

Sentinel-Times

SUMMER 2025/26

FREE

DISCOVER

SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST



**SWING INTO
SUMMER**

Choose your own
adventure on the golf
course | p. 24-26

**DELICIOUS
DISCOVERIES**

Flavours that stop you in
your tracks | p. 58-61

**MARKET
MAGIC**

Your weekend
market map | p. 62



FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA

CLASSIC GOOD SERVICE

Since 1886

For more than 130 years, Alex Scott and Staff has been proud to be part of the growth and success of our communities.

As summer approaches, our beautiful region is once again in the spotlight. With enormous growth over the past two years, the outlook remains strong for property in Gippsland and The Bass Coast.

If you are keen to make a move, make sure you get the right advice. Whether you’re looking to sell, or secure your slice of paradise, our friendly and experienced team are here for you.

Melbourne (03) 8680 2545	Inverloch (03) 5674 1111	Lang Lang (03) 5997 5599	Phillip Island (03) 5952 2633	Venus Bay (03) 5663 7111
Berwick (03) 9707 2000	Koo Wee Rup (03) 5997 2133	Leongatha (03) 5662 0922	Sale (03) 5655 2480	Warragul (03) 5623 4744
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A magical place we call home...

I WAS reading Magic Beach to my son for the first time recently, and during our discussion I asked if he'd like to visit the beach in the pictures. His little face lit up as I explained we are lucky to live within easy driving distance. He was amazed.

For him, our beaches are magic... they are filled with sand and birds, rock pools and seaweed; plenty of little nooks and crannies to explore. He loves popping down from the playground after swimming lessons on a Wednesday, rain or shine. And he's even had a run-in with a seagull stealing from him...

Perhaps Alison Lester was onto something referring to her childhood beach, as the rugged surf coastline of Cape Woolamai was my backyard growing up, and no matter how far I have travelled, it's always been and will always be my magic beach. Even Santorini's sunsets are not as beautiful as watching the setting sun from The Colonnades or Anzacs, but maybe I'm biased.

And the most precious part is that we are fortunate to have over 480 kilometres of coastline

across Bass Coast and South Gippsland. Not every part is safe for swimming, not every part safe for surfing, but most parts are safe to wander, explore or indulge in as you take in the views along the many walking paths, trails and beaches.

For the first time in a very long time, I have the January summer off to sit back, relax and soak up the sun... well, maybe, there will be a lot of running around with a toddler mixed in there too.

As I sign off Discover and our regular weekly editions for a little while, and turn my focus to welcoming a second little chap to the world, I would like to thank you, our readers, for allowing me the opportunity to have so much fun in a job that means I get to tell your stories, promote your businesses and get out and enjoy this little piece of paradise we call home.

For those who are visiting for the first time or the 99th, welcome – we hope you have a magical summer.

Chloe

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STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

As we enjoy more beautiful weather, the Bass Coast region is calling all beachgoers to come and enjoy the sandy shores safely.

To help you stay safe, we encourage everyone to **download the Surf Life Saving Australia, Beachsafe app** and access important information available on the Life Saving Victoria website (lsv.com.au) and throughout the Visitor Information Centres.



beachsafe.org.au

Always swim at patrolled locations whenever possible, and in hot weather, take steps to protect yourself and others by keeping cool, staying hydrated, planning ahead and checking in with others.

We want everyone to keep safe when exploring the amazing coastline of Bass Coast.





Meet the shaggy stars of new Highland Cattle Experience



VISITORS can now get up close and personal with one of the world’s most iconic and photogenic farm animals, thanks to a new Highland cattle experience at Churchill Island.

Phillip Island Nature Parks is offering visitors the rare opportunity to learn more about the shaggy, long-horned, gentle giants at the Churchill Island Heritage Farm.

Originally from the Scottish Highlands, Highland cattle are among the oldest registered breeds in the world and are known for their hardiness, docile nature and ability to adapt to harsh weather conditions.

“With their big eyes, woolly fringes and inquisitive nature, Highland cattle are impossible not to love,” said Daniel Kallstrom, attractions manager at the Nature Parks.

“Although known as gentle giants of the paddock, we will be respecting their space, and our skilled staff will be on hand to ensure the sessions are safe, interactive and educational.”

As part of the new experience,

visitors to Churchill Island can ride on board a tractor to meet and feed Highland cattle in an experience that blends nature and history.

“This well-crafted, family-friendly experience is one animal lovers won’t forget,” Mr Kallstrom said.

“The Highland cattle experience offers something for everyone, from children who want to feed the animals to adults interested in farming traditions and the breed’s cultural heritage.”

Heritage-listed Churchill Island was an important place of early European settlement in Victoria, where the first European garden was established in 1801 with a crop of wheat and corn.

Today, the restored historic homestead includes a heritage house and barn from 1872, along with two original, heritage-listed 1860 cottages lovingly fitted with an extensive collection of furniture on loan from the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

It operates as a working farm where visitors can experience ‘hands-on’ farming demonstrations with sheep

shearing, milking cows and working dog demonstrations. Wagon rides operate on weekends, school holidays and special events.

The Highland cattle experience started back in November and operated over the long weekend, before becoming a weekend feature during school terms and Thursdays to Sundays during the Victorian school holidays.

Visitors will learn about the Bunurong history and European history, experience several centuries-old Moonah trees and farm animals before heading to the hero Highland cattle experience, where they can throw hay for them to eat and take photos at close range.

The experience is limited to 20 people at a time. Tickets include entry to the farm precinct and are \$60 for adults and \$30 for children.

There is also plenty to do on Phillip Island, including the world-famous Penguin Parade and the Koala Conservation Reserve.

For more information visit penguins.org.au/attractions.

Step aboard a tractor-drawn wagon for a family-friendly tour to meet our iconic Highland cattle up close, feed them and hear their fascinating story.

Time Unwinds

CHURCHILL ISLAND



BOOK NOW

Phillip Island

NATURE PARKS

Feathers on the frontline

SLIP, slop and slap this summer and head down to the San Remo Foreshore for the daily pelican feeding at 12 noon.

Be drawn in by the team of rotating volunteers who discuss all things pelicans.

“I’ve been doing this for 10-11 years,” pelican feeding volunteer Gill Smith said.

“I’m a bit of a bird nerd.”

With a 2.5-metre wingspan and a lightweight, air-pocketed bone structure, the pelican is remarkably efficient.

“The pelicans use thermal gliding, which is amazing to watch. They go up to 1000 metres and can glide between 50-60 kilometres per hour. They are really efficient machines for their size and can stay airborne for up to 11-12 hours.”

It’s therefore no surprise to find locally tagged pelicans popping up far beyond Bass Coast.

“A local green banded pelican from Newhaven was spotted in Sale, two days after being here, and two days later there was a mass fish feeding frenzy over there.”

How he knew is anyone’s guess – luck, instinct or a bit of avian gossip.

Whilst an orange-banded pelican from Lake Brewster, NSW, has also been recorded dropping into San Remo.

If you’re lucky, you might even meet



one very special pelican down on the foreshore.

“NQR (517) got lost leaving Mud Island and was rehabilitated by Phillip Island Nature Parks,” Gill explained, adding the pelican wound up needing a second stay at the Parks’ rehabilitation centre later on for a different reason.

“He nuzzles into you, and often lies down on the sand as if he’s starving! It’s quite amusing.

“He would also dive into the fish bucket and take it for himself (during the daily feeding), which all the other pelicans caught onto and thought was

a great idea.”

The buckets are now covered.

President of Birdlife Bass Coast, it’s no surprise Gill is a vocal advocate for our pelicans.

“Our biggest focus is on pollution in Western Port, and in particular, encouraging people to collect three or four pieces of rubbish along their walks.

“The statistics show that 60 per cent of all seabirds have ingested plastic. Our local population of pelicans breed on Mud Island, and when researchers attended Mud Island to check on the

young, they noticed a majority of nests were made of plastic.”

It’s a sobering thought, especially when you consider hundreds of chicks are being fed plastic instead of proper food.

“It’s also important to understand that rough plastics are perforating birds’ throats, and each time it heals and tears again, their throat narrows making it more difficult to feed.

“And it’s so easy for us to take action – alert someone if you can’t remove the rubbish yourselves or if safe to do so, collect it and pop it in the bin.”

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This summer, we are pleased to present one of our largest and most diverse programs yet.



Step inside a summer of art with PICES

PICES is thrilled to announce the upcoming 2025–26 Summer Exhibitions at Berninneit Gallery, Cowes.

We are once again creating three exhibitions where you are invited to step inside, take your time, and immerse yourself in a vibrant celebration of creativity from Bass Coast and beyond. This season is about coming together – artists, audiences, and our wider community – to celebrate imagination, connection, and the thriving cultural spirit of Bass Coast.

Phillip Island Contemporary Exhibition Space Inc. (PICES) is a not-for-profit, volunteer-driven organisation dedicated to supporting artists from Bass Coast and beyond. Since 2019, our mission has been to create and secure a purpose-built contemporary gallery in Cowes – a space that reflects the artistic richness of our region and offers meaningful opportunities for connection through art.

With more than 5000 practising artists in Gippsland – including over 400

right here on Phillip Island – creativity lives deeply in our community. PICES recognised the need to foster new, exciting avenues for artists to share their work and for the public to engage with it. Today, PICES acts as a vital bridge, bringing artists and art-lovers together in ways that are accessible, inspiring, and inclusive.

Over recent summers, in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council, PICES has brought Berninneit to life with exhibitions that have invited thousands of visitors to discover, reflect, and delight. From our Pop-Up show to our PICES in Focus series and last summer's inaugural and much-loved 50 x 50 exhibition showcasing affordable small works from over 50 artists – these exhibitions have highlighted a remarkable range of creativity right here in our region.

This summer, we are pleased to present one of our largest and most diverse programs yet.

From December 12 to February 1, the

PICES Summer Exhibitions will feature 64 artists across:

- Small Works Exhibition: December 12, 2025, to January 1, 2026
- Contempora 1: January 4 to 15
- Contempora 2: January 17 to February 1

Together, these exhibitions offer something for everyone – whether you're an art collector, a curious browser, or someone simply seeking beauty, inspiration, or a quiet moment in a welcoming space.

Two Artist's Forums will be held on Sunday, January 4 and Sunday, January 18, providing a wonderful opportunity for visitors to meet the artists and hear about their practices and inspirations.

We invite you to come in, slow down, and experience the creativity growing within our extensive artistic community. Every visit, every conversation, every artwork sold helps support local artists and strengthens the cultural life of our community.

We look forward to seeing you there.



PHILLIP ISLAND
CONTEMPORARY
EXHIBITION SPACE



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BASS
COAST



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and STAFF



PRINT IT FAST

SUMMER Art Exhibitions

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



Small Works Exhibition, Dec 12 - Jan 1
Contempora 1 Exhibition, Jan 4 - Jan 15
Contempora 2 Exhibition, Jan 17 - Feb 1

Open Daily 10am - 4pm
(closed Xmas day, January 2, 3 and 16)

Berninneit Art Gallery, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes Vic 3922
Bringing contemporary art to the community



www.pices.com.au
[@picesartspace](https://www.facebook.com/picesartspace)





Summer at Phillip Island

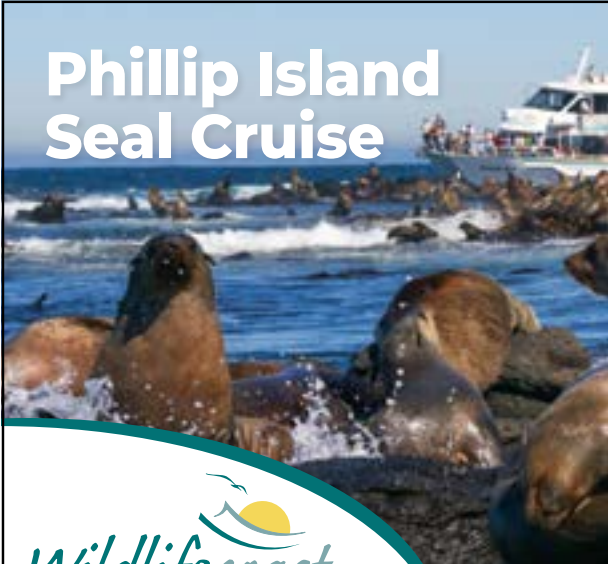
THERE’S something timeless about summer on Phillip Island. Salty air, blue horizons, and the easy rhythm of days spent by the sea. From sunrise strolls and beach swims to exploring hidden coves and tasting local produce, it’s a place that invites you to slow down and enjoy every moment.

Step aboard with Wildlife Coast Cruises and discover the island from the water. Departing from Cowes Jetty, the Phillip Island Seal Cruise journeys out to Seal Rocks, home to one of Australia’s largest fur seal colonies. Watch the pups splashing in the shallows while adults glide and dive around the boat, putting on a show of their own.

From the fishing village of San Remo, the Cape Cruise explores the breathtaking granite cliffs and sea caves of Cape Woolamai, where turquoise water meets rugged coastline.

As the sun begins to fade, finish the day on a Sunset Cruise with live local music, regional wines and fresh seafood served against a glowing evening sky. Supported by Creative Victoria’s 10,000 Gigs Grant, this season’s cruises feature talented local duos performing on board, creating the perfect soundtrack for summer nights on the bay.

Whether you’re seeking adventure, connection with nature or a relaxing evening afloat, Phillip Island offers an unforgettable coastal escape.



Phillip Island Seal Cruise



Cape Cruise



Island Sunset Cruise



Bookings Call **1300 763 739** or visit www.wildlifecoastcruises.com.au

Over half a century of summer fun

THE Phillip Island Summer Carnival brings with it memories of many summers, whether a visit was on the cards last year, or, like this scribe, includes memories of finishing matinee shows with Offshore Theatre and racing up Thompson Avenue (it was a decent hike for a child!) to the carnival to spend the night racing from ride to ride with fellow friends.

Watkins Amusements, and particularly the Watkins family, have called Phillip Island home for over 50 summers, with four generations rolling into town each November.

There's a rich history for all involved and no doubt some fantastic stories from those who remember that first year.

These days, the rides look a little different; they're constantly evolving with the latest releases keeping the enthusiastic thrill seekers entertained, whilst providing the beloved classics for visitors of all ages.

"We are known as the big event specialist hosting some of Australia's largest events, including Santa's Wonderland Adelaide and the Island Summer Carnival, to name a few," Amanda Watkins said.

"Our diverse range of rides cater to all ages, from children's attractions to extreme thrill rides and our commitment to safety, quality, and creating memorable family experiences sets us apart from other operators."

Some of the staple attractions include Kiddies Kingdom, Dodgem Cars, Space Roller, Cha Cha, and Midnight Madness, which have become favourites for all ages.

This year's carnival will run from December 31, 2025, to January 25, 2026. Open from 6pm until late every night, weather permitting.

Carnival coupons are the best value and are accepted on all rides and games. You can also purchase showbags and carnival food treats, including fairy floss, dagwood dogs, twisted chips on a stick, hot dogs, and slushies, as well as some healthier choices – available with cash or EFTPOS.

The Island Carnival sprawls over 8000 square metres, providing plenty of room to enjoy the atmosphere, and free parking is available. There is a \$2 entry fee (under 2s are free) and there will be portable toilets and wheelchair-friendly facilities. Remember that dogs are welcome if they are on a leash and are safe to the public.

"We have established crowd control measures, including capacity limits and an organised entry system, to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone," said Amanda.

Over the last 50 years, the Island Summer Carnival has sponsored many community groups and activities, including the carols, Little Nippers, Cowes Primary School Fete, Newhaven Primary, Phillip Island Football Club, and the Channel Challenge.

Be ready to have some holiday fun on Phillip Island this summer!



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Come and shop our great range of groceries, fresh produce,
fully-stocked deli, on-site butchers and liquor



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New Year's Eve
to Australia Day
long weekend
(Last Day 25/1/26)

the
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CARNIVAL
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2025-2026



Fresh excitement this summer

THERE'S something wonderfully uplifting about a day at A Maze'N Things. Whether it's getting lost in the Giant Maze, the fun of climbing up amongst the gum trees on the SkyTrail or the illusions you cannot believe happened inside Magic Manor, every corner of this Phillip Island favourite is designed to spark joy, curiosity and a good amount of family fun.

It's also one of the few destinations where you can fill an entire day without running out of things to do. Families can take on the giant Maze, test their bravery on the SkyTrail high ropes course, challenge each other at Parky's Mini Golf, explore the illusions and hands-on fun inside Puzzle Island and Magic Manor, or simply slow down with a fresh bite from the café. And of course, a visit isn't complete without a scoop from Parky's Lollies & Gelato to wrap things up.

As summer approaches, families are already searching for places that offer the perfect mix of indoor and outdoor entertainment, and A Maze'N Things continues to tick every box. It's the kind of outing that keeps both kids and adults smiling from the moment they arrive.

And while all the classics remain, visitors may start to notice something interesting in the coming months. Subtle updates and refreshed touches are beginning to appear, especially around Puzzle Island, setting the stage for new layers of fun still to be revealed.

What hasn't changed is the heart of A Maze'N Things: a place where families reconnect, friends challenge each other to one more round, and every visit ends with a story worth sharing. With warm weather on the way, it's the ideal time to rediscover the magic.

And with fresh fun on the horizon, there's never been a better reason to visit.

***It's one of the few destinations
where you can fill an entire
day without running
out of things to do.***





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ONLINE

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ADVENTURE!



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please visit **AMAZETHINGS.COM.AU**

Discover a sip this summer



The Gurdies Winery
215 Gurdies-St Helier Rd,
The Gurdies | 5997 6208
thegurdieswinery.com.au

THE Gurdies Winery is the perfect place to pack a picnic and enjoy a warm summer's day surrounded by the winery's rustic charm and breathtaking views. Under the guidance of Wendy Heaney and Bruce Preston, the winery produces a range of varietal and blended wines made from eight varieties of estate-grown grapes, using traditional wine-making processes. Typically, cool climate in style, the most popular wines on offer include sparkling red, pinot noir and their new sparkling rosé and signature Gurdies spritz. Providing a captivating backdrop for various occasions, such as weddings, corporate retreats, private parties, and those looking to bask in the afternoon sun with a glass in hand, The Gurdies Winery is open every day from 11am to 5pm over the school holidays, so you can enjoy a glass whenever you please. Head down to The Gurdies Winery, you won't be disappointed.



Mates Gin Distillery
13b Inverloch Road, Wonthaggi
5613 9059
matesgin.com.au

RELAX with your mates on the outskirts of Wonthaggi this weekend. Sample award-winning small batch gins produced in-house, delectable cocktails and local brews and wine with a selection of food including lamb sliders, arancini balls, grazing platters and more. Open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, Mates Gin Distillery Door is the perfect place to stop for a tippie on your way home from a long day at the beach, and the best part is that you're supporting not only a local business that employs locals, but a venture where 50 per cent of the profits go towards making dreams come true. You see, by supporting Mates Gin, you are supporting the Dream Big Australia Foundation. Working in collaboration with existing charities, the foundation provides funds to make dreams come true for people who never thought it would be possible otherwise. So what are you waiting for? Pop in this weekend. Pizza Nights are also a popular regular event on the calendar – check out the dates on social media.



Phillip Island Winery
414 Berrys Beach Road, Ventnor
8595 2155
phillipislandwinery.com.au

CELLAR door is open every day from 11am, closing on weekdays at 5pm and 5.30pm on the weekends. Lunch is served Wednesday to Sunday 11.30am – 4pm. Hidden amongst the western side of Phillip Island in Ventnor, this winery is a true hidden gem, destined to help you unwind and enjoy the finest produce and wine throughout Bass and Gippsland. As they regrow their vines, their wine is sourced from trusted local vineyards, offering delectable drops as you overlook the broad greenery of Phillip Island. Their seasonal menu is subject to change throughout the year, ensuring diners taste the very best produce that Gippsland has to offer. With a selection of gourmet pizzas, grazing boards, slow-roasted lamb shoulder or oysters, there is a bite to suit each appetite. Indoor and outdoor seating are both available, escape the heat to cool off in the restaurant or spread a rug on the lawn and soak up the sun. Being a child and dog-friendly winery with menus to pair, bring the whole family along while you sip selections of wine rich in flavours. Bookings are highly recommended.



Purple Hen Winery
96 McFees Road, Rhyll
5956 9244
purplehenwines.com.au

WITH 12 hectares under vine and nine varieties on the go, Rick Lacey and Maira Vitols have grown Purple Hen Wines into a Phillip Island favourite. Producing around 4000 cases a year, all estate-grown and made on site, the pair are celebrating a quarter of a century of crafting wines shaped by one of Australia's most maritime climates. Purple Hen's coastal location, just 500 metres from Western Port Bay and a short distance from Bass Strait, creates ideal conditions for pinot noir, aromatic whites and reds with supple tannins. Today, Purple Hen produces 15 wines, including four sparklings, with a reputation for varietal clarity that has earned nearly 200 medals and 20 trophies since 2006. Their cellar door, opened in 2006, has grown into the heart of the estate. Visitors can settle in among the vines, take in sweeping bay views and enjoy tastings or a shared bottle with cheese platters. Sun-drenched days or moody, storm-lit skies both suit the space, which is made for unhurried conversation and lingering moments.

Island Grown and Crafted



Situated on Phillip Island, Purple Hen is a beautiful location for growing and enjoying wine. Our many wine show medals and trophies attest to the quality of the wines. Visit our cellar door and experience our great wines and simple platters featuring local produce.

Cellar Door 11am - 5pm (4:30pm Sundays):
School Holidays: Open 7 days a week
Other times: Open 5 days a week (closed Tues and Wed)
Public Holidays: Closed for most public holidays

96 McFees Road, Rhyll, Phillip Island
T. 5956 9244
www.purplehenwines.com.au





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Discover the natural wonder of the George Bass Coastal Walk

BASS Coast is renowned for its iconic views and wondrous natural environment, all of which is proudly on display for those who explore the George Bass Coastal Walk.

Following the route of George Bass's coastal discovery voyage more than 200 years ago, the walk is a clifftop wonder that overlooks Bass Strait.

George Bass began his journey from Sydney Cove to prove the existence of a strait between Tasmania and New South Wales.

This led to the discovery of Westernport – the first natural harbour on the southern mainland coast.

Starting at Punch Bowl Road in San Remo, the George Bass Coastal Walk is seven kilometres one way and passes through farmland while offering dramatic views of the coast.

The rugged terrain gives the walk a moderate difficulty rating, dipping through gullies and climbing high above the pounding surf.

Throughout the journey, there are beach access points, which allow explorers to step away from their travels for a moment to enjoy stunning dunes and rockpools.

Always remember to check the tides before heading to the rockpools.

It is the perfect walk for those who love bird watching, as the environment provides sanctuary for many species with lower vegetation providing visibility.

Efforts from local groups have helped the bird population to flourish over the years, which complements the special nature of the walk.

The walk is home to Pacific Gulls, Black-Shouldered Kites and Nankeen Kestrels.

Nature lovers can also stop and admire the gorgeous local flora.

The walk finishes in Kilcunda, where walkers can enjoy a coffee and a bite to eat in the unique town.

Locals recommend the breakfast

options served up in Kilcunda's beloved establishments, or enjoying a great pub meal in the venue that offers ocean and sunset views, and live music.

For those avid adventurers, the journey doesn't have to end there.

The George Bass Coastal Walk links up to the Bass Coast Rail Trail in Kilcunda, or the Anderson to San Remo Shared Pathway.

Whilst the George Bass Coastal Walk is just for travelling on foot, these trails are also ideal for cyclists.

Dogs are permitted along the walk.

Walkers are warned to be cautious, as the track meanders along a narrow strip of public land along clifftops, which can be slippery.

Appropriate footwear is advised.

The beaches below can also be extremely dangerous, and swimming is not advised. Walkers are asked to keep a safe distance and fishing is not advised due to the large waves, strong undertows and rips.

Starting at Punchbowl Road in San Remo, the George Bass Coastal Walk is seven kilometres one way and passes through farmland while offering dramatic views of the coast.



Be an island
WONDERER
Set sail and wonder



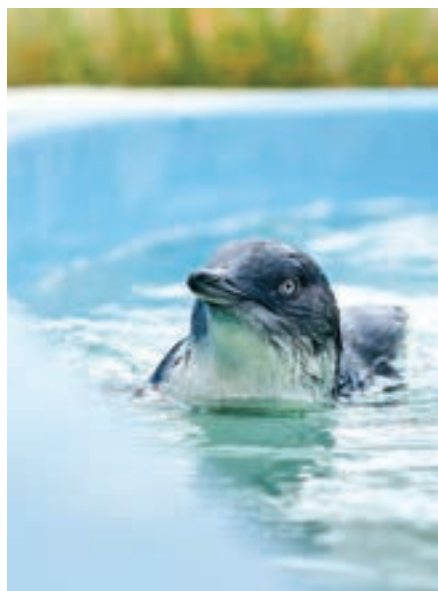
Westernportferries.com.au or call 03 5257 4565



Sail to French Island, a pristine, off the grid eco destination.
Perfect for nature lovers, cyclists & walkers!

We're all in this together

A local invitation to give back to the Island we love.



THERE is something truly special about Phillip Island. Whether you have lived here for years or are visiting for the first time, the feeling is the same – the connection runs deep. Whether it's the cute Little Penguins waddling home at dusk, the raw beauty of our rugged coastline, or the sense of calm that settles in as you cross the bridge, Phillip Island has a way of making people fall in love.

That's exactly why Love Phillip Island (Millowl) was created – to help all of us, locals and visitors alike, play a part in looking after this place we love.

Love it? Help care for it.

Love Phillip Island (Millowl) gives everyone the chance to directly support local environment and wildlife projects that protect and enhance the beauty of the Island. It's a simple idea: if a place

gives you something special, give something back.

You can get involved by:

- Donating to local conservation projects
- Joining volunteer days across the island
- Adopting an animal to support wildlife care and research

Whether it's your time, a small donation, or simply spreading the word – every bit of support goes straight into the hands of local groups doing real, on-the-ground work. Here are just a few of the local initiatives making a difference:

• Island Bushcare Program – Phillip Island Landcare

In partnership with Phillip Island Landcare Group, your donation will allow the purchase and planting of indigenous trees on the island.

• Penguin Foundation

The Penguin Foundation raises funds to enhance Phillip Island's natural environment and protect native wildlife through research, conservation and education programs.

• Adopt an Animal – Penguin Foundation

Perfect for families, schools or as a gift – symbolic adoptions help care for some of our most loved locals, like penguins, koalas and fur seals.

By supporting Love Phillip Island (Millowl), you're helping to ensure that our landscapes stay pristine, our wildlife thrives, and our community continues to flourish.

Find out how you can get involved at: visitphillipisland.com.au.



We're All In This Together!

Locals, Visitors,
Wildlife & Tourism



Scan to
learn more

www.visitphillipisland.com.au

DESTINATION
**PHILLIP
ISLAND**



Slip, slop, slap, seek and slide these holidays

ENJOYING the stunning beaches of Bass Coast and South Gippsland this summer? Don't forget to protect yourself and your family from sunburn.

Every time you're out in the sun, be sure to wear a hat, long-sleeved clothing, sunscreen and sunglasses. This will reduce the risk of ultraviolet radiation damaging your skin and eyes, and decrease your risk of skin cancer.

According to the Department of Health's Better Health Channel website, sunburn can happen in as little as 11 minutes and, if severe, can take days or weeks to heal.

There is no cure for sunburn other than to allow your body time to heal. While mild sunburn can be treated at home, severe and blistered sunburn needs prompt medical attention.

If you have mild sunburn, drink plenty of water to rehydrate your body, and apply cool or cold compresses, or bathe the area in cool water. Avoid using soap, as this may irritate your skin. See your pharmacist about products that help soothe sunburn and opt for spray-on solutions rather than creams that require rubbing in by hand.

Other heat-related illnesses to watch out for include heat rash, dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heatstroke, the last of which requires immediate medical attention.



What to look out for in heatstroke?

- A sudden rise in body temperature (above 39°C)
 - Red, hot skin
 - Sweaty or dry skin
 - Intense thirst
 - Rapid pulse and rapid, shallow breathing
 - Nausea and vomiting
 - Changed behaviour, confusion, poor coordination or slurred speech
 - Loss of consciousness, seizures or coma
- If you notice any of these symptoms in yourself or others, immediately call triple zero (000).

While you are waiting for paramedics to arrive, you should try:

- Moving the person to a cool, shaded area and keep them as still as possible
- Remove excess clothing
- Give them small sips of water, if they are conscious and able to drink
- Place cool packs under their armpits, on the groin or on the back of their neck to reduce body heat
- You can also try to bring their temperature down by gently spraying them with cool water from a spray bottle or garden hose, soak their

clothes in cool water and/or sponge their body with cool water.

If you need urgent medical attention in Bass Coast, the Emergency Department is located at Wonthaggi Hospital, 235 Graham Street or there is an Urgent Care Centre at the Phillip Island Community Hospital, 50-54 Church Street, Cowes. Bass Coast Health operates both facilities 24/7.

In South Gippsland, head to Gippsland Southern Health Service's Urgent Care Centres – located at both Leongatha (66 Koonwarra Road) and Korumburra (65 Bridge Street).

You can now receive certain healthcare treatments at a local pharmacy, without having to get a prescription first.

The Victorian Government's Community Pharmacist Pilot is making healthcare more accessible. Here are some other treatments you can access.

Speak to our specialist pharmacist today

INVERLOCH
P: 5674 1652

LEONGATHA
P: 5662 2183

Treatment for shingles

If you have one of the following symptoms, you may have shingles:

- painful blistering rash
- a tingling, burning sensation on the skin.

If you are aged 18 years and older, you may be eligible for treatment.

Treatment for urinary tract infections

If you have any of the following symptoms, you may have a urinary tract infection:

- stinging or burning when passing urine
- feeling the need to pass urine frequently or bladder still feels full after passing urine.

If you are female and aged between 16 - 65 years you may be able to get treatment.

Treatment for a flare up of mild plaque psoriasis

If you are aged 18 years and older, and currently have a flare-up of mild plaque psoriasis, speak to a participating pharmacist to check if you can get a resupply of your cream or ointment.

Resupply of an oral contraceptive pill

If you are aged 16-50 years and currently take an oral contraceptive pill, speak to a participating pharmacist to check if you can get a resupply.

Travel and vaccines

If you are travelling overseas or need a public health vaccine, pharmacists participating in the Pilot can administer a range of travel vaccinations as well as hepatitis A, hepatitis B, polio, typhoid, and meningococcal vaccines (for people aged 5 years and older).

For more information and to find a local pharmacy providing these services visit: go.vic.gov.au/49C6sFc

These treatments are part of the Community Pharmacist Pilot, funded by the Victorian Government.



Discover an experience for the whole family

INCLUSIVE family fun, it doesn't get much easier than that, and that's precisely what Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre brings to Settlement Road in Cowes. Regardless of age or ability, all can enjoy the offerings from tenpin bowling to laser tag, arcade games and pool tables. There are simply no barriers with plenty of space for wheelchairs and pushers to get in and amongst the fun. Looking to strike it lucky and go for a 300? Not only are there plenty of bowling balls available and shoes (all included in the price), but ramps to push balls down and cool gadgets that help hold the ball are also available to those

who require a little extra assistance to participate. "At the end of the day, it's pretty simple – we just want people to come in, have fun, and feel like they belong here. If we can help make someone's day that little bit brighter, then we've done our job," co-owner Jeremy West-away said. Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre are also the proud bronze award winner in this year's Accessible Tourism category of the Victorian Tourism Awards, a real acknowledgement of the hard work the team has put in behind the scenes to ensure the venue is inclusive, accessible and genuinely welcoming for all.

There are no barriers, whether you are a wheelchair user, mobility-challenged or vision-impaired, the friendly team can get you set up and raring to go without exclusion. A fully licensed bar and café will have you fuelled up between activities, and \$25 unlimited fun (three hours of non-stop entertainment with unlimited tenpin bowling, laser tag and table tennis) from 6.30pm to 9.30pm (minimum four players) is perfect every night over the school holidays for families, friends and groups. Whether you're looking to escape the heat or the rain these school holidays, a visit or five to 93 - 97 Settlement Road is a must-have on the summer list.



THE FOOD. THE WINE. THE TIMES.

Whether you're here for a long lunch, a wedding, or a quiet glass by the vines, every visit is a chance to feel part of something special.



414 Berrys Beach Road, Ventnor, 3922
phillipislandwinery.com.au

PHILLIP ISLAND WINERY

\$25 UNLIMITED
 BOWLING, LAZER TAG & TABLE TENNIS

6:30PM - 9:30PM
 EVERY NIGHT THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
 MINIMUM 4 PER LANE

**Excludes Christmas Eve and New Years Eve, ends January 25, 2026*

PHILLIP ISLAND
TENPIN BOWLING & ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE
5952 3977
www.pitenpin.com.au
 91-97 Settlement Rd Cowes



Loop around Inverloch's highlights

A WORLD of wonder awaits along the Inverloch West Loop Walk.

This hidden treasure is a favourite for the kids, with the 2.5-kilometre route featuring a national park, sculptures and even a shipwreck.

Located at the surf beach end of town, the trail is a loop, so you can start at any point.

The map features seven key points, starting with the giant snake sculpture located along the path from Goroke Street to Tea Tree Court.

The sculpture was a project delivered by Bass Coast Shire Council in partnership with Inverloch Estates Pty Ltd, with assistance from the students at Inverloch Kongwak Primary Schools.

Designed as a meeting point to relax and socialise, it's a great starting point

for the array of Inverloch highlights.

Continuing along the loop, children are challenged to spot pieces of repurposed train track, including old rail spikes and sleepers, which have been incorporated into a landscaped garden.

Further along, the wetlands are ready to be explored.

Birds and frogs have made their home in the wetlands, and the trail takes visitors along the edge.

The Surf Parade footpath connects the rest of the loop, offering safe passage into the Bunurong Marine National Park.

The national park is part of the Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park, which extends 40 kilometres from Inverloch to San Remo.

It is a habitat for amazing flora and

fauna, with large rock pools and great spots for snorkelling.

Another major sightseeing opportunity is the Amazon shipwreck, located near the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club.

The ship left Melbourne on December 12, 1863, headed for Mauritius with a cargo of salted meats.

On December 15, the ship came ashore off the coast of Andersons Inlet, with all crew members surviving the wreckage.

During low tides, parts of the wreck can be seen protruding from the sand.

Visitors are reminded that this is a protected site.

The wreckage is not to be touched, with photos to be taken only.

The last highlight along the loop is

Inverloch's surf beach.

Ideal for swimming with a patrolled stretch of beach during the peak summer periods, the surf beach is a hot spot for families.

The beach is a stunning walk, leading back into the main township where people can enjoy the local amenities, including cafes, eateries, playgrounds, and toilet and changing facilities.

And whilst you're at it, stop in at Paul the Pieman and grab a prize-winning pie, sausage roll, or pastie.

You won't be disappointed by the scrumptious treats on offer either, a favourite of this scribe is the vanilla slice doughnut!

See some of Inverloch's exciting hot spots along the Inverloch West Loop Walk.

Try our awarding winning pies!

Established in 1994, Paul the Pieman's pies are a must try!
A variety of flavours to satisfy your taste buds.



More than just pies... Enjoy our daily selection of freshly baked:
• Cakes & Slices • Croissants & Danish
• Sandwiches & Wraps • And all your bakery favourites

PAUL THE PIEMAN INVERLOCH

Bakery/Cafe open: 7 days from 7.30am | 5 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch | Ph. 5674 1722   Paul The Pieman

“There is such a need for people to unplug and reconnect with nature, animals and each other.”

IF THERE is any way to connect back to nature, it is at Wattle Bank Farm, where inspiring, unique experiences are aimed at all ages.

Husband and wife duo Peter Bland and Beatrice Imbert have a shared love for the outdoors and bring a kinder and more connected way for visitors to connect with horses at a deeper level, whether it be through riding lessons, therapy sessions or monthly meditation with the majestic animals.

Over the Summer school holidays, head on down to Gippsland and enjoy a school holiday horse riding clinic, a natural horsemanship experience or a trail ride on the beautiful Bass Coast for the more experienced.

“No experience is required,” said Peter.

Beatrice also runs guided meditation monthly with horses, where you can discover the magic of horses in silent contemplation, a wonderful, deep self-care ritual.

“These experiences can be booked on the website, and visitors are welcome to stay on site at our Seahorse Farm Stay retreat, an off-grid cabin overlooking the rolling hills of Gippsland, just minutes to the ocean, plus it is pet friendly!”



Connect through the practice of natural horsemanship

If you are looking to unwind and unplug from the busyness of Christmas, slow down at Wattle Bank Farm.

Run most Saturday mornings – weather pending – Peter and Beatrice open the farm gate to neighbours, locals and visitors alike. You can find locally grown produce, flowers and of course a wonderful array of the mushrooms grown on site. No need to book, simply drop in between 10am and 1pm.

“The farm gate is like a little village, kids are busy with Peter doing pony rides, and the parents get to relax with coffee, local baked goods or one of our

delicious pies,” said Beatrice.

“They can also stock up with week-end meals and flowers for the table – local cheeses, honey, berries and Invy Baker baked treats and bread, Amber Creek small goods, and so much more.

“People even leave with our rich mushroom compost for their own gardens. Always on display are Christmas suggestions or gift cards, which can be gift-wrapped on the day for you.”

“It is our weekly invitation to unplug and rediscover a connection with animals and nature. The whole essence of what we do is to build community

and encourage wellbeing,” said Beatrice.

“I love seeing parents, grandparents or friends meeting up here. Everyone is welcome to stay for a moment or to make a morning of it.”

The pony rides, which began in February this year, offer something unique. At just \$15 per experience, visitors can ride the horses or simply connect with them through brushing, grooming and leading.

“It makes for a wonderful introduction to horses if the little ones are not quite ready to hop on.”



REGENERATIVE EXPERIENCES

School Holiday Horse Clinics .
Farm Gate & Pony Rides Sat mornings 10am-1pm
Adults & kids welcome
Meditation with Horses
Fresh mushrooms, pies & seasonal produce
Farm Stay

Located minutes from Inverloch,
we look forward to seeing you soon!

Wattle Bank FARM

www.wattlebankfarm.com.au | 0408 566 071
85 Desmond Road, Wattle Bank



Double Indulgence at ArtSpace Gallery

'Artful Holidays' Exhibition
Tuesday 25 Nov, 2025
to Sunday 4 Jan, 2026

'Shades of Summer' Exhibition
Tuesday 6 Jan to
Sunday 8 Feb, 2026

ALL WELCOME • FREE ENTRY

All art and artisan works by our local BassCoast and Gippsland award winning artists, are for sale.

Paintings, original prints, photography, wood, jewellery, textiles, glass art, ceramics, sculpture, books, artist cards. Great gift ideas or simply treat yourself to an art indulgence.

Information and maps on sight seeing, walks, bike tracks, tours, activities, wine and food brochures also available.

Friendly service



Preston's Proteas, Wendy Fletcher, hand coloured



Storm Brewing, Ursula Theinert, acrylic

Visit us The Centennial Centre,
1 Bent Street, Wonthaggi
ONLINE www.artspacewonthaggi.com.au
BY PHONE 5672 5767
BY EMAIL artspaceexhibiting@gmail.com
OPEN Daily 11am -3pm

Wonthaggi
ArtSpace
GALLERY
ArtSpaceWonthaggi

Their staple offerings are already up for 2026, and this includes the duo expanding their community offerings with ‘Friends of Wattle Bank Farm’, a volunteer program which will take place every two months, kicking off February 19.

“There is such a need for people to unplug and reconnect with nature, animals and each other,” said Beatrice.

“I cannot wait for our first retreat with the horses in March of next year, too.”

What began as the home of gourmet oyster mushrooms in Gippsland has expanded to the perfect place to spend the weekend. They still grow gourmet mushrooms for restaurants and cafes in Gippsland and Melbourne, but this year they launched their very own pies and quiches.

“We have a factory in Melbourne that makes them to our recipes and delivers them back to Gippsland and into several pubs in town. They are always available at our farm gate and make for a wonderful vegetarian option for the vegetarians in your life on the Christmas lunch table,” shared Beatrice.

Pre-orders for the pies, quiches, plus the grow-your-own mushroom kits and hands-on workshops are an experience on their own and very much part of the life of the farm.

Beyond the tuition and experiences on offer throughout the week and weekends, the farm offers comprehensive school holiday clinics running through December and January.

These programs, operating Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10am until 3pm, include a hearty lunch and welcome both children and adults with no experience necessary. They make for wonderful family memories.

This year will be even more exciting as Peter and Beatrice have recently launched ‘The Rope’ Whisperer and the Natural Horse Whisperer movement. The natural ‘All-in one-Horse Tack’ – a



patented halter bridle lead rope developed by Peter, showcasing his commitment to a more connected approach to horse interaction. This tool, now available online as well as from the farm gate, will help riders and owners to better educate their horses as well as transition from bit to bit-less riding.

“We are so grateful to be able to bring our knowledge to this community and to be the custodians of this beautiful space, so why not share it?”

Visit wattlebankfarm.com.au and explore what’s on at Wattle Bank Farm.



THE GURDIES WINERY

Stunning Views & Exceptional Wine
VISIT OUR HIDDEN GEM

All our wines are produced from estate grown grapes, and complemented with all the local charm and hospitality that our region has to offer.

17 Jade Road, The Gurdies, Vic. 3984 | Tel: 03 5997 6208
Email: info@thegurdieswinery.com.au | www.thegurdieswinery.com.au



Stage One of your Phillip Island Community Hospital is now open, offering these services:

- a new **Urgent Care Centre** (open 24/7 for care of minor illnesses and injuries)
- **Radiology** (CT scans, x-ray and ultrasound)
- **Pathology**
- Visiting **specialists** for consultations (by referral)
- **Allied Health** appointments.

Services coming in early 2026:

- Dental Clinic
- Day surgery (low complexity)
- Chemotherapy
- Haemodialysis

Phillip Island Community Hospital
50-56 Church St, Cowes.
Phone: 5951 2100
basscoasthealth.org.au/pich



Bush tracks to wine racks



NATURALISTE Tours operates 4WD and guided walking tours that offer a glimpse into the diverse isle that is French Island.

The 4WD tours are a wonderful introduction to the Island. Explore the National Park and wilderness environment with ease and comfort in Naturaliste's very own 4WD vehicles.

Experienced, local guides offer personalised, authentic touring bringing to life the stories, history and lifestyle that is French Island. They will share their knowledge of island life, history and the treasure trove of flora and, of course, the wildlife, including the iconic koala and echidna.

Go off the beaten track and experience an up close and

personal encounter with all of French Island's natural beauty. Take in the silence and pristine beauty of this unique, off-the-grid, eco destination.

For food and wine lovers, visit French Island Vineyard, a historic estate situated on the water's edge with a cool climate, pristine environment and handmade wines. Sail for a day of wine tasting, charcuterie and cheese plate, estate walk, and a guided 4WD tour.

Don't miss the opportunity to witness the closest natural koala habitat to the ferry. This low-impact tour ensures minimal impact on the island and its community, preserving its pristine allure.

To book a tour, visit naturalistetours.com.au.

OFF
GRID | LINE | ROAD

#GETOFFONFRENCHISLAND



Get OFF GRID, take yourself OFF LINE & venture OFF ROAD.
Discover this unique, unspoilt, remote destination.... French Island.



naturalistetours.com.au or call 03 5257 4570





Archies Creek audiences can expect a wall-to-wall celebration of the songs that shaped the band's legacy



Four decades of pub rock thunder

BOOM Crash Opera are marking a major milestone, forty years of creating some of Australia's most enduring, high-energy rock anthems, and they're celebrating the only way they know how: by hitting the road.

As part of their massive national Hands Up In The Air – The Singles Tour, the band will roll into Archies Creek on Saturday, January 17, performing on the outdoor stage. Doors open at 7.30pm, with the show kicking off at 8pm.

And they can't wait, noting to the Sentinel-Times, "We are looking forward to playing at Archies Creek".

Frontman Dale Ryder is no stranger to South Gippsland, having popped down to Inverloch at least twice in the past 13 months and performing at The Inlet Hotel to help raise funds and awareness for Young Veterans, who in turn do vital work supporting those facing suicide risk, homelessness

and addiction.

Less coastal sunshine session and more full-throttle sing-the-night-away, Boom Crash Opera are arriving armed with the hits – and what an arsenal it is.

Since forming in Melbourne in 1985, Boom Crash Opera have built a catalogue of hits that defined a generation of Australian radio. Their debut single, Great Wall, stormed into the Top 10 and announced them as a band with something unmistakably different, a mix of big hooks, adventurous pop-rock, and a charisma that set them apart in the late-80s landscape.

From there came a string of classics: Dancing In The Storm, The Best Thing, City Flat, Get Out Of The House, Betadaze, Hands Up In The Air, and the enduring Onion Skin, whose shouted opening lines, "Keep it in! Cut it out! Kick it out!", remain one of Australian music's most recognisable rallying cries.

Four decades later, the energy hasn't dimmed. The band is even bringing new material on the road, including their single Latest Hustle — described by guitarist Pete Farnan as "like Onion Skin, but with a contemporary twist," a nod to their ability to evolve while still delivering that unmistakable BCO punch.

Archies Creek audiences can expect a wall-to-wall celebration of the songs that shaped the band's legacy, performed up close in one of the region's most intimate and atmospheric venues.

Tickets are \$49.50 + booking fee, or \$50 at the door if available, though with a show this stacked, fans might want to move fast.

Hands up in the air. Forty years on, Boom Crash Opera still know exactly how to bring it.



Photos: Boom Crash Opera Archives

INVERLOCH CAR WASH AND LAUNDRETTE

Car Wash

CARS, BOATS & JETSKIS

- Mr Magic Storm (auto car wash)
- Manual wash ■ Marine flush
- High quality wax and soap
- Carpets and upholstery shampoo



Dog Wash

- Blow dryer ■ Tick and flea rinse
- Pet friendly shampoo ■ Conditioner



Laundrette

- Extra large washing machines
- Extra large dryers



6.00AM - 10PM, 7 DAYS

56 DIXON STREET, INVERLOCH

Cash & PayWave available

Unwind in style

THERE'S something special about looking out over the green grass and onto the sea from the windows of RACV Inverloch Resort, particularly when the sun is setting.

It's like the feeling of sand between your toes, relaxing, reconnecting and taking the chance to stop rushing about, to indulge with a glass in hand, a bite on a plate and revere in a moment in time.

Savour the best of Gippsland's produce at one of the two eateries.

Open daily from 10am to 8pm, the Zenith Lounge bar offers a selection of wine and meals, including pizza, burgers, sweets and tapas, perfect for sharing or tucking into solo. Delight yourself with new signature cocktails and mocktails, recipes created by a professional mixologist.

With happy hour from 4.30pm until 5.30pm daily and live music every Friday (and Mondays from February 2), there's never been a better time to soak up the relaxed atmosphere and unwind at the end of a long day.

Across the hall, Radius Restaurant offers a little extra.

Showcasing local, regional products and an extensive wine list, prepare for dishes with imagination and flair.

Open for lunch and dinner, as well as offering a full buffet breakfast, feast on share plates and mains that simply melt in your mouth as you peruse the menu that focuses on the region's highest quality produce from suppliers like Wandilla Gippsland, Bassine Specialty Cheese, San Remo Fish Co-op, Fish Creek Mount of Olives and Prom Country Cheeses. All matching perfectly with some of the best local wines, available by the glass or bottle if you are feeling a little more indulgent...



But leave room, as the dessert menu is simply delectable.

Whether wandering solo or celebrating a milestone, there is an option to suit all at RACV Inverloch Resort, with conference and event facilities available for groups from 20 to 200 guests.

A small boardroom above Radius is perfect for special birthdays with intimate family, whilst the function rooms with floor-to-ceiling glass windows are a solid choice for the big occasions.

Local businesses can also rest assured they're in professional hands

with conferencing solutions tailored to their needs.

And it would be remiss not to mention RACV Inverloch's other resort facilities, which include a gym, pool, spa and sauna, and entertainment for the kids, as well as plenty of space to simply meander through the grounds surrounded by bushland and wildlife.

This summer, take a moment to feel the sea breeze and unwind with mouthwatering food and drinks overlooking one of the world's most beautiful outcrops.



Exceptional food and wine experiences

Dine with the best views in town

Savour fresh, local flavours and sweeping coastal views at **Radius Restaurant**, where regional produce and an extensive wine list take centre stage.

Unwind with a drink and light snack at **Zenith Lounge** and enjoy live music from local artists every Friday evening with panoramic views of the coast.

Zenith Lounge
Open 7 days, 10am – 10pm

Radius Restaurant
Open 7 days, 7am – 10am, 12pm – 2pm and 5.30pm – 9pm

Bookings recommended

To book, call 03 5674 0420
or visit racv.com.au/inverloch-dining

RACV Inverloch Resort

AUS DAY WEEKEND

SUNDAY 25TH JAN 2026

SHOW N SHINE

SWAP MEET & MARKET

WONTHAGGI REC. RESERVE KORUMBURRA ROAD

GATES OPEN: 6AM STALL HOLDERS, 8AM PUBLIC ENTRY
\$20 STALLHOLDER SITE \$15 JUDGED CAR ENTRY
\$10 SHOW CAR & DRIVER \$5 ENTRY FREE UNDER 15
JUDGING CLOSES 9.30AM SHARP
MORE INFO GAVIN COYNE 0407 866 066



Ride the waves of wander

Step from sand to sea in Wanderer Adventures' amphibious boats and see Wilsons Promontory the way it was meant to be seen – from the water.

ROLLING straight off the beach at Tidal River and into the marine national park, these cruises take you past sheer granite cliffs, hidden coves, and some of the most dramatic coastline in Victoria. The Wilderness Cruise is your fast track to the Prom's wild edge. Skimming along the southern coastline, you'll pass South Point, offshore islands, and seal colonies before arriving at the hero of the journey, Skull Rock. Rising out of crystal blue water, this granite monolith reveals more detail the closer you get, its weather-carved "face" watching over the Bass Strait. For something slower and more soulful, the Sunset Cruise trades daylight for golden hour. As the sun drops behind the ranges, the sky throws out bands of colour over beaches like Squeaky

Beach and Tongue Point, while dolphins, seals and sea-birds often make a final appearance for the day. With the coast glowing and the water settling, it's an easy, 1.5-hour way to end a big day at the Prom. If you want the lot, the Ultimate Day Cruise is the full immersion. Cruise past Norman Beach and Oberon Bay, round South Point and the historic lighthouse, then into remote coves and pristine stretches like Waterloo Bay. Step ashore for a beachside lunch at Sealers Cove before sailing on to more iconic locations, all in one unforgettable day. With options from quick wilderness hits to all-day odysseys, there's no better time to explore the Prom from the sea. Visit wandereradventures.com.au for details and bookings.



Wander beyond the beach

Explore Wilsons Promontory





Choose your own adventure...

PLAY your own way at Leongatha Golf Club this Summer!

Whether you are looking to pass an hour or five, there's plenty on offer these school holidays.

Hours of entertainment can be had on the range with a bucket of 100 balls only \$20. Share them with the kids, smash them outta the park in quick succession, or take your time – have a hit, break for a coffee and head back out to finish up – it's up to you!

"No specific attire is required on the range, and we are happy to lend clubs, so anyone can have a hit – whether you're seven or 107, play sport or not, there's no contact, and it's open to everyone, all abilities," Leongatha Golf Club general manager Kate Rowe explained.

Set on 134 acres and edged by natural bushland, the wide Santa Ana couch fairways are one of South Gippsland's gems – well worth a drive if you're chasing a quality hit-out.

"Everyone is raving about the greens," Kate said.

And she wasn't wrong last year when she said the course was in 'good condition, but wait until next year' – it's certainly delivered. Even after days of rain, the course remains playable, making for a fun morning or afternoon out.

"It's definitely a challenging course, but it has wide fairways for the novice. As the saying goes, 'Challenge for the good golfer, playable for the novice!'"

A long Par 5 on the sixth with its solid climb remains a crowd favourite for those looking for the challenge, whilst the Par 3 on the 14th is the shortest. Feeling lucky? You can even set yourself Maz's Ace Hole

in One Jackpot challenge and perhaps land the coveted prize, which at time of print had jackpotted to \$882 (only going off once so far this year!)

With a good mix of par-3s to par-5s, and options for nine or a full 18 holes, Leongatha Golf Club is ideal for a casual hit or something more competitive. Green fees are available for non-members, with an optional January Stableford Competition open to all.

The club will also host the Golf Australia Four Ball Better Ball Qualifying Championship on January 18, with places still available. Contact the club to book.

Flat-soled shoes or runners are required on the course, with clubs, pull buggies and golf carts all available for hire. A fully stocked golf shop is easily accessible on arrival, with the team available to help.

The course is also a favourite for nature lovers with koalas and echidnas commonly spotted around the bends, and the odd roo or wombat occasionally making an appearance. Spotting the wildlife is a great way to keep the younger kids entertained, whilst the grown-ups play a round.

Prefer to stay indoors on wild and windy days? The indoor range simulator is open for hire, offering a weather-proof way to keep practising.

Teaching professional Melissa Taylor is also available for newcomers or those looking to refine technique.

Course bookings are essential during busy periods, with tee sheets open two weeks in advance for non-members. The club is open seven days, 7am to 6pm, over January.



COME AND PLAY GIPPSLAND'S HIGHEST RANKED COURSE



BOOK ONLINE TO SAVE
10 MINUTES FROM INVERLOCH  5664 3314
855 Koonwarra-Inverloch Road, Leongatha South



WHERE TO GO GOLFING

- Lang Lang Golf Club**
90 Golf Club Road | 5659 6284
langlanggolfclub.com.au
Surrounded by scenic forest landscapes and native wildlife, the course has been described as a hidden gem. The layout is a very challenging par 70 with narrow, couch fairways and slick, true putting surfaces.
- Meeniyan Golf Club**
185 Meeniyan-Promontory Road
5664 7490 | meeniyan golf.com.au
Quiet and picturesque 18-hole course with Santa Ana fairways and excellent greens. Well-treed and slightly undulating, with a winding creek that traverses the course. Wildlife such as kangaroos, koalas and varieties of birdlife abound. Has an outdoor entertaining area.
- Foster Golf Club**
7 Reserve Street | 5682 2272
fostergolfclub.com.au
The 18-hole course features flat to undulating fairways with small greens: relatively short in length, but still challenging for all golfing levels. Visitors welcome; fantastic bar, bistro and events.
- Korumburra Golf Club**
250 Korumburra-Warragul Road
5655 1886 | korumburragolf.com.au
The Korumburra Golf Course is one of the most scenic 18-hole golf courses in all of Victoria. Visitors and guests are welcome seven days. Also offers state-of-the-art Golf Simulator.
- Leongatha Golf Course**
855 Koonwarra-Inverloch Road
5664 3314 | leongathagolf.com.au
A classic Vern Morcom design that has been a hidden treasure for far too long. It is a scenic layout that covers terrain from hilly to gently rolling, with wide Santa-ana couch fairways flanked by natural bushland.
- Phillip Island Golf Club**
33-44 Settlement Road, Cowes
5952 1121 | pigc.com.au
Regarded as one of the finest layouts in regional Victoria. Located walking distance from central Cowes and only metres from the beach, the course carves its way through magnificent landscape.
- Welshpool Golf Club**
95 Port Welshpool Rd | 5688 1556
southgippslandgolf.org.au/welshpool
A nine-hole course of 5388 metres is lightly bunkered and has only slight undulations, will surprise the visitor. With its tight fairways, the course is yet to concede to an under-par score.
- Red Rocks Golf Course**
(formerly Aussie Golf Ranch)
627A Settlement Road, Cowes
5919 0019 | redrocksgolf.com.au
This beautifully manicured course uses bent grass for its greens, fescue on surrounds and Santa Ana couch grass on the fairways and tees. On-site accommodation and summer pitch and putt course.
- Wonthaggi Golf Club**
McKenzie Street
(11 Dr Sleeman Drive) | 5672 3697
golf.com.au/venue/wonthaggi-golf-club
The Wonthaggi Golf Club is a beautiful country course in the heart of Wonthaggi. All locals and visitors welcome. The course is a well-treed and testing 18-hole layout stretching 5863 metres with a par 72.
- Woorayl Golf Club**
Recreation Reserve
Leongatha | 5662 4187
southgippslandgolf.org.au/woorayl
A nine-hole course of 5789 metres right in the middle of town, Woorayl is a slightly undulating and lightly bunkered, all-weather course, which is in excellent condition all year round. Located at the town's recreation reserve.
- Yarram Golf Club**
42 Golf Links Road | 5182 5596
yarramgolfclub.com
Yarram Golf Course is located on a natural sand belt in a native bush setting, comprising of 18 well-laid out holes. Men's Par 72 of 5717 metres. Ladies Par 72 of 5031 metres, with a slope rating of 127. The club welcomes social club groups anytime, including weekends.

A jolly good bounce

IN THE heart of town, Wonthaggi Golf Course is one of the most accessible courses around – you don't even need a car, as some of the regulars would tell you as they roll in on their golf cart from home!

Synonymous with kangaroos, Wonthaggi is not for the faint-hearted if you don't like being watched by local wildlife – kookaburras and echidnas included. Generally keeping to the rough, though occasionally creating an added challenge on the fairway, the roos are less advice-giver, cheer squad, and more tough commentator. But don't let that deter you, as Wonthaggi caters to all levels of golfer, from first-timer to seasoned pro, casual to regular competitor.

Spread across 103 acres of gently rolling terrain, the 18-hole layout can be played as a full round or as either nine, first or last, depending on how much time you've got.

The club is gearing up for a busy summer with the course and driving range in full swing. The range, opened in early 2023, received drainage upgrades over winter and remains a great option for a quick hit without the walk: \$20 for 100 balls or \$8 for a small bucket.

On the course, a nine-hole summer competition will keep both casual and competitive golfers occupied, while coaching is available for beginners and those looking to sharpen their game.

From this complete amateur, Wonthaggi Golf Course makes for an excellent morning or afternoon out with friends. What are you waiting for? Hire a cart, load up on balls, and head to the tees.

IT'S GOLF SEASON

Tee off with us!

Our golf facilities established in 1925 boasts an impressive driving range and a picturesque 18-hole course, set on 103 acres of natural bushland, you will be sure to spot the local kangaroos.

PLAY OUR COURSE
18 holes - from \$40
9 holes – from \$25

PRACTICE ON YOUR DRIVING RANGE
Small bucket of balls only \$8
Bucket of 100 balls \$20

BOOKINGS ADVISED • CARTS AVAILABLE: BOOKING ESSENTIAL

OPEN 7 DAYS, 9am – 5pm • Wonthaggi Golf Club Dr Sleeman Drive • Pro Shop 5672 3697



Mirboo North back in the fold

THERE’S no conversation starter that’s off-limits when you’re playing a round of golf with your friends.

From good-natured ribbing about a shanked drive or your form with the putter, to politics, football, travel, even religion... they’ll all get a run over the course of 18 holes.

But locals at Mirboo North will still blanch when you ask them how they’ve recovered after the cyclone, which hit the town on Tuesday afternoon, February 13, 2024.

It took members of the golf club two days just to cut their way down Galvins Road to the clubhouse, and the best part of two weeks to clear fallen trees and limbs from the tees and greens.

They were closed for four months and it almost broke them.

Incredibly, something like 600 or 700 trees came down on the golf course alone, and almost two years later, they’ve still got dozens of big stumps and fallen trunks that need to be removed.

But the fully-irrigated course has bounced back in fine style, with greens in superb condition and fairways sensational after a kind spring, all set for a busy summer.

“It’s been a lot of work, but the course is looking great at the moment,” said newly elected president Neil Rutledge recently.

And there’s an added bonus for travelling players after the Mirboo North Golf Club purchased the nearby motel, which interestingly enough, has a strong golfing pedigree as the former home of the Victorian Golf League’s junior camps.

Visiting golfers can book a golfing package at the club’s motel and play at the nearby course all weekend.

But be prepared, while locals will tell



you that the removal of hundreds of trees has opened up parts of the course nicely, the front nine feels like it has been cut out of the bush, requiring careful play and a well-rounded strategy.

In other good news coming out of the Mirboo North Golf Club, the organisation has rejoined the South Gippsland District Golf Association (South Gippsland Golf Inc) after a long time away, as a member of the West Gippsland Association.

“We just think it’s a better fit for us now with clubs like Meeniyan, Korumburra, Foster, Woorayl and the others. There are a lot of big clubs in West Gippsland; Waragul, Moe, Traralgon and Garfield, and

we felt like we were getting a little lost. We’re looking forward to it,” said Neil.

And your favourite hole at Mirboo North?

“Everyone loves playing the 16th, the ‘plum pudding’ we call it, downhill into a little gully with only a small landing area – high risk, high reward.”

The club will play in the annual pennant competition and enjoy the support of like-minded country clubs.

Mirboo North is just one of now 11 South Gippsland and Bass Coast golf clubs you can play within an hour’s drive from Inverloch, making a holiday in the local area a golfer’s dream.

If you haven’t played Mirboo North Golf Course yet, you might be surprised at the quality of the greens and fairways and the engaging, nature of the layout. According to club captain Peter Draper, the course looks substantially different to what it did before the February 2024 cyclone, but still offers a test for all standards.

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★ \$14.99 PER SESSION

★ FREE FOR MEMBERS



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JUMP, ROLL, CLIMB, AND EXPLORE!

SCAN TO BOOK







Barefoot it this summer

Bring your friends, family and even your foes for an evening of barefoot bowls at Inverloch.

WHETHER you're an expert or a complete beginner, the friendly bowls members are on hand to give you a few pointers to avoid a dead bowl, and, if you're lucky, the dreaded ditch. But is Barefoot Bowls all it's hyped up to be? It's better!

We grabbed a group of mates and popped along to see what all the fuss was about, and we were not disappointed. For an hour and a half, we laughed, cheered, and maybe got a little competitive out on the green. Young and mature alike, everyone was smiling, and the

vibe was relaxed and welcoming. The best part? You don't need fancy shoes or years of experience, just kick off your footwear (or wear a pair of sneakers), bring a sense of fun, and roll with it. There's something about the fresh air, the gentle clack

of bowls, and the thrill of getting close to the jack that makes it addictive. Whether you're chasing bragging rights, a 'flipper' or just a good laugh, barefoot bowls at Inverloch is the perfect way to unwind this summer. See you on the green!

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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



Your passport to South Gippsland



THE Great Southern Rail Trail is a journey worth embarking on this summer, offering something for every level of explorer.

Whether you're after a quick stretch of the legs, a leisurely pedal between towns or prepared to tackle the full 130-kilometre adventure across 14 towns, there is a piece of magic to every part.

So, what are the best parts of the Rail Trail, according to those who know it best?

"Meeniyan to Koonwarra packs a lot of punch for a small ride," Great Southern Ride's Paul said, explaining it's not far for those who wish to continue into Leongatha.

"My favourite part is the ride between Loch and Bena," co-owner Amanda added.

"The beautiful hills – the scale of them, the stunning landscape of South Gippsland and knowing there will be coffee at Loch from one of the cafes."

The money shot, however, according to Paul is the viewpoint behind Gurneys Cider in Foster, where riders can take in uninterrupted vistas across Corner Inlet and Wilsons Promontory.

"It's the highlight of the rail trail."

Part of the Fish Creek to Foster section, it's also one of the steepest of the rail trail.

But each section has its own quirks and personality.

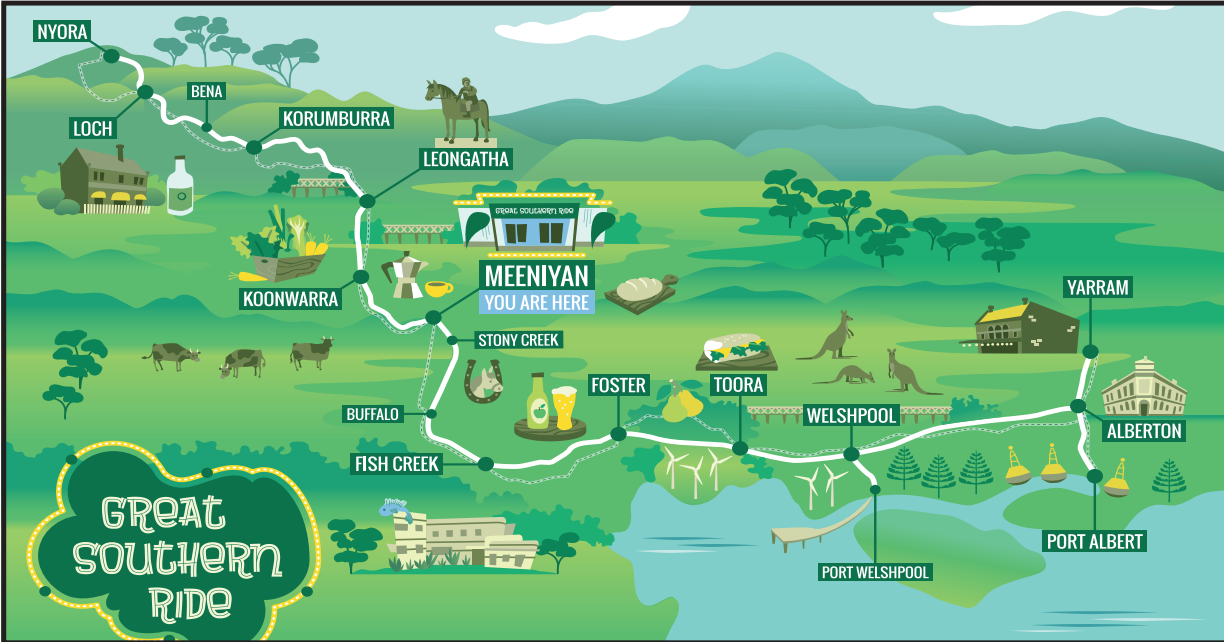
"Loch to Korumburra shows you things you'd never see from a car because the trail veers away from the highway," Paul said.

Koalas are often spotted around Stony Creek, birds chatter overhead, and every so often, an echidna waddles across the path.

An uphill ride, Leongatha to Korumburra is a section worth considering in the evenings. Grab dinner and a drink in town, then enjoy the effortless downhill roll back into Leongatha. Weave through tranquil hills, patchwork fields and deep gullies.

Along your journey sample the local produce and explore regional history, as you ride from town to town.

And for those who need a set of wheels, head to Meeniyan's Great Southern Ride, where they can help get you on an e-bike and make the journey a little more comfortable.



RENT AND RIDE THE GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL TRAIL!

Experience South Gippsland's breathtaking scenery
E Bike and helmet are included in your rental

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GREAT SOUTHERN RIDE

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91 Whitelaw Street Meeniyan **0468 477 043**

What You Don't Know

will pull you in deep

WHAT You Don't Know isn't just the title of Sandi Wallace's new psychological thriller – it's a warning of what lurks between the pages.

A quiet sea change, a remote island, and the promise of a fresh start might sound idyllic, but Sandi has twisted those postcard-perfect elements into something far more unsettling.

Award-winning and Phillip Island-based, Sandi's latest novel draws deeply from her own personal journey, a catalyst of sorts, including her transformative sea change to Phillip Island after a debilitating health challenge at the height of the pandemic.

Set on a fictional island between French Island and Phillip Island, the novel follows protagonist Tess and her husband Joe as they seek a fresh start, only to find themselves confronted by unsettling mysteries from the past.

What You Don't Know opens with a chilling premise – a seemingly safe island life that quickly unravels.

"For this story, the place needed to be remote with a small, insular community," said Sandi.

"Tess and Joe had plans to move later in life – somewhat like my husband and I, but because of what's happened in the past, they've brought the move forward for a fresh start and to 'live the dream' on an island."

The novel digs into the unsettling truth of how little we might really know about those closest to us, with Sandi drawing on the theme of trust and deception within a marriage, centring around a couple whose relationship becomes complicated by external threats and hidden secrets.

"The pandemic and my complex, chronic health issues made me very aware of my safe havens, and this got me thinking, what if something happened to destroy those safe havens of home and a person's support network?"

Twisted with Sandi's award-winning crime writing finesse, secrets emerge within their family, and Tess begins to doubt almost everybody around her.

Meanwhile, the diary entries of a young local woman reveal the circumstances of her abduction, building until her story intersects with that of Tess and Joe.

"What You Don't Know isn't just about who did something, but also why, along with the rippling impact."

In crafting her fifth novel and seventh book, Sandi was particularly interested in exploring psychological depths and



how secrets can't remain hidden forever. The story is layered with haunting humanity and spiralling tension, making readers question who can truly be trusted – even within a marriage – and whether Tess can stop what she doesn't understand.

In uncovering What You Don't Know prior to the launch, Sandi touched on the fact that Tess's perspective is coloured by trauma and memory lapses, and the island setting feels both idyllic and isolating – a setting that creates a claustrophobic and tension-filled environment.

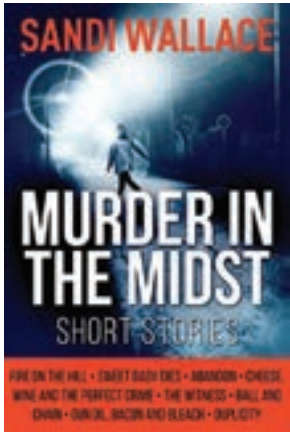
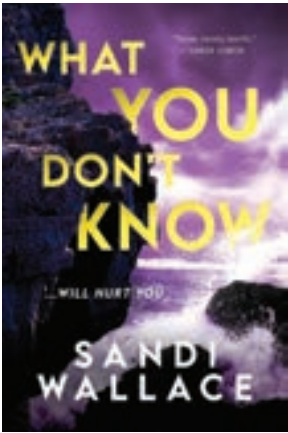
"The island only has one way on and one way off, by ferry," explained Sandi.

Cliffs and caves are described as perilous in their beauty, amplifying the sense of threat and uncertainty.

What You Don't Know by Sandi Wallace will challenge judgmental perspectives – reminding us that people's private battles are often more complex than they appear.

What You Don't Know is available online and in bookstores in both print and electronic versions. And whilst you're there, why not explore Sandi's other books, including the Georgie Harvey and John Franklin series and short story collections.

For more about Sandi Wallace, visit sandiwallace.com.





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PUT on your hard hat and step straight into history, mystery and adventure at Wonthaggi's State Coal Mine. This isn't a look-but-don't-touch museum, but rather a living slice of the town's heart, carved from coal and continuing to carry on the stories of the miners who powered Victoria.

The underground tour is the star of the show. Guided by passionate volunteers and Parks Victoria staff, you'll

wander through the old workings, hear how miners battled darkness, cramped conditions and backbreaking shifts, all while discovering the clever tricks they used to stay safe. Ever wondered why they needed canaries or bicycles in a coal mine? Down there, those questions will be answered.

Back on the surface, the village tells the story of life above ground. Wander through the miner's cottage and

laundry and picture families making do with a woodfired stove, a wash tub, boiler and mangle. It's a world away from today, and all the more charming for it.

Kids will love finding the ponies Samsun and Scruffy, spotting canaries, exploring the museum, hat room and bike shed, and clambering around the old train carriage and locomotive. On every second Sunday of the month, you might even catch

Demo, the resident blacksmith, making sparks fly in the forge as he talks about the pit ponies and the people who cared for them.

Got a family link to the mine? Drop into the gift shop between 10am and 3pm, where Friends of the State Coal Mine volunteers can help you search the records. Then round off your visit with a coffee or lunch at the Mine Café and raise a cup to the miners who made Wonthaggi what it is today.



HISTORY MYSTERY & ADVENTURE

at the State Coal Mine for the whole family



BOOK YOUR UNDERGROUND TOUR ONLINE



BECOME A MEMBER FRIENDS OF THE STATE COAL MINE

Membership is currently **\$15 PER PERSON**

Membership fees are used to maintain and improve facilities at the State Coal Mine.

Underground tours
Take the family on a journey back in time – daily 11.30am and 2pm. Extra tours are available during holidays breaks.

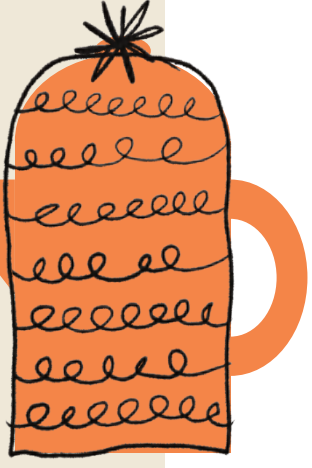



FREE entry to above ground facilities and attractions
Including heritage walk and historic building, open space, BBQ facilities, picnic area and beautiful gardens

State Coal Mine Café
Enjoy breakfast, lunch or coffee and cake

Open daily 10am – 4pm | 19-37 Garden Street, Wonthaggi

FISH CREEK TEA COSY FESTIVAL

16 - 24 May 2026



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ENTRY DETAILS AT teacosyfestival.com.au



A passion project

TEN utes in 2017 was the start of a yearly tradition.

"I was given three months to get the show off the ground, it was a mighty challenge to say the least," Bass Coast Wonthaggi Ute and 4x4 Show organiser Jarrod Witherow explained.

With five years of competing in ute shows across the state, Jarrod was looking for his next challenge, and the Bass Coast Wonthaggi Show was in need of an expert.

"After the inclusion of 4x4s in 2024, we now surpass 70 vehicles attending our show."

Growing in numbers each year, the Bass Coast Wonthaggi Ute and 4x4 Show coincides with the Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Show on January 10 – a great day out for the whole family.

"We have over \$1500 of trophies and prizes across 24 categories, along with a major raffle running on the day.

"We encourage everyone to bring their vehicles out – no matter the make, model or condition, we want to see it."

Chooks, ponies, snakes and a T Rex, this year's show has it all

BOOK in January 10 – it's show day! The Bass Coast Wonthaggi Show is back at Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve, bigger and even more dynamic than before.

All the favourites return: pavilion competitions, equestrian events, showbags, flyball and working dog displays, the animal nursery, face painting and stilt fairies. But this year there's a new star attraction – Toby the T Rex and friends, roaming the grounds in full prehistoric swagger. Keep an eye out as Toby wanders through the crowd; he's known to be a little cheeky. It's a fitting nod to a region rich in fossil history.

Black Snake Productions will also be on deck, running hands-on educational sessions with snakes and reptiles and sharing their slithery know-how.

The arena action ramps up with flyball dogs launching into the air and working dogs showing off their skills.

The animal nursery and pony rides make their return this year, too, offering little ones a chance to saddle up.

On the music front, there will be performers across the Show ground and South Coast FM will be broadcasting live in the Ute Show area.

Circus entertainers weave through the crowd – perhaps it's your moment

to revisit those long-forgotten juggling skills.

Feeling peckish? From classic CWA offerings to an array of food trucks, there's plenty to graze on.

Backyard poultry is back with a display and the beloved show competitions: eggs, crafts, flowers, vegetables, the kids' section, cookery, preserves, needle craft and more.

Don't forget the carnival and show bags.

For a full program, contact show organisers via Facebook or email – and remember, judging takes place the day before on Friday, January 9.

Bass Coast Wonthaggi Show

Saturday January 10th 2026 ~ 9am onwards

Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve Korumburra Road Wonthaggi

Admission: Children 12 years and under free, 13 years and over \$5.00

REAL DINOSAURS PRESENTS TOBY THE T REX AND FRIENDS

- Pavilion Competitions
- Equestrian inc Harness
- Pony Rides
- Dog Flyball
- Working Dogs
- Live Music
- Utes & 4x4
- Animals Nursery & Poultry
- Stilt Fairies, Face Painting
- Circus workshop
- Old Tractors
- Carnival Side Shows
- Show Bags And Novelties
- Food & Refreshments

E: basscoastagshow@hotmail.com

Follow us on facebook: Bass Coast - Wonthaggi Summer Show

Bass Coast Wonthaggi

Ute & 4x4 Show

WONTHAGGI SHOWGROUNDS, WONTHAGGI RECREATION RESERVE

ENTRY VIA KORUMBURRA-WONTHAGGI ROAD – GATE 4

Saturday, January 10, 2026

Judging starts @ 9:45AM FINISHING BY 3PM

DRIVERS GET IN FREE!!

CATEGORIES \$10 EACH

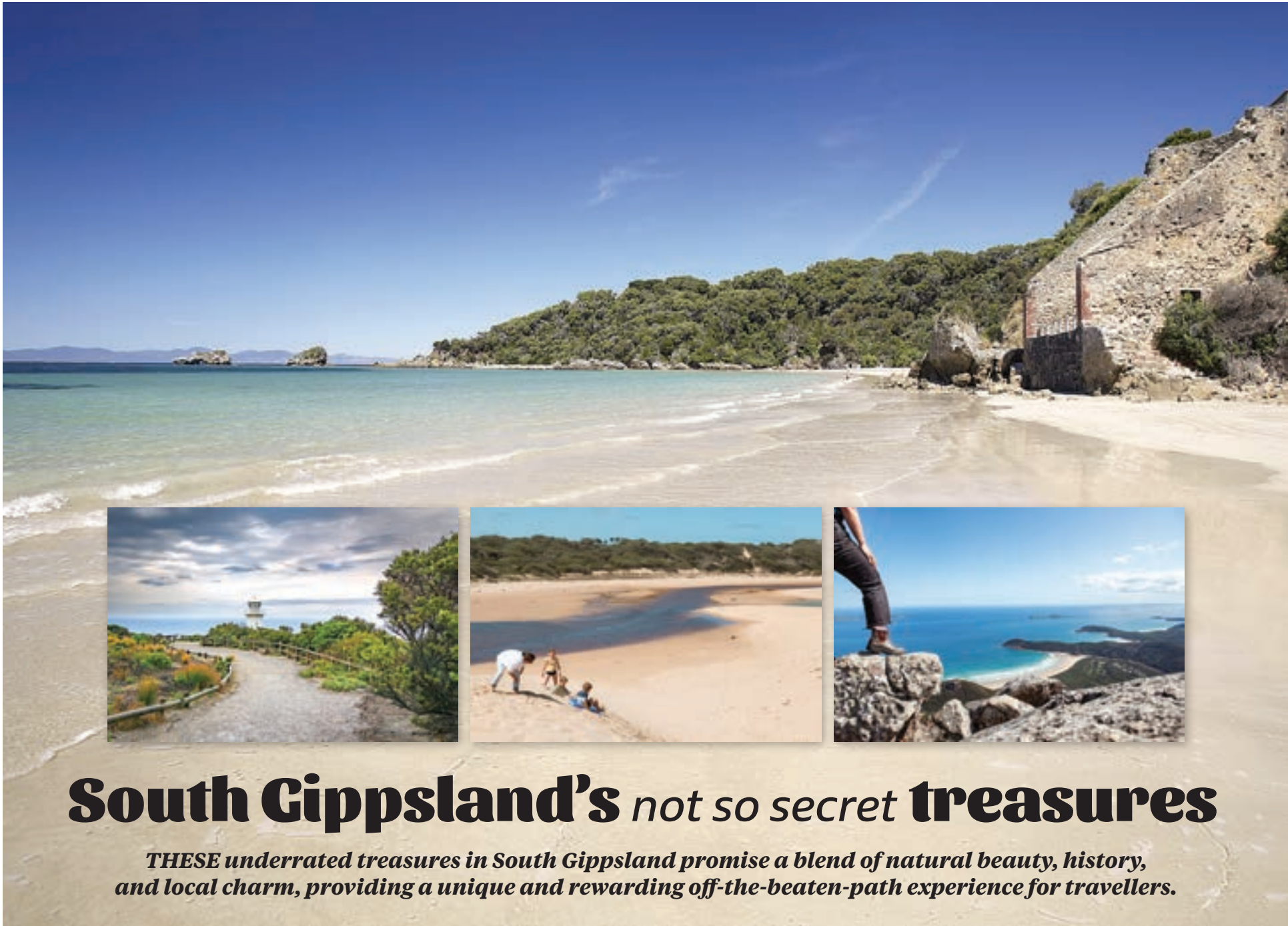
Best Holden	Best Ford	Best 4x4 (Utes & Wagons)
Best Classic	Best Themed	Best Touring 4x4
Best Street	Best Feral	Weekend Warriors
Best Trade	Best BNS	Pavement Princess 4x4
Best Chicks	Best Ute Dog	

NOVELTIES \$5

Best Old Farts & Tarts	Furthest Travelled (to show)
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ALL ENQUIRIES TO WITHERS 0409 962 130

FREE Breakfast for all Entrants!



South Gippsland's *not so secret* treasures

THESE underrated treasures in South Gippsland promise a blend of natural beauty, history, and local charm, providing a unique and rewarding off-the-beaten-path experience for travellers.

Loch Suspension Bridge:

Suspended in the trees 12 metres above the tranquil Allsop Creek, the Loch Suspension Bridge connects the township of Loch to the Memorial Reserve.

There's something special about the gentle sway of a suspension bridge as you cross, which draws people to Loch.

Mouth of the Powlett:

Though the rugged and wild waters of the beckoning surf beyond are best avoided, life within the Mouth of the Powlett offers a day by the water waiting to be explored.

Situated between Kilcunda and Harmers Haven along the coastline, the Mouth is the perfect location to launch a kayak or hop on a stand-up paddleboard and head upstream.

On the less windy days, grab your lilo and laze along the river.

For those needing to expend a little more energy, large sand dunes can be explored on the western side of the river. A plastic toboggan would not go amiss, but keep your eyes open and avoid fenced-off areas to protect nesting birds.

Tarra-Bulga National Park:

An enchanting rainforest with ancient ferns, towering eucalyptus trees, and scenic walking tracks. Walk under an emerald canopy of ancient myrtle beech pierced by thin shafts of sunlight.

Admire the graceful Corrigan's Suspension Bridge, stretching across the forest canopy and don't forget to pack a picnic to enjoy in one of the sheltered picnic sites.

Walks in the park vary from leisurely strolls to more challenging overnight hikes.

Cape Liptrap Coastal Park:

A less-explored coastal park with rugged cliffs, lighthouses, and hidden beaches, perfect for a peaceful coastal retreat.

Delight in the breathtaking vistas from the Cape Liptrap Lighthouse, offering panoramic views of sparkling turquoise waters. The straightforward, self-guided stroll not only showcases the scenic beauty but also provides insights into its historical importance. Explore the coastal wetlands and mangroves bustling with unique birdlife. Do not swim at Cape Liptrap.

Mt Oberon:

Stand on top of the world at Mt Oberon, Wilsons Promontory's highest peak, as you look out across the endless bliss.

Often described as heaven on earth, Wilsons Prom is a dreamscape for

explorers, adventurers and families looking to unwind and soak up the majestic beauty of nature.

An easier hike downhill than up, the summit offers 360-degree views that simply take your breath away. Whilst suitable for families, be aware that the final 100 metres to the summit involves a steep climb up steps and rock cuttings.

The walk takes approximately two hours return, so ensure you take water and supplies.

And if you find yourself with an unplanned concern with the caravan whilst touring the coastline, just give South Gippsland Caravan and Camping Centre a call. They also stock the latest country wear brands, including Ringers Western, Ariat and Roper, as well as a good range of fishing and camping gear.

Ready, Set, Camp!

Your one stop shop for caravan and camping essentials is here



Visit Our Showroom Today

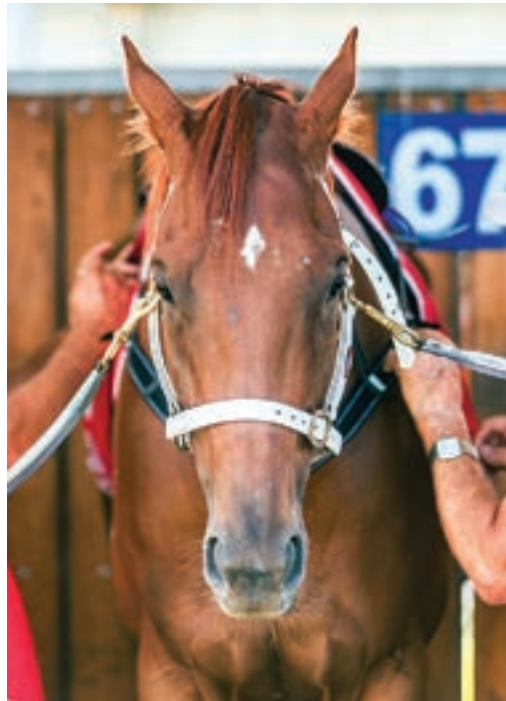
- Camping chairs, beds and swags
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South Gippsland Caravans and Camping Centre

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Stony Creek's summer racing season in full swing

THE summer racing season is off to a fantastic start, with Stony Creek Racing Club (SCRC) welcoming racegoers back to the track earlier this month for the Brandt Christmas Races.

With four exciting events still to come, Stony Creek Racing Club is once again bringing together the community, racegoers, and holidaymakers alike for another season of country racing, entertainment, and family fun.

It's been a big year for the Club, which made history last season with the introduction of its "King and Queen of the Creek" trophies, recognising outstanding male and female jockeys.

This summer, SCRC is continuing the tradition of progress, with a series of upgrades and improvements across the grounds, including the long-awaited unveiling of the new female jockey rooms.

SCRC CEO Jason Benbow said the team has been hard at work behind the scenes, upgrading facilities and preparing for a memorable summer of racing.

"There's a real buzz around this season," he said.

"We've been able to secure some fantastic race dates and have made lots of exciting improvements around the grounds. We can't wait to welcome everyone back for another summer of racing."

Earlier this year, SCRC had the honour of hosting the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour, with the iconic trophy making its way to Meeniyan in September. It was a special moment for locals and racing fans, and set the tone for the season ahead.

"Having the Melbourne Cup visit our region was an unforgettable

highlight," said Jason.

"It brought people in the community together and reminded us just how strong the local racing spirit is here in South Gippsland."

The 2025/26 Summer Racing Season continues with four more race days, culminating in the much-loved Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup Day on Sunday, March 8, over the long weekend. From family entertainment and live music to thrilling trackside action, there's something for everyone.

Tickets are just \$20 for adults, \$15 for concession, and kids are free. There is also a range of ticketing packages and bus services to make getting to and from the track easy and stress-free.

It's also not too late to become a member and make the most of the season. SCRC memberships offer exceptional value, including free entry

to all five race days, exclusive access to members' areas and bars, happy hour drinks, and discounts on marquee bookings. Members also enjoy reciprocal rights at neighbouring clubs, including Moe, Sale, Bairnsdale, and Traralgon.

Memberships start from \$55 for Full Members, \$50 for Seniors, and \$240 for Corporate Memberships (includes four passes).

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

2025/26 race dates:

- **Tuesday, December 30, 2025**
Evans Petroleum Family Races
- **Sunday, January 18, 2026**
Triple Dead Heat Anniversary Races
- **Sunday, February 15, 2026**
Publicans Day Races
- **Sunday, March 8, 2026**
Ladbroke's Stony Creek Cup Day

AS REAL AS IT GETS

STONY CREEK RACING CLUB



RACE DATES

FAMILY RACE DAY
TUESDAY 30 DECEMBER 2025

TRIPLE DEAD HEAT RACES
SUNDAY 18 JANUARY 2026

PUBLICANS DAY
SUNDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2026

LADBROKES STONY CREEK CUP
SUNDAY 8 MARCH 2026



Stony Creek Racing Club

BOOK ONLINE NOW

stonycreek.com.au



country racing
It's a Great Day Out



EXPLORE SOUTH GIPPSLAND

where life draws you in



SOUTH GIPPS LAND

South Gippsland is full of activities that can be enjoyed in summer by locals and visitors alike. Here are just a few suggestions of the many things there are to see and do in the summer season.

Walk or cycle the Great Southern Rail Trail

The Trail spans 130 kilometres between Nyora and Yarram. When you use the rail trail, don't forget to call into the various townships along the route to experience the friendliness and charm of country living.

Coal Creek

This summer, Coal Creek Community Park and Museum in Korumburra is offering a rich collection visual art that celebrates creativity, history, and community. From Friday 5 December through to Monday 23 February in the Auditorium Gallery, visitors will be treated to Phantom Ride by acclaimed video artist Daniel Crooks.

Markets

From fresh produce to local crafts, South Gippsland boasts a number of farmers and artisanal markets. Every weekend is an opportunity to explore a new town and community hospitality. Support local and enjoy all the region has to offer at our many markets.

Beaches

Summer is synonymous with the beach so it's only fitting that a visit to the coast is on your summer checklist. From Venus Bay to Wilsons Promontory and all the swimming spots in between, South Gippsland offers a myriad of beach activities. Walk, swim, surf, paddleboard, kayak the list goes on.

For more ideas, please contact our friendly Visitor Information Centre team on 1800 630 704 or call in and say hello. The Visitor Information Centre is located in Foster (Main Street). Visit our website for event, accommodation, dining, touring or shopping information: www.visitsouthgippsland.com.au



Walk or ride a rail trail



Spot the Stunned Mullet



Shop local produce



Play at the park



Have a beach day

Here are some holiday ideas for the summer season. How many can you check off our to-do-list?

☐

1. Visit Wilsons Promontory National Park

☐

2. Experience Coal Creek (free entry)

☐

3. Stroll through the Lyrebird Forest Walk

☐

4. Walk to the top of Mount Nicoll

☐

5. Drive the Grand Ridge Road

☐

6. Discover the Walkerville lime kilns

☐

7. Sample delicious boutique wine, beer, cider and spirits

☐

8. Visit the Loch suspension bridge

☐

9. Attend one of the regions many live performances and events

☐

10. Fish along the banks of the Tarwin River

☐

11. Vist our art galleries, exhibitions and events

☐

12. Learn about Lennie Gwyther and his pony Ginger Mick

☐

13. Explore our villages and sample amazing local produce

☐

14. Walk the Point Smythe Nature Trail

☐

15. Swim at our local beaches

visitsouthgippsland.com.au

Cut me out and take me with you on you summer adventures!



For events and more things to do in South Gippsland, please visit the link or scan the QR code below.





New brand, new chef, but same fantastic service



IT'S an exciting time in Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

For over 114 years, the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club has been the community hub of the town. Surviving initial teething troubles, the Club has faced fires, wars, the closure of the mine and over a century of changing trading hours.

It's also grown from a civilised social space where men could be educated and elevated to a booming club that today welcomes anyone and everyone, from the descendants of original mining families to those new to town, and others just stopping by on their journeys elsewhere.

And after a century of adapting to a changing community, the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club is adapting to a bright new future as the Wonthaggi Workers Club.

It's a more inclusive, modern identity for a Club that has seen everything from horse and cart to electric vehicles parked out the front.

"The rebranding honours the Club's long history, while signalling a sense of evolution and freshness for today's community," general manager Sasha Bogdanov explained.

"People love the friendly, family-focused atmosphere. The bistro with kids' playrooms, free pool in the Sports Bar, and our function spaces, which can cater to large numbers. The refresh enhances these experiences while updating spaces, menu options and member rewards to keep the Club vibrant."

And the Workers is definitely a family-friendly space with two separate play areas for the kids – one tailored to the youngest members of the family, and a larger playground for older children.

And whilst visitors can expect

the same great customer service the venue is renowned for, don't expect the same menu as yesterday, with a new chef, Danny Bak, rolling out seasonal menus and fresh ideas.

"We are really excited about the changes to the bistro this summer and look forward to reopening the Archaic for the summer pop-up in the next fortnight," Danny said.

For those who had the privilege of indulging in cocktails and tapas at The Archaic in 2025, rest easy. The Archaic pop-up is returning from January 9 on Fridays and Saturdays from 3pm to 11pm.

A speakeasy-inspired tapas bar, the space is a blend of old-world charm and contemporary flair with deco-inspired touches. Gin, rum, whiskey and wine line the shelves with a carefully curated selection of cocktails available.

This summer, the Workers has launched a sleek new website and refreshed Member Rewards Program.

Plus, their all-new Community Benefits Program, which supports local groups, initiatives and charities will commence in the new year – ask the team for more details.

It's a perfect wrap for a Club that is continuously giving back to the local community, often in ways that go unrecognised or unpublicised.

Looking to rest a weary head for the night or six, then a stay at MJ McMahon Motel is just what the doctor ordered. Conveniently located right next door, daily housekeeping alongside free parking and free internet are just some of the perks in the 26-room site that also boasts comfort and quality for families, groups, and corporate guests alike.

IT'S ALL HERE AT THE WONTHAGGI WORKERS CLUB!

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TUESDAY \$18

WEDNESDAY \$20

THURSDAY \$17.50

T&C's APPLY

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Tues | Pizza & Pasta night Thurs | Fish & Chip night

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Tapas Menu 3pm-9pm

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Strawberry Swing

OUR take on your classic margarita

- Fresh strawberries
- 40mls Strawberry Fields Gin
- 20mls Triple Sec
- Dash Lime
- Simple Syrup

Prepare:
Select and pre-chill a martini glass.
Prepare garnish of half a strawberry.

- How to make:**
1. Muddle strawberries in base of shaker.
 2. Add other ingredients and shake with ice.
 3. Fine strain into chilled glass. You may find the strawberry pulp clogs the fine strainer, so have a spoon handy to clear the mesh to enable to liquid through.
 4. Garnish with strawberry on the rim.



A still with a big dream

ON THE outskirts of Wonthaggi, Mates Gin is going from strength to strength.

The team are a familiar face at markets across the region, the distillery door (open Friday to Sunday) is a popular hit, and Kim Richardson's vision for giving back has seen the first profits delivered and a foster child in Gippsland receiving piano lessons, a dream that otherwise wouldn't have been possible.

Founded by Kim Richardson, a visionary with a passion for giving back, Mates Gin is a social enterprise dedicated to supporting charitable causes.

"It all came about because I wanted to be able to do more for charities," Kim shared of the origin of the venture.

With a background in accounting, Kim sought a business that could be profitable enough to fulfil her desire to contribute to various causes, whilst still being feasible.

"I'm passionate about sharing experiences with people," Kim explained.

"And providing others less fortunate than me with a positive, memorable experience."

Genuinely proud to be positively impacting the community, the gin

happens to taste quite fine, too.

There are currently five gins in the collection: the Signature Bass Dry, Zesty Mates, Miners Pick, Sweet Surrender, and Strawberry Fields Forever, offering a diverse range of flavours.

Kim's personal favourite, Miners Pick, is described as a complex and well-rounded gin with earthy tones.

"Our signature Bass Dry is a classic dry style gin with elderberry and lemon. It's bottled at 39.95 per cent, as that's the postcode," Kim smiled, pointing out the motif is the State Coal Mine poppet head.

"Our second gin is our Zesty Mates – infused with lime, orange and a peppery finish. Bottled at 43.2 per cent – because Marcel said so!

"And our third is our Miners Pick, which has very earthy flavours – cardamom with a grapefruit and liquorice finish. It's bottled at 51.7 per cent because we wanted to have an overproof gin (50 per cent) and the 1.7 per cent is because the coal mine produced 1.7 million tonnes of coal."

A gold award-winning gin, Sweet Surrender boasts a bold cardamom base with a light blend of liquorice and lemon, finished with a carefully curated

drop of unique Bass Coast honey for a smooth, satisfying finish.

The latest release, Strawberry Fields Forever, has a delicious, bold base of juniper, coriander and angelica root with a luscious sweet strawberry finish.

The journey has been filled with challenges, but four years later and five unique gin blends, Mates Gin is firmly cementing itself amongst the award-winning creations from Gippsland with four awards matching their first four gins.

At Mates, it's the little nuances that matter.

The distillery door is open Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays. Visitors can enjoy gin flights, cocktails, and a curated menu featuring local products.

Happy hours are on every Friday between 5pm-7pm, and a selection of complementary local produce is also on offer – including Burra Beer, Harmer and Dirty Three Wines, and a selection of small bites, with pizza nights also a regular occurrence.

This summer, contribute to something more. Enjoy a tippie created by mates for mates and celebrate a story worth toasting to.



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Discover the joy of gathering

A CHANCE encounter with Marty Thomas of Moo's led to something more for Woody Chet and Thida (Chan-thida) Penh, the brains behind Amok and Mahob by Amok in Melbourne. The Melbourne chapter's closing, the duo stepped into the South Gippsland town renowned for delicious food and community warmth, Meeniyana.

Fast forward two years, and Mahob at Moo's is going from strength to strength, embraced by the local community and those travelling from afar.

You see, Mahob is built on family, food and the joy of gathering, and that all comes to a head around the dining tables.

From slow-cooked curries to punchy relishes, the menu is inspired by Cambodian home cooking and the traditions passed through generations.

Tantalise your taste buds with plea trei, let the juices spill as you're transported to Phnom Penh by the grilled corn cob, be wowed through the aromatic flavours and texture of fish amok, add a side of char banle and korko and finish with crunchy red rice, or perhaps a crispy bun bao ice cream sandwich, if you have room that is.

Mahob at Moo's also offers the chef's selection for \$79 per person – sit back,

relax and let Chef Woody cook up a delectable seven-course feast.

Using seasonal produce and local suppliers where possible, expect most elements to be made fresh in-house, including the curry pastes and pickles.

For those stopping by during daylight hours, Mahob's offers more traditional café fare from Dutch oven pancakes, salmon bruschetta, big breakfasts, and burgers to ricotta gnocchi and soft tacos.

Though for those looking to indulge in Cambodian cuisine, there is a small selection of bites, including nom pang sach, beef lok lak, lort cha, and Cambodian congee, not to forget rice and curry bowls.

There's even a selection of dishes for the mini moos, though be prepared, they may be more likely to steal from your plate – after all, it's all about feasting.

Dinner is available Friday and Saturday evenings from 5.30pm, with breakfast and lunch available Friday to Monday, 8.30am to 4.30pm.

Warm, welcoming hospitality that is shown from the moment you walk through the door to the moment you leave, share, connect and try something new this summer thanks to Chef Woody and Mahob at Moo's.



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Walk your way to a special piece of The Prom

WILSON’S Promontory is one of Australia’s best-loved and most accessible National Parks.

And everyone who comes to ‘The Prom’ finds their own special place, their own reason for loving the Prom.

Whether it’s the sense of arrival that the first rugged view of Whisky Bay and Picnic Bay provides as you travel along Wilsons Promontory Road full of expectation.

Or maybe it’s the looming spectre of Mt Oberon, the wide expanse of the beach at Norman Bay, the 350-million-year-old granite rock formations, the crystal-clear water, the quick camaraderie of the camping ground, the convict-built lighthouse or the bush as far as the eye can see...

There’ll be something in particular about the Prom that will take on a special significance for every visitor, and the best way to find your piece of the Prom is by walking.

And that’s the beauty of the Prom. It’s just as good on a cool autumn day

or a sunny summer afternoon when you have the choice between overnight walks and easy day strolls, or simply reading a book in a shady campsite or a glorious beach day at Whisky Bay.

The walks, though, are the best way to introduce yourself to the Prom or to revive past memories. Amongst those worth visiting are:

The Loo-Errn Track to Tidal River and Squeaky Beach walk:

The Squeaky Beach walk of four kilometres takes about 1.5 hours. Winding along the Tidal River banks towards the coastline, this two-part walk connects Loo-Errn track with Squeaky Beach walk. Loo-Errn is an easy 30-minute walk and, with wheelchair access, it’s perfect for people with limited mobility. Start at Tidal River’s information centre and wander the boardwalks through swamp paperbark forest and over delicate wetlands to the river. Walk over the footbridge, where you can fish or watch for birds. Here, you can

also take a short detour to Pillar Point, where the lookout offers awe-inspiring views over Norman Bay and the islands. Back on the Tidal River footbridge, follow the Squeaky Beach Track (for one hour) to stroll along white quartz sand that squeaks beneath your feet.

Tongue Point Walk (Fairy Cove):

Not for the faint-hearted, Tongue Point is a level three walk – suitable for most ages and fitness levels, though not suitable for prams or wheelchairs. It takes four and a half hours from Darby River Car Park to Darby Saddle. Meander along coastal bush that feels like it’s on the edge of the world, where cliffs fall away to an endless deep blue.

The coastal bush out here is all grit and grace, windswept, salt-kissed, and quietly spectacular. The climb toward Tongue Point is gentle, winding through weathered vegetation as the views stretch open: Darby Swamp, the Vereker Range, and the pale arcs of Darby and Cotters beaches.

Once you’ve caught your breath in this gorgeous pocket of the Prom, you can peel off to Fairy Cove or wander up to Sparkes Lookout for a glimpse of Rodondo Island and Shallow Inlet glinting in the distance.

If you’re after something shorter, start at the Darby River car park and wander an hour out to Fairy Cove (two hours return). Time it with low tide and you’ll be rewarded with a giant natural rock pool cupped by smooth, ancient boulders. One of those quiet little wonders that stays with you long after you’ve rinsed off the sand.

The Lilly Pilly Gully Nature Walk is another walk close to Tidal River that’s well worth an hour and a half of your time.

Overnight walks to the Lighthouse and other Wilsons Promontory landmarks are others worth pursuing.

Check out the Wilsons Promontory day walks at parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/wilsons-promontory-national-park/things-to-do/day-walks

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Meet the Maru minis this summer

JOEYS are abundant at Maru Koala and Animal Park this summer, with quokkas and koalas providing peak cuteness.

Koala joeys Pip and Beau are sure to steal hearts with their fluffy charm. Watch as they munch on gum leaves, climb the trees and try to nap without toppling from their perch.

Just around the corner, the tiniest little quokkas are exploring the layout. Meet Freya and Loki, who are always ready to flash their best quokka smiles with a third joey just emerging.

Spot the albino roos in the Kangaroo Walk and get down low as you hand-feed them and admire their pint-sized joeys in one of the most hands-on wildlife encounters in the region.

Check out the Sheep Shearing Shows and learn about the importance and history of wool production in Australia in the Auditorium at 2.15pm. But beware, you might just be called up for a clipper demonstration. The Show is on daily during weekdays.

There are animal presentations throughout the day from koalas,

dingoes, reptiles and Tassie devils, to name but a few. And on weekends, head to the Auditorium Wildlife Show at 2pm.

Camera at the ready, join keepers for the VIP Koala Feeding Experience at 9am. Offer fresh gum leaves, learn about the species, their challenges, and the quirky personalities of these iconic tree-dwellers, all with exclusive access before the park opens.

Looking for a day out and a chance to step behind the scenes? Become a Keeper for the Day. Assist keepers with the feeding of animals and cleaning of their habitats, step into the Wildlife Shelter area and witness the treatment and feeding of native rescue animals, be front and centre at the hourly animal talks and access special behind-the-scenes areas usually reserved for park keepers.

Spaces are limited and book out quickly, so remember to hop onto marukoalapark.com.au to book your animal experiences today. General animal park entry and mini golf pre-bookings are not essential, but recommended.



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DAN Bright grew up on a dairy farm in Fish Creek, the farm next door to be exact, and though he never wanted to be a dairy farmer himself, he knew he wanted to find a way to make it home.

“I grew up on the farm next door,” Dan explained as he looked over the fields surrounding us.

“I love this landscape and the bush – I feel really connected to this place.

“Growing up, I was always wrestling with how do I live here. I understood very acutely that you need to make an income from the land so you can pay for it and live there.”

Leaving school early, Dan stepped into a diesel mechanic apprenticeship and seized the opportunity to travel overseas for several years.

“I did a heap of different jobs, in different industries, but always kept coming back here.

“I always thought of this as home, even when I was living miles away.”

When the property in Fish Creek came up for sale, Dan knew it was time.

“A friend was working in Western Australia in the mines and making lots of money, and suggested I come over as a diesel mechanic. So I did.”

Purchasing 165 acres, the farm was practically one big paddock.

“There was no fencing, no tracks, no infrastructure, just grass and bush, and three creeks – for me that was perfect!”

Working in Western Australia, Dan would travel back for a couple of weeks or months at a time and get to work on projects. Building a bridge across the creek, carving in tracks, digging a dam, and raising sheds. Pieces of the puzzle to make the property habitable.

“I needed a lot of timber for the projects I was doing, and looking around, there was a lot of fallen timber.

“Trees were coming down in storms, and I thought maybe it could be milled. I bought a Lucas portable mill and



A home amongst the gumtrees

really enjoyed it.”

An offhand question from an electrician wiring up the farm soon grew into a whole new career, paving the way for Amber Creek Sawmill.

“He said, “I’ve got all these logs out at my place, could you come and mill them for me?”

“I hadn’t really considered it as being a business before that... I did the job and realised I could actually make a good living doing this, so I just started.

“I didn’t advertise initially, it was just through word-of-mouth, and gradually I got more consistent work – I wasn’t busy, it was just part-time.”

During this period, Dan was still travelling between Western Australia and Victoria.

“The role I was in was quite flexible, and the employer was very understanding. I’d work like a maniac over there, and then I’d return and have eight weeks off. When I was able to generate enough income from the sawmilling, I tapered off working in

Western Australia.”

Life at the farm has grown with Dan over the years.

“I first met Milly (my wife) back in 2012 – she was working in Melbourne at the time, but was from this area as well.

“When I was exploring the idea of moving back permanently, we needed something to sustain us financially, so around that same time, we decided to farm pigs on a free-range pasture-based system.

“We started doing farmers’ markets with the pork, and that gave us more confidence.”

Meanwhile, Dan’s timber crafts at markets took off, and although not always selling at the markets themselves, the orders followed.

At the second market they attended, they received an order for a house lot – a timber frame for a mud brick home.

“As it happened, we also sold some timber to a Canadian fella who uses

heavy timber frames, and he showed us the systems he uses and developed in Canada. We started doing a lot of work for owner/builders, builders and architects. We’d manufacture these big heavy timber frames, and what it meant was that we were able to mill a relatively small amount of timber, but generate quite a bit of income.

“We weren’t sending it out as a rough-sawn green product – we were sending it out as a finished house frame ready to go, and then heading out to help install it on site.”

Working on one job for months on end, the business took off well and kept Dan busy for eight years.

Amongst the chaos of running a sawmill business and pig farm, Dan and Milly built their home.

“The sawmill was productive at that time, but there was no fixed infrastructure. At the same time, we were experimenting with drying timber and machining it, but only in a side-hustle type of way.”

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As legislation changed and fewer people opted to be owner builders, Dan re-directed the business, with framing still a part of the business but less of a focus.

“As it happened, we were physically worn out from running the portable mill equipment. I’d been collecting equipment from secondhand mills, auctions and those that had closed down for a few years, so we set about constructing the new mill around 2020.

“We did another big install in 2023 – we’ve now got a fixed electric mill, so there is a lot less manual handling, and it’s more productive.

“We are doing more dried and dressed products – shiplap cladding, decking, they’re our main products, but we do a whole heap of different things. We can do our own profiles on the machine, and custom work.”

Sugar Gum is one of Dan’s favourite species.

“It’s a beautiful timber. It’s really nice to work with, and it’s beautiful when you make a pack of it. All the external

timbers are really nice to look at. There’s not really any manufactured product that gives you the same feeling as timber cladding.”

The only downside Dan finds is the limited quantity of same-batch timber, but that’s part of the charm.

“When it’s a small batch, no one else is going to have it – sometimes there is enough for one deck, sometimes one house, sometimes two, but that’s okay, because that’s what makes it so unique and special.”

And the best part is that every piece of raw material is used at Amber Creek – the small offcuts either turned into woodchips or firewood.

Back home, three young daughters keep Dan and Milly busy, the girls taking on jobs around the farm, and helping dad in the workshop (not the milling yard).

“I loved being on the land (as a kid) – mucking around in the bush, catching yabbies and eels in the creeks, climbing trees. And now the girls are off doing all that too!”



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Discover your wingspan this summer

LOOKING for somewhere with everything! Then a visit to the Bunurong Environment Centre in Inverloch is a must.

Look at the amazing Shell Museum, find out about our local environment by visiting the 'Discovery' Room and join a guided tour to local points of interest.

The Shell Museum is one of the world's best shell collections with over 8000 shells on display. The collection includes specimens from across Australia and is constantly reviewed and updated by local members of the Malacological Society of Australia.

There is also a local marine display, including common creatures of the Bass Coast Intertidal zone.

Visitors can spend time in the Discovery Room, a welcoming space to learn more about the unique plants,

animals, ecology, geology, and fossils of the Bunurong Coast.

There are dinosaur fossils, hands-on touch tables, videos and displays – all for free.

Do you know what your 'wingspan' is? Perch on the wingspan seat and spread your arms out wide, as you compare finger to feather with the Shy Albatross.

Bunurong Coast Education also operates out of the Environment Centre.

Guided tours include Dinosaur Discovery, Rockpool Ramble and Wildlife of the Night, to name a few.

Young paleontologists can enjoy our Paleo Lab, where they create a plaster cast of a dinosaur fossil and learn more about local dinosaur finds.

Rockpool Rambles gives the whole family a chance to learn more about our local marine life.

Find out details of the tours by visiting the South Gippsland Conservation website at sgcs.org.au.

Looking for a special gift to take home? The Bunurong Environment Centre shop has a wide range of educational toys, unique gifts, sustainability products, Australiana and much more.

There is a large collection of books on environmental topics for adults and educational children's books.

The Environment Centre is run by the South Gippsland Conservation Society, which is a not-for-profit charity, and is kept open by a team of generous volunteers.

Profits from the shop are used to fund on-ground environmental preservation and restoration projects as well as their education program.

Open daily from 10am to 4pm, 1 Ramsey Boulevard, Inverloch.

Bunurong Environment Centre

South Gippsland Conservation Society
1 Ramsey Boulevard, Inverloch | 10am to 4pm daily
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PROUDLY PRESENTS

January THU 1/1	MICK THOMAS' ROVING COMMISSION NEW YEAR'S DAY SHOW w/ HANNA & JESSIE LEE'S BAD HABITS, DANNY WALSH BANNED & QUEEN OF HEARTS MARIACHI BAND
SAT 10/1	THE BLACK SORROWS
SUN 11/1	THE BLACK SORROWS
SUN 25/1	BATHING IN THE CREEK FESTIVAL w/ WATTY THOMPSON & HIS TOTAL FIRE BAND + MORE TBA!
February SUN 1/2	ELLA HOOPER & BAND
SAT 21/2	PONY FACE PRESENTS NEBRASKA
March SUN 1/3	HARRY MANX (GANG)
FRI 6/3	HANNAH COHEN & SAM EVIAN & BAND
THU 12/3	MARY COUGHLAN
FRI 27/3	EMILY LUBITZ & BAND
SAT 28/3	PLAYLUNCH
April FRI 10/4	FRANK YAMMA
SAT 18/4	KEVIN BORICH EXPRESS
SUN 19/4	ERIC BESS & BAND
May FRI 1/5	BEN LEE

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Celebrating 21 years of gemstones

PHILIP and Danielle Lacy opened the doors of Lacy Jewellery Studio and Gallery in Meeniyan back in 2004, after returning to the region where they grew up.

“It’s amazing to be celebrating our 21st birthday,” Danielle said.

“We opened small with few expectations, and are grateful to have been able to grow the business thanks to the community’s support.”

And grow the business they have, with a skilled team of jewellers and staff, including one newly qualified former apprentice who recently won gold at WorldSkills.

Lily-Grace Toohill was awarded a gold medal in Jewellery and named Best of Nation as the highest-performing competitor across all categories at this year’s National Championships and Skills Show.

The event is Australia’s largest and invites young people from across the nation to showcase their talent in multiple fields.

“I was an honour for us to celebrate Lily-Grace’s achievement and highlight our dedication to our team.”

Working to high standards, Danielle counts Australian sapphires

among her favourite gemstones; also a popular choice in Australia at the moment.

“I love Australian sapphires – the teals, greens and blues, the parti sapphires that are unique and known for their multi-coloured appearance.

“There are also emeralds and rubies. It’s lovely seeing all the gemstones.”

Helping create special memories, there hasn’t been one single standout moment over the past 21 years for the duo.

“It’s very emotional and sentimental. From the special occasions of births and marriages to families coming in after a loved one has passed, who have organised for jewellery to be made for each family member. We even celebrated Eleanor Patterson’s Olympic moment with a piece of jewellery for her.

“We are very aware that we have our business because of local support. We are thankful for those who have walked in the door, and we take as much care whether someone is spending a lot of money or a little bit. Thank you to everyone who has walked through our doors over the last 21 years.”



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DISCOVER | SUMMER 2025/26 45



Flip ‘n fearless

WHEN Chelsea Caple first opened Summersalt Gymnastics in Wonthaggi, people were a little hesitant; they didn’t recognise her name, was she an outsider?

But the truth was that Chelsea had grown up in South Gippsland, on a dairy farm in Nerrena, to be exact. Her youth was spent in Leongatha at school and countless hours at the local gymnastics club. Like most local kids, she’d jumped at the opportunity to study in Melbourne and commenced sports science at ACU.

“I had transferable skills as a coach in Leongatha and applied for gymnastics coaching jobs in Melbourne (whilst studying),” Chelsea explained, speaking highly of her time at Leongatha Gymnastics growing up.

“I happened to receive two offers, one for a private school and one for a community club. That was the first fork in the road – I chose the community club, that’s where my passion lay.”

Six months later, the head coach left.

“Because I was the only coach there who hadn’t grown up in the club, they asked me to run it,” Chelsea said, having jumped at the opportunity.

“From early on, I really loved working with people and trying to get the best out of them, supporting the club and being a leader.”

Chelsea found herself steering a club while diving into competitive

gymnastics herself, also training at a separate club in acrobatics and representing Victoria at Nationals.

“I loved it!”

After graduating, Chelsea moved to Callisthenics Victoria as the club development manager, supporting 100 clubs across Victoria.

“I would go around and help them improve the running of their clubs. A lot of Calisthenic clubs were run by volunteers, and it was about empowering them to be really efficient in leading their club as a volunteer.”

Another unexpected fork in the road came when the CEO resigned.

“They asked me, as I hadn’t come through with a Callisthenics background. I was 22 and the CEO of a state sporting association. Suddenly, I was working with state government, learning governance, and reporting to a board.

“I realised I really liked the elements and the difference between operational and governance.”

Whilst Chelsea enjoyed the position, Melbourne wasn’t for her.

“I’m not a Melbourne person,” she said, reflecting on her country upbringing.

“There was a job offered through the AFL at Morwell, and I thought I’d give it a crack – it was for grassroots football.

“I applied and followed up with a phone call – explained my experience and that I’d love to be able to bring that to the AFL.



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“They turned around and said, ‘We’ve never had a female in the role before.’

“I was like, your point?”

“I interviewed and was told I was the third-best candidate. They were going with the other two; they had footy experience. I had none.

“They ended up turning down the job because of the pay. A lot of people would have been bitter, but I was like ‘give me a crack’.”

That crack turned into a 14-year career with the AFL that Chelsea “absolutely loved”.

She witnessed the rise of AFLW, the explosion of Auskick centres and the growth of girls’ football across Gippsland.

Completing a Master of Business through Deakin during this period, Chelsea also stepped onto her first board with Gippsland Women’s Health.

“I loved it,” she said.

“I realised I had something to offer from a health perspective.

“I was then asked to be on the Community Advisory Committee for LRH (Latrobe Regional Health), because I represented and was able to communicate with so many diverse people through football. I was a member of the committee for three years; then they asked me to apply for the board.

“It was amazing to sit on the board contributing to the strategic direction of the health of a community, the health of a population.

“I’m also a consumer. I was diagnosed with MS when I worked at Callisthenics Victoria, and that finished my gymnastics journey.”

Chelsea was one of the youngest, if not the youngest, on a hospital board in the state.

“It’s been incredible to be on LRH’s board, and one I’m forever grateful for,” Chelsea said, her term coming to a close next year after nine years

of service, the maximum permitted.

Amid all this, Chelsea quietly created and grew Summersalt Gymnastics in Wonthaggi.

“A gymnastics club in Frankston put all their equipment up for sale; they were changing suppliers, and I bought it in 2017, not having any strategy and just left it in a shipping container for 12 months. Then the inception of Summersalt began.

“I worked at the AFL part-time and the gym full-time for about two to three years before it was unsustainable.

“I was working seven days a week, being on call and putting in 120 per cent to my job, but I couldn’t keep doing that.”

With the arrival of a second son, Chelsea decided it was time to explore fresh options for Summersalt, and partnered with Jets Gymnastics, a decision that has seen her take a seat on their board.

“The boys are only little once, and my passion and love for the children at Summersalt, I needed to give them my energy. I’m still doing a lot of work, and it’s been the hardest but best decision. I couldn’t do it all, and Jets are good at growing and supporting communities – they’ve got the resources to put into it, and grow the programs, including squad programs. They’ll help the centre stay alive for a really long time and be sustainable in the community.”

Chelsea has also stepped onto the board of a Bass Coast Community Foundation, a good fit for someone passionate about the local community.

“My passion is here in this community. I wanted to be able to give back, to be able to be the voice for the kids that I see come through the gym every day and go, what do these kids need? How can the foundation support these kids?”

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*The Phillip Island RSL
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The Island's most welcoming club



THE Phillip Island RSL is more than a place to have a meal. It's a true community hub.

President Peter Paul says the club has worked tirelessly to create an environment that welcomes everyone, from locals to visitors exploring the Island for the first time.

"We have endeavoured to get a greater range of food and beverage, and the ambience of the club has improved dramatically," Peter said.

"It's all been put together to make it a comfortable, affordable, clean and secure place to come to."

The commitment has clearly paid off. The Phillip Island RSL now has around 5500 members and continues to grow every year. Families, visitors and regulars all play a part in creating the relaxed and friendly atmosphere that defines the venue.

Treasurer Michael Crump describes it as a family-oriented place where respect and community values matter just as much as good food and hospitality.

"We are an RSL Club, not a pub," Peter said.

The Phillip Island RSL's history stretches back to 1930, when it began in the old Mechanics Institute Hall on Thompson Avenue. After several moves, fires and rebuilds, the current club finally opened in December 1995.

What started as a modest two-room venue has now grown into a thriving space that hosts community meetings, family dinners and a wide range of welfare programs for its members on its current site.

Welfare officer Cheryl Overton says that Welfare at the RSL is the heart of everything they do.

"The welfare side of things is huge," she said.

"We have a day club every Monday for 40-plus people. We also host breakfast clubs at two local schools along with afternoon teas for the Legacy Widows, veterans coffee and chat mornings, yoga sessions and monthly veterans' dinners that are well attended."

The RSL also offers free transport to Melbourne for service members attending medical appointments, home visits and ongoing welfare support through its full-time welfare officer and veteran's advocate.

Peter says the club's goal has always been to create a safe and welcoming place for the community.

"It's that comfort and that safety that is very important to us," he said. "We highlight what we do for veterans and continue to look at programs concerning veterans."

"We also love looking after our other members. You don't get 5500 members if people don't feel like they're being looked after."

Visitors are also encouraged to explore the RSL's growing collection of memorabilia, which tells stories of service and sacrifice.

"It's about remembering," Cheryl said, "and respecting those who served."

With its warm atmosphere, focus on community and long-standing commitment to veterans, the Phillip Island RSL isn't just another venue. It is a place that brings people together.

"It's certainly friendly, it's certainly comfortable, and it's a very pleasant environment," Peter said.

"We are always looking to improve what we offer."

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VETERANS AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

Our Veterans are the cornerstone of our community. Phillip Island RSL proudly provides ongoing welfare, support and social connection opportunities through our Veterans Program.



VETERANS *Coffee Catch-Up*

1st Tuesday of every month*

10.30am in the Members Library
Complimentary Coffee & Morning Tea provided



VETERANS *TUESDAY YOGA*

2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month* in the ANZAC Room –
10:30am-11:30am



VETERANS *Supper Club*

3rd Tuesday evening of every month from 5:30pm*

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Picture-perfect picnics

LOVE a good picnic – you’re not alone.

There’s something special about grabbing a selection of regional produce, whether from your local IGA, market or direct from the farm gate and finding a patch of green grass where you can spread out the picnic hamper with friends, family, children, even the dog (when permitted) and enjoy an afternoon of laughter and delectable treats.

Travelling solo, it’s the ideal opportunity to throw in a book as well.

It’s the perfect way to unwind away from technology and away from the busy world around us.

For me, my favourite memories of picnics always involve strawberries – the look on a friend’s child’s face 10 years ago when they munched away on one for the first time; jumping out of the car and purchasing them from a roadside farm gate on the way to a magical spot.

And the best part about a picnic is that you don’t have to be organised, with premade, perfectly cut sandwiches or fruit sliced and diced, just make sure you have a knife and chopping board packed, along with some butter, and drop past your favourite hunting grounds for the perfect produce. Grab the French stick on your way, and have fun mixing and matching all your goodies to suit what your taste buds desire.

There are plenty of locations to throw out a rug, but amongst our favourites are:

The Gurdies Winery: Overlooking Western Port Bay, The Gurdies Winery is set up with picnic tables scattered outside and shady spaces across sprawling lawns. And the best part is that you don’t need to worry about the liquid part of your picnic with premium award-winning wines, grown on site at your fingertips (no BYO alcohol). Taking things up a notch, barbecues



are available to hire.

Mossvale Park: A picturesque botanical garden. Mossvale Park, located between Leongatha and Mirboo North, is the ultimate picnic location for families with sprawling lawns, two picnic shelters, electric barbecues, a playground and even a soundshell with dogs welcome.



Agnes Falls: Relax under towering Blue Gums, leafy Blackwood and Silver Wattle trees, as you listen to the rush of water of the nearby Agnes Falls, the highest single span falls in Victoria at 59 metres. Home to a diverse range of birdlife and dog-friendly, it’s an ideal location to spend the day.

And that is just three of the multitude of picnic-worthy locations across Bass Coast and South Gippsland, some surrounded by natural bush, others with views of the ocean.

This summer, grab your hamper and head to our great outdoors.




Main Photo: Chloe Smith.






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Dive into summer fun with Wonthaggi LSC

WONTHAGGI Life Saving Club invites the community to join us for a fun and family-friendly summer at Cape Paterson Bay Beach.

Our Nipper Program for children aged five to 13 returns with an Open Day and Come and Try Session on December 27, followed by sessions across late December and January. Nippers is a fantastic way for kids to learn beach safety in a fun and inclusive environment, while also growing their confidence, knowledge, and skills.

The WLSC coffee shop and kiosk will be open daily through Christmas and January, offering a variety of drinks, snacks, and a welcoming spot for families at the beach. Did we mention icy poles and frozen slushies? An absolute beach must!

The popular HOY Family Fun Nights are back on Tuesdays and Thursdays with affordable, family-friendly card game evenings

throughout December and January. If you've never heard of HOY, head along, you won't be disappointed.

Do not miss the much-loved Cape Family Festival when it returns on January 17. Bringing the community together for a full day of beachside fun and activities, expect food, local music, and plenty of activities for all ages.

To learn more about Nippers, Bronze and SRC training, or the many summer events at Wonthaggi LSC, simply scan the QR codes below.

This summer, remember to download the Beachsafe App and check out the conditions before you head into the water, and as always, swim between the red and yellow flags.

Wonthaggi LSC is proud to support our community, and we look forward to sharing another safe and enjoyable summer with local families.



Join the Wonthaggi LSC community this summer at Cape Paterson Bay Beach

Nippers

Lifesaving Program for children 5-13 Year olds
Open Day December 27th 9am - 3pm
Come & Try Day: 27th Dec 11am - 12pm

The Nipper Program is held at the Cape Paterson Bay Beach from 9:30am - 12pm on the following:
December 2025: 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st
January 2026: 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th
Club Championships: 11th January

HOY Event

Family Card Fun Night \$6 Entry starting at 7pm
December: 30th
January: 1st, 6th, 8th, 13th, 15th, 20th, 22nd

Coffee Shop

Open daily through Christmas & January serving Coffee, drinks, icy poles, Devonshire teas, hot food and much more

If you'd like to volunteer contact Rhett grants@wlsc.org.au or Joan on 0439061911

Cape Family Festival

The Cape Family Festival is back refreshed, reimagined, and ready to bring the community together once again.

When: 17th January 9am - 3pm
Where: Wonthaggi Lifesaving Club



Bronze & SRC

Scan QR code for details



Nippers

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Summer Events

Scan QR code for details





A coastal escape for every kind of traveller

NESTLED along Victoria's stunning Bass Coast, BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch offers a refreshing blend of nature, comfort, and adventure – making it a top-tier destination for families, couples of all ages, and solo explorers alike. Just 90 minutes from Melbourne, this seaside haven is perched on the shores of Anderson Inlet, where the rhythm of the waves meets the warmth of community.

Accommodation for every style of stay

Whether you're seeking a luxurious retreat or a back-to-nature experience, the park's diverse accommodation options cater to every preference. Choose from spacious three-bedroom villas, coastal cabins, and eco tents, or opt for a more immersive experience in one of the glamping safari tents – perfect for those who want a touch of indulgence with their outdoor adventure.

For campers and caravanners, the park offers ensuite slab and grass sites, all set within beautifully landscaped grounds that provide direct access to the beach. And with the recent upgrade, pet-friendly cabins and powered sites are now available year-round, ensuring your furry companions can join in the holiday fun too.

Facilities that delight all ages

One of the standout features of BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch is its indoor heated splash park – a game-changer for families travelling in cooler months. With water slides, tipping buckets, fountains, and cannons, it's a paradise for kids and a stress-free solution for parents looking to keep little ones entertained regardless of the weather.

Beyond the splash park, guests can enjoy a heated indoor pool, jump pad, mini golf, pedal karts, basketball hoop,

and a games room. These amenities create a vibrant atmosphere where guests of all ages can unwind, play, and connect.

Pet-friendly perks

The park's commitment to inclusivity extends to its four-legged guests. With dog-friendly beaches and walking tracks nearby, and even a dog toy library offering chew toys and fetch gear, pets are treated as part of the family. This thoughtful approach makes it easier than ever to plan a holiday that includes every member of your household.

Explore Inverloch and beyond

The local area is brimming with attractions. Nature lovers can visit Eagle's Nest, a dramatic rock formation offering panoramic views, or explore the Dinosaur Dreaming Fossil Site, a fascinating glimpse into prehistoric Australia. For those who enjoy scenic drives, Phillip Island and Wilson's Promontory are just a short trip away, offering wildlife encounters, coastal walks, and cultural experiences.

Inverloch itself is a charming town with boutique shops, cafes, and a laid-back vibe that invites you to slow down and soak in the coastal lifestyle. Whether you're strolling along the foreshore, enjoying a meal at a local eatery, or simply watching the sunset over the inlet, the town complements the park's relaxed atmosphere perfectly.

BIG4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch isn't just a place to stay – it's a place to reconnect, recharge, and rediscover the joy of travel. With its wide-ranging accommodation, exceptional facilities, and unbeatable location, it's no wonder this park continues to be a favourite among holidaymakers of all kinds.





Fun for the whole family

Enjoy camping, glamping and cabin stays, as well as family-friendly facilities including and indoor heated pool and splash park!

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Treat yourself at Froyo Heaven

NOTHING could be more delicious than frozen yoghurt and loaded cookies from Froyo Heaven in Cowes and Leongatha.

The flavours and fruit at Froyo Heaven change regularly, so there's always something new to try, such as fresh mango and kiwifruit over summer.

"All our fruit is delivered every day and prepared fresh," said Emily Youl.

"The warmer the weather, the busier we get."

The after-school rush is often the busiest time of the day at Froyo Heaven with yummy chocolate strawberry cups and fruit smoothies always popular with local teenagers, sporting teams and clubs.

"One hundred per cent popular with kids of all ages," said Emily.

"They love Froyo Heaven."

Thirsty, then look no further than Froyo Heaven's ice-cold smoothies,

milkshakes, juices and soft drinks. The Leongatha store also has extras on the menu to satisfy any hunger.

Seasonal fruit includes mango, peach and strawberry, with classic vanilla also a favourite.

If you're looking for a scrumptious topping, try fresh berries, caramel slice or sour lollies.

"Sour lollies are the biggest hit with the kids," according to Emily.

Emily's personal favourite is fresh mango with frozen mango yoghurt.

"Mango is at its best at this time of the year," said Emily.

New York-style Froyo Heaven loaded cookies are loaded with flavour and crunch.

Froyo Heaven is open seven days a week from 10am to 8pm at 5 McCartin Street, Leongatha and 11am to 9pm at 1/17 The Esplanade, Cowes. Look for Froyo Heaven on Facebook.





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ME0704

"My art directly connects to my surfing, my love for the ocean, marine life and the coastline."



The power of the waves

THE longboard divisions of the 2025 Australian Surf Championships are held as a stand-alone event on Bundjalung Country, along the stunning Tweed Coast in northern New South Wales, and Phillip Island local Jacquie Chambers put on a dominant display in the Women's Over 50 final, claiming her first-ever Australian Championship.

She posted scores of 6.17 and 6.67 to secure the win by a 4.77-point margin.

After being in rehab for a couple of years after a neck injury, Jacquie hit the gym and worked on her surfing, intending to return to competition.

"I was aiming to give it my best, but to walk away with my very first Aussie title means the absolute world to me," said Jacquie.

"It feels amazing, I'm over the moon happy to achieve this goal of Australian longboard title, in the Women's over 50s division. It's up there with

one of the best experiences I've ever had in my life."

This was Jacquie's third time competing at the Australian titles; previously, she had been knocked out in the semi-finals in the over-40s women's division, and she set it as her goal this year to make the Finals and to win the championship.

"On the same day in the morning, I had an amazing semi-final win, with a combination score of 15.6; one

of my rides scored in the excellent range of 8.9. The wave was head high, I paddled, took off and quickly cross stepped straight to the nose of the board in the most critical section of the wave, it held up, I stepped back to the tail into a massive cut back with big spray off my fin, into a fast section – almost a barrel, I then down carved out of the big close out section and completed the wave with full control," Jacquie explained.



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“This is my personal best score ever, since I started competing over six years ago, and this gave me a lot of confidence leading into the final.”

Jacquie said the final was exciting!

“I knew I could do it, I only needed two good scores, that was my focus, to get a good score under my belt early, and I did that with a 6.17,” she said.

In the middle of the 25-minute heat, the waves slowed down, and two of the other competitors hadn’t had a wave yet and were not on the priority board.

“I had third priority, which meant I needed to give way to them, so I waited until they did, and that moved me back into priority.

“I knew then to wait for the next best wave to come, and it did. I got my second score of 6.67, and I screamed with joy and could hear my teammates on the beach cheering!

“I felt so relieved when the final horn went off and I won with a combination score of 12.84.”

Jacquie didn’t grow up on Phillip Island, but said as soon as she got her licence, she purchased her first longboard, left the suburbs of Melbourne behind and headed for the island.

“A girlfriend and I surfed Smiths Beach every Saturday in my early 20s, in all conditions, rain, hail or shine, tiny 1ft waves to double overhead dumpers,” Jacquie laughed.

“We didn’t care; we just wanted to surf and have fun! Back then, there weren’t many women surfing, and I earned my place in the lineup; it was like I had to prove to the blokes that I could surf and mix with them!”

“Living here the last 21 years has influenced my surfing, Phillip Island’s waves are powerful, challenging and creative!”

In May of 2023, Jacquie was working as a landscape gardener, surfing



way too much, and feeling pure exhaustion.

“This one afternoon, we were having a short break to watch the WSL longboard competition at Bells Beach. I went surfing at Point Impossible, Torquay, it was gale-force winds and bumpy, and I felt an awful pain in my neck and thought to myself, ‘You have pushed it too far!’

She did. Jacquie had herniated a disc in C4 and C5 and had vertigo and neurological pain in her right arm and hand.

“I was dizzy and had trouble

sleeping. I knew something was wrong.”

After four months off work and out of the water, allowing time for her neck to heal, Jacquie then needed to build her strength back.

“I began doing reformer pilates, weight training, taking yoga classes, bike riding and hot and cold therapies to manage the pain; she also decided that giving up alcohol was a must for her to recover properly.”

It was then a slow introduction back into the water.

“In preparation leading up to

competition, I had a schedule; gym three times a week, cycling, surfing different boards in different conditions, eating well, hydrating and working on my style. I also focused on my mindset and positive self-talk, and visualising the win,” Jacquie explained.

“I love surfing longboards as I see it as an art form, a personal expression of one’s physical, mental and emotional self, without words. I feel completely free when I’m out in the ocean and catching waves; it’s the happiest and most exhilarating thing I do in my life.

“I love the ocean in all its moods, being in it and surrounded by the rhythm of nature. I also love the friendships formed in the lineup and the challenge of longboarding in all sorts of conditions, trying to perfect the dance on the waves, developing my style and the manoeuvres. I feel this is something I want to do for the rest of my life.”

Jacquie’s connection to Phillip Island goes further than surfing; although it still holds a place in her work as an artist, with a studio in Surf Beach.

“My art directly connects to my surfing, my love for the ocean, marine life and the coastline.”

Favouring acrylic paints on canvas, Jacquie said paintings are an expression of her experiences, in a semi-realism style, and this is her way of capturing the emotional beauty of Phillip Island and the Bass Coast area.

“One piece I named ‘Crazy birds’ – one of my favourite places to surf, this piece was inspired by an experience I had with my partner, we surfed three hours of perfect glassy waves, just me and him, one evening, watching the sky turn pink until the sun went down. Magic moments like this inspire me.”

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Discover the region's local eateries



Bassine Specialty Cheeses
2125 Bass Highway, Glen Forbes
0466 183 513
bassinespecialtycheeses.com.au

JUST off the Bass Highway, Bassine Cheese celebrates the rich flavours of their handcrafted cheeses, all made onsite at their 235-acre dairy.

The farmhouse is a family-owned establishment, founded in 1966 by Attilio and Mary Bisognin, and nearly 60 years later, is proudly run by their son, Glen, and his partner, Kaye.

Bassine Cheese's main delight is their warm and inviting café and shop. Step inside the welcoming farmhouse café, where you can gaze over a menu that highlights items made from their rich, non-homogenised full-cream milk.

The café is open Friday to Sunday, 9am – 4pm. Sit back and relax while you enjoy a cup of Devonshire tea alongside freshly baked scones, gourmet cheese toasties, flavour-packed milkshakes, and their new Licca Lucca creamy gelato. Flavours include strawberry, vanilla, passionfruit, cookies and cream, salted caramel and many more!

Their cheese café allows visitors to sample a wide variety of cheeses made onsite, including brie, camembert, ricotta, feta, gouda and more delicious samples.

Whether you're travelling or visiting locally, ensure you stop in and taste Bass's creamiest and loved cheeses.



The Caledonian Hotel
153/155 Graham Street,
Wonthaggi | 5672 2096
f The Cally Hotel Wonthaggi

WITH more than a century of stories behind it, and a fresh chef in the kitchen, The Caledonian Hotel is reclaiming its place in Wonthaggi. And there's something new on the horizon: tapas.

Diners at The Cally can enjoy the vibrant flavours of Spain, from bite-sized pintxos to shared plates perfect for grazing with friends. Think mixed olives, garlicky prawns, fried baby squid, meatballs and chorizo dishes made to pair beautifully with a glass of Sangria.

Chef Shane's menu is rustic, a blend of old-school favourites and gourmet touches. The much-loved seafood basket and meat lovers' grill remain, joined by slow-cooked brisket in bourbon BBQ sauce and a flake fillet steak. Shared plates – cheeses, nuts and figs – and tasting boards match perfectly with the hotel's cellar selection, while the bar menu offers hearty burgers and classic Italian arancini.



Connells Bakery
35 Murray Street, Wonthaggi
5672 1050

THE smell of freshly baked bread and delectable treats, Connells Bakery is not to be missed, whether you are stocking up on supplies or passing through Wonthaggi.

Established in the 1970s by Barry and Robyn Connell, Connells Bakery has woven itself into the fabric of Gippsland, with destinations once including Korumburra and Mirboo North. Taking residence in Wonthaggi in 1993, the Connell family legacy now thrives under the stewardship of Brad Connell and his wife, Dee.

Evolving from a traditional bakery to a bustling gourmet haven in 2005, the bakery has become a cornerstone for locals and visitors alike.

Awarded Silver and Bronze medals for pies in the Great Aussie Pie competition, the store was voted the best retail spot in the 2015 Bass Coast Business Awards.

Delivering fresh, consistent delights and a warm, welcoming service, their sweets are nothing short of delicious.

Indulge in a passionfruit kiss or jelly slice, an éclair, Miners Pie or Gippslander, New Yorker or brioche roll – the offerings delight the heart and stomach.



Froyo Heaven
5 McCartin Street, Leongatha
1/17 The Esplanade, Cowes
0481 960 099

SUMMER'S newest hangout spot, family-owned business, Froyo Heaven is now serving in two locations, one in Leongatha and a new store that has just opened in Cowes.

Owned by Fiona and her family, they only opened their first store last year in April and it's already the most adored place in town.

Open from 11am – 9pm, Tuesdays to Sundays. Froyo Heaven is the hottest spot to cure that sugar craving.

There is an abundance of selection for that late-night dessert, with six different flavours of frozen yogurt, and over 30 different topping flavours to choose from, you can mix and match until your heart's content.

No worries if frozen yogurt isn't your thing, they have toasties, smoothies, ice-creams and gelatos as well as a selection of delectable cookies to fill your stomachs with joy.

It tastes like heaven on your tongue. A perfect spot to catch up with friends, take the kids after school or eat a late dessert on a warm summer's night.

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Kelly's Bakery
16-22 Commercial Street,
Korumburra | 5655 2061
kellysbakery.com.au

IF YOU want a sneak peek of what Korumburra has to offer, stop by the heart of the town at Kelly's Bakery.

Known for their flaky, award-winning meaty pies and aromatics of fresh bread, Kelly's is the perfect pit stop for your next road trip.

Open weekdays from 6am – 4pm and weekends from 6.30am – 3.30pm, the bakery is infused with Gippsland and Ned Kelly's history, wall displays, maps to entertain the kids and engaging history for visitors of all ages.

Complete with a bakery side for all your grocery necessities, a spacious café area with ample parking, accessible ramps, welcoming to all visitors.

Both dine-in and takeaway options available, you can enjoy sausage rolls baked to perfection, crisp wraps, café-style breakfast or a barista-made coffee to pair alongside a slice of your choosing.

If you're craving a fluffy doughnut or a cheesy toasted sandwich, stop by Kelly's Bakery for friendly service and a wholesome atmosphere for all.



Mahob At Moo's
89 Whitelaw Street, Meeniyan
0413 035 690
mahob.com.au

YOUR next pre-Prom pit stop lies on the edge of Meeniyan at Mahob at Moo's. This charming corner café serves breakfast from Thursday to Monday, 8.30am – 3.30pm, before transforming into an intimate restaurant every Friday and Saturday evening from 5pm – 10pm.

This cute corner store meets all your morning necessities, with café favourites ready to go. You can indulge in a Moo's Big Brekky, a signature Moo burger, a Moo's pulled-pork toastie, or even Marty's 15th favourite salad.

In the evening, come over and savour flavour-filled, modern Cambodian delights from sach moan ang to korko, slow cooked tender Gippsland beef ribs to lamb curry. Add crispy zucchini flower, compressed watermelon salad and crispy soft shell crab, there is something delicious to please your palate.

Mahob at Moo's prides itself on sourcing from local growers to bring fresh seasonal produce to every plate.



The Middle Hotel
81 Commercial Street,
Korumburra | 5655 1024
korumburrahotel.com.au

LOCATED in the centre of Korumburra, The Middle Hotel's bistro offers the perfect setting for all occasions, whether that is a casual lunch with friends or a special celebration.

Renowned for their award-winning parmas and outdoor experience in 2024, it stands out as a premier dining destination.

Open for both lunch and dinner seven days a week, the bistro ensures you can relish its selections whenever your heart desires.

For those on the go, takeaway and delivery services are available, allowing you to enjoy The Middle Hotel's delicious fare from the comfort of your own home.

The Middle offers all your classic pub favourites alongside delectable additions, including a 12-hour Greek-style western district lamb shoulder, an orange and pistachio crusted Wimmera duck breast, a mixed chargrill feast and much more...

There is also a huge selection for the kids and flexible menus catered to those with various dietary requirements, including vegan and coeliac.

With a warm and inviting seating environment alongside a menu that caters to diverse tastes and preferences, this establishment promises a delightful culinary experience.

Bookings are recommended to secure your spot and ensure a seamless dining experience.



Phillip Island RSL
225-243 Thompson Avenue,
Cowes | 5952 1004
pirsl.com.au

LOCATED at the gateway to Cowes, Phillip Island RSL features modern comfortable surrounds with a great range of food and beverage options.

The family-friendly Lone Pine Bistro boasts a 220-seat dining area and features an alfresco balcony, The Terrace, overlooking a native plant garden.

Equipped with a children's playroom, tab keno and separate racing area, sports bar and lounge with big TV screens, pool table, fireplaces and a library and much more, the RSL is perfect for an evening meal, lunch stop or simply to enjoy a coffee and cake or drink.

Open Monday to Saturday from 10am to midnight and Sunday 10am to 11.30pm, bookings are recommended to avoid disappointment.



Quality restaurant meals

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2 McBride Avenue,
Wonthaggi
Bookings 5605 0108



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144 Graham Street, Wonthaggi  Santas Little Helper Wonthaggi

Discover the region's local eateries



The Poowong Hotel
1 Ranceby Road, Poowong
5659 2351
poowonghotel.com.au

WELCOMED with comforting food, a good drink and hearty conversations, hosts Fiona Cox and Ben Hall pride The Poowong Hotel on their service, and it's no surprise with the hotel finalists and winners multiple years in AHA State Awards.

Located in the middle of town, with plenty of parking, The Poowong Hotel is an easy find whether you are staying nearby, passing through or simply out on a drive for some tucker and a quench. Dogs are also welcome outside and on a lead.

With spaces to dine inside and outside, plus a public bar and beer garden, a variety of beers on tap and a well-stocked fridge, you won't be disappointed.

The Poowong Hotel also caters for vegetarians, vegans, gluten-free, lactose-free and, where possible, other dietary requirements. Weekly specials, a range of desserts and takeaway meals, pop in to Poowong this summer.



Promontory Restaurant and Winery
23 Ogrady's Ridge Road,
Foster North | 5682 1538

BEFORE you set up your camping spot this summer, take a pre-trip pit stop at Promontory Restaurant and Winery.

Open every Friday to Sunday until June, Promontory Restaurant and Winery is located in Foster North, just 30 minutes from the Wilsons Prom gateway.

Take on a well-deserved lunch or dinner overlooking the gentle slopes of South Gippsland and the stunning scenery of Corner Inlet.

Walking in you are greeted with large windows and an open dining area for easy wheelchair accessibility, and their menu offers a wide variety of dishes to meet all kinds of dietary requirements.

Situated amongst some of the most stunning nature parks Gippsland has to offer, such as Waratah Bay and Agnes Falls, a day trip down South is sure to please everybody.

Promontory Restaurant and Winery also cater for birthdays, weddings and special events.

With a cellar door and delicious wine on offer, drive down and accompany your glass of red surrounded in a world of green.

Bookings are essential.



RACV Inverloch Resort
70 Cape Paterson-Inverloch
Road, Inverloch | 5674 0000
racv.com.au/Inverloch

MULTI award winner, RACV Inverloch has all you could ever ask for.

The hotel offers 98 luxurious rooms with 24-hour room service, combining modern architecture with top facilities, including a tennis court, gym and pool, to deliver you that true five-star experience.

You don't need to stay in the hotel to taste the best of what Gippsland has to offer. Radius Restaurant is situated inside the hotel, open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner, open to those visiting or those who live locally.

Radius Restaurant prides itself on serving fresh local produce from around Gippsland, including local smoked smallgoods, Bassine Farmhouse cheese, Fish Creek dukkha, marinated olives and Gippsland mushrooms.

Not looking for a full meal? Come relax in their Zenith Lounge whilst enjoying delicious, mouthwatering tapas and full-flavoured wine.

Feel calm as you sip, gazing over the views of the Bunurong coast through their floor-to-ceiling windows, and feel like you're transported to the beach below.

Designed with an area for the kids to play, bring the whole family together or enjoy a refreshing cocktail with service that makes you feel quite at home.

Bookings are essential.



Welshpool Hotel Motel
21/23 Main Street, Welshpool
5681 6215
welshpoolhotelmotel.com.au

WELSHPOOL Hotel Motel is the centre of your next adventure-packed weekend. Just over a two-hour drive from Melbourne, the bistro is open Wednesday to Sunday, 11am – 9pm and opens late until 11pm each Friday and Saturday.

The Motel holds nine separate rooms with complimentary Wi-Fi and hotel service, while out front is the beloved bistro.

If you're staying for the weekend or just exploring for the day, Welshpool's Hotel Motel is the perfect location to fulfil your hunger ques.

An extensive menu is on offer, from your favourite pub classics to fresh seafood specials and the iconic Welshy Mixed Grill to share.

The charming dining area also offers outdoor seating, perfect for large groups or intimate dinners alongside your favourite beers and wine.

They hold Wednesday steak nights and Friday pasta nights, and an occasional poker night for those wanting to play.

Their upbeat atmosphere is the perfect way to finish off a long day of fishing, with plenty of boat parking. Welshpool Hotel Motel ensures good quality pub food, sending you home satisfied. Bookings are recommended.

The Poowong Hotel

with fun and a friendly atmosphere



Lunch Wednesday - Sunday 12noon-2.30pm
Dinner Wednesday - Saturday 5.30 - 8.30pm

THURSDAY - STEAK NIGHT
300g Porterhouse steak with chips, salad and gravy for \$25

SENIOR meals available Wed to Fri
Open Monday and Tuesday from 3pm,
Wednesday-Sunday from 11am

All occasions catered for including birthdays, weddings and engagements
1 Ranceby Rd, Poowong p: 5659 2351 w: www.thepoowonghotel.com.au

Promontory

RESTAURANT & WINERY

Restaurant / Functions Cellar Door

Saturday & Sunday Lunches
Friday & Saturday Dinners

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





The Wonthaggi Club
16 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi
5672 1007
wonthaggiclub.com.au

OPEN every day from 10am, The Wonthaggi Club is the perfect place for your next family dinner or drinks with mates.

Catering an all-day menu and different specials on most nights of the week, there is always something to look forward to.

Whether your taste buds crave Mondays 'Curry in a Hurry', Tuesdays 'Celebrity Parma Night' or Wednesdays 'Steak Night', there is always a unique experience to be had at The Wonthaggi Club, with vegan and coeliac options available.

Their family-friendly bistro welcomes everyone to dine in the heart of Wonthaggi. Beyond delicious food, the bistro supports many sporting clubs in town, holding fundraisers through their Wonfund program to place funds back into the local community.

The club has a unique membership program, starting from just \$5 a year, where guests can earn points every time they visit, unlocking exclusive rewards and special benefits.

Their new club app is the perfect way to browse their menu, book functions and see what entertainment is on for the week.

The best part is you can enjoy The Clubhouse food from the comfort of your home, with delivery from Uber Eats, right in town.

Bookings are recommended to avoid disappointment.



Wonthaggi Hotel
2 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi
5606 0108
 [Wonthaggi Hotel](https://www.facebook.com/WonthaggiHotel)

OFTEN referred to as the Whalebone or Taberner's, Wonthaggi Hotel, is a culinary gem and a historical landmark. With its rich heritage dating back to the early 20th century, this charming establishment seamlessly blends old-world charm with contemporary flair.

The Wonthaggi Hotel is a haven for food enthusiasts, offering a diverse menu that tantalises taste buds with a symphony of flavours. From succulent seafood fresh from the markets to hearty pub classics with a modern twist, the culinary offerings at this iconic hotel are a celebration of the region's finest produce.

The warm and inviting ambience creates the perfect backdrop for both casual lunches and intimate dinners, whether you're sipping on a local wine or indulging in their seasonal specials. Every visit promises a gastronomic experience.



Wonthaggi Workers Club
75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi
5672 1083
wonthaggiworkers.com.au

INDULGE in a complete experience at the Wonthaggi Workers Club, where not only can you savour delightful cuisine but also retreat in comfort at the four-star MJ McMahon motel, seamlessly integrated into the club's offerings.

Boasting 26 modern rooms, this accommodation pays homage to Wonthaggi's mining heritage while providing contemporary comforts. The Workers Club's vibrant summer menu caters to diverse palates, ensuring abundant, tasty, and healthy dining options for both visitors and locals. Vegans and vegetarians are well catered for.

There are all your favourite classics from a range of steaks and parmas to salads, pizzas, pastas and much more! There is plenty of choice in finding a suitable accompaniment for your meal, with a great selection of wine by the glass and bottle. Those after a refreshing cold beer on a hot summer's day will also enjoy a top selection.

Stepping into the Workers Club is like entering Wonthaggi's history with an impressive replica mine shaft greeting visitors. However, instead of coal dust, expect a warm welcome and a plethora of entertainment and dining options.

Operating since 1911, the Wonthaggi Workers Club continues to weave its rich tapestry into the town's historical narrative.



Youki's Japanese Take Away
46 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi
5672 4070
youkispntakeaway.wixsite.com

BRINGING the flavours of Japanese cuisine to the heart of Wonthaggi. Youki's has been a favourite lunch spot since opening in 2011.

Specialising in hand-rolled sushi, staff deliver a delicious culinary experience right in the centre of town.

Sushi is rolled fresh daily, and Youki's is open Monday to Friday, 9am – 3pm and on Saturdays, 10am – 2pm.

Located in the centre of town, Youki's is the perfect stop for any time of the day, whether you enjoy some morning sushi, a hearty lunch or an afternoon delight. They bring the authentic flavours of Japan into your mouth with fillings including chicken, prawn, tuna, salmon, tofu, plus vegetarian options, perfectly topped with soy sauce or wasabi.

If you love a fiery kick, try out their hearty hot menu with generous bowls of udon and ramen to warm you right up. Perhaps a Japanese sweet treat? With mochi or a green tea ice cream on offer, this cosy store brings international cuisine to everyone.

Also, you can order share platters or catering boxes of sushi for your next big event! Get into Youki's quick before your favourite flavours sell out!



Eat, drink & sleep at the Welshpool Hotel Motel

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- Friday Night – Pizza / Pasta / Raffles • Saturday Night – Family Night

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21-23 Main Street Welshpool P 5681 6215 E hello@welshpoolhotelmotel.com.au 



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46 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi
Ph: 5672 4070
Open Monday - Friday, 9am - 3pm
Saturday, 10am - 2pm



Discover the markets this season

Bass Market

January 17 | 8am-1pm

A delightful mix of stallholders and food vendors come together on the third Saturday of each month to offer an exceptional shopping experience at 2 Bass School Road, Bass.

Churchill Island Farmers Market

January 3 | 8am-1pm

With more than 40 stalls, this market showcases the best of Gippsland’s produce. In a unique location, marketgoers are treated to the picturesque natural environment of Churchill Island as they shop. From seasonal fruits and vegetables to specialty food products, taste sensations await.

Coal Creek Farmers Market

January 10 | 8am-12.30pm

A wonderful display of stunning food straight from the farm is on offer at Coal Creek. Formed by a community wanting to experience more of the clean foods produced locally, this market is a nod to the hard workers in the agriculture industry at one of Korumburra’s premier attractions. This is a plastic bag free market.

Corinella Community Market

January 10 | 9am-1pm

From produce to crafts, the Corinella Community Market entices. It is the perfect place to spend a Sunday morning with the family. There are more than 30 stalls – both indoor and outdoor – and a sausage sizzle to enjoy. This is a pet friendly market, but dogs must be on a lead.

Coronet Bay Market

January 18 | 9am-2pm

Discover a vibrant mix of craft, plants, bric-a-brac, and an array of new and used treasures, plus so much more! Treat yourself to hot coffee, delicious food, and tempting cakes and slices as you explore both indoor and outdoor stalls at Coronet Bay Recreation Reserve, 39 Gellibrand Street.

Cowes Island Craft Market

January 10 | 9am-2pm

Located at the St Philip’s Parish Hall, the theme of this market is ‘Make, Bake and Grow’. It offers more than 60 stalls from talented producers and craftspeople. Marketgoers can peruse crafts, clothes, plants, produce and more. The proceeds from this market are donated back into the local community.



Cowes Market on Church

December 27 | 9am-2pm

A delightful community market featuring over 30 stalls offering local produce, crafts, plants, clothing, and unique finds in the trash and treasure shed on the fourth Saturday of every month. Savour hot food and drinks while exploring both indoor and outdoor stalls at St Phillip’s Parish Hall grounds, Cowes. A perfect spot for discovering hidden treasures and enjoying local treats.

Grantville Market

January 4 | 8am-1pm

The Grantville market has something for everyone with over 100 stalls including second hand collectables, antiques, food and clothing, as well as fresh produce, plants, preserves and gifts.

Inverloch Community Farmers Market

December 31, and January 7*, 14*, 21*, 25, 28* *Twilight market.
9am-1pm (Sunday) and
3pm-8pm (twilight)

This family-friendly, pet-friendly market showcases fabulous local produce. Located in the Glade, right on the beach, marketgoers are treated to Gippsland’s finest range of fruit and vegetables, seafood and meats, wines, olive oils, honeys and plants. Be sure to keep your dog on a lead.

Inverloch Farmers Market

January 17 | 8am-1pm

Located by the beach with access to the local park, the Inverloch Farmers Market provides the perfect family outing. The Glade hosts more than 50 stalls, featuring fresh Gippsland produce. Live music provides ambience as marketgoers browse.

Island Foreshore Market

December 27 and January 3, 10, 17 and 24 | 11am-9pm

This twilight market offers a fabulous range with a mix of local and international stalls. Handmade merchandise, arts and crafts, specialty food products and local produce always draw in the crowds. The outing is complete with live music, children’s entertainment and food trucks.

Jumbunna Bush Market

January 4 | 9am-1pm

The emphasis is on homemade and homegrown products at this market. Fifteen stalls are open to marketgoers, with a fine range of crafts and woodwork to discover. Refreshments are available on the day.

Kongwak Market

Every Sunday | 10am-2pm

Nestled in the heart of Kongwak is the beloved market, which is open to the public every Sunday. The Kongwak market is the go-to place to find an eclectic selection of retro, vintage and second-hand items and books. A contemporary art gallery is also open for viewing and marketgoers can enjoy a sausage sizzle or Indian food as they wander the stalls. Entry is a \$1 donation.

Koonwarra Farmers Market

January 3 | 8am-1pm

This market was established to showcase its regional producers, growers and specialty food makers. Local artisans are also encouraged to be involved and often provide marketgoers with beautiful gift options. The market is held in the hall adjoining Memorial Park if the weather is not favourable. It is also a pet friendly market, with dogs to be kept on a lead.

Loch Lions Village Market

January 11 | 8am-1pm

Marketgoers are sure to be impressed with the assortment the Loch Lions Village Market has to offer. Located in the Loch Railway Station Reserve, the market offers vibrant produce and crafts. Refreshments are available on site.

Prom Country Farmers Market

January 17 | 8am-12pm

Bring your shopping bags along and indulge in the fine produce Gippsland has to offer. All stallholders grow and make their own products and are happy to chat with marketgoers about where their food is sourced from. Grab a coffee or enjoy brunch and take in the delights of this market.

Prom Produce and Craft Market

December 28 and January 25 | 8am-1pm

Known as one of the biggest and best craft markets in Gippsland, this market is the ideal place to find unique treasures. Organised by the Foster Rotary Club and Toora Lions Club, the market showcases more than 150 stalls. Please bring your own bags whilst on this shopping trip.

Rail Trail Community Market

January 18 | 8.30am-1pm

Leongatha’s beloved community market transformed into the Rail Trail Community Market in early 2024. Set in the picturesque Leongatha Railway Precinct, offering a vibrant atmosphere, ample space, and convenient parking discover an exciting array of locally sourced products, including fresh produce, baked goods, beautiful crafts, and more from talented local stallholders. Don’t miss out on this revitalised market experience!

Rhyll Twilight Market

January 2 and 16 | 4pm-8pm

Held in Rhyll Park, this bumper market offers more than 60 stalls for marketgoers to browse. Produce, clothing and crafts are the attraction. Live bands provide the ambience, and marketgoers can also enjoy the outdoor dining area to complete the evening.

Tarwin Lower Market

December 29 and January 26
8am-1pm

The market offers a wide variety of stalls, ranging from food and plants through to books and bric-a-brac. It’s fun for the whole family and usually includes live entertainment.

Where Am I?

I'm a popular fishing spot that stretches out into Western Port Bay with a right turn at the end.

On a beautiful day, even when wet, as long as it's not windy, I have a knack of calming people, as they look out and onto an island in the distance.

A selection of fish can be caught in my waters from gummy shark to salmon, whiting, trevally and barracouta to flathead.



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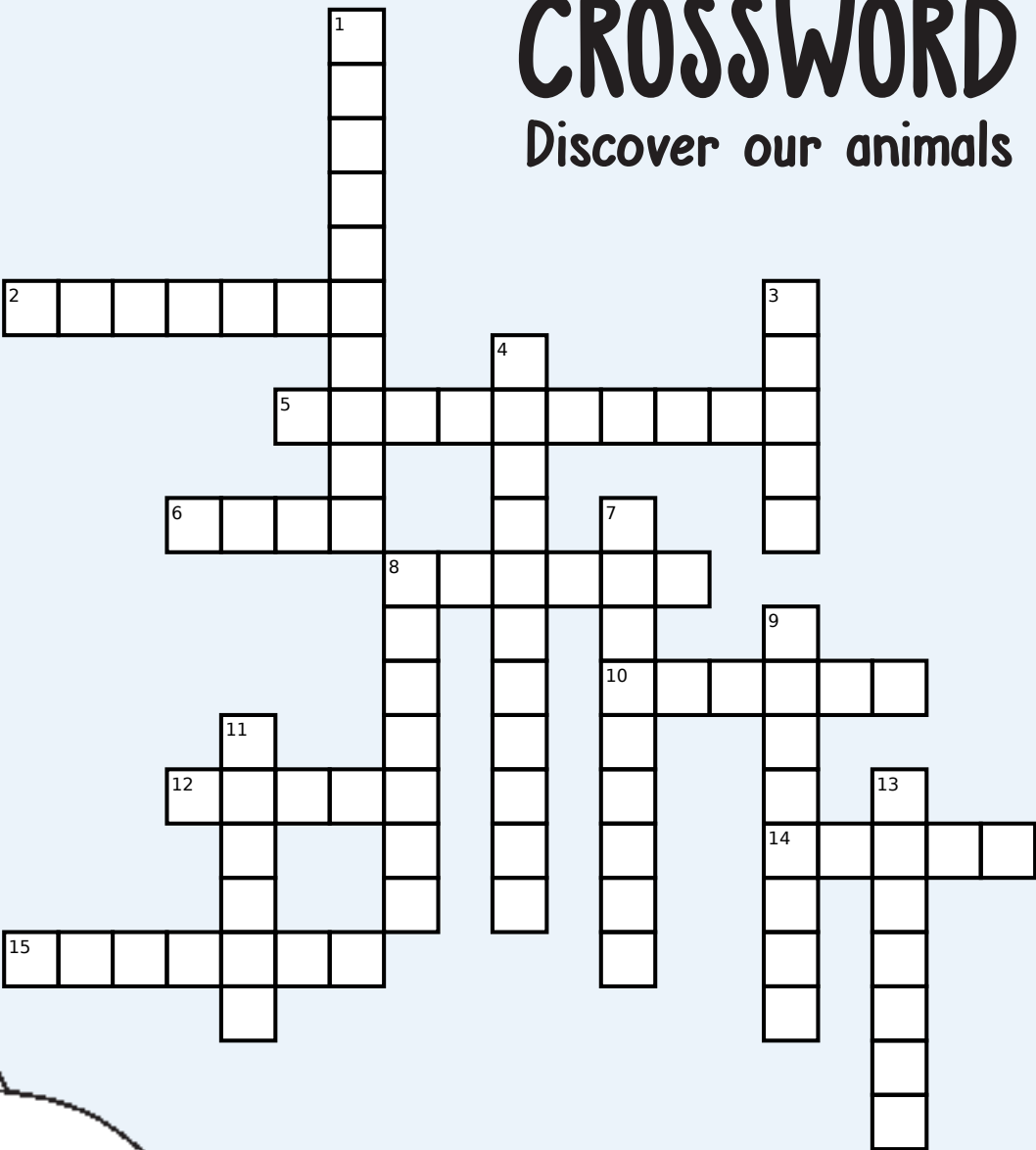
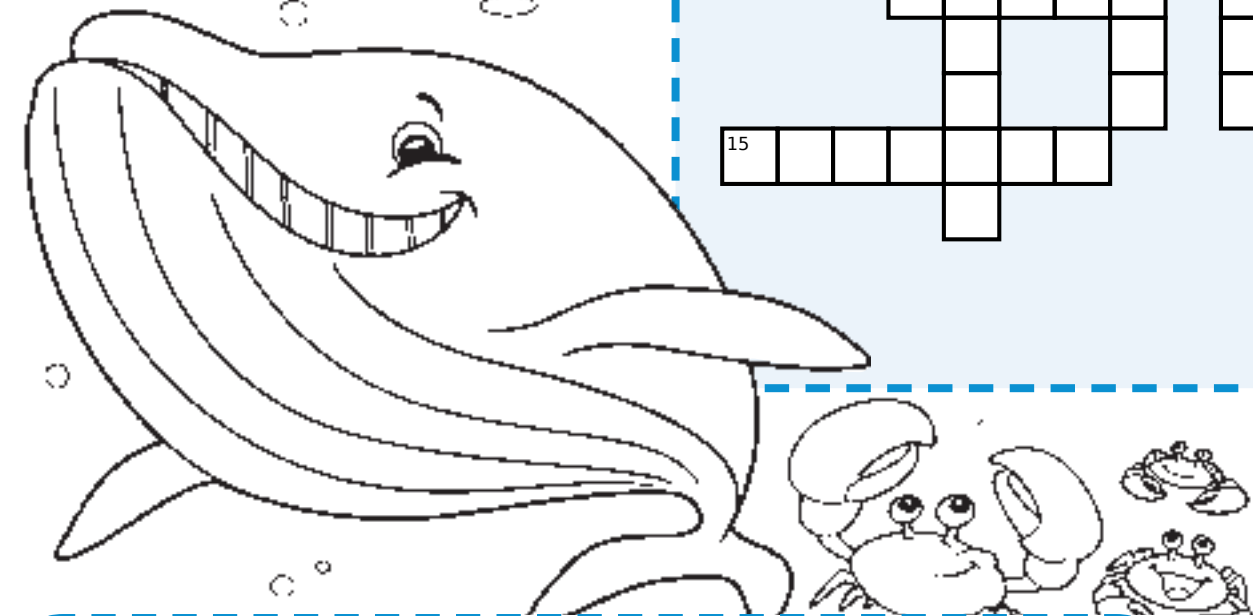
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KIDS PUZZLES CHALLENGE



Use the clues to fill in the words above.

ACROSS

- 2. A social marine mammal with high intelligence and popular boat visitors
- 5. Bird known for its loud laughing call
- 6. A mammal that lives in the sea and on rocks at The Nobbies
- 8. Herbivore marsupial that spends time in burrows and on the ground
- 10. Found in the ocean with a special shell on their back
- 12. Related to the wombat but spends its days in trees eating eucalypt leaves
- 14. A Cape Barren
- 15. Birds that can swim but not fly

DOWN

- 1. A medium-sized nocturnal animal named for its loud dog-like woof, woof call
- 3. A winter animal that migrates past our coast north from Antarctica
- 4. Often referred to as a tree goanna
- 7. A soil-dwelling terrestrial invertebrate
- 8. A smaller version of the kangaroo, the tallest marsupial with powerful legs that it uses to hop on
- 9. A flat, wide fish with long tail found near jetties
- 11. Nocturnal marsupial that lives in tree hollows and carries young in a pouch
- 13. A noisy white, grey bird that lives by the sea and steals chips!

WORD SEARCH Threatened species of Bass Coast

Words can go in any direction and can share letters as they cross over each other.

BEARDED DRAGON
BITTERN
BLACK FALCON
BROLGA
CASPIAN TERN
FAIRY TERN
GOSHAWK
GREAT KNOT
GROWLING GRASS FROG
HOODED PLOVER
LEADBEATER POSSUM
PAINTED SNIPE
PLATYPUS
POWERFUL OWL
RED KNOT
SEA CUCUMBER
SOUTHERN RIGHT WHALE
SUPERB PARROT
SWAMP SKINK
WHIMBREL

F A P V L W Z E J V S V B R C G V C R D
P S P T J I V H K G F G R E A T K N O T
E A O L F G D C S U P E R B P A R R O T
P G I U E A Y Y H R H C W H I M B R E L
O B R N T A Q G M O M J M P F G L Y Z S
W E K O T H D S F D O D Y G S B U F A W
E A B T W E E B E A M D V K N X L J E A
R R I P B L D R E H I R E A C W Q D O M
F D T L X L I S N A P R E D F V N Z K P
U E T G S R A N N R T Q Y D P Q A W Y S
L D E O I E Z C G I I E Y T K L Y J S K
O D R S U T A P K G P G R J E N O Z T I
W R N H S C A C G F R E H P T R O V F N
L A B A T D J N U J A A D T O J N T E K
N G R W L U X R S C F L S I W S N B H R
Y O O K A X R C N W U C C S N H S S O G
M N L Y T M Q U Z Z N M L O F B A U F L
F F G D Y J C Y P W P V B O N R S L M D
P L A T Y P U S O G I A L E E H O P E W
U H C A S P I A N T E R N C R J W G P S

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Exciting new menu for The Cally

WITH more than a hundred years of history and a new chef on board, The Caledonian Hotel in Wonthaggi is fast re-establishing its reputation as the Pearl of Wonthaggi.

Dating back to Wonthaggi's early coal mining days, The Cally has long been a favourite with the people of Wonthaggi. The double-fronted, two-storey, red brick-faced Federation-style building is recognised by the National Trust and has been a focal point of the town since its establishment around the turn of last century.

Stephen Easton was so impressed that he bought the business.

"We're about to celebrate our 110th anniversary," said Stephen.

"It has a long history with the people of Wonthaggi."

Back in 1915, the fare at The Caledonian was described as the best the most skilled chef can produce, with only the best brands of wines and spirits kept in stock.

Chef Shane Dight is now impressing local diners with a modern new menu that takes advantage of a wide range of high-quality produce sourced locally.

Popular throughout Spain, tapas will soon be coming to The Cally.

These festive and delicious appetisers and snacks range from bite-sized pintxos to shared small plates that make up a meal. Traditional tapas



include mixed olives, garlicky shrimp, fried baby squid, meatballs, and chorizo. Tapas go perfectly with Sangria, a traditional punch which originated in Spain and Portugal and consists of red wine and chopped fruit, often with other ingredients or spirits.

Describing his menu as rustic, Shane said it's a mix of old-school and gourmet.

The seafood basket and meat lovers grill remain all-time favourites, but there is also slow-cooked brisket in a BBQ

bourbon sauce and flake fillet steak.

Why not try a shared plate of cheese, nuts and figs or tasting plates as the perfect accompaniment to the selection of fine wines available from the hotel cellars.

Hamburgers and classic Italian arancini rice balls are also available as bar snacks.

Licensee Nicole Williams and hospitality staff member Dakota Stanbridge will make you feel more than welcome in the newly refurbished front bar or

dining room.

The Caledonian also offers traditional hotel-style accommodation upstairs.

Lunch is served from midday to 2.30pm and dinner from 5pm to 8.30pm, including an all-day Mexican theme on Tuesdays and Uber Eats available Wednesday to Sunday.

You can find The Caledonian at 153/155 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

For bookings phone 5672 2096 or email info@thecallyhotel.com.au.

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At The Wonthaggi Club – McBride Avenue

Step inside and you'll discover a weekly lineup designed to tempt you in more often.

Mondays – Curry in a Hurry & Kids Eat Free

A hearty curry for \$20 (\$14 for seniors), served all day from midday to 8pm. Plus, members enjoy Kids Eat Free with any main meal purchase.

Tuesdays – Celebrity Parmas

A new topping each week — from satay to smokehouse to loaded dim sum.
\$20 parma • \$22 with a pot
\$24 with a pint.

Wednesdays – Steak Night

Two steaks and a bottle of wine or jug of beer for \$60.
Or treat yourself solo:
steak + wine or pot for \$33 (5.30pm–8pm).

Thursdays – Seniors' Specials & Three Course Thursday

Seniors enjoy \$14 soup-and-roast, or choose from classic favourites for just \$4 more. Later, settle in for a comforting three-course soup, roast and dessert.

Fridays – The Friday Feeling

Raffles, member draws, and that unmistakable end-of-week buzz.

Sundays – Burger Special

Any burger from the menu for \$20, or \$23 with a house schooner (12pm–8pm)

At The Clubhouse – Doctor Sleeman Drive

A short drive – or leisurely golf-cart ride – brings you to a more relaxed, spacious venue wrapped in green fairways.

Tuesdays – Seniors Lunch & Tight As Dinner

A two-course soup-and-roast lunch for seniors at just \$12. Dinner brings discounted favourites with the Tight As menu.

Wednesdays – Parma Night

The parma spotlight shines here too, with takeaway available for locals and holidaymakers who prefer to dine at home.

Thursdays & Saturdays – Bistro All Day

Enjoy the bistro menu available throughout the day.

Fridays – Burger Night

Five burger varieties including a weekly special, much-loved by members and visitors alike.

Takeaway

Available Tuesday to Saturday, lunch and dinner.
Phone 5672 1437 to order.

New Year's Celebration at The Clubhouse

See out the year with Rust Bucket live, door prizes, cocktails, bistro favourites – and \$20 parmas all night. Free entry for members who book before December 30. After that: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.



Two venues, one great club, The Wonthaggi Country Club



WHAT'S your mood today?

Are you craving the energy of a much-loved bistro and sports bar in the heart of town? Or does unwinding with sweeping views over the fairways – kangaroos grazing nearby and a sunset drifting across the course – sound more your pace?

At The Wonthaggi Country Club, you don't have to choose.

With The Wonthaggi Club on McBride Avenue and The Clubhouse just moments away on Doctor Sleeman Drive, you've got two unique atmospheres under one united banner.

Wonthaggi Country Club is taking its dining experience to new heights under the innovative guidance of executive chef Subhajit Ghosh, working closely with The Clubhouse head chef Tim Beveridge. Supported by general manager Steve Curtis, the culinary team is introducing fresh ideas and global flavors across the club's two premier venues.

Chef Ghosh, who has travelled extensively to Japan, Vietnam, India, Nepal, Italy, and France, draws inspiration from diverse cuisines to create dishes that blend tradition with modern techniques. Each plate reflects his journey and passion for food, offering guests a truly memorable culinary experience.

"Our goal is to make every meal a story," said chef Ghosh.

"Working with chef Tim, we combine creativity with local flavours to deliver a new level of dining for our members and guests."

Bringing the world to the doorstep of Wonthaggi, locals and visitors alike can immerse their taste buds in flavour-filled depths that cater from carnivores to vegans, and even those who prefer gluten-free.

"In Kolkata (my hometown), we have a variety of tasty vegan and gluten-free

dishes, and I've introduced those flavours and recipes to the Club. Vegan food doesn't have to be tasteless, the Bengali Beetroot Croquettes are filled with spiced beetroot and potato and infused with a Bengali-style gunpowder marsala with a crunchy golden shell."

Korean Cheese Snow Chicken is served with an Asian slaw drizzled with the light, refreshing tastes of a Vietnamese dressing.

The coconut cream prawns are inspired by chef Ghosh's own grandmother's recipe, brought to life through coconut, garlic, poppy seed and cashews – it also happens to be gluten-free.

With quality cuts from Kilcoy Global Foods (down the road in Lance Creek), the team complements the menu with produce from the local region whenever they can.

One exception is the seafood paella, which is created through authentic spices and rice sourced from Spain; one is whisked away to coastal Valencia at first taste.

Even the linguini al granchio (crab) is finished with the depth of an in-house stock.

Lobster Mornay is back and the rich, flavourful profile of the marsala duck ragu that's infused overnight is a popular hit, alongside the pumpkin and cous cous salad.

With small share plates and even two platters on the menu, there is a dish suited to every size and palate, plus all the regular favourites this summer.

So whether it's the lively hum of McBride Avenue or the peaceful calm of the greens, The Wonthaggi Country Club has your night sorted – every night of the week. Your Club, your choice.



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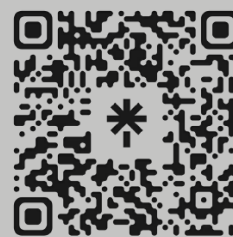


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