’s guidelines, visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/networks/rural-womens-network](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/networks/rural-womens-network).



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](http://www.bccf.org.au)

Wishing you a safe, happy and relaxing festive  
season from everyone at Westernport Water

Please note that our Customer Service Centre at Newhaven  
will be closed on the following days:

- Wednesday 24 December 2025 (closing at 12 pm)
- Thursday 25 December 2025 (Christmas Day)
- Friday 26 December 2025 (Boxing Day)
- Thursday 1 January 2026 (New Year’s Day)

If you need us while the office is closed, our 24/7 faults and  
emergencies line is always available on 1800 249 090.

**For plumbers:** bookings for recycled water inspections and  
wet tappings will pause from 19 December 2025, with normal  
services resuming on Monday 12 January 2026.



Season’s Greetings



1300 720 711  
[westernportwater.com.au](http://westernportwater.com.au)



# Fuel prices set to stay stable over holidays

WONTHAGGI'S newest petrol station, Mobil, on the corner of Korumburra Road and McKenzie Street (Bass Highway), opened last Thursday, with relief coming at the bowser and opening prices starting at \$1.59 for Unleaded 91 and diesel. But within hours, whilst petrol remained at a low over the weekend and into Monday, diesel jumped by 10 cents within hours, settling at \$1.69.

Recent months have seen fuel prices in Wonthaggi, Leongatha and surrounding townships cheaper than Melbourne's outer fringe, often 30 cents the difference, but last week's even lower prices mean there were certainly a few happy folks around town.

But with prices continuously changing and notorious for jumping up before Christmas, the Sentinel-Times spoke with Stuart Evans of Evans Petroleum to understand what punters can expect at the bowser this year.

"Prices are fairly stable," Mr Evans said.

"We don't expect any major

By Chloe Kent

leaps over the holiday period."

Evans have been kept busy with the hay and silage season exceeding early expectations, and as Mr Evans noted, it's not unusual for new petrol stations to come in with reduced prices initially.

So whilst it still pays to shop around for the best prices, don't forget the rewards cards and discounts. EG Ampol comes in even better than Mobil with up to 10 cents off a litre by stacking discounts, even if it's just the RACV membership and Woolworths rewards card.

While BP Rewards accumulate in \$5 discounts off, as a local business Evans Petroleum are also a big sponsor of many sporting clubs and events around the community too.

So whether you take advantage of lower prices or are loyal to your favourite attendants, drivers can rest a little easier knowing at least fuel prices won't be an unwelcome surprise from Santa this year.



Opening prices were welcomed by residents in Wonthaggi, but diesel quickly jumped 10 cents within hours of Mobil opening last week. C31\_5125

## No news not good news on Inverloch erosion

By Michael Giles

THE long-awaited final Cape to Cape Resilience Plan Report was supposed to be out by now.

It might still arrive in the rush before Christmas.

As much as we might want to blame the state government and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for the delay, the regional partnership of agencies has also had a hand in it, including the Bass Coast Shire Council which we're told was also dragging the chain.

So, what's in the plan? We don't know.

But if the draft is anything to go by, the final plan will identify the storm/tide inundation risks, erosion risks and other coastal hazards and potentially make recommendations for action, although such outcomes are politically charged ahead of an election year.

Recently, in State Parliament, the Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath called the government out on the delays.

"The Cape to Cape Resilience Plan should have been finalised in 2023, but Labor keeps kicking the tin down the road," she claimed.

Will they kick it into the silly season between Christmas and New Year?

DEECA is offering the 'Cape to Cape Community and Stakeholders' another opportunity to attend an online information session on Thursday, January 29 from 4pm-5pm for details on the upcoming 'dune reconstruction and beach nourishment works at Inverloch'.

The contractor for the works, Hall Contracting, will provide an overview of the works and what to expect on the beach during construction, set to start in February 2026, followed by a Q&A.

Go online at the Cape to Cape Resilience Project website and register your interest in attending. The session won't be recorded.

The first of these online sessions featured all the decision makers and was very informative.

## Impact signs at killer beaches

From page 1

The event prompted a major response by Surf Lifesaving Club members, emergency service personnel and other beachgoers which ultimately ended in tragedy.

The design of the signs has been developed through extensive consultation with local communities, lifesaving clubs, land managers and water safety experts, and have also drawn on elements of home-made safety signage put up at a number of beaches by local residents.

The signs, going up in the next few days, will be installed temporarily over summer to complement the current safety signage. The effectiveness and impact of the signs will be monitored, with the trial results aiming to identify the most effective type of sign to communicate key risks at dangerous beaches.

The Coastal Safety Signage Project is funded by the Australian Government through Surf Life Saving Australia's Beach Drowning Blackspot Reduction Program.

The new signs feature a clear warning that "Drowning deaths

have occurred here", the universal hazard symbol, key safety messages in multiple languages, and QR codes linking to online translations and further guidance.

Life Saving Victoria's Empowering Local Visitors project, delivered with the support of local lifesaving clubs, also provided training to Phillip Island Visitor Information Centre staff and volunteers.

"These teams, many of whom are volunteers, play a crucial role," Cr Halstead said.

"Visitors often arrive unfamiliar with local conditions, sometimes following something they've seen on social media. This training gives our staff the tools to step in, offer guidance and put safety first."

In addition to the ongoing local collaboration between Council, Life Saving Victoria, Parks Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, VicPol, Ambulance Victoria and other response agencies, Council has also installed new emergency location markers at beaches across Phillip Island, San Remo, Kilcunda, Cape Paterson and Inverloch.

Eventually these will replace the former "yellow hat" location signs.

Part of a phased rollout in partnership with other land managers, each marker features a unique six-character alpha-numeric identifier linked directly to Triple Zero Victoria's Computer-Aided Dispatch system, providing emergency call takers with precise location and access information.

This summer's campaign builds on three years of collaboration focused on improving understanding of coastal risks, encouraging safer decision-making, and ensuring residents and visitors can easily access vital safety information.

Throughout the peak season, safety messages will appear across local media, social platforms, roadside electronic signs and Destination Phillip Island's Visitor Guide. Messaging is available in multiple languages, with visitors encouraged to download the Surf Life Saving Australia BeachSafe app.

Safety materials are also being shared with short-stay accommodation providers and tourist operators to help inform visitors exploring Bass Coast's beaches.



This is another of the warning signs you'll see at some Bass Coast beaches this summer depicting a bushfire style gauge, this one at Kilcunda listing the danger level at "high" for swimmers.

**ACE INDUSTRIAL**  
**CHRISTMAS TRADING HOURS**

Wednesday 24th 7.30am - 3pm  
Thursday 25th **Closed**  
Friday 26th **Closed**  
Saturday 27th **Closed**  
Monday 29th to Wednesday 31st  
8.00am - 5.00pm  
Thursday 1st **Closed**  
Friday 2nd 8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturday 3rd 8.30am - 12.00

  
**After Hours Emergency Break Down**  
**Service Available**

**ACE INDUSTRIAL P/L**  
BARNESDALE • LEONGATHA • WARRAGUL  
03 5623 1275 • 03 5153 1275 • 03 5623 3100 • 03 5623 4044

**MARY ALDRED**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MONASH

**WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY  
A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

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

 **SCAN TO CONTACT ME**

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



Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



AS another year comes to a close, Christmas gives us an opportunity to pause, reflect, and spend time with the people and places that matter most. It is a time for connection, generosity and care, and for recognising the strength of our community across Bass Coast.

2025 has been an important year for Bass Coast. Council has completed several key strategic plans in partnership with community that will help guide our decisions and investments into the future, ensuring Bass Coast continues to be a great place to live, work and visit. We have also strongly advocated for our community at both Spring Street and in Canberra, making sure local priorities are heard at every level of government.

This year also saw us unite around the future of the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix at Phillip Island. The MotoGP is a much-loved event that plays a vital role in our local economy and identity. The respectful and passionate way our community has come together to support its future is something we are incredibly proud of.

While these achievements matter, what truly defines Bass Coast is its people.

We know Christmas is not always an easy time for everyone. Some in our community may be experiencing loss, loneliness, financial pressure or uncertainty. Others will be working through the holiday period to keep our community safe and supported. We encourage everyone to look out for one another, to check in on friends, neighbours and family members, and to offer kindness wherever you can.

This year has also reminded us of the importance of safety, belonging and respect. The tragic events in Bondi were deeply distressing, particularly for our Jewish community. Everyone has the right to feel safe and welcome in their community, and hatred and violence have no place in Bass Coast.

As we head into the festive season, we ask everyone to take care of themselves and each other. Please travel safely on our roads, take extra care around water, and always follow beach and boating safety advice.

We wish you a safe, peaceful and happy Christmas, and all the best for the year ahead.

# Greens plant Thorn in Bass race

THE Greens have named their candidate for the state's most marginal seat of Bass, with Sophie Thorn joining Cr Mat Morgan on the party's ticket for the 2026 state election.

Ms Thorn is a local mental health worker.

The Bass Coast local joins Bass Coast Shire Councillor Mat Morgan as a member of the Greens team to contest electorates in the state's south east, with Cr Morgan the Greens candidate for the Legislative Council (Upper House) electorate of Eastern Victoria.

Ms Thorn, who has lived and worked across the region for all her professional life, understands that people in her

community are doing it tough in the face of a housing crisis and a lack of climate action that results in related coastal flooding and inundation.

Through Ms Thorn's role as a youth mental health worker, she is connected and ready to fight to protect the wellbeing of the local community, putting environmental protection and economic justice at the core of the campaign.

"As a youth mental health worker, I feel a responsibility to young people in my community. I'll fight to protect the wellbeing of our local community through environmental protection and economic justice," she said.

"I'm committed to ensuring

Bass has leadership that takes care of its most vulnerable people, with access to affordable housing and health care.

"I believe we can protect our environment, fix our health system so everyone has access to the care they need, and we can build more affordable homes."

Led by Eastern Victorian region candidate Mat Morgan, the Greens' team is kicking off a campaign that seeks to empower communities to demand a shake-up of the current system ensuring that the region's most vulnerable people have access to a health system they can count on, homes they can afford and protection of our precious local environment.



Local youth mental health professional Sophie Thorn has been nominated by the Greens to contest the electorate of Bass in the November 2026 state election.

# No fossil fuel investments for Bass Coast Shire

BASS Coast Shire Council has ruled out investing in fossil fuel companies despite the protests of Cr Ron Bauer who said trying to avoid investing in major companies that don't have some sort of fossil fuels in their portfolio is cloud cuckoo land.

"The cross-pollination of shareholdings by all the majors cannot avoid investment in fossil fuels in some way," Cr Bauer said.

"The shire has a legislative responsibility to get the best returns for ratepayers' dollars from wherever it is legally possible."

Cr Mat Morgan said he was happy to see fossil fuel divestment and called for more of it.

"In the political world we

By Bruce Wardley

spend a lot of time focusing on long-term finances, and not enough time on long-term environmental sustainability. These areas are not in conflict, they are actually reliant on each other.

"There's no use having money without a planet," Cr Morgan said.

Council reviewed its investment policy in 2023 and as part of that review made a significant change targeted at increasing fossil fuel divestment as required by Action 35 of council's Climate Change Action Plan.

These changes made it easier for council to divest funds from banks that supported the fossil fuel industry. The

financial risk parameters applied to individual banks and council's portfolio of investments have now been reviewed with no substantive changes.

Council said its investment performance had consistently outperformed the RBA bank rate with yields tracking approximately 0.75 per cent higher than the bank rate.

By maintaining the 0.5 per cent incentive to place funds with banks that do not invest in fossil fuels and having a less concentrated portfolio, council has been able to place funds in second-tier banks that do not invest in fossil fuels.

An analysis of actual performance compared to the best

alternative returns available confirmed the cost impact of the fossil fuels diversion was a modest \$10,000.

"If the loss from council's current investment policy is an acceptable \$10,000, could council credit that \$10,000 against my rates bill," Cr Bauer said.

Cr Jon Temby said the divestment policy would help council meet its related obligations under its climate change plans and help contribute positively to our children's futures.

Cr Jan Thompson spoke in support of the policy, urging councillors to prioritise environmental action.

Bass Coast Shire Council has an investment portfolio of more than \$50 million.

# Question raised over potential flood risk from housing subdivisions

FEARS have been raised during public question time at Bass Coast Shire Council that subdivision of individual house lots could increase the potential risk of flooding to neighbouring properties.

Philip Davy asked if encouraging the subdivision of individual house lots to provide more housing would increase rainfall intensity due to the amount of impervious areas such as roofs and driveways.

"What is council doing to eliminate increased flooding risk?" Mr Davy asked.

Bass Coast Shire CEO Greg Box said council was currently working with Melbourne

By Bruce Wardley

Water to update flood modelling in the Melbourne Water catchment.

"Once the updated modelling is completed the planning scheme will be updated," Mr Box said.

"In addition, our recently endorsed Housing Strategy limits its new housing development in areas subject to inundation. Where town planning applications are received, applicants are required to retard the flow of water to pre-development levels."

In a second question Mr Davy asked if council was

going to reduce senior council employee numbers or alternatively utilise senior officers for consultancy work in an endeavour to bring the council budget deficit under control.

Mr Box said council had reduced the number of senior officers in the last two years.

"While consultants are sometimes engaged for their specific expertise, senior staff oversee or deliver the vast majority of council's projects and services," Mr Box said.

Fred Morris asked for a list of electric vehicles purchased by Bass Coast Shire Council showing the cost for each make, model and on-road

initial cost that included registration and insurance for each vehicle.

Mr Box replied that council had purchased 19 electric vehicles which included Tesla, Kia, BYD and Hyundai models.

"The vehicles cost council on average \$55,000 including stamp duty and registration costs. Insurance costs are paid separately through a commercial arrangement that includes all Light Fleet and Plant vehicles and are not costed individually," Mr Box said.

The individual vehicle purchase prices remained commercial in confidence.



Merry Christmas!

Wishing our readers, advertisers and contributors a very happy Christmas, and a prosperous New Year.

From all at the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times

Our office will be closed between Christmas and Friday, January 2.

Publication date for the first paper in the New Year is Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

Usual advertising and news deadlines apply.

Sentinel-Times

JAZ3703



Merry Christmas to our valued customers

we thank everyone for their support throughout 2025, and send all our best wishes for the new year

Damien, Joanne & Staff

CARPET ONE FLOOR & HOME

dollar curtains +blinds

value in every dollar

please note: closing December 24 and reopening Jan. 5, 2026

dc+b Wonthaggi

21 Murray St, Wonthaggi

Ph. 5672 2915



dollarcurtainsandblinds.com.au

JAZ3712



# Council reopens Cowes streetscape works on time

By Michael Giles

IT'S December 19, 2025, so the first part of the re-development of the bottom end of Thompson Avenue and The Esplanade (east) in Cowes must be finished and open to traffic.

And it is finished and open!

The council has been true to its word, when Senator for Victoria, Michelle Ananda-Rajah, came to town on September 18 this year to "turn the first sod" of the project, when they declared the first part of Stage 1 would be completed by December 19 and the street reopened to holiday visitors and locals in time for Christmas.

And among those giving their seal of approval on Friday were Cowes residents Lou Poortier, Jo Aiello and Frank and Maria Ianno.

Although, Ms Aiello was just as interested in when the shire council is going to listen to the people and introduce a red bin rubbish collection during the summer holidays in the shire's tourism hotspots.

"Yes, it looks good. A big improvement but when are we going to get a weekly red bin collection?" asks Ms Aiello, with plenty of encouragement from her friends.

Cars, pedestrians, bike



**Cowes residents Lou Poortier, Jo Aiello and Frank and Maria Ianno give their seal of approval to the newly-completed road and footpath works at the end of Thompson Avenue in Cowes but also issue a warning to motorists that the 20km/h speed restriction will be enforced by speed cameras.** mg01\_5125

riders and scooters are already making good use of the roadway and pavement past The Hotel, which is getting set to occupy the widened footpath again with tables and holiday cheer.

The widened pavement, protected from passing traffic by a string of stainless-steel bollards, will easily

accommodate the stalls for the summer foreshore markets, and also provide an attractive forecourt for the new Isle of Wight Hotel, when it gets the final all clear from the council.

Council has been asked to comment.

The Island Foreshore Markets return on Saturday, December 27 and run

right through January on Saturday January 3, January 10, January 17 and January 24.

The upgrade project is being delivered through \$8 million funding from the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program along with a Council contribution of \$1.6m.

## Shared path nears finish line

By Bruce Wardley

A DECADE-LONG wait for Inverloch's shared pathway along Surf Parade could soon be over.

Survey works are now underway for the final 550m section between Ozone Street and Goroke Street.

Despite a report from DEECA in May last year which warned of the likely impact of sand erosion and advising against the removal of any more vegetation in the area Stage 3B of the pathway finally appears to be back on track.

Surveys are currently being conducted as part of planning and design work before the project is re-submitted to Bass Coast Council for a final decision early next year.

Bass Coast Shire Cr Mat Morgan said the local community had been waiting for a decade to get this path done.

"I know the community is fairly split on their preferred model, but if I learned one thing from door knocking all of Inverloch last year, it's that the overwhelming majority of our community is supportive of the path," Cr Morgan said.

"Once complete, people will be able to safely ride from Inverloch township, all the way through the surf beach and then connect to the new Inverloch to Wonthaggi trail."

Asked to choose between DEECA's preference for

one-way traffic and parking spaces along Surf Parade, or two way traffic without parking local opinion has been divided.

"Too close to call," was one comment.

"Instead of finishing the footpath and parking in the same manner as the footpath which has already been built with parking and two way traffic, they have cancelled this and given the community two sub optimal options and are actively trying to force the community into accepting one of these two proposals," one resident said.

"Walkers, joggers, park runners, bike riders, beach goers, tourists, seniors, children, those with disabilities will all be impacted."

Traffic modelling undertaken by independent experts found the preferred option of a one-way road and full parking in Surf Parade between Ozone and Goroke Streets offered the most benefit to the community.

The preferred option was endorsed by council in May 2024 and according to Engage Bass Coast a community update could be available by mid-2026 or earlier.

Stage 3B of the pathway is expected to be completed by 2026 subject to funding.

## NO ONE'S UNSINKABLE

To all those Unsinkable Guys out there –

You might think it's safe to have a few drinks around water, skip the life jacket when you're out on the boat or go for a swim without checking the conditions.

But statistics prove that 4 out of 5 drownings are men.

Just remember that no one's unsinkable.

Q UNSINKABLE GUY

RETHINK  
TAKING RISKS  
AROUND  
WATER





Leongatha Secondary College revamp kicks off

By Andrew Palocz

CONSTRUCTION has begun on Leongatha Secondary College's major redevelopment, with works expected to be completed by the end of the 2026 school year.

The project is funded by an \$11.7 million state government grant promised during the 2022 election campaign and included in the 2025 state budget. Works involve building a performing arts centre including a multi-purpose room, a dance and drama space and a food technology classroom, along with an upgrade to the gymnasium that will be extended and modernised.

"We're consolidating a number of the arts and food technology areas, as well as some general purpose classrooms around the outer perimeter and there's a redesign and update to the inside of the building," Principal Brad Hutchinson told the Sentinel-Times, noting there will also be a redevelopment of the ECA centre.

"Where possible, the builders will minimise disruption to usual school days and we will work closely with them to manage disruptions when they are unavoidable," he wrote to members of the school community this month.

Mr Hutchinson acknowledged flexibility will be required in 2026, with PE classes particularly impacted.

That includes the need to use Mesley Hall for indoor activities, and plans to hold classes on the outdoor synthetic pitch and surrounding outdoor spaces.

Without a fully operational canteen available throughout 2026, the school is exploring options such as ordering systems through local businesses.

"We've worked with our colleagues at the primary school and we're going to share a few spaces next year to create some additional classrooms," Mr Hutchinson said.

With the gravel carpark area below the ECA off limits to the public throughout the building project, the school will provide information about intended drop-off and pick-up zones.

Home Cook and BBQ prepares final serve after three decades

By Trent Westaway

A WONTHAGGI couple who have been retail fixtures for more than three decades are preparing to close their Murray Street store and enjoy retirement.

Leanne and Kanen Dicker will retire in the new year, closing their Home Cook and BBQ store in Murray Street.

While there is no set final date of operation, Leanne and Kanen aim to clear their stock before closing.

"The store will close when stocks are depleted, and we believe it will be about three months from now," Mr Dicker said. "We want everything gone."

Kanen and Leanne have been part of the family business since 1994, a timeframe during which there has been quite the evolution.

After first opening as a Retravisation in 1994, courtesy of Kanen and his father Barry, the business soon experienced rapid growth. Purpose-built buildings were later constructed in both Murray Street and Cowes, with the family running two stores at the height of their operation.

When Retravisation exited Australia in its original form, the Dickers transitioned to Betta in 2011, remaining with the BSR Group until the Cowes store closed in 2023. By then, the industry had changed significantly.

"The industry changed and



Kanen and Leanne Dicker are preparing for their next chapter, as they plan to close their doors for the final time in early 2026. W04\_5125

we just felt it was a better avenue to retail people things that they enjoy doing, instead of just general bulk retail, which got fairly hard in the end," Mr Dicker said.

That evolution led to the opening of Home Cook and BBQ in Murray Street in 2017.

Retail has always been a family affair for the Dickers, with their daughter Lucy also playing a major role in the business. Lucy managed the Betta store for four years, but will now be heading to university and starting a family.

It is family more than anything that has prompted Leanne and Kanen to step away from the counter.

"We've been in retail for 34

years," Mrs Dicker said. "Our daughter is having a baby and going on to study, so we want to be there for the grandchildren. It's just time."

Throughout their decades in business, the Dickers have been strong supporters of the local community, sponsoring sporting clubs, foundations and community groups across the region.

"Being a local person and growing up here, you almost feel an obligation to help look after your community," Mr Dicker said. "At our peak, we were sponsoring up to 80 different community groups and foundations. We've never lived beyond our needs, so we preferred to put our profits back

into the community."

As they prepare to close this chapter, the couple say the response from customers has been overwhelmingly positive.

"We've had a lot of customers come in and tell us they're sad to see us go, but in a good way," Mr Dicker said.

Before locking up for the final time, Leanne and Kanen said they wanted to thank the community that has supported them for more than three decades.

"We really do appreciate the support from our community and our loyal customers for giving us the opportunity to supply them with something they love for so many years," they said.

VICTORIA'S  
CONTAINER DEPOSIT  
SCHEME

# HIT A SIX FOR THE PLANET

Donate your refund or  
containers to your local club  
and feel like a million bucks.

Proud Partners



# State acts on French Island koala crisis

By Andrew Palocz

VETERINARY teams have finally begun health checks on starving French Island koalas after weeks of pressure on the state government.

The assessments, which Parks Victoria announced this month, follow reports in The Sentinel-Times and other publications highlighting the plight of the animals.

The Sentinel-Times reported in the November 18 edition the distress of former French Island Ranger Scott Coutts about the koala crisis he said had “been evolving over the last two years”, prompting him to write to various state government ministers calling for action.

“There’s just not the will by the government agencies involved to do what they should be doing,” Mr Coutts said when speaking to The Sentinel-Times about the severity of the situation.

With French Island’s koalas being disease free, their population doubles every four years, Mr Coutts explained. While around 200 koalas a year used to be translocated to suitable habitat on the mainland, that stopped in about 2015.

Mr Coutts said previous successful efforts to limit koala numbers on the island by implanting females with birth control hormones had fallen down because it had not been done



This koala in a stripped gum tree illustrates the crisis situation on French Island.

widely enough in recent years.

The government says the veterinary assessments form part of DEECA and Parks Victoria’s long-term management of koala welfare throughout Victoria.

“This is guided and informed by the Victorian Koala Management Strategy, which was developed collaboratively with Traditional Owners, scientists, veterinarians, animal welfare organisations, wildlife

carers, government agencies from Victoria and interstate, and the Victorian community,” the press release states.

“Parks Victoria is working with DEECA to continue to monitor and respond to the health and habitat of koalas at French Island, as we have done for many years.”

Unlike in other states, in Victoria koalas are not endangered and their population

is secure.

The press release acknowledges French Island’s high-density koala population is putting pressure on the island’s ecosystems, including the eucalypt trees the animals feed on, resulting in both forest canopy loss and koala welfare concerns.

“Parks Victoria is conducting routine health assessments of individual koalas found in areas of French Island where vegetation has been eaten faster than it can regenerate, with each koala individually assessed by qualified veterinary staff,” it notes.

The government departments involved intend to slow population growth by implanting healthy females with contraceptive devices.

To prevent suffering, koalas found to have extremely poor body condition and unlikely to survive will be humanely euthanised.

Where a mother is euthanised, her joey will be relocated to the Phillip Island Nature Park.

“Relocation of large numbers of koalas from French Island is not being considered due to the severe risks to the health and wellbeing of koalas, instead focusing on the long-term healthy sustainability of the local population,” the press release states.

## Labor’s machete madness wastes \$13 million

THE Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath, has slammed the Allan Labor Government for blowing \$13 million on its short-lived “machete amnesty”.

The rollout was plagued with problems from the start, with the safe disposal bin delivered to Wonthaggi Police Station in September lying on the ground as delivery personnel and security struggled to move the heavy bin into position.

“This policy and its \$13 million price tag was an expensive stunt to manage negative headlines,” Ms Bath said.

“Only the Allan Government could spend millions on customised bins and a three-month media circus before quietly removing them,” she said.

Ms Bath said taxpayers deserve answers on how 45 metal bins ended up costing Victorians millions.

“It is naive to think criminals harbouring machetes would hand in their weapons in front of a police station with CCTV surveillance – the only people handing them in were law-abiding Victorians.”

The 40 bins operated from September 1 to November 30, 2025, before being quietly removed after just three months. Those found in possession of a machete without exemption faced fines of more than \$47,000 or up to two years in prison.

The state government’s \$13 million budget included public awareness, retailer education, managing exemptions, manufacturing and installation of bins, and secure collection and destruction of surrendered items. The Premier’s Office confirmed the bins cost approximately \$2400 each.

“Victorians deserve answers on why this program cost them \$13 million,” Ms Bath said.

## Danny O'BRIEN MP State Member for Gippsland South



Wishing you a Happy New Year

📍 54B Cunninghame St, Sale 📞 (03) 5144 1987

✉️ danny.obrien@parliament.vic.gov.au

🌐 www.dannyobrienmp.com.au

📱 /dannyobrienmp

**THE NATIONALS** for Regional Victoria

## Looking for some fun this summer?

Try **Barefoot Bowls** at Inverloch Bowling Club



**Commencing Saturday, December 27  
through to Wednesday, January 7\***

16 RINKS AVAILABLE - MAX. 8 PER RINK

**NOW** two sessions **5pm-6.30pm** and **7pm-8.30pm**

No Bookings - Gates open 4.45pm for 1st session  
and 6.45pm for 2nd session

*Bring your family and friends*

THE CLUB PROVIDES BOWLS AND AVAILABLE RINKS



Basic Training available • Bar refreshments too!

**FLAT SOLE FOOTWEAR or BAREFOOT IT!**

\$12 per person, EFTPOS available

\*Closed New Years Day: Thursday, January 1, 2026  
20 The Esplanade, Inverloch





**South Gippsland**  
Shire Council

## South Gippsland Shire Council News

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As 2025 draws to a close, South Gippsland Shire Council would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, and a safe and happy New Year. Over the next few weeks, many Council services will be closed or operating at different times.

#### Customer Service Counter

Closed from 1.00pm Wednesday 24 December 2025, reopening Monday 5 January 2026 at 9.00am. Council staff will be available on the phone and online from Monday 5 January 2026 at 8.30am.

#### Bin Collections

Properties scheduled to have their kerbside bins emptied on Christmas Day will be serviced on Friday 26 December instead. This affects Leongatha and Leongatha South.

#### Maternal and Child Health

Services will continue to operate (except for public holidays) and are by appointment only. Please call 5662 9294 to make an appointment. For general support please call the Maternal and Child Health support line on 13 22 29.

#### Immunisation

Community Sessions will resume on Thursday

15 January. Visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation)

#### Visitor Information Centre, Foster

Open seven days a week, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Closed on Christmas Day. Phone 1800 630 704.

#### Coal Creek

Open seven days a week, 10.00am to 4.00pm. Last entry at 3.30pm. Closed on Christmas Day.

#### South Gippsland Citizen's Advice Bureau and Visitor Information, Leongatha

Closed from 25 – 28 December and on New Year's Day. Open 10.00am to 3.00pm weekdays and 10.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays. Closed on Sundays. Phone 5662 2111.

#### Waste Management

All transfer stations and the Koonwarra landfill are also closed on Christmas Day. They operate as scheduled at all other times. Check opening hours at sites or at:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

Please remember to travel safely within South Gippsland and abroad. For ideas on where to shop, eat and visit locally, visit:

[www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au](http://www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au)

### Australia Day Photo Competition



Get the camera out and submit a snap to celebrate our region. The theme for the competition is Australia Day: South Gippsland - Our Home. All photos must be taken in, or in close proximity to, South Gippsland.

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

Winners will be announced on 26 January 2026.

For more information, please visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadaycompetition](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadaycompetition)

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 2.00pm.

Details will be available on Council's website: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings)

To watch the meeting live or when it suits you, visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live)

#### GREEN WASTE AMNESTY - LAST CHANCE

Dispose of green waste free of charge at Council's transfer stations until 31 December 2025. It's an ideal time to prepare your property for summer by removing any fire hazards.

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

For more information, visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/greenwasteamnesty](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/greenwasteamnesty)

#### KEEPING GRASS SHORT

All the recent rain has been great for lawns and gardens, but with warmer weather on the way, long, dry grass can quickly become a fire risk. Mowing your lawn now can make a big difference in keeping your home and neighbourhood safe this summer.

Council's Community Safety team have been busy completing inspections of properties with long grass, so it's a great idea to get in early and keep grass short.

Our Open Space and Environment team is also busy slashing roadsides, with this work continuing progressively over the coming months.

#### YOUTH STRATEGY 2026 - 2030 FEEDBACK

Have your say on Council's next Youth Strategy. The Strategy outlines the values of South Gippsland's young people aged 12 - 25 years old, their needs and aspirations, and how Council and

the broader community can support them.

For more information and to complete the survey, visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/youthstrategy](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/youthstrategy)

#### REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

**RFT/456 – Construction of Longstaff Road Landslip Repair (Toora North)**

Tenders close at 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 20 January 2026.

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

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders)

#### CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha  
03 5662 9200

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)





An emotional moment as the late Allen 'Cobra' Summerfield's partner Ruth Howells cuts the ribbon alongside his longtime mate Neil Edwards. W19\_5125

# Cobra's legacy remembered as Summerfield Oval unveiled

MORE than 100 people packed into the Korumburra Recreation Reserve on Saturday, December 21, to see the ground officially renamed the Summerfield Oval, in honour of the late Allen Summerfield, better known to many as 'Cobra.'

Many described it as a lengthy process, but a necessary one to recognise the lasting impact Allen had on Korumburra sport and beyond.

The renaming was officially approved by the South Gippsland Shire Council at its October meeting this year, which was then followed by community consultation period during which no less than every single submission supported the name change.

Proudly amongst the huge crowd were Allen's sisters, Betty Hall, Nancy, Marg Martin and Ann Mackay, who said decades of dedication lead to this moment. "I think it's a wonderful honour for all the work that he did up here, he spent 35 years coming here every day. He did a lot of work for the cricket club and footy club," Ms Hall said.

Despite the sheer size of the occasion, Allen's sisters believed he would have never expected the spotlight. "He'd be very humble I think. He'd be choked up," Ms Hall said.

Ms Mackay touched on the deeper meaning of exactly what this oval meant to her brother, as well as the young players who continue to use the ground today. "He called this field the field of dreams, it's where young kids play and dream of becoming cricketers," she said.

After suffering an accident in 1987 at the age of 24,



Many members of Allen Summerfield's family were in attendance, including his four sisters, Betty Hall, Nancy, Marg Martin and Ann Mackay. W20\_5125

Allen was left in a wheelchair. Despite this setback, he continued to pour his energy into shaping local sport.

"He just loved it. He loved his sport, it's what kept him going. Also he was in a wheelchair, but this he could do. He learned to use the computer, and he was very good on the computer, and he applied for grants, he did a great job," said Nancy.

Longtime friend and former teammate Neil Edwards was adamant that Allen was respected just as much for his character as his sporting ability. "He was an opening bat, very good, but he could also keep and bowl, so you'd nearly call him an all-rounder," Edwards said. "But his biggest strength was the team. It was never about

him, it was always about the team. He was the complete team player."

Edwards, who was also the driving force behind the name change, said the turnout from the day made his two years navigating state and local government processes worthwhile. "To see people turn up like this is huge," he said.

The ceremony took place following Korumburra's narrow loss to Kilcunda in A grade Division 2, but this was far from enough to dampen the mood as laughter echoed across the newly named reserve and people lingered even after the formalities had ended to continue sharing stories about a great man and his now cemented legacy at the club.

Cr John Schelling spoke at the ceremony, detailing his first meeting with Cobra in junior cricket, describing him as a very handy player.

"He commanded respect. If we all do what Cobra did, we'd be better people," he said.

Allen's family wished to convey their gratitude to the local community. "A big thank you to everyone who has pushed for this. It's been a lot of work for a lot of people, and we are really thankful that they've done this for him," Ms Hall said.

The Summerfield Oval now stands as a permanent reminder of a legend of the Korumburra community, who continued to push through every obstacle to give his time, and his heart to the community he loved.

## Mayor's Message



South Gippsland Shire Council

Cr Nathan Hersey



HELLO South Gippsland,

With Christmas almost here and a New Year just around the corner, it feels like a good time to reflect on some of this year's many achievements and consider our ambitions for the year ahead.

### A Year in Review

It has been a big year for Council. In February, we undertook a major community engagement process to help shape our new Council, receiving more than 1,100 pieces of feedback, which played an important role in developing our four-year plan for South Gippsland.

We successfully delivered a \$34 million capital works program. This included major projects such as the Korumburra and Fish Creek Streetscape Revitalisations, the new Meeniyah Hub, redevelopment of the Leongatha and Korumburra railway precincts, and a range of important road upgrades across the Shire.

In addition, we achieved strong advocacy outcomes, including securing a \$4.7 million grant in partnership with Wellington Shire Council to help our region prepare for what's to come with offshore wind development.

A lot has been achieved, however there is still more work to do, particularly with a state election approaching.

Council will continue to advocate to ensure South Gippsland receives the support it needs.

Our advocacy priorities — our "Christmas list" for our local area for the year ahead — include increased rural road funding, disaster recovery infrastructure funding, improved telecommunications and transport, support for community groups, coastal resilience, support for local industry, upgrades to community facilities, improved access to mental health services, and investment in early years infrastructure. It is an ambitious list, but one we are committed to progressing in 2026.

Council will continue to call on the State and Federal governments to deliver services and infrastructure improvements for South Gippsland, to make our communities safer, more liveable and help to make our region a great place to live, work and enjoy. We can't deliver services and infrastructure that are the responsibility of other levels of government, but we will continue to make sure that our local need is known and promoted through Council's active advocacy.

### Reflection

The importance of community has been particularly clear considering last week's tragic terror attack. Like many, I have been deeply saddened by what has happened. On behalf of Council, I again extend our heartfelt sympathy to the victims, their families, the Jewish community, and the Bondi community.

Moments like this remind us how important it is that Australia remains a place where everyone is safe and respected, regardless of their religion, background, or beliefs. South Gippsland is our home, and kindness and inclusion are values we all must share.

### Merry Christmas

It may feel difficult to move from condolences to well-wishes, but the messages are closely connected. This Christmas and into the new year, I encourage everyone to hold loved ones close, show compassion to others, and consider how each of us can support our community.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





### Animals and fireworks

Fireworks displays will be held around Bass Coast to celebrate the festive season. Dogs and horses in particular can be frightened by fireworks, please make sure that your pets are safe and secure when there are fireworks displays in your area.

### Fireworks displays will be held on New Year's Eve (Wednesday, 31 December)

- **Coronet Bay:** 9.30pm, Coronet Bay Foreshore
- **Cowes:** 9.30pm, Cowes Jetty
- **Inverloch:** 9.30pm, Inverloch Recreation Reserve

For more information on these events visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/events](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/events).

## Christmas Office Hours



Council offices and Customer Service Centres will close at 2.00pm on Wednesday, 24 December and will re-open on Monday, 29 December.

### Changed opening hours

**Wonthaggi Customer Service Centre**  
Monday, 29 December to Friday, 2 January, open 10.00am to 2.00pm. Closed Thursday, 1 January.

**Grantville Transaction Centre**  
Closed from 2.00pm on Wednesday, 24 December until Friday, 2 January. Normal hours resume Monday, 5 January.

**Berninneit, Cowes**  
Open daily from 10.00am to 4.00pm  
Closed Christmas Day. Public holidays are Visitor Services only.

**Inverloch and Phillip Island Visitor Information Centres**  
Open daily 10.00am to 5.00pm  
Closed Christmas Day.

### Calling Council

Our call centre will operate from 9.00am to 5.00pm between Monday 29 December and Friday, 2 January, except for public holidays. Our normal emergency after hours service will operate on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 outside of these hours.

# Last minute surge in Christmas shopping

By Bruce Wardley

EXTENDED late night trading and people spoiling themselves with personal gifts appear to have contributed to a last minute Christmas spending splurge.

What started as a subdued festive season for many local retailers has bounced back, with food retailers predicting a chaotic final few days.

Garden of Thoughts in Wonthaggi opened late last Thursday and has been open on Sundays during the Christmas shopping period.

"Online sales are having an increasing impact, but it's been good for December," owner Barb Anne said.

"There's always a bit of spoiling ourselves at Christmas. Unless they're really cash strapped, people like to buy a small gift for themselves."

Michelle Beggs from Kelly's Bakery in Korumburra said Christmas trading had been busier than past years, particularly for cakes and puddings.

"We had to cook an extra two batches of each," Ms Beggs said. "One customer bought 12 gingerbread houses."

Mitchell and Co



**David Humphries from Paws and Ponies in Leongatha with mealworm Christmas candy canes for backyard chooks.** B11\_5125

Traditional Butchery in Wonthaggi has also been very busy.

"Not just turkeys, ham and pork – people have been buying lamb, sausages, burgers and steaks. The final week is likely to be chaotic," Brendan Mitchell predicted.

David Humphries from Paws and Ponies in Leongatha said even backyard chickens can share in the festive season.

"We're a pet shop and it's also Christmas for cats and dogs and chooks."

Paws and Ponies has been selling festive Christmas canes, made of mealworms, for backyard chickens.

"They're chicken heaven," Mr Humphries said.

"People are not going mad for Christmas, but pets are family."

Leongatha Business Association President Marty Reidy said Christmas had been solid but not a bumper year.

"I feel the economy is lifting. People are becoming more confident."

It wouldn't be Christmas without crayfish, and Lachie Duncan of Foster Seafoods has warned customers to expect to pay \$20 to \$30 more for fresh lobster this year as the recently re-opened China market continues to grow strongly.

"Expect to pay \$165/kg this year," Mr Duncan said. "For people who love crayfish, they just want one for Christmas."

## Clearer governance to boost engagement

AT THE South Gippsland Shire Council December meeting, new Governance Rules were endorsed. The new rules are intended to improve and clarify processes, address previous inconsistencies, and strengthen good governance practices, particularly relating to Council meetings.

The rules form an integral part of the Council's Good Governance Framework and are required under the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act). The newly adopted Rules clarify several processes, including:

- **Public Question Time:** Following feedback received during community consultation, the maximum

length for Public Questions has been increased to 200 words per question (up from the 100-word limit initially proposed). The submission deadline for Public Questions has also been adjusted to 24 hours prior to the start of the Council Meeting.

- **Meeting Procedures:** The Rules clarify the process when introducing a motion or an amendment.
- **Petitions:** An updated process for receiving and noting Petitions has been included.
- **Elections:** Changes have been made to the process for the election of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The changes relate to the way Councillors vote for

the candidate in the order nominations are received, and updating the process should there be a tie or no candidate receiving an absolute majority of votes.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Nathan Hersey said the adoption of the Governance Rules 2025 was an important step in fulfilling responsibilities.

"By reviewing and updating the Rules, we are committed to strengthening the orderly conduct of our meetings," said Cr Hersey.

"Council has listened to feedback and subsequently made appropriate changes that increase community engagement with Council, and that support positive and open engagement."



**Myli team member Charlie with some Christmas books and DVDs available.**

## What's on these school holidays at Myli Libraries

LOOKING for ways to keep the kids busy these school holidays? Myli Libraries have a mix of fun, creative and free activities for children and families to enjoy across South Gippsland and Bass Coast. From hands-on craft and games to learning new skills and exploring new ideas, there is something for everyone this summer.

Families can take part in Summer Water Safety sessions presented in partnership with Life Saving Victoria. These sessions will be held in Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Phillip Island, helping children build confidence around the water while learning essential safety skills in a supportive environment.

Creative activities will also be running in multiple locations. Pot decorating sessions will be held in Wonthaggi, Phillip Island, Korumburra and Leongatha, with the team from Bunnings Warehouse joining Myli staff. Children can paint their own pot, plant a seedling and take home a creation they can continue to care for at home. Environmental awareness is also a focus, with Sharing Our Shores sessions, presented by Phillip Island Nature Parks, running in Inverloch and Phillip Island and encouraging young people to learn more about caring for local coastal environments.

A range of local highlights will also be on offer across the region, including Cordial with a Cop in Leongatha, Slime Making in Foster, and Games in the Garden at Poowong Library. Phillip Island will host Mr T's Mathematical Marvels, while creative sessions such as DIY Stickers at Inverloch Library and Space Dioramas at Wonthaggi Library invite children to design and build.

These events are part of a larger Myli Libraries school holiday program, which also includes craft activities, movie sessions and other family-friendly experiences across South Gippsland, Bass Coast, Baw Baw and Cardinia Shires. Bookings for all school holiday events are available at [myli.au/jan26](http://myli.au/jan26), and families are encouraged to book early.

Families visiting their local Myli library or the Myli website can also learn more about the BIG Summer Read, a statewide reading challenge for children aged 0-18 that encourages reading over the holidays, with prizes to be won. If you're not a library member, membership is free, with sign-ups available in person or online at [myli.org.au](http://myli.org.au).

From our team to you:

# Season's Greetings

We wish you a joyful and safe festive season!



LEONGATHA OPTOMETRISTS

JA23714

1800 44 6954

# SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN AT MYLI

Explore craft, games and school holiday fun at your local library!

See what's on: [myli.au/jan26](http://myli.au/jan26)









Cr Ron Bauer receives the full support of council, and also the Member for Monash Mary Aldred, in laying a wreath following the terrorist attack on the Jewish community in Sydney last Sunday.

# Cr Bauer guides response to the Bondi massacre

AS A prominent Jewish man and Bass Coast Shire Councillor, Ron Bauer has been called on to speak on behalf of the Jewish community in Gippsland and the people of Bass Coast and South Gippsland more broadly after the terrorist attack on the Jewish people celebrating Hanukkah in Sydney on Sunday, December 14.

While laying a wreath at Berninnet Cultural Centre in Cowes last Wednesday, and signing the condolence book, Cr Bauer said the events of last Sunday were still very raw.

“Look, I’m probably the worst when it comes to practicing my faith. I’m not an overly religious person, but I am Jewish and I think at a time like this it’s important to stand up and be seen to be Jewish,” said Cr Bauer.

“It’s been a tremendously confronting thing for all of us and not just for people of the Jewish faith. I’ve never seen my wife Nancy cry so much. I had to turn off the tellie at one stage. She’s been overwhelmed by grief and she’s not even Jewish.”

After laying his wreath and signing the condolence book at Berninnet, Cr Bauer spoke about what is by far the worst terrorism incident on Australian shores with 16 dead, including one of the perpetrators

By Michael Giles

Sajid Akram, 50, and 43 injured, including his son, Nav-eed Akram, 24.

• So, Ron, what are your thoughts about the attack on the Jewish people celebrating Hanukkah in Sydney, now a couple of days after the event?

“The first thing is I’m so grateful for the outpouring of emotion towards me as a Jewish person and also as a councillor. It’s been overwhelming the amount of people in the community that have reached out, and I’m very grateful,” said Cr Bauer.

“I think also, this is not just an attack on the Jewish community, it’s an attack on our way of life in Australia, and I think that’s what’s really rocked us more, because when we see this in America and we say, oh those silly Americans with their gun laws. But now it’s happened here, we know it’s more than that.

“I just hope that we can heal and move forward as a community and realise that it is what it is, and we have to be more vigilant.”

• What do we have to do next? Are there things we have to do differently?

“Absolutely, yeah. I think that we have to realise that racism,

whether it’s antisemitism, Islamophobia, or even against the Asian people and other minorities, we have to realise that these are ordinary people, and we can’t stereotype them the way we are doing now.”

• What do you say to the people of Bass Coast and South Gippsland more broadly?

“As I said, first of all, I’m incredibly grateful for the way they’ve reached out to me. I think I’m probably the lightning rod for the community being the Jewish councillor. And the overwhelming Aussie spirit, is the best way to describe it, of mateship, and saying, ‘No, this is not the way we want to live’ is shining through. And I accept that the vast majority of people are fair, open and willing to embrace everybody.”

But Cr Bauer has made it clear. There should be no sugarcoating when official statements are made about the Bondi massacre.

“We need to call it what it is, a terrorist attack on Jewish people celebrating Hanukkah, those three words – terrorist, Jewish and Hanukkah need to be used in any official statement,” said Cr Bauer.

And it was a direction that the Bass Coast Shire Council picked up on after Cr Bauer spoke to councillors during a

briefing session last Wednesday after they’d issued an initially innocuous statement about the shooting last Monday.

At the end of the meeting they issued a photo with Cr Bauer, his wreath, together with Monash MP Mary Aldred and the following words:

“Last meeting of councillors for 2025 with Federal Member for Bass Mary Aldred showing solidarity with Jewish councillor Ronnie Bauer and the Jewish Community after the Bondi terrorist attack”.

A few days later, the Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead addressed “the terrorist attack on the Jewish community” at the San Remo Christmas Carols on Friday night.

“It’s also important to say that some families are going through incredible grief at the moment, as a result of the terrorist attack in Sydney, and our hearts go out to the Jewish community at this time,” said Cr Halstead.

Condolence books are available to be signed at Bass Coast Shire Council offices in Wonthaggi, Grantville and Cowes (Berninnet).

The South Gippsland Shire Council is providing a similar opportunity at its Smith Street shire office in Leongatha.

## Waste collections rubbish, says ‘Red Bin Ron’

By Michael Giles

AT A Council meeting in September 2021, Phillip Island’s Cr Ron Bauer moved a Notice of Motion calling for Council to collect all three waste bins; red, yellow and green, each week of the summer holidays.

But his appeal fell mostly on deaf ears with only former councillor Bruce Kent and the present-day mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, voting in favour.

Each year since being elected in 2020, Cr Bauer has repeated his request, mindful of the rubbish that blows up and down the streets at this time of the year, especially in busy coastal towns, the stench, the unsightly mess, the illegal dumping and the inconvenience caused by fortnightly collections.

“They don’t call me ‘Red-Bin Ron’ for nothing!” he said with a smile this week.

“But I keep getting asked about it all the time. Why don’t we have weekly waste pick-ups especially during the summer like other areas?”

“It’s still a problem, less so as residents get used to one pick-up a fortnight, but the visitors staying in holiday houses don’t have the same mentality as they do at home.

“And it will get even more complicated if we’re forced to introduce a fourth bin, a purple-top bin for glass,” said Cr Bauer.

“I’m not sure how much they raise from short-stay registrations from Airbnbs and the like but those funds are going into general revenue. They could be used to subsidise rubbish collections over the summer, especially on the Island but Inverloch and Cape Paterson are other hotspots,” he said.

The shire will have two cycles of picking up recycling, organics and landfill through the holiday weeks, to find out when, look up the shire’s Bin Calendar for your area.

• Zone 1 collection days – Monday: Cape Woolamai, Wimbledon Heights, Ventnor | Tuesday: Newhaven, Rhyll, Smiths Beach, Sunderland Bay, Surf Beach, Sunset Strip | Wednesday: Bass, Grantville, Pioneer Bay, Jam Jerrup, The Gurdies, Lang Lang | Thursday: Silverleaves, Cowes: December 26, 29, 30, 31 & January 1, January 12-15 & January 26, 27, 28 29.

• Zone 2 collection days – Monday: Corinella, Coronet Bay, Tenby Point | Tuesday: Dalyston, Harmers Haven, Kilcunda, San Remo, Archies Creek, Cape Paterson | Wednesday: Inverloch Friday: Wonthaggi, South Dudley, Wattle Bank: December 22-26, January 5-9 & 19-23.

## RETIRE TO INVERLOCH



2 Sarah Court, Inverloch \$399,000

Sunny Sand Residential Village, an over 50s Premium Lifestyle Village in Inverloch, presently has 2 bedroom Units available for sale  
**Priced: \$299,000 - \$399,000**

*Perfect for retirees and ideal for those looking to travel. Each Unit has a large lock up garage. Lock and leave with confidence.*



37 Julia Street, Inverloch \$299,000

NO INGOING OR OUTGOING FEES. NO STAMP DUTY. MANAGEMENT PAYS COUNCIL RATES.

Enquiries 0408 742 724 View units for sale at [www.sunnysand.com.au](http://www.sunnysand.com.au)



# Wonthaggi Club and Golf Club form Wonthaggi Country Club

THE Wonthaggi Club and Wonthaggi Golf Club have taken a significant step toward shaping a stronger, more unified future for the region, unveiling the new entity: Wonthaggi Country Club. The merger, which has been decades in discussion, reflects a shared commitment to strengthening community connection, modern facilities and long-term sustainability between both clubs.

“The merger creates a stronger, more viable, more modern club with expanded facilities and greater long-term security,” a spokesperson for Wonthaggi Country Club said.

Key positives for the merger include a sustainable future, with both clubs individually facing challenges with long-term financial sustainability, major facility improvements and expanded community value.

“The merged Country Club aims to be a central community hub – supporting sport, social activity, families, juniors, and local groups.”

There will also be benefits to members, with better facilities, more membership value, including broader hospitality offerings, expanded entertainment options, more social events and enhanced sporting opportunities. Current members will retain existing rights, and membership categories from both clubs will be honoured.

For those keen to understand the downsides, they’re pretty negligible, with the transition period and large capital projects the two major upsets regulars would likely notice.

“There will be a multi-year transition before the new structure is fully in place,” Wonthaggi Country Club explained. “And upgrades (clubhouse, irrigation, mini golf, etc.) will take between one and fifteen years to complete. Not all benefits will arrive immediately.”

Those questioning whether it means the exclusive member-only stylings of Augusta or St Andrews will be sorely disappointed, with Wonthaggi’s Country Club set to resemble modern Australian community sporting clubs, where the whole community is welcomed, and community engagement is at the forefront, not exclusivity.

The vision centres on developing a contemporary, multi-purpose Country Club located on the existing golf course site. Plans include expanded hospitality options, flexible event spaces, upgraded sporting amenities, and new recreational offerings designed to encourage participation from families, young people, and visitors. Proposed features include improved golf course facilities, driving-range technology, mini-golf, outdoor activity areas, and future accommodation options.

With this in mind, it’s hoped the merger and future plans will increase visitation to the township, including tourists and short-stay visitors, whilst building on the proud history of the clubs and creating a contemporary, inclusive hub that caters to a wide range of interests, age groups and community needs.

A unified board and modernised management framework will see the inaugural board made up of Rob Geyer (current president of Wonthaggi Golf Club, and passionate advocate of junior development programs and accessibility), Peter Liddle (vice captain of Wonthaggi Golf Club), Christine Hamilton (Wonthaggi Golf Club committee and driving force behind the coaching, mentoring and auxiliary services – e.g. driving range), John Walsh (Wonthaggi Golf Club treasurer), Jason Sartori (president of The Wonthaggi Club), Stephen Scimonello (The Wonthaggi Club board member), Les Brewer (The Wonthaggi Club board member), Peter Bowler and Steve Curtis (general manager of The Wonthaggi Club). Each brings a different set of values to the team, but a united outlook that will genuinely see the amalgamation thrive.

“I can see the Country Club providing a huge asset for the town and broader region, stimulating local tourism, and adding to the town’s prosperity through the visitor economy,” Peter Liddle explained.

Long-time supporter of the amalgamation, Jason Sartori, is looking forward to the benefits the merger will bring.

“Wonthaggi has the capacity to host large-scale events, and my vision of the Country Club is a place where recreation meets business, leisure, health promotion, as well as a place to party where everyone feels welcome,” Jason stated.

The general manager of The Wonthaggi Club, Steve Curtis, is the founding secretary of Wonthaggi Country Club.

“Improvements around the course will need maintenance staff and greenskeepers. From a sports side, there’s the opportunity

By Chloe Kent

for coaching and developing competition-grade golfers,” Steve explained.

“On the hospitality side, we’ll be looking to train up chefs, wait staff, admin staff, as well as function and event staff.

“When the plan comes together, we’re looking at building something great for the town, an offering that will drive tourism, but also attract locals to use our facilities. With a 500-seat function room, well-appointed bistro, event spaces and a real focus on community connection, a new building is at least five years away, but we’re starting the planning now.

“The committee has a vision for a function and events centre that the whole community can enjoy, but more importantly, a business model that is sustainable. The Golf Club has just celebrated 100 years, and this amalgamation will see it last at least another 100 years more.”

Here’s cheers to the creation of a place to gather, play, celebrate and connect.



The Wonthaggi Country Club Board, back from left, Peter Liddle, Rob Geyer, John Walsh, Jason Sartori, and Steve Curtis. Front, Stephen Scimonello, Christine Hamilton and Les Brewer. Absent: Peter Bowler. C30\_5125

You now need to be  
16 or over to have an  
account on social media.



For more details  
go to **eSafety.gov.au**



Australian Government



**eSafety**  
Commissioner

Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra



# Newhaven arts talents to take centre stage

TWO Newhaven College students have beaten thousands of applicants to win places in elite performing arts courses.

Cecily de Gooyer has been selected for the Victorian College of the Arts Bachelor of Fine Arts (Acting) course, one of just 20 students chosen from 2000 applications.

Grace Farmer has been accepted into the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts Musical Theatre course, one of 18 selected from more than 800 applications.

Both courses require rigorous auditions and workshops, and it is rare for students to be accepted directly out of school.

Ms de Gooyer performed as Clio in the college's 2025 production of Xanadu, while Ms Farmer starred in the Year 12 Theatre Studies production of The Unravelling by Finn Kennedy.

Newhaven College principal Tony Corr congratulated both students.

"Bravo to Cecily and Grace," Mr Corr said. "We wish them both all the best on the exciting next phase of their journey."



Cecily de Gooyer in her role as Clio in Newhaven College's 2025 production of Xanadu.



Grace Farmer performs in the Year 12 Theatre Studies production of The Unravelling.



Middle School girls take part in Newhaven College's inaugural Girls Surf program.

## Newhaven students dive into surf safety

NEWHAVEN College Year 5 and 6 students have spent two days at Smiths Beach learning vital water safety skills ahead of summer.

The program, run in partnership with Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club, teaches students board paddling, board rescues, survival swimming and surf lifesaving hand signals.

Club captains Erin Close and Jordan Kuerschner helped deliver the program.

Students also explored local rockpools and learned about hazards including blue-ringed octopuses, practised rescue carries and took part in a surfing lesson.

The program serves as an introduction to the college's Surf Academy, which offers expanded opportunities from Year 7.

In Year 10, students can complete their Surf Life Saving Bronze Medallion, Advanced Resuscitation

and First Aid qualifications through the Surf Safety and Recreation elective.

The college also launched its inaugural Girls Surf program, with 22 girls from Years 5 to 8 taking part.

Guest surfers Sophie Fletcher, Nala Taylor, Kellie McDonald and Sian Adnam coached alongside senior students Finlay Cameron, Jasira Derham, Piper O'Brien and Chloe Hosking.

The program is expected to grow in coming years.



Year 5/6 students Rory Filsell, Alfie Russo, Sam Martindale and Francis Werner at the water safety program at Smiths Beach.



Bearings • Power Transmission • Fasteners • Industrial Supplies

BAIRNSDALE

521-523 Main Street - Phone: 03 5153 1275

LEONGATHA

38 Yarragon Road - Phone: 03 5662 3100

WARRAGUL

13 Endeavour Street - Phone: 03 5623 4444

GET ALL YOUR LAST MINUTE GIFT AND TRAVEL NEEDS FROM ACE INDUSTRIAL

Small Cooler Bag

SALE PRICE

\$36.50



K51800

Portable Power Bank K10335

SALE PRICE

\$89



10,000 mAh, Emergency Light with Strobe Mode USB Cable with 3 Common Connection Types

EDC Tool Kit 7pc

Everyday carry kit with essential tools

SALE PRICE

\$99



K10061

Kidcrome 14pce Kids Tool Set

SALE PRICE

\$49.95



P51950

Combination & Gear Spanner Set Bundle - 24 Piece

P3023

SALE PRICE

\$219



Convenient portable blow mould carry case Big "soft grip" carry handle 1/2" Sockets & Accessories TorqueMaster® Screwdrivers

85pce Portable Tool Kit 1/2" Drive Metric

SALE PRICE

\$399



K1859

A263

TOOLS & INDUSTRY



Tyre Inflator with Dial Gauge 0-160psi / 0-1100kPa

SALE PRICE

\$45

IGen 2500 Inverter Generator Max 2500W, 2200WContinuous

SALE PRICE

\$1199



WP-IGEN2500

Limited Stock

www.ace-industrial.com.au

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025 | 15



# Seeing Through the Haze

By Zulu (Heather Towns)

FOR as long as I can remember, painting has been how I make sense of the world. Not by replicating what I see, but by chasing how it feels. My 'Dancing on the Canvas' series grew from that impulse: to let colour and shape lead where form could not. Each brushstroke felt like a heartbeat, every placement of line and pattern like a measured rhythm. The paintings became a kind of choreography in paint, a structured dance between certainty and surprise.

Yet lately, that dance has changed. My vision, once my most trusted companion, has begun to blur, hazing at the edges like a dream fading in daylight. Next year, I'll have cataract surgery. The doctors assure me it's routine, but no operation is routine to the soul. I've found myself thinking of Monet often, how he painted through his own encroaching fog, chasing light even as it betrayed him. I imagine him leaning close to his canvases, squinting through opalescent mist, desperate to translate what he no longer fully saw.

There's comfort in that kinship. Monet's late works, with their melting edges and muted brilliance, are often described as the product of failing vision, but to me, they are acts of courage. They show what it means to keep making when the very tools of perception grow uncertain. His water lilies shimmer between the seen and the imagined; his cataracts made him, paradoxically, a painter of feeling rather than detail. I find hope in that thought.

Sometimes I stand before some of my paintings, tracing the crisp geometry and the layered grids of colour that define it. Each line deliberate, each intersection a quiet rhythm in motion. It leaves me wondering: have I been interpreting precision through a softening lens, finding harmony within imperfection?

Art, after all, has always lived in perception, not perfection. Perhaps this next chapter will not erase what I've done but reveal it anew. Maybe I'll learn to see my own work differently, to rediscover the movement that first drew me to abstraction. In a strange way, this uncertainty feels like another dance: a pas de deux with blindness and clarity, past and future vision intertwined.

And so, as I wait for surgery and continue to paint, I remind myself that art has always been about transformation, turning fear into colour, fragility into form. If I am to see differently, then I will paint differently. And maybe, just maybe, that too will be its own kind of light.

My studio/gallery will be open 12-5pm most days. Please come visit. As an extra surprise I will be showing photographic works done by my friend Jan Randles (RIP).



Pieces of Her



Fibonacci Connection (Part of the 'Dancing on the Canvas' series)



Zulu enjoying the work of Yayoi Kusama at NGV

## GALLERY OPEN



Open 27 Dec till 26 Jan '26 12-5pm most days

Visit award-winning artist, Zulu. Enjoy outstanding contemporary art  
Studio / Gallery - 2 Nardoo Street Cape Paterson 0418 263 264  
www.heathertowns.com



Members of the team at the Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre including assistant centre manager Kerryn Ladell, volunteer Cindi Goodlet, Food Pantry coordinator Erena Norfolk and volunteer Keitha Griggs help pack the Christmas Hampers for more than 100 Phillip Island families this week. mg06\_5125

## It simply wouldn't be Christmas without PICAL

CHRISTMAS wouldn't feel like Christmas for hundreds of Phillip Island families and individuals without PICAL.

Affiliated with Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland (NHG), and 400 others statewide, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre is responsible for delivering a wide range of vital services that would otherwise go missing in the local community.

But it's at this time of the year when households of all kinds are under pressure that they really come to the fore supplying more than 100 Christmas Hampers to families, couples and individuals while also working wonders with the Phil Dixon Food Pantry.

And much of it is down to the work of hundreds of PICAL volunteers and the local businesses which donate food and gifts.

Friday, December 19 was delivery day for Christmas Hampers with almost 120

By Michael Giles

going out the door of the Warley Street centre and still with plenty of supplies left over should further need arise.

"It's something we really enjoy doing each year," said PICAL assistant centre manager Kerryn Ladell.

"Registrations for the Christmas Hampers closed last Friday and today is the final pick-up day," she said on Friday, December 19.

"It can be a stressful time of the year for many and if this relieves the pressure a bit that's great.

"The hampers include a lot of the things you need for the day, Christmas pudding, Christmas cake, hams, custard, mince pies, shortbread, nuts, lollies, and a bathroom pack, dignity products bag, soft drinks, decorations, and some toys and gifts for under the tree.

"We have some wonderful supporters including

the supermarkets and local business. We purchase some of it ourselves and some from kind cash donations and they're packed by our volunteers," Ms Ladell said.

Of course, the famous 'Phil Dixon' Food Pantry operates five days a week, Monday to Friday, 9am-3pm with around 30 people daily, supported with ready-made meals or the non-perishable food and veggies etc to make their own meals.

It's a year-round service, again heavily supported by PICAL's volunteers.

Like all Neighbourhood Houses, PICAL relies on the generosity of the community and if you're considering making a donation at Christmas, as part of your gift-giving plans, you need go no further than PICAL as a worthy cause.

Donations can be made online at [pical.org.au](http://pical.org.au) where you can hit the 'donate' button.



## Grandview Rise lights up again

Burnsy, Barbara and Muz look forward to welcoming the community through Santas wonderland in Grandview Rise, Korumburra, to view the spectacular Christmas display. C32\_5125



# Christmas shopping joy in Korumburra

THERE was a festive vibe in the air in Korumburra on Thursday as locals and others from surrounding towns enjoyed the friendly atmosphere of this year's Christmas shopping night.

They stocked up on presents such as books, homeware items and Christmassy foods, shopkeepers happy to keep the doors open late and up for a friendly chat and to offer valuable advice.

The South Gippsland Concert Band set the mood, playing well known tunes of the season such as Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and Santa Claus is Coming to Town, the group's endurance impressive in scorching conditions.

Santa wandered the main street meeting excited children such as locals Lila Dickinson, and Lilith and Abel De Haas.

After busying himself taking photos and chatting to shoppers and retailers, this scribe settled in for a well-earned mince pie and coffee at Kelly's Bakery at which there was an array of tasty Christmas samples.

While those who attended the Christmas shopping evening were clearly enjoying themselves and a healthy number of them were seen making purchases,

By Andrew Palocz

the hot weather likely kept some people away. The efforts of the likes of Shirley Cowling and Stephanie Anderton to get the event together were tremendous, having to do so at short notice when it appeared for about the third year running there would be no Christmas shopping night in Korumburra.

That highlights the need for a vibrant Korumburra Business Association to drive such events, albeit KBA funds played an important role in enabling this year's shopping evening to occur.

The Sentinel-Times has been told efforts will be made in the new year to revive the organisation.

That follows the retirement of long-serving members a few years ago that prompted a young group of locals to put up their hands to keep the organisation alive.

The new committee made an immediate impact, reinstating the cancelled 2023 Christmas shopping evening shortly after assuming their positions.

However, work commitments have made it difficult for KBA members to organise as many events for the town as they would no doubt have liked.



**Zephyr, Drew and Rafe of Phillip Island enjoy shopping at the Korumburra Makers & Collectors store where they are welcomed by Jo. A69\_5125**



**Local Lila Dickinson is pleased to catch up with Santa at the Korumburra shopping evening on Thursday. A66\_5125**



**Nyah Gilliatte and Kadence Rawson show off the tasty Christmas range at Kelly's Bakery. A72\_5125**



**Martha Dunemann and Beth Milkins of The Hare & Tortoise Books are ready to provide a warm welcome for shoppers. A67\_5125**



## Merry Christmas!

On behalf of all the councillors and staff at Bass Coast Shire Council, I'd like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year.

Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead







Star of the South is moving ahead with its proposed offshore wind farm in Bass Strait.

## Milestone for Star of the South offshore wind energy project

By Bruce Wardley

GIPPSLAND'S most advanced offshore wind farm project Star of the South is charging ahead with its operations in Bass Strait with a direct impact on Barry Beach, Welshpool, Port Albert, Foster and Yarram.

In a significant milestone for the project, Star of the South has lodged an environmental impact statement for approval under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.

Star of the South has also executed a major land purchase where the project's cables will come to shore, secured renewed Major Project Status with the federal government and formally entered into an Engagement Agreement with the Traditional Owners through the Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation (GLaWAC).

The environmental approval statement follows seven years of technical and environmental studies, including a world-class marine survey program.

The assessment draws on 26 technical studies examining potential effects of the project on environmental, cultural, social and economic values.

Star of the South CEO Charles Rattray said the assessment was the most comprehensive ever undertaken for an energy project in Australia.

"This environmental assessment reflects seven years of rigorous science and consultation to understand the local environment and how to protect it.

"We have done the work, and then some, to ensure government and the community can have confidence that the project will be delivered responsibly," Mr Rattray said.

The federal government renewed Major Project Status for Star of the South last month recognising its potential contribution to Australia's clean energy needs. The project will continue to receive tailored support from the Major Projects Facilitation Agency for another three years, including assistance with navigating regulatory approvals.

"These milestones show that Australia's offshore wind industry is no longer an idea on the horizon. It is moving from concept to reality and Star of the South is leading the way.

"We are getting on with Australia's first offshore wind project to power more than 1.2 million homes and deliver 10 per cent of the emission reductions needed to reach Australia's 2035 climate target," Mr Rattray said.

"No matter which way you look at it, any realistic scenario for a secure, reliable energy future has offshore wind in the mix."

# Civil and construction contract opens up local jobs

By Bruce Wardley

A near \$1 billion contract for the construction of Marinus Link will open up local subcontracting opportunities across South Gippsland.

Marinus Link Pty Ltd (MLPL) has executed its final Stage 1 major works contract with TasVic Greenlink (TVGL), a joint venture of DT Infrastructure and Samsung C&T Corporation.

The \$994 million contract covers the construction of converter stations, equipment installation and land cable civil works spanning 90km from Sandy Point across South Gippsland to Hazelwood.

Marinus Link CEO Stephanie McGregor said the contract execution marks the final step in securing the capability and technology needed to commence construction.

"We have secured both our cable and converter technology suppliers, our integrated delivery partner, and now our lead contractor for the substantial civils and construction campaign," Ms McGregor said.

"One thousand local businesses attended the recent Meet the Contractor events to explore and compete for supply chain opportunities across Gippsland. Partnering with capable local businesses will complete our



Samsung Australia Managing Director Scott Choi, Marinus Link CEO Stephanie McGregor and DT Infrastructure CEO John Anderson have signed the civil and construction works contract for Marinus Link Stage 1.

workforce and ensure the successful delivery of this national infrastructure project."

DT Infrastructure Chief Executive Officer John Anderson acknowledged the significance of the moment and the certainty it provided for local economies that will benefit from Marinus Link.

"Today marks a significant moment for DTI. Together with our partner Samsung C&T, we are committing to deliver a truly once-in-a-generation regional project," Mr Anderson said.

Samsung C&T Corporation Australia Managing Director Scott Choi echoed Mr Anderson's sentiments and reinforced the decision to partner with DTI to deliver this landmark project.

"Samsung C&T is excited to collaborate with DTI in supporting Australia's transition to a clean energy future," Mr Choi said.

TVGL is scheduled to commence preparatory works at the Waratah Bay shore crossing in early 2026, pending final environmental approvals.

Ms McGregor said engagement opportunities had been planned with local communities ahead of construction.

"Our Marinus Link teams, alongside TVGL, will be out and about early next year to provide detailed information about construction activities and expected timelines," Ms McGregor said.

Jointly owned by the Commonwealth of Australia, State of Tasmania and State of Victoria, Stage 1 of Marinus Link will provide enough power to supply 1.5 million homes.

## ExxonMobil Australia Decommissioning Update: Esso hits a major milestone in offshore decommissioning.



### December update:

This year marks an impressive milestone for Esso Australia's decommissioning team as they carry out Australia's largest decommissioning program in Bass Strait.

Every offshore facility has one or more wells. These wells allow the oil or gas to travel up from under the seabed, for processing through our facilities, before being sold to our Australian customers.

With 13 of our Bass Strait facilities no longer producing oil or gas, we have been working to permanently seal all their wells.

By the end of 2025, we will have invested nearly \$3 billion in early decommissioning works, including safely sealing more than 200 wells in Bass Strait. This is more than 20% of all the wells across Australia currently regulated by the Australian government.

We have removed and recycled over 10,000 tonnes of steel while sealing these wells. That's enough steel to build another Eiffel Tower.

This milestone reflects years of planning, collaboration, and execution across multiple teams and contractors and has been powered by a strong local workforce, including teams from Superior, UGL, and our dedicated Esso Australia teams.

The scale of this work is immense. It's equivalent to 200 people working full-time for eight years, and it's a testament to the dedication and expertise of our teams both offshore and onshore.

As we continue our decommissioning journey, we remain focused on safe execution, environmental responsibility, and supporting local employment. We're proud of what we've achieved so far—and even more excited about what's to come. If you have any questions or would like more information, please reach out via [consultation@exxonmobil.com](mailto:consultation@exxonmobil.com).



# Women print history back into The Union

BASS Coast Shire Council have issued a call to women across Wonthaggi and surrounds who have a personal connection to the Wonthaggi Miners Women's Auxiliary or The Union Theatre, with work set to begin in the next fortnight for the new public art commission at the theatre.

Announced last week, Melbourne-based contemporary artist Kay Abude was selected following a competitive expressions-of-interest process that attracted a strong field of proposals from female artists.

Kay's proposal stood out for its genuine, hands-on community collaboration, as highlighted by both granddaughters of auxiliary member Agnes Chambers, Lyndal Chambers and Rosemary Forde, Bass Coast Shire Council visual art and cultural development officer.

"A big aspect of the reason we were so excited about it was Kay's proposition of real community interaction. Not some aspect on the side that doesn't matter. This is real contribution from community people," Lyndal explained.

"There's a lot of synergy around her work," Rosemary added. "A lot of her work previously has been about collaborating with communities and the process – the labour and work."

Introduced to the project through industrial design firm Tilt, Kay said the project immediately resonated with her practice, which centres on working alongside people rather than creating work in isolation.

"In my practice, I collaborate with other people – my first collaborators were my family members," she said.



Melbourne-based contemporary artist Kay Abude will lead workshops at The Union Theatre in January. rk01\_5125

"I've always been interested in working with people and learning from them – this is going to be really enriching."

Kay's concept focuses on the collective action of the auxiliary rather than individual recognition.

"It wasn't just a single woman – it was all of them," Kay said. "They banded together, and that collective effort is really what we want to showcase."

Research has been central to shaping the proposal, with Kay spending time at the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society and visiting the State Coal Mine to better understand the town's foundations.

"As an artist, I'm really interested in the materiality of things," she said. "Wonthaggi is built on coal mining, so it made sense to explore how coal itself could be incorporated into the artwork."

The concept includes experimenting with coal sourced from the mine, potentially ground and transformed into

pigment for printing.

"We don't know exactly how yet," Kay said.

"There's still a lot of research that needs to be done."

The final artwork will emerge through a series of local workshops.

"It's not my personal history, and it's not my story to tell," Kay said. "It belongs to people like Lyndal, and the miners, the families, and volunteers at the Historical Society."

The collaborative process means the outcome will remain open until the workshops take place.

"It's pretty unusual for a public art commission of this kind and scale," Rosemary said, noting Council were quite excited by the experimental process.

"We'll be making decisions collectively," Kay added. "It'll all depend on who participates."

For Rosemary and those who have been involved in the process to date, bringing women back into The Union Theatre to

create the work together complete a powerful full circle.

"It's literally bringing a group of women back into The Union Theatre, creating something together that celebrates that history and those women," she said.

## Call for participants

Up to ten women are invited to take part in the creative development process, with workshops taking place over six sessions in January on-site at The Union Theatre. Workshop participants will be paid for their time (an hourly wage) while learning new skills in art and design, including collage, screen printing and sewing, and sharing and learning the stories of the Wonthaggi Miners Women's Auxiliary.

Women in Wonthaggi and the broader region who have a personal connection to the Women's Auxiliary or The Union Theatre are particularly encouraged to participate.

Workshop Dates: Saturday, January 10, 12.30-4.30pm; Saturday, January 17, 12.30-4.30pm; Sunday, January 18, 12.30-4.30pm; Monday, January 19, 12.30-4.30pm; and Thursday, January 22, 12.30-4.30pm.

To register your interest in the workshops, or for further information, contact Rosemary Forde (Bass Coast Shire Council Visual Art and Cultural Development Officer) on 5671 2211 or [visualart@bass-coast.vic.gov.au](mailto:visualart@bass-coast.vic.gov.au) by Monday, January 5, 2026.

Can't participate in the workshops but still want to be involved? Attend the free Public Forum on Thursday, January 8, 6-8pm at The Union Theatre.

**See more at [sgst.com.au](http://sgst.com.au)**



Postman Brad Andrew has been pedalling through Inverloch as Christmas cards and parcels begin to pile up. W01\_5125

## Pedalling parcels and Christmas cheer through Inverloch

By Trent Westaway

WHETHER rain, wind or sunshine, Inverloch postman Brad Andrew is still pedalling his way through town, quietly delivering mail on a bike while clocking up the kilometres.

For the past three and a half years, Brad has been a familiar sight around the streets of Inverloch, riding his bike through the area as one of three posties servicing the town. Each day, his round adds up to anywhere between 22 and 25 kilometres, all done the old-fashioned way.

"I started three and a half years ago in Inverloch, and I've been using a bike since then," Mr Andrew said. "I was a publican before this."

While Australia Post offers motorised delivery options, Brad has stuck with the bike by choice, and he has no plans to change.

"I like the quiet so I can hear my tunes and hear the traffic," he said. "I like the level of fitness it gives you and it's just a bit unique."

That quieter pace also gives him a front row seat to one of the region's most scenic workplaces. For Brad, the best part of the job has little to do with envelopes and parcels.

"The outdoors," he said. "I reckon I'm solar powered. When you get the sun on your back and the birdsong in your ear, and you look over at the inlet, happy days."

As Christmas approaches, the workload ramps up significantly, with parcels and festive mail adding to the daily load on his bike.

"Yeah, the parcel count surges and a lot of Christmas cards, and a lot of end-of-year mail," Mr Andrew said. "It probably increases by 25 to 30 per cent."

While summer heat doesn't faze him, Inverloch's winter weather puts a damper on Brad's job.

"When you get the icy cold days, your hands turn a colour of blue that never existed before," he said. "The sideways rain makes it a struggle as well. Sometimes it rains so much you could probably do your round in a kayak, and trying to protect the mail becomes harder."

And it is not just the weather that keeps him on his toes.

"Angry dogs and swooping magpies are another challenge," he added.

# C2A and BCAL celebrate their Life Skills Program

FIVE Bass Coast residents have graduated from a Life Skills program designed to help people with disability achieve greater independence.

From May this year, C2A (Connecting2Ability) collaborated with BCAL (Bass Coast Adult Learning) to present the program for people with disability.

The course focused on helping C2A participants achieve their goals and independence by studying topics including personal relationships and respect, money management, planning for events, note taking, current affairs, telling the time and public transport. The participants kept a running diary of all their activities and achievements.

Some of the learning techniques used were through music and singing as a memory aid, storytelling, reading and role play.

To celebrate their achievements, an end-of-year Christmas lunch was fully planned, budgeted and prepared by the participants as part of their learning. There were smiles all around as the participants received their Certificates of Participation on Thursday, December 18.

C2A Wonthaggi Business Manager Jenn Hockey thanked Bill Street, coordinator from BCAL for making the Life Skills Program so interactive and fun for the participants and assisting them to achieve their goal of greater independence.



C2A Life Skills graduates Danny, Michelle, Marnie, Lee and Sue pictured with support workers Steve and Linda, and Bill from BCAL, at Thursday's graduation event in Wonthaggi.



## ASTELLITE

German uPVC Window and Door Systems

### Double-glazed uPVC windows & doors,

manufactured in Melbourne using premium German technology.





1300 48 88 48

[www.astellite.com.au](http://www.astellite.com.au)



**Showroom**

418 Nepean Hwy, Chelsea

**Working Hours**

Monday – Friday 9 am – 5 pm

Saturday 10 am – 2 pm





# Disaster resilience for Venus Bay

THIS year's graduates of the Committee for Gippsland (C4G)'s Gippsland Community Leadership Program (GCLP) recently celebrated their completion of the program, marking another successful year of C4G developing strong community leaders across the region and delivering impactful community projects through their syndicates.

Syndicate 1 'Disaster Stars' designed and delivered a community-led disaster resilience project for Venus Bay. The group consisted of local participants Austin Cram (Bass Coast Shire Council), Sarah Davies (Country Fire Authority), Ben Lehmann (South Gippsland Shire Council), Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs (Parliament of Victoria) and Andrea Phillips (South Gippsland Shire Council).

After identifying the specific risks Venus Bay faces, including power outages and the absence of water mains, the syndicate focused on creating 1,500 custom A6 emergency information magnets for households in collaboration with the Venus Bay Community Centre, South Gippsland Shire Council, Bass Coast Shire Council, the Country Fire Authority and Ausnet.

Each magnet includes key messaging of no power = no water, local emergency phone numbers, radio frequencies and a QR code to the Ausnet online power outage tracker. The syndicate considered colour blindness and language barriers in their design to ensure the magnets are accessible to the whole community. The syndicate also secured a South Gippsland Shire Council \$1,000 community grant to support the production of the 1,500 magnets. Community members can collect an emergency magnet from multiple Venus Bay locations, including the Venus Bay Community Centre and local businesses.

Further information on emergency planning across South Gippsland is available at [southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

Applications for the 2026 Gippsland Community Leadership Program are now open, and scholarship options are available. For more information and to apply, visit [committeeforgippsland.com.au](http://committeeforgippsland.com.au)

# Lucky 7 for Lucky 13 Mini-Golf and Arcade at Inverloch



James playing inside the 22-metre Circle of Life hole at Lucky 13 Mini Golf. B17\_5125

IT MAY have taken local Inverloch cricketer Trevor Phillips seven long years to find the perfect location for a mini-golf and arcade business, but the wait has been worthwhile.

With the sun shining down on Trevor's new 18-hole mini-golf course, opening day proved popular with holidaying families and local youngsters keen to try something new.

"We'll be open seven days a week over the summer holidays," said Trevor.

"10am to 9pm except for Christmas Day when we'll be closed."

Lucky 13 Mini Golf and Arcade is fully air-conditioned and carpeted inside.

"We've been missing a quality mini-golf course for some time," said Trevor.

Skee-Ball and the 22-metre Circle of Life holes are the most difficult holes to play.

With nine putting holes outside and nine inside and a large array of popular arcade machines Lucky 13 Mini Golf and Arcade is an all-weather facility suitable for all ages.

Fees for toddlers will be donated to the Bunurong Environment Centre.

Arcade games include Basketball, Mario Kart, Air Hockey, Jurassic Park and Skee-Ball.

"We also have a large recreation area with a pool table," said Trevor.

The licensed cafe at Lucky 13 Mini Golf and Arcade offers food and refreshments.

Lucky 13 t-shirts are also available for last minute Christmas or birthday presents.

Growing up in Inverloch it's a dream come true for Trevor.

"We planned the course to reflect local landmarks."

The Inlet is in the shape of Anderson Inlet and Paddle Out reflects a surf beach break.

You can find Lucky 13 Mini Golf and Arcade at 83-85 Wonthaggi Road, Inverloch.



## WONTHAGGI RSL SUB BRANCH

Serving veterans and the local community  
60 Graham Street, Wonthaggi VIC 3995  
<https://rslvic.com.au/venue/wonthaggi-rsl/>



# COMMUNITY NOTICE

**Wonthaggi RSL Sub-Branch will be closed for the holiday period from Thursday, December 19, 2025**

*We extend our warmest wishes to all veterans, members, families, and the wider community for a safe, peaceful, and happy Christmas*

*We wish everyone a healthy and positive New Year and look forward to welcoming you back in 2026*

The Sub-Branch will reopen on  
**Friday, February 6, 2026**  
with social drinks from 4pm  
Social chats in the bar  
Meat raffle kindly supplied by Wonthaggi Meats  
Supper provided

**BASS COAST SHOW**  
**SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 2026**  
Wonthaggi RSL will be attending  
Veteran support resources and information available  
A fun day for the whole community

**FIRST MORNING TEA FOR 2026**  
**Wednesday, February 18 at 10.30am - all welcome.**

**RSL ACTIVE-RESUMES IN MARCH 2026**  
Includes a clay target shoot with  
Inverloch and Wonthaggi RSL clubs

HM15269



## Helping your kids change uni course preferences?

## Put them first.





Explore the support Federation offers both you and your kids through the **Change of Preference** period

## We're with you.

\*QILT Student Experience Survey 2024 (Undergraduate). CRICOS 001030 | RTO 4909 | TEQSA PRV12151 (Aust Uni)



# Wonthaggi Toyota



## CHRISTMAS SPECIALS...OVER 75 CARS TO CHOOSE FROM



2017 Kia Cerato S

**14,990** DRIVE AWAY

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



CAR OF THE WEEK

2015 Toyota Yaris Ascent

**17,990** DRIVE AWAY

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



2018 Honda Civic RS

**19,990** DRIVE AWAY

Little beauty, 224,364kms, CVT auto sedan SN: W102239



2016 Holden SV6 VF Series II

**29,990** DRIVE AWAY

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



2020 Toyota C-HR Koba

**34,990** DRIVE AWAY

Very economical, 52,266kms, auto SUV SN: W102256



2022 GWM Haval H6GT Ultra

**34,990** DRIVE AWAY

Sporty design, 74,401kms, 7 speed sports auto 4WD SUV SN: W102288



2021 Hyundai Palisade Highlander

**44,990** DRIVE AWAY

4x4 On demand, 127,000kms, 8 speed sports auto SUV. SN: W102213



2018 Toyota Landcruiser GXL VDJ200R

**88,990** DRIVE AWAY

Just arrived, 150,498kms, 6 speed sports auto 4x4 wagon SN: W102260

# Leongatha Toyota

## FINANCE AVAILABLE INSTORE. ASK ABOUT AN EXTENDED WARRANTY.



2019 Holden Trax LTZ TJ

**16,990** DRIVE AWAY

Just arrived, 54,480kms, auto SUV SN: L101463



2022 Mitsubishi Triton GLX+ MR

**38,990** DRIVE AWAY

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



2021 Ford Ranger XLT PX MK III

**41,990** DRIVE AWAY

Work or adventure, 95,418kms, 10 spd CVT auto 4x4 double cab L101446



2022 Toyota Landcruiser Prado GXL

**54,990** DRIVE AWAY

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



2024 Ford Mustang GT FO

**80,990** DRIVE AWAY

State of the art, 2,632kms, 10 speed CVT auto coupe DRA 793



4 X 4 OF THE WEEK

2020 Toyota Landcruiser GXL

**80,990** DRIVE AWAY

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



2024 Ford Ranger Raptor

**81,990** DRIVE AWAY

Feel the roar, 37,230kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4 double cab SN: L101458



2023 Toyota Landcruiser Workmate

**97,990** DRIVE AWAY

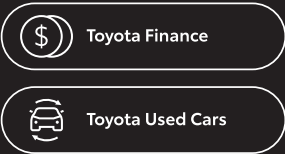
Tough workhorse, 5,667kms, 5 speed CVT manual 4x4 double cab SN: L101411

### Wonthaggi Toyota

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

### Leongatha Toyota

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



OH WHAT A FEELING

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





## Frances Grylls

WELSHPOOL



FRANCES Grylls has made a huge contribution to the South Gippsland community as a volunteer and passionate advocate for horticulture. In addition to raising three children and managing a farm with her husband, Frances' warm personality, tireless work and ready acceptance of people have made her a highly respected member of the community.

Frances has been the secretary of the Welshpool and District Horticultural Society since 1985, assisting with 80 biannual Flower Shows. Her contribution has been critical in maintaining and advancing the group throughout the decades.

In 1999, Frances became the secretary of the Dahlia Society of Victoria, and she has won every award possible within the Society, including Life Membership. Her contribution was instrumental in updating the Dahlia Judging Standards.

Frances volunteers as a horticultural judge, sharing her vast plant-related knowledge across the country and mentoring others who have taken on the role.

Frances is a major advocate for South Gippsland as a destination for horticultural activities. Her

efforts have brought the Dahlia Society of Victoria, the Australian Horticultural Judges Association and the Regional Gippsland Garden Group annual conferences to Welshpool.

Frances is a recipient of the Royal Horticultural Society's highest honour, the John Pascoe Fawcner Gold Medal for Distinguished Service to Horticulture. She was nominated by a group of locals keen to celebrate her invaluable contribution to the gardening community in South Gippsland.

Frances has been a long-term member of the Welshpool Memorial Hall committee, available whenever needed to provide thoughtful and practical assistance. She helped organise the Sea-Change Festival at Port Welshpool and many gardening competitions.

The Port Welshpool and District Maritime Museum has benefited greatly from Frances' dedication. She has volunteered at countless events, supported fellow volunteers and has played a key role in onboarding new members. Her extensive knowledge about South Gippsland and the museum's history makes her an asset to the organisation.

**NOMINEES for the 2026 South Gippsland Australia Day awards will be recognised at an awards ceremony on Wednesday, January 14 from 6.30pm, at the Meeniyah Hall.**

**The achievements of each nominee are outlined below, and the names of the overall winner in each category will also be inscribed on the Australia Day Honour Board in Memorial Hall.**

## Rachael Ann Woodall

MIRBOO NORTH



RACHAEL Woodall is a loving mother, dedicated daughter, and committed member of the Mirboo North community.

Playing an active role in her town, Rachael embodies community spirit and is always available to lend a helping hand – her dedication to her passions has been described as admirable.

The February 2024 storm brought heartache to Mirboo North and surrounding areas, but Rachael was there to help clean up and restore pride in her patch. Beyond the physical recovery, she made a special effort that year to ensure the Christmas trees were proudly decorated and visible. Sharing a message of joy, unity, and resilience when the community needed it most.

In addition to her clean-up efforts, Rachael contributes tirelessly to numerous community groups and committees. She is involved with the Walter J Tuck Reserve and supports local football and cricket clubs, often

volunteering her time for her children's sporting activities.

Her generosity extends to residents at Calvary Strzelecki House, where she delivers newspapers six days a week, brightening everyone's mornings.

Rachael is described as a quiet achiever who enjoys helping people and offering support to everyone around her. Her mother, who nominated her, shared how Rachael has been a tremendous personal support, taking her to medical appointments and caring for her with unwavering love. No amount of thanks can truly measure the impact Rachael has on those she loves and the wider community.

What makes Rachael an incredible nominee for Citizen of the Year is not just the breadth of her contributions, but the heart behind them. She represents resilience, compassion, and selflessness. Rachael doesn't seek recognition; she simply acts when others need her most.

## Jean Jones

TARWIN LOWER



JEAN Jones is a nominee who lives and breathes all things Tarwin Lower. She has a deep fondness and appreciation for her hometown and the people in it, and as a result, Jean takes enormous pride in the presentation and safety of Tarwin Lower. She is an active member of the Tarwin Action Group and a proud volunteer who dedicates much of her time to her local community.

Jean is always busy on her feet keeping Tarwin beautiful. She started with the Tarwin fishing platforms, obtaining the keys to the bins from the relevant authority to empty the rubbish. These bins often contained hooks, fishing lines and lures, which Jean stopped from overflowing into the Tarwin River.

If walking from platform to platform with just a bucket and bag was not enough, Jean also organised a massive cleanup along the riverbank. Afterwards, she lobbied Council to collect all the green waste that had been removed from the bank.

Jean then rallied volunteers to help clean up Fisher Reserve. They cleaned out the undergrowth and overgrowth,

then planned a garden planting event, where she successfully secured support from Council to provide plants for the garden.

Not one to rest, Jean committed her time to ensuring proper care was taken to clean and upgrade the cenotaph. Resulting in lavender being planted and the cenotaph looking bright and welcoming for ANZAC and Remembrance Day.

Her commitment to the beautification of Tarwin Lower is incredible. Jean has been instrumental in organising planter boxes to go out the front of the local shops, and on a dry day, you can find Jean watering the colourful flowers and plants. She also successfully acquired grant funding to get festive decorations for the local storefronts.

No task is too difficult for Jean. Her constant efforts in keeping Tarwin Lower fresh, clean and tidy are greatly admired by her community. When she asks for help, no one can say no, nor would they want to, because she inspires everyone to believe they can make a difference in their little town on the south coast of Gippsland.

## Valerie (Val) Wilson

BENA



VALERIE, affectionately known as Val, is the epitome of community spirit – a dedicated volunteer whose tireless efforts have enriched the lives of countless people in Korumburra, Bena, and beyond.

A quiet achiever with an unwavering commitment to service, Val has spent decades giving her time, skills, and energy to a wide range of community groups, always working behind the scenes to make things happen.

Val's journey of service began while raising five children on her family's dairy farm. She actively supported her children's schools through fundraising, catering, and advocating for facility upgrades, often stepping into leadership roles when needed. Her involvement extended to the Bena Tennis Club, where she not only played but mentored and coached junior players, fostering a love of sport and teamwork.

Today, Val continues to make an extraordinary impact through multiple roles:

- Korumburra Uniting Church treasurer for over 20 years, managing finances and coordinating catering for countless events.

- Korumburra Croquet Club president, now in her third term after serving as treasurer for three years.
- Korumburra Lions Club Membership Chairperson, contributing to fundraising and catering for more than 30 years.

- Carinya Lodge Aged Care Auxiliary member for 16 years, regularly visiting residents and supporting their wellbeing.

- Bena Hall Committee member for over 30 years, helping maintain and improve this much-loved community space.

- Agriculture and Pastoral Society Ladies Auxiliary for more than two decades, and still assisting with catering at annual events after 25 years.

Val's exceptional organisational skills, reliability, and strong work ethic make her an invaluable asset to every group she serves. She approaches every task with meticulous planning and a commitment to excellence. Beyond her practical contributions, Val is a natural mentor who encourages others to step into roles that suit their strengths, offering guidance and support along the way.





South Gippsland  
Shire Council

## COMMUNITY EVENT OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



### 2025 South Gippsland Garlic Festival

IN 2025, Korumburra took up the opportunity to host the South Gippsland Garlic Festival at its showgrounds. On Saturday, March 8, the festival saw over 4800 patrons come through the gates, with 30 per cent of the attendees being from outside Gippsland.

The Garlic Festival brought together growers, chefs, food lovers, and the community to celebrate the humble garlic bulb. There were over 90 stalls packed into the showgrounds, with food vendors offering artisan garlic-themed dishes and meals highlighting the diversity and quality of local produce.

At the centre of the event was the Garlic Festival Kitchen, where local chefs gave cooking demonstrations for a variety of garlic-related dishes. The Festival Bar also gave local drink producers the opportunity to have their product sampled by the wider

community. The rest of Korumburra's food and hospitality sector also took part in the festivities, offering their own garlic spin on their traditional offerings.

The interest in the event resulted in a significant economic boost for Korumburra, with local purchase activity increased by 116 per cent over the weekend – especially in the businesses alongside Commercial Street.

The South Gippsland Garlic Festival proudly gave back to the community groups that played a vital role in making the event a success, donating a total of \$6000 across several local organisations.

Thanks to its overwhelming success, Korumburra is already looking forward to welcoming the 2026 South Gippsland Garlic Festival, promising another opportunity to celebrate local produce, foster community spirit, and boost the regional economy.

#### YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**Erica Begg**

LEONGATHA



ERICA is an outstanding nominee who has made a remarkable contribution to South Gippsland through her volunteering efforts.

Erica has shown significant dedication and leadership as a Girl Guide since joining at just eight years old. She achieved the Baden-Powell award, which is the highest award for girls aged under 14 years, undertaking the required community service by assisting with ANZAC Day and Australia Day events, as well as numerous charity-fundraising campaigns such as Clean Up Australia, World's Biggest Morning Tea, RSPCA Cup Cake Day and more!

Her excellent organisational skills, kind and responsible behaviour, and dedication to her community have made her an excellent role model for younger guides.

Erica has been an enthusiastic member of the South Gippsland Shire Youth Council since 2023, fuelled by her passion for enriching the lives of other local young people. Erica worked hard to help

deliver the highly successful Mirboo North Youth Disco and was part of the 2025 Youth Parliament Program team, displaying her leadership qualities by supporting her team members and building relationships during the program.

Erica has also been volunteering her time with the Inverloch and District Lions Club at their monthly market stall since she was fifteen years old. Her can-do attitude and friendly demeanour were noticed by a neighbouring market stallholder, and it was not long before she was helping at other stalls! In addition, Erica has been assisting her grandfather with the trustworthy task of collecting money from stallholders at other community markets.

Erica's passion for her community and her willingness to help others are evident to everyone she meets. Her approachable nature, professionalism, and collaborative spirit make her a joy to work with, earning respect and admiration from colleagues and community members.

#### YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

**Rhiannon Rawlins**

KORUMBURRA



RHIANNON Rawlins has shown remarkable leadership within Korumburra Secondary College and the local community. Her ability to inspire people to work together has resulted in successful initiatives that have benefited her peers and South Gippsland residents.

As part of the Rural Youth Ambassadors program, Rhiannon developed a Student Run Council at her school and has been able to unite and amplify student voices. Rhiannon's ability to gain trust across year levels and her excellent chairperson skills have resulted in strong participation in the group, meaning it will continue after her participation concludes.

Rhiannon is a strong advocate for student wellbeing and students having ownership over their learning. Her advocacy was instrumental in the installation of the College's new CrossFit Stations, ensuring that student voice directly influenced the design and purpose of this project.

Rhiannon's leadership has extended beyond the school gates. Through her Vocational Major Project, she established a meaningful connection between elderly

residents in our community and Year 12 students, fostering inter-generational understanding and shared learning. Rhiannon initiated a Meals on Wheels program that connected students with local elderly residents. The program supported local seniors to live independently, and it gave students a broader perspective and appreciation for their elders. She delivered meals regularly throughout 2022 and 2023, before handing the project on to a new group of students who were able to continue her valuable work.

Rhiannon is the first non-school captain to be invited to join the School Council at Korumburra Secondary College. Her thoughtful insights have been noted by other Council members and have led to decision-making that better reflects students' needs and views.

One of the key markers of Rhiannon's leadership is her ability to gain community buy-in and set up processes that allow projects to continue when she is no longer involved. This shows a remarkable capacity to plan for the future and drive collective action towards a common goal.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

## Congratulations!

**South Gippsland Shire Council would like to thank and congratulate all nominees in the 2026 South Gippsland Australia Day Awards.**

The awards recognise people in South Gippsland who dedicate their time, skills and energy for the benefit of their local community.

We would like to invite the South Gippsland community to attend the awards ceremony on Wednesday 14 January at the Meeniyen Hall from 6.30pm.

To learn more about this year's nominees, please visit the link below.

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/AustraliaDay)





## Korumburra Swap Meet

JANUARY 12, 2025, marked a huge milestone for the South Gippsland Auto Club in celebrating their 40th Korumburra Swap Meet. The Club welcomed over 3000 car enthusiasts and collectors through the gates of the Korumburra Showgrounds for what was truly a remarkable day.

With just over 300 stalls and an extensive display of vintage cars, trucks, and bikes, the Swap Meet offered something for everyone. From rare automotive parts and tools to unique memorabilia and collectibles.

Every year, the Swap Meet raises funds for a charity of choice, and this year's event proudly directed proceeds toward ovarian cancer research – a cause well worth it. Beyond its charitable impact, the event delivered a significant boost to the local economy. Cafes and shops benefited from trade as visitors travelled from across Victoria and interstate, turning the Swap Meet into a weekend experience. Local businesses showcased their products in the 300-plus stalls, reinforcing the strength and diversity of South Gippsland's economy.

The success of this milestone event highlighted the dedication of the South Gippsland Auto Club and its volunteers, whose tireless efforts ensured everything ran smoothly. From early morning setups to coordinating traffic and welcoming guests, their commitment was evident at every turn.

Overall, it was a fantastic day for organisers, stallholders, and attendees. The overwhelming success of this 40th anniversary celebration has everyone asking the same question: "When's the next one?"



## Loch Food and Wine Festival

THE Loch Food and Wine Festival is a much-loved annual event that draws thousands of visitors to the charming village of Loch. Now in its 17th year, the festival shines a spotlight on local producers and artisans, celebrating some of the region's finest food, wine, spirits, and craft beer.

Beyond showcasing Gippsland's exceptional produce, the festival plays a vital role in supporting the local community. Each year, generous donations are directed back into schools, community groups, and local organisations. In 2025, contributions included:

- Loch Primary School – Playground Equipment: \$4300
- Loch Historical Group – 150th Celebrations: \$1000
- Loch Village Hub – Generator, Audio Visual and Air Conditioning: \$9800
- Loch Preschool – Sensory Garden: \$3000
- Festival Activities – \$3000

In addition to these donations, the festival delivers a significant economic boost. It promotes local retail, accommodation, and hospitality venues throughout the long weekend. This year, the event also encouraged increased visitation to the Korumburra Southern Lights Festival, resulting in longer stays and greater regional spend.

Originally created to attract visitors during the quieter winter months, the Loch Food and Wine Festival has grown into a major drawcard, welcoming more than 3000 attendees annually.

The festival is entirely volunteer-run, with countless hours of time, energy, and creativity contributed by passionate locals. Their dedication ensures the event remains a resounding success year after year.



## Meeniyen Area Community Shop

THE Meeniyen Area Community Shop is more than a well-known establishment; it's a cornerstone of community spirit and sustainability. For 17 years, this volunteer-driven op shop has combined style with purpose, creating a space where pre-loved goods find new homes and funds flow back into local projects.

On Tuesday, February 27, 2025, the Meeniyen Community Shop reached an extraordinary milestone: injecting \$1 million into the local community. The achievement was marked with a modest celebration – cuppas, cake, and over 100 past and present volunteers dropping in throughout the afternoon to share in the pride of what they've built together. This success is a testament to the tireless hours donated by volunteers who have kept the shop thriving year after year. Their efforts have supported a wide range of local organisations including Meeniyen Preschool, Primary School, Golf and Bowls Clubs, Football Club, Recreation Reserve, Progress Association Mural Project, Community Cupboard, CFA brigades, Community Garden, CWA, Historical Society, Men's Shed, Youth Hall, St Andrews Church, Dumbalk Progress Association, Grassy Spur Pool, MDU Cricket Club, and Stony Creek Football Club.

Many of these groups received regular donations, while others benefited from substantial contributions that enabled vital improvements – upgraded facilities, new equipment, enhanced safety measures, and community programs that otherwise might never have happened.

The milestone and celebration are a shining example of what the community can accomplish when people come together with a shared purpose.



## Prom Coast U3A Seniors Morning Tea Festival

SENIORS Festival 2025 saw U3A Prom Coast host a morning tea and concert for South Gippsland Seniors. Over 250 seniors attended, many being bused in from surrounding towns such as Yarram, Venus Bay, Leongatha and Korumburra to the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre.

Attendees were treated to a variety of free musical acts, with the U3A band playing a variety of songs for their audience. Everyone was encouraged to join in with the sing-alongs and dancing. Artistic expression was also on full display, with members showcasing their mosaics, watercolour and oil paintings.

Local secondary school students also took part in festivities, volunteering their time to serve morning tea, and lending a helping hand in the kitchen

and backstage – you could even find some students joining in dancing.

The seniors' event provided an opportunity for our ageing community to have a day out and celebrate themselves. An opportunity that is normally inaccessible for many residents due to financial or physical reasons.

The morning tea also provided an opportunity for connection between many seniors, who were able to reconnect with others or forge new friendships. Many of the attendees were shocked by how much fun they had and why they hadn't been doing this more often.

Overall, the event was a huge success and a great way to conclude Seniors Fest 2025. U3A hopes their seniors' celebration can become an annual event for seniors to connect every year.



# Achievements celebrated at Korumburra Secondary College

IT WAS a relaxed end to the school year at Korumburra Secondary College on Tuesday, students and their families, staff and various community members enjoying a sausage sizzle before moving indoors for the evening's award presentation.

While largely a joyous occasion, there was a moment of reflection when Principal Naomi Coleman began official proceedings by paying tribute to the victims of the Bondi Beach terrorist attack.

"One of our school's core values is kindness and at times like this, it's really important that we come together; my hope for our young people is that they grow up in a world full of kindness and where compassion guides our actions," she said before moving onto the purpose of the night's event.

"As we gather for our 2025 presentation evening, I want to reflect on the commitments that we made last year to strengthen our culture, lift student voice, deepen partnerships with our families and ensure every student feels a strong sense of belonging at Korumburra Secondary College," Ms Coleman said.

She noted the Student Attitudes to School survey data for this year show strong improvement in engagement and student voice, with parent opinion survey results impressive in all areas.

Strong Naplan results and improved VCE scores were highlighted.

The Principal congratulated award recipients for their effort, persistence and commitment.

While there have been plenty of positives for the school this year, there are still areas to work on, with a focus on student attendance, around 20 per cent of absences in 2025 being unexplained, the aim in 2026 being to get that figure below 10 per cent.

Awards were many and varied, with Holly Fowler topping the school's VCE results to be the Dux with an ATAR of 85.9.



Signature Program Award recipients were Amelia Van Der Ploeg (Year 9 Activate Program Award), Ruby Culvenor (Year 7 Like Minds Award), Lara Pickering (Year 7 Like Minds Award) and Matthew Churchill (Year 8 Like Minds Award).



Korumburra Secondary College year level Duxes are Amity Olsen (Year 9), Violet Jolly (Year 8), Nichapat Phanthong (Year 7), Jess Churchill (Year 10), Billy Wilson (Year 11) and Holly Fowler (Year 12).



Special Awards recipients were Riley McIntosh (CUC Bass Coast Achievement Award), Grace Villinger (ADF Future Innovator Award), Jessica Churchill (ADF Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award), Holly Fowler (White Family Citizenship Award), Rhiannon Rawlins (ADF Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award), Noah Rodriquez (Russell Smith Citizenship Award) and Harvey Anthony (Martin Carlson Foundation Student Achievement Award, and LLEN Award).

## Foster Secondary Dux Josh Gale happy to be part of wider success

BEING the 2025 Dux of Foster Secondary College, with an ATAR of 92.95, is a big honour Josh Gale said, acknowledging the hard work of others in the small and tight-knit Year 12 group.

"It's a nice feeling to know that lots of us got good results and I was lucky enough to come out on top," he said, crediting the support he got from the cohort in general with helping him achieve what he did.

"I don't have any magic formulas," Mr Gale said when asked his approach to study, but pointed out he likes to get the full picture of what he is learning and did extra research beyond the essential requirements of the curriculum.

Mr Gale's subjects this year demonstrated his wide-ranging interests, completing English, Chemistry, Outdoor Education, Maths Methods, and

By Andrew Palocz

Extended Investigation, the latter through Virtual School Victoria.

He also studied Year 12 subjects Biology and General Mathematics while in Year 11.

Mr Gale elaborated on what Extended Investigation entailed.

"You designed your own research project, carried it out and wrote a small thesis on your findings," he said, his piece being on foliar applications of urea versus granular applications in growing ryegrass pastures.

Coming from a farming family, with its main property in Waratah Bay, Mr Gale is planning to be a farmer and farm manager.

Next year, he is heading to the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, to study Rural Science.



Josh Gale's commitment to gaining a thorough understanding of what he is studying no doubt helped him become the 2025 Dux at Foster Secondary College. A02\_5125



South Gippsland and Bass Coast LLEN VCE VM Excellence Award recipient Wilkie Edgelow. A05\_5125



Year 12 ATAR Excellence Awards for scores between 80 and 89 went to Ruben Bell, Noah Sheehan and Jemima Gill. A06\_5125



VCE Gippy Blue Awards highest study score above 37 in a subject went to Mia Delaney for Outdoor and Environmental Studies. A10\_5125



Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College's recipient of the Peter Noonan Award Thalia Baker.



Year 8 Dux Helanah Gallicchio.



Year 7 Dux Mia Kruger.



Year 9 Dux Lincoln Newton.



Year 11 Dux Gemma Meadley.



Year 10 Dux Alyssa Blackshaw.

## Students excel at Mary MacKillop

TOP students took centre stage at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College's 2025 awards ceremony.

The Year Level Dux is calculated from individual academic success achieved across all subjects undertaken by students within the year level.

These students demonstrate wisdom through consistently strong academic performance across a broad program, responsibility in their approach to study and assessment, courage in taking on challenge and high expectations, and respect in the way they contribute positively to the learning environment of their classmates.

The Dux recipients show what can happen when natural ability is matched with effort, focus and desire to learn.

This year's Year Level Dux recipients were: Year 7 Mia Kruger; Year 8 Helanah Gallicchio; Year 9 Lincoln Newton; Year 10 Alyssa Blackshaw; Year 11 Gemma Meadley; College Dux Anna Rowe.

The Peter Noonan Award is the most prestigious award presented each year at Mary MacKillop College.

Over the years, this award has been presented to many young people of outstanding character, dedication and enthusiasm, and this year is

no exception.

The recipient is an outstanding student who, over the years, has shown tremendous commitment to their faith, the college, and the community.

Their approach to study is not only reflected in their own high grades, but also in their preparedness to help others achieve.

This year's recipient was Thalia Baker.

When the college looks at this year's successful nominee, the true story isn't in the list of accomplishments, but in the engine that drives her.

The first quality that defines Ms Baker is her determination.

Her resume reads like a blueprint for future leadership.

Among other activities, she has participated in Live4Life, Dolly's Dream, multiple sporting teams, and numerous musical and academic competitions.

These activities not only extend the individual's personal development but serve to support others in the community.

Ms Baker represents the spirit and values of the college.

She is someone who is prepared not just for completing her education, but for global citizenship and life-long growth.

She knows her direction, she controls her effort and she trusts her purpose.



Sentinel-Times  
COMMENT

Want to make yourself  
feel good in 2026?

By Michael Giles

IT'S been a big year. From the fearful Gurdies bushfire in January, to the Wonthaggi shooting and the rise and rise in crime across the year. From the cutbacks to Fisheries' surveillance, concern about the promised \$290 million for stages 2 and 3 of the Wonthaggi hospital redevelopment and the Leongatha Parrots' runaway victory to the ongoing saga of Inverloch's beach erosion problems. It's been one thing after another. And it goes without saying that the story which dominated the headlines locally, nationally and internationally was the crime and punishment metered out by and to Leongatha's Erin Patterson. There's still a way to go with that. Two things stood out there, the leadership shown by Korumburra Baptist Pastor Ian Wilkinson and the unwillingness of the local community to speak out of turn about the tragedy. You probably don't want to overstate it, because country communities aren't homogeneous, but the family, school, social and sporting connections that dominate in regional settlements encourage the "tight knit" and supportive quality you often hear talked about with regards to country towns. And at the heart of that, especially in communities where a sense of belonging, safety and support is strongest is where volunteer participation is at high levels. In fact, if you live in a country community, where by definition there isn't the funding for all the services they enjoy in the bigger cities, and you're not volunteering, you should be. And there's no better year than 2026, declared International Volunteer Year by the United Nations, to put your hand up and get involved with organising kids' sport, joining the golf club committee, taking out membership of a local service club, cooking the BBQ at a fundraiser, or whatever it might be. Make it part of your New Year's resolution. And the best way to get involved is to ask a friend for an introduction. Guaranteed, you'll get a lot more out of it than the time it takes to contribute. And the challenge is there for sporting and community organisations to make and execute a recruitment plan while also celebrating and supporting your volunteers.

Council should call for  
Royal Commission

OUR Bass Coast Shire Mayor paid a fitting tribute to the victims of the Bondi Terrorist attack recently. Cr Ronnie Bauer was supported by all Councillors and Council in this time of horror. He asked the community to show support for the remembrance of the lives lost and the wounded by lighting a candle each night at 6.47pm. I now ask for immediate action by Councillors and Council to write to the Prime Minister with a demand for a federal Royal Commission into all matters connected to this killing and wounding of innocent people living in Australia. If all councils wrote in support of what the Jewish community itself has called for, it would make a difference. The Jewish people of Australia must not be forgotten or silenced. We will not stand idle in this time of their horror.

**Graham Jolly, Cape Woolamai**

Vox Pop

Do we need a red bin collection weekly in our holiday hotspots?



**John Christensen**  
Cowes

"We need it all year round not just through the holidays and I think most people would be prepared to pay a bit more for it."



**Sharee Jackson**  
Cowes

"Either they pick up every week or give us a bigger bin. We pay our rates, it's just a basic service. We live in a holiday street and we're constantly picking up after the visitors. And empty the bins in town more often. They stink."



**Toni & David Rooke**  
Phillip Island

"We've been holidaying here for 50 years but we're not here every week and sometimes we miss the red-bin collection day. It's frustrating. Definitely, every week."



**Paul Gatto**  
Sunderland Bay

"Yes, definitely, pick it up every week. Especially in the holidays. It's ridiculous. If it's not a red bin week, people just dump their stuff in the yellow bin anyway or throw it away."

Urgent Care Centre in Foster

OUR Urgent Care Centre (UCC) is staffed by the ward nurses 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to assist people who require urgent or emergency assessment and treatment, even though it is not a formally funded Emergency Department (ED). South Gippsland Hospital encourages people to call Ambulance Victoria (AV) on 000 for life-threatening/severely painful conditions at all hours (such as sudden severe headache, chest pain, broken bones, difficulty breathing, severe burns, severely ill children, reduced consciousness, severe abdominal pain). AV may not necessarily take you to our hospital in Foster if they assess your needs as not being able to be met by us, a small rural hospital. They may take you either to Latrobe Regional Health in Traralgon or Bayside Health's Wonthaggi Hospital, depending on your condition. It is important to note that we do not have an out-of-hours Medical Imaging service, and this may be one reason why you are taken elsewhere. As we all know, it is always best to go to the doctor's clinic in hours, yet if you become unwell after hours and you're not sure whether to come up to the UCC or not, and it's not a life threatening or severely painful condition warranting you to call for an ambulance, then it's best to call 'Nurse on Call' (1300 606 024). Please don't call the hospital directly, as this takes nurses away from providing care to our current inpatients. Should the specialist nurse on the 'Nurse on Call' phone direct you to an emergency department, yet not advise you to call 000, then you may be directed to call the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (VVED) or present to the Traralgon or Wonthaggi Emergency Departments. If you are attending our UCC, which is not supplied with stand-up medical staff, there's no obligation to inform us. Here you will be greeted by one of the ward nurses, who will conduct an assessment to determine whether you are to be engaged in a consultation via the VVED, or if a GP from Foster Medical Centre will be called in, the latter scenario attracting an after-hours gap fee, which is payable at the consultation. This model is there to support the community most in need, and importantly, it ensures our Local GPs can sustain their commitment to essential after-hours medical care whilst maintaining a reasonably healthy work-life balance. For expectant mothers who have any pregnancy concerns, please call Foster Medical Centre clinic on 5682 2088 (during business hours) or our main hospital number on 5683 9777 (after hours). For any pregnancy complications, you can also call 000 any time of the day or night.

Given there are AV charges made to patients being transferred from the UCC to any other hospital, it's important you maintain a current AV membership, health insurance cover, or be on a Health Care Card or pension card to avoid the cost. Of course, during business hours for general and ongoing medical treatment, you should make an appointment at the Foster Medical Centre if you're an existing patient. For anyone visiting the area, unfortunately, you will find it hard to get a GP appointment in Foster due to capacity issues. You may be best attending your usual GP.

**Paul Greenhalgh, CEO, South Gippsland Hospital**

Shire's toilet  
paper inadequate

WITH Christmas and New Year upon us, even more people will be both disgusted and embarrassed when they discover that the toilet paper that is distributed in the morning, noon and night by the cheerful and hard-working toilet cleaners is incomprehensibly 'tissue' paper thin 'useless.' I would bet my bottom, (sorry) dollar, that the staff using the Bass Coast Shire offices' toilet facilities are not subjected to having to use such a useless product while attending to their everyday hygiene needs. Maybe the shire 'sanitary orderly' could advise the shire 'accounts department' on the availability and price of 'cartons of confetti' the next time it is "on special." Wishing you all a happy and hygienic Christmas.

**John Hennessy, Inverloch**

Keep the GP on Phillip Island

THE Victorian Government must secure a contract with Liberty Media to keep the MotoGP on Phillip Island. In 1987, Wayne Gardner became the World 500cc Motorcycle Champion. The Phillip Island racetrack was in similar condition to Victoria's country roads in 2025. Bob Barnard rebuilt it. In 1989, Gardner won the first Grand Prix on the Island. Ninety-three thousand fans attended on race day in perfect April weather. In 1990, a political row moved the race to September, springtime, known for bad weather. In 1991, we lost the race to NSW. In 1996, Premier Kennett won the race back. The MotoGP has been on Phillip Island, in changeable spring weather, ever since. In 2026, the contract ends. Facilities for fans are poor, while prices are a bit rich. Race day crowds are down to 25,000. What was one of Australia's greatest sporting events in 1989 has been unfairly

neglected, like our rural roads. The MRAA supports the Australian MotoGP staying on Phillip Island. We call on government and businesses to invest in keeping the event. If it goes to another South East Asian country that appreciates the sport and the tourism value of a MotoGP, we will not get it back.

**Damien Codognotto OAM, The Motorcycle Riders Association Australia**

Security failures  
demand focus

OVER the past week, I have received many emails from Monash residents expressing their grief and anger over the antisemitic terrorist attack at Bondi. My first thoughts are with the victims and their families. The outpouring of sorrow from across Australia and the world has been incredibly moving. Beyond this week, I believe we need to have an honest national conversation about antisemitism and radical extremism in Australia. We need to follow that conversation with concrete actions. We have seen our security agencies including the Chief of ASIO Mike Burgess repeatedly warn that antisemitism is the biggest threat to loss of life in Australia. In relation to the Federal Government's gun law reform, my views are as follows. The Prime Minister has not provided any detail of what he plans to legislate. There has been the reasonable suggestion that gun ownership should be reserved for Australian citizens. That sounds sensible to me. Beyond that, I am firmly of the belief that Australia has the strongest gun laws anywhere in the world. In the Monash electorate, my constituents require guns for pest control and humane reasons on farms. We have responsible gun clubs that contribute to our community. I do not want these people to be punished in an ad hoc response, especially when I believe our first national priorities need to be on combating radical extremism and addressing national security failures. The events of the last week will leave a permanent stain on our nation's heart. Many in our community are hurting right now. I stand with you.

**Mary Aldred MP, Federal Member for Monash**

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.





Susan and Stephen Gomm playing mini-golf with Cerys and Sterling at Inverloch's new Lucky 13 mini-golf course on Wonthaggi Road. B13\_5125



Mark, James and Doxi Dimotsos were among the first to putt their way through the 18 holes on Inverloch's new mini-golf course. B16\_5125



Hannah Montgomery from Wonthaggi and Lauren Sinclair of Korumburra were looking forward to The Nutcracker. C02\_5125



Shae, Caitlin and Nathalie from Wonthaggi were excited to see The Nutcracker for the first time, though they have been to the ballet before. C03\_5125



Regional Livestock Exchanges CEO Brett Freer and Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock's Terry Ginnane at Thursday's lunch celebrating VLE's contribution. A62\_5125



VLE employees, Head Stockman George Hill and Drover Ben Kelly, are continuing with the new Leongatha Saleyards owner Regional Livestock Exchanges. A63\_5125



Graham Osborne and Greg Hoffmann share stories about the history of the VLE. A64\_5125



Eva and Andrew O'Brien enjoy the end of year celebratory barbecue at Korumburra Secondary College, Eva describing VCE as "a little stressful but fun". A73\_5125



Principal Naomi Coleman, Dakota Dean, and Amelia and Eli Le Serve relax at the celebration of the Korumburra Secondary College school year. A74\_5125



Pictures of you and your friends at Mini Golf, Victorian Ballet at Berninnet, Celebratory VLE lunch, Korumburra Secondary College Award Presentation Night and San Remo Carols.



Leads ballerinas and danseurs, the Nutcracker Prince (Benjamin Harris), Clara (Elise Jacques), the Sugar Plum Fairy (Alana Puddy) and Cavalier (Tristan Gross) were part of the wonderful performance over the weekend. C06\_5125



Longtime fans of The Nutcracker, Christine Roach and Eddie Zabilowicz, were glad to be able to support a local performance of their favourite pieces of music. C04\_5125



Keen ballet viewer Michael Buckley and a family favourite of Sue McCauley, both were looking forwards to Friday night's performance of The Nutcracker. C05\_5125



Victorian State ballerina Taylah Martin, who is part of the pre-professional program, was on the merchandise stand ahead of the performance. C07\_5125



Firing up the barbecue for the San Remo Carols last Friday night were members of the Phillip Island Scouts Robyn Mylius, Zac Bugeja and Niko Jevsenk.



Welcoming the community to the San Remo Christmas Carols on Friday night were Luke Hill of one of the major sponsors, the Bendigo Community Bank, Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and carols organiser Paul Cooper.



Year 12 students Rhiannon Rawlins and Lily Canavan celebrate the end of their school journey at Korumburra Secondary College. A75\_5125



Year 8 students Violet and April Jolly take it easy at Korumburra Secondary College's end of year barbecue. A76\_5125

Sentinel-Times

>>> ORDER THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS 5672 1888





## Roast turkey

By Meg Viney

THIS recipe is for a five-kilogram turkey – adjust quantities to fit.

### Stuffing

- 2 cups breadcrumbs
- 1 onion, diced
- 1 tbsp butter, melted
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 peeled, diced orange, with pith removed
- 4 sprigs of fresh marjoram or oregano, chopped
- 1/4 tsp white pepper
- Turkey liver (optional), chopped

### Method

Melt the butter and add the chopped onion, salt and the turkey liver (if using) and sauté in a saucepan, covered, for about 10 minutes until soft and aromatic.

Add breadcrumbs, orange, oregano/marjoram and pepper.

Mix well and stuff into the turkey cavity. Truss (tie legs together to cover cavity).

The trick to keeping the turkey moist and the skin crisp is to melt a couple of tablespoons of butter in a small saucepan and in it soak a piece of cheesecloth or even a piece of tea towel, and then drape that over the top of the turkey whilst it is being cooked.

Cook for the recommended time for the size of the turkey that you have bought, and, while the turkey is cooking be sure to baste it with the juices in the bottom of the pan.

Remove the cheesecloth for the last 15 minutes to crisp the skin.

Remove the turkey to a big platter and make some gravy.

Pour most of the juices into a cup, blend 1 tbsp flour into the pan, off the heat, then gradually blend the reserved juices into the pan. Return to the heat and cook, stirring, until thickened. Check seasoning, then pour into a gravy boat and serve with the turkey.

Carve the turkey and serve it with the stuffing and gravy.

Photo: Claudio Schwarz, Unsplash.

## Eric Collier earns Tamworth opportunity

VENUS BAY singer-songwriter Eric Collier has been selected to participate in a 12-day residential program in Tamworth intended to nurture the next wave of country artists.

The program, taking place from January 5 to 16, is run by the Country Music Association of Australia's Academy of Country Music, with Mr Collier chosen for the Senior Course.

He is one of 29 emerging artists selected from across Australia, with three from New Zealand and one from Nashville in the USA.

"Our goal is to give these artists the skills to build sustainable careers," Academy General Manager Roger Corbett said.

The 2026 program will be guided by Group Leaders Simon Johnson, Gretta Ziller, Anthony Snape, and Melody Moko, with support from an accomplished team of guest tutors and industry mentors.

# South Gippsland Garlic Festival returns to Korumburra in 2026



The 2026 South Gippsland Garlic Festival is locked in for February 28. Get your tickets now.

THE South Gippsland Garlic Festival – Victoria's biggest celebration of Australian garlic – is back for its second year at Korumburra Showgrounds on Saturday, February 28, 2026.

With close to 5000 garlic lovers attending the event in 2025, the next festival is set to be bigger and better than ever, with even more garlic growers from Victoria and interstate, an impressive chef line-up for the Festival Kitchen, food vendors selling whacky garlic creations including garlic donuts and garlic beer, a huge entertainment roster, kid's activities, and an appearance from Bluey.

The festival is the most significant garlic event in Victoria, showcasing and educating visitors about the huge array of garlic varieties grown in Australia, how to cultivate it at home, and how to use it in the kitchen.

Next year's festival is set to host close to 100 stallholders (up from 80 in the previous year) and is bringing back the wildly successful Garlic Street, where Aussie growers like Garlic Kingdom, Pure Garlic, Garlic Essentials, and Southern Cross Garlic will sell their premium fresh Aussie garlic, with plenty of garlic for enthusiasts to take home.

The Festival Kitchen stage will welcome back chefs Atsu Tanaka-Morrison from Tsuko Japan

(Korumburra), Jodie Odrowaz and Michael Clark from Messmates Dining (Warragul), Alejandro Saravia from Farmers Daughters (Melbourne), and introduce Italian maestro Francesco Laera from Trulli (Meeniyen).

The Garlic University, an educational hub headed up by the Australian Garlic Industry Association, will also be back, with presentations by industry authority Penny Woodward, amongst many others to be announced, and will include presentations on small farm and commercial growing.

Tickets are live, and to get punters excited, anyone who purchases a ticket in December will go into the draw to win the ultimate garlic hamper worth \$200 – chock-a-block full of fresh and preserved garlic products.

More information and the full program will be announced soon. Tickets available now via [southgippslandgarlicfestival.au](http://southgippslandgarlicfestival.au).

- Saturday, February 28, 2026
- Korumburra Showgrounds, Sanders Street, 9am-5pm
- Tickets: Adults \$15, children \$5, family (2 adults 2 kids) \$35, concession \$10, children under 3 free
- Parking: Surrounding streets and paid parking
- Dog friendly: Yes!

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND GEMSTONE AND LAPIDARY CLUB**

## GEM SHOW

**Saturday January 10, 2026**  
**10am-3pm**  
 Middle Tarwin Hall  
 Tarwin Lower Rd / Middle Tarwin

• Gemstones/Fossils/Minerals  
 • Displays -Stalls  
 • Demonstrations

**Francene 0427 777 924**

## Send us your photos

If you're having a 21st, club function, wedding, or other social event, take some photos, name the people in the snaps and email to [news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)

**Sentinel-Times**

*It won't cost a cent to see them in print!*

**WONTHAGGI THEATRICAL GROUP PRESENTS**

**DREAMWORKS**

## MADAGASCAR

### A MUSICAL ADVENTURE JR.

**7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**WONTHAGGI STATE COAL MINE**

**Book by**  
 Kevin Del Aguila

**Music and lyrics by**  
 George Noriega  
 & Joel Someillan

**Tickets at [www.wtg.org.au](http://www.wtg.org.au)**



## Phillip Island art shows start small in a big summer

By Michael Giles

THE Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space Inc have launched their 2025-26 Summer Art Exhibitions with a very strong presentation of contemporary art in the Berninneit Art Gallery.

The event, which is the first of three exhibitions, features 50 'Small Works' by artists from Bass Coast and beyond described as "affordable and unique" but also offering an engaging variety of styles, subjects, textures and expressions.

It opened with a meet the artists' opportunity on Friday, December 12 from 6pm to 8pm with the chance to discuss and purchase the art on display.

Among the local artists with work in the initial exhibition was Joe La Pira, who has been painting in Cowes for 30 years. Together with his wife Sharon they chatted with visitors and artists alike at the well-attended event.

Peter Walker of Cowes, who has been painting for more than 50 years, started out with the discipline of a commercial artist as a great foundation and has gone on to win numerous awards and display his art in other parts of the world including New York on several occasions.

Confessing a fascination with animals which are included in



This Gauguin-esque piece by Peter Walker is part of the 'Small Works' exhibition in the Berninneit gallery in Cowes until January 1. Entry is free and the works are for sale. mg02\_5125

many of his works he said he received positive feedback from some past and present councillors who attended the show.

"One of the councillors liked this one, 'Stripped figure' in particular," Mr Walker said.

Spanning the months of December, January and touching February, the three exhibitions are Small Works, Contempora 1, and Contempora 2, bringing the

works of 64 emerging and established artists in range of media to prominence.

Visiting the gallery in the new Berninneit Cultural Centre is free. The exhibition program is as follows:

Small Works: December 12 to January 1

Contempora 1: January 4-15 with artists' insights on Sunday, January 4 from 2pm-4pm

Contempora 2: January 17 to February 1 with artist insights on Sunday, January 18 from 2pm to 4pm

Berninneit Art Gallery is pleased to continue our partnership with PICES (Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space) to present this annual event which invites visitors to experience the energy and imagination of participating artists.

## Tune-in to Community Expose on South Coast FM

IF you have ever wondered what happens to injured wildlife once they have been rescued, or how to give household furniture a new lease of life through Leongatha Rotary then Community Expose on South Coast FM may have the answer.

Heard regularly on Sunday and Tuesday mornings on local community radio station South Coast FM, organisations interviewed for Community Expose have included Friends of the State Coal Mine, Pound Creek Rural Fire Brigade, Leongatha Rotary, South Gippsland Conservation Society, Inverloch RSL, Inverloch Men's Shed and Probus.

Presenter Richard Kay said the purpose of Community Expose is to expose the community to the many important groups that can be found in this area.

"We like to meet the people involved and find out why they

By Bruce Wardley

joined the group," Mr Kay said.

The difference between Mr Kay's live weekly breakfast program on Wednesday mornings and Community Expose is breakfast is more fast paced with a tight schedule.

"Breakfast is about half-hourly news bulletins, music and requests," Mr Kay said.

"Community Expose is pre-recorded during the week and has a more relaxed conversational tone for people who have a little more time to listen rather than rushing off to work."

Mr Kay's most recent interview with Linda Pettit from Bunurong Wildlife Care focused on wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and release at Inverloch.

"We care for all species of wildlife except snakes," Ms Pettit said.

"Animals that can be released back into the wild."

Ms Pettit is an accredited rescuer for Wildlife Victoria and trains volunteer rescuers.

The animals she regularly cares for at Bunurong Wildlife Care include macropods or hopping marsupials such as kangaroos and wallabies, koalas and wombats.

"We sometimes have up to 30 animals at once," Ms Pettit said.

"Sometimes more, it depends on what we already have in care."

Each year Bunurong Wildlife Care can care for between 100 and 200 animals.

"We partner with other shelters and use foster carers," Ms Pettit said.

"A wombat joey can take two years before it can be released back into the wild."

Wildlife protection signs with a phone number for injured wild-

life are available as a fundraiser for the wildlife shelter and can be purchased from the State Coal Mine, Inverloch Community Bendigo Bank and Inverloch Animal Doc for \$20.

"We want them everywhere, the perfect Christmas present," Ms Pettit said.

To volunteer as a wildlife carer email Linda@BunurongWildlifeCare.au or ring the shelter on 15147751. For injured wildlife phone Wildlife Victoria on (03) 8400 7300.

To contact Richard Kay at South Coast FM email Radio@SouthCoastFM.au

South Coast FM broadcasts on 88.1, 89.5 and 89.1 or stream live at southcoastfm.au

To become a member look for South Coast FM on Instagram or Facebook or go to southcoastfm.au/join-us/membership-application/

### • FAITH FACTOR

Did the coming of Christ make the world a better place?

By Father Darren Howie, Parish Priest, St Joseph's Parish, Wonthaggi

WHETHER you refer to the year 2025 as CE (common era) or AD (Latin for in the year of the Lord) time, the fact is our time is measured from Christ's birth in a stable, which we will celebrate this Christmas. Prior to that, people measured time from some other significant event, such as the founding of a city.

Believer or not, the belief that God chose a stable for the birthplace of his son gives dignity and value to every human life. God's message in the first book of the Bible that we are all of value is found in Genesis 1:26, with the words "Let us make man in our own image and likeness."

This says that everyone comes from God, not just the king and the ruling class. Christ's coming to us as a baby child also tells us that God does not force anyone to love him or others. Christmas reminds us that the Christ child would grow up and teach us to love, value and help those in any kind of need.

The first Christians became known as people who loved others with no expectation of anything in return. Tertullian wrote of them, "See how they love one another." God's message that we are children of God inspired William Wilberforce to abolish slavery, and countless others to help the poor and oppressed.

Today, we see love inspired by and animated by Christ in the outreach of volunteers to the poor. Not for one moment do Christians deny that there is evil in the world, and that people have done bad things in the name of religion. However, as a Christian, I thank God for Christ's coming to reveal God's love, to teach us how to love God and neighbour - a love I believe I experience directly from God and indirectly from other Christians - a love that has made a difference and will continue to make a difference.

I believe that Christ has made a positive difference not only to my own life but in countless others as well.

School Holiday Fun for all Ages

**HOBBY HORSE JUMP DAYS**

Thursday January

8 & 15, 2026

10-12pm

Sanders Pavilion  
Korumburra Show Grounds

Friendly participation  
for all confidence levels

Parental supervision at all times.

Thank you to our sponsor **EQ saddlery**

A huge thank you to the Korumburra A&P Society for kindly donating the Sanders Pavilion to host this event for the community to enjoy



Phone 0433 450 223 Email jumpinghorseclub@mail.com



**WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm**

**THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm**

**Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street**

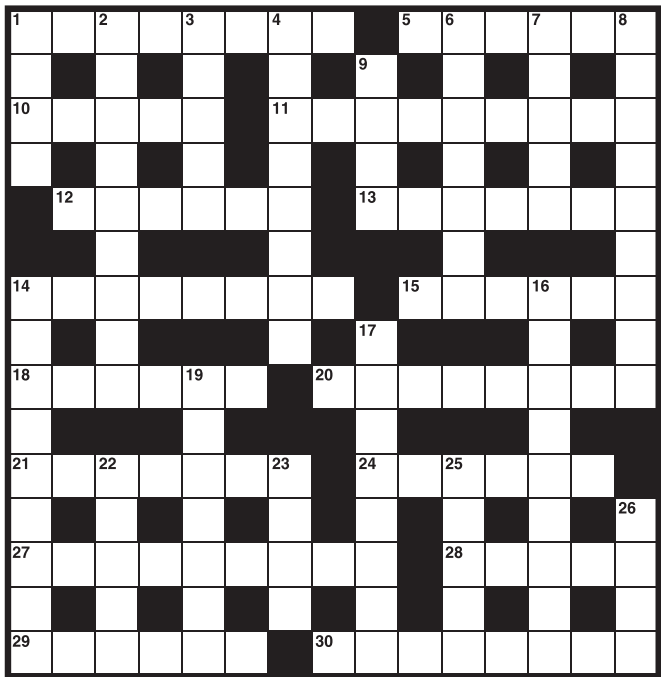
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★



CROSSWORD

No. 312



- ACROSS
- 1 Possessiveness (8)

5 Kind of dark tea (6)

10 Trade (5)

11 Burning to ashes (9)

12 Cloak (6)

13 Shakes (7)

14 Dispassionate (8)

15 Composed (6)

18 Arctic plain (6)

20 Extremely hungry (8)

21 Skilled worker (7)

- 24 Structure; arrangement (6)
- 27 Lower layers (9)
- 28 Offspring (5)
- 29 Mask (6)
- 30 Diverges (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Barely (4)

2 Liveliness (9)

3 Young bird (5)

4 Relating to civilisation (8)

6 Manoeuvre in a very small space, turn --- (coll) (2,1,4)

7 Posit (5)

8 Hoodlums (9)

9 Longevity (coll) (4)

14 Emotional release (9)

16 Reparations (9)

17 Revolt (8)

19 Decoration or reward (7)

22 Starchy vegetable (5)

23 Flat unleavened bread of India (4)

25 Japanese delicacy (5)

26 Consumes (4)

SOLUTION

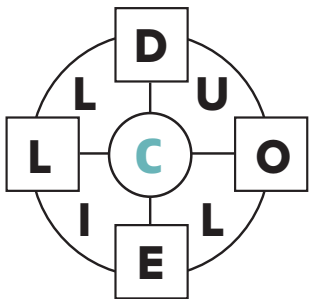


9-LETTER

No. 312

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:
- 13 words: Good
- 19 words: Very good
- 26 words: Excellent

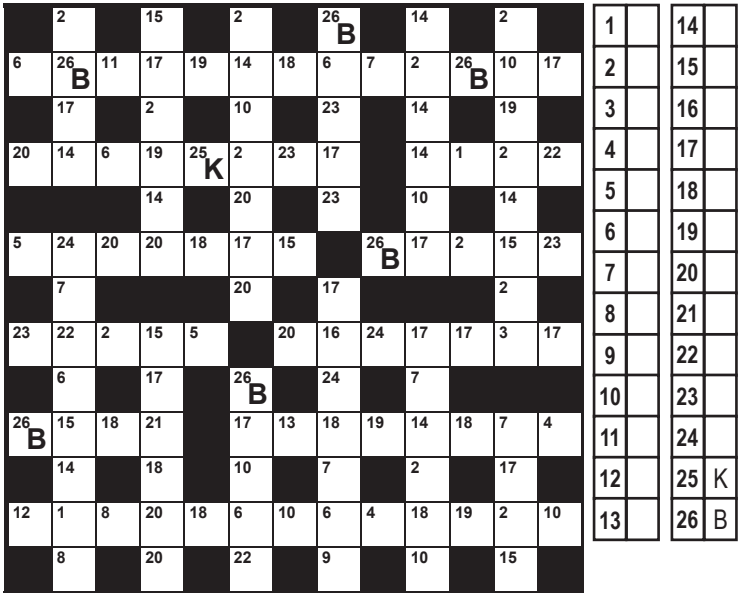


cell, cello, celluloid, cloud, clue, clued, code, coll, collie, cold, cole, collide, collie, collude, could, cull, culled, dice, docile, iced, lice, loci, lucid, ludic, oleic

CODEWORD

No. 302

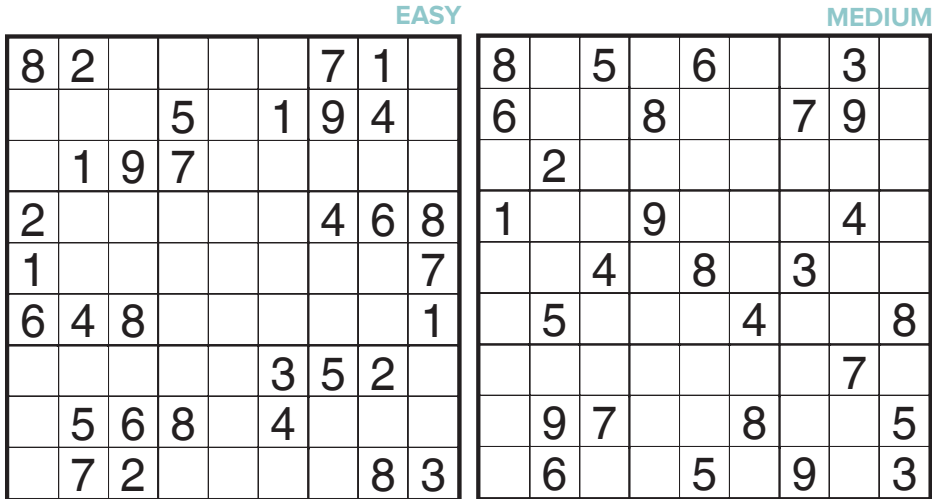
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



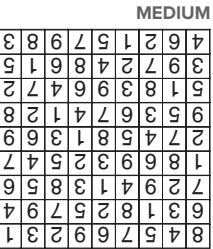
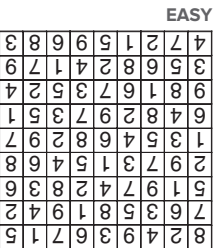
SUDOKU

No. 311

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.



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. Spaghetti alla puttanesca, a pasta dish typically made with tomatoes, olives, anchovies, chilli, garlic and capers, originated in which Italian city?

2. Would water freezing to form ice be considered a physical or a chemical change?

3. Who directed the films *Lady Bird* (2017), *Little Women* (2019) and *Barbie* (2023)?

4. Winona Laura Horowitz is better known by what name?

5. *Vanderpump Rules* was developed as a spin-off from which other US reality TV series?

6. Rachel McAdams (pictured), Lindsay Lohan, Amanda Seyfried and Lacey Chabert star together in which 2004 teen comedy film?

7. 'Come over to the window, my little darling/I'd like to try to read your palm' are the opening lines of which song?

8. To whom was King Henry VIII married the longest?

9. What is the capital city of Peru?

10. *Monkey Grip*, *The Spare Room* and *The Children's Bach* are novels by which Australian writer?



WORD SEARCH

No. 222

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



- BEANIE

BIB

BLOCKS

BURP

CARRY

CHILD

CLASSES

COT

CRAVING

CRAWL

CRIB

CRY

CUTE

DOULA

DUMMY

GLOW

GRANDFATHER

GRANDMA

GROW

JUICE

KID

LOVE

MATERNITY

MILK

NANNY

NAP

NATAL

NURSE

PEEKABOO

PLAN

PLAY

POWDER

PRAM

PREGNANCY

RATTLE

ROCK

SHOWER

STEPS

STORK

TEDDY

TEETHING

TOYS

SECRET MESSAGE: Adding another branch to the family tree



# ‘Fuller Downs’

AN EXCEPTIONAL grazing property spanning approximately 382 acres across two titles, Fuller Downs offers a rare combination of productive farmland and modern lifestyle living.

The recently renovated three-bedroom, two-bathroom home features quality fittings throughout and an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area with outstanding views over Corner Inlet. The property also includes a fully self-contained bungalow.

The farm is in excellent condition with well-watered paddocks featuring troughs in every paddock, strong pastures of rye and clover with a proven fertiliser history, and full subdivision into 15 paddocks with all-weather laneways leading to heavy-duty stockyards. Extensive shedding and hay and machinery workshops complete the infrastructure. The property currently runs 350 Angus cows and calves.

Soil tests and fertiliser history are available on request.

Vendor terms are available on 50 per cent deposit with balance over four years at 4 per cent interest. The property can also be purchased walk-in walk-out with stock and machinery, with possession preferably at the end of February 2026.

Contact Barry Redmond on 0477 622 292 for more information or to arrange a private inspection.

3 3 2 381.9 Acres

515 Fullers Road, **Foster**  
**EOI** Closing February 9 at 4pm  
**Agent** Nutrien Harcourts  
Barry Redmond 0477 622 292  
barry.redmond@nh.com.au



**Nutrien Harcourts** Leongatha

*We make it possible*

47 Bair Street (03) 5662 2292  
nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha



**LEONGATHA** 4 1 2  
Montville  
• Elegant 1913–14 federation home on a spacious block.  
• Period charm, modern kitchen, renovated bathroom.  
• Immaculate gardens, and excellent shedding.  
**\$950,000**



**LEONGATHA**  
JL & Co Boutique  
• Bair Street location with great exposure & loyal clientele.  
• Fully equipped salon and giftware boutique - WIWO.  
• Ready to operate with all fittings, fixtures, and stock incl.  
**\$80,000**



**KORUMBURRA** 3 1 2  
Rural Living – Town Boundary  
• Solid BV Home on approx. 1.48 acres.  
• Established gardens, chook house.  
• Town water, lock up shed.  
**\$950,000**



**Barry Redmond**  
Director / Estate Agent  
0477 622 292



**MIRBOO** 3 1 2  
Expansive Acreage!  
• 106.5 Acres with undulating paddocks, est. shelter belts.  
• Open plan living, wood fire, north-facing veranda.  
• Machinery sheds, heavy-duty stockyards.  
**\$1,100,000**



**WOOREEN** 5 3 2  
Stunning Property  
• 36 acres with mature gardens, 15 km from Leongatha.  
• Plus self-contained one-bedroom second dwelling.  
• Dam, large machinery shed, double lock-up shed.  
**\$1,600,000**



**LEONGATHA** 3 2 3  
Immaculate family home!  
• Lovely family home on sizable 977m<sup>2</sup> block.  
• Fully appointed kitchen with a large step in pantry.  
• Double lock up garage with direct access into the house.  
**\$699,000**



**Kellie Thomas**  
Licensed Estate Agent  
0438 647 449



**MARDAN** 3 1 2  
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.  
**\$1,280,000**



**FISH CREEK** 4 2 8  
Stunning 28 Acre Lifestyle Property  
• Approx. 28 Acre property, rolling hills and rural views.  
• Spacious home with modern kitchen and high ceilings.  
• Alfresco entertaining, double garage, large shed.  
**\$1,285,000 - \$1,385,000**



**DUMBALK** 4 2 2  
Peace and Tranquillity!  
• Spacious home on 1,185m<sup>2</sup> with stunning rural views.  
• Flexible dual living or Guest/Air BnB.  
• Double lock up garage with extra storage space.  
**\$620,000**



**Monique Wightman**  
Marketing & Administration  
(03) 5662 2292





MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre

Final sale for 2025

By SGSAA

THE final store sale for 2025 and the final sale for the VLE was held on Thursday, with a good crowd in attendance to celebrate the end of 30 years of the VLE running saleyards.

A small offering of 1100 head came forward in a mixed quality yarding, with prices holding steady for most types. A few pens of good quality yearling steers, a little dearer than recent sales, with most of the purchases being made by local agents and graziers with no feedlot orders operating.

Two charity steers were kindly donated and made \$5400 each, the purchaser being the RLX, who are the new owners of the facility, with the proceeds to go to the local hospital.

On behalf of all the SGSAA members, we wish all of our employees, clients, buyers, carriers, VLE management and staff, and the new RLX Team a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 2026.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025 Steers				
Latrobe Park Angus 24 Angus	412kg	\$5.88	\$2420	
Bergalia Farm 10 Charo	408kg	\$4.52	\$1850	
Bergalia Farm 12 Lim X	406kg	\$4.92	\$2000	
Ponderosa Herefords 15 BB	400kg	\$5.72	\$2290	
Ponderosa Herefords 15 Her	381kg	\$5.89	\$2250	
Little River 17 Angus	381kg	\$4.87	\$1860	
Ponderosa Herefords 15 Her	380kg	\$5.91	\$2250	
Bergalia Farm 14 Lim X	367kg	\$5.17	\$1900	
Von Pace Pastoral 12 Angus	365kg	\$4.98	\$1820	
J & S Kelly 16 Angus	345kg	\$5.88	\$2030	
Sm Thompson 21 Angus	345kg	\$5.55	\$1920	
E & J Cox 15 Angus	308kg	\$5.25	\$1620	
C & L Stewart 15 Ang	304kg	\$5.98	\$1820	
J & S Giliam 20 Dan Blue	192kg	\$6.18	\$1190	
J & S Giliam 17 Dan Blue	174kg	\$6.60	\$1150	
J & S Giliam 14 Dan Blue	161kg	\$7.01	\$1130	

Heifers			
Bulleondurra 16 Angus	423kg	\$4.48	\$1900
Sm Thompson 13 Angus	325kg	\$4.30	\$1400

Lardner Park Calf Market Report Monday, December 15, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$21 to \$35
Friesian Bulls	\$45 to \$105
Friesian Heifers	\$70 to \$100
Beef Bulls	\$270 to \$320
Beef Heifers	\$70 to \$100
Number of Calves:	36
Number purchased to rear:	35

ELECTRIC FENCE ENERGIZER REPAIRS

Paul Vassil (Formerly Vassil Electronics) 38 Lower Gordon St, Korumburra 0408 515 184

Kill the WEED Plant the SEED Grow the FEED



FASTRAK DRONES

Scan for our services info



Call now - 0413 445 093

VLE's innovative approach fondly recalled

By Andrew Paloczzi

WHILE there was some sadness following the final sale run by VLE in Leongatha on Thursday, those who established the business in 1997 are proud of its achievements, particularly the positive changes it brought to the saleyard industry.

One of VLE's founders, Graham Osborne, told the Sentinel-Times about the principles that underpinned its operations, those being that it had to be privately owned and funded, with a focus on customer service and animal and human welfare.

That attention to animal welfare stemmed from the poor condition of saleyards at the time VLE was formed, which Graham explained had a significant negative impact on the condition of animals that farmers had put so much work into caring for.

The introduction of soft flooring rather than concrete or bluestone, and overhead covering were key initiatives, along with saleyard design measures to prevent bruising of cattle, which as well as being a welfare issue lowered the carcass value of affected animals.

Prior to those innovations, there were serious issues with bruising and hoof problems.

"In the winter, they'd be wet and cold with nowhere to lie down, and they'd be stressed," Graham said of the conditions animals endured before the introduction of roofing over saleyards.

He also highlighted the fact VLE placed a strong emphasis on separating animals and humans where possible to prevent people being injured.

VLE's introduction of measures to maintain animal



Chris Sleigh, Julie Khalid and Graham Osborne were instrumental in establishing the VLE as was Michael Quinert who was unable to attend the celebratory lunch that followed the organisation's final sale. A60\_5125

welfare had a major positive impact on the relationship between meat processors and saleyards.

"Meat processors could not get good consistent product out of the saleyards and we needed to change that or they were going to leave the saleyard industry," Graham said.

The improvements VLE introduced were on show from its outset, creating the Pakenham Saleyards from scratch, with those yards opening in 1999.

Over the years, saleyards in Leongatha, Traralgon, Yar-ram, Korumburra and Sale followed, with VLE continuing to operate the Pakenham Saleyards until 2024.

Along with Graham, Chris Sleigh, Michael Quinert and Julie Khalid were instrumental in establishing the VLE and in its ongoing success, providing a blend of valuable skills.

Chris came with a background in construction, Julie IT, Michael law and Graham agriculture.

"I had an idea 30 years ago when we heard that Dandenong (Saleyards) was closing and it grew and grew to be a bit of a trail blazer," Chris said of VLE's innovative approach to the industry.

He is confident the Leongatha Saleyards are in good hands with buyer Regional Livestock Exchanges (RLX) but admits to feeling a bit of sadness, adding "You can't do something for ever and none of us are getting any younger."

Following VLE's final sale, a lunch was held to celebrate an almost three-decade-long contribution to the saleyard industry, Graham remarking in his speech that a number of people there have been with the business throughout.

He thanked stock agents,

staff members present and past and everyone else who has been part of the journey.

"We're only a little company but we've been a great company and brought change to the saleyard industry that had never been seen before," Graham reflected.

He spoke of Greg Hoffmann's crucial role in charge of maintenance in the early years of the VLE and his innovative approach to solving problems with limited funds available, drawing on his experience in maintaining Antarctic bases and having to make do with the supplies that came on the ship.

Graham wished new Leongatha Saleyards owner RLX all the best.

"They've got the funding model that we never had," he said, confident VLE achieved all it could and believing the new owner will continue to improve the Leongatha Saleyards.

ALL BREEDS FEMALE SALE VLE - LEONGATHA

MONDAY JANUARY 5, 2026 Starting at 9am

A/c Willawa Grazing, Foster (Annual Draft) (NUTRIEN) 25X25 Angus/Friesian x heifer, 2 1/2 yo with Limo calf at foot, not rejoined. 40 Angus/Friesian x heifers, 2 yo, PTIC to Stuf Limo bull to commence calving 30/1 Feature line of Vendor bred heifers. Quality outfits & proven vealer mothers. All Heifers by McIndoe & Hazelwood stud Angus bulls A/c B, D & M Calder, Dumbalk (Annual Draft) (NUTRIEN) 23 Angus/Friesian x heifers, Unjoined, by Harris bulls A/c C & M Amor, Kardella (NUTRIEN) 12 Angus/Friesian & Hereford/Friesian x heifers, 2-2 1/2 yo PTIC to Limo bull to commence calving 20/1 A/c J & L Jenkin, Korumburra (NUTRIEN) 10 Hereford/Friesian x heifer, 2 1/2yo PTIC to Limo bull to commence calving 10/1 A/c T & J Clark, Nerrena (NUTRIEN) 15 Angus/Friesian x heifers, 15 mths, unjoined

5662 4033 5662 2291

0429 050 349 5997 1555

5655 1133 5658 1894 5941 4666

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS

Est. 1886

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

KORUMBURRA	FOSTER
David Ryan 0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner 0408 595 174
	Brian Vuillermin 0429 436 040
LEONGATHA	WONTHAGGI
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager 0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager 0408 595 183
Jack Curtis 0427 762 670	David Holden 0428 749 390
	Alan Bolding 0419 723 255
WARRAGUL	PAKENHAM
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager 0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager 0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn 0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick 0408 975 476
Jordan Sim 0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher 0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne 0418 654 590	Tim Gibson 0420 306 599
Georgie Snell 0417 100 657	Imogen Price 0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA	LEONGATHA	MELBOURNE LAND
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898	Andrew Newton 0402 940 320	Matt Koster 0474 781 711
	Peter Dwyer 0428 855 244	
WONTHAGGI		COWES
Phillip Hanley 0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299	Greg Price 0419 337 441
Cal Nation 0439 334 163	Tony Giles 0407 528 192	Brian Silver 0407 347 509
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783	Dan Huther 0418 334 801	Chase Watters 0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE	WARRAGUL	VENUS BAY
Angus Hall 0466 326 487	Alan Steenholdt 0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie 0417 631 252
INVERLOCH	PAKENHAM	Sue Lawrie 0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond 0403 525 413	Tom Gibson 0438 574 472	
BERWICK	LANG LANG	KOO WEE RUP
Tom Gibson 0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898	Angus Hall 0466 326 487

SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE





# Solid end for VLE

By Andrew Paloczi

PRICES were generally solid at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale with a yarding of 1,140 head of cattle exhibiting mixed quality.

A healthy number of steer calves achieved comfortably over \$5 per kilo, with some hitting prices beyond \$6 a kilo.

One pen of young calves from J&S Giliam weighing in at an average of just 161 kilos fetched an excellent \$1,130 a head at \$7.01 per kilo.

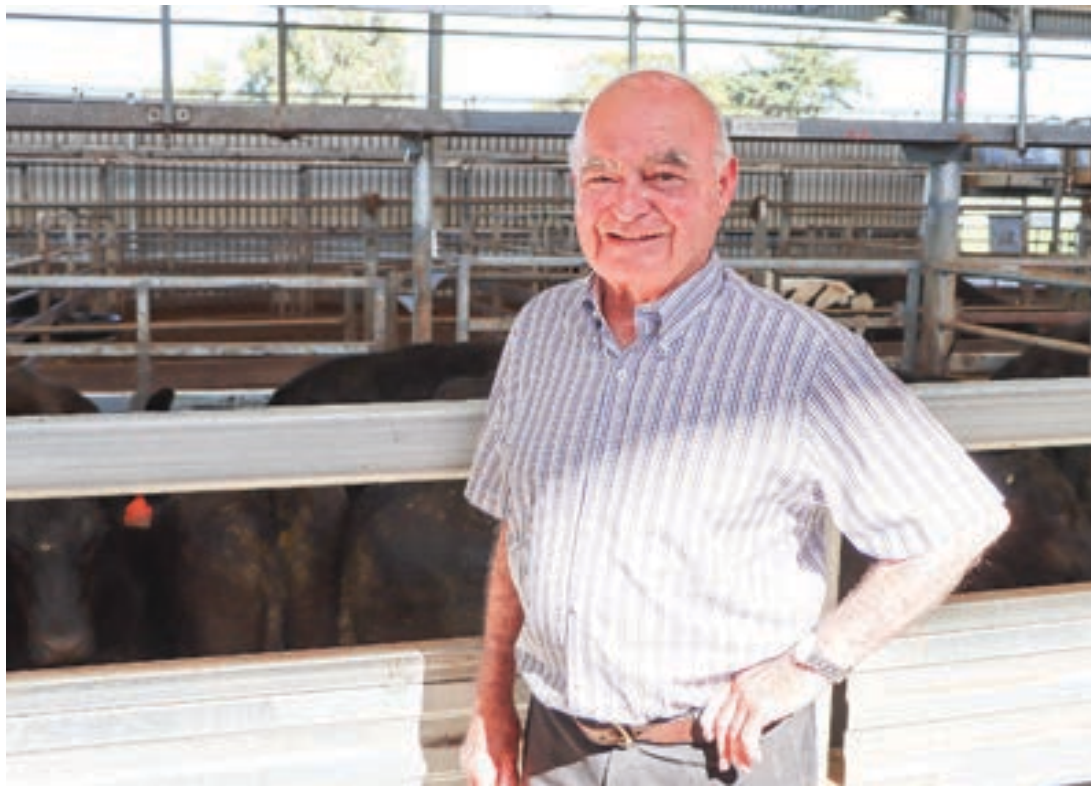
Another 17 animals from the same vendor, averaging a slightly heavier weight of 174 kilos, made \$1,150 each, equating to \$6.60 a kilo.

Some Angus yearling steers around the 460 kilo mark made either side of \$5 per kilo, SEJ's Jimmy Kyle early in the sale knocking down a pen of 18 steers from Foster's C and G White that averaged 461 kilos and featured Banquet Blood for \$2,450 each or \$5.31 a kilo.

Seven Angus steers from D&T Gilheany of Buffalo achieved \$5.10 per kilo, weighing an average 460 kilos and selling for \$2,350 a head.

Jimmy sold 16 Angus steers from Nartanda in Binginwarri for \$6.36 a kilo, those animals hitting \$1,540 a head and weighing an average of 242 kilos.

People who have been associated with VLE saleyards, including Leongatha, enjoyed chatting to each other about their experiences as they took in the organisation's final sale,



Mick Hornsby reflected on his long relationship with the VLE. A58\_5125

some then heading to a celebratory lunch at the cafeteria.

The Sentinel-Times chatted to long-term VLE shareholder and livestock agent Mick Hornsby who used to be based in Pakenham and reflected on the contribution of VLE and its transformative approach to building saleyards there and making marked improvements after taking on the Leongatha Saleyards.

VLE's introduction of dirt floors and covered saleyards are a couple of the business'

significant achievements.

Of VLE's final sale, MLA market reporter Brendan Fletcher noted, "There was a large crowd of onlookers and most local agencies were represented, while there was no feedlot order operating."

He put steers at up to \$50 a head dearer, with heifers remaining firm.

"The top of the weaner heifers made \$1,750 per head for 14 Angus weighted at 386 kilos, or 453 cents a kilo, while the top of the yearling heifers

made \$2,010 a head for 13 Angus weighed at 445 kilos, or 452 cents a kilo," Brendan reported.

Sixteen slightly lighter Angus heifers weighing 423 kilos sold for \$1,900 each, achieving \$4.49 a kilo.

Vendors, buyers and agents return to action in the new year, with new Leongatha Saleyards owner Regional Livestock Exchanges (RLX) in charge of the facility, the Monday, January 5 'female sale' being the first under RLX's watch.



Regional Livestock Exchanges CEO Brett Freer is excited about what lies ahead as the business prepares to take charge of the Leongatha Saleyards.

## RLX CEO outlines transition of Leongatha Saleyards

By Andrew Paloczi

REGIONAL Livestock Exchanges (RLX) CEO Brett Freer chatted to the Sentinel-Times at Thursday's Store Sale, explaining what needs to happen before the business runs the January 5 'female sale', Thursday's sale being the last for the Victorian Livestock Exchange (VLE) after selling the Leongatha Saleyards to RLX.

He said there is a lot of work involved in the transfer, noting "We're working hand in hand with the VLE to make that happen."

That preparation includes transitioning VLE staff into RLX employment, along with getting backend systems working.

"The IT and systems side of things is what we need to make sure works seamlessly, so people get paid and people get invoiced," Mr Freer said.

He noted that apart from such essentials, there'll be limited changes before the January 5 sale, given the Christmas holiday period is upon us.

"We've worked with staff over the last couple of days to offer as many people employment contracts as we possibly could; unfortunately, there are a few roles we're still looking at whether we can incorporate," Mr Freer said, adding the majority of the VLE staff have been offered employment contracts. He looks forward to seeing many of them in RLX uniforms early in the new year.

With VLE having formed extensive plans for improvements to Leongatha Saleyards, Mr Freer spoke of how RLX will determine its priorities on that front.

"RLX has got a long history of investing in saleyards and we'll look to work with the different stakeholders, be it transporters, agents, vendors, buyers, to identify the priority projects that are really going to make a difference to this particular site," he said, explaining the business also needs to be mindful of making a return for its shareholders.

The Leongatha Saleyards purchase brings the total number of saleyards under RLX control to 11, with scale, geographical presence, and a great surrounding market factors that appeal to the business.

Mr Freer described Thursday's Store Sale as "a credit to the VLE", wishing the vendors and buyers a terrific last sale for the VLE and thanking them and the VLE for their support as he looks forward to RLX being part of the action in the new year. While an agreement has been signed between VLE and RLX, there is still a little to take care of to finalise the sale.

"It's just like buying a residential home; you sign the contract and there's a certain period of time to get all the novations and the transfers done, and you've got to go through government agencies and local councils to get permits transferred," Mr Freer said, elaborating that he hoped all that would be finalised within the next couple of days. RLX has a centralised management process, with North and South regions.

"The VLE will roll in under our Southern Region management, which is headed up by Tim Keys who is based in Wodonga," Mr Freer said, noting Tim will pay regular visits to the Leongatha site where there will also be a site manager.

## Positive but cautious outlook for dairy farmers

LEONGATHA dairy farmers remain nervous about next year's rainfall despite favourable conditions since October.

Dairy Farmers Victoria Board member and Leongatha South dairy identity Ben Vagg said while the mood is buoyant locally, the longer term remains uncertain.

"In South Gippsland, a lot of silage has only just got cut, so there's not going to be a lot of hay," he said, adding that more rain is wanted

By Andrew Paloczi

as always.

Mr Vagg remarked that some dairy farmers continue to feel the impact of a prolonged dry spell prior to the positive turn in the weather, still having significant short-term debt from having to purchase cereal hay, noting that applies particularly in Western Victoria.

November was the key period locally with significant rain helping fill dams and grow

fodder.

Overall milk volumes across Victoria are down on last season given the impact of earlier dry conditions, the drop noted in Bendigo Bank's November Dairy Market Update.

While Mr Vagg acknowledged some milk price step ups have occurred pre-Christmas, remarking, "I think the prices are alright," he feels that next season's price can't afford to start below where this year's price finishes.

He considers that should prices drop and the weather fails to play its part, it will likely push some farmers to exit the dairy industry.

If prices fall, dairy farmers' input costs, including commodities, administration costs, taxes and insurance, would have to decrease to keep farms sustainable.

Mr Vagg stressed the global milk price shouldn't be a factor in determining pricing locally.

**- PRELIMINARY NOTICE -**  
**MAJOR MACHINERY & SUNDRIES**  
**CLEARING SALE**

**Friday, January 23**  
**at 9.30am**

**A/c Antrim Park**  
**S & J LOUGHRIDGE**  
**'PROPERTY SOLD'**

24 Invermay Rd West, Ripplebrook

**Nutrien**  
**Ag Solutions**  
SOUTH GIPPSLAND LIVESTOCK

**For further details contact:**

Michael Robertson 0484 041 653  
Matt Loughridge 0419 446 152

JA23713

**We wish all our clients a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Our agents will be available all through the holiday season.

- 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 TO 249	\$7.80
160 TO 199	\$7.80
120 TO 159	\$5.10
<b>BULLS PLEASE CALL FOR A BOOKING</b>	

**BEN BOULTON 0488 445 467**

**OFFICE: 0429 445 461** [www.wellingtonlivestock.net](http://www.wellingtonlivestock.net)

HM1726313



# Virtual fencing and herding technology welcomed



Leongatha South dairy farmer and Board member of Dairy Farmers Victoria Ben Vagg is pleased Victorian farmers will now have access to virtual fencing and herding technology. A01\_5125

LEONGATHA South dairy farmer and Dairy Farmers Victoria (DFV) Board member Ben Vagg welcomes the news that virtual fencing and herding technology has the go-ahead from the State Government, expected to be operational on farms from February. The technology works by fitting livestock with solar-powered smart collars that use audio, vibration, and electric pulses to contain or guide animals to desired areas, with farmers setting parameters through a mobile phone app. While Mr Vagg won't be adopting the technology at this stage on his farm as he has recently established a robotic dairy, he and the DFV see lots of positives for dairy farmers

By Andrew Palocz

in virtual fencing and virtual herding. Those positives include a reduction in labour and better pasture monitoring and utilisation, not having to put up strip fencing being one of the major time savings. "It helps you allocate and 'back-fence'," Mr Vagg said, elaborating that "If you've got a big paddock and the girls graze the front really hard, it holds the cows off those areas." Back-fencing refers to setting up a temporary fence behind cows as they graze a new section of paddock, preventing overgrazing. Reduced wear and tear on quad bikes is another key benefit highlighted, with Mr

Vagg noting the fact that better quality quad bikes are difficult to source and expensive. The use of the virtual technology locally for fencing off creeks and significant waterways may benefit some farmers he believes. "Dairy Farmers Victoria has been closely talking with Agriculture Victoria," Mr Vagg said of DFV's advocacy efforts in relation to virtual fencing and herding initiatives. He considers it generally takes three to five years for the full benefits of new farming technologies to become apparent as farmers figure out how to use the technology most effectively and overcome challenges that arise. In the short term, cows will

also have to adapt. Mr Vagg's robotic dairy setup uses three grazing allocations to drive the cows around and said the use of virtual fencing and herding technology in a robotic dairy set up is a work in progress, posing the question, "How do we adapt it to our voluntary milking systems?" "I know that Halter are looking for brave robotic farmers but I'm not that brave just yet," Mr Vagg said, Halter being one of the manufacturers of virtual fencing and herding technology. The RSPCA has previously raised animal welfare issues about the technology. **Read the full story online at [sgst.com.au](http://sgst.com.au)**

# TRADES & SERVICES DIRECTORY

**AIR CONDITIONING**

**SAVE UP TO \$5,000 WHEN YOU REPLACE YOUR GAS DUCTED HEATING**

Ask us how!

**MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC**  
DIAMOND DEALER  
SALE, INSTALLATION & REPAIR

**citytocoastair.com**  
**0400 001 465**

AU39230

**BUILDER**

**Renovating your bathroom?**  
We specialise in bathroom renovations and general carpentry.

David Cowan  
Builder

**0425 811 443**  
Reg. DB-L71510

**COWAN**  
BUILDING BATHROOMS

LB1083

**CARPENTER**

**FOR ALL YOUR CARPENTRY AND MAINTENANCE NEEDS**

**BASS COAST**  
CARPENTRY & MAINTENANCE

**TRENT 0434 557 936**  
Bass Coast Carpentry & Maintenance

HM1343

**CURTAINS & BLINDS**

**dc b value in every dollar**

curtains blinds shutters outdoor

**dollar curtains + blinds**  
21 Murray Street, Wonthaggi 5672 2915  
[www.dollarcurtainsandblinds.com.au](http://www.dollarcurtainsandblinds.com.au)

JA19734

**AIR CONDITIONING**

**COASTAL**  
REFRIGERATION & AIR-CONDITIONING

**DAIKIN**  
03 5678 5190  
[office@picra.com.au](mailto:office@picra.com.au)

Coastal Refrigeration and Airconditioning

AU22840

**COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC SERVICE, INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE AND SALES**

HM6529

**BUILDER**

**VANDERMEER & SONS**  
Over 25 years experience  
**Bathrooms a speciality**

- Decking • Concrete retainer walls • Kitchens
- Bathrooms • Plastering • Painting
- Pergolas • Renovations
- Doors & window installation • Built-in robes

**PAUL VANDERMEER**  
Mobile: 0427 750 568  
**FREE QUOTES**

VV0124

**CARPET CLEANING**

**Brittys Cleaner Carpets**

- Carpets • Tiles • Cars
- Upholstery • Mattresses

Reasonable rates and friendly service.  
Call David Britt today  
**0400 907 201**

HM6631

**DECK RESTORATION**

**DeckSeal**

Specialists in restoration & preservation of timber decks  
Residential & Commercial

SERVICING ALL OF BASS COAST  
**1800 332 525**  
[www.deckseal.com.au](http://www.deckseal.com.au)

BEFORE AFTER

LB0378

**AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING**

**Bass Coast HVAC**  
HEATING, VENTILATION & AIR-CONDITIONING

Heating & A/C install and maintenance  
**FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE**  
**Nick 0421 170 827**  
[nick@basscoasthvac.com.au](mailto:nick@basscoasthvac.com.au)

JA21755

**BUILDER**

**SCHMIDTBUILDERS**  
TRADITIONAL QUALITY CARPENTRY

Specialising in:

- Extensions
- Renovations • New Homes
- Decks & Pergolas
- Stairs-Internal & External
- Private Jetties • Retaining Walls

**Adam Schmidt 0418 139 352**  
ABN 75092084574  
[aschmidtbuilders@bigpond.com](mailto:aschmidtbuilders@bigpond.com)

VV0088

**CARPET & TILE CLEANING**

**ozzie**

Carpet Cleaning • Tile and Grout Upholstery • Pressure cleaning

25 years experience,  
no obligation free quotes  
[ozziecarpetandtilecleaning@gmail.com](mailto:ozziecarpetandtilecleaning@gmail.com)  
**BOOK NOW 0438 357 736**

AF0076

**DINGO SERVICES**

**BEN'S DINGO SERVICES**

- Dingo (rubber tracks)
- Bucket work
- Rotary Hoe
- Trenching
- 2 ton excavator
- Post hole boring

Operating locally since 2001  
**0408 387 722**

HM2869

**ASPHALTING**

**ASPHALT**

Schoolgrounds, Driveways  
Carparks & repairs

**Mike Rowley 0411 412 707**  
66 Nardoo Street, Cape Paterson 3995

HM6588

**BUILDER**

**Beachley Constructions**

Trusted Local Family Builders  
Commercial & Domestic  
New Builds & Renovations  
In-house design advice

Phone Jessica **0418 415 151**  
[www.beachley.construction](http://www.beachley.construction)

AF0087

**CONCRETING**

**REINFORCED CONCRETE SOUTH GIPPSLAND**

For all your concreting needs  
**Phone: 0447 137 009**  
Email:  
[reinforcedconcreteaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:reinforcedconcreteaustralia@gmail.com)

LB0696

**EARTHMOVING & TREES**

**EARTH MOVING & TREES**  
**TREVOR BUNN 0427 572 270**  
E: [tbunn@outlook.com.au](mailto:tbunn@outlook.com.au) ★★★★★ Five star rated

**MACHINERY:**

- CAT326 Excavator 26 tonne
- CATD7 Bulldozer 25 tonne
- Giltrap Tip Trailers 16 tonne cap.
- MF 7615 4WD tractor with front end loader (180 horsepower)
- Available, Large wood chipper that can handle any size logs, alternative to burning

AF0094

**BOOKKEEPING**

**J L BAS & BOOKKEEPING SOLUTIONS**

BAS Agent 26280606

**Julie Appleyard**  
0429 425 252  
[info@jlbas.com.au](mailto:info@jlbas.com.au)

Xero Advisor

ME0690

**BUILDER**

**Brad McCormack Homes**

Specialist builder of period style custom homes.

**0428 496 266**  
[brad@bradmccormackhomes.com.au](mailto:brad@bradmccormackhomes.com.au)

f @ CDB-U 66015

JEN1971

**CONCRETING**

**BASS COAST CONCRETING**  
**0491 950 640**

HM0644

**ELECTRICIAN**

**Your local electrical experts:**

- New Builds & Renovations
- Switchboard Upgrades
- TV, Data & Home Networking
- Lighting Design & Installation
- Maintenance & Repairs
- Fault Finding & Fixes
- 24/7 Emergency Service

**JOEL 0412 950 720**  
[joel@jselectricians.com.au](mailto:joel@jselectricians.com.au)  
[www.jselectricians.com.au](http://www.jselectricians.com.au)

HM13259



# TRADES & SERVICES



## DIRECTORY

### ELECTRICIAN

REC 32780



- 24/7 Emergency Electricians
- Domestic
- Commercial
- Backup generators
- Renovations
- Undergrounds
- Switchboard upgrades

**James 0402 135 292**

[allaboutelectricalcontracting.com.au](http://allaboutelectricalcontracting.com.au)

AF0088

LB126

### 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



### PLASTERER

#### LOOKING FOR A PLASTERER?

All aspects of Rendering & Plastering New and existing homes

**FJ MAROTTA**  
RENDERING & PLASTERING  
**0400 599 170**



### TILING



**APOLLO TILING**  
WALL & FLOOR  
WATERPROOFING & SCREEDING

◆ Providing Quality Service ◆

Servicing Nyora, Loch and Korumburra

**Steve 0425 815 764**

AC0731

### ELECTRONICS



**James Dell**  
10 Ashenden Street  
Leongatha, Vic, 3953  
5662 3891  
[admin@gardnerelectronics.com.au](mailto:admin@gardnerelectronics.com.au)

**Gardner Electronics**

Security/Access control • CCTV • TV  
• Data/Phone • Home Theatre • PA

### HYGIENE SERVICES

**medico**

HYGIENE SERVICES  
WASTE DISPOSAL



- Collection of clinical and related waste including sharps
- Servicing ALL washroom related products
  - Sanitary units, nappy units
  - Air freshener units, W/C & urinal deep cleans
- FREE clinical and related waste audits
- Confidential document disposal service

Servicing all of  
Victoria and Southern  
New South Wales

**Phone: 1800 medico (1800 633 426)**

[www.medicoservices.com.au](http://www.medicoservices.com.au) 100% Australian owned and operated

LB0700

### PLUMBING

#### Cape Paterson Plumbing

**Paul Macdermid**

- Domestic
- Maintenance
- Renovations

**0409 744 891**

5674 4801 Lic no. 48525



AF0062

### TREE SERVICES



- Free Quotes.
- Qualified Arborist and Fully Insured.
- Over 10 years expertise.

• Firewood Sales

- Tree care and advice • Pruning
- Removal • Mulching • Stump grinding

**CALL BRENDAN RYAN 0448 169 258**

VV0302

### EXCAVATIONS

#### FOR ALL YOUR EXCAVATION NEEDS...



- Site Cuts
- Site Clean Ups
- Driveways | Drainage
- Auger | Rock Grab
- Retaining walls

**BILLY HUITEMA 0458 757 062**

[www.bjhexcavations.com.au](http://www.bjhexcavations.com.au)

### LANDSCAPING & CONCRETING

#### A.B LANDSCAPING & CONCRETING

- Retaining Walls • Paving
  - Small Brick Repairs
  - Concreting • Landscaping
- SMALL JOBS WELCOME

**Phone Andrew 0408 822 263**

JEN2335

### RESTUMPING

#### RESTUMPING & RELEVELLING

Restumping, levelling, house raising and repacking, all renovation works.

**CALL 0418 506 788**

Licence DBL24625

### TREE SERVICES



- Contracting
- Cherry Picker
- Qualified Arborist
- Qualified Climber
- Chipper/Tree Removals
- Stump Grinding

[www.treeex.com.au](http://www.treeex.com.au)

**Office 0493 425 800 | Duane Thomas 0409 968 040**

LB1032

### FLOORING



Live beautifully for less

LET US GIVE YOU A QUOTE

**carpetone.com.au**

21 Murray Street, Wonthaggi  
5672 2915

### LAWN MOWING



**Call 131 546**

- ✓ FREE QUOTES
  - ✓ Fully insured
  - ✓ Police checked
  - ✓ OH&S compliant
  - ✓ All work guaranteed
- RISK FREE**

Lawn mowing, gardening, pruning, hedging, rubbish removal, gutter cleaning, weeding, mulching, odd jobs

[www.jimsmowing.com.au](http://www.jimsmowing.com.au)

LB0701

### ROOF RESTORATION

#### S.O.S. ROOFING

YOUR LOCAL ROOFER

- Find and fix leaks • Roof repainting
- Roofing repointing • Valley renewal
- Roof demossing • Guttering • Gutter cleaning

ALL WORK GUARANTEED  
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

**Call Steve 0412 160 071**

### TREE SERVICES



#### Gippsland Tree Services

**Matt Harris**  
**0407 245 381**

- Arborists • Large Ewp
  - Mulching • Insured
  - Tree Removals
- FREE QUOTES**  
**10+ Years Experience**

JA2337

### GARAGES & SHEDS



Ask us about our patios. Your local, qualified project specialist. Permits, construction. 1st class service.

**Contact Gavin 0433 902 969**

[www.gippslandgarages.com](http://www.gippslandgarages.com)

**FREE QUOTES** Site visits subject to T&C's.

### MECHANICAL SALES & REPAIRS



#### WELSHPOOL OUTDOORS

**Ph: 03 5688 1304**



OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT  
WORKSHOP REPAIRS  
ORIGIN GAS DELIVERIES



[welshpooloutdoors@bigpond.com.au](mailto:welshpooloutdoors@bigpond.com.au)  
19 Main Street, Welshpool, VIC, 3966

ME0288

### SECURITY



#### South Gippsland Security Services

- Patrols • Guards • Alarm responses
- Alarm monitoring

Your local security company for Leongatha, Korumburra & district  
Call Peter & Lesley Allman 5662 4280  
Mob. 0427 516 317. Fax 5662 4259.

Lic. No. 655-194-50S [sgsecurity@bigpond.com](mailto:sgsecurity@bigpond.com)

### WASTE SOLUTIONS

#### Permanent waste solutions

Call the commercial and residential waste specialists today!



**5672 2056**

[www.wheelawaste.com.au](http://www.wheelawaste.com.au)  
EPA Registered R000301404

**LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED**

### GUTTER CLEANING

#### VACUUM GUTTER CLEANING

Tree Pruning & Removals | Solar Panel Cleaning  
Fully insured and 20 years experience



**FREE QUOTES**

**Phone Lochie**

**0417 315 846**

Servicing all areas [impacttg@bigpond.com](mailto:impacttg@bigpond.com)

LB1002

VV0041

### PAINTER

#### LOCAL PAINTER

Aden Vandermeer.  
Wonthaggi and surrounding areas.  
FREE QUOTE.

**0455 527 714**



### SOLAR



**SOLAR - BATTERIES - OFF GRID**

**1300 534 110**

REC 19496

### WEED SPRAYING

#### 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/](http://www.hillcountryagdrones.com.au/)

AF0089

### HOME & GARDEN

#### Gippsland Home & Garden Maintenance

- Lawns - small acreages, large residential blocks
  - Customised holiday property packages
  - Seasonal fruit tree pruning
  - Complete bathroom reno's by qualified tradesman
  - Tiling, painting, pressure cleaning
- Years of quality experience

**John 0414 917 468**

Call now for a quote!

### PAINTER / DECORATOR

#### M & J PAINTING

All aspects of painting

**SPECIALISING IN PRE-SALE MAKEOVERS**

Commercial/Scheduled maintenance  
Reliable and prompt

**Call Mal 0448 101 771**



LB0382

### STEEL & ROOFING SUPPLIES

#### McRae Engineering

GENERAL FABRICATION, STRUCTURAL STEEL,  
FARM AND EARTHMOVING,  
MACHINERY REPAIRS, SHEDS, DAIRIES ETC.

CONSIDER IT DONE!



DELIVERIES ARRANGED OR PICK UPS WELCOME

5664 7408 | 0427 343 498 | 134 Whitelaw St, Meeniyar  
[shaun@mcraeengineering.net.au](mailto:shaun@mcraeengineering.net.au)

### WINDOW REPLACEMENT



#### WESTERNPORT WINDOWS AND HOME MAINTENANCE

**MARK**

**P: 0418 686 583**

ALUMINIUM & TIMBER WINDOW REPLACEMENT  
DECKS | PERGOLAS | VERANDAS

LB0384



Family owned and locally based Funeral Directors. We bring 25 years experience to families in Traralgon, Morwell, Churchill, Moe, Trafalgar, Korumburra and surrounding areas.

**THE CHOICE IS YOURS**

Practical, sensible and affordable. We offer both at-need and pre-paid funerals. Dignity and Respect, always.

**CREMATION PACKAGES FROM \$3,300**

[www.harwoodfunerals.com.au](http://www.harwoodfunerals.com.au)  
For 24/7 support 0405 669 532

*A trusted name in Wonthaggi for over 50 years*

SERVICING ALL DISTRICTS  
CHAPEL FACILITIES AVAILABLE

Services provided to suit your needs

OFFICE HOURS  
9AM – 5PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Phone 5672 3123  
102 Graham Street, Wonthaggi  
[www.milkinsfunerals.com.au](http://www.milkinsfunerals.com.au)

Locally owned and operated by

**Scott & Sharon Anderson**  
5672 1074

Caring and personal 24 hour Service

Main office Wonthaggi  
3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi (P.O Box 35)

Cowes office (by appointment)  
15 Warley Avenue, Cowes 5952 5171

Email: [info@handafunerals.com.au](mailto:info@handafunerals.com.au)  
[www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au)

**Proudly supporting families across the Gippsland Region**

Office & Chapel  
24 Anderson Street, Leongatha  
03 56 622 717  
[www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au](http://www.handleyfuneralservices.com.au)

24 hours, 7 days a week  
Member of Funerals Australia

**DEATHS**

**BIRD, Linda:**  
Our dear Lindy Lou, lots of memories of Christmas and cousins days.  
-- The Salmon Family, Bass.

**BROWN, Maureen:**  
Passed away December 17, 2025.  
May you rest in eternal peace, Nan.

We'll miss your quiet but constant presence at family events and will miss the challenge of bumping faces to plant a kiss on you. Thanks for all the furry friends, lemonade and sponge cakes.

We love you. Lisa and Kynan xx

**EVERITT, Katherine (Kathy):**  
27.08.1970 - 18.12.2025  
Loved daughter of Heather and Paul.

Sister to Rebecca and Marcus, aunty to Tabetha and Rhiannon.  
Sister to Warren and Karlya, aunty to Rafael, Lennox and Estella.

**DEATHS**

**PERKS, Garry George:**  
Dearly loved brother of Faye and Graeme. Loved uncle of Travis and Natasha. Passed away December 11, 2025, aged 77.

*Sadly missed. Privately cremated.*

**WINTLE (nee Tait), Janet Grace:**  
Late of Cobram, formerly of Wonthaggi and Warrnambool. Passed away peacefully on the 15.12.2025 at Goulburn Valley Health, Shepparton.

Loving and cherished wife of Stan (dec.). Loving mother of Andrew, Suzzette and Lorelle. Loved Nan of seven and Nan Nan of six. Mother-in-Law to Mark. Friend of Lenny.

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS**

Pre-planning your funeral really takes the pressure off loved ones at a difficult time.

We've been helping Gippslanders with care and respect for over 125 years.

21 Hoddle Road Foster  
03 5682 2443  
**GIPPSLAND FUNERAL SERVICES**

To find out more please call 1300 386 375 or visit [gippslandfuneralservices.com.au](http://gippslandfuneralservices.com.au)

EST 1530 UK  
1882 AUSTRALIA  
ABN 83 076 028 790

**BARRY WAKLEY SCULPTORS AND MONUMENTAL MASONS**

*"Memorials of Distinction"*

Solid Granite monuments in many colors and designs to suit any budget. Letter cutting and renovation.

18 Inverloch Road, Wonthaggi **5657 3341**  
[info@barrywakleysculptor.com.au](mailto:info@barrywakleysculptor.com.au)

*Servicing South Gippsland & Bass Coast Just as we have in Gippsland for over 65 years*

- Granite Memorials
- Renovations & Additions
- Plaques & Accessories

On-site and in-home appointments  
Pensioner discounts

Jamie 0402 850 603  
Lou 0400 076 736  
Office 5134 2885  
[keenanmemorials@gmail.com](mailto:keenanmemorials@gmail.com)  
[www.keenanmemorials.com.au](http://www.keenanmemorials.com.au)

*Let Us Create That Final Gift*

**FUNERALS**

**EVERITT:**  
A private family funeral will be held.

You are invited to an informal gathering with refreshments being served at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at 2pm.

All Welcome.

**QUEALE:**

The Funeral Service for Mr. Kevin Albert Queale will be held at the Scots Pioneer Church, 1191 Mardan Road, Mardan South, Today, Tuesday December 23, 2025, commencing at 11am.

A Private Cremation will follow.

Kevin's service will be live-streamed, please contact the family for live-stream link.

**WINTLE:**

A service to celebrate the life of Mrs. Janet Wintle will be held in St. Joseph's Community Church, Macfarland St., Barooga on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, commencing at 11am.

Brian Walsh Funerals  
51 Broadway St  
Cobram 03 5871 1499

**IN MEMORIAM**

**WARDLE, Edward (Eddie):**  
In loving memory of a wonderful husband for 60 years.

You went to sleep, no more pain six years ago on Christmas day 2019.

You are always in our thoughts and I know you are always looking over us all.

Remembered by our five children.

Bill (Erin), Darren (Patty), Glenn (Terry), Ross (Wendy) Dianne (Peter), and our 11 grandchildren and our 14 great-grandchildren, some may not have seen you but they know all about you.

We will all meet again one day, till then keep resting peacefully my love... Margaret.

Remembering also Raymond (Ray) Newton, passed away Christmas day 1957, age 20... brother of Margaret and great mate of Eddie.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**HAWKINS, Leonard Louis:**  
One year since passing away, December 24, 2024.

Formerly from Leongatha.

Loved husband of Lillian, and father of Peter, Glenn and Wayne.

*Gone Fishing.*

**WATCHORN, Gwenda Mary:**  
December 29, 2011.

It's 14 years since you went away and I miss you every day. I will love you to the '12th of Never.'

--- Terry

**THANKS**

**MILLER, Elaine Charlotte:**  
16.05.1936 - 07.12.2025.

We would like to express a heartfelt thank you and appreciation to our friends and family for the many cards, acts of kindness, sympathy and support shown to myself and the family during this sad time on the passing of our much-loved wife and mother, Elaine.

Our thanks to Prof. Oliver Klein, Dr. Paul Connell, Bass Coast Hospital Palliative Care and District Nursing for the wonderful care given to Elaine.

We thank you, Jack Miller and Family.

**FOR SALE**

**MASSAGE CHAIR:**  
Tebo Chair.  
Luxurious, robotic hands, good condition. \$2,000 negotiable. 0472 501 795

**SEDAN:**  
1978 Leyland Sedan. Manual in good condition 77.250km **\$12,000 ONO.**  
Eng 99M834AJM012913  
Phone Kevin, 0410 044 246. Wonthaggi

**WANTED TO BUY**

**WANTED ANTIQUES, COLLECTABLES, ESTATE LOTS, JEWELLERY AND SHED ITEMS:**  
Cash paid. 0417 108 286.

**To place an advertisement on this page please call 56172 1888**

**USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS**

AAAAAAAAAAAAA

**FREE CAR REMOVAL WE PAY YOU\***

**Bass Coast Recyclers**  
**5672 2946**  
**0417 556 593**  
\*Conditions apply

**BASS COAST CAR REMOVALS**

We pay you for your unwanted cars, 4x4's & trucks

We can remove farm scrap metal for free. Towing now available.

**Call Shane 7 days a week**  
**5678 2002 or 0407 599 616**

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:**

Advertisements offering a used motor car for sale must include in the advertisement:

(a) The cash price of the motor car; and  
(b) Whichever of the following is applicable...

- If the motor car is registered, the registration number; or
- If the motor car is unregistered, the engine number of the vehicle.

**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](http://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](mailto:inverloch@gmail.com)

**HELP IS AS CLOSE AS THE TELEPHONE**

**13 11 14**

**DEADLINES**

**Classified single column Mondays 12.00 noon**

**Classified double column Fridays 3.00pm**

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

**Advertising conditions:**

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

**The Motor Car Traders Regulations:**

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

36 | TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES



# Employment

Complete jobs listing online | [www.sgst.com.au](http://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.



**BAIRS HOTEL**  
EST. 1890

## Chef

Bairs Hotel Leongatha is seeking an experienced and motivated Chef to join our busy kitchen team. Full-time or part-time hours available, above award wages, Applicants must be reliable, organised, and confident working in a fast-paced pub environment.

Start date-mid January 2026

Short term accommodation available for the successful applicant.

To Apply: Please forward CV to [bairshotel@hotmail.com](mailto:bairshotel@hotmail.com) or phone 5662 2017

AF0092

## McRae Engineering

Is currently seeking a

## SALESMAN / YARD MANAGER

To work in its sales division selling roofing and steel supplies.

This is a full time permanent position for immediate start and is an ideal opportunity for a hard working person to work as both part of team and individually in our steel and roofing sales division in Meeniyah.

### Skills and Experiences that are of an advantage:

Experience in the plumbing and steel industries,  
Sales experience,  
Good customer relation skills,  
Car / Forklift / Truck Licences.

Work hours start from 7:30am  
Monday to Friday.  
Wages negotiable.

To apply please email Shaun at [shaun@mcraeengineering.net.au](mailto:shaun@mcraeengineering.net.au) to arrange a time to meet and discuss further or to drop off a resumé.

ME0801



South Gippsland Hospital

## Positions Vacant

### Exercise and Community Rehabilitation Practitioner

Exercise Physiologist or  
Physiotherapist - Grade 2

0.84 EFT fixed term parental leave position  
from March 11, 2026 until April 6, 2027

### Dietitian

Grade 2

0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

For more information:

<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

### Volunteer Expression of Interest

Community Information Volunteer  
Volunteer Catering Administration Assistant  
Ward Assist Volunteer

For more information call  
Annie on 5683 9704

[www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers](http://www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers)

AF0096



OAKLEYS WHITE  
LAWYERS

## Administration Assistant/ Law Clerk

An exciting opportunity exists to join the busy and supportive team at Oakleys White in Foster. We are open to considering full time, part time and casual candidates able to work a minimum of three days per week.

Duties will incorporate all aspects of general administrative and clerical support to our partners including:

- Preparing legal documents and correspondence.
- Liaising with clients and other parties, both in person and via telephone.
- Opening, closing and updating client files.
- Filing, photocopying, collating and organising documents.

Prior experience in a law firm is advantageous but not essential. Experience in administration, reception, or customer service will also be valued. Full training and support will be provided.

The appointee must have:

- Excellent communication skills.
- The ability to work as a part of a fast-paced team.
- A positive attitude and willingness to learn.
- Strong literacy and computing skills, particularly use of Microsoft Office.
- Attention to detail.

Please email your resume and cover letter to [partners@oakleyswhite.com.au](mailto:partners@oakleyswhite.com.au) by 20 January 2026. Contact Fiona Baxter on (03) 5682 2211 with any queries.

HM13270

# Andrew celebrates a remarkable milestone

By Wonthaggi RSL

LAST Tuesday, Andrew Forster OBE celebrated an extraordinary milestone – his 80th birthday – and those of us who know him best are proud to honour not only the years, but the service, commitment and character behind them.

Andrew proudly served in the Australian Navy, a foundation that shaped a lifetime of dedication, discipline and service to others. These values have remained central throughout his life and continue to be reflected in all that he does.

He is widely respected as the treasurer of the Wonthaggi RSL Sub-Branch, a role he has carried out with integrity, diligence and an unwavering sense of responsibility. For the past few years, Andrew has quietly worked behind the scenes, giving countless hours to ensure the strength and sustainability of the Sub-Branch, always placing veterans and community first.

Being awarded an OBE (Over Bloody Eighty) stands as a fitting recognition of a lifetime dedicated to service. It reflects not only what Andy has achieved, but the way he has gone about it, with humility, fairness and genuine care for others.

To his friends, Andy is dependable, thoughtful and generous with both his



Andrew with his OBE certificate.

time and knowledge. His steady presence has made a lasting impact on the Wonthaggi community, and his contribution continues to be felt by all who walk through the doors of the RSL.

On this special occasion, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Andy on reaching 80 remarkable years. We thank him for his service to country, to veterans, and to the community he continues to support.

Happy 80th Birthday, Andy!

## Inverloch celebrates Trevor Scott's centenary

INVERLOCH locals gathered in high spirits at the Inverloch RSL to celebrate the remarkable 100th birthday of Trevor Scott, a much-loved community figure, war veteran, and sporting stalwart. The event saw family, friends, fellow veterans, and dignitaries pay tribute to a man whose life has been defined by service, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to his hometown.

Born and raised in the lush surrounds of Inverloch and Mirboo North, Trevor Scott's formative years were spent enjoying the camaraderie and simple pleasures of country life. His sense of duty led him to enlist during the Second World War, where he served bravely as a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Airfield Defence Guard. Stationed in Bougainville, Trevor played a vital role in defending airfields under challenging conditions, a testament to his courage and resilience.

Trevor's connection with the Inverloch RSL runs deep. With more than 35 years of active membership, he has served the club with distinction, earning Life Membership, the prestigious Gold Badge, and the Meritorious Service Badge. His leadership has been a guiding force, with multiple terms as president and a current role on the management committee, shaping the RSL into a welcoming and supportive hub for veterans and the wider community alike.

A natural sportsman, Trevor's prowess extended to both cricket and Australian Rules football. He not only excelled as a player but also contributed as an umpire, ensuring the spirit of fair play and sportsmanship lived on in local competitions. His commitment to sport inspired generations and fostered a sense of unity and pride within the district.

The centenary celebration was attended by local Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, "a real friend of the Inverloch RSL", who expressed heartfelt admiration for Trevor's lifetime of service. Ms Crugnale spoke warmly of his role as a community linchpin and championed his upcoming trip to the Australian War Memorial, pledging her continued support for Trevor and local veterans. Her presence highlighted the deep respect Trevor commands across all walks of local life.

"Trevor Scott is the embodiment of a living treasure – a man whose extraordinary story and life experience are imbued with wisdom, resilience, and generosity," Ms Crugnale said.



Trevor Scott's 100th birthday was celebrated last week by Inverloch RSL.

"From his courageous service during WWII to decades of leadership at the Inverloch RSL, his sporting achievements galore, and everything in between and beyond - he is the finest, most caring human living amongst us and has shaped the heart of this community. Trevor shares his insights with humbleness, grace, and that unmistakable wit we all adore. An honour to join with so many to celebrate his centenary."

Trevor's passion for community sport is undimmed. As a Life Member of the Inverloch Bowls Club, he led the team to victory in the 2018 RSL Edinburgh Shield, reinforcing his reputation as a leader on and off the field. Most recently, Trevor was awarded Life Membership in the RAAF Airfield Defence Guard Association, presented by Dr Sean Cawardine – a fitting tribute to a man who has given so much to his country and community.

Through war, sport, and community service, Trevor has left an indelible mark on Inverloch, setting an example for all.

# 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](http://www.sgst.com.au)

Email your job adverts to: [ads@sgst.com.au](mailto:ads@sgst.com.au)

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

**Sentinel-Times**





**Locals Barb Houghton and Belinda Nelson await the Korumburra Carols.**  
A79\_5125



**Locals Maria Tehan and Nina Smith are ready to enjoy Carols in Korumburra.**  
A80\_5125



**Korumburra's Barry Tomkinson stopped by to say hi to the Sentinel-Times after a great Carols service.**  
A85\_5125

## Real Christmas spirit on show in Korumburra

By Andrew Paloczzi

THE true meaning of Christmas and the joy of singing filled Korumburra Scout Hall at the town's Carols evening, originally intended to be held outside in Coleman Park before Sunday's weather intervened.

Organised by the combined churches of Korumburra, the event wasn't hijacked by modern songs and commercialism.

While largely a happy occasion, there was time for reflection on the recent tragedy at Bondi Beach, Pastors Ian Wilkinson of Korumburra Baptist Church and David Kennedy of Southern Hills Church both expressing care for those affected.

Attendees joined a minute's silence. Pastor Kennedy also spoke of his grief at the time he lost his first wife when the couple had five children aged between 10 and 20 years, and how the hope he has in Jesus Christ got him through, pointing out "Christmas isn't always a great time for people."

Sue Toohill appeared as an angel, capturing the attention of a group of children who were seated on the ground to listen to her humorous talk about the meaning of Christmas and the story of Mary and Joseph over 2,000 years ago.

"That's even longer than your parents have been alive," she told them.

Moving onto the subject of sin, Ms Toohill asked, "Are we perfect?"

A young voice responded with an emphatic "No" to the amusement of all present.

In testing times in which people continue to confront cost of living challenges and distressing incidents such as that in Bondi, Pastor Wilkinson offered words of wisdom early in the evening.

"The Carols are full of hope, so look for those words of hope in those we are singing," he declared.

With singers and instrumentalists leading the way, those in the audience took up the invitation with gusto.

# Stay safe this Christmas

WITH 2026 fast approaching, Bass Coast Police Acting Senior Sergeant Adrian Condron would like to wish you and your loved ones a safe and Happy Christmas and New Year.

AS WE approach the busy Holiday season, my message to our community is to enjoy the season and show consideration and care to those around you. Specifically on our roads and beaches.

In recent years, we have witnessed some tragic incidents on our roads and beaches. Be assured, emergency management, Bass Coast Shire and our partner agencies have been working behind the scenes in the lead up to Summer to make it a safe and happy time for all our visitors and residents. We would like to share with you several initiatives:

### Stay informed and prepared with the Bass Coast Emergency Dashboard:

Bass Coast Shire, in partnership with VicPol and other partner agencies through our local Bass Coast Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee, have launched the new Bass Coast Emergency Dashboard. The Emergency Dashboard is a central online hub bringing together information from sources like VicEmergency, VicTraffic, the Bureau of Meteorology, Beachsafe and AusNet.

During an emergency, residents, visitors and agencies will be able to find accurate, up-to-date information in one trusted place, without needing to trawl multiple websites or social media feeds. The Dashboard also provides vital information on preparing for emergencies and helps visitors to our region access information to safely plan and enjoy their trip.



**Acting Senior Sergeant Adrian Condron, Senior Sergeant Brian Dalrymple, and Senior Constable Scott Smith with the Police 4WD Polaris.**

You can access the dashboard at [emergency.bass-coast.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.bass-coast.vic.gov.au).

### Water safety a key focus in Bass Coast:

Bass Coast is home to breathtaking coastline and beaches - while our beaches are beautiful, some areas can be very dangerous.

Always swim at patrolled beaches and stay between the red and yellow flags - life-guards use these flags to show you the safe area to swim, wade and play.

Make sure you check local signage and conditions before entering the water and download the Beachsafe App to plan your trip.

This year you'll see enhanced safety signage, beach safety messaging in print and social media, and campaigns to reach visitors to our region

across Council, Phillip Island Nature Parks and tourism channels. Let's all do our part to stay safe at the beach this summer.

We're excited to inform the community that police will be conducting regular beach patrols in the Police 4WD Polaris. We will be encouraging people to swim between the flags at patrolled beaches to ensure a safe and fun experience for the entire family.

### Fire safety and preparedness:

The Fire Danger Period is in effect, and CFA, VicPol, Council and other partner agencies are working hard with community to ensure that everyone is prepared for fire season. You can find critical information on fire danger ratings and what you can and can't do during the Fire Danger Period on

the CFA website.

Do your part to prepare your property. Download the VicEmergency App and visit the Bass Coast Emergency Dashboard to ensure that you always have the latest information.

### Keeping everyone safe this summer:

Beautiful summer days mean more people out and about, and increased visitors to Bass Coast. From dogs on beaches to e-scooter safety, compliance with local regulations is more important than ever to ensure that everyone in our community is safe and that our beautiful environment is protected.

Follow all signage and regulations throughout the Shire. If you are heading out to walk the dog, ensure that you understand and comply with all local regulations, as seasonal time restrictions apply to many areas. Check out Where can I walk my dog? on the Bass Coast Shire website.

### eScooters:

If someone in your family is riding an e-scooter, ensure that they obey all road rules and always wear a helmet. eScooter riders must be aged 16 years and over, must not ride on footpaths or carry passengers. Riders must not exceed a maximum speed limit of 20 km/h. Please note that, depending on power output, eScooter riders may also be subject to Road Safety Act offences, including driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, unlicensed driving and unregistered motor vehicle. Please familiarise yourself with the rules surrounding eScooters.

Finally, to all of the community and our visitors, enjoy the beautiful Bass Coast this Summer season and take care of one another.

## Inverloch Maritime Museum is ready for your visit

A SPRUCED-UP and more visitor-friendly Inverloch Maritime Museum was officially opened on December 15, the Inverloch Historical Society driving the project.

"We took over the lease of the area and made signage a lot bigger, easier to read and in colour," the Society's president Lewis Stone said, with the organisation's Ray Burt responsible for designing the new signage.

While much of the signage relates to the sketch Ripple, the workshop shed at the site has been fixed, having been in fairly poor repair, and the old Rocket Shed opened with more signage inside.

The Rocket Shed housed equipment designed to rescue crews from ships in distress, with a replica now displayed.

Rockets with lines attached were intended to be fired to the ships, with a Breeches Buoy to be pulled aboard and used to rescue crew members.

Lewis explained there were actually three versions of the Ripple, the style of craft remaining similar but evolving from a sailing boat to being engine-powered.



**Inverloch Historical Society treasurer Terry Hall cuts the ribbon to open the revamped Inverloch Maritime Museum, with the Society's president Lewis Stone and Ray Burt, manager of the committee, looking on.**

The original Ripple was built in 1872, playing a key role in transporting people and goods from Melbourne to Inverloch, then a much quicker journey than the poor state of roads allowed.

The subsequent versions of the Ripple were used more for fishing.

A replica of the original Ripple, completed in 2007, is a feature of the museum.

Museum attendees will broaden their knowledge across a wide range of

subjects, learning about Inverloch's connection to 'Burt Munro of The World's Fastest Indian' fame, and the first-ever beach bathing beauty contest, held in the town in 1934.

They'll discover the evolution of the town and the influence of coal and its transportation by water from Inverloch.

Community Bank Inverloch and District donated \$5000 towards the recent project, with Inverloch

Lions Club contributing \$1100 and \$500 from Watersure, the organisation responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Victorian Desalination Project.

The Inverloch Maritime Museum will open during farmers markets held at the nearby Glade, with the possibility of arranging group visits at other times.

Contact Lewis on 0407 505 141 for further information or to enquire about making a group booking.





South Gippsland Bass Swimmers at the Mattioli Victorian Age LC championships at MSAC from December 10 to 15.



Gippsland was represented by six of the region's clubs, with South Gippsland Bass the largest with 35 competitors.



Gippsland clubs performed extremely well in the point score rankings.



Over 400 competitors took to the open water for the Championships.

## Competitors brave the Vic Open Water Championships

SIX Gippsland swimmers braved the water at Geelong for the Victorian Open Water Championships over the weekend with some outstanding results. The event was busy, with more than 400 competitors taking to the water in the events. Kai Dettbarn (Sale) came first in his age group in the 7.5km event, Jacqui Sinclair (Tr), Masters 2nd in the 2.5km event, 40-44yrs, Brenton Ford (Tr) 5th in the 5km event. Adelaide Ripper (ex-Sale), Bec Barclay (SGB) and Donna Lancaster (SGB) braved the 1.25km, with Bec coming in 7th in her age group, Adelaide 11th and Donna 20th. Emma Barclay (SGB) swam the 500m event and came 5th.

## Bridge club news and results

**SOUTH GIPPSLAND**  
MARY Brewis and Neville Chapman led Monday night play with 60 per cent, followed by Susan Ruffin and Alan Johnston, Bruce Higgs and Sean Munley, and Matti Shub and Kathy Dowd, all 52 per cent.

Tuesday's Nationwides saw Faye Rowlands and Alan Johnston leading (63.54), Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson (54.63), Bron Sund and Michael Dooley (54.17), Matti Shub and John Quayle (53.12), and John French and Denise Allitt (52.60).

There was good food and good company at the Christmas party, then Matti Shub and John Quayle led N/S (61.34), Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh (56.71), Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson (55.56), Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson (52.08), and Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs (50.46).

Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka headed E/W (56.94), Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd (55.09), Marie Sands and Maureen Stiles (53.94), Catherine Burton and Robyn Synon (51.39), and Sharon Bennetts and Debbie Clapperton (50.93).

All the very best to all for a happy and safe Christmas period and a wonderful 2026. All figures are per-

centages 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.

## PHILLIP ISLAND

THE Phillip Island Bridge Club wrapped up the year in style with its annual Christmas party, held on Monday, December 15. Members gathered for a lively afternoon filled with festive treats, good company, and, true to tradition, a game of bridge.

Club directors Clare Murphy and Greg Nicholson were singled out for special recognition.

Both have dedicated countless hours throughout the year, ensuring that competitive bridge remains a twice-weekly highlight for all members.

The Christmas tournament proved to be a close contest.

In the North/South pairs, Neville Chapman and Lorrie Read claimed victory with an impressive 61.64 per cent, edging out runners-up Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour, who scored 61.11 per cent.

The East/West pairs saw John Quale and Matti Shub emerge on top with 58.63 per cent, narrowly surpassing club president Caroline Shaw and Ann Hodgson.

# Swimmers compete at the Mattioli Victorian Age LC championships

SOUTH Gippsland Bass swimmers have had an outstanding meet at the Mattioli Victorian Age LC championships at MSAC on December 10-15. The event was extremely busy with 1380 competitors, with many swimmers coming from interstate and overseas, which really pushed the Gippsland swimmers to do their best.

Gippsland was represented by six of the region's clubs, with South Gippsland Bass the largest with 35, Traralgon 28, Warragul 24, East Gippsland 7, Sale 6 and Moe 4. Racing started on Wednesday with relays, with Moe excited to have their first relay team qualify to compete, highlighting the growth of the club.

The swimmers raced in the morning, with the top 10 swimmers coming back in the evening to compete in the finals, cheered on by teammates and friends in the stands, as well as at home via Kayo and the

Swimming Victoria Facebook page.

Gippsland clubs performed extremely well in the point score rankings. Of the 57 clubs that scored points, South Gippsland Bass finished 11th, Traralgon 12th, Warragul 15th, and Sale 25th.

The coaches were happy with their swimmers' results over the meet.

Head coach Dylan was very happy to see his club's results.

"It has been a tough few weeks for the club with the flu going through, but they have dug deep, and we have seen some outstanding efforts and results. They have learned there are ups and downs when competing, and you have to ride the waves, and it's how you deal with it all that matters. To see the results, including the medals they earned, has just been wonderful," Dylan said.

"For some of the swimmers, it is like swimming at Nationals; there are so

many visitors in their section, they hardly know anyone in their heats."

Lorri was thrilled to see her multi-class swimmers having success.

"Our swimmers have competed at a number of big events like this and are just growing in confidence. To see all their smiles after their races is such a reward."

### Results:

Age Champions:  
Mackenzie Gibbs Sale  
Levi Jarrett SGB  
Gemma Cook (13): 7th 50m backstroke, 1st 200m Freestyle, 5th 100m Freestyle, 50m Butterfly, 1st 50m Freestyle, 4th 200m IM  
Zoe Cox (12): 6th 50m breaststroke, 7th 100m Breaststroke, 6th 200m Freestyle, 10th 100m Freestyle, 10th 50m Freestyle  
Claudia Croatto (16): 1st 100m breaststroke, 2nd 50m breaststroke, 1st 200m Breaststroke  
Emily Croatto (13): 3rd 200m breaststroke, 1st 50m breaststroke, 5th

200m IM, 1st 100m breaststroke, 5th 200m Freestyle  
Billy Fisher (16): 9th 50m breaststroke

Sienna Hunt (15): 5th 200m Butterfly

Levi Jarrett (13): 1st 50m breaststroke, 1st 50m backstroke, 1st 400m Freestyle, 1st 100m Breaststroke, 1st 100m Backstroke, 1st 200m Freestyle, 1st 100m Freestyle, 1st 50m Butterfly, 1st 50m Freestyle

Rahni Matheson (17): 4th 50m breaststroke

Miah Roberts (16): 4th 100m Backstroke

Archie Smyth (13): 1st 50 backstroke, 1st 100m backstroke, 1st 200m backstroke, 4th 200m IM, 2nd 50m Freestyle

Darby Smyth (12): 2nd 100m butterfly, 2nd 50m backstroke, 2nd 100m Backstroke, 2nd 200m Freestyle, 4th 100m Freestyle, 4th 50m Freestyle

Luke Wilson (14): 6th 50m backstroke, 4th 100m Backstroke, 6th 200m Freestyle, 6th 100m Freestyle, 6th 50m Freestyle

# Shoulder to shoulder on the water's edge

ON SATURDAY, December 20, the Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) stood together at First Surf in support and solidarity.

Surf Life Saving Australia invited the lifesaving community across the country to come together at 8am (local time) to stand shoulder to shoulder along the shoreline, facing the sea, and observe a three-minute silence before patrols commence.

This moment was a show of unity recognising the tragedy that unfolded at Bondi, honouring those who lost their lives, those who risked their lives, and those who worked tirelessly to save others.

There were no speeches – just silence.



Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) and the community stood together. No speeches – just silence.

## TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY  
December 23

3.15am  
1.63m  
8.56am  
0.73m  
2.48pm  
1.35m  
8.52pm  
0.30m

WEDNESDAY  
December 24

3.51am  
1.64m  
9.32am  
0.68m  
3.30pm  
1.37m  
9.27pm  
0.31m

THURSDAY  
December 25

4.26am  
1.64m  
10.09am  
0.63m  
4.12pm  
1.38m  
9.59pm  
0.34m

FRIDAY  
December 26

5.00am  
1.63m  
10.44am  
0.58m  
4.53pm  
1.38m  
10.33pm  
0.39m

SATURDAY  
December 27

5.33am  
1.60m  
11.19am  
0.53m  
5.37pm  
1.38m  
11.12pm  
0.45m

SUNDAY  
December 28

6.07am  
1.57m  
11.56am  
0.47m  
6.27pm  
1.39m  
11.57pm  
0.54m

MONDAY  
December 29

6.42am  
1.52m  
12.35pm  
0.41m  
7.23pm  
1.39m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au





Peter and Pauline McWilliams with their certificate and their life membership badges at South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's presentation on Thursday.

# McWilliams duo honoured with life membership

SOUTH West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group has honoured Pauline and Peter McWilliams with life membership for their decades of service.

Pauline started with the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group way back in 2001 and immediately volunteered in many facets of the group.

She helped in the kitchen each week and always lent a shoulder to any bowlers who had personal or health problems.

Some four years later, Peter managed to arrange his work to allow himself to join his wife with the group.

Both players were, and still are, excellent bowlers and always in demand by the group members.

Around 2010, the group had one or two problems and looked like it might close down.

At this stage, both Peter and Pauline jumped into action, and it was their efforts that kept the group operating.

Both Peter and Pauline have been continuous committee members since 2010 with Peter being the treasurer as well as the chairman of selectors over the past 15 years.

Pauline also wrote to the newspapers for 10 years to keep both the members as well as the public at large up to date with news from the group.

Peter and Pauline have turned up each and every week for 15 years with only the very occasional absence.

It is hard to believe the time these two bowlers have given so much to the group and they have earned not only life membership from the club, but also lifelong friendship from so many people.

The group thanked the pair for their dedication.

# Wonthaggi crowns bowling royalty

WONTHAGGI Bowls Club has crowned its 2025/26 champions, with Kathy Simpson securing a record 12th title.

In a match for the history books, Simpson cemented her status as the most decorated female bowler in the club's history, securing her 12th Ladies Club Championship title.

Kathy, whose first championship victory came an incredible 25 years ago, faced a tenacious challenge from opponent Teresa Davison. The final proved to be an epic three-hour battle, with Teresa keeping the pressure on throughout the afternoon. It was only in the final few ends that Kathy managed to pull away, with some brilliant shots under pressure.

Only club great, Iris Donohue, who won 10 championship titles, has been able to dominate ladies bowls like Kathy.

The Men's Club Championship final saw a changing of the guard, as 30-year-old local policeman, Kyal Birt defeated



Kathy Simpson and Kyal Birt are this year's Wonthaggi Bowls Club Champions.

two-time champion Rob Aitken to win his maiden title.

In what was a high-quality, closely fought contest, Kyal displayed the precision and nerve required to overcome the experienced Aitken. His victory makes him one of the youngest players to ever claim the prestigious men's title.

Kyal's journey to the championship is a unique one, having started playing bowls eight years ago during his service with the Royal Australian Navy as a recreational activity.

Both bowlers represent the club at the highest level, being key players in the Division One Midweek Pennant team.

## BREAKAWAY

IT'S finally arrived, the last bowls day of the year.

The winners were Linda Newman, Jan Murphy and Mandy Irvine.

They finished the year with +10.

Well done, ladies.

See you all back here on Monday, January 12.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Please stay safe.

## FISH CREEK

THE Midweek Pennant results saw Division 2 have a resounding victory over Lang Lang 75/16 to 40/0.

Fish Creek goes into the Christmas break sitting comfortably in the top three.

Division 4 went down to top side Toora 31/0 to 48/10.

A couple of early wins in January can see Fish Creek playing finals.

On Saturday, all teams travelled to Inverloch.

Due to a couple of late withdrawals with illness, Division 6 had to borrow a couple of players from Wonthaggi, for which it was very grateful.

In a tight match, Fish Creek got over the line 37/8 to 33/2.

Division 4 had a great win 63/12 to 58/4 with Bron Williams, Peter Poletti, Peter Davis and Andy Kerr's rink flying the flag 25 to 13.

The ladder is very close and despite the good win, Fish Creek still sit in fifth.

Keep up the good work, Division 4.

Division 2 had a disappointing day going down 46/2 to 64/14.

The rink of Bill Symmons, Ian Eddy, Paul Kerr and Wendy Watkins played well to win by nine shots, but the other two rinks were soundly defeated.

Fish Creek has a bit of work to do when bowls resumes on January 17.

The big tournament on January 3 and 4 is filling up but there are still places for more sides.

Saturday, January 3, is the Invitational fours sponsored by Fish Creek Quarries and Foster Garden and Gravel, which is fully catered.

Sunday, January 4, is a Triples event sponsored by Edneys of Leongatha.

Any interested bowlers please contact Bill Symmons or a club member.

Don't forget to get your teams to Rob McLaughlin for the fun filled barefoot bowls starting on January 13.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas and new year.

## FOSTER

EVERYONE enjoyed a yummy Christmas feast for the last club dinner.

Turkey with all the trimmings followed by homemade Christmas puddings.

The Christmas raffle was drawn, and 12 prizes were shared among many locals with two travelling to Wonthaggi Bowls Club.

The club is having a great Pennant season so far.

It had a tough battle last week for Midweek Pennant.

Wonthaggi ventured to Foster with two Divisions.

They played very strong in both Division 3 and 4.

Overall, the games were very close but Foster just didn't quite get over the line for any wins.

Saturday Pennant finished on a real high with both divisions having wins.

Division 3 travelled to Phillip Island where a mixed bag of rink results was witnessed – a win, a loss and a draw.

This managed to get Foster the win.

Division 4 ventured to Wonthaggi where it scraped in a win by two shots - well done.

Midweek Pennant starts back on Tuesday, January 13.

There will be social bowls on at the club for the next three Saturdays.

As always, have your name in by 12.30pm for a 1pm start.

Otherwise, the club will see you all back in the new year.

## KORUMBURRA

WITH the Christmas break approaching, the last game of Pennant for the year was played.

Division 1 Midweek travelled to Tarwin Lower all to no avail.

Grumpy got up by one shot 18 Shots to 17, Katrina Evans lost 20 shots to 19 and Ben Peachey lost 23 shots to eight.

Division 2 travelled to Inverloch.

Jim Garnham won 29 shots to 10, Peter Hearn lost 31 shots to 16 and Cheryl Moore lost 26 shots to 17.

In Saturday Pennant, Division 1 hosted Inverloch.

Robin Provan won 20 shots to 17 and Kevin Beecroft won 21 shots to 19.

Unfortunately, Rob Cosson lost 12 shots to 26.

Division 3 travelled to Port Welshpool.

Grumpy won in a close one 21 shots to 20, Rob Sund lost 16 shots to 30 and Gary Dorling lost 16 shots to 26.

Division 4 travelled to Tarwin Lower and came home winners.

Alan Cherrett won 28 shots to 12, Andy Robertson won 16 shots to 13 and Peter Hearn lost 27 shots to 20 – a good win.

Unfortunately, Division 6 had a forfeit to Toora.

On Friday night, the Christmas raffle was drawn.

Winner of the first prize was Kevin Watson, and second prize went to Helen Murray.

Thanks to all who bought tickets.

The club would like to wish all bowlers a merry Christmas and happy new year.

## INVERLOCH

THE December Turkey Triples Day was held on Wednesday in perfect bowling conditions.

Eighteen teams played four games of 10 ends.

Four teams ended up with four games won and had to be separated by shots up.

The winners on the day with four wins and 35 shots up were Ron Burge (skip), Peter Shaw and Keith Cousens.

Runners up were Dave Barry (skip), Kevin Jones and Craig Fischer.

They finished with four wins and 32 shots up.

Best first game with nine shots up went to R. Spokes (skip), G. Hogan and Allan Hanks.

Best second game with nine shots up went to Steve Clarke (skip), G. Johnson and D. Lawrence.

Best third game went to R. Spokes (skip), G. Hogan and Allan Hanks with 19 shots up.

Best fourth game went to R. Aitkin (skip), Gavan Butler and Steve Snelling with seven shots up.

Continued page 41



From page 40

The next Turkey Triples at Inverloch is on January 21.

The Summer Bowls Program will be running from December 27 to January 7 with the exception of New Years Day on January 1.

Visitors, friends and family are welcome to participate.

There will be two sessions available – 5pm to 6.30pm and 7pm to 8.30pm.

No bookings are required.

Gates open at 4.45pm for the first session and 6.45pm for the second session.

The cost is \$12 per person. EFTPOS is available.

Flat sole shoes or barefoot, your choice.

Basic training is available.

Bar refreshments are available.

Thursday social bowls is having a break until the New Year.

The next Thursday Social Bowls Day is on January 8.

LEONGATHA

THIS will be the last report for 2025.

The season will start again on January 17.

The Leongatha Bowls Club would like to wish all the clubs around plus its incredible sponsors – all 67 – a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

A big thank you to all the volunteers plus helpers throughout the year.

Without these people, the club wouldn't be able to enjoy its bowls.

Everyone deserves their break.

The Leongatha Bowls Club also thanked The Sentinel Times for publishing the reports each week.

Hope to see you all on the green for the second half of the season

Leongatha Meat and Fish Supply will sponsor a social day on January 10.

The club needs a minimum of 18 people, and the cost will be \$10 per person.

Try to keep this day free as it will be good practice before the new season starts.

Tuesday Pennant:

Both sections hosted Inverloch.

Division 1 lost by a very close margin of only two points 58 to 56.

Leongatha is holding seventh position on the ladder.

Division 4 also competed against Inverloch but had a good win 41 to 32.

Leongatha is fourth on the ladder.

There is still another half of bowls to come so keep up the good work.

Thanks, Leongatha, for making such an effort for the last game with a beautiful lunch.

It was as good as Mirboo North.

There was no Monthly Triples.

There was also no social bowls, but the club will be having a few games over the break on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Saturday Pennant:

Division 1 went up against Tarwin at home.

Tarwin is second on the ladder at the moment.

Leongatha went down 64 to 61 in a very close game and a tremendous effort.

Division 2 at Wonthaggi was too good for Leongatha 60 to 73.

Division 5 travelled to Loch and came home victorious 66 to 47.

Leongatha Bowls Club hopes 2026 brings peace and happiness to all and a bit more fun on the green.

Until next time, cheers.

MIDWEEK

THE bowlers met at Corinella on a hot day to meet for the final day of the club's year.

It was a light-hearted meeting with only one game completed due to the extreme temperatures.

It was a very good turnout of 61 bowlers, which forced the club to use all eight rinks, making it a bit tight on the two extreme rinks.

They managed to get through the morning session without too many problems.

Following the first game, the bowlers started a second but called it off almost immediately because of the weather.

Lunch was supplied by the group at no charge to our members and was catered by Helen Monckton and Jill Rossiter.

These ladies did such an excellent job especially considering how many bowlers turned up for the day.

They have been doing this for many years and are much loved by the members.

Once lunch was finished, the long serving president John Nicholson was once again called upon to present the treasurer and his wife Peter and Pauline McWilliams with life membership to the group.

This was a well-deserved honour for these wonderful people and well deserved.

The club had the normal raffles and sat with friends and colleagues for some conversation before heading off for the Christmas break.

The club will be returning on January 15 and will meet up at San Remo.

The club looks forward to seeing all the bowlers return on January 15.

To the group as well as those who have followed the progress, the club says: Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from us to all of you.

WONTHAGGI

MONDAY saw the final of the Ladies Singles Championship.

The match was played in fine, warm conditions between Kathy Simpson and Teresa Davison.

Once again, it was good to see new bowlers in the fight for top honours at the club.

How good was it to see Kathy going for title number 12.

As you would expect, the match was a close contest, turning into a marathon.

As things go, one bowler gets a break and that is enough to win the match.

That bowler was Kathy.

Well done to both ladies on a fine display of bowls.

Tuesday saw Division 1 travel to Foster in a battle between two of the top teams on the ladder.

Two rinks had close matches, with the other able to get a good win to claim the match.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 62, Foster 55.

Division 2 played host to Meeniyan at Wonthaggi on a must-win day.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 70, Meeniyan 38.

Division 3, also at Foster, were looking for a win to finish the year off on a good note.

All rinks had tight games all day, with Wonthaggi getting the points.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 57, Foster 54.

Tuesday night saw Barefoot Bowls finish the year in fine style, with fine weather and good numbers.

Have a look at the Facebook page for a photo of the bowlers and helpers.

Thursday social bowls saw the 9.30am group enjoy perfect conditions.

The 1pm group found conditions more trying, with the heat setting in.

Teams of triples were the order of the day for one match over 12 ends.

The winners were Frank Tagell, Peter Miller and Fred Kellow.

Runners up were Chris Graham, Ken Gage and Charlie Wright.

The ladies' Christmas hamper was drawn after social bowls.

The raffle was a success, with the first prize going to Gayle Bloch.

Three hampers stayed in Wonthaggi, while one went to Inverloch and another to Fish Creek.

Friday night was a busy night with the last of the Christmas break-ups at the club.

The members' draw did not go off, so the next draw will be \$90.

Rob was a happy meat tray winner, while Lee took home the chicken tray.

Rob and Bruce each won a brekky pack.

Other winners were Charlie, Raye, Peter and Steve.

Saturday saw Division 1 travel to Phillip Island looking for a win to finish the year off.

Things did not go according to plan, as Phillip Island were thinking the same.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 54, Phillip Island 66.

Division 2 played host to Leongatha at Wonthaggi.

A win was a must, with Wonthaggi looking to get back into the top four.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 73, Leongatha 60.

Division 4 (3), also at Phillip Island, were looking for a win after a loss last week.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 99, Phillip Island 33.

Division 4 (4) played host to Foster at Wonthaggi.

In a tight match all day, Wonthaggi just went down.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 57, Foster 59.

Division 6 had a bye.

Bowls this week-time to have a rest over Christmas and New Year.

On Friday night there will be drinks but no raffles.

Ladder positions at the break:

Midweek – Division 1 second; Division 2 fourth; Division 3 first.

Saturday – Division 1 third; Division 2 third; Division 4 (3) first; Division 4 (4) third; Division 6 first.

Have a good week and good bowling.



Linda Newman, Jan Murphy and Mandy Irvine won the last Breakaway Bowls competition for 2025.



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's lovely caterers on Thursday Jill Rossiter and Helen Monckton along with president John Nicholson.



Inverloch Bowling Club's December Triples winners Peter Shaw, Ron Burge (skip) and Keith Cousens.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club Ladies Singles Champion Kathy Simpson with runner up Teresa Davidson.





Winners and runners up of the 12-hole Christmas Ambrose at the Leongatha Golf Club were Helen Mackenzie, Di Williams, Phil Smith, Judy Bright, Sue Woods and Jenni Bright.



Korumburra's Wednesday Stableford Novelty Event winners were A Grade Julie Hillberg, B Grade Kim Enbom and C Grade Julie Cole.

KORUMBURRA

Tuesday, December 16. Stableford: 30 players  
A Grade Winner: Neil Spargo (17) 40 points.  
B Grade Winner : Murray Webb (26) 39 points.  
NTPs: First John Kerr, seventh Pete Wallace, and 10th Jaarl Enbom.  
Thursday, December 18. Stableford: 17 players.  
Winner: Riley Anderson (18) 45 points.  
NTPs: First Steve Rose, seventh Chris McConnell, 10th Steve Rose and 13th Ian Gibson.  
Saturday, December 20. Stableford: 43 players. Sponsor: Ian Cash.  
A Grade Winner: Tim Fowles (13) 39 points.  
B Grade Winner: John Kerr (18) 38 C/B.  
C Grade Winner: Noel Ladgrove (27) 37 points.  
NTPs: First Tim Fowles, seventh Greg Shuttlesworth, 10th Barry Kerr and 13th Jake Fowles.

Ladies

WOMEN played a Christmas Novelty Stableford game with many twists and turns last Wednesday.  
Thanks to captain Kerri for organising such a fun filled day.  
It was also the Captain/President's Day with the captain victorious, winning a close contest from women's president Julie.  
Twenty-five played in the Novelty event with fabulous scores coming in and some great shots played.  
Congratulations to the winners.  
A Grade winner was Julie Hillberg with 54 points and runner up was Aliesha Wrigley with 52 points on a c/b.  
B Grade winner was Kim Enbom with a fantastic 59 points and runner up was Gail Beer with 56 points on a c/b.  
C Grade winner was Julie Cole with 54 points and runner up was Diarne Maskell with 51 points on a c/b.  
BDTL went to Lyn Perks 56 points, Merrissa Cosson and Trudy Olden 51 points each.  
NTP's on first Lyn Perks, seventh Trudy Olden, 10th Merrissa Cosson, 13th Barb Twite and 14th (back to the fourth green) was Jenny Blackmore.  
The club also presented the Minor Trophies for Season 2025 - well done to all winners.  
Most Consistent: Wed: Kim Enbom, Mud Masters Sat: Shelley Snooks.  
Eclectic Summer Wed, A: Johanna VDH, B: Chris Rickard, C: Pam Eyers.  
Eclectic Summer Sat: A: Kerri Besley, B: Gail Beer.  
Eclectic Winter Wed, A: Lyn McIvor, B: Trudy Olden C:

Karen Sorrell.  
Eclectic Winter Sat, A: Kerri Besley, B: Gail Beer.  
Birdies Wed: Merrissa Cosson, Sat: Johanna VDH.  
Chip Ins Wed: Shelley Snooks, Sat: Karen Sorrell and Aliesha Wrigley.  
On Saturday, 14 women played a Stableford game.  
Congratulations to Kim Enbom (29), winning with a fabulous 40 points. Runner up with 38 points on a c/b was Karen Sorrell (35).  
BDTL went to Sherrin Solly 38 points.  
NTP's on the first Diarne Maskell, seventh Sherrin, 10th Jenny Blackmore and 13th green Kim.  
Wishing the golfing families a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, December 16: Stableford.  
Tuesday was a Stableford round with a field of 68 members/guests entering the comp and enjoying excellent scoring on a fine day out at the Leongatha Golf Club.  
Overall winner: Alan Starkey (10) has gathered some excellent results over the past few weeks with another high score of the day of 43 points.  
A Grade winner: Alan Starkey (10) with 43 points. Runner up: Josh de Groot (13) with 38 points on a countback.  
B Grade winner: Peter Read (17) with 40 points. Runner up: Barry Attwood (16) with 38 points.  
C Grade winner: Bert Borg (21) with 39 points. Runner up: Finn O'Halloran (38) with 38 points.  
Great score for Malcolm Legge (16) with an eagle two on the 17th hole.  
NTP fifth second shot: Neale Gillin (17) at 1.54m.  
NTP 14th: Mark O'Dwyer (20) at .28m.  
NTP 16th: Neil McKenzie (25) at 1.00m.  
Thursday, January 18: 4BBB Mulligan's Day Stableford Event.  
Thursday had an excellent field of 100 members/guests hitting off with a shotgun start and playing a 4BBB team Stableford round with golfers decked out in festive Christmas gear for the occasion.  
Overall winners:  
1. Karen Muchie and Lianne Adamson with 49 points.  
2. Hugh Goodman and Neil McKenzie with 48 points on a countback.  
3. Anthony Sparkes and Bill Wassink with 48 points.  
What a day out with eagles scored by Bill Wassink (25) with a two on the third hole, Alan Starkey (9) with a two on the third



Mirboo North Golf Club hosted its junior tournament on December 19.

hole also and Aydan Williams (19) with a two on the 12th hole.  
NTP fifth second shot: Neale Gillin (17) at 3.63m.  
NTP 14th: Peter Hodder (17) at 1.33m.  
NTP 16th: John McLennan (23) at 1.38m.  
Saturday, December 20: Stableford.  
Saturday saw a field of 98 members/guests take to the course in superb weather playing a Stableford round.  
Overall winner: Ken Wardle (20) with a high score of the day of 41 points on a countback.  
A Grade winner: Trevor Rickard (12) with 39 points. Runner up: Rebecca Brown (8) with 37 points.  
B Grade winner: Darcy O'Halloran (14) with 40 points. Runner up: Elly Berryman (16) with 39 points.  
C Grade winner: Ken Wardle (20) with 41 points. C Grade runner up: Gordon Allan (18) with 39 points.  
D Grade winner: Phil Strike (24) with 41 points. Runner up: Maryanne Gartner (30) with 39 points on a countback.  
NTP fifth second shot: Daniel Yeap (14) at 2.87m.  
NTP 14th: Bryan Roylance (18) at .95m.  
NTP 16th: Norman Hughes (14) at 3.70m.

Ladies

AS is fitting for this time of the year, the women only played 12 holes, a slightly altered Christmas Ambrose.  
This allowed time to enjoy the Christmas lunch prepared by the widely talented Club Champion Bec Brown who can now add chef to her talents.  
Bec had plenty of help from the members who prepared salads, carved the turkey and ham and set tables, all coordinated by Joc Howson and Lianne Adamson.  
It was lovely to catch up with many of the older members that joined in for lunch.  
The winning team, Fran O'Brien, sister Phil and Judy Bright started as a three, but the number dwindled to two after just four holes as Fran had to pull out. She has assured me that her contribution up to that point was invaluable.  
Their final score was 36.15.  
The runners up were Di Williams, Sue Woods, Helen Mackenzie and Jenni Brown with 36.35.  
Also, amongst the prize money with 37.38 were 'brand new to golf' Glenys Davidson, Delia Perry, Trish Owen and coordinator of the Christmas luncheon Joc Howson.  
Down the line balls went to 38.09:

Team Touzel, Colleen Touzel, Anna de Bondt, Libby Seebeck, and Kim Harris, Team Roberts, Michelle Roberts, Trudy Banks, Jill Kennedy and Fiona McMahon-Hughes (this team outclassed everyone else by also winning the Best Dressed award), Team Castledine Briggs, Karen Castledine Briggs, Teresa Bennet and Martine Shrives and Team McNaughton, Jo McNaughton, Alison Strong and Sandra Cleve.  
Phil Smith was closest on the 14th and Jenny Fraser on the 16th.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, December 16: Stableford.  
A Grade: D. Reynolds (+2) 39 points c/b.  
B Grade: S. Beitz (16) 39 points.  
DTL: G. Thorburn 38, R. Matthews, M. Richter and N. Rutledge 37.  
NTP: fourth G. Shandley, sixth T. Bradshaw, 13th N. Baker and 16th S. Beitz.  
Birdies: sixth G. Lalor and N. Rutledge, and 16th J. McFarlane.  
Saturday, December 20: Two Person Ambrose.  
A Grade: P. Woodall and T Bradshaw 58.75.  
B Grade: F. Fernandez and K. Garcia 62.75.  
DTL: N. and T. Baker 61.5, and J. Gunn and N. Bickerton, and M. Snell and R. Cambell 62.  
NTP: fourth S. McKenzie, sixth (Mirboo North Pub voucher) S. Mills, 13th (Boolarra Pub voucher) J. McFarlane, and 16th N. Baker.

Junior Tournament

MIRBOO North Golf Club was buzzing on Friday, December 19, as a swarm of young golfers descended on the club to enjoy a fun-filled evening of golf, music and community spirit.  
A total of 45 young players participated in the event, which included a one-hour clinic on the basics of golf with local coach Michael Grist.  
The clinic was followed by a five-hole tournament for the older kids, and a one-hole event for the littlest golfers.  
The evening aimed to introduce juniors to the game of golf while building skills, confidence and enjoyment in a relaxed and supportive environment.  
As usual, the golf course was presented in excellent condition, thanks to tireless efforts of the Mirboo North Golf Club committee and volunteers.  
The event was organised by local residents Anthony Collins and Andy McCarthy, who thanked the many contributors who helped make the event possible, including South Gippsland

Golf, Narellan Pools Gippsland, Drummond Golf Traralgon, DJ Stivva on the decks, and a large group of volunteers who kept the event running smoothly.  
Thanks to the sponsors and volunteers who supported the evening, the entire event was put on at no cost to participants. They were treated to a free barbecue, prizes and a showbag to take home, and by all accounts, the event exceeded everyone's expectations.  
Some of the young golfers went home and headed straight to their paddock to hit more balls until dark, while others have decided to take out a club membership and obtain their golf handicap.  
After a challenging few years for club volunteers in the aftermath of the storm cell, which wreaked havoc on the golf course, it was heartwarming to see so many juniors roaming the course developing a love for the game.  
Hopefully it's the sign of a bright future for golf in the region.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: December 18.  
Competition: Stableford 18-hole.  
Overall winner: Jonathan Wade 42.  
A Grade: Ian Johnson 39. Runner up: Andrew Hooton-Shandley 39.  
B Grade: Jonathan Wade 42. Runner up: Graeme Crawford 38.  
Place getters: Philip McCrimmon 37, Neil Beer 37, Glen Turner 36, Tony Schipano 36 and Dio Apostolopoulos 36.  
Results: December 18.  
Competition: Stableford back nine-hole.  
Winner: Norm Burne 21.  
Place getters: Graham Ryan 21, Ray Hender 18 and Paul Cornelis 18.  
Results: December 20.  
Competition: Stableford.  
Overall winner: Graeme Campbell 42.  
A Grade: Michael Scott 38. Runner up: Stephen Kane 38.  
B Grade: Glenn Hewlett 40. Runner up: Geoff Huther 38.  
C Grade: Graeme Campbell 42. Runner up: Steve Terrill 42.  
Place getters: Norm Burne 40, Martin Jays 39, Inoke Baudromo 38, Peter Hanley 38, Alex Wilson 37, Glen Moresco 37, Graeme Crawford 36, Mark Tiziani 36, Michael Hetherington 36, Keith Ridout 36, Glen Rielly 36, Don Paproth 36, Aaron Yann 36, Kevin Jamieson 36 and Rod McBride 36.  
Eagle: Aaron Yann 11th.  
NTP: Frank Huber second, Rohan McRae fourth, Julian Wintle propin eighth, Michael Scott 13th and Shane Osborne money hole 17th.





Tony and Sally Biggs alongside Dean and Shar Allen, who travelled from Darwin, enjoying a drink while viewing some races on the big screen at the Woolamai Racetrack. W17\_5125



Bookies like Carly Crowe were still available for locals to place bets with, even following the cancellation of the Woolamai Races. W18\_5125

## Dry conditions force Woolamai abandonment



Liz Watson, James Finley, Peter Lockhart and Sharon Finley were all smiles at the Woolamai Racetrack on Saturday, even following a 24-hour flight from Scotland for James and Sharon. W14\_5125



Ben Lewis and Mataya Maloney enjoying a bite to eat at the Woolamai Racetrack on Saturday. Even though the local races were cancelled, "it's still a nice atmosphere, so it'll be alright," said Ben. W16\_5125



Jim and Anne Bevis stuck around at the Woolamai Racetrack following the cancellation of the races. They placed some bets on Melbourne races, though from their own admission, unfortunately weren't very successful. W13\_5125

THE Woolamai racing community was down but not out on Saturday as the Race Day was cancelled last minute due to safety concerns.

While many racegoers arrived early carrying deck chairs, eskies and full wallets, they would soon learn just after 1.30pm that the meeting had been abandoned after a last-minute track inspection.

Woolamai Race Club secretary Abby Boyle said the decision was based on safety concerns, following a difficult lead up to the meeting.

"In our last meeting the track was quite wet, then having the 30-degree days that we had leading up to today's meeting has just dried it out far too much," she said. "There were some holes left which just makes it unsafe."

Racing Victoria Stewards inspected the track upon arrival and found multiple sections of concern. Following some remedial works, further inspections were then carried out with riders, trainers and club representatives, after which it was unanimously agreed that the risks posed to riders and their horses were too high. The meeting was officially abandoned at 1.40pm.

Ms Boyle said every effort was made to get the track into a suitable condition. "We tried to do as much as we could. Unfortunately, these things happen," she said.

The disappointment for the club was palpable. "It's devastating. We're all volunteers and we put everything into it," Ms Boyle said.

"We're a small picnic club run by volunteers. We don't have the luxuries of some metro tracks."

In the moments following the announcement, the frustration was clear. Some people packed up and left soon after, carrying chairs and eskies back to their cars, venting their frustrations along the way. Others, however, elected to stay, and that decision helped keep the day alive.

A large screen in the middle of the racetrack showed races from Melbourne, bookies continued to operate, while music, vendors and the bar all remained operational and open for business. The result could have been disastrous, but it simply turned into a scaled back but lively afternoon.

"A lot of people stayed on, which was fantastic," Ms Boyle said. "We're very thankful for everyone who continued to have a good day."

Among those who elected to stay were James Finley and his mother Sharon. Despite recently spending 24 hours flying to Australia from Scotland, they were still smiling and determined to enjoy the festivities on offer.

Local racegoer Ben Lewis shared their view. "It's still a really nice atmosphere, so it'll be alright," he said.

Ms Boyle confirmed that some refunds had already been issued, and online bookings would be refunded automatically.

Obviously, this wasn't the day Woolamai had hoped for, but the crowd's spirit ensured that it wasn't entirely lost.

## Wonthaggi Tennis Club's Spring Competition winners



Section 1 runner-up Ryan Cargill, winner Will Joplin and equal runner-up Carl Bailey.



Section 2 runner-up Belinda Slatery and winner Karen Holland.



Section 3 winner Jessica Tiziani and runner-up Alyssa Zhou.

Country racing, as real as it gets at *Woolamai*



General admission tickets available  
Pre-purchase on-line or at the gate  
Children 17 & under: FREE

**Saturday 3 January 2026**

**Woolamai Kids Day Out**

**We'll keep the kids entertained**

- ★ Kelly Sports activities
- ★ Free kids merchandise
- ★ Supervised games ★ Face Painting
- ★ Live music ★ Giant Video screen

For more info: [woolamairaces.com.au](http://woolamairaces.com.au) | [contact@woolamairaces.com.au](mailto:contact@woolamairaces.com.au) | Phone Abby: 0459 211 244





**Dianne, John, Josh, Remi and Noah Schelling after John presented Josh with his Best on Ground medal following Leongatha's 2024 Reserves Premiership, with Josh having since shifted to MDU and John now President of the MGFNL. A63\_3924**

## President John Schelling aims to grow MGFNL junior footy

By Andrew Paloczi

JOHN Schelling brings vast experience to his latest sports administration role, having taken on the presidency of the Mid Gippsland Football Netball League (MGFNL), happy to volunteer his time due to the vital part sporting clubs play in their communities.

He noted the vast contribution of long-term president Gary Mathews who has now stepped into one of the League's Vice President positions dealing with governance, Schelling having himself held that post for the last year.

"He's seen them through some turbulent times," Schelling said of Mathews' important contribution as MGFNL President, with those times including the COVID period and the transition of Alberton Football Netball League (AFNL) clubs into the MGFNL.

The league is close to Schelling's heart, being a Life Member of Stony Creek Football Netball Club and with three adult children playing in the league, son Josh in the footy and daughters Rebecca Browne and Kelsie Schelling in the netball.

A trio of grandkids also features in MGFNL competition.

The new MGFNL President has, until stepping down ahead of this season, spent seven years in charge of the Leongatha & District Cricket Association, having finished up almost a decade ago as President of the AFNL after six years.

Schelling is excited the MGFNL will introduce an Under 16s competition this year, taking over the Central Gippsland League Under 16s that had fallen to just four sides, with expectations of now having seven teams competing at that level in 2026.

He sees the great opportunities sport gives young people in life and is keen to ensure there is a pathway from juniors to seniors and that clubs remain strong, being such a key part of communities.

"At some stage, we'd like to make our junior competition even bigger, so keep on working with clubs to bring kids in," Schelling said, with that including possibilities such as AFL Nines.

"Netball's very strong in the MGFNL right now, starting at Under 13s and moving all the way up to A Grade, so we just need to build the footy back up," he remarked.

While having chosen not to put his hand up to continue as South Gippsland Shire Mayor due to the time commitment involved, Schelling is confident he can successfully combine his MGFNL Presidency, employment at Evans Petroleum, and role as a councillor.

He explained that his latest role allows for flexibility and shouldn't clash with his other responsibilities.

Schelling is pleased with how the MGFNL is going and with the contribution Board members make but has an eye on the future.

"My plan is to slowly bring some youth into the Board," he said.

# Daryl Smith flies the flag for Mt Lyall and Nyora

MT LYALL could have had their own cricket club. The offspring from an army of returned servicemen farming the Mt Lyall settlement, Mt Lyall Road and its tributaries would have formed a formidable team.

Daryl Smith is one of those farmers' sons. Cricket Victoria has awarded Daryl a 50-year service to cricket award. Nominated by the Nyora Cricket Club, he will receive his award at a formal ceremony on day three of the Melbourne Boxing Day Test.

Mr Smith is now 76. He and his two brothers started their cricket careers way back in the late fifties, presumably before we all learnt to write names on the back of photos. This accompanying image has surfaced, we think, from 1961. Mr Smith thinks he is wearing the pads in the front row. Others we think might be in the photo are Daryl's brothers, Wayne and Warwick, and maybe Russell Ferguson. Maybe Mark Holmes, although Mr Holmes says maybe not, even though he went on to play a lot of cricket for Nyora alongside Daryl. Maybe Neville Richards, maybe the Clements brothers. The adults might be Vic Richardson, Dave Ogilvy, Bill Hislop and Jack Abrahams.

A lot of those names are synonymous with Mt Lyall. The canteen building in the background suggests Poowong, the occasion no one seems sure about. Mr Smith thinks it might have been his first game.

Mr Smith's time at the Nyora Cricket Club spans more than 60 years. Interrupted only by a brief run with the Sub District club Ringwood, National Service and a few years with the neighbouring Loch Cricket Club.

His season at Ringwood was certainly no self-ambitious attempt to climb the cricket ladder or desert Nyora. He was playing Melbourne Country Week, oblivious to the cricketing talent scouts. He was tapped on the shoulder and invited to fill a



**Daryl Smith's old team photo.**

wicket-keeping vacancy at Ringwood. That's how Melbourne Country Week worked, a pathway for country cricketers to higher levels.

Mr Smith represented and captained the Ranceby Association many times. His cool head and caring nature made him an ideal candidate for captaincy. Milking cows sometimes prevented a week away at Melbourne Country Week, but he was a regular in the Sunday inter-association (Westernport League) matches.

Mr Smith played in a time when we ate sandwiches during lunch break, and we all had a cup of tea. He remembers Les Glover in a cricket blazer, the batting team supplying the umpires, scores were phoned through to the newspaper or (commonly) not phoned through at all, hours of play were 11 till 3.30 to accommodate the dairy farmers. And for a long time, Grand Finals were played to a conclusion. Few went longer than the allotted four days.

Mr Smith led Nyora in one of those epic Grand Finals, the 1981 Grand Final against Krowera. Krowera made 230 (Neil White 65, Nyora's Ken

Trigg took 2/32 off 18 overs). In reply, Nyora made 233. Ashley Horsburgh top scored with 46.

Krowera declared their second innings closed at 8/181. John Uren made 85. Nyora won the Premiership on the final day, scoring 3/180. Wayne Richards made 102 not out, and Daryl Smith 27 not out.

Forever a wicket-keeper, Mr Smith warms to the memory of once winning a club bowling trophy. His bowling mirrored his demeanour, a reliable, consistent line and length. We think all long-serving wicketkeepers aspire to the freedom of "a gallop in the outfield" and the opportunity to "commence a delivery rather than to conclude one."

Nyora may have gone on to win more premierships if they hadn't made the bold move to split their resources and field a second team. The Nyora Maroons were born, and they became a competitive outfit. Mr Smith played with the Maroons. When Ranceby Association came to an end, Nyora chose to play in the West Gippsland competition. Mr Smith represented Nyora at delegates' meetings just like he had back in the Ranceby days.

His playing days were over.

Mr Smith chaired Nyora's most recent AGM, and he watches Nyora cricket most Saturdays. He fronts up every Monday night in the Loch nets for Rusty Cricket.

His off-field contribution is as worthy as his batting, bowling and wicket-keeping. His 30 or more years on the Nyora Recreation Reserve have been prosperous and constant.

Along with many others, Mr Smith has worked tirelessly for improvements to football, cricket and netball facilities. Players and spectators should be well pleased. His work toward improving sporting facilities in Nyora carried the same weight (for the award) as his playing days.

The building behind the unnamed team is (we think) Poowong's kitchen/canteen. Nyora had something similar. Now, Nyora's clubrooms and the sporting precinct in general are a testament to blokes like Daryl Smith and the people who work beside him. Mr Smith is a popular winner of the 50-year service award, and he will be honoured with a Nyora Cricket Club function later in the season.

## Bath urges the government to expand sports grants



**Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath with Leongatha Imperials president Kristian Gray and committee member Luke Rogers, alongside youth players, calling for government funding to help cricket clubs remain viable.**

THE Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria, Melina Bath, has called on the state government to commit to a new round of the Local Sports Infrastructure Fund in 2026 and expand eligibility to include strategic planning and volunteer retention for cricket associations.

"Cricket Victoria's participation figures, while encouraging, mask serious issues such as volunteer burnout, governance pressures and regional disparities," Ms Bath said.

"Without structured planning and resourcing and assistance for volunteers, pressure will harm participation and increase pressure on the people who keep grassroots cricket alive."

"Grants should also support long-term sustainability planning covering governance, volunteer recruitment and retention, financial viability and pathways for women and all abilities players."

"It is important to build capacity for strong, resilient clubs so cricket continues to thrive in regional Victoria."

Ms Bath said in a competitive sporting market, recruitment and retention of junior players is always a challenge and in regional Victoria, many older players stay on to keep teams viable.

"Current sporting grants tend to only focus on bricks and mortar, but the criteria need to be extended to assist clubs with their operations, as modern facilities are only one part of the equation."

"Grassroots sport is more than just a game, in our regional communities, it is a lifeline for social connectedness, mental health and physical wellbeing."

"When local clubs thrive, communities thrive – delivering extra support for planning, administration and volunteers will help keep our regional cricket clubs sustainable for generations to come."



# Third place finish for local junior cricketers

SIX junior cricketers from Leongatha and District Cricket Association competed in the U16s Country Cup in Hamilton under local coach Evan Allaway last week.

Following an intensive selection process, Louis Read (Koonwarra/LRSL), Eamon Berryman (Nerrena), Archie Donohue (Glen Alvie), Cooper Newman (Inverloch), Jobe Williams (Phillip Island) and Ty Debono (Inverloch) represented Gippsland Pride and took the team to third place overall after a week of cricket.

Allaway described the experience as "bittersweet" as a slow start while the boys gained momentum evolved into some of the most outstanding performances he had ever seen in junior cricket, which could've taken them all the way to the end.

"The team played some great cricket, especially in the second half of the tournament. They had two of the most impressive successful run chases I have ever seen in underage cricket," Allaway said.

"They chased down a score of 289 and made 292 in 50 overs. At any level of cricket, that's quite unreal. The next day, they backed it up with 170 in a T20. It was really pleasing to watch."

Allaway commended Gippsland Pride captain Xavier Hurley from Sale, who made 125 in the game against Central Highlanders and ensured the impressive win.

"It was one of the most gutsy



**Local junior cricketers Louis Read, Eamon Berryman, Archie Donohue, Cooper Newman, Jobe Williams and Ty Debono pictured with coach Evan Allaway (third left). They were represented in the Gippsland Pride team that competed in the recent U16s Country Cup.**

junior performances I have ever seen. To hit 125 and help us to win the game when he was injured at 60 was unbelievable," Allaway said.

Other highlights from the week included Newman and Berryman batting 55 and 69\* respectively against the Western Waves, Williams taking 3/29 against the Mallee Murray Suns and Read taking 3/31 against the North East Knights.

Gippsland Pride cricketer Donohue said it was a great experience to compete against the best country cricketers in the state.

Unfortunately, it came down to net run rate, which cost Gippsland Pride its place in the final.

The tournament went to the

North East Knights, which made it through the competition undefeated.

"I'm very pleased with how the team performed overall. It can be hard with these sorts of tournaments because the competition is so great that you do need to win every game for that spot in the final," Allaway said.

"I'm coming to end of my time as a coach and I have to say everyone needs to look out for these young guys from the (Leongatha and District Cricket Association). There are some very good cricketers coming through and with the right nurturing and training they can certainly become the next Australian test cricketers or wherever they want to go to next."

The team was selected

following an East v West All-Stars match played earlier this year.

Allaway, along with Gippsland junior cricket coordinator Dave Harris, hand-picked 30 cricketers who competed for a Gippsland Academy program.

This involved an eight-session training program, giving the young cricketers valuable coaching and development opportunities.

From there, trials were held including trial games, and the team of 13 was selected to represent Gippsland Pride.

"Training with the squad and learning from the coaches over the past six months has definitely helped me develop into a better cricketer," Donohue said.



**Kelly Amber of Ambling Along Tours and Transfers with the defibrillator at Wonthaggi Hospital's maternity unit bought with the proceeds of a golf day at Phillip Island Golf Club.**

## Golfers tee off for defibrillator

A GOLF event organised by Phillip Island business Ambling Along Tours and Transfers raised \$11,500 for maternity services at Bass Coast Health (BCH).

The funds enabled the purchase of a defibrillator for the maternity ward at Wonthaggi Hospital, to be used to resuscitate a person during a cardiac emergency.

Sean and Kelly Ambler of Ambling Along organised the fundraising event at Phillip Island Golf Club, which was attended by 130 golfers and received extensive support from local businesses.

"I know how important funding is to a public hospital," said Kelly, who works with the Facilities team at BCH.

"I've got young children and had my youngest child at Wonthaggi Hospital, so I know how important the service is to the local community."

BCH Interim CEO Simone Alexander said the maternity team and the broader health service were grateful for the donation.

"As a public health service, we're so fortunate to have people like Kelly and Sean who are willing to organise major fundraisers that double as fantastic community events," she said.

"We also appreciate the fact that this event was so well supported – not only by the people who participated but also the businesses that so willingly donated."

"On behalf of everyone at BCH, I'd like to thank Kelly and Sean, the golfers and all the businesses that gave to make this day such a success."

## Kookaburras triumph over Ringwood

SOUTH Gippsland Kookaburras Over 70s Cricket team hosted Ringwood/Mountain Districts at Outtrim Reserve in a 40-over match on December 16.

Ringwood captain Lee Hardham, an over 70s Australian batter, chose to bat first and compiled a quick-fire 41 runs retired, including seven boundaries.

Other high scorers were Danny Hanlon and M. Gavin, both retiring on 23 runs.

After 40 overs, Ringwood had scored eight for 168.

Kookaburras' bowlers Neil White (3/16), Pieter Loos (1/27), Geoff Birnie (1/36) and Keith Houghton (1/9) took wickets. The other two dismissals were run-outs effected by Birnie and Fred Debono.

In his match analysis, Hardham noted the Kookaburras excellent fielding as a major factor in limiting his team's score.

After lunch, Kookaburra opener Warwick Hayes was undefeated on 27 retired, along with White (29 no) and Alex Miller top scoring with 36.

Hanlon was the standout Ringwood bowler, taking five for 21.

However, after 34 overs the Kookaburras passed Ringwood's score with eight wickets down.

## AROUND THE GROUNDS...

### KOONWARRA L/RSL

B Grade made its way out to a slightly damp Koonwarra Recreation Reserve Saturday morning.

Opening the batting, Ben Davison (35) and Kevin Thorne (0) looked strong before losing Kevin via bowled in the second over, Daniel Field (2/28 off four overs) taking the wicket.

Will Cashin (20) went on to build a strong partnership with Ben before he too missed the straight one from the same bowler. It was 2/42 at the start of the sixth over.

Koonwarra L/RSL's leading run-scorer Sam Hughes (47) came in to steady the ship and help the team towards a total of 7/141 off 20 overs.

MDU's leading wicket taker being Scott Browne (4/28 off four overs). The Cougars walked out to bowl with a respectable total on the board.

Many might think this was a very defendable total, but opening batter Jai Bright proceeded to hit everything out of the middle, producing 73 runs from just 34 balls including 11 boundaries (five fours, six sixes).

The best of our bowling came from Ben Davison (2/25 off four overs) and Britney Thomas (1/28 off 3.1 overs) before the Demons chased down our total in 17.1 overs finishing 3/142 and getting to their wedding on time.

### THE IMPERIALS

COMING off a win last week, the Imperials' B2 team was keen to put another one on the board ahead of the Christmas break.

However, it was not to be as they faced a competitive Nyora side. Playing at the Nyora Recreation Reserve, Nyora won the toss and chose to bat.

Colin and Jordan Knox formed a partnership to be reckoned with, putting 69 and 42 runs on the board respectively.

Noah McLennan was the Imps' top bowler, taking 2/22.

The Imperials were chasing 4/153 at the end of Nyora's 20 overs.

Jack Cochrane kept the Imperials in the game with 42 runs, but some quick wickets from Nyora bowlers Ryan White, Tully Bernaldo and Lincoln Brock had the Imps in trouble.

Francois Botha assisted the Imps' score with 21\*.

The Imperials finished the day with 6/109.

### MDU

A Grade played against Nyora, with MDU falling short of the total.

Max Murray was the pick of the bowlers, taking 3/18 off two.

Semba Lakshan took 2/10 off four and Tharindu Nuwan

took 2/12 off one.

Nyora made 8/147, and in reply MDU made 8/125.

Wayne Prosser hit 55 off 66 with Paul Le Page contributing 30 off 20 and Mitch McGrath 25 off 22.

B Grade got a good win over Koonwarra L/RSL.

MDU bowled first, holding the Cougars to 7/141.

Scott Browne took 4/28 off four, Daniel Field took 2/28 off four and Jai Bright took 1/15 off two.

MDU managed to chase down the total with three overs to go, making 2/142.

Bright made 73 off 34, Rob Henry made 26\* off 27 and Dale Thomas made 15 off 19.

### FOSTER

FOSTER was unable to chase down Glen Alvie's score during Saturday's T20 in A2.

Playing at the Foster, Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bat. The father/son combination of Matthew and Archie Donohue were Glen Alvie's top performers, making 47 and 31 runs respectively.

With the ball, Lance Moon was the standout, taking 3/22.

Moon also put on a fantastic fielding performance, taking two catches.

Glen Alvie made 6/135.

Foster gave a consistent

batting performance, but it wasn't enough to catch Glen Alvie. The pick of the batsmen was Gurinder Singh, who made 23 runs.

Foster finished its 20 overs with 8/113.

### NYORA

C GRADE gave an almighty effort to make the club proud in the final game before the Christmas break.

"We had 12 people out this week, so it was good just to be able to get a team together. We got our juniors up into C Grade, so this week's team was mostly U13 and U15 players," Nyora's Adam White said.

Keith Maclure and Geoffrey Lightowler opened for C2, making 18 and 13 runs respectively.

James MacDonald was the top batsman of the day, making 27\*.

Fourteen-year-old Elijah Le Serve made his B Grade debut and performed well, taking a catch, and A Grade enjoyed a win over MDU.

"We're looking forward to enjoying the break with A and B Grade on top of their ladders and C Grade sitting not far outside the top four," White said.

**Read more at [sgst.com.au](http://sgst.com.au)**





Hartley Wells  
**Betta**  
Leongatha  
www.hartleywells.com  
Phone: 5662 2930

LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Jugraj Singh (OMK) 71 ; Jobe Williams (Phillip Island) 4/24
A2: Rumesh Rangana (Korumburra) 54 ; Gavin Hackett (Nyora) 3/17
B1: Dylan McMeekin (OMK) 74* ; Trevor McGeachin (OMK) 3/6
B2: Jai Bright (MDU) 73 ; Andrew Leighton (K-Bass) 4/18
C1: Owen Fitzpatrick (OMK) 88* ; Nate Miller (K-Bass) 2/2
C2: Wayne Chapman (Inverloch) 77* ; Dean Cashin (Inverloch) 2/4

**Choices**  
The floor you've been searching for  
**BEAUMONT TILES**  
Looking good!  
8-10 Koonwarra Rd, Leongatha. 5662 5030  
Cnr Carneys Road & Bass Highway,  
Wonthaggi. 5672 2148



The Killy Bass boys get around Steven Oates after his catch sends Glenn Moore on his way. W12\_5125



Steven Smith spansks the ball for one of his eight boundaries, finishing with a huge total of 66. W10\_5125

LADDERS RD 8

A GRADE, Division 1

OMK	66	1.010
Club	60	1.501
Nerrena	60	1.414
Inverloch	48	1.173
Phillip Island	36	0.994
Town	12	0.625
Imperials	6	0.577

A GRADE, Division 2

Nyora	84	1.344
Kilcunda Bass	66	1.522
Koonwarra L/RSL	54	1.656
Korumburra	36	0.972
Glen Alvie	36	0.920
MDU	12	0.874
Foster	0	0.333

B GRADE, Division 1

OMK	78	4.604
Club	74	3.790
Nerrena	54	1.539
Inverloch	48	1.232
Phillip Island	18	0.517
Town	18	0.319
Korumburra	6	0.186

B GRADE, Division 2

Nyora	72	1.568
Kilcunda Bass	54	1.009
MDU	54	0.764
Koonwarra L/RSL	48	1.102
Glen Alvie	42	1.229
Imperials	18	0.674

LADDERS RD 11

C GRADE, Division 1

OMK	84	1.116
Club	78	2.362
Phillip Island	60	0.779
Nerrena	54	0.895
Kilcunda Bass	48	0.840
MDU	42	1.012
Korumburra	30	0.848

C GRADE, Division 2

Club	90	2.750
Glen Alvie	84	0.927
Inverloch	72	1.172
Koonwarra L/RSL	60	1.616
Nyora	36	0.656
Town	36	0.611
OMK	18	0.451

# Glen Alvie survives late scare

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

THERE was an incredibly tight finish unfolding just off the Bass Highway on Saturday, as Glen Alvie managed to edge out Kilcunda Bass in their T20 matchup at the Bass Recreation Reserve. Glen Alvie was first to bat, as they slowly but surely scrapped their way to 8/108 in their allocated 20 overs. That total may

look modest, but it was almost single-handedly carried by Steven Smith's performance, putting up 66 runs from 70 balls and finding the boundary no less than eight times. Ryan Sinclair was the only other Glen Alvie batsman to scrape into double figures, finishing on 10 not out. Kilcunda Bass skipper Andrew Leighton was doing his best to

keep Glen Alvie to a modest total, ripping through the batting lineup and finishing 4/18 from four overs. Speaking to the Sentinel-Times early in the match, Glen Alvie player Jack Brown said the focus was on opportunity and teamwork. "Get everyone a fair shot and come away with the win," Brown said. Brown added that the T20

format demanded a sharper approach. "You have to bat quicker and smarter and build good partnerships." Kilcunda Bass did their best to chase, with Steven Oates making 34 and Ray Gardiner adding 36, but Glen Alvie's Zack Scholtz delivered the final dagger, ending the Shark's resistance, and the match. Bass finished all out 107, just one run short.

# Scorpions left stung once again by dominant Stingrays

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

REVENGE would have been on the mind of Leongatha Town as they travelled to Inverloch for their T20 matchup against the Stingrays. However it was not to be, with Inverloch flexing their muscles and cruising to an 81-run victory over the Scorpions. Having already beaten Leongatha Town earlier in the season in round four, the Stingrays made it clear that it wasn't a fluke, producing another commanding performance in front of a home crowd on an overcast morning. Batting first, Inverloch wasted little time setting the tone. Wayne Chapman was the centrepiece of the entire match, anchoring the side by punishing the Town bowlers for 77 not out. Finding the boundary no less than nine times, Chapman controlled the tempo and ensured the Stingrays built a total that felt out of reach for the away side. Jordon Foote provided valuable support with 20, helping Inverloch reach an incredibly strong 5/152 from their full 20 overs.

Leongatha Town did manage to find some breakthroughs, with captain Alex Aeschlimann finishing the bowling 2/31. Mitchell Hogarth, Poly Joseph Kallookkaran and Julian Aeschlimann shared the remaining three wickets, but the inability to remove

Chapman from the pitch proved very costly as the innings quickly slipped away. Speaking during the match, Inverloch captain Ozzie Williams said he wasn't going to overcomplicate things. "I don't love 20/20, I like giving everyone a go, but the main focus is to get the runs on the board and make sure you can bowl them out," Williams said. When asked whether lessons from the round four clash had shaped his team's approach, Williams said the changing nature of teams made it difficult to compare previous matchups. "That improved side the skipper spoke about was in full force as Inverloch strangled Leongatha Town from the outset. Inverloch's Dean Cashin was outstanding with his limited time with the ball, taking 2/4 from his two overs. Holly Williams and Andrew Nowell chipped in with a wicket each as well. Despite Poly Joseph Kallookkaran battling through to finish 18 not out, the Scorpions were never able to keep pace with the massive run rate required, ending the match at 4/72 after their 20 overs.



Invy's Jordon Foote put up a respectable total of 20 runs, before being caught by Melvin Mathew Kezhuvanthanam. W08\_5125



### WONTHAGGI CLUB

WONTHAGGI Club finished the first half of the season with a convincing win over Phillip Island in A1. The highlight of the match was the partnership of Lochlan McLean and Sulakshan Mendique, which saw them contribute 60 and 42 runs respectively.

The bowlers chipped away and reduced Phillip Island's run rate, with Fraser West, Mark McCall and Ryan Thomas taking two wickets each.

Going into the Christmas break, A1 is sitting in second place, six points behind OMK.

In C1, Club went up against Phillip Island at the Rhyll Cricket Ground.

Club kept Phillip Island to 118 with classy performances from the bowlers.

Ryan McGuirk took two crucial wickets early, and junior cricketers Blake Ton and Angus Benetti stepped up to claim a wicket each.

Michael Cleary was Phillip Island's stand out batsman, making 66\*.

Club got the runs it needed with flawless batting from Will Speed and Jason O'Reilly.

They made 66\* and 44\* respectively.

C1 is also sitting second on the ladder behind OMK.

"Going into the Christmas break, we've got A1, B1 and C1 in second and C2 in first. It's been a really good start, and we hope to see it continue through the second half of the season.," Wonthaggi Club president Luke McGuirk said.

### NERRENA

NERRENA secured a good win against Leongatha Town in the last A1 game ahead of the Christmas break.

Playing in the T20 format, Town won the toss and sent Nerrena into bat.

Jack Curtis and Mitch Clark had the Red Caps off to a good start. Clark fell after 31 runs, which allowed Tom Cameron to step up to the crease.

Curtis fell at 37 runs and Cameron made 18, resulting in Nerrena making 5/124 off its 20 overs.

Rory Gilliatte started Town's innings well, but Nerrena managed to get a couple of quick wickets.

Madura Madusanka and Sebastian Kyle combined well and were ahead of the run rate.

James Kelly interrupted their rhythm with a direct hit run out, which dismissed Kyle.

Jarrold Hoy and Archie Gannon took a few late wickets, which helped secure the game for Nerrena.

In B Grade, Nerrena played Phillip Island and enjoyed a win.

Some tight bowling led by captain Damien Symmons limited Phillip Island's opportunities to hit the scoreboard.

Phillip Island made 94 off its 20 overs.

Charlie Dougherty opened for Nerrena and made a handy 54 runs. His haul included seven fours and one six.

He was backed up by Kade Berryman and Symmons, who made 19 and 11 runs respectively.

Nerrena won the match with six overs to spare.

Nerrena is looking forward



**Leongatha Town's Mitchell Hogarth sends one down the pitch early against Inverloch. He ended the match with 1/28 off four overs.** W05\_5125

to carrying over the successes of the first half of the season into the second half.

"We will be continuing to work on the development of our juniors, pushing them through the grades," Nerrena president Zack Trease said.

"Our main focus will be on finals and ensuring all of our teams get into the top four."

### OMK

A1 suffered its first loss of the season against Inverloch during Saturday's T20 match.

Playing at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve, OMK started strong with Jugraj Singh making 71 runs.

OMK compiled a nice total of 8/164, which could've been difficult for Inverloch to challenge.

However, the Stingrays were in fine form and managed to successfully chase the score with only two wickets down.

In B1, OMK secured a comfortable win against Korumburra to see it through to the Christmas break.

Dylan McMeekin was the standout batsman for the Diggers, making 71\*.

The pick of OMK's bowlers was Trevor McGeachin, who claimed three wickets.

Korumburra was held to 10/53 while OMK reached 3/172.

In C2, OMK lost to Koonwarra/LRSL.

OMK went into bat first, with Murray Gow and Andrew Sorensen putting on 23 and 49\* respectively.

With the ball, Daniel Wylie and Jayden Battersby had the most success, claiming a wicket each.

"Although Koonwarra came away with a win, this was a great game with a team full of school friends and father/son combinations getting out there to play," Myers said.

"Our A and B Grades have been very consistent through the first half of the season, and we are looking forward to getting a few more numbers back through the second half. Hopefully we see a good run into the finals."

### PHILLIP ISLAND

WONTHAGGI Club proved too strong for Phillip Island in the last A1 match ahead of Christmas.

Playing a T20 at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve, Phillip Island won the toss and sent Club in first.

Lochlan McLean led the charge for Club with 60 runs.

However, Phillip Island bowler Jobe Williams kept the run rate in check as he claimed four wickets.

Phillip Island was chasing 6/146.

A shaky start to Phillip Island's innings saw captain Daniel Mock steady the ship with 34 runs.

Williams and Timothy Niven added 17 runs each, but the Club bowlers kept the pressure up to claim the points.

Phillip Island finished its allotted overs with 6/112.

### KILCUNDA BASS

THE Kilcunda Bass C1 team headed into the Christmas break on a high after a polished team performance against MDU at Dumbalk Recreational Reserve on Saturday, December 20.

With it being the final round before Christmas, the match was played in the fast-paced T20 format, setting the scene for an entertaining afternoon of cricket.

MDU won the toss and elected to send Kilcunda Bass in to bat, hoping early pressure might pay dividends.

Kilcunda Bass, however, showed intent from the outset.

Cruz Bettles provided an early spark, smashing 24 runs from just 16 deliveries to get the scoreboard ticking.

While a cluster of quick wickets threatened to stall the momentum, the middle order steadied the ship in style.

Joel Hockett and Tim Bergar combined superbly, building a crucial 66-run partnership that became the backbone of the innings.

Their calm approach and

smart running ensured Kilcunda Bass remained on track, eventually posting a competitive total of 140 by the end of the 20 overs – a score that would prove more than enough.

After the break, MDU began their chase with determination, but runs were hard-earned. Kilcunda Bass' bowlers kept things tight, while sharp fielding ensured no easy boundaries were on offer.

Although wickets didn't tumble early, the pressure steadily mounted.

The turning point came after the 10th over, when MDU began to crack under the mounting run rate.

Rob Blackney, Ash Joseph and Brent Wallace each chipped in with vital wickets, swinging the momentum firmly in Kilcunda Bass' favour.

The final over provided a fitting finish, with Nate Miller claiming two consecutive wickets.

MDU finished 32 runs short, sealing a comfortable and well-earned victory for Kilcunda Bass.

It was a complete team effort – solid batting, disciplined bowling and committed fielding - and the perfect way for Kilcunda Bass to head into the Christmas break with confidence for the second half of the year.

### KORUMBURRA

KILCUNDA Bass batted first and made a strong start in the T20, despite losing an early wicket to Reuben Foster in A2. From there, neither the batters nor the bowlers were able to fully seize momentum, with steady scoring matched by regular wickets to keep the innings in check.

Tom Crocker led the bowling effort with 2/25, while Reuben Foster (1/9) and Harry McNeill (1/18) also picked up wickets.

The Cobras began their reply positively, with Jimmy Rangana continuing his excellent season.

However, a run of wickets soon put the brakes on the scoring rate.

Levi Gooch then joined Jimmy at the crease, and the pair added a crucial 50-run partnership for the fourth wicket to steady the innings and regain momentum.

Jimmy was eventually dismissed for a well-made 54 off 40 balls, including seven fours and two sixes.

Jack Martin then joined Levi and helped keep the scoreboard moving.

Levi showed his potential and power with the bat, scoring an impressive 25 off 23 balls, including three fours and a six, while Jack contributed a composed 16 off 28 balls to guide the chase toward the target.

The match went down to the final over, but unfortunately the Cobras fell just three runs short in a thrilling T20 contest.

With a few weeks off for the holiday break, the club would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The club looks forward to seeing you all back at local cricket on January 10.

## LDCA - DECEMBER 20 HIGHLIGHTS

### A GRADE, DIVISION 1

**Club 6/146 d Phillip Island 6/112**  
Club Batting: L McLean 60, S Mendisque 42  
Club Bowling: F West 2/13, McCall 2/19  
PI Batting: D Mock 34, T Niven 17\*  
PI Bowling: J Williams 4/24, G McCausland 1/19  
**Nerrena 5/124 d Town 8/100**  
Nerrena Batting: J Curtis 37, M Clark 31  
Nerrena Bowling: J Hoy 3/13, A Gannon 31  
Town Batting: M Madusanka 27, R Gilliatte 22  
Town Bowling: F Livingstone 3/31, M Madusanka 1/14  
**Inverloch 2/166 d OMK 8/164**  
OMK Batting: J Singh 71, J Lamers 35  
OMK Bowling: A Trotto 2/30, J Singh 0/29  
Inv. Batting: K Rotthier 55, R Abeyasinghe 39\*  
Inv. Bowling: H Butcher 2/34, C Newman 1/19  
**Imperials – BYE**

### A GRADE, DIVISION 2

**MDU 8/125 lt Nyora 8/147**  
Nyora Batting: K Anderson 40, D Esler 29  
Nyora Bowling: G Hackett 3/17, T Breen 2/19  
MDU Batting: W Prosser 51, P Le Page 30  
MDU Bowling: M Murray 3/18, S C Lakshan 2/10,  
**Korumburra v K-Bass**  
K-Bass Batting: G Miller 36, M Grayson 27  
K-Bass Bowling: T Smith 2/14, J Tregear 1/14  
K'burra Batting: R Rangana 54, L Gooch 25  
K'burra Bowling: Fill-in 2/25, R Foster 1/9  
**Foster 8/113 lt Glen Alvie 6/135**  
Glen Alvie Batting: M Donohue 47, A Donohue 31  
Glen Alvie Bowling: B McRae 2/12, L McRae 2/25  
Foster Batting: G Singh 23, M Johnston 18  
Foster Bowling: L Moon 3/22, A Pattie 1/15  
**Koonwarra L/RSL– BYE**

### B GRADE, DIVISION 1

**OMK 3/172 d Korumburra 53**  
OMK Batting: D McMeekin 74\*, A Busana 47  
OMK Bowling: T McGeachin 3/6, D Jeffries 2/10  
K'burra Batting: J Richards 11, M Allen 10  
K'burra Bowling: J Richards 1/18, A Damon 1/25  
**Town 9/86 lt Inverloch 2/89**  
Town Batting: D Goss 24\*, M Hardy 10  
Town Bowling: A Hickey 1/23, H Livingstone 1/26  
Inverloch Batting: B Poll 50\*, J McNamara 22\*  
Inverloch Bowling: L Jacobs 2/3, J McNamara 2/8  
**Phillip Island 8/95 lt Nerrena 4/95**  
P-Island Batting: T Asurumuni 25, D Holmes 22  
P-Island Bowling: D Holmes 3/13, S McMillan 1/24  
Nerrena Batting: C Dougherty 54, K Berryman 19  
Nerrena Bowling: D Symmons 2/15, T Harris 1/18  
**Club – BYE**

### B GRADE, DIVISION 2

**Kilcunda Bass v107 lt Glen Alvie 8/108**  
Glen Alvie Batting: S Smith 66, R Sinclair 10\*  
Glen Alvie Bowling: J Hynes 3/9, R Sinclair 2/13  
K-Bass Batting: R Gardiner 36, S Oates 34  
K-Bass Bowling: A Leighton 4/18, C Henderson 1/9  
**Koonwarra L/RSL 7/141 lt MDU 3/142**  
K-L/RSL Batting: S Hughes 47, B Davison 35  
K-L/RSL Bowling: B Davison 2/25, B Thomas 1/28  
MDU Batting: J Bright 73, R Henry 26\*  
MDU Bowling: S Browne 4/28, D Feild 2/28  
**Nyora 4/153 d Imperials 6/109**  
Nyora Batting: C Knox 69, J Knox 42  
Nyora Bowling: L Brock 2/20, T Bernaldo 2/24  
Imp. Batting: J Cochrane 42, F Botha 21\*  
Imp. Bowling: N McLennan 2/22, L Anderson 1/24

### C GRADE, DIVISION 1

**MDU 5/108 lt Kilcunda Bass 5/140**  
K-Bass Batting: T Berger 44\*, C Bettles 24  
K-Bass Bowling: N Miller 2/2, B Wallace 1/18  
MDU Batting: G Webster 48, K Sinclair 31  
MDU Bowling: C Hooper 2/11, K Foote 1/13  
**Nerrena 4/135 lt OMK 4/157**  
OMK Batting: O Fitzpatrick 88\*, S Handley 29  
OMK Bowling: B Wyatt 1/18, J Myers 1/22  
Nerrena Batting: B Croatto 66, B Gannon 39\*  
Nerrena Bowling: C Marinou 2/36, M Croatto 1/23  
**Phillip Island 7/118 lt Club 0/119**  
P-Island Batting: M Cleary 66\*, P Francis 13  
P-Island Bowling: J Marshall 0/24, D Robinson 0/26  
Club Batting: W Speed 66\*, J O'Reilly 44\*  
Club Bowling: R McGuirk 2/15, A Benetti 1/12  
**Korumburra – BYE**

### C GRADE, DIVISION 2

**OMK 3/95 lt Koonwarra L/RSL 2/100**  
OMK Batting: A Sorensen 49\*, M Gow 23  
OMK Bowling: J Battersby 1/21, D Wylie 1/28  
K-L/RSL Batting: G Boxall 50\*, A Boxall 21  
K-L/RSL Bowling: M Caruana 2/9, G Boxall 1/14  
**Inverloch 5/153 d Town 4/72**  
Inverloch Batting: W Chapman 77\*, J Foote 20  
Inverloch Bowling: D Cashin 2/4, A Nowell 1/8  
Town Batting: P J Kallookkaran 18\*, M Craig 16  
Town Bowling: A Aeschlimann 2/31, J Aeschlimann 1/13  
**Glen Alvie 4/108 d Nyora 4/104**  
Nyora Batting: J McDonald 27\*, K Maclure 18  
Nyora Bowling: K Ward 2/14, J MacDonald 1/12  
Glen Alvie Batting: P Loos 34, I Thorn 27\*  
Glen Alvie Bowling: J McNally 1/11, N Luff 1/12  
**Club – BYE**





## Tigers pounce on Power's Pugh



By Trent Westaway

WONTHAGGI product Baia Pugh describes herself as "pretty new" to Australian Rules Football. Despite that, she still managed to do enough to convince the Richmond Tigers to select her with pick 54 in the recent Telstra AFLW National Draft.

The 169cm running specialist watched the draft from home with family and friends, wondering whether her relatively short football résumé would be enough to get her name called.

"It was a bit 50/50 coming into the night because I'm pretty new to the sport," she said. "We knew I had some club interest, but it was still a bit of a wait and see."

When pick 54 arrived, those nerves promptly turned into noise.

"Once I actually got picked everyone came around and celebrated," she said. "It was probably one of the most fun nights I've ever had."

The excitement quickly came with the realisation of what comes next.

"First I was over the moon and just couldn't believe it for a few hours, and then I was just thinking how this is a professional sports team and there's a lot of work that needs to go into it," said Pugh. "But I'm prepared for that."

Pugh said joining a club with Richmond's history made the experience feel even bigger.

"Pretty unreal," she said. "It's a massive club and the supporter base is huge, so to have that opportunity to go to such a renowned Victorian football club is honestly just a privilege. I can't wait to get stuck into it."

For Pugh, the rapid rise still feels slightly surreal, particularly because she knows that despite representing both Wonthaggi Power and Gippsland Power, she has played less football than most of her fellow draft cohort after her Gippsland Power stint was cut short after 14 games, courtesy of a broken collarbone.

"There was definitely some

uncertainty because we weren't sure if they wanted to look for someone who had been in the sport for a few more years," she said. "I'm probably a bit of a risk factor because of that inexperience, but I think in the end I showed off what I had throughout the year."

Pugh's confidence is built on a sporting foundation that stretches even beyond footy.

"The athletics component helps, just being able to carry and run with the ball a bit more," she said. "Even the likes of basketball with the agility, and netball with the footwork. Everything has come into one to make it easier on the field."

Pugh said she feels most at home around the midfield, where she can use her legs both ways.

"My playstyle is someone who uses the ball and is pretty fast with the ball in hand, and just looking to run and transition both ways," she said.

Her father, Matt Pugh, said the family had watched her determination build over time.

"It's been pretty exciting. It's definitely been a journey," he said. "Once she puts her mind to something she's unstoppable."

Mr Pugh noted how far she had come, even with minimal games, and credited her experience representing Victoria in track and field with helping her handle pressure.

Next on the calendar is an induction day in January at Marvel Stadium, before pre-season begins in February. Baia said she is looking forward to the daily environment as much as the football itself.

"Probably just building relationships and meeting new people," she said. "It's really cool to get put in a workplace with elite players, and getting to know the ins and outs of how they train and prepare, and how I can better myself."

RANGER  
SUPER DUTY

Has arrived.  
Test drive today.



Leongatha Ford 1 Hughes St, Leongatha  
5662 4144 [www.leongathaford.com.au](http://www.leongathaford.com.au)

LMCT 8179

Ford