



It's all hands on deck as South Gippsland responds to the 'Need for Feed' for bushfire ravaged farmers in the state's north centre and east with Rye Robbins-Dickson of Korumburra and Hugo Hersey of Loch more than happy to help publicise the hay drive kicked off this week at the Korumburra Showgrounds.

# HEY, FARMERS!

- Call goes out for emergency hay donations

EMERGENCY 'Leave Immediately' warnings are still in place for the Tallangatta Valley in the state's north-east as fires continue to rage out of control there, while notices have been eased to 'Watch and Act' in the area north of Yea/Alexandra and east of Dargo in Gippsland.

Authorities have issued initial reports of the loss of 300 structures and 350,000 hectares of bush, but Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner Tim Wiebusch said on Monday this

week that the full toll on farmers and townsfolk was still being assessed.

Like many local people, South Gippsland Shire Council Mayor, Cr Nathan Hersey, wanted to know what he could do to help.

"We've got beef farmer friends who run a Lowline stud up at Gobur near Yarck, close to where there's tragically been a fatality reported," said Cr Hersey.

"They evacuated down to Frankston and watched their farm burning by video link,

thinking they'd lost their cattle and everything.

"They were only allowed back on Sunday, but it took them the whole day, until 9pm on Sunday night, through roadblocks and across paddocks, with the fire still burning in some places, before they got a look at the damage.

"A lot of their paddocks have been burnt, they've lost their sheds, equipment and feed but most of the cattle have miraculously survived, and the house is still standing.

"But it quickly became apparent that what they need is feed to keep their cattle alive."

Cr Hersey said he did a quick ring around to chase up a load or two of hay but soon discovered plenty of "really generous locals" who were willing to help.

"So, we called Graham Cockrell, the founder of the Lions' Need for Feed initiative, and he was only too happy for us to set up a hay drop-off depot at the Korumburra Showgrounds."

**Continued page 3**

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Helping out with the Korumburra Agricultural and Pastoral Society, Strzelecki Lions and Need for Feed hay drive at the Korumburra Showgrounds this week were, from left, A&P Society President Danial Robbins, Strzelecki Lions President and A&P Society Vice President Frank Hirst, youngsters Rye Robbins-Dickson and Hugo Hersey, South Gippsland Mayor and A&P Society Vice President Cr Nathan Hersey and A&P Society Secretary Shirley Arestia.

# Hey, Farmers: Call goes out for emergency hay donations

**From page 1**  
There's another at Lardner Park. Hay pick ups have also been quickly arranged on Phillip Island where Alex Scott and Staff Director Greg Price said "there hasn't been a knockback". "It's devastating what's happened to farmers, especially in the Yea, Alexander and Yack areas. "The combined agents up at Alexandra are coordinating the distribution of hay from the Alexandra Rodeo Grounds and locally Bill Cleeland and co have quickly put 40 bales together for a load and more will be coming in," said Mr Price. "We'll do a pick up here and through Need for Feed direct it to either Lardner Park or Korumburra." The Bass Coast Shire Council has contacted the members of its Rural Engagement Group to identify a hay depot locally, but in the meantime is directing donations of hay to the Korumburra Showgrounds. South Gippsland Mayor Cr Nathan Hersey said donations

from Bass Coast will be gratefully received. "The Korumburra A&P Society is partnering with the Strzelecki Lions and Need for Feed to have a local pick-up point for feed to go up to bushfire affected areas," said Cr Hersey. "I'm sure there will be a lot of opportunities for us to help with the recovery later on as well but right now there are a lot of people doing it tough, whose properties have been burnt out, and they really need feed for their cattle so that their cattle can survive and they can retain their livelihood." The Korumburra Men's Shed has also put up their hand to help as has the Korumburra Community Noticeboard Administrator, Shirley Arestia, also secretary of the Korumburra A&P Society, who has posted online and agreed to take messages from those farmers wanting to use the unloading tractor provided at the showgrounds by Nyora dairy farmer Chris Lancey. "People who want to drop off hay, round or square bales, can

call Shirley Arestia on 0438 551 207 if they want to get the keys for the easy-to-operate tractor. "Or if they have 20 or more round bales to donate, they can go straight to the 'Need for Feed' website, register their interest and they'll come to your place and pick it up, and also coordinate pick-ups in your area," said Cr Hersey. The tractor, with unloading equipment attached, is expected to be available from 8.30am on Tuesday morning, January 14. Need for Feed, which has a successful history of working with local farmers, thankfully taking away donated hay more often than needing to bring it in, also has a 'donate' button on its website for those keen to make a cash donation towards the cost of fuel or truck hire to get the hay to where it needs to go. Check out the Need for Feed website at: <https://www.needforfeed.org/> On Saturday, a State of Emergency was declared in 18 local government areas including the following: Alpine Shire, Colac Otway Shire, East Gippsland Shire,

Greater Bendigo City, Mount Alexander Shire, Strathbogie Shire and the Wellington Shire. President of the Bass Coast branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Peter Miller said the federation also coordinated, transported and distributed hay, often marrying up the donated hay, directly with the farmer in need. "They've got an arrangement where I'm pretty sure the government pays for the transport and in the past, they've distributed a lot of hay," said Mr Miller. Call the VFF on 1300 882 833 or email them at [vff@vff.org.au](mailto:vff@vff.org.au) with your details. The VFF has also opened donations for its Disaster Relief Fund to provide immediate, farmer-led support to producers impacted. Donations are 100 per cent tax deductible and go directly to those impacted by the fires, with every dollar donated going towards helping farming families get back on their feet. You can donate at: <https://www.vff.org.au/vffdisasterrelief-fund/>

## Teens charged over Wonthaggi Wetlands arson

THREE teenagers have been charged over a deliberate fire in the Wonthaggi Wetlands Reserve lit just hours before Victoria faced its most dangerous bushfire conditions since Black Friday. Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit detectives arrested the trio in the days after the Tuesday night blaze, which broke out on a boardwalk in the reserve shortly before 8pm on January 6. The alleged arson occurred less than five hours before a Total Fire Ban came into effect across the Central district, with temperatures hitting a scorching 41 degrees on the Wednesday. Wonthaggi Police Sergeant Timothy Ryan told The Sentinel-Times only the lack of wind prevented the fire from becoming a disaster. "It was a significant risk because of the area, but because there was no wind the fire didn't spread quickly," Sgt Ryan said. "Police are committed to stopping this reckless behaviour and ensuring that lives are not lost and our beautiful flora and fauna is not destroyed by offenders." Police from Wonthaggi and Cowes stations responded alongside volunteer firefighters from Wonthaggi Fire Brigade, who took about an hour to bring the blaze under control. The fire partially destroyed the boardwalk, with damage estimated to be far in excess of \$80,000. Bass Coast Shire Council closed the affected section of the boardwalk while assessments and repairs were undertaken. A 14-year-old boy from the Bass Coast area has been charged with theft and criminal damage by fire, while a second 14-year-old boy faces a charge of criminal damage by fire. Both have been bailed to appear at the Korumburra Children's Court on February 2. A 13-year-old girl is expected to be charged with criminal damage and appear in court at a later date. Sgt Ryan praised community members who remained at the scene and provided crucial information to investigators. "Thank you to all in the community who helped your local police and firefighters on the night and provided information about the alleged offenders and their actions. "The many witnesses who stayed around gave us a good starting point for the arrest of the offenders."

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6 Day  
Weather  
Forecast

SOUTH  
GIPPSLAND



**TUE | Jan 13**  
Cloudy.  
Wind AM: S 15-20km/h  
Wind PM: Light  
14° **23°**



**WED | Jan 14**  
Partly Cloudy.  
Wind AM: SE 20-30km/h  
Wind PM: SE 20-30km/h  
13° **26°**



**THUR | Jan 15**  
Showers.  
Wind AM: E-SE 25-35km/h  
Wind PM: E-SE 25-35km/h  
16° **24°**



**FRI | Jan 16**  
Partly Cloudy.  
Wind AM: SE 25-35km/h  
Wind PM: SE-E 25-35km/h  
14° **24°**



**SAT | Jan 17**  
Partly Cloudy.  
Wind AM: E 25-40km/h  
Wind PM: E 25-40km/h  
14° **25°**



**SUN | Jan 18**  
Partly Cloudy.  
Wind AM: E 25-35km/h  
Wind PM: E 25-35km/h  
14° **25°**

IN BRIEF

Classic dinghy regatta  
returns to Inverloch

THE 12th year of classic dinghy sailing at Inverloch is just weeks away with the Inverloch Classic Dinghy Regatta set for Saturday and Sunday, February 14 and 15.

The event marks the Sailfish class 70th anniversary.

Saturday's schedule includes boat display on the beach from 11.30am, two races in the afternoon and music by the Wonthaggi Band from 4.30pm.

Sunday features the dinghy swap meet from 9.30am, two more races and presentations at 3pm.

Dinner places are limited so book with entry.

For more information go to [sgyc.inverloch.com.au](http://sgyc.inverloch.com.au)

Baths Rd Reserve  
working bee

GRAB your gardening gloves and get along to the first Baths Rd Reserve working bee of 2026 on Sunday, January 25 from 10am to noon.

Meet at the picnic tables near the corner of Baths Rd and Ridgway, Mirboo North.

The working bee will go for a maximum of two hours with tea and cake afterwards.

Bring gardening gloves, a hat, protective clothes, a water bottle and sturdy shoes.

New volunteers welcome.  
Enquiries to [mmnlandcare@hotmail.com](mailto:mmnlandcare@hotmail.com)

Lyrebird documentary  
at Fish Creek

AN award-winning Australian documentary exploring the mimicry abilities of lyrebirds screens at Fish Creek Memorial Hall on Thursday, January 29 from 6pm to 9.30pm.

The film takes viewers deep into the native forests of Australia, where a scientist, a lyrebird sound recordist, an activist and a Knowledge Holder help us understand the lyrebird's sophisticated artwork and what its message may be for humanity.

Tickets available at [sgln.org.au](http://sgln.org.au)

Geology walk at  
Wilsons Promontory

GEOLOGIST and palaeontologist Mike Cleeland will lead a community walk from the Tidal River campground on Thursday, January 15 from 2.30pm to 5pm.

The walk will follow the geological features described in local geologist Gary Wallis' booklet Wilsons Promontory – Geology Guide.

A copy of the guidebook is included in your booking.

The free event is part of Coastcare's Summer by the Sea program and is hosted by Prom Coast Ecolink, Friends of the Prom and Fish Creek Landcare Group.

Junior surfing titles  
come to Phillip Island

THE 2026 Victorian surfing calendar kicks off at the end of January with the No TXT No Wrecks Victorian Junior Surfing Titles.

The three-round series begins at Bells Beach on January 31, followed by the Mornington Peninsula on March 14 and 15, with Phillip Island hosting the final round on May 9 and 10.

Divisions include Under 14, Under 16 and Under 18 for boys and girls, with top surfers awarded a place in the Victorian Surfing Team.

Entries are open at [surfingvic.com/events](http://surfingvic.com/events)

Crime statistics rise  
across Gippsland

LATEST crime statistics show offending continues to rise across Gippsland.

Figures from the Crime Statistics Agency showed Wellington local government area experienced a 59 per cent increase in serious assault offences over the past year.

In Latrobe, retail theft rose 72 per cent.

South Gippsland residents faced rising levels of residential burglary, up more than 26 per cent over the past 12 months, including a 100 per cent increase in aggravated burglary.

Free blind safety  
kits available

GIPPSLAND South MP Danny O'Brien is encouraging residents to take advantage of free blind safety kits from Consumer Affairs Victoria.

Each kit contains five plastic safety devices, screws and instructions to secure blind and curtain cords.

Unsecured cords claim the lives of up to two Australian children every year.

Residents can request a kit online at [forms.consumer.vic.gov.au/cb](http://forms.consumer.vic.gov.au/cb) or visit Mr O'Brien's electorate office at 54B Cunningham Street, Sale for assistance.

Gippsland Water  
urges conservation

GIPPSLAND Water is reminding customers to use water wisely during hot weather.

High demand during heat-wave periods can put pressure on water systems.

Permanent water saving rules include using a hand-held hose only if fitted with a trigger nozzle, watering gardens with sprinklers only between 6pm and 10am, and not using water to clean hard surfaces like driveways.

Customers can report leaks or main breaks by calling 1800 057 057.

For tips visit [gippswater.com.au/reduceyouruse](http://gippswater.com.au/reduceyouruse)

Volunteering  
Gippsland training

VOLUNTEERING Gippsland is offering a series of training opportunities for community groups.

Sessions include Pitch Perfect: Writing Winning Grants on Wednesday, February 11, Volunteer Life Cycle on Tuesday, March 17, Next Steps: Your Roadmap to Community Success on Tuesday, April 21 and Power in Partnership on Tuesday, May 26.

All sessions run from 6pm to 8pm. Register at [volunteering-gippsland.org.au](http://volunteering-gippsland.org.au)

Farming fundamentals  
webinar series

THE VFF's Stock Sense team is hosting a free farming fundamentals webinar series on January 21, 22, 28 and 29 from 6pm to 7.30pm.

Topics include getting started and owning or buying a farm, getting livestock ready, animal health nutrition and welfare, and regenerative futures and smarter farm planning.

Speakers include Christine Gorman, Dr Andrea Redgewell and Peter Ronalds.

Register at [vff.org.au](http://vff.org.au)

Summer by the Sea

NOW in its 30th year, Summer by the Sea offers free educational activities along Victoria's coastline until Saturday, January 18.

The 2026 theme is The Coast, the Sea, and our Community.

More than 100 free activities are hosted by environmental organisations across 2,500km of the Victorian coast.

Summer by the Sea is funded by Coastcare Victoria and the Victorian Government.

View the full program at [marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/summerbythesea](http://marineandcoasts.vic.gov.au/summerbythesea)

Lifesavers warn  
of drowning risk

LIFE Saving Victoria is urging the community to keep water safety front of mind during hot weather.

Drownings and water-related incidents tend to increase significantly during heat-waves.

Life Saving Victoria recommends swimming at patrolled locations between the red and yellow flags, supervising children at all times, swimming with a friend, avoiding alcohol before going in the water and checking conditions before entering unfamiliar beaches or waterways.

Check the BeachSafe app or [beachsafe.org.au](http://beachsafe.org.au) for safe swimming locations.

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# Rise and rise of family violence

THE first full day of hearings at the Korumburra Court House last Thursday was dominated by family violence matters, especially breaches of intervention orders.

It's hardly surprising.

The most recent Crime Statistics Agency data for Victoria, for the year ending September 2025, released just before Christmas, painted an alarming picture of an 8 per cent rise in family violence incidents as part of an overall increase in crime statewide.

It recorded a new high of 106,430 incidents in the state in 2024-25.

Locally, breaches in family violence intervention orders were by far the highest offence category in both the Bass Coast and South Gippsland local government areas where the incidence of family violence offences increased by 2 per cent in Bass Coast but dropped by 5.1 per cent in South Gippsland.

Among the cases considered at Korumburra last week was one where the alleged offender was facing 37 breaches of a family violence order, ultimately reduced to five breaches, for responding to some of the 34,000 text messages he received from the protected person, often replying simply with a 'thumbs up' or other emoji acknowledgement.

The couple also met up for a mail delivery.

In another case, an application was being made for the extension of an order which included the couple's children.

It prompted Korumburra Magistrate Samantha Poulter to issue a warning with wider implications for a community in a family violence crisis.

After asking the defendant, in an application for a final family violence order, if he had children, Magistrate Poulter offered some advice.

"Family violence has a significant impact on children," said Magistrate Poulter.



Senior Sergeant Jason Hullick said the amount of time committed by police to addressing family violence and breaches of intervention orders indicated how seriously they take their responsibilities in this regard.

"I can't impress on you enough the imperative of not dealing with your issues (by fighting or arguing) in front of the children."

According to police, children and young people can be directly targeted by family violence or they experience family violence indirectly when the harm is directed at someone else.

In both cases, the experience can impact the health and development of children and young people.

Asked about the response to family violence locally and the amount of police time committed to dealing with the issue, Senior Sergeant at Wonthaggi, Jason Hullick, acknowledged it formed a significant part of police work.

"Responding to reported incidents of family violence does take up a large amount of police time, however, this is indicative of how seriously we take these matters and whilst family violence continues to occur in the

community we will continue to provide a policing response," said Senior Sergeant Hullick.

Are FVIOs overused or a good mechanism for police to reduce incidents and manage behaviour?

"I wouldn't necessarily say that."

"FVIOs are a part of a suite of options to combat family violence, and they do play an important part in protecting victims of family violence."

"When there is an active order in place it allows police to act and hold respondents to account of their behaviour and put them before the court for breaching the conditions of the order if that is deemed to be the most appropriate course of action."

Could more be done to make parties to family violence orders more aware of the seriousness of these orders?

"Whenever a person is issued an FVIO, whether that be by the court or police, the conditions are fully

explained along with the consequences of breaching the order.

"The orders have plenty of written information on them also outlining the seriousness of breaching the order and whilst we would welcome any new ideas to improve the processes, there is also an expectation that people are responsible for their own actions and are accountable for that."

What can be done to reduce the incidence of family violence offences and breaches of orders?

"There are several referral agencies that are available for both respondents and victims that can assist with education, counselling and general support and we always give people the options to engage with these services to assist in managing family violence incidents."

"We do find that when people get involved with the support agencies and are open to their suggestions and assistance, there can be positive outcomes which at times do lead to a reduction in reported incidents between those parties."

"It does take a commitment to get to that point, but it is certainly worth the effort."

Are there any new policing methods to address family violence?

"Police are always undergoing training to assist in our response to family violence and new methods are always looked at and trialled."

"Overall, our response to family violence is pretty consistent with what we have been doing for the past few years but, as previously stated, we are really pushing for referrals and support for all parties involved as education, accountability and follow-up contact are just as important as the initial police response."

**If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence, contact 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732) or Lifeline on 13 11 14.**

## Storm cuts power to 5000 locals

MORE than 5000 Ausnet customers in three Bass Coast areas were without power last Saturday morning as a result of an overnight storm involving strong winds and thousands of lightning strikes.

However, while San Remo, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai and Churchill Island were without power until midday in some areas, it was still full steam ahead with the ninth Ocean Sounds Music Festival.

"These music events are completely self-sufficient as far as services are concerned, including power," said one of the festival organisers Aiden McLaren.

"So, apart from not being able to have a shower at home this morning, it's all good for today," he said.

But elsewhere, the power outage was causing problems for business operators in particular trying to cater to a bumper holiday crowd.

According to Ausnet spokesperson Karen Winsbury, speaking on ABC Radio, the faults in the affected areas were caused by lightning strikes and fallen trees.

Reports were of 32,000 customers out across the Ausnet service area, including the fire zones, but a significant number of those were in Bass Coast as follows:

744 Glen Alvie to Outtrim area including Kongwak and Glen Alvie.

2192 Woolamai area impacting Coronet Bay, Kilcunda and Wonthaggi North.

2397 Dalyston to Surf Beach affecting San Remo, Newhaven and Cape Woolamai. As late as Sunday night, 28 customers in the Pound Creek-Leongatha South area and 170 in an area north of Toora were still without power.

## America plays catch-up with Aussie slang

By Bruce Wardley

YEARS after local farmers invented terms such as farm fresh, farm-to-fork and paddock to plate, American consumers have now come up with their own version.

Farm-to-table is now widely used to describe food that is sold directly to consumers.

Although strictly not farmers, local meat and vegetable processors could be well advised to adopt the American slang if the United States is their target market.

Merriam-Webster's first new Collegiate Dictionary in 22 years has also offered other insights into how American English has evolved over the past two decades.

New words added to the American vocabulary include teraflop, a measure of computer calculating speed, telework reflecting changing work trends, cold brew for coffee steeped 12 to 24 hours at room temperature or below, and friend zone which is a state of friendship where one person's romantic interest is not returned.

Farmers will be pleased to know the affectionate slang Doggo, first popularised by Australians who have a tendency to add 'o' to words like journo and arvo, has also been adopted into American culture as a relaxed term to describe man's best friend.




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## Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



AS I write this message, there are no active bushfires within Bass Coast.

That is reassuring, but it does not mean the risk has passed.

We still have many weeks of summer ahead, and across Victoria we are seeing just how quickly conditions can change.

Many regions and communities across the state have already been impacted by bushfires this season.

We acknowledge the immense challenges they are facing — from the immediate threat to homes and livelihoods, to the long and difficult recovery that follows once the fires are out.

Our thoughts are with those communities, and with the emergency services and volunteers working tirelessly to protect lives and property.

We know that the impacts of bushfire are not confined to the days of an event, but can be felt for months and years afterwards.

Bushfire season is a time for all of us to stay informed, remain alert and be prepared.

Preparation is one of the most powerful things we can do to protect ourselves, our families and our communities.

I strongly encourage everyone to download the VicEmergency app and set up local alerts for the places that matter to you — your home, workplace, school or places you regularly visit.

Timely information saves lives.

You can also access up-to-date local information through Bass Coast Shire Council's Emergency Dashboard at [emergency.basscoast.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.basscoast.vic.gov.au), which brings together warnings, advice

and local updates in one place.

Behind the scenes, Council officers have undertaken significant preparation in the lead-up to the summer fire season and recent severe weather events.

Our Municipal Emergency Management Plans are in place, regularly reviewed and refined to ensure they remain effective as conditions and risks change.

During an emergency, Council's responsible officers are well trained and work closely with emergency services and partner agencies to support the community.

Community hubs are another important part of our local emergency response.

These hubs provide places of connection, information and support during and after an emergency, particularly for people who may need extra assistance.

I also want to acknowledge the dedication of our local CFA volunteers.

While Bass Coast has not been directly impacted by fires at this time, some of our volunteers are currently assisting with firefighting efforts elsewhere in Victoria.

The key message this summer is preparedness.

Council is prepared, and we ask residents to be prepared too.

Take time to review your bushfire plan, check your property, talk with your family and neighbours, and make sure you know where to find trusted information.

By staying informed, looking out for one another and being ready, we strengthen our community's ability to face whatever this season brings.

# Bass Coast exposed to potential tourism shocks

By Bruce Wardley

BASS Coast's heavy reliance on the tourist industry means it is twice as vulnerable as South Gippsland to shifting visitor demand and external shocks impacting on tourism.

An economic resilience report provided to local government has recognised the role tourism plays in generating employment and supporting local economies.

The Bass Coast economy was found to have a 7.6 per cent exposure to housing pressures and workforce shortages compared to 4.2 per cent for South Gippsland.

Since the sharp fall in tourist numbers during COVID-19 the local tourism sector has rebounded strongly.

However the local government sector has been warned regions such as Bass Coast that are heavily reliant on tourism remain exposed if demand slows again.

The report highlighted the sector's vulnerability to external economic shocks and the reliance of communities on local tourism jobs.

Shifting visitor preferences toward short trips, eco-tourism and immersive experiences have been shown to require new investment, while strong visitation growth is adding pressure on housing, services and infrastructure in many communities.

"Tourism's rebound created opportunities but also exposed potential risks."

Climate risks are also making tourism assets increasingly vulnerable.

Local councils have been warned



Jake Griffin, Lana Wallace, Sharon Griffin, Ryan Yeo, Ebony Griffin and baby Harvey enjoying a camping holiday at Inverloch. B03\_0226

building economic resilience means understanding the risks and taking them into consideration when creating tourism strategies.

"Tourism is just one piece of the puzzle, in the coming years, factors such as climate change, AI, global markets and demographic shifts will all influence local economies."

Ingenia Holidays Inverloch has reported one of their busiest years since COVID. "We've been booked out since the start of summer," said Park Supervisor Kate Greig.

"No vacancies for weekend cabins until after Easter."

A small number of mid-week vacancies are available after school holidays.

Catering for families at Ingenia Holidays has ensured kids never get bored.

"There's lots of family stuff to do," Kate said.

The foreshore camping ground has been fully booked all summer with a very limited number of available powered sites.

"They're a very good bunch of campers," Kate said.

Kate's advice is to book for next year with bookings for 2027 open from February 4.

Park Manager Kristian Nielsen said Ingenia Holidays had been a lot busier than last year. "We've provided extra cabins and sites to cater for the increased demand," he said.

## Concern over fire damage to Wonthaggi wetlands walking bridge

By Bruce Wardley

WONTHAGGI author Terri Allen has expressed her concern over the damage caused by a recent fire on a walking bridge in the Wonthaggi wetlands.

Ms Allen said the wooden bridge had been built and put there by volunteer labour.

Speaking about the legacy of Wonthaggi's wetlands as part of a 15 Minutes of History talk at the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society, Ms Allen called for greater awareness of the importance of the wetlands.

"The birdlife is outstanding for local people regularly walking through the wetlands and for tourists, my favourite are the kingfishers," Ms Allen said.

More than 300 acres of heathlands was compulsorily acquired by the State Government and some was sold off very cheaply when the State Coal Mine closed in 1968.

Many community groups including local schools, sporting clubs and the Wonthaggi Seed Bank assisted with the planting of seedlings to regenerate the

heathlands.

"We have an exceptional town here," Ms Allen said.

The first big plant was in the early 1980s followed by a second big plant at Baxters Wetlands in 1984 when 1,000 trees were planted and propagated.

The next big plant was at the Wonthaggi Rifle Club when 23 hectares of land was direct seeded.

Ms Allen said the Wonthaggi wetlands face a number of problems including weed infestation with the invasive weed species *Disa bracteata*, also known as the South African orchid, and *Pittosporum undulatum* commonly called Sweet Pittosporum.

Ms Allen said the Yallock-Bulluk Marine and Coastal Park network of trails connecting San Remo to Inverloch and other inland areas including parts of the Bass Coast Rail Trail through Wonthaggi need to be completed.

"Cycling and walkways need to linked

up and speeds limited on rural roads."

Terri Allen's Walking Wonthaggi's Wetlands book is available from the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society at the Wonthaggi Railway Museum in Murray Street.

A summer showcase series spotlighting historic items of interest at the museum will continue this week with a presentation on miners equipment and tools (Tuesday, January 13), the story of bullock wagons (Wednesday, January 14), Italians making do (Thursday, January 15), Wreck Beach shipwreck history (Friday, January 16) and Wonthaggi Co-op store (Saturday, January 17).

The Wonthaggi and District Historical Society museum is open daily from 11am to 1pm until Saturday, January 17.

For more information about the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society look for Wonthaggi and District Historical Society on Facebook or go to [wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au](http://wonthaggihistoricalsociety.org.au)

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It was hot and hectic at the Inverloch surf beach for lifeguards Josh Oftopoulos and Daniel Dagleish as they helped manage the Inverloch SLSC nippers program. B10\_0226

# Inverloch SLSC nippers program continues to impress

THE shifting sands of the Inverloch surf beach failed to deter the enthusiasm of hundreds of children taking part in the Inverloch SLSC nippers program.

On the hottest and one of the busiest days of the year, Inverloch lifeguards Milla Laub and Sophia Hungerford were out on the beach encouraging everyone to swim safely.

“It’s been smooth sailing so far,” Milla said.

“Swim between the flags, slip on a shirt, slop on some sunscreen and slap on a hat.”

Inverloch SLSC nippers

**By Bruce Wardley**

program age managers Monique Hanley and Kate Simnett said the Inverloch nippers program had been an outstanding success.

“The kids all aged from four to seven have progressed really well,” Monique said.

“Why not come and join us?”

The Inverloch SLSC Nippers Program is an intensive program run over two weeks after Christmas with a focus on surf education and having fun.

Parents Tam and Aaron

Gooley described the nippers program as amazing.

“It’s very well run, it’s all about water safety.”

The Nipper program aims to teach children surf-safety awareness, surf skills, lifesaving skills, teamwork and limited competition skills.

Nippers learn to identify beach hazards such as rips and gain a basic knowledge of resuscitation and first aid skills.

Nippers can go on to become active members in the lifesaving club in a variety of ways, including Surf Rescue Certificate (minimum age 13 years), Bronze Medallion (minimum age 15 years), patrolling the beach as an active patrol member, helping run nippers as either junior leaders or water safety YIPS (Youth Involvement Program), and U13, U15 and 18-25 Development Camps through Lifesaving Victoria.

To enquire about the Inverloch SLSC nippers program go to [isls.org.au/lifesaving/education/nippers/](http://isls.org.au/lifesaving/education/nippers/) or look for the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club Community Page on Facebook.

## Westpac Rescue Helicopter visits Venus Bay Nippers

By Andrew Paloczi

VENUS Bay Surf Life Saving Club’s Nippers had a day they won’t forget, with the Westpac Rescue Helicopter visiting the beach to deliver a special surf safety demonstration and give junior lifesavers a rare behind-the-scenes look at one of Australia’s most important emergency response services.

For the nearly 200 young members in the Venus Bay Nippers program, the visit was a powerful reminder that surf safety is a team effort, from the red and yellow flags on the sand through to the helicopter crews who respond when things go wrong offshore.

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter service plays a vital role in protecting local communities and visitors, providing rapid response for marine rescues, medical emergencies, and search and rescue operations across Victoria’s coastline and waterways.


The ability to reach remote areas quickly and deliver specialist care can make the difference when every minute counts.

Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club President Kimberley Gee said the visit was both inspiring and educational for the club’s Nippers and their families.

“Our Nippers were incredibly lucky to have the Westpac Rescue Helicopter visit Venus Bay, and it’s not every day you get to see a service like that up close,” Ms Gee said. “They do an amazing job keeping our waterways safe, and today gave our junior members a real appreciation for the teamwork and skill involved in rescues.”

Ms Gee noted that the Nippers program provides an important pathway into lifesaving, also expressing pride in the role Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club plays in keeping beach users safe.

The recent demonstration formed part of the club’s ongoing commitment to surf education and building the next generation of lifesavers.




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# A great day out at Korumburra Swap Meet

By Andrew Paloczi

KORUMBURRA Swap Meet organisers were blessed with mild and pleasant weather on Sunday after recent searing summer heat and strong winds, the town's Showgrounds packed with stalls, cars and attendees.

Barry Ferguson of the South Gippsland Branch of the Gippsland Historical Automobile Club, which runs the day, expressed his appreciation to all the volunteers and participating community groups along with everyone who supported the event.

He is confident the number of cars on display was the highest ever, saying while he didn't yet have a figure, "the oval was chock-a-block".

The numerous stalls around the ground offered an array of car parts, home and garden items, and collectables such as old signs.

Don Mahoney of Yarra Valley based Oldies Collectables offered a good selection of signs, along with militaria and other items, the business running monthly auctions.

As well as the many cars at the Showgrounds to be admired, some were available to own.

Alan Ironside's 1914 Briton car, bought by his father in the 1950s and still in terrific condition, was up for sale.



Jeanett and Arthur Trezise with their eye-catching 1958 Chevrolet Apache. A25\_0226

"It's fun to drive," Alan said, remarking that "once you're coasting, you need to hang onto the steering wheel tight".

Arthur and Jeanett Trezise were easy to spot as they arrived in their Truck Orange coloured 1958 Chevrolet Apache, the stunning vehicle's first visit to the Korumburra Swap Meet.

"We built it from the ground up," Arthur said, explaining that was largely an enjoyable process, although changing the vehicle to right hand drive was a less pleasant challenge.

The overall project took

about three and a half years.

Sentinel-Times spotted Werribee's Bill De Kaste towing a large cast iron object in a trolley, learning it was a functional metal folder, being suited to brass work which he enjoys.

He labelled the \$150 price a bargain, delighted to now have a larger metal folder than the one he already possessed.

Bill comes to the Korumburra Swap Meet every year.

"You always find something here," he said, also enjoying mixing with others at the event, noting "it's a good crowd".

He's far from alone in returning annually, Barry delighted to hear many people say, "we'll see you next year," as they farewelled the volunteers.

Money raised through entry and stall holder fees helps run the Leongatha-based South Gippsland Branch of the car club.

For the last three years, there has also been a special stall set up for a chosen charity, this year the money helping support children with cancer, the items for sale donated by car club members and others.

## Most following pipi rules VFA says

FISHERIES Officers patrolling Venus Bay have found high overall compliance by those collecting pipis, a popular summer pastime with the shellfish used for bait or a tasty seafood meal.

"Patrols indicate that most fishers are doing the right thing by using their hands and feet to collect pipis and abiding by the daily bag limit at Venus Bay of two litres of whole pipis or half a litre of shucked pipis," a Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) spokesperson said.

There has also been a high level of compliance with the need to hold a fishing licence.

However, some warnings have been issued to fishers using digging implements rather than only their hands and feet to collect pipis.

The VFA says that the recreational pipi fishery at Venus Bay is sustainable and the current bag limit shares the resource fairly.

Sentinel-Times contacted the organisation after seeing concerns expressed by people on the Tarwin Lower/Venus Bay Community Voice Facebook page about the level of pipi gathering occurring locally.

## Pound Creek tops 40 degrees

ON a day when much of the state was rated as catastrophic, temperatures in Bass Coast and South Gippsland topped the 40 degree mark in some locations, with the Pound Creek weather station near Inverloch recording 40.7C at 3.40pm or 105.26 in the old Fahrenheit measure.

However, as the change approached, with light showers in Wonthaggi at 4.15pm on Friday, January 10, and temps plummeting from 6pm onwards, there were no signs of bushfires in either Bass Coast or South Gippsland.

However, while the weather settled down initially, a storm front came through in the early hours of Saturday morning, knocking out power to more than 5000 Bass Coast customers.

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# South Gippsland Shire Council News

## Australia Day in South Gippsland

Australia Day in South Gippsland is shaping up to be a day of community and celebration, with events taking place across many of our towns. Join us on Monday, 26 January, for breakfast gatherings, sausage sizzles, local awards, entertainment, and community spirit. Here’s a snapshot of the day’s events.

### Dumbalk

Australia Day BBQ at Dumbalk Memorial Park from 6.30pm.

### Foster

Australia Day activities outside the Foster and District Historical Museum from 1.00pm.

### Kongwak

Australia Day breakfast at the Kongwak Public Hall from 8.30am.

### Korumburra

Australia Day BBQ and activities at Coleman Park from 11.00am.

### Leongatha

Australia Day morning tea and citizenship ceremony at McIndoe Park from 8.30am.

### Meenivan

Relaxed Australia Day celebration at Tanderra Park from 9.30am.

### Mirboo North

Australia Day celebration and morning tea at Baromi Centre from 10.30am.

### Tarwin Lower

Australia Day BBQ at the Long Table (Tarwin River Boat Ramp) from 12.00pm.

### Venus Bay

Australia Day breakfast at the Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club from 9.00am.

### Welshpool

Australia Day family day at the Welshpool Park from 11.00am.

For more information and to map out your Australia Day in South Gippsland, please visit:

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

## Australia Day Awards



Come along and celebrate the 2026 South Gippsland Australia Day Awards at the Meenivan Hall on Wednesday 14 January from 6.30pm.

On the evening, we will celebrate our nominees in each category and announce the winners of the following awards:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year.

Read about our nominees at: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday)

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

To watch the meeting live or when it suits you, visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/live)

### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a new job? We might have the perfect position for you! Check out our current vacant positions here:

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

### AUSTRALIA DAY PHOTO COMPETITION

South Gippsland Shire Council is once again running the Australia Day Photo Competition. The theme for this year’s competition is ‘Australia Day: South Gippsland - Our Home’.

There are cash prizes to be won, so unleash your inner photographer this January and submit your photos.

For more information and to submit your photos, please visit:

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

### REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

RFT/456 – Construction of Longstaff Rd Landslip Repair

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 20 January 2025.

Documentation is available from Council’s e-Tendering Portal: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders)

### CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha  
03 5662 9200  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)



# Boasty Roasty ready to brighten your day in beautiful Korumburra

By Andrew Paloczi

KORUMBURRA'S Boasty Roasty will soon be South Gippsland Shire's first coffee roasting business, the café side of the operation already proving popular with those in the town's industrial estate and others who have heard positive word of mouth.

Husband and wife team Phill Dempster and Ali Smith, already known to many through their time at Burra Brewery, have shifted their focus to coffee, running Boasty Roasty.

Ms Smith's dad Tim Smith is part of the team, making this journo a delightful toasted sandwich during a recent visit, Ms Smith adding to the experience with her barista skills.

The coffee roaster is already onsite but is awaiting commissioning.

Although in the industrial estate, the business is visible from South Gippsland Highway, the building proving ideal, providing a welcoming open and light space with outside seating and carparking, the site also having a gas connection needed for the coffee roaster.

Ms Smith and Mr Dempster were inspired by coffee cultures they have experienced during their travels in places such as Vietnam and the USA.

Along with espresso machine brews, Boasty Roasty



Phill Dempster, and Tim and Ali Smith look forward to welcoming you to Boasty Roasty in the Korumburra industrial estate. A01\_0226

also offers Vietnamese-style coffee made with the traditional Phin.

"It makes a bold condensed milk style coffee," Mr Dempster said of the Vietnamese approach, noting the popularity of single origin robusta beans in that nation.

Interestingly, the couple visited quite a few businesses in America that brew beer and roast coffee, Mr Dempster noting the similarity in the processes used.

He and Ms Smith are excited about their new venture and look forward to introducing their own coffees when

the roaster is operational.

A signature blend will combine Colombian, Brazilian and Ethiopian beans and there will also be single origin options.

Boasty Roasty has been working closely with Commonfolk Coffee in Mornington, learning from the team there and using that business' beans in the café while waiting to start roasting in Korumburra.

On the food side, Ms Smith enjoys baking tasty treats.

There is a focus on high quality fillings in the sourdough toasted sandwiches,

with a variety of cheeses sourced through Trulli in Meeniyan, while meat comes from an artisan butcher in Melbourne.

Local desire for tasty, filling food with no long wait times prompted the decision not to have a short-order kitchen serving options such as bacon and eggs.

Boasty Roasty, located at 2 Sanders Street Korumburra, is ready to start people's day on a positive note, opening bright and early at 6am Monday to Friday, 7am Saturday and 8am on Sunday, closing 2pm daily.

## Concerns about council expenditure on Foster site

By Andrew Paloczi

ARDENT South Gippsland Shire Council watcher Kris Crichton is concerned about council's use of ratepayers' money on the 4-6 Power Street Foster property purchased in 2020 as an intended replacement council depot, but remaining vacant despite undergoing extensive works.

The plan to relocate the Foster depot from its existing Pioneer Street site was prompted by multiple factors.

These included the possibility of expanding the town centre into that area, the proximity of the depot to houses and Foster Secondary College, and the desire to get trucks out of the Foster CBD. However, following works on the Power Street building costing in the vicinity of \$400,000, council elected not to move its depot to that site.

"The real story is, was the \$400,000 budget allocation spent and has this led to a situation that the property is significantly overcapitalised and may mean the ratepayers are going to cop the financial burden of a loss," Mr Crichton said.

Furthermore, he queried the cost implications of council holding a vacant property for such an extended period.

Mr Crichton expressed his concerns in an email in response to an article in the Sentinel-Times December 16 edition that noted that South Gippsland Shire Council CEO Allison Jones has now been called on to seek a possible commercial tenant for the



The council-owned building at 4-6 Power Street, Foster remains vacant despite \$400,000 in works. A07\_0226

council-owned premises in Power Street.

That decision was made at the final council meeting for 2025.

In its December meeting agenda, council stated the intention to relocate the Foster Depot was prompted by the fact the existing depot site at 24-26 Pioneer Street had been identified in The Foster Structure Plan as a location for town centre expansion.

"As the Foster Structure Plan did not support the town centre expansion, the Foster Depot has remained at 24-26 Pioneer Street," it was stated, with 4-6 Power Street thus described as "surplus to requirements".

The decision to buy that Power Street land was made by Victorian Government appointed administrators at the February 2020 council meeting.

Foster Community Online reported in June 2022 that "Leongatha-based contractors Considine and Johnson are now converting a showroom in the property's main building into meeting and training rooms, open plan offices, staff amenities and storage," with

the shire's then Open Space and Environment Manager Joel Goodall elaborating on the plans.

"The project has received an initial budget allocation of \$400,000 to begin the redevelopment of the site, which in addition to the repairs, renovations and fit out of the main building will also involve installing lighting, heating, IT and security systems," he was quoted as saying.

A council spokesperson confirmed to the Sentinel-Times the \$400,000 budget allocation, noting a contract was awarded in May 2022 for \$370,114.48, and adding, "The building works would allow the former warehouse to be suitable for a range of potential uses including office space, meeting room and storage area."

The work was undertaken in the 2022/23 financial year.

The decision to relocate the council depot from Foster's Pioneer Street was reported by Foster Community Online to stem from that location's proximity to houses and Foster Secondary College, with a council

desire to get truck movements out of the Foster CBD.

It was also reported that the main office building at the Pioneer Street site was too small, with both reasons provided attributed to Mr Goodall.

"The acquisition of the Power Street property was intended to address perceived constraints at the existing depot site, located at 24-26 Pioneer Street," the council spokesperson confirmed to the Sentinel-Times.

However, it was explained that "Following the purchase of the property and initial improvements, further operational assessments were undertaken at the Power Street site, and this showed that additional work might be required to fully meet council's operational requirements."

Furthermore, the prospect of improving the existing depot site is outlined. "Council is currently reviewing its building portfolio to look for opportunities to consolidate and has considered the longer-term use of land surrounding the existing depot site, including the potential relocation of the Foster Skate Park, and this could present future opportunities to improve site layout and vehicle movements at the current location," the spokesperson stated.

"When these factors were considered collectively, together with the scope of the Foster Structure Plan review, council determined that relocation of the depot is not required and that the existing site remains suitable to meet operational needs."

Mayor's Message



Cr Nathan Hersey

### Happy New Year!

IN the year ahead, Council has significant projects to undertake and will continue to actively manage our budget for the benefit of our community, with the intention of meeting the needs, hopes and expectations of our residents.

With a limited budget and without significant opportunities for increased revenue, our Council realises and acknowledges that there will need to be clear and active management of priorities for South Gippsland.

This Council is committed to genuine engagement with our residents and ratepayers on the challenges and opportunities throughout the year.

Please remember that Council is here to serve our community and that we can better serve and meet the expectations of community when we have constructive input.

I look forward to sharing updates with you and hearing your feedback, thoughts and ideas along the way.

### South Gippsland Australia Day Awards

On Wednesday, January 14, South Gippsland's Citizen of the Year, Young Citizen of the Year and Community Event of the Year nominees will be recognised.

The evening celebrates individuals and groups who go above and beyond through their involvement in local community groups and events, helping to make South Gippsland an even better place to live.

The event begins at 6.30pm at Meeniyan Hall and everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

### Australia Day Photo Competition

There's still time to enter this year's South Gippsland Australia Day Photo Competition.

To take part, submit a photo that captures this year's theme: "Australia Day: South Gippsland – Our Home", for a chance to be selected as the winner.

Entries close on Sunday, January 18, 2026, with winners announced on January 26, 2026.

More information is available at: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday)

### Coal Creek – Learn to Weave

If you're a young person looking to start the new year with a new hobby, why not try weaving?

On Monday, January 19, the Coal Creek Spinners will host a holiday workshop where participants can learn weaving techniques and create a woven piece of art.

The session is free, suitable for children aged five to 12 years, and all materials are provided.

Bookings are essential and can be made at: [www.trybooking.com/DIGSY](http://www.trybooking.com/DIGSY)

### Great Southern Rail Trail Sculpture Project

Council is currently seeking expressions of interest for a sculptural installation on the Great Southern Rail Trail that captures the beauty, character or environmental significance of the Koonwarra site.

The sculpture forms part of the Great Southern Rail Trail Activation Project, funded by the Victorian government.

More information at: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/gsrt-sculpture-project](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/gsrt-sculpture-project)

### South Coast Leadership Program

The South Coast Community Leadership Program is back for 2026 and applications are now open.

The program is ideal for people looking to build their leadership skills and connect with like-minded locals from South Gippsland and Bass Coast shires.

To find out more or apply, visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership)  
Applications close February 13.





Ruby Boucher from Style Mantra with the shop's donations tin, which is raising money to help feed baby wombats in care at Bunurong Wildlife Care. W05\_0226

# Inverloch business helps feed wombats in care

A LOCAL business is rallying behind Inverloch-based Bunurong Wildlife Care, raising money so that displaced and injured baby wombats can stay fed.

From its A'Beckett Street home, Style Mantra is selling books for \$5, with 100 per cent of the proceeds going directly to Bunurong Wildlife Care.

They have pledged to donate at least \$150 per month to help cover food costs for recovering wombats at the shelter.

"I saw a Facebook post saying they were looking for sponsors because they had so many wombats to feed at the moment. I thought that we could start collecting some money," Style Mantra owner Wendy de Kunder said.

What originally began with Ms de Kunder purchasing books herself to resell, has grown into a community effort.

Locals are now able to donate good condition novels directly to the store, which are

By Trent Westaway

then sold to customers who know every dollar is going to an amazing cause.

"People have been really generous," Ms de Kunder said.

"One lady bought two books for \$10, but she gave me \$20 and said just put all of it in the box. She thought it was a worthwhile cause."

The money directly supports Bunurong Wildlife Care, which is run by Linda and Rod Pettit.

Together, along with their volunteers, they care for both injured and orphaned wildlife from Inverloch and surrounding areas until they are well enough to return home.

Unfortunately, wombats have been visiting quite often recently, regularly coming into care after their mothers are killed on roads while grazing on verge grass.

"Mothers come out roadside looking for feed, especially after heavy rain or in drier times when the grass is better along

the edges," Ms Pettit said.

"If mum is hit by a car, the joey can be thrown from the pouch or left behind. If people stop and check the pouch and see an active teat, that tells us a joey is nearby and we can usually go out and find it."

Once a joey arrives in their care, the work is constant and slow, with Ms Pettit's day often beginning at 6am to feed the youngest joeys.

"They get wrapped in a blanket, calmed down, and fed slowly," she said.

As the joeys grow, they slowly move from bottles to bowls, while carers work tirelessly to ensure their routines remain as natural as possible, so they remain nocturnal and retain a natural wariness of humans when they return to the wild.

The costs can be significant, with specialised milk powder alone costing about \$630 for 20 kilograms, with each joey eating between 10 and 20 kilograms before being released.

Start accounting for hay, veterinary care, fresh grass,

supplements, and the fact wombats can spend close to two years in care, and the financial requirements become very apparent.

There are currently eight wombats at Bunurong Wildlife Care.

"In the last 12 months, we have cared for 189 animals across all species," Ms Pettit said, before emphasising how much fundraisers such as Style Mantra's help.

"Rescue and care already take up all of our time," Ms Pettit said.

"Finding time to fundraise on top of that is really hard. So, when the community does this for us, it means we can stay focused on the animals."

Ms de Kunder said the aim is to keep the fundraiser going long-term and find more simple ways for people to help.

"There is no end date," she said.

"People like having a local place they can drop something off or buy something small and know it really is helping."

## RSPCA urges pet owners to act as heat takes toll

RSPCA Victoria is calling on all pet owners to protect their animals during this week's scorching weather, with 20 reports made to the RSPCA Inspectorate before midday from concerned community members about pets allegedly left without access to shelter or water.

RSPCA Victoria Chief Inspector Michelle Green said restricting an animal's access to water and shelter is potentially deadly.

"High temperatures can be deadly to pets who are vulnerable, but extreme temperatures like this past week are dangerous for all animals," Chief Inspector Green said.

"Before midday on Wednesday, January 7, we had already received 20 heat-related reports, including for animals allegedly without access to water or shelter in 40-degree temperatures, which is a potential death sentence to these pets and completely unacceptable."

"Heat stroke is a cruel and extended form of suffering and should never be taken lightly, and all pet owners must understand their responsibilities to their animals and take appropriate steps to protect their welfare throughout summer."

"There is no excuse for neglecting your animal in these dangerous conditions and we will be investigating these reports."

"Please never leave your animal in a car on a day like today, even just a couple of minutes can be fatal – call the police on 000 for an urgent response to these situations."

Heatwaves, hot cars and burning footpaths are just some of the things to watch out for in these conditions.

RSPCA Victoria Director of Veterinary Services Dr Melissa Meehan said the hot weather on pets poses a serious risk.

"Hot and extreme weather conditions this week will pose a serious risk to animal health," Dr Meehan said.

"Heat stroke can develop rapidly and may be life-threatening, with common warning signs including excessive panting, vomiting or diarrhoea, and unusually bright or very pale gums."

"If you notice these symptoms in your pet or are concerned about their immediate wellbeing, seek veterinary advice immediately."

"Even after the sun goes down and temperatures drop, pets can still be at risk, as heat retained in footpaths and concrete can create hazardous ground-level temperatures."

"All of your animals must have continuous access to shade, fresh drinking water and adequate ventilation to help cool themselves."

"We also recommend bringing any young, senior, unwell, and small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs, and birds indoors during periods of extreme heat."

"Hot surfaces can also cause burns to paw pads, so make sure you check the temperature of footpaths with the back of your hand as a simple precaution - if it feels too hot for you, it is too hot for them."

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# Speeding? Wrong choice.



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# Lifeline for injured wildlife in Inverloch



Linda Pettit feeds a young wombat in care at Bunurong Wildlife Care in Inverloch.



ON an average Inverloch morning, Linda Pettit has no idea what animal could be waiting in need of her help. It might be a shorebird tangled in fishing line or a bird stunned after hitting a window. Perhaps a wombat injured on the roadside, but as Mrs Pettit herself will tell you, "No matter how small they are, they're all important."

Mrs Pettit, together with her husband of 45 years Rod, run Bunurong Wildlife Care, a registered wildlife shelter based in Inverloch.

Since retiring, the couple have taken their love for wildlife to the next level as they work closely with local vets to provide both short and long-term care for wildlife including rehabilitation, nurturing and allowing time for maturing.

**By Trent Westaway**

Mrs Pettit's modesty regarding her selfless deeds is immediately apparent. "We are just a normal couple who retired," she said.

After years of professional work and travel, Mrs Pettit started volunteering as a foster carer about eight years ago, but three years ago both she and Mr Pettit applied to become a licensed shelter, giving them the ability to care for animals themselves as well as train others in the same field.

"The demand is really high," Mrs Pettit said.

"But the only way to increase the reach of wildlife care is to become a shelter yourself and bring other people through the system."

Bunurong Wildlife Care now has four registered foster carers and is training at least three more, with several others waiting.

"To me, the best contribution is being a place where people can come, get trained, and then decide how they want to help," she said.

The shelter covers Inverloch and surrounding areas across Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

They care for all kinds of local species from seabirds and pelicans to wombats, echidnas, possums, kangaroos, wallabies and koalas.

Because of Inverloch's coastline and waterways, birds injured by fishing line and marine hazards are common.

Others arrive after dog attacks, vehicle collisions or habitat loss pushes them into backyards and roads.

Mrs Pettit spoke about how complacency can quite literally result in deaths.

"People always say their dog would never chase anything, but when a dog sees a koala for the first time, instinct takes over."

Habitat loss, she said, is forcing animals into closer contact with people, increasing the risk of injury.

Mrs Pettit works closely with local vets and Wildlife Victoria including its travelling veterinary service to assess and treat animals quickly.

She says one of the hardest parts of the job is having to euthanise animals that are too badly injured to survive.

"It is really tough when you have multiple cases in a day," she said.

Some distressing scenes stay with her, including mothers trying to reach injured young on roadsides.

"The saddest thing is when you see a mother has crossed a road, but a joey has been a bit slow behind her, and the joey gets hit."

"It is gut wrenching, watching the mother crying, trying to pull their joey off the road and get some help."

But there are also moments that make everything worthwhile.

"The most rewarding part is when they get to go home," Mrs Pettit said, emphasising Bunurong Wildlife Care's motto: "Our home for a rest, but their forever home is best."

Community donations now allow the shelter to say yes more often and support animals through longer rehabilitation.

"We do not stop supporting them when they leave our door," Mrs Pettit said.

For the Pettits, what began as a small act of volunteering has become a lifeline for wildlife and a quiet service to their community.

And when an animal is finally released back into the wild, Mrs Pettit says it reminds her why they do it, because again, "No matter how small they are, they're all important."

If you would like to donate or find out more visit <https://bunurongwildlifecare.au/>.

If you need emergency wildlife assistance please call Wildlife Victoria on 8400 7300.



For more details  
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# Kilcunda Lobster Festival celebrates 40 years



John Duscher hosting the spinning wheel last year at the annual Kilcunda Lobster Festival.



The Kilcunda Community Association will host the annual lobster festival on January 25, 2026.

## 2026 KILCUNDA LOBSTER FESTIVAL

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40 YEARS



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find us on Facebook, Kilcunda Lobster Festival or at [www.kilcunda.org.au](http://www.kilcunda.org.au)

THE community is invited to join the Kilcunda Community Association for the annual Kilcunda Lobster Festival on the Kilcunda foreshore on Sunday, January 25.

Market stalls, live music and amusement rides to entertain the entire family will feature on the day.

The first incarnation of the festival was the Back to Kilcunda weekend long event held in 1984 as part of Victoria's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The Kilcunda Lobster Festival was born the following year after good supply of lobster was available from the waters of Kilcunda and from fishermen in San Remo.

Former president of the Kilcunda Community Association Andrea Bolch said the town gathered to welcome back past residents, miners and school students to the town of Kilcunda after the local school was closed.

Miners would dress in their uniform and community members dressed in period costume, parading down the main street.

The three-day event brought people back to the small town.

They would take part in a bush dance at the local hall and children would dress up and ride their bikes down the main road.

It's no longer a three-day event but the annual festival continues again in 2026 for its 40th anniversary, welcoming the community to gather and connect.

The historical spinning wheel remains the highlight of the festival, giving everyone the chance to win a freshly caught and cooked lobster.

The day is 100 per cent run by volunteers who have this year organised 60 market stall holders showcasing a range of quality food, produce, wine, gin, whiskey, jewellery, clothing, home-ware and metal art.

Throughout the day, the crowd will be treated to emergency service displays, children's face painting and amusement rides from Taylors Amusement.

Entertainment will be provided by four-piece band Spicy Sunday plus live sax and DJ Dreaded Sax.

"Throughout the day we will be selling lobsters supplied by San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op as well as lobster lunches and prawn rolls," KCA secretary Stephen Piper said.

There is copious undercover seating for patrons to enjoy their meals and the entertainment.

With the annual event held on the Bass Coast coastline, the association is again working closely with support from Bass Coast Shire Council and sponsorships from Bendigo Bank and Westernport Water.

The association actively manages the waste at the public event with guided waste stations, a system that significantly reduces the amount of waste that ends up in landfill.

"At last year's festival with the efforts of the volunteers and Bass Coast Shire Council, we successfully divided organics from recycling with zero contamination," Mr Piper said.

"We're encouraging everyone to bring their own water bottles to refill from the Westernport Water hydration stations."

As part of the waste minimisation drive to reduce the use of single-use plastics, San Remo Fisherman's Co-Op will continue to use reusable containers filled with ice for fresh lobster delivery.

The spinning wheel will be on the back of the truck.

Remember, each spin always results in one lucky winner walking away with a lovely freshly cooked lobster.

The festival will run from 10am until 3pm on the Kilcunda foreshore on Sunday, January 25.

All funds raised are used to maintain the community hall.

For more information visit the Kilcunda Lobster Festival on Facebook or visit [www.kilcunda.org.au](http://www.kilcunda.org.au).



# Rory's garbage truck hero

SEVEN-year-old Rory has a fascination with garbage trucks, one that began when he was two.

Every Thursday night, Rory stays at his Nan's house in Wonthaggi and sets the alarm for 5.45am.

Rain, hail or shine, Rory sets up his camper chair and sits in the driveway waiting for the recycling truck.

One year on, and Rory has made a unique friendship with the drivers, especially Alan from Wonthaggi Recyclers.

Rory's mum Amy said he has told his friends and teachers at school that he needs to learn to read, so that when he grows up, he can be a bin-man driver, just like Alan.

In the spirit of Christmas, Alan gifted Rory with a Technic Mack Lego.

"Rory says that Alan is his hero," Amy said.

"The reason Rory stays at his Nan's house is that her bins are emptied at 6am, we live on the other side of town, and ours aren't emptied until the afternoon when Rory is at school."

"It was always the garbage truck that captured his imagination," Amy said.

"It was something about the way it moved and performed the same routine each week that fascinated him. He even began recreating the movement of tipping the bins and neatly placing them back down - he'd spend hours setting up little toy bins with Lego pieces so he could come along with his toy truck, and line



Alan from Wonthaggi Recyclers gifted young Rory with a Technic Mack Lego for Christmas.

them up, just like the real thing."

Amy said every Thursday after dinner, the family drop Rory off at his Nan's place, and he then heads outside with his Pop to put the bins out before setting his alarm.

"The moment the alarm goes off the next morning, Rory is outside with a blanket or umbrella, waving to the drivers as he watches them empty the bins."

"Rory also loves January, as every second week it is all three bins, which means three trucks," Amy said.

"Rory knows what colour bin goes out every week, and we go for bike rides on Thursday after school, so he can check everyone has the right coloured bins out."

"We love watching his excitement, the way he listens for the truck and the way he studies its movement with absolute focus. Alan's friendship has helped Rory; it's helped him practice talking with adults and feel safe."

Amy said that Rory now understands why school matters and why learning to read and write is important.

"It's helped him stay focused and engaged in the classroom," she said.

Amy explained that Rory is a quiet, shy and anxious person and can struggle socially, so having Alan recognise his enthusiasm has helped improve Rory's self-confidence.

"Receiving a gift from Alan was incredibly special."

## Inverloch recharge station misses tourist peak

THE long-awaited Inverloch electric vehicle recharge station in Ramsey Boulevard behind the Bunurong Environment Centre has missed the January tourist peak.

Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed last week that EV charge stations at the Wonthaggi ArtSpace, Newhaven Visitor Centre and Grantville Transaction Centre were all now operational but not Inverloch.

"Inverloch is still unknown at this stage. We are hopeful that it will be

By Bruce Wardley

in the next few weeks, but it really is out of our control and unknown," said a council spokesperson.

The Bunurong Environment Centre was selected for Inverloch because it was considered to be a high-use tourist destination that would help to address barriers to EV uptake including range anxiety and town connectivity.

Each site was anticipated to be completed in two to three weeks but that was

nine months ago.

The \$642,000 project across four sites was jointly funded by Bass Coast Shire Council and Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action.

The EV charger at the Newhaven Visitor Centre is located on the Philip Island Tourist Road at Newhaven, the Grantville Transaction Centre is at 1504 Bass Highway, Grantville and the Wonthaggi ArtSpace is at 2 Bent Street, Wonthaggi.

# Whose wall is it anyway?

## Choosing art that suits your life (and your relationship)

By Zulu (Heather Towns)

THINKING of buying a painting is also a chance to think about how colour, pattern, and emotion can support the way you live now and the future you are dreaming toward. An artwork does more than decorate a wall; it quietly shapes how a room feels every time you walk into it. Warm reds and oranges can make a space feel cosy and energised, while cooler blues and greens often bring calm and a sense of openness. Soft, gentle colours can soothe a bedroom or reading nook, while bold, high-contrast palettes can give living areas a lively pulse that suits conversation and gatherings.

Patterns add another layer of feeling to this emotional mix. Flowing lines and curves can create ease and relaxation, perfect for spaces where you unwind at the end of the day. Repeated shapes or structured grids can bring focus and clarity, which may suit a study or a spot where you like to read, plan, or work. More playful, scattered patterns can feel spontaneous and joyful, ideal for creative corners or family rooms where movement and chatter are part of daily life. When a painting's colours and patterns echo your hopes—whether that is a calmer life, more creativity, or a sense of adventure—it can act as a gentle daily reminder of the direction you are heading.

For couples, choosing a painting together can raise a different kind of question: do you both have to "like" everything in exactly the same way? A shared home usually feels more genuine when it reflects both personalities, not a watered-down middle ground where no one is truly seen. One partner might love calm neutrals and soft tones, while the other comes alive around intense colour and bold pattern. Instead of aiming for identical taste, it can be more helpful to ask, "Can we both live happily with this, and does it bring something meaningful from one of us into the space?"

Allowing each person's preferences to appear on the walls means the home becomes a shared story rather than a neat compromise. A strong, expressive painting might anchor the main living area for one partner, while a quieter, reflective piece nearby speaks to the other. It is also worth not being afraid of a painting that feels slightly outside the couple's comfort zone at first; many works become favourites only after they are lived with for a while. When both sets of tastes are welcomed, the home holds not just furniture and colour, but the emotional worlds of two people choosing to live together.

A visit to Zulu's studio/gallery in Cape Paterson might just be the answer. Open only in January each year Zulu's work crosses styles and moods and if you are lucky you might find the perfect painting. This year Zulu is selling some photographic work by Jan Randles OAM...our very first Aussie Para Female Gold Olympian. And if you really lucky you may even meet Frida-Jean the wonder kitten.



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# Join the Inverloch Man Walk and make new friends

By Bruce Wardley

FROM humble beginnings just two years ago the Inverloch Man Walk has gone from strength to strength with more than 100 Facebook members who meet twice a week.

Gathering at the Inlet Hotel opposite The Glade at 8am on Tuesday and The Anderson Inlet Angling Club at 8am on Saturday, the men walk for two hours before stopping for a coffee and a chat.

"Anyone can join," said Inverloch Man Walk convenor Simon Mills.

With 88 groups across Australia the Man Walk has become a national phenomenon.

When Mr Mills first moved to Inverloch from Redcliffe in Queensland the local Man Walk group had just three members.

Now the Inverloch Man Walk regularly attracts 10 to 12 men of all ages.

Each walk is about two to three kilometres and finishes at the Corner Store.

"That's where all the good conversations come out," Mr Mills said.

"Most of the conversations are about football but it's a great chance to catch up with other men to chat about how things are going in relationships and life in general."

Mr Mills said it has been an opportunity to make new friends.

"A couple of the guys came out and helped me with the garden," he said.

The Man Walk provides an opportunity for men to get together in a positive, supportive and inclusive environment to walk, talk and support each other.

"No pressure and no barriers to entry."

"There's the opportunity to raise personal issues and seek advice about access to a range of services.

"It can be hard when you're new to town," Mr Mills said.

"It keeps you active and gives retired guys something to do."

To enquire about joining the Man Walk go to [themanwalk.com.au](http://themanwalk.com.au) or look for The Man Walk Inverloch on Facebook.

# Emergency risks facing waterline communities

THE waterline communities, including Bass, Coronet Bay, Corinella, Tenby Point, Grantville, The Gurdies, Pioneer Bay and Jam Jerrup are all vulnerable to catastrophic storms and fires, which can result in extended power outages and significant disruption.

Extreme weather events such as storms may also cause unplanned power failures, leaving residents without essential services for prolonged periods.

The Waterline Emergency Network (WEN) has produced a booklet designed to provide residents with vital guidance for preparing for emergencies such as fires, storms and prolonged power outages.

It also identifies key local assets and sources of assistance that can be called upon in times of need.

The information compiled in the Waterline Emergency Handbook demonstrates how community members can support both themselves and each other before, during and after an emergency.

The WEN is a grassroots group of volunteers formed in response to recent storms and bushfires at Grantville and The Gurdies, meeting regularly to discuss strategies for keeping communities safe and informed.

Membership includes engaged community groups and



John from AusNet, Philippa Armstrong and Janice Orchard (CDCC), Rowanne Grinstead (WEN), Justin Murray (BCSC), Kim Sullivan (AusNet) and Nick Grant-Collins (BCSC Community Resilience) at the launch of the Waterline Emergency Handbook.

individuals as well as representatives from the Country Fire Authority (CFA), State Emergency Service (SES), Corinella & District Community Centre (CDCC), Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) Community Resilience Team, Bass Coast Health and Bass Valley Primary School.

WEN's goal is to share localised information with waterline residents about preparing for emergencies such

as heatwaves, floods, fires, strong winds or power outages and managing the critical first 72 hours after an emergency.

Thanks to a grant from AusNet, 2,500 copies of the Waterline Emergency Handbook have been printed.

Waterline residents can pick up a free copy at the Corinella & District Community Centre, Corinella General Store, Coronet Bay Store and

Post Office or the Grantville Transaction Centre.

To stay informed download the Vic Emergency App and follow the Bass Coast Shire Council Emergency Dashboard for real-time alerts on bushfires, floods, severe weather, road closures and power outages.

Access emergency information and preparedness resources at <https://emergency.basscoast.vic.gov.au>.

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## WATERLINE EMERGENCY HANDBOOK

EDUCATE / PLAN / ACT / RESPOND

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Grantville Transaction Centre  
Corinella & District Community Centre  
Corinella General Store  
Coronet Bay Store

Enquiries CDCC 5678 0777





Community members gather in Wonthaggi for last year's commemoration of Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner.

# Community invited to honour brave frontier resisters

BASS Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group is inviting the community to gather for the annual commemoration of Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner: two Tasmanian Aboriginal men who were tragically hanged in Melbourne in 1842.

This event is a solemn act of remembrance and truth-telling, acknowledging the deep injustices faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples during colonisation.

Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner were convicted in relation to the deaths of two whale hunters in the Western Port area and became the first individuals publicly executed in Melbourne.

Denied the right to give evidence at their trial, they were branded as “outlaws” at the time.

Today, they are recognised as freedom fighters who resisted colonial occupation.

The commemoration will take place at Wishart Reserve, Wonthaggi, on Tuesday, January 20, from 10am to 12pm.

The ceremony will include a Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony, guest speakers and a collective remembrance.

All community members are welcome and light refreshments will be served after the event at the Wonthaggi Town Hall.

This year's event carries added significance as Victoria has recently passed historic Treaty legislation: a milestone in the journey toward justice and self-determination for First Peoples.

The commemoration offers an opportunity to reflect on this progress while acknowledging the enduring impact of colonisation.

“From a small beginning, this moving commemoration has grown into an annual event attended by more than 100 people,” said Mary Mutsaers, representing the Bass Coast

South Gippsland Reconciliation Group.

“By gathering together, we honour Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner and reaffirm our commitment to truth-telling and justice for all.

“The passing of Treaty legislation in Victoria is a powerful reminder that reconciliation is not just about remembering the past: it's about shaping a fairer future.”

Bunurong Elder Uncle Anthony Egan also reflected.

“Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner were the first people to be hanged by the Government in the District of Port Phillip in 1842,” he said.

“This injustice was abhorrent. “These freedom fighters were protecting their people, culture and their Country.

“We honour them each year and acknowledge all who suffered.

“Now, with ancestors in peace, we continue the journey toward

justice.”

Kate Adams from the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network added: “Truth-telling is an essential step toward reconciliation.

“This event provides a culturally safe space for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the broader community to come together, listen, learn and reflect.

The Bass Coast Reconciliation Network includes members from Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire Council, Bass Coast Health, Myli – My Community Library, West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, Bunurong Land Council, Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members.

For more information about the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/reconciliation).



Lorraine and Bruce are two much-loved residents who beautifully reflect the spirit of the Carinya community.

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THERE is something special about a place where people feel connected, supported and free to live life on their own terms.

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Our upcoming Open Day is an opportunity to explore the homes, wander through our village, meet our residents and staff, and get a genuine feel for what makes this village such a wonderful place to live.

Our retirement village is thoughtfully designed to support independent living while encouraging social connection.

Whether it's enjoying a chat with neighbours, taking a stroll in our parkland, attending events and performances at the aged care facility, monthly luncheons or simply relaxing at home.

We warmly invite you to come along, ask questions, and see for yourself why so many residents proudly call this village home.

Carinya Lodge is at 35 Carinya Crescent, Korumburra.

For more information phone 5655 2125.



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This event is proudly supported by the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network

Inquiries to Harriet: (03) 5671 2211  
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# E-bike safety an ongoing issue

A LOCAL e-bike operator is calling for clearer public awareness as concerns grow over non-compliant electric bikes and unsafe riding in public places.

Heath, who has run an e-bike hire business on the island for five years alongside a local bicycle repair company, said his company is one of the few operators who carry full insurance and follow strict procedures.

“All our customers complete a rider induction and safety demo before hiring, helmets are provided and required, and we only hire e-bikes limited to 250 watts and 25km/h,” he said.

Victoria Police have been increasingly active on unsafe riding and e-scooter use, but Heath said the law for compliant e-bikes has been straightforward and unchanged for years.

“It’s the speed and motor-output limits that define a non-compliant bike.

“Where problems arise is from tampered or imported e-bikes that exceed wattage and speed limits, often purchased cheaply online.

“Parents shouldn’t be allowing kids to ride modified e-bikes, it’s as simple as that.”

Heath said illegal or modified e-bikes sold privately for use on public property are the real cause for concern.

“It’s all about education, not penalising compliant businesses and lawful riders.”

He recommended public education encouraging parents and buyers to purchase compliant warranted bikes from reputable dealers rather than imports without an Electric Pedal Assisted Bicycle rating with a 25km/h cut off speed and 250W of restricted power.

“E-bikes with a throttle should be limited to a walking pace in walk assist mode, with predominant power from the pedals.”

Victoria Police Acting Sergeant Zane Maligneorgos confirmed this is an ongoing issue and the public is often unaware of the restrictions and licensing requirements for e-bikes, especially those with motorcycle-like motors.

Bass Coast Shire Council stated that the law is made under the Road Safety Road Rules 2017 and enforced by Victoria Police.

# Warm weather brings snakes out of hiding

By Trent Westaway

AS we creep towards the middle of summer and weather begins to reach scorching temperatures consistently, one familiar species tends to show its scales in public.

Reaching blistering temperatures as high as 41 last week, the weather isn’t the only thing rising as snake sightings become more frequent in the community, being seen everywhere from garages and homes to cooling off at the Inverloch beach.

Professional snake catcher Kevin Girstun says his phone has been running just as hot as the weather, getting up to five callouts per day across the region.

“It’s definitely picked up with the heat,” he said.

In just the last four days, Mr Girstun has removed multiple snakes from homes in Cape Paterson, Phillip Island and Ventnor just to name a few.

Mr Girstun says locally there are two species of snake you are most likely to run into.

The lowland copperhead along the coast and the tiger snake further inland.

“Lowland copperheads actually eat all the other snakes, that’s why we’ve got nothing else here.

“They’re cannibalistic.”

He said the rise in activity is linked directly with the heat as snakes rely on these temperatures to function properly.

“Snakes can’t regulate their body temperature like humans do,” he said.



Professional snake catcher Kevin Girstun says removing snakes from properties in summer is very common.

“They need the environment to warm them up.

“If they don’t reach the right temperature they can’t eat, they can’t digest and they can’t survive.”

During winter snakes go into brumation, a state similar to hibernation, but they remain aware and responsive to things happening around them.

However, it certainly isn’t winter anymore.

“As soon as the weather warms up, they come out to warm themselves, find food

and look for a mate,” Mr Girstun said.

But while snakes are often seen outside in direct sunlight, they have also been found in people’s homes.

Mr Girstun says while snakes favour the heat, they also seek out cooler spaces if temperatures get too high.

“If a snake gets too hot it can actually die, so they move between hot and cool areas to regulate their body temperature.

“If you’ve got a beautiful airconditioned house or cool

tiles, that can be very inviting.”

He emphasised that snakes are not trying to live in your house and when they’re not chasing cooler temperatures, they are often chasing food.

“They are usually either following food like mice or frogs.”

It’s important to note that snakes are not aggressive by nature and bites usually only occur when humans try to handle or kill them.

“They are not trying to attack humans.

“They strike when they feel threatened or cornered,” Mr Girstun said.

Pets, particularly dogs, are often at a much higher risk than humans as they are more likely to be bitten on the face.

But if a person is bitten, Mr Girstun says it’s important to avoid panicking.

“If someone is bitten, apply a full compression bandage, keep them still, keep them calm and call triple zero immediately.

“Do not let them walk around at all, you want to limit your blood flow as much as possible.”

He said while snake encounters can be unsettling, they are a normal part of summer.

“They are a protected native species and an important part of the ecosystem,” he said.

If you see a snake in a place it shouldn’t be, try not to startle it, make sure your kids and pets are safe, keep an eye on it from a distance and call a snake catcher immediately.

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**Harold Bulman from Longford with the Bundy Bandit at the Wonthaggi Show.** rk02\_0226

## Bundy Bandit back on the road

A LOUD and proud Bundaberg-themed Holden was the star of the Ute and 4x4 Show after eight years off the road.

Former car detailer Harold Bulman restored the vehicle, known as the Bundy Bandit, using skills from his former trade.

"I gave it a cut and polish myself, I used to be a car detailer so that helps," Mr Bulman said.

The ute features a V8 engine swap from a Holden Statesman.

"It came out of a Statesman, the same model, everything just fitted straight in," he said.

"It's the kind of ute that looks like it should be loud, so it is loud."

Mr Bulman won the Bundaberg Rum Ute of the Year at the Deniliquin Ute Muster after five years of trying.

**By Rick Koenig**

Mr Bulman, from Longford near Sale, debuted the restored vehicle at the Sale Christmas parade last year.

"I had it dressed up with Christmas tinsel with the aero club and thought I'd put it in the Christmas parade to see if the public liked it," Mr Bulman said.

"The kiddies loved it."

Mr Bulman said he took the modified vehicle to VicRoads to have it checked over after the engine swap.

"I get pulled over by the police every now and then and always get a strange look, but that's just part of it," he said.

The Bundy Bandit is set to return to the Deniliquin Ute Muster this year.



**Pavilion volunteers Chris Oliver, Yvonne Hardingham, Anthea Harris and Cheryl Bertrand at the Wonthaggi Show.** rk27\_0226

## Keeping handcraft traditions alive

VOLUNTEERS in the craft pavilion were encouraging locals to keep traditional skills alive while displaying knitting, crochet, cookery, jams and preserves.

Yvonne Hardingham said the pavilion gave local people an opportunity to show what they could do.

"We just want to make sure these kinds of skills keep going and that it carries on," Ms Hardingham said.

Displays included crocheted rugs, tea cosies and intricate cross stitch work.

Many visitors were surprised to discover what looked like pictures were actually fine cross stitch created from photographs.

"Look how fine that is, someone

**By Rick Koenig**

has taken a photo and used that as the basis to make that cross stitch," Ms Hardingham said.

"Just the effort that goes into that, I call that a labour of love."

Ms Hardingham said cooking displays attracted strong interest, with scones and preserves popular categories.

"Most of us are not going to be out there on a horse, but this is a way we can all be part of the show and be proud of the handcrafts that we do," she said.

New crafts like needle felting were also being considered for future shows following enquiries from exhibitors.



**Caroline Taylor from Tynong takes the reins with her 12-year-old pony Hugo in the harness and carriage competition.** rk11\_0226



**John Harris displayed his c.1940 British-made muck loader and hay sweep at the Wonthaggi Show.** rk15\_0226



**Wonthaggi firefighter Ian Hamilton with Lucas, Hunter, Willow and Winter at the emergency services display.** rk24\_0226



**Paul Macphail puts Farmer the kelpie through his paces at the Wonthaggi Show working dog display.** rk20\_0226



**Steve Bray from Cranbourne and Lynn Barker with a post-war tractor designed to run on kerosene.** rk17\_0226



**Claire Crane from Bass and Lucia Wiedermann from Glen Alvie competed in leading and riding classes with horses Magnum and Paris.** rk13\_0226





Wonthaggi locals Alison Dixon, Milo Arrowsmith and Clementine Arrowsmith take a spin on the rides in sideshow alley. rk26\_0226

# Show defies statewide fire threat

THE Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Agricultural Show pushed through on Saturday despite a statewide Total Fire Ban that forced exhibitors, judges and food vendors to withdraw.

Show secretary Rosemary Loughnan said organisers worked through multiple contingency plans as the fire situation escalated across Victoria.

"We've had to keep going through plan A, B, C, D, I think I'm up to about F," Ms Loughnan said.

"We've had to reorganise things like our officials and judges.

"Four horse judges withdrew due to the weather and two girls from Bega pulled out because they were in a fire hotspot."

A judge from north of Melbourne who needed to travel

By Rick Koenig

via the Hume Freeway to reach her property near Inverloch was also unable to attend due to road closures.

Ms Loughnan received numerous scratchings from exhibitors on Friday night as property owners refused to leave their homes with fires burning across the state.

"They're not prepared to leave their properties to come away for a show, and I wouldn't either," she said.

The Total Fire Ban also impacted food vendors, with anyone using naked flames unable to cook.

Black Snake Productions, a highly anticipated attraction set to bring native animals and a snake pit display from Warburton, was also forced to cancel.

"He had to get all of his

animals and reptiles off the property because it was on a one-way road and he couldn't leave," Ms Loughnan said.

"I don't blame him."

Despite the challenges, Ms Loughnan said the show attracted a strong crowd, partly due to conditions keeping people away from the beach.

"It's not a beach day, so that probably gave us a bit more of a crowd because the beach is our enemy," she said.

"If you're down on holidays and you've got a chance to go to the beach, you go to the beach.

"The beach lost today and we might have won."

Scorching temperatures in the days prior had also kept visitors away, while organisers battled strong winds throughout the day.

While Werribee Park cancelled its major horse show

entirely on Saturday due to exhibitors coming from fire-affected areas north of Melbourne, Wonthaggi's horse entries were up on last year.

"I think the bulk of them came from our side of Melbourne," Ms Loughnan said.

The Ute and 4x4 Show was a success, along with the Flyball and working dog demonstrations.

Ms Loughnan said the poultry display was popular with families visiting from the city.

"It's nice for the city kids to see the chooks because I don't want them to think their eggs come out of a supermarket cabinet," she said.

Ms Loughnan said despite the challenges, the show delivered.

"We've had a pretty strong crowd, which is amazing considering everything that's happened," she said.



Rory from Ryanston with his Silkie chicken Lucky at the Wonthaggi Show. rk03\_0226

## City kids get close to country chooks

By Rick Koenig

LEMONS, gooseberries, decorated boots and prize-winning chooks were among the exhibits drawing crowds to the Wonthaggi Show pavilion.

Poultry coordinator Bill Cook, from Dalyston, said the chook display was a highlight for families, with children lining up to get close to the birds.

"There's heaps of kids that have got chooks and want to know how to go about showing them, so there's a massive interest," Mr Cook said.

"They love it, especially the little ones."

One memorable moment came when a father brought his young daughter to see the birds.

"There was a guy with a child, probably about three, and she said to me 'Is that your chook?'" Mr Cook said.

"He said 'I just love it, I've never seen anything like it'.

"She put her hand in and started patting this big rooster.

"He came out and said 'That's the best thing that's happened for the day at the show'."

The display also drew attention to the egg exhibit, with visitors curious about the variety of colours on show.

"They walk over to the egg display and start looking, 'Why are those ones blue? Why are those ones white?'" Mr Cook said.

"It all depends on the type of chooks they've got."



Riders from Waterline Riding Academy line up in the arena at the Wonthaggi Show. rk14\_0226



Young musician Sage Maree performs at the Wonthaggi Show. rk07\_0226



## Sentinel-Times COMMENT

### How family violence is crippling law and order

FOR the many people who can still remember it, family violence wasn't even recognised as a crime until 1975, and prior to that, there were no dedicated services or support for the victims.

But family violence was hideously widespread, the trauma long lasting.

And as Korumburra Magistrate Samantha Poulter warned in court last week, it also leaves an indelible imprint on the children who witness or experience family violence.

Victoria's first refuge was established in 1974 and by 1979, 16 refuges had been established, mostly in metro areas.

It was slow going.

The Crimes (Family Violence) Act 1987 was a major leap forward establishing, among other things, a civil procedure for obtaining intervention orders, which could provide protection to aggrieved family members, overwhelmingly for women and children of course, for a period up to 12 months.

In 2001, family violence was identified as a top priority for Victoria Police by Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon, resulting in the Victoria Police Code of Practice for the investigation of Family Violence.

It has taken 50 years to get to where we are today, which on the statistics alone, is practically nowhere.

Certainly, we can all point to improvements and developments in the law, in the health response and in social attitudes but the fact remains that incidents of family violence are going up, not down.

The Crime Statistics Agency recently reported that there had been a significant increase in the number of family violence incidents recorded by police statewide, with figures reaching a new high of 106,430 incidents in the year to the end of September 2025.

This was an 8 per cent increase on the previous year.

The increase was in part driven by increases in incidents involving people who had not been recorded by police as perpetrators before and they found that nearly half of all youth perpetrators (47 per cent) aged 17 and under have previously been a victim of family violence themselves, highlighting the complex backgrounds of many of these young people.

Child protection data also shows that over the past year, there has been a 15 per cent increase in child protection investigations (from 33,224 in 2020-21 up to 47,183 in 2024-25), and a 12.7 per cent increase in substantiated child abuse reports (18,729 in 2024-25).

Locally, breaches of family violence orders remain by far the biggest class of crime in both Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

There are three reasons for that; family violence is continuing at a pace, the police effort has dramatically increased and the number of intervention orders in place has increased exponentially.

It is time for a serious review and top of the list should be the establishment of a whole new policing and social support division to take over the management of intervention orders and other family violence initiatives, releasing specialist crime-fighting police to give attention to those areas.

Authorities also need to develop other systems for breaking the cycle of family violence beyond the application of hundreds and hundreds more family violence intervention orders, and the management they generate.

If you or someone you know is experiencing family violence, contact 1800RE-SPECT on 1800 737 732 or Lifeline on 13 11 14.

## Vox Pop

### What do you do to prepare for the fire season?



**Kate Looke**

*Beveridge*

"We clear everything on the roadside and our internal tracks, avoid driving on total fire ban days and don't park vehicles where there is long grass."



**Alana Davis**

*Leongatha South*

"We have tanks off every shed and make sure pumps and hoses are ready, keep the property clear and clean out gutters."



**Michael Peritt**

*Lang Lang*

"I keep scrub clear and ensure there is plenty of water and that backup generators and pumps are ready to use."



**Gary Scanlon**

*Drouin South*

"I always clear up, make sure guttering is clean, and I have a water tank that sits on the tractor."

### Wind farm photo tugs at heartstrings

GREAT article on page 5 regarding the Delburn wind farm.

I found the attached photo emotionally tugging at my heartstrings.

Seeing the beautiful coast ruined by wind farms is dreadful.

It's just a shame that climate change brought the coastal cliffs up to Mirboo North.

**Robin Smith**

### Time for answers on cemetery funding

THANK you for your article Cemetery Shame.

A friend from interstate and I visited the cemetery the week before Christmas and were appalled at the general condition.

The grass had been roughly mown sometime before.

We tidied up many graves as we wandered through wondering who was in charge of maintenance.

Having recently been to the Nyora, Leongatha and Springvale cemeteries which are extremely well cared for, it now begs the question who is in charge of the maintenance of the Wonthaggi Cemetery.

Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust took over management of the Wonthaggi Cemetery from Bass Coast Shire Council on February 1, 2025.

Why?

The Melbourne-based trust, which also operates Springvale Botanical Cemetery, received over \$4 million from council to go towards a maintenance fund as part of the handover.

Where has the \$4 million gone?

Time for an audit and answers.

**Julie Luxton, Wonthaggi**

### Flag waving is my acknowledgement of country

THIS coming Australia Day I will be putting on my third year of all-day flag waving on the Bass Highway at the Grantville town traffic lights.

For many years in my youth I went to many demonstrations around worthy causes which were always ritualistic, inconsequential and without the slightest community feedback.

Something as basic and simple as flag waving by the power of one seems to animate most drivers and passengers passing by.

The town constantly resonates with horn honking, shouts of support,

smiles of encouragement, waving back out of windows and car lights blinking.

It is a tiring day for an old man but I am constantly energised by enthusiasm around me for celebrating the coming of a modern migrant society to this continent.

Celebrating it is my acknowledgement of country.

**Christopher Eastman-Nagle, Grantville**

### SMCT making professional fist of cemetery management

REGARDING your page one lead, for the record the \$4 million-plus handed over to SMCT was for the management in perpetuity of both the Wonthaggi and San Remo cemeteries.

Maintenance is but a part of that.

Former shire councillor Les Larke returned to this part of the world some years ago to find the council wasn't attending to its governance responsibilities regarding the two cemeteries.

Wonthaggi's had major drainage issues.

He lobbied hard to correct all that.

For myself, I have found SMCT is making a much more professional fist of managing the San Remo Cemetery than council ever did.

**Jane Ross, San Remo**

### Shire fails to cut roadsides while demanding ratepayers do the same

ARE you aware the South Gippsland Shire has sent letters to landholders to cut their land inside their boundaries to a low level and at least six metres to have a fire protection zone?

How dare the shire tell its ratepayers to do this yet the shire and VicRoads have failed to cut or spray before Christmas in 2025.

I put a letter into the shire in October yet the shire failed to respond.

Three questions: when is the shire going to cut roadsides?

Does the shire still talk to VicRoads to do the same?

Does the shire have the equipment or the people to cut their own roads?

I've got pictures.

You can get pictures by just driving the roads of South Gippsland Shire and VicRoads.

Now farmers and individuals are cutting roadsides more than ever.

It's dangerous to traffic, cars, trucks. Accidents are just around the corner. Yet fires are ready to eat our roadsides.

Roadsides are between 800mm to

over a metre in height.

Drivers cannot see around the corner onto the road.

People are now playing chicken with the grass edges.

If and when a fire starts, is the shire going to put their hand up or just fail to do their job and not answer questions?

Ratepayers deserve a lot better.

I feel like a lot of people that we need to audit the shire.

The wage bill is way too high.

We cannot even get a number of outside workers the shire has.

Their words: confidential, private.

Yet the CEO will not give details.

More people, more money, CEO gets paid more.

For eight years I have been working to understand the shire.

Budget, cash reserves, 278 in total.

This is 30 people too many.

At the shire that's three to five million in savings.

That's what is needed since the shire is now cash grabbing the ratepayers.

More to come.

**David Amor, South Gippsland**

### Family violence response model deserves praise

AT last something different rather than doing the same thing and expecting different results.

The introduction of the Alexis Family Violence Response model that places responders alongside the police that respond to callouts needs to be commended.

I read this article in the local papers with interest, especially as I have been involved with organisations within the community and with individuals going through violence at home for various reasons.

It brings together two services that have great experience in this area and can only be beneficial and balance the service at callouts.

Our police force has so much on their hands and does a great job with minimal resources so it can only improve the service that was in place especially in regional areas.

Great job to not only our police force but the Salvation Army as well.

**Dilene Hinton, Inverloch**

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





## Never stop trying and training, says Keith Milkins

By Michael Giles

IF ever there was a walking, talking advertisement for resistance training combined with aerobics training as the secret to a happy, healthy and fulfilling life it's Wonthaggi's Keith Milkins.

Known to many local sportspeople, especially the footballers and netballers who've been put through their paces by Mr Milkins over the years, as 'The Commando', he still trains three times weekly with a group called the Octogenarian Club.

And he does so on one lung after a series of operations in recent years that would have killed most mere mortals.

But Mr Milkins is alive and kicking, very much so, and last Friday, January 9, which just so happened to be his 86th birthday, he was more than happy to preach the gospel of resistance training during the seventh in a series of nine '15 Minutes of History' talks put on by the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society.

Mr Milkins said he first started experimenting with fitness training at the age of seven and while he claims to be 'the worst footballer in the world', he loved the game and played and coached extensively locally.

'The fitness business is a huge industry now and across Bass Coast and South Gippsland there's lots of options and people running the gyms as money-making opportunities,' Mr Milkins said.



Among those who worked out with Wonthaggi master trainer Keith 'The Commando' Milkins over the years, who attended his '15 Minutes of History' talk at the Wonthaggi Museum on Friday were, from left, Ron Wangman, Greg Dell, Shirley Dell, Tad Hendry, Lynne Birt (obscured), Martin Goodwin, Karen Milkins-Hendry, Keith Milkins, Patsy Mullins, Peter Hughes, Eira Thomson, Geraldine Davidson and Margaret Hughes.

'I did it because I loved it, and also because I believe in the benefits of resistance training for anyone at any age.'

'In all that time that I did it I don't believe I ever made a profit, but I got the biggest reward out of seeing how people have benefitted by doing it.'

Mr Milkins was into gyms before gyms were a thing, setting up at various locations around the town before being invited to bring his equipment and training methods to the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve.

'I only lift 75kg now, but I do it in 10 sets of five as part of a program which I still thoroughly enjoy.'

'It's never too late to start and you're never too old to gain real benefit out of resistance training, not necessarily weights, but some sort of resistance training.'

One of those who attended Mr Milkins' talk, Peter Hughes, credited Mr Milkins' training methods as the secret to two of Rovers' premiership wins.

Mr Milkins also coached the Dalyston reserves and did fitness training for the seniors in the late 1980s where he is credited as having players supremely fit at the time.

The players there recall pushing cars around the oval

commando-style, running for miles for endurance and, inspired by the great Percy Cerutti, being pushed to develop their leg strength by training in soft sand at local beaches.

'I had the pleasure of meeting Percy Cerutti and watching him train Australia's greatest-ever 1500m runner Herb Elliott on the soft sand at Portsea,' Mr Milkins said.

'The good lord alone decides when it's our time to go but everyone can certainly get a lot more enjoyment out of the life they have through the wonderful world of weights and the importance of resistance training,' Mr Milkins said.

## New defibrillator to save Kongwak lives

A NEW public access defibrillator has been installed in Kongwak, providing the community with vital emergency equipment.

The defibrillator is located on the front wall of the general store, accessible 24 hours a day.

The life-saving device was purchased by the popular Kongwak Market.

Ongoing maintenance will be managed by Kongwak CFA volunteers.

Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time.

Having a defibrillator close at hand can increase a person's chance of survival by up to 70 per cent.

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## Brow experts help locals achieve the perfect frame

BROWS are one of the most important features on our face, framing our eyes and helping with expressions, yet many people struggle with unruly, sparse or shapeless brows.

Exotique Lashes and Beauty, well known locally as leaders in lashes, also specialises in creating brows tailored to each client.

Every appointment begins with a consultation to determine the desired outcome.

'We have colours to match all hair tones so no need for

dark brows, we can make them fair too,' the Exotique Lashes and Beauty team said.

The sculpting process starts with cleansing before mapping out the brows using a string line or mapping paste.

Clients approve the outline before any hair is removed, then waxing and tweezing begins.

A sculpt can be left natural or enhanced with tint or dye depending on preference.

Tint offers a subtle look and lasts well on hair, while dye leaves a skin stain and

colours the hair for a bolder result.

For those seeking fuller brows, lamination is the answer.

Despite the name, lamination is not as scary as it sounds and can be tailored from sleek to dramatic.

Results last up to eight weeks, with a sculpt recommended at the four-week mark to maintain the look.

To book a consultation or ask questions, call Exotique Lashes and Beauty on 0448 881 016 or book online.



Precision is key during a brow sculpt at Exotique Lashes and Beauty.

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Nippers parents Tam and Aaron Gooley from Melbourne and Sheree Livingstone from Meeniyan enjoying perfect beach weather at the Inverloch SLSC. B12\_0226



Nippers mums Rachael Reddie from Berwick and Anna Moore from Inverloch at the Inverloch surf beach on a perfect summer's day. B11\_0226



Alison Brewster, Leo Lubransky and Anne Ellis in the audience for 15 Minutes of History about Wonthaggi's wetlands at the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society. B19\_0226



Frank Coldebella and Eira Thomson at the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society to listen to Terri Allen talk about the Wonthaggi wetlands. B22\_0226



Loch's Steven Crouch enjoys wandering among the stalls at the Korumburra Swap Meet but the cars are the highlight for him. A18\_0226



Leanne and Tony Eames of Rhyll enjoy the variety on offer at the Korumburra Swap Meet. A19\_0226



David and Allan Morrison of Mount Eliza are working on a couple of restoration projects, inspiring them to check out the Korumburra Swap Meet. A20\_0226



Nicholas, Shayne and Imogen of Jeetho explore the Korumburra Swap Meet, the trio being St Kilda supporters and Nicholas having bought a team poster from one of the stalls. A21\_0226



Nyora's Jason Cowell and Brendon Warren of Loch explore the Korumburra Swap Meet. A22\_0226

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Korumburra Swap Meet, Inverloch SLSC, Ocean Sounds Festival, Wonthaggi and District Historical Society talks and the Bass Coast Summer Agricultural Show.



Paul Macphail and Anneke Homan from Beloka Kelpie Stud with their five-year-old working dog Farmer. rk19\_0226



Claire Crane from Waterline Riding Academy brought her students to compete at the Wonthaggi Show. rk12\_0226



Mates Gin founder Kim Richardson showcases her local drop at the Wonthaggi Show. rk09\_0226



Russell Sanders from Tarwin Lower and Harvey Ferguson from the Harry Ferguson Tractor Club at the vintage machinery display. rk18\_0226



Joel and Isla Forest check out the police Polaris at the Wonthaggi Show. rk25\_0226



Twins Amy Martin of Cape Woolamai and Caitlin Martin of Tasmania dressed to impress at the Ocean Sounds Festival.



Phillip Island local Mark Merryfull shares a beer with Melbourne visitor Brett Hull at Churchill Island on Saturday.



Enjoying the Ocean Sounds Festival at Churchill Island on Saturday were Kellie Hosking and Beau Hill of Eltham.



## Bathing in the Creek returns with 22 bands

OUT where the hills breathe and the eucalypts lean, Bathing in the Creek returns to Bunurong land at The Archies Creek Hotel on Sunday, January 25.

Under the watch of the gums, stories spill, hearts crack open and the air buzzes with the sound of something real.

With more than 22 bands in the lineup this year, including ORB, Watty Thompson and His Total Fire Band plus heaps more, the creator and lead guitarist Fergus Lawson from Names said they had an eight-band lineup last year with seven bands and a DJ.

"So, we've pushed things a bit further this year - it's going to be a great day of music, from psych rock to punk, to folk and country."

Mr Lawson played his first gig at Archie's Creek Hotel more than 10 years ago before returning last year with the project that he'd pitched to Pete and Mary.

"A project that is a mini version of the Meredith or Golden Plains.

"It's the perfect space for a mini festival," he said.

"We're running three stages this year, with a lineup of talented musicians - some up and coming and others that have just toured Europe - some that have a name but are sitting in the underground tier, not yet mainstream - which I find is the best music going around.

"Watty Thompson and His Total Fire Band bring a country act, while Crooked TP is an indigenous rapper, and DJ MzRizk is a Lebanese Australian who's going to play an unreal set.



**Crooked TP, an indigenous rapper, performing live at Bathing in the Creek at Archie's Creek Hotel on January 25.**

"Bathing in the Creek is a family-friendly day - live music is amazing for kids, you see their little hands in the air and their eyes wide open, it'll be a day of celebrating good music and good times."

Names will be part of the 22-act lineup after launching their debut album in September, and local artist Noah Wright will perform live on stage for the very first time.

"I've been pushing him to play for a long time, and we're finally getting him up there," Mr Lawson said.

"As well as the return of Bookrunner, an unreal three-piece psych band, the powerhouse performers, Ozone Street, are a bunch of awesome young folks, who are super talented at their craft, plus we'll have the Whack Shack Wranglers for their first ever live show - a mix of Ozone Street and Bookrunner."



**Watty Thompson and His Total Fire Band bring a set of country to Bathing in the Creek.**

These artists recorded some songs as a joke during a recording session and Mr Lawson said it's kind of hilarious.

Bathing in the Creek will then have a comeback with local talent, Nick Carver and the Main Street Butchers, with the original lineup set to take the stage.

"The original artists haven't played together for years," Mr Lawson said.

"I approached Nick and said, I want the full band, and Nick made it happen.

"There'll be music playing the whole day, no breaks and no changeovers.

"We'll start at 11am for a jam-packed event, woodfire pizzas in the oven and both bars open.

"Bring your mates and leave the city behind."



**Sixteen model railway layouts will be on display at the Phillip Island District Railway's annual exhibition this weekend.**

## Model trains take over Phillip Island

SIXTEEN model railway layouts will be on display when the Phillip Island District Railway hosts its annual exhibition this weekend.

The show caters for everyone from the diehard model railway enthusiast to the budding five-year-old who loves watching trains go around and everyone in between.

Many of the model layouts feature full digital control and authentic sound effects.

Layouts range from small "N" scale models that fit on a door or fold up into a box, right up to large "G" scale setups that would take over a garden.

For the first time, a model in the relatively new TT120 scale from the Hornby company will be on display.

A feature of this year's show is a magnificent large ON30 scale model that won Best In Show at a recent major Melbourne exhibition.

Two trading stands will also be available for those looking to add to their collections.

The club has been established for more than 20 years and operates a large fixed train layout at its clubrooms as well as several portable layouts used for shows around the state.

The club caters for people of all ages and interests including those who love creating dioramas, those who experiment with different concepts and those who just want to drive trains around.

New members are always welcome.

The exhibition runs on Saturday from 10am to 5pm and Sunday from 10am to 4pm.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$25 per family or \$5 for extra children under 15.

For more information call Geoff on 0419 357 097 or Grant on 0432 104 220.

## Phillip Island & District Railway Modelers

# Model Train Show



Senior Citizens Hall  
Lions Court, Cowes

**Jan. 17 & 18, 2026**

**Saturday 10am-5pm**

**Sunday 10am-4pm**

Adults \$10 or Family \$25  
(2 adults & 3 Children under 16)  
Extra Children \$5

For more information call Geoff: 0419 357 097 or Grant: 0432 104 220

## WONTHAGGI



**WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm**  
**THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm**

**Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street**  
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★

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**Bathing in the Creek**

AT ARCHIES CREEK HOTEL

**ORB • WATTY THOMPSON & HIS TOTAL FIRE BAND**  
**MZ RIZK • BRODIE BUTTONS**  
**CROOKED TP • MUTUAL COLOUR**  
**NICK CARVER & THE MEAN STREET BUTCHERS**  
**OZONE STREET • RENNIE & THE SHIT CHAIR**  
**THE WAX EATERS • NAMES • BOOKRUNNER**  
**PSEUDO KING • BORE HOLE • HANNES LACKMANN**  
**ARCHIE LEGGETT • SOUTH DUDLEY TOM**  
**WHACK SHACK WRANGLERS • NOAH WRIGHT**  
**SISTER WAX • VINYL RICHIE • FLATKNACKER**

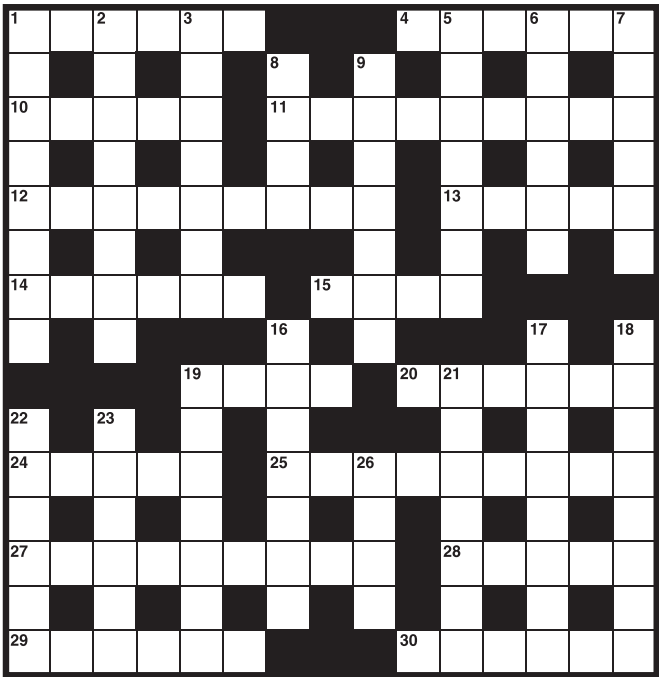
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CROSSWORD

No. 314

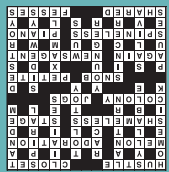


- ACROSS**
- 1 Jostle (6)
  - 4 Enclosed recess (6)
  - 10 Cantaloupe or honeydew, to name two (5)
  - 11 Worship (9)
  - 12 Brazen (9)
  - 13 Raised platform (5)
  - 14 Settlement (6)
  - 15 Runs (4)
  - 19 Condescending person (4)
  - 20 Very small and elegant (6)

- 24 Over (5)
- 25 Proprietor of a general store (9)
- 27 Invertebrate (9)
- 28 Instrument (5)
- 29 Divided (6)
- 30 Admits, – up (coll) (6)

- DOWN**
- 1 Weary of travelling (8)
  - 2 Word division (8)
  - 3 Source of light (7)
  - 5 Cooperates (7)
  - 6 Coil (6)
  - 7 Cycle for two (6)
  - 8 Speed contest (4)
  - 9 Russian author, Leo – (7)
  - 16 Junior (7)
  - 17 At an angle (8)
  - 18 Annihilates (8)
  - 19 Straight (7)
  - 21 Instance (7)
  - 22 Stops temporarily (6)
  - 23 Spit (6)
  - 26 Coward (coll) (4)

SOLUTION



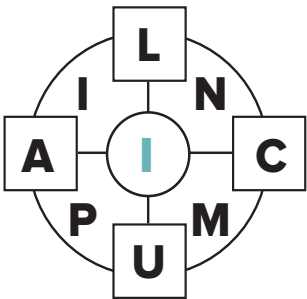
uncial, unclip  
pica, pila, plain,  
pail, pain, panic,  
MUNICIPAL, nail,  
mica, mini,  
mail, main, manic,  
limp, lumina, lupin,  
illac, laic, lain, limn,  
claim, clip, cummin,  
alumni, cilia, cillum,

9-LETTER

No. 314

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

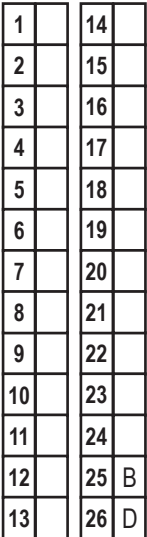
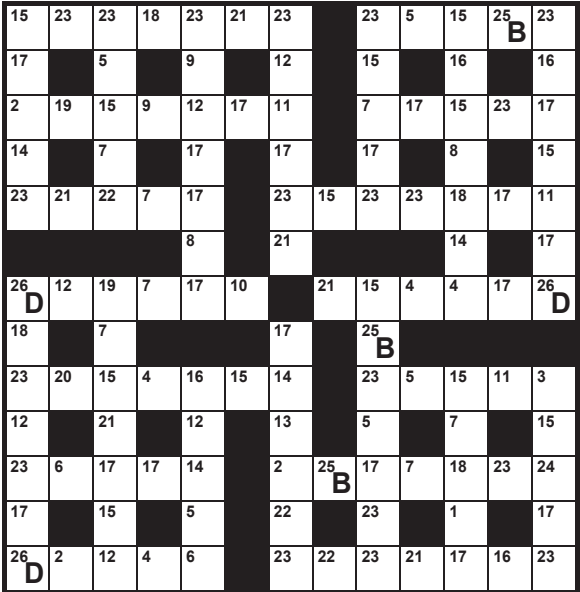
- Today's Aim:**
- 14 words: **Good**
  - 21 words: **Very good**
  - 28 words: **Excellent**



CODEWORD

No. 304

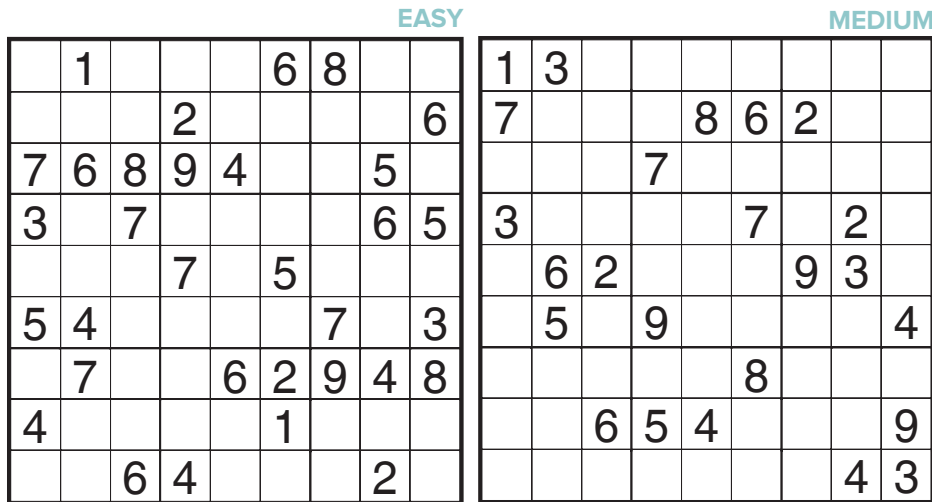
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



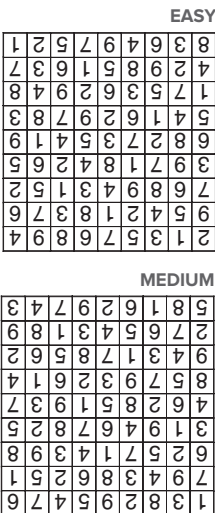
SUDOKU

No. 313

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

- 1. Who played Jim in the 2000s sitcom *According to Jim*?
- 2. What is the tallest building in the Western Hemisphere?
- 3. Oslo is the capital of which country?
- 4. Reggie Watts (pictured) starred in which US late night talk show?
- 5. The Velvet Revolution took place in which year?
- 6. Who did Ringo Starr replace as drummer in The Beatles?
- 7. True or false: peccaries are pigs?
- 8. How many stars appear on the flag of North Korea?
- 9. When was the last year in which the Winter and Summer Olympics were held in the same year?
- 10. Death Valley National Park is located in which two US states?



**ANSWERS:** 1. Jim Belushi 2. One World Trade Center 3. Norway 4. *The Late Late Show with James Corden* 5. 1989 6. Pete Best 7. False 8. One 9. 1992 10. Nevada and California

WORD SEARCH

No. 224

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



- |           |             |             |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| ALPINE    | GREEN TRACK | RED BULL    |
| AUTOCLAVE | GRID        | SHUNT       |
| BOX       | HAAS        | SPEED       |
| BRAKE     | MCLAREN     | STEERING    |
| CIRCUIT   | OVERTAKE    | TANKSLAPPER |
| DELTA     | PIT STOP    | TEAMS       |
| DRAG      | PODIUM      | TYRE        |
| DRIVERS   | POLE        | VETTEL      |
| EOS       | POSITION    | WILLIAMS    |
| FERRARI   | POWER UNIT  |             |
| FIA       | PRACTICE    |             |
| FLAGS     | QUALIFY     |             |
| G-FORCE   | RACING      |             |

**SECRET MESSAGE:** Fighting to take the chequered flag



# A coastal sanctuary with breathtaking views and sustainable design

A BEAUTIFULLY designed home just 100 metres from the pristine sands of Surf Beach has hit the market for \$1.38 million.

The architecturally designed residence at 21 Dunvegan Crescent delivers an enviable blend of coastal living, comfort and sustainability.

Surrounded by quality homes, the property enjoys sweeping northern views across Swan Bay, Churchill Island and Westernport Bay, with the renowned Surfies Point close by.

Built seven years ago by a respected local builder, the home showcases thoughtful craftsmanship and timeless design.

At its heart, the stunning kitchen features stone benchtops, a generous timber island, induction cooking and a walk-in butler's pantry.

A Morso wood-burning heater creates a warm and inviting atmosphere in the dining space, while the spacious living room offers year-round comfort with split-system air conditioning.

The master suite is a private retreat complete with a walk-in robe and ensuite.

The upper deck provides the perfect backdrop for entertaining with breathtaking coastal vistas, while a roll-out awning ensures comfort in all seasons.

The lower level offers exceptional flexibility with a large rumpus room featuring a pool table, sliding doors to the driveway and side yard, and a dedicated home office with high-speed NBN fibre-to-the-premises and ethernet connectivity.

Downstairs accommodation includes two bedrooms enhanced by a family bathroom with bath, a separate powder room, air conditioning and ceiling fans.

A convenient kitchenette with stone benches opens onto a lower deck perfect for barbecues.


Designed with sustainability in mind, the home features Rylok double-glazed windows, generous north-facing glazing for passive solar warmth, 5kW Canadian Solar panels and a Tesla Powerwall.


Two water tanks include one servicing toilet cisterns.


The 6 Star energy rating ensures consistently low power bills and year-round comfort.

Contact Alex Scott and Staff Cowes on 5952 2633 to arrange a private inspection.



 3

 2

 2

21 Dunvegan Cres, **Surf Beach**

**For Sale \$1,380,000**

**Agent Alex Scott & Staff**

Cowes office 5952 2633

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# AUCTION

Saturday, January 17 at 2pm on site  
198 Thompson Avenue, Cowes



## OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS: DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL AWAITS ON A PRIME 3200m² SITE!

Don't miss this genuine offering from a genuine vendor!

This expansive 3200 m² site presents a huge development potential in a highly sought-after location. A rare and exciting prospect for developers, investors, or those seeking an extensive landholding with significant future upside.

Key Features & Current Infrastructure:

- Massive Land Size: A substantial 3200 m² parcel ripe for redevelopment.
- Existing Improvements: The property features two large, brick homes, providing immediate rental income or flexible living

arrangements while planning.

- Each home boasts: Three spacious bedrooms.
- An additional study/office, perfect for remote work or a fourth bedroom conversion.

The Investment Upside:

- Future Development Potential: Leverage the significant land size for potential multi-unit development, townhouses, or subdivision.
- Immediate Income Stream: Utilise the existing two homes for rental income, offsetting holding costs while you navigate the planning process.

- Flexibility: Live in one, rent the other, or rent both while securing future approvals.

This is an opportunity too big to miss! With two substantial homes already in place on this enormous block, the potential for future capital growth and development yield is truly outstanding. Act now to secure this prime development site!

Note: All future development, subdivision, and changes in land use are Subject to Council Planning Approval. Prospective buyers are encouraged to conduct their own due diligence regarding planning and zoning regulations.

CONTACT COWES:  
Greg Price 0419 337 441





EXPERIENCE the best of coastal living, combining breathtaking views of the inlet and ocean glimpses with simple design and easy care finishes.

The home is equipped for comfort in any season, with a cosy wood heater and reverse cycle air conditioning.

The light-drenched open plan living area extends onto covered entertaining decks on either side, just the spot to sit and take in the tranquil surroundings and listen to the sounds of the sea.

The kitchen is a cook's delight, with stainless steel appliances, a dishwasher and spacious pantry.

There are two well-appointed bedrooms, a central bathroom with laundry facilities and a convenient powder room.

Outside is the sealed driveway, ample parking for two vehicles and a secure storage locker ideal for surfboards, bicycles and beach gear.

An outdoor shower and eco-friendly hot water system, along with both bore and tank water systems.

Located just a short 100m stroll to the beach, this home invites you to spend your days surfing, relaxing and reconnecting with nature in this pristine setting.

An ideal escape or perfect to enjoy every day.



2 1 2

Unit 3, 5-7 Acacia Street,  
**Sandy Point**  
**New Price** \$620,000  
**Agent** SEJ Real Estate  
Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

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Ph 5682 2800

IRENE WALKER  
0429 045 632  
iwalker@sej.com.au  
LEONGATHA  
Ph 5662 4033

**SANDY POINT**

- 3 bed, 1 bath, 3 car
- 797m2 backs onto farmland
- Updated house to enjoy
- Wood heater and RC/AC
- Parking- boat or caravan

**\$810,000**  
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

**BUFFALO**

- Situated in one of Victorias prime cattle regions
- Featuring 276 acres / 112 ha (approx.) flat to undulating
- Traditional strong messmate country with heavy black soils
- Excellent fencing (8) paddocks with native tree shelter belts
- Water security with great catchment dams and rainfall
- Undercover stock yards, B-double access and hayshed

**\$3,600,000**  
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

**TOORA**

- Business only
- Italian-style café & deli
- Well established
- Equipment, training
- 3x3 lease in the heart of town

**\$150,000**  
Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

**LEONGATHA**

- Great central location
- Walk to shops & sporting
- 3 bed, 1 bath, 1 car
- Low maintenance block
- Dual access driveways

**\$490,000**  
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

**MARDAN**

- Gently undulating and well sheltered with red and grey soil profiles
- 115 ha / 286 acres ideal for both breeding / fattening of cattle & sheep
- Neat 2 bed, 1 bath cottage & machinery shedding
- Excellent Stock yards for both cattle and sheep with 15 paddocks
- Natural springs & stock troughs with excellent fencing
- 20km\* Leongatha, 7km\* Mirboo North in high rainfall district

**\$2,820,000**  
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

**DUMBALK**

- Traditional Bluegum Grazing
- Undulating to steep
- Affordable entry farming
- 85 ha / 210 acres (approx.)
- Ideal cattle & sheep

**\$1,580,000**  
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632





Naturally secluded

ELDERS Rural Services Australia Limited is delighted to present 350 Wild Dog Road, Strzelecki.

Quietly positioned at the end of a dead-end road, this secluded 60-acre holding captures seemingly private forest and valley vistas, delivering peace, privacy and an authentic country lifestyle.

The improvements complement the setting, comprising a comfortable three-bedroom, one-bathroom residence and a separate one-bedroom bungalow suited to dependent or guest accommodation.

The property is fully solar powered by a 6.5kW system, housed within a versatile shed providing additional storage and accommodation options.

You could live off grid with a solar system backed up by a diesel 7.5kVA generator.

The land is well prepared with 11 paddocks, eight troughs fed by header tanks, laneways, electric fencing, three dams and extensive shedding.

As an added bonus, the property offers unused infrastructure for dog accommodation, six outdoor pens and one undercover.

For further information or to inspect the property, contact Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: [consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist](http://consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist).

4

2

4

60 Acres

350 Wild Dog Road,  
**Strzelecki**  
**For Sale \$1,650,000**  
**Agent Elders**  
Ben Townsend 0400 594 487



Real Estate

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*new listing*

**Nyora**2.2 Acres  
**Country Living with Town Convenience**

- 2-bed home each with ensuite and WIR
- Open kitchen/dining/living
- Powered shed, horse shelter, garden shed

Web ID: 300P189992

**\$850,000**

*new listing*

**Loch**5.18 Acres  
**Versatile Lifestyle Opportunity**

- 3-bed home and 2-bed second home
- Wood, machinery shed and disused dairy
- Solar on both homes

Web ID: 300P189872

**\$975,000**

*new listing*

**Korumburra**17.8 Acres  
**A Lifestyle to Belong and Call Home**

- Renovated 4-bed, 2-bath home
- Self-contained one-bed cottage
- 3 well fenced paddocks

Web ID: 300P190700

**\$1.8 Million**

*new listing*

**Korumburra**8091m<sup>2</sup>  
**Convenience, Dual Living on 2 Acres**

- Renovated 3-bed home
- 1-bed unit for dual living
- Shedding inc. stables and horse boxes

Web ID: 300P185342

**\$875,000**

**Elders Korumburra**  
11 Commercial Street  
Ph 5658 1894

**BEN TOWNSEND**  
Licensed Estate Agent  
0400 594 487

**SHARON TURTON**  
Sales Consultant  
0447 604 796

**KATRINA GRIGGS**  
Sales Consultant  
0428 571 083

**HELEN ARESTIA**  
Sales Support  
03 5662 3523

**NATALIE RES**  
Property Manager  
0439 383 091

**Elders Leongatha**  
37 Bair Street  
Ph 5662 3523

JAN2026/14

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 | 31



# An extraordinary lifestyle estate of rare distinction

## ‘Wattle Bank House’



A PROPERTY of true calibre, Wattle Bank House stands as one of South Gippsland’s most exclusive offerings—an exquisite 1.98-hectare estate where refined living, breathtaking grounds and exceptional entertaining facilities come together in perfect harmony.

Beyond the grand wrought-iron gates, a magnificent all-asphalt circular driveway winds through prestigious, meticulously curated gardens, creating an entrance that is nothing short of spectacular.

This is a residence that immediately commands attention and delivers on every promise of luxury.

### A Masterpiece of Renovation & Design

The 60-square residence has been transformed with uncompromising attention to detail, showcasing craftsmanship and material selections befitting a home of this standard.

Upon entry, the quality is unmistakable—polished hardwood floors, plantation shutters and bespoke timber accents set a sophisticated yet warm tone throughout.

At the heart of the home lies a chef’s kitchen of exceptional standard, featuring a Smeg gas cooktop, double oven, built-in microwave and beautifully crafted timber benchtops.

This gourmet space flows effortlessly to an elegant dining and living zone anchored by a gas log fireplace, offering the perfect setting for intimate evenings or refined family gatherings.

The accommodation wing comprises three oversized bedrooms with built-in robes, an exquisitely renovated central bathroom with freestanding bath, and a fully fitted office or fifth bedroom.

Sunlight streams into the second living room, where a wood heater radiates warmth and ambience.



### World-Class Entertaining and Lifestyle Infrastructure

Rarely does an estate deliver such extensive and versatile lifestyle amenities.

The property excels as both an ultra-private family haven and an elite event destination, featuring a fully equipped function centre designed to host up to 200 guests, a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen and dedicated preparation facilities, expansive covered alfresco zones with open fire, a magnificent 15m x 15m barn-style shed with high clearance for caravans or boats, a six-car garage with integrated workshop, swim spa and large undercover leisure areas, gymnasium or children’s recreation room, prestigious gardens adorned with stone pathways, Buddha sculptures and a tranquil gazebo, fully fenced tennis court for private play, and an approximate 12kW solar power system for improved efficiency and sustainability.

This is a property designed for life at its fullest—where relaxation, recreation and grand-scale entertaining coexist seamlessly.



**4****2****11****1.98ha**

**60 Desmond Road, Wattlebank**  
**For Sale \$3,250,000**  
**Agent Alex Scott & Staff**  
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783



<div>KOONWARRA</div> <div></div> <div>7 Koala Drive</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Beautiful as new home on half acre</li><li>3 bedroom, 2 bathroom</li><li>Close to rail trail and Koonwarra store</li></ul><div>\$895,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>Coming Soon</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3 bedroom brick, renovated throughout</li><li>Views across town</li><li>Walk to schools and shops</li></ul><div>Contact Agent</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>198 Thompson Avenue</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Prime development site of 3200m²</li><li>Two brick 3 bed homes</li><li>Perfect position</li></ul><div>Auction Saturay, January 17 at 2pm</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>KILCUNDA</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>8 Peppermint Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3 bedroom, 2 bathroom</li><li>Spectacular ocean views</li><li>Great shedding &amp; corner location</li></ul><div>SOLD</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>		
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>29 Young Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4 bedroom home with 2 large living</li><li>As neat as a pin inside and out</li><li>Large shed with rear lane access</li></ul><div>\$649,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>31 Mine Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Retail/Commercial Freehold</li><li>Highway frontage</li><li>Rear Access</li></ul><div>\$395,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>10 Rogan Close</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Home and bungalow on 602m²</li><li>Updated kitchen, light filled</li><li>3 bedroom, 2 bathroom</li></ul><div>Auction Saturay, January 24 at 12pm</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>ARCHIES CREEK</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>114 Archies Creek Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4 bedroom, 2 bathroom</li><li>Quality built family home</li><li>Big block with rural views</li></ul><div>SOLD</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>		
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>23 Brown Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4 bedroom home, 2 living, 2 bathroom</li><li>Large carport and secure yard</li><li>Extensive internal makeover will impress</li></ul><div>\$649,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>Daisy Bank Estate</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>15 Blocks</li><li>All services available</li><li>Titled and ready to build</li></ul><div>From \$284,500</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>49 Teddy Bear Lane</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Two storey home</li><li>Open plan, fenced yard</li><li>5 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 4 car</li></ul><div>\$790,000 - \$830,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>4 Heron Drive</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Great location close to all amenities</li><li>3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms</li><li>Low maintenance block</li></ul><div>SOLD</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>		
<div>KOONWARRA</div> <div></div> <div>140 Johnsons Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>3 bedroom home on just under 2 acres</li><li>Large shedding plus horse arenas/grazing</li><li>Walk to rail trail and centre of Koonwarra</li></ul><div>\$895,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>LISTINGS WANTED</div> <div>Contact our office for a free market appraisal</div>			<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>347 Settlement Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Exceptional home</li><li>Seamless indoor/outdoor entertaining area</li><li>6 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 2 car garage</li></ul><div>\$1,100,000 - \$1,150,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>NORTH WONTHAGGI</div> <div><div>SOLD</div></div> <div>2 Civic Way</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms</li><li>Great corner block</li><li>Room for a good size shed</li></ul><div>SOLD</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>





CLEARING SALE

A/C ANTRIM PARK - S & J LOUGHRIDGE  
24 Invermay Rd West, Ripplebrook

Friday, January 23  
at 9.30am

Major Machinery & Sundry Items

Items include but not limited to...

John Deere 6410 w/ front loader; John Deere 6420, McCormick MTX200; Massey Ferguson TE20; Vicon RV 2160 baler-wrapper combination x 2; Vicon RV 2160 baler; Vicon RV1601 baler; New Holland 1282 self-propelled baler; Kuhn VBP 2160 baler-wrapper combination; Fork lift bin tipper/rotator; TGB Blade 520 ATV; Hay rings; Square bale-up feeders; Calf bar feeders; temporary fencing bases and panels; Cummins irrigation motor; 3 phase generator/meadows motor; 3 phase roller/bender; Mazda BT50 tub; 3 phase MIG welder; Grimme harvester/gooseneck; Sulky superspreader (fully auto); trencher; spud grader/tipper & hopper/potato bag filler, veg float tank; Struik inter row cultivator; 4 row Holm chopper; Howard topper; 3m Howard rotary hoe; John Deere 6140 motor & bonnet; Silage grabs; Tanco bale cutter; R turbo reel 115 irrigator; Kverneland 4 furrow reverse plough; 11 tine ripper; Pottinger rake; 2 x Lely tedder; Aitchison seed drill; 400m Hose reel 140Ml line; twin satellite orbital wrapper; Pottinger 8 disc mower; 4m Power harrow; 3point linkage disc plough 20 plate; Gold acres row crop spray unit 2000ltr; Plowmaster 7 disc 32 plate; creep feeder; single axle tipper; Caroni super spreader; Superwrap tube wrapper; 3m roller; 6m pasture renovator; 6x12 tandem trailer; 2 x 6 tonne box trailer; Lely 9m butterfly mower; Turbo reel irrigator 14400; Lely hibiscus rake; vat pre cool chill unit; assortment of tools & sundries too numerous to mention

TERMS: Cash, Cheque or Eftpos on day of sale.  
Number system & Photo ID for registration.  
GST where applicable. Light refreshments.  
[www.nutrienagsolutions.com.au/clearing-sales](http://www.nutrienagsolutions.com.au/clearing-sales)



For further details contact:

Michael Robertson 0484 041 653  
Matt Loughridge 0419 446 152



An animated Anthony Delaney sells steers at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A08\_0226

Positive Leongatha Store Sale

By Andrew Palocz

THURSDAY'S Leongatha Store Sale featured a mix of happy buyers and sellers, with plenty of good quality calves available. While Berrys Creek farmer Fergus O'Connor was pleased with the prices he paid for 60 Angus calves, describing them as easily a dollar a kilo less than last year, Anthony Delaney of Elders Delaney Livestock and Property was equally happy with the strength of Thursday's sale.

Mr Delaney said that on average the market was up 50 to 80 cents a kilo on last year's weaner sales. Riverslea Pastoral, based in Riverslea, sold 180 Angus mixed sex weaners. Mr Delaney praised the breeding of those calves and their length and weight, noting they sold very well. One pen of 20 Riverslea Pastoral steers made \$5.14 a kilo, those cattle weighing an average of 319 kilos and going for \$1,640 a head.

Another pen of 22 steers tipping the scales at an average 358 kilos also cracked the \$5 a kilo mark, achieving \$5.05 when they sold for \$1,810 each. The best price per kilo for Riverslea Pastoral heifers was \$4.60 for 16 animals averaging 371 kilos and fetching \$1,710 each, a pen of 20 averaging 348 kilos going for \$1,600 a head at \$4.59 per kilo. Mr Delaney also sold Angus calves from the annual draft of RJ & SM Williams of Currajung South, praising the animals' weight. "They're only 10 months of age and to be 400 kilos is a terrific effort given the season it's been," Mr Delaney said. That was another success story on a positive day, with the top price per kilo for RJ & SM Williams steers being \$5.35 for a pen of 21 animals averaging

355 kilos and selling for \$1,900 a head. However, that was upstaged by a pen of that vendor's heifers that achieved a whopping \$6.04 a kilo for 22 animals averaging 346 kilos, with Michael Foote of Elders remarking, "There were a couple of outstanding pens of Angus weaner heifers that made around the \$6 mark, bought by restockers to be grown out and joined." Mr Delaney elaborated on the success of the day. "Every consignment we had certainly met or exceeded expectations," he said. Kate Looke of Merristock Pty Ltd in Beveridge was happy with the prices a couple of pens of the business' steers made. One lot weighing an average of 312 kilos going for \$1,710 each at \$5.48 per kilo, while the other made \$1,990 a head at \$5.37 a kilo for animals averaging 370 kilos.

MARKET REPORT

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CLAAS Harvest Centre

Strong start to 2026

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded 2200 head at the first store sale for 2026 at the RLX Leongatha saleyards in a good quality offering. Feature lines included annual drafts of weaners along with some very nice pens of heavier Angus yearling and two-year-old steers that all presented very well considering the hot conditions. A good size crowd was on hand with local graziers and regular commission buyers in attendance. Prices were generally in line with rates seen at the opening of other Victorian weaner sales this week for better bred cattle, with the lighter secondary types firm to a shade easier.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026 Steers			
Malabar 25 Angus	651kg	\$4.91	\$3200
WR Miller 16 Angus	586kg	\$4.81	\$2820
R Lightowler 17 Angus	555kg	\$5.04	\$2800
D Douglas 14 Angus	543kg	\$5.06	\$2750
Wr Miller 15 Angus	512kg	\$4.94	\$2530
GG, EF, MG & R Bates 13 Ang	458kg	\$5.26	\$2410
Riverslea Past 18 Angus	428kg	\$4.97	\$2130
RJ & SM Williams 22 Angus	415kg	\$5.20	\$2160
J Mccarthy 11 Spk	407kg	\$4.54	\$1850
N & G Stollery 16 Angus	392kg	\$5.05	\$1980
Riverslea Past 15 Angus	391kg	\$4.83	\$1890
D Phelps 11 Angus	386kg	\$4.84	\$1870
G SAS & JA Robertson 18 Ang	379kg	\$5.27	\$2000
Merristock P/L 15 Angus	369kg	\$5.14	\$1900
GS & J Tuckett 20 Angus	363kg	\$5.39	\$1960
C Martel 18 Angus	358kg	\$5.16	\$1850
Riverslea Past 22 Angus	358kg	\$5.05	\$1810
N & G Stollery 18 Angus	349kg	\$5.32	\$1860
Willurah Park 20 Angus	343kg	\$5.18	\$1780
The Ridge Pastoral 14 Bb	339kg	\$5.13	\$1740
Delaney Family Trust 14 Hfd	339kg	\$5.10	\$1730
The Ridge Pastoral 22 Angus	336kg	\$5.05	\$1700
DC McGrath 23 Angus	333kg	\$5.07	\$1690
RB & KM Fleming 13 Limo	331kg	\$5.16	\$1710
N & G Stollery 14 Angus	330kg	\$5.27	\$1740
M & J Brady 18 Angus	329kg	\$5.50	\$1810
M Sweeney 12 Angus	323kg	\$5.20	\$1680
G & L Bennett 10 AA/BB	323kg	\$4.86	\$1570
Becxon Agriculture 17 Angus	319kg	\$5.14	\$1640
Riverslea Past 20 Angus	319kg	\$5.14	\$1640
Merristock P/L 15 Angus	312kg	\$5.48	\$1710
Allen Angus 16 Angus	310kg	\$5.35	\$1660
RK & JM Pretty 12 Hereford	297kg	\$5.85	\$1740
The Ridge Pastoral 13 Angus	297kg	\$5.08	\$1510
The Ridge Pastoral 18 BB	295kg	\$5.22	\$1540
Delaney Family Trust 28 Angus	294kg	\$5.40	\$1590
Parker Amber P/L 16 Angus	293kg	\$5.59	\$1640
Jones Farms 14 Angus	291kg	\$5.46	\$1590
Becxon Agriculture 21 Angus	279kg	\$5.34	\$1490
Parker Amber P/L 15 Angus	259kg	\$5.94	\$1540
Allen Angus 18 Angus	256kg	\$5.85	\$1500
Becxon Agriculture 19 Angus	247kg	\$5.70	\$1410
Delaney Family Trust 14 Char	238kg	\$5.88	\$1400

Heifers			
A & S Bunn 10 Angus/BB	437kg	\$4.39	\$1920
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 20 Ang	380kg	\$4.97	\$1890
G & L Bennett 11 Angus X	376kg	\$4.65	\$1750
Riverslea Past 16 Angus	371kg	\$4.60	\$1710
RJ & SM Williams 14 Angus	367kg	\$5.17	\$1900
J McCarthy 12 Spk	358kg	\$4.46	\$1600
G & L Bennett 11 Angus	357kg	\$4.48	\$1600
Delaney Family Trust 16 Hfd	356kg	\$4.26	\$1520
JE & ML Hume 15 BB	353kg	\$4.78	\$1690
C Martel 18 Angus	332kg	\$4.51	\$1500
RJ & SM Williams 13 Angus	330kg	\$4.33	\$1460
Merristock P/L 18 Angus	328kg	\$4.57	\$1500
The Ridge Pastoral 20 Ang/BB	326kg	\$4.29	\$1400
Becxon Agriculture 12 Angus	324kg	\$4.25	\$1380
Delaney Family Trust 10 Hfd	322kg	\$4.13	\$1330
G SAS & JA Robertson 12 Ang	321kg	\$4.51	\$1447
N & G Stollery 16 Angus	320kg	\$4.53	\$1450
Windyridge 16 Angus	319kg	\$4.45	\$1420
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 10 Ang	308kg	\$4.54	\$1400
Delaney Family Trust 11 Char	302kg	\$4.37	\$1320
Delaney Family Trust 16 Ang	294kg	\$4.08	\$1200
The Ridge Pastoral 26 Ang/BB	294kg	\$4.01	\$1180
The Ridge Pastoral 16 Angus	293kg	\$4.02	\$1180
Allen Angus 20 Angus	283kg	\$4.55	\$1290
Parker Amber P/L 16 Angus	283kg	\$4.31	\$1220
Parker Amber P/L 16 Angus	254kg	\$4.56	\$1160

AGISTMENT WANTED

We are seeking agistment or lease for Angus cattle. The number of head can be adjusted to suit your situation.

Call Tom 0427 337 515



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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
LEONGATHA		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	WONTHAGGI	
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
WARRAGUL		David Holden	0428 749 390
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	PAKENHAM	
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
		Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
		Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
BERWICK		LANG LANG		Tom Gibson	0438 574 472
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Angus Hall	0466 326 487

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# Strong start for RLX at Leongatha saleyards

REGIONAL Livestock Exchanges has marked its first week of operations at the Leongatha saleyard with three successful sale days that delivered good prices for producers and quality stock for buyers.

The store sale on Thursday offered 2200 head, a strong start to the year that included interest from north of the border with 10 per cent of the yarding heading to New South Wales.

Primarily a restockers market of young cattle, processors secured just under 10 per cent of the numbers with a small percentage also going to feedlots.

Earlier in the week, the Annual Feature Female Sale offered just shy of 200 head of quality beef females.

Heifers were strong, selling to a top of \$3550 and averaging \$2587 while females with calves averaged \$2860 and topped the market at \$3700.

Tuesday's prime sale saw 32 individual purchasers operating on a typically small first sale of just more than 1000 head, with all cattle remaining in Victoria.

Processors were strong, securing two-thirds of the yarding.

Slaughter stock categories were firm to 30 cents dearer, while restocker cattle eased five to 30 cents across categories, except for dairy cows back to the paddock which gained 25 cents



Jayden Ferrari calls the bids for Baw Baw Livestock at the Leongatha saleyards. rk30\_0226

on the previous sale.

The mood was positive all week with everyone at the sales hoping for a good year.

RLX chief executive Brett Freer said the transition had been smooth.

"It has been fantastic to see the team work together to support a smooth transition without interruption for the people that utilise the Leongatha site," Mr Freer said.

"The support for RLX from the

community has been fantastic and I personally have enjoyed attending a number of important local events this week, such as the Dumbalk Country Camp Draft."

Mr Freer said RLX was committed to the region.

"The team at RLX look forward to deepening our connections with the community to ensure that the Leongatha saleyard remains an integral part of the South Gippsland region serving

eastern Victoria," he said.

RLX's Leongatha saleyard is an industry-leading livestock selling centre strategically located on the South Gippsland Highway.

With roofing over the selling pens, soft flooring, and heavy-duty asphalt covering the surrounding area, the yard is a top-class facility serving eastern Victoria.

RLX operates 11 saleyards across Australia including sites at Shepparton, Ballarat and Barnawartha in Victoria.

## Weaner sale moves to Leongatha due to Yea bushfires

LEONGATHA will now host the 39th annual blue ribbon weaner sale, after widespread fires forced a move from its original location in Yea.

The sale will now take place at the Leongatha Sale Yards on Friday, January 16, commencing at 9.30am.

Elders Euroa livestock manager Joe Allen said the move was the result of dangerous bushfires.

"A proactive decision was made by agents and vendors because of the widespread fires in the Yea district," he said.

Mr Allen credited the lack of bushfire activity as the reason Leongatha was chosen as the replacement location.

"It made sense to head in a direction largely unaffected by bushfires."

The cattle attending the sale will not be fire affected.

Mr Allen emphasised the work of farmers, vets and everyone involved in prioritising the health of the animals.

"It was a huge effort by everyone to ensure no animals were detrimentally affected by the fire.

"Rest assured, the cattle presented will be fit for auction."

**See full listing on page 41.**

## REGIONAL LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE – LEONGATHA

# STORE SALE 2000 CATTLE 2000

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026 - Starting at 9am

### GROWN STEERS

#### DA & PM Conn, Hedley (PHC)

160 Angus steers, 16-17 mths, Flinders Island bred, Landfall, Cluden Newry & Rosedale blood

#### Bulleondurra, Mirboo (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 18 mths  
30 Angus steers, 12-13 mths

#### D Layton, Yanakie (SEJ)

45 Angus & Hereford steers, 18 mths, ex Ballarat

#### J Flint, Willung (NUTRIEN)

35 Angus steers, 15 mths  
Lorstan Nom, Hedley (SEJ)

20 Angus steers, 18-20 mths

41 Angus steers, 15-16 mths

Tambo Valley & Kunuma blood

VB, GF & AF, NE Accred

#### D Best, Toora (SEJ)

35 Angus steers, 18mths

VB, GF, AF, NE Accred

Landfall Blood

#### NA Henderson, Gelantipy (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus steers, 16-18 mths

15 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths

All TeMania & Gooramadda bred, 5in, B12, Dectomax Inj, NE Accred, AF

#### D & M Adams P/L, Yarram (NUTRIEN)

31 Angus steers, 18 mths

#### M & C Beavis, Kardella (SEJ)

30 Angus steers, 20-22 mths

#### C Wilde, Yanakie (SEJ)

30 Angus & Angus Hereford x steers

Sth East dist bred, 20-22 mths

#### DR Hall, Fish Creek (SEJ)

20 Angus steers, 15-16 mths

VB, GF, AF, NE Accred

#### A & A Bressan, Ranceby (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 18 mths

#### Bimbadeen Angus, Phillip Island (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 17-18 mths, mostly bred by Millah Murrah bulls, NE Accred

#### Orchard Park Pastoral, Wonthaggi (NUTRIEN)

18 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, by Leawood stud bulls

#### Baillie Bros, Tyers (NUTRIEN)

16 Angus steers, 20 mths, Leawood blood, NE Accred, VB

#### Aggotech P/L, Kardella South (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus steers, 20 mths, East Gippsland bred

#### R & H Harrison, Arawata (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus steers, 18 mths, East Gippsland bred

#### B & D McMahon, Leongatha North (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus steers, 20 mths

### WEANERS

#### K & L Heggen, Binginwarri (SEJ)

120 Red Angus steers, 10-11 mths

Hicks blood, VB, GF & AF, NE Accred

#### NB Smith, Pound Creek (SEJ)

50 Angus steers, 10 mths

50 Angus heifers, 10 mths

By Leawood & Moorunga Bulls

#### Kings Park, Pound Creek (SEJ)

50 Angus steers, 9 mths

30 Angus heifers, 9 mths

By pure Dunoon & Three Oaks bulls, drenched 5in1

#### AJAY Partners, Leongatha (SEJ)

40 Red Angus steers, 10-11 mths

20 Red Angus heifers, 10-11 mths

VB, GF & AF, NE Accred

#### Sampson AG, Wonthaggi (NUTRIEN)

60 Limousin mixed sex, 9-11 mths

#### Game & Beresford, Buckajo (NUTRIEN)

50 Angus steers, 9 mths, by Redbank bulls

50 Angus heifers, 9 mths, by Redbank bulls

#### R & S Boote, Drouin South (SEJ)

45 Red Angus steers, 10-11 mths

Hicks blood, VB, GF & AF, NE Accred

#### M & C Russell, Glen Forbes (SEJ)

40 Hereford steers, 12-14 mths

Weaned, VB, GF & AF

Ponderosa blood

#### Ranleigh Downs, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus mixed sex, 8-10 mths

#### Cameron Hill Past Co, Arawata (SEJ)

30 Angus & Hereford M/S, 12-14 mths

VB, GF AF, weaned & very quiet

#### M Jeffery, Phillip Island (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus & B/Baldy mixed sex, 9-11 mths, by

Fernleigh & Wattlewood stud bulls

#### M Eales, Stony Creek (SEJ)

18 Angus steers, 10-11 mths

Dunoon & Banquet blood

Weaned, VB, GF & ABF

#### "Sunrise", Phillip Island (SEJ)

15 Angus steers, 12-14 mths

VB, GF, ABF, Lawson blood

#### Pen-Y-Bryn Estate, Welshpool (PHC)

16 Angus mixed sex weaners

#### G & B Evans, Mardan (SEJ)

16 Angus steers

11 Angus heifers

8-10 mths, weaned 2 weeks, Leawood blood

#### Sheagan, Leongatha (SEJ)

10 Hereford steers

14 Hereford heifers

8-9 mths, weaned

#### R Parkes, Ranceby (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus mixed sex, 9-10 mths, ex Merlewood bred

cows by Leawood stud bulls

#### C & R Schellekens & Sons, Berrys Creek (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus & B/Baldy X steers, 10-11 mths

#### Canicala, French Island (NUTRIEN)

10 Angus steers, 10-12 mths

10 Angus heifers, 10-12 mths

#### J & D Elliott, Stony Creek (SEJ)

11 Angus steers

8 Angus heifers

9-10 mths by Wattlewood Angus bulls. Zeromec

injectable, 5in1, Multimin - 4/12/25

#### Mardan Lodge, Mardan (SEJ)

17 Angus & Angus hereford X steers

8-10 mths Alpine Angus blood

VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred, weaned and very quiet

#### Harehill, Mirboo North (SEJ)

5 Red Angus steers, 10-11 mths

10 Red Angus heifers, 10-11 mths

Hedley Range blood, VB, GF & AF

#### Missen Farming, Gormandale (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus steers, 9-10 mths

#### T. L. Vening, Welshpool (PHC)

11 Angus X mixed sex weaners, weaned

#### G Lacey, Allambee (PHC)

10 Angus X mixed sex weaners, No GST



5662 4033

5662 2291

0429 050 349

5997 1555

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DEATHS

**BOWKER, (nee Skidmore) Beverly:**  
Passed away peacefully on January 9, aged 85.  
Loving wife to George (dec.).  
Beloved mother to Karen, Peter and Rachael.  
Cherished Nan to Emma, Cooper, Michael, Taryn and Kaylee.  
Loving sister to Joan (dec.).  
Beverly will be remembered for her kindness and the care she showed to her family and others. She was deeply loved and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

Forever in our hearts.

**BOX, Nicole Louise:**  
Born on October 23, 1973. Passed away December 24, 2025.  
Aged 52.  
Much loved daughter of Val and Rob Box (both dec).  
Loved sister and sister-in-law to Angela and Brett, Davin and Sheri, Melinda and Geoffrey, Anthony and Christopher.  
Beloved partner to Shane.  
Adored aunty to 15 nieces and nephews and a grandnephew.  
“A beautiful soul gone too soon.”

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DEATHS

**BRICKLE, Kathleen:**  
Passed away peacefully, January 2, 2026.  
Darling wife of Bert (dec.).Loving mother of Maree, Adrian, Katrina and Justin.  
Mother-in-law of Daria and Paul.  
Loved Nanna of Vanessa, Damian, Davey, Frankie and great Nanna of Emily, Jessica.  
A Private Service has been held.

**BROUGHTON (nee Birt), Joan:**  
21.06.1948 - 08.01.2026  
Loved wife of Lyall for almost 59 years.  
A loving Mum, Nanna and Great Grandmother.  
Sadly missed by her family and friends.  
‘Sleeping Peacefully’

**BROUGHTON, Joan:**  
My beautiful sister, my heart is broken, we shared a life, you were my big sister, we were part of each other.  
We reconnected as if we always were, I was so proud, you were so brave, we said goodbye.  
Until we meet again. I love you, Debbie.  
Loving Aunty to all my children xxx

**BROUGHTON, Joan:**  
21.06.1948 - 08.01.2026  
Good friends are like stars, you don't always see them, but you know they are always there in our hearts.  
Love Glenda, Debra and Paul xxx

**HEAL, Gill:**  
April 7, 1944, to January 11, 2026.  
Teacher, actor, friend, writer, director... Gill was always good on her entrances and exits, and her leaving was peaceful and perfectly timed. After a rich life, she was ready to exit.  
We are grateful for the stories, the laughter and the friendship.  
Rest easy, our beautiful friend.  
  
Please join us in celebrating Gill's extraordinary life at The Shed, State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi at 3pm on Monday, January 19.  
Inquiries: Catherine on 0401 817 796.

DEATHS

**HOGAN, Keith Henry:**  
16.06.1928 - 04.01.2026.  
97 years.  
Son of Leslie and Annie; brother of Gordon, Lexie, Norman and Geoffrey (all dec.).  
Beloved husband of Dulcie (dec.), father and (father-in-law) of Robert (Anna), Ellen and Julie (Joey); grandfather of Matthew (Belle), Kate (Ian), Stephanie, Natalie, Lori and Ella (Justin); great grandfather of Calman, Lyla, Esher, Sophie, Miley, Jay, Louie and Harvey.  
Loved friend to many: “a true friend asks how you are and wants to hear your answer.”

**McCRAW (Cook), Shirley Lorraine (Shirls):**  
Passed away peacefully at Prom County Aged Care, Foster on January 6, 2026. Aged 87 years.  
Dearly loved wife of Geoff for 65 years. Much loved mother of Kerrie, Wendy, Wayne, and Janice (dec.). Mother-in-law of Graeme and Tania. Adored Nana of Bradley, Scott, Sally, Mathew, Haley, Amy, Emma, Lisa, Holly, Jordan, Jake and their partners, and eight great grandchildren.  
Always In Our Hearts.

**McLAREN, Robert Bruce:**  
1927 - 2025.  
Loved and respected friend of Ron and Marie Richards and family.  
Rest in Peace.

**MILLER, Terence James (Frosty):**  
Passed away peacefully on January 6, 2026 at home surrounded by his loving family and Boris.  
Loving dad and father-in-law of Chelsea, Brooke and Drew, Todd and Jacqui, Ryan and Amy, Bree and Luke.  
Adored ‘Poppa Frost’ to Jack, Charlie, Harry; Laia, Oly; Chloe, Maggie; Blaire, Alfie; Jett, Stella, and Kai.  
‘Off on his next adventure’  
Frosty’s funeral was held on Monday, January 12, 2026 , the service was live-streamed to watch go to [www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au)

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DEATHS

**TURNER (nee Sellens), June Patricia:**  
Born July 15, 1926. Passed away January 4, 2026.  
99½ years old at Inverloch, formerly of Morwell and Morwell Bridge.  
Loved wife of Trevor (dec.).  
Loving mother and mother-in-law of Dennis and Jean, Nevelle (dec.) and Jenny.  
Nanny Junie of Dion and Feona, Michelle and Andrew, Brooke and Rob, Helen and Mark, Stuart and Krystal, Allison and Glenn.  
Great grandmother of thirteen.  
  
Thank you to the wonderful staff at Inverloch Coast Care (Seahaven) for the kind care given to June over the 2½ years she was there.

**WELSH, Robert Arthur:**  
04.03.1954 - 06.01.2026  
Loving father of Rebecca, Lisa, Steven and Stacey.  
Adored Granddad of Connor, Isobel and Ellie.  
Beloved brother to Ray (dec.), Lesley, Richard, Susan and Alan, Leeann and Russell (dec.).  
The glue of the family will be sadly missed.  
Forever in our hearts.

FUNERALS

**BOWKER:**  
Funeral Prayers for Mrs. Beverly Bowker will be offered at Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Scarborough Street, Inverloch on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, commencing at 10:30am.  
  
At the conclusion of Prayers the funeral will leave for the Inverloch Cemetery.

FUNERALS

**BOX:**  
The Funeral Service of Ms. Nicole Louise Box will be held at St Peter’s Anglican Church, Leongatha, Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 1pm.  
  
At the Conclusion of the Service the Funeral will leave for the Meeniyam Cemetery.

**BROUGHTON:**  
The Funeral Service for Mrs. Joan Broughton will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi Friday Week, January 23, 2026, commencing at 11am.  
A Private Cremation will follow.

**HOGAN:**  
Celebrate Keith's life with his family at a Memorial Service at 12pm on Friday, January 16, 2026, at the Leongatha RSL, corner of Smith Street and Michael Place Leongatha.

**McCRAW (Cook):**  
The Committal Service for Mrs Shirley McCraw will be held at the Foster Cemetery, 210 Fish Creek - Foster Rd, Foster on Thursday, January 15 at 1pm.

FUNERALS

**WELSH:**  
A celebration of life for Mr. Robert Arthur Welsh will be held at the Exchange Hotel Foster on Monday, January 19, 2026, commencing at 12:30pm.

**IN MEMORIAM**  
**ALGER, Anne:**  
27.07.1945 - 03.01.2022.  
  
In loving memory of our beautiful Annie, mum and nan.  
  
Another Christmas without you, miss you like crazy.  
  
-- Love forever Stan, Craig, Debbie , Tracey and families.

**GRAY, Leonie Rae:**  
Ten years since passing away.  
January 16, 2016.  
Loved wife of Robert Gray and mother of Debra, (Peter), Wendy, (Terry), Barbara and Rhonda, (Warren).  
Cherished Granny to Sophie, Tayla and Chelsea.  
Remembered with love always.

**OTTOSEN, Beverly Joyce:**  
17.01.2006.  
  
Hard to believe 20 years have passed. Our memories of such a special lady will never fade.  
  
There have been many times we wished you were here to help us celebrate special occasions but you're always in our hearts. Love you Mum, Nanna and Great Nanna.  
  
-- Graeme, Josie, Kelly, Marc and Mason, and Chloe.

**SARTORIO, Margaret:**  
Wishing you a happy birthday Mum.  
Thinking of you today and always.  
Missed and loved always, your daughter Michelle xoxo  
  
Oh Maggie, what am I to do?  
How can I live with only memories of you.  
When your ship was sinking, did you tell me the truth?  
I miss you ♥ 'Armando.'

**SERAFINO, Margaret:**  
12 months since you left us for a more gentle place, we often marvelled in your strength that you showed us.  
  
You shared so much love to everyone, we have all learnt from your courage.  
  
We still miss you every day.  
  
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38 | TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES



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HMC13291



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EST. 1890

### Chef

**Bairs Hotel Leongatha** is seeking an experienced and motivated Chef to join our busy kitchen team. Full-time or part-time hours available, above award wages. Applicants must be reliable, organised, and confident working in a fast-paced pub environment.

Start date-mid January 2026

Short term accommodation available for the successful applicant.

**To Apply: Please forward CV to  
[bairshotel@hotmail.com](mailto:bairshotel@hotmail.com)  
or phone 5662 2017**

AF0082

## SITUATIONS VACANT

*A.W. Smith & Sons*  
gifts & homewares

### WE'RE HIRING

We currently have a full time/part time position available in our Gift and Homewares Store, and we are especially interested in hearing from people who have existing retail experience although not essential.

The applicant would require:

- A good work ethic
- Be reliable and committed
- Be self-motivated
- Customer focused
- Willing to work individually or as part of a team
- Be willing to work on a rotating Saturday roster

#### Position

- Full time and or part time position available

If this sounds like you, please send your application including a cover letter detailing your experience and what you would bring to the role along with your resume to: [branch@awsmith.com.au](mailto:branch@awsmith.com.au)

Or

Attention: The Manager A.W. Smith & Sons  
15 McCartin Street, Leongatha VIC 3953

**Applications close Friday, January 30**

CC5277

### dollar curtains +blinds

### Window Covering Installer

A full-time position currently exists within our expanding Wonthaggi team for a window covering installer.

Applicants should be self-motivated, professional, and personable with the ability to work autonomously or in a team environment. Presentation is an important factor. A manual car licence, white card and Working with Children card are all essential. Experience in window coverings would be preferred but is not essential as on the job training will be provided.

Written applications, including resumes with current references are to be sent to:

Damien O'Connor  
Dollar Curtains + Blinds  
21 Murray St, Wonthaggi 3995  
Email: [damien\\_oconnor@outlook.com](mailto:damien_oconnor@outlook.com)

**Applications close  
Friday, January 16, 2026**

JA3725

## ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

# Make a splash

Dive into the  
wonderful world of  
water at Phillip Island.

## Contracts Coordinator

(Band 5, full time, 2 years)

Provide procurement support across business areas & major projects.

**Applications close:  
4 February 2026**

For application details go to  
[www.westernportwater.com.au](http://www.westernportwater.com.au)



**WESTERNPORT  
WATER**

## Audit and Risk Committee External Member



South Gippsland Water is seeking expressions of interest from individuals with appropriate expertise in financial accounting or auditing to support our Audit and Risk Committee.

- Must have appropriate expertise in financial accounting or auditing relevant to a regulated public entity
- Water industry or other relevant public sector experience desirable
- Audit and Risk Committee experience desirable
- Attendance at five virtual committee meetings per annum
- Fixed fee-for-service arrangement

For enquiries, please call Managing Director, Robert Murphy on 0407 864 293. To apply please send your cover letter and resume detailing relevant experience to [peopleandculture@sgwater.com.au](mailto:peopleandculture@sgwater.com.au)

**Applications Close: Friday, January 23, 2026 at 5pm**

HMC13272

1300 851 636 | [www.sgwwater.com.au](http://www.sgwwater.com.au)

## DEADLINES

**Classified single column**

**Mondays 12.00 noon**

**Classified double column**

**Fridays 3.00pm**

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

## TO ADVERTISE



Phone:  
**5672 1888**



Email:  
**[ads@sgst.com.au](mailto:ads@sgst.com.au)**



In person:  
**47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi**



Mail:  
**47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi**

**Office Hours:**  
**9am-5pm Monday to Friday**

**Payments accepted:**



### Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

### The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

**Sentinel-Times**



SITUATIONS VACANT



South Gippsland Hospital

Positions Vacant

Enrolled Nurse  
Day Respite Service – Casual  
EN Level 2

Exercise and Community  
Rehabilitation Practitioner

Exercise Physiologist or  
Physiotherapist - Grade 2

0.84 EFT fixed term parental leave position  
from March 11, 2026 until April 6, 2027

Dietitian  
Grade 2

0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

Physiotherapist – Casual  
Grade 2

For more information:

<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

Volunteer Expression of Interest

Community Information Volunteer  
Volunteer Catering Administration Assistant  
Ward Assist Volunteer

For more information call  
Annie on 5683 9704

[www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers](http://www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers)

HM13290



WE'RE HIRING

We currently have a full time position available in our Hardware Sales and we are especially interested in hearing from people who have existing retail, building or trade experience.

The applicant would require:

- A good work ethic
- Be reliable and committed
- Be self-motivated
- Customer focused
- Willing to work individually or as part of a team
- Be willing to work on a rotating weekend roster

Position

- Full time position available

If this sounds like you, please send your application including a cover letter detailing your experience and what you would bring to the role along with your resume to:  
[accounts@awsmith.com.au](mailto:accounts@awsmith.com.au)  
Or

Attention: The Manager A.W. Smith & Sons  
7-13 Roughead St, Leongatha VIC 3953

Applications close Friday, January 30

CC5276

PUBLIC NOTICES



WESTERNPORT FIELD & GAME

NOTICE OF ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING

Dear Members

Westernport Field and Game Annual  
General Meeting will be held on:

Saturday, February 14, 2026  
at 4pm

1 McFees Road Rhyll

Members are encouraged to attend.

HM13273



Connect  
with us

@sentineltimes

PUBLIC NOTICES

Planning and Environment Act Regulations 2015 (Form 2, section 52(1))

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

The land affected  
by the application  
is located at:

- Crown Allotment 23B, Section A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 06276 Fol 023
- Crown Allotment 23A, Section A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 08418 Fol 802
- Crown Allotment 1, Section A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 10360 Fol 155
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 578219F Vol 09793 Fol 782
- Crown Allotment 24B, Section A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 09406 Fol 296
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 110485V, Vol 10183 Fol 193
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 754717H, Vol 08603 Fol 663
- Lots 1 and 2 on Title Plan 865659A, Vol 04729 Fol 636
- Crown Allotment 78C, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 08617 Fol 567
- Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 092727, Vol 09060 Fol 386
- Crown Allotment 55A, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 10684 Fol 163
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 578908F, Vol 09810 Fol 905
- Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 506513A, Vol 10685 Fol 365
- Crown Allotments 62 & 62A Parish of Alberton West Vol 10890 Fol 142
- Crown Allotments 53, 54, 59 & 60 Parish of Alberton West Vol 05387 Fol 290
- Crown Allotment 49B, Parish of Alberton West, Vol 03387 Fol 244
- Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 404524N, Vol 10316 Fol 253
- Lots 1,2 & 3 on Title Plan 943340C, Vol 08820 Fol 377
- Plan of Consolidation 362145 Vol 10415 Fol 520
- Crown Allotment 12A Parish of Alberton West Vol 08137 Fol 959
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 109933C, Vol 10060 Fol 723
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 221442V Vol 08137 Fol 957
- Lot 1 on TP004297P Vol 10233 Fol 349
- Lot 1 on TP221443T Vol 08137 Fol 958
- Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 714292D Vol 11439 Fol 675
- Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 714292D Vol 11439 Fol 676
- Lot 7 on Plan of Subdivision 004703 Vol 03173 Fol 544
- Lot 2 on the Plan of Subdivision 617385M Vol 11082 Fol 236
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 864748G Vol 06410 Fol 974
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 128952Q Vol 09083 Fol 984
- Lot 1 on Title Plan 222737U Vol 05824 Fol 685
- Lot 3 on Plan of Subdivision 004703 Vol 03437 Fol 310
- Lot 5 on Plan of Subdivision 004703 Vol 03141 Fol 079
- Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 714292D Vol 11439 Fol 676
- Lot 2 on Plan of Subdivision 404524N Vol 10316 Fol 252
- The road/reserves of the:
  - o South Gippsland Highway
  - o Old Alberton West Road
  - o Great Southern Rail Trail
  - o Unnamed Government Roads

The application is  
for a permit to:

Use and development of a wind energy facility and utility installation, associated buildings and works, removal of native vegetation and alteration of access to a road in a Transport Zone 2.

Note: This is a summary. Full details of the proposal are contained within the application documentation

The applicant for the permit is: Alberton Renewable Energy Pty Ltd c/- Beveridge Williams  
The application reference number is: PA2503835

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application at the office of the Responsible Authority.

Minister for Planning c/- Department of Transport and Planning

• 1 Spring Street, Melbourne VIC 3001

• Online at <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/permits-and-applications/ministerial-permits/browse-ministerial-permits>

A permit is required under the following clauses of the planning scheme:

Planning

scheme clause Matter for which a permit is required

33.01-1 Use of land for a wind energy facility and utility installation.

33.01-4 Construct a building or construct or carry out works.

35.07-1 Use of the land for a wind energy facility.

Use of land for a utility installation.

35.07-4 Construct a building or construct or carry out works associated with Section 2 use.

36.04-1 Use of land for utility installation.

36.04-2 Construct a building or construct or carry out works for any use in  
Section 2 of Clause 36.04-1.

36.03-1 Construct a building or construct or carry out works.

43.02-2 Construct a building or construct or carry out works.

52.17-1 Remove native vegetation.

52.29-2 Create or alter access to a road in a Transport Zone 2.

52.32-2 Use and develop land for a wind energy facility.

To view applications and supporting documents in person, please email [hannah.x.scott@transport.vic.gov.au](mailto:hannah.x.scott@transport.vic.gov.au) to make an appointment to view the plans. This can be done during office hours and is free of charge. The plans may also be viewed online at <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/permits-and-applications/ministerial-permits/browse-ministerial-permits>.

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to the responsible authority by email to [development.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au](mailto:development.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au) or by post to Minister for Planning, C/-Department of Transport and Planning, GPO Box 2392, Melbourne VIC 3001.

An objection must: 

- be made to the Responsible Authority in writing,
- include the reasons for the objection, and
- state how the objector would be affected.

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available at its office for any person to inspect during office hours free of charge until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

The responsible authority will not decide on the application before: February 13, 2026

If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision.

JA23962

Is your employment  
opportunity listed online?

Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a  
FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at

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

Email your job adverts to: [ads@sgst.com.au](mailto:ads@sgst.com.au)

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.00pm

Families to gather for  
Oz Day at the Daly

DALYSTON Football Netball Club president Dave Bell is pleased to confirm the Oz Day at the Daly family festival is on again in 2026.

He and the club are very grateful for the ongoing support from the National Australia Day Council, which has helped it to continue to put on a fantastic family friendly event for the community.

Dalyston Football Netball Club (DFNC) is very proud of the high standard of its previous Oz Day festivals and is committed to maintaining that quality for the 2026 event.

The National Australia Day Council message of 'Reflect, Respect, Celebrate' will be the theme of what has become a great community day out.

On January 26, the Dalyston Recreation Reserve will come to life as it showcases quality local talent and creates an affordable, safe day out for families from throughout Bass Coast.

The program from the previous events has been expanded with some new activities and another amazing fireworks display planned to finish the night off.

Once again there will be carnival rides, face painting and other kid's activities together with live bands and a super screen.

Oz Day at the Daly is a ticketed event and tickets are now available at [trybooking.com/DIFLO](http://trybooking.com/DIFLO).

Gates open at 4pm on Sunday, January 26, and the day concludes with the 9.30pm fireworks.

• FAITH FACTOR

Bathurst

By Pastor Peter Muir

I WENT to watch the race trackside two times.

I have since watched the race every year I can on TV.

I have driven around the track on four different occasions.

Peter Brock said Bathurst racetrack is unique in the world.

The race in October is always an unfolding story for me.

Larry Perkins one year went from last after lap one to winning the race, a great story that one, which is still on YouTube.

In the 2024 race we saw the car to qualify first to start, or on pole position, led the race all day and won.

It was the quickest race in history.

I have found every person's life is like a Bathurst race.

There is always an interesting story and it is always different.

Life requires planning ahead, and lots of input and co-operation from so many people contributing many varied skills, and the co-ordination of everything.

I think it is really great when the drivers thank their teammates and all concerned that helped them to finish over the line.

Just the same as in real life we must appreciate that in our thinking lone rangers are just for a comic book story.

If we take time to consider our highs and lows, then people play a huge part.

Whether we win or lose we must be thankful for the ones who walk with us as support crew.

I have come to see God as our team manager, or team coordinator.

He brings the right ones into our life or our sphere of influence but so often the spotlight at the end of the race falls on the drivers.

As you read this you know the race at Mount Panorama, or Bathurst is over, but our personal race or life is not yet done.

I want to leave you with this thought for 2026.

If the team manager influences the team - the driver, co-driver, crew - and therefore the very outcome of each race, why don't you let God be your Manager?



# Taxpayer funded beach cabana nirvana at Inverloch



Partly finished sandbags have created a beach cabana paradise at Inverloch surf beach.

THE partly completed multi-million dollar geotextile sandbag project at the Inverloch surf beach has resulted in an unexpected bonus for local beachgoers.

The long line of double sandbags has proved to be a beach cabana paradise.

Arrive early enough and you can claim a prime position for your cabana on one of the new sandbags located in front of the surf lifesaving club just above the high tide level.

With uninterrupted ocean views and absolute beachfront access to Inverloch’s patrolled beach, nothing could be more perfect albeit at a cost.

President of the Inverloch SLSC Glenn Arnold said contractors will be back on January 27 after Australia Day to finish the works.

**By Bruce Wardley**

“It’s slow progress,” Mr Arnold said before Christmas.

“Contractors only have a small window to work with between tide changes.

“At the end of the program it will look terrific,” he said.

Work to date has been confined to the western end of the sandbags which Mr Arnold said was a priority to allow access to the ramp to the surf beach.

The eastern side remains vulnerable, he said, but Bass Coast Shire had been quite diligent by keeping an eye on it and replacing the sand when necessary.

For more information go to [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/coastal-management/inverloch-coastal-management](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/coastal-management/inverloch-coastal-management)

## ELDERS YEA, 39TH ANNUAL BLUE RIBBON WEANER SALE

### RELOCATED TO THE LEONGATHA SALE YARDS DUE TO BUSHFIRES

# 3500 HEAD 3500

### THIS FRIDAY JANUARY 16, 2026 - COMMENCING 9.30AM

**ANGUS STEERS**

**A/c PD & P Ryan, Pyalong**  
220 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, By Leading Ai & Mollison View Bulls, 2 X 7in1, drenched, Multi-Min, NE Accred

**A/c Barrow Pastoral, Beveridge**  
200 Angus steers, Mar/Apr Drop, yard weaned, Barwidgee blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched, NE Accred

**A/c Tarrawarra Abbey, Tarrawarra**  
75 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, Barwidgee & Banquet Angus blood

**A/c M & A Brown, Glenaroua**  
50 Angus steers, Mar/Apr Drop, yard weaned, Ai By Glatz Angus & Sired By Millah Murrah (Rembrandt), Alpine (Elevator), Landfall (New Ground) & Banquet (Nagambie), 2 X 7in1 & drenched, NE Accred

**A/c JM Hiscock & Sons, Kilmore**  
60 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Lawson blood, 2 X 5in1, NE Accred

**A/c Mayneline Angus, Whittlesea**  
60 Angus steers, Mar/Apr Drop, Ai Sire Millah Murrah Paratrooper & Rocketman, Out of Te Mania Cows, 2 X 5in1

**A/c HD Middleton, Trafalgar**  
60 Angus steers, Mar/Apr Drop, yard weaned, Innesdale blood, Cydectin & 2 X 5in1, NE Accred

**A/c Jarrahwood Pastoral, Yea**  
50 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Te Mania Angus blood, All Health Treatments

**A/c Pyalong Park, Pyalong**  
40 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Campaspe Rocks blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched

**A/c P & S Reynolds, Glenaroua**  
40 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Adameluca & Shrublands blood, 2 X 7in1 & drenched

**A/c G & E Fern, Highlands**  
35 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, weaned, By Connamara Bulls

**A/c Merristock P/L, Woodstock**  
33 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Kelly Angus blood

**A/c Contract Racing, Newham**  
30 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Landfall blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched

**A/c MJ Whalan, Pyalong**  
30 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Tamaroo blood, 2 X 7in1

**A/c FM Conway ‘Yarramunda’, Coldstream**  
25 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Pathfinder Angus blood

**A/c M & M Ryan, Kilmore**  
20 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Francs Angus blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched

**A/c S Dickinson, Healesville**  
20 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Riddlevue Angus blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched

**A/c AJ Harrington, Kilmore**  
20 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Shrublands blood

**A/c L Reddan, Sunbury**  
20 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, West Creek Angus blood

**A/c Yering Cattle Co, Yering**  
18 Angus steers, Mar/Apr Drop, weaned, Adameluca & Banquet blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched

**A/c S Macdonald, Whittlesea**  
17 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, Te Mania blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched

**A/c Jalba Pastoral, Dixons Creek**  
15 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Riga Angus blood

**A/c G & K Woodburn, Romsey**  
15 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Shrublands blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched

**A/c Newpark Construction, Yarck**  
15 Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Connamara blood

**EURO & EURO X STEERS**

**A/c Tarrawarra Abbey, Tarrawarra**  
75 Char X Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, Rangan & Palgrove Charolais blood

**A/c P & L Burgi, Gruyere**  
55 Char X Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, Violet Hills Charolais blood

**A/c Becxon Agriculture P/L, Shady Creek**  
50 Limbo & Limbo X steers, Feb/Mar Drop, weaned, Keystone Limousin blood

**A/c Sayla Park, Kilmore**  
50 Simm X AA,RA & Simm X SH,HH steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Woonalee blood, 2 X 5in1, Dectomax V, NE Accred

**A/c Kathwal Farm, Pakenham South**  
20 Char X Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Kenmere Charolais blood

**A/c AP Morgan, Bayles**  
15 Limbo X Red Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, By Stud Limousin Bulls

**A/c G & V Templeton ‘Mt Templeton’, Nar Nar Goon**  
10 Traditional Simm steers, Feb/Mar Drop, weaned, Sired By Willandra (W.A) Top 1% Abv Bulls, 2 X 5in1

**A/c Brennan Contractors, Arthurs Creek**  
10 Char X Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, By Paringa blood Charolais Bull

**A/c I & P Ralston, Tamleugh**  
7 Hh X Char steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Tarcombe blood, 2 X 5in1

**HEREFORD & HEREFORD X STEERS**

**A/c JM Hiscock & Sons, Kilmore**  
70 Hereford heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Glendlan Park & Tarcombe blood, 2 X 5in1, NE Accred

**A/c BW, JM, JKW & FG Purvis ‘Kenilworth’, Yea**  
60 Hereford steers, Mar/Apr Drop, yard weaned, Glendlan Park & Tarcombe blood, Dehorned, 2 X 5in1, drenched & Multi-Min

**A/c Burnewang Pastoral Co, Elmore**  
60 Hereford steers, Feb/Mar Drop, weaned, Tarcombe blood, Pilliguard Vac, 2 X 5in1, Arrest Back Liner, Cydectin Drench, N Accred

**A/c I & P Ralston, Tamleugh**  
51 Hereford steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Tarcombe blood, 2 X 5in1

**A/c Jarrahwood Pastoral, Yea**  
25 Hereford steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Injemira blood, All Health Treatments

**A/c Glen Brothers, Guildford**  
15 Hh & Hh X Simm steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Tarcombe & Glenview Dell blood

**A/c Glenburn Station, Glenburn**  
15 HH X Angus steers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Barwidgee Angus blood

**ANGUS HEIFERS**

**A/c Barrow Pastoral, Beveridge**  
200 Angus heifers, Mar/Apr Drop, Tops Of The Drop, None Retained, yard weaned, Barwidgee blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched, NE Accred

**A/c PD & P Ryan, Pyalong**  
160 Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop yard weaned, By Leading Ai & Mollison View Bulls, 2 X 7in1, drenched, Multi-Min, NE Accred

**A/c Tarrawarra Abbey, Tarrawarra**  
75 Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, Barwidgee & Banquet Angus blood

**A/c Mayneline Angus, Whittlesea**  
60 Angus heifers, Mar/Apr Drop, A Sire Millah Murrah Paratrooper & Rocketman, Out of Te Mania Cows, 2 X 5in1

**A/c HD Middleton, Trafalgar**  
60 Angus heifers, Mar/Apr Drop, yard weaned, Innesdale blood, Cydectin & 2 X 5in1, NE Accred

**A/c Pyalong Park, Pyalong**  
40 Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Campaspe Rocks blood, 2 X 5in1 & drenched

**A/c P & S Reynolds, Glenaroua**  
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**A/c G & E Fern, Highlands**  
35 Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, weaned, By Connamara Bulls

**A/c Merristock P/L, Woodstock**  
33 Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Kelly Angus blood

**A/c M & A Brown, Glenaroua**  
30 Angus heifers, Mar/Apr Drop, yard weaned, Ai By Glatz Angus & Sired By Millah Murrah (Rembrandt), Alpine (Elevator), Landfall (New Ground) & Banquet (Nagambie), 2 X 7in1 & drenched, NE Accred

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30 Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Tamaroo blood, 2 X 7in1

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25 Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Pathfinder Angus blood

**A/c JM Hiscock & Sons, Kilmore**  
20 Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Lawson blood, 2 X 5in1, NE Accred

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**A/c AJ Harrington, Kilmore**  
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20 Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, West Creek Angus blood

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**A/c Becxon Agriculture P/L, Shady Creek**  
50 Limbo & Limbo X heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, weaned, Keystone Limousin blood

**A/c Sayla Park, Kilmore**  
50 Simm X AA,RA & Simm X SH,HH heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Woonalee blood, 2 X 5in1, Dectomax V, NE Accred

**A/c G & V Templeton ‘Mt Templeton’, Nar Nar Goon**  
22 Traditional Simm heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, weaned, Sired By Willandra (W.A) Top 1% Abv Bulls, 2 X 5in1

**A/c Kathwal Farm, Pakenham South**  
20 Char X Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Kenmere Charolais blood

**A/c AP Morgan, Bayles**  
15 Limbo X Red Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, By Stud Limousin Bulls

**A/c Brennan Contractors, Arthurs Creek**  
10 Char X Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, By Paringa blood Charolais Bull

**A/c I & P Ralston, Tamleugh**  
6 Hh X Char heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Tarcombe blood, 2 X 5in

**HEREFORD & HEREFORD X HEIFERS**

**A/c Burnewang Pastoral Co, Elmore**  
60 Hereford heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, weaned, Tarcombe blood, Pilliguard Vac, 2 X 5in1, Arrest Back Liner, Cydectin Drench, NE Accred

**A/c JM Hiscock & Sons, Kilmore**  
30 Hereford heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Glendlan Park & Tarcombe blood, 2 X 5in1, NE Accred

**A/c I & P Ralston, Tamleugh**  
21 Hereford heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Tarcombe blood, 2 X 5in1

**A/c BW, JM, JKW & FG Purvis ‘Kenilworth’, Yea**  
20 Hereford heifers, Mar/Apr Drop, yard weaned, Glendlan Park & Tarcombe blood, Dehorned, 2 X 5in1, drenched & Multi-Min

**A/c Glen Brothers, Guildford**  
15 HH & HH X Simm heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Tarcombe & Glenview Dell blood

**A/c Glenburn Station, Glenburn**  
15 HH X Angus heifers, Feb/Mar Drop, yard weaned, Barwidgee Angus blood



ELDERS YEA

JON SUTHERLAND  
ANTHONY DELANEY

0400 307 619  
0429 136 055

CARLO TARANTO  
ANDREW HILL

0418 368 739  
0419 322 286

JOE ALLEN  
REBECCA BLEICHER

0428 182 932  
0492 475 217

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Competitors begin the running leg of the aquathon.

# Cape Paterson Aquathon set to make a splash

THIS year marks the 28th Cape Paterson Aquathon, taking place at Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club (CPSLSC) on Sunday, January 18, commencing at 10am with a 400m ocean swim at First Surf, followed by a 4.4km run through Cape Paterson.

The first event was held 30 years ago, and CPSLSC volunteers are expecting more than 300 participants, with the long-range forecast predicted for a 26-degree day.

President Paul MacNeill said this race is the first event in the Bass Coast Series, with all proceeds supporting the Cape Paterson SLSC.

“This, in turn, helps the club to support the surf rescue volunteers and aids the club in purchasing equipment,” Mr MacNeill said.

“The Cape Paterson Aquathon is proudly run by volunteers, and we always welcome anyone keen to help. It’s a great way to get involved in the community. Spectators are encouraged to come along, and we welcome anyone who would like to participate, volunteer, or head on down to cheer on family and friends.”

The swim starts on Cape Paterson First Surf Beach for a 400m surf swim, followed by a run back to the clubhouse to retrieve runners, pre-set up ready for the 4.4km run along the scenic clifftops north on Hut View, west on Surf Beach Road towards Second Surf, then a loop through The Cape estate back to the finish line at First Surf carpark.

“We’re grateful to all the volunteers getting involved, including those on the trail who will be manning

areas to help participants with the run. Ensuring everyone’s safe and running in the right direction,” Mr MacNeill said.

“It’s a huge community event.”

The CPSLSC asks participants to register online, with online registration closing at 6pm on Saturday, January 17.

The event is supported by the Bass Coast Shire Council and Westernport Water, with a hydration station on-site.

“The pre-race briefing will commence at 9.45am on the beach (start line), with results and presentations commencing 90 minutes after race finish,” Mr MacNeill said.

“If you enjoy events such as the San Remo Channel Challenge or the Cowes Classic, this surf-swim and run is for you. Like the other series events, the Cape Paterson Aquathon is divided into categories, with an independent or team relay registration – a great way to get the family involved.”

Local legend Gary O’Connor will be competing in his 21st Cape Paterson Aquathon, with his family by his side participating.

There are a range of entrant categories available, including JM Junior male 14-17, JF Junior female 14-17, SM Adult male 18+, SF Adult female 18+, M40 Male 40+, F40 Female 40+, M50 Male 50+, F50 Female 50+, TM Team male, TM Team female and TM Team mixed.

To register for the 2026 Cape Paterson Aquathon, visit [capepatersonslsc.org/aquathon](http://capepatersonslsc.org/aquathon) and start the year with a new challenge, or join in to set a new personal best.



Cat Bay Classic committee members Zev Landes, Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs, Nala Taylor, Natalie Van Der Heyden and Emily gear up for the 2026 event.

# Surf’s up for longboard classic

THE Phillip Island Boardriders Club’s annual Longboard Cat Bay Classic returns in March with competitors and spectators invited to join the celebration of traditional surfing.

The one-day competition will run on either Saturday, March 21 or Sunday, March 22, with the best swell day confirmed closer to the date.

Competitors will surf 20-minute heats, with each surfer completing two heats.

The best two waves from each heat will be combined for a final score.

Heats will feature five surfers, with all divisions mixed throughout the draw.

Divisions include Open Men, Open Women and Style Masters for surfers aged 45 and older, along with a range of fun awards and trophies celebrating traditional longboarding.

Board requirements are 9-foot-plus boards with single fins only.

Registrations open via Live Heats, with PIBC members able to enter from Wednesday, January 14 for a 48-hour priority window.

Public registrations open on Saturday, January 17.

The entry fee is \$65 per competitor and includes a custom 2026 Cat Bay Classic t-shirt, free entry to the Saturday night clubhouse event, and access to event surf photography.

The celebrations continue on Saturday night at the clubhouse from 6pm, with the event open to the public for a gold coin donation.

The night will feature live music from The Foxy Junes, tacos by Grumpy Madam, drinks at PIBC bar prices, and a raffle with prizes including meat trays and wetsuits.

The Cat Bay Classic since 2022 continues to be a celebration of classic surfing, local creativity and community connection.

For updates follow @cat.bay.classic and @p.i.b.c on Instagram.

# Gippsland swimmers to take on Country Championships

IT will be a huge three days of racing for the 770 regional swimmers headed to the Kardinia Aquatic Centre in Geelong for the 2026 Mattioli Victorian Country Championships LC from January 16 to 18.

Gippsland swimmers will make up a large percentage of those present with the clubs having a number of representatives - East Gippsland 12, Moe seven, Sale 10, South Gippsland Bass 71, Traralgon 80 and Warragul 52.

The event is popular for swimmers, with families making the most of the time to have a holiday in the area, helping inject funds into the local economy.

The event is a qualifying meet and, for many regional swimmers, they are extremely proud to achieve a time and have the honour of competing.

Many of the swimmers come away with great memories, as well as personal bests in their events.

The racing is fiercely contested, with clubs and swimmers hoping to be the top ranked club or swimmer in each event.

The swimmers compete in heats in the mornings and return for finals and finish each session with a number of relays, with the rest of the squad always on hand to cheer hard to help bring them home.



South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club captains Mostyn, Lara, Trinity, Asha and Hugh with last year’s third place award.

South Gippsland Bass will be boosted by the arrival of new coach Nathan Foote.

Mr Foote started his swimming with the club before moving away to Queensland.

He is an Open Nationals swimmer and understands what it takes to perform at this level, and the challenges faced in competition.

He is an excellent coach, with years of experience, and takes great pride in the achievements of the swimmers he works alongside.

After coaching in Queensland, he returned to Victoria, coaching at Ivanhoe Swim and is excited to start at South Gippsland Bass (SGB).

He is passionate about the up-and-coming swimming talent in Australia and looks forward to returning to an area he loved growing up in.

Last year’s event was won by Geelong, with Traralgon in second, SGB third and Warragul sixth.

The Gippsland clubs hope to replicate this effort - maybe even going one better and taking out the title.

## TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY January 13	WEDNESDAY January 14	THURSDAY January 15	FRIDAY January 16	SATURDAY January 17	SUNDAY January 18	MONDAY January 19
▼ 1:01am 0.69m	▼ 1:44am 0.79m	▼ 2:31am 0.87m	▼ 3:30am 0.94m	▼ 4:41am 0.97m	▲ 12:40am 1.39m	▲ 1:31am 1.44m
▲ 7:26am 1.43m	▲ 8:00am 1.37m	▲ 8:42am 1.30m	▲ 9:32am 1.25m	▲ 10:34am 1.22m	▼ 5:59am 0.95m	▼ 7:05am 0.89m
▼ 1:39pm 0.39m	▼ 2:20pm 0.41m	▼ 3:07pm 0.43m	▼ 4:05pm 0.44m	▼ 5:12pm 0.44m	▲ 11:41am 1.21m	▲ 12:45pm 1.23m
▲ 8:52pm 1.35m	▲ 9:46pm 1.34m	▲ 10:43pm 1.34m	▲ 11:42pm 1.36m		▼ 6:15pm 0.41m	▼ 7:09pm 0.37m

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# Racegoers to mark anniversary of historic triple dead heat

STONY Creek Racing Club is set to celebrate one of the most remarkable moments in Australian racing history at its upcoming Triple Threat Dead Heat Anniversary Races on Sunday, January 18.

The meeting marks the 39th anniversary of the famous Triple Dead Heat that made global headlines and put Stony Creek on the world racing map on January 23, 1987.

There have only been four triple dead heats in Australian racing history.

Robert Meyer, who has been on the Stony Creek Racing Club (SCRC) committee for 50 years now, recalled what it was like to be there on the day.

“At the time of the triple dead heat, I was the timekeeper, so I was in the judges’ box,” he said.

“My memory was that everyone was fairly cool at the time, and I didn’t realise it was a triple dead heat for a start. Once they looked at the photo, they decided that it was very close, and in the end, it was obvious that it was in fact a triple dead heat, so then everyone got a bit excited.”

Longest serving committee member Tony Livingstone, whose sister was CEO at the club at the time, also reflected that it didn’t seem what it turned out to be.

“Everyone was in a bit of shock, and they didn’t realise how important of a day it was,” Tony said.

“All these years later, luckily enough we’ve still got the triple dead heat, and we’ve got a photo of it on the wall. I’m pleased that the club’s going to make a special day of it, because it’s something that re-



**Chesterfield, Mr Spectre and Fast Seal could not be separated for first place after examining this photograph at the Stony Creek Racing Club on January 23, 1987.**

ally deserves to have a special day.”

The famous finish is also remembered for the quick wit of then club chairman Alan Bell, who famously responded to the question ‘what do we do now?’ by saying: “I don’t know what you have to do, but I’ve got to find two more trophies.”

Committee member of close to 40 years Paul Boag, who was in the judges’ tower that day working with the Australian Association of Professional Tipsters (AAPT), remembers the lengthy deliberation that followed.

“It took 20 minutes or so to finally decide that there was a triple dead heat,” he said.

“None of us really realised at the time what a rarity it was. There was a lot of fallout from it in the industry. The fact that the press from Melbourne even flew a helicopter down later in the afternoon to get the ins and outs of it all – it

was an amazing afternoon.”

Paul also reflected on how advances in technology may mean such a result is unlikely to happen again.

“Nowadays, I believe the technical expertise of the industry is so great that they would’ve separated those horses. Times have changed.”

The reflections from these long-serving and valued committee members demonstrates Stony Creek’s enduring strength as a club and community hub.

“Stony Creek is a bit of an icon in the district,” Tony said.

“It’s nice to have a committee that can work together, and a lot of people put a lot of time and effort into making improvements in the club.”

“A lot of them aren’t here today, but if they were, and they walked around and could see the results



**Long-serving committee members Paul Boag, Tony Livingstone and Robert Meyer were present on the day of the triple dead heat at the Stony Creek Racing Club on January 23, 1987.**

of their labour, they would be very, very pleased.”

Paul echoed this sentiment.

“Stony Creek has always been a very strong race club. Horses that can win at Stony Creek are renowned to go on to win at Sandown, because of the testing track with the last 200 metres uphill,” he said.

SCRC CEO Jason Benbow said the anniversary race day is a proud and significant occasion for both the club and the local community.

“The Triple Dead Heat is a moment that still resonates strongly with racing fans across Australia. It’s a huge part of Stony Creek’s story, and we’re so proud to celebrate that legacy with a great day of racing and entertainment,” he said.

As the third summer race date of the season, the Triple Dead Heat

Anniversary Races promises a relaxed and family-friendly day out, making it an ideal school holiday activity.

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

There will also be plenty of free children’s activities, including pony rides and the popular JockeyCam VR experience.

The 2025/26 summer racing season includes five race days, culminating in the much-loved Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup Day on Saturday, March 8, over the long weekend.

Tickets are just \$20 for adults, \$15 concession and children are free.

There are also a range of packages and bus services to make getting to and from the track easy and stress-free.

It’s not too late to become a member and make the most of the season.

SCRC memberships offer exceptional value, including free entry to all five race days, exclusive access to members’ areas and bars, happy hour drinks and discounts on marquee bookings.

Members also enjoy reciprocal rights at neighbouring clubs including Moe, Sale, Bairnsdale and Traralgon.

Memberships start from \$55 for full members, \$50 for seniors and \$240 for Corporate Memberships, which includes four passes.

Secure your tickets and find out more at [country.racing.com/stonycreek](http://country.racing.com/stonycreek).



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Aliesha Wrigley was the January Monthly Medal winner at the Korumburra Golf Club.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, January 6: Stableford: 45 players.  
A Grade winner: Ray Ludenia (16) 44 pts.  
B Grade winner: Bree Claffey (54) 42 pts.  
NTPs: first Brian Clasby, seventh Wayne Knights, 10th Alex Walker and 13th Shayne Harland.  
Thursday, January 8:  
A Grade winner: Steve Rose (10) 39 pts.  
B Grade winner: Peter Van Agtmaal (17) 41 pts.  
NTPs: first Greg Wilson, seventh Jacob Wrigley, 10th Jason King and 13th Ian Gibson.  
Saturday, January 10:  
Sponsor: Trevor Humphrey.  
South African Modified Pairs: 62 players.  
Winners: Cade Maskell and Terry Maskell 71.  
NTPs: first Malcolm Garnham, seventh John Solly, 10th Scott Burgess and 13th Malcolm Garnham.

Ladies

THE forecast was for extreme weather conditions on Wednesday so alternative plans were made so the ladies could enjoy golf in the coolest part of the day. They started to hit off at 7.30am, mostly in pairs and in carts wherever possible. The weather was hot but so was the golf.  
Aliesha Wrigley (22) produced another outstanding performance to take out the January Monthly Medal with 65 nett, winning the Tiny Teapot Café voucher.  
She also won A Grade and a NTP on the first.  
Runner up in A Grade was Lyn McIvor (23) with 66 nett.  
The B Grade winner, on a count back, was Kim Enbom (28) with 68 nett leading Trudy Olden (30).  
BDTL went to Julie Hillberg 68 c/b and Gail Berr 69 c/b.  
NTP on the first was Aliesha Wrigley (Kelly's Bakery), seventh Kerri Besley, 10th Judy Webb (Discount Store) and 13th Pam Eyres (Burra Garden Supplies).  
The best scratch score was Kerri Besley with 85.  
Twilight has resumed after their Christmas break.  
It was a surprisingly cool night given the temperature of the day.  
There were mixed results hitting across the dam from the 14th tee to the fourth green.  
The winners were Ian and Denise Gibson with 26 pts while David Enbom was NTP.  
Saturday was a reprieve from the heat, but the wind created very different conditions.  
This did not seem to affect the excellent results.  
In a three-way count back Lyn McIvor came out on top with 39 pts.  
Runner up was Julie Hillberg and Kerri Besley won a BDTL (also on 39 pts).  
NTPs went to Sherrin Solly first, Kerri Besley seventh, Lyn



Lyn McIvor was the winner of the Saturday Stableford competition at the Korumburra Golf Club.

McIvor 10th and Sherrin Solly 13th.  
Beginners Day is fast approaching on February 4.  
Anyone is welcome to come and give golf a go with the support of the members.  
It is a nine-hole competition with lunch afterwards.  
For further enquiries, ring Kerri Besley on 0418 123 437.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, January 6: Stableford – 116 entrants.  
Overall winner: Roy Kleverkamp (16) 42 pts.  
A Grade winner: Gustav Salomonsson (10) 41 pts (Huntingdale Golf Club).  
Runner up: Christopher Leaver (7) 36 pts (c/b).  
B Grade winner: Roy Kleverkamp (16) 42 pts.  
Runner up: Gordon Walling (14) 37 pts (Kew Golf Club).  
C Grade winner: Bert Borg (20) 39 c/b.  
Runner up: Simon Good (21) 39.  
D Grade winner: Russell Mil-lar (24) 38 c/b.  
Runner up: Ben Broome (31) 38.  
Nearest the pin: fifth Peter Hartigan 2.6cm (second shot), 14th Peter Smith 395cm and 16th Christopher Leaver 220cm.  
Eagle: Alan Starkey.  
Thursday, January 8: Stableford – 86 entrants.  
Overall winner: Ben Broome (30) 43 pts.  
A Grade winner: Greg Welsford (12) 37 c/b.  
Runner up: Alan Starkey (8) 37.  
B Grade winner: Roy Kleverkamp (15) 39 pts.  
Runner up: Gordon Walling (14) 36 pts (Kew Golf Club).  
C Grade winner: Miles Wrigley (17) 40 pts.  
Runner up: Bert Borg (20) 38 c/b.  
D Grade winner: Ben Broome (30) 43 pts.  
Runner up: Adrian Banks (27) 38 pts.  
Nearest the pin: fifth Michael Street 118cm (second shot), 14th Alan Starkey 256cm and 16th Craig Hams 243cm.  
Saturday, January 10: Monthly Medal – 104 entrants.  
Overall winner: Anthony Sparkes (12) -3.  
A Grade winner: Anthony Sparkes (12) -3.  
Runner up: Michael West (8) E.  
B Grade winner: Grant McRitchie (15) +1 c/b.  
Runner up: Paul Kennedy (15) +1.  
C Grade winner: Paul Richardson (16) E c/b.  
Runner up: Ken Smirk (16) E.  
D Grade winner: Andrew McAllister (19) +2.  
Runner up: David Barrack (22) +3 c/b.  
Nearest the pin: fifth Andy Bassett 75cm (second shot), 14th Daniel Jolley 332cm and 16th Mitchell Hallahan 255cm.  
Saturday, January 10: Stableford – 29 entrants.

A Grade winner: Maryanne Gartner (29) 39 pts.  
Runner up: Marianne Leaver (25) 34 c/b.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, January 6: Stableford.  
A Grade: W. Gervasi (14) 42 pts.  
B Grade: D. Elwood (16) 43 pts.  
C Grade: Cayden Gunn (23) 41 pts.  
DTL: M. Thompson 42, T. Whitelaw 41, J. Butler and N. Rutledge 40, A. Liebe 39, and N. Casboul and J. Smeriglio 38.  
NTP: fourth S. Mills, sixth G. Forrester, 13th J. Smeriglio and 16th M. Payne.  
Birdies: fourth A. Liebe, J. Williams and S. Mills, sixth W. Gervasi and G. Forrester, 13th J. Smeriglio, and 16th C. Gunn.  
Saturday, January 10: Stableford.  
A Grade: S. Mills (9) 40 pts.  
B Grade: S. Beitz (15) 39 pts.  
C Grade: P. Cummaudo (30) 41 pts.  
DTL: D. Felmingham 40, D. Woodall and S. Evison 39, and N. Casboul and A. Liebe 38.  
NTP: fourth (Boolarra Pub voucher) R. Felmingham, sixth S. Mills, 13th (Mirboo North Pub voucher) S. Woodall, and 16th G. Renwick.  
Birdies: fourth R. Felmingham, 13th R. Felmingham and S. Woodall, and 16th G. Renwick.  
Eagles: R. Felmingham 11th.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: January 8.  
Competition: Stableford 18-hole.  
Overall winner: Graeme Campbell 42.  
A Grade: Philip McCrimmon 39.  
Runner up: Messy Chand 39.  
B Grade: Graeme Campbell 42.  
Runner up: Max Aherne 41.  
Place getters: Grant MacKenzie 41, Craig Charles 38, Martin Cox 37, Tony Schipano 36, Alan Wilson 35, Lewis Kennedy 35, Warwick Judkins 34 and Dio Apostolopoulos 33.  
NTPs: Tony Schipano second, Graeme Campbell fourth, Glenn Hewlett 13th and Andrew Hooton-Shandley 17th.  
Results: January 8.  
Competition: Stableford back nine-hole.  
Winner: Graham Ryan 21.  
Place getters: Ray Hender 19 and John Davis 18.  
NTPs: Neil Beer 13th and John Davis 17th.  
Results: January 10.  
Competition: Stableford.  
Overall winner: Cooper Lindsay 41.  
A Grade: John Walsh 38.  
Runner up: Jarvis Harvey 37.  
B Grade: Caleb Kilgour 38.  
Runner up: Tony Schipano 35.  
C Grade: Kevin Loughran 39.  
Runner up: Paul Cornelis 38.  
Place getters: Steven Laing 38, Paul Jackson 37, Secondo Tiziani 36, Bryan Cole 36, Kevin Bayley 36, Dave Lee 35, Randall Harris 35, Rod Walker 35, Peter Hanley 35, Ian Baker 35, Bill Howard 34, Ian Johnson 34, Peter Sullivan 34, Bruce Betts 34, Graeme Crawford 34, Scott Williams 34, James Sandman 34, Michael Hetherington 33, Rohan McRae and Andrew Hooton-Shandley 33.  
NTP: Rod Walker second, Glenn Hewlett fourth, Keith Ridout propin eighth, Paul Cornelis 13th and Steven Laing money hole 17th.



Robert McLaren, Fred Demenech, Paul Holmes and Carole Thorp were the Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls.



The Tuesday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were John Postlethwaite, Judy Sweetnam and John Ferguson.

FOSTER

THE club played the finals of the Ladies' and Men's Club Championships in mid-December.  
The ladies' match was between Nancy Parry and Bev Tyers.  
It was an epic game as Bev jumped the start and was progressing her score well.  
As expected, Nancy just kept up the pressure and closed the gap on a bit of a surge.  
Bev dug deep and forged home strong to win.  
It was a great game for the spectators.  
The men's match between Mark Taylor and Michael Flanagan was just as exciting.  
It was a very seesaw game throughout with Mick taking the early lead.  
Mark fought his way back one shot at a time.  
However, Mick kept putting the pressure on and closed the margin.  
Mark got a nice lead but still had Mick close on his tail.  
He kept his lead, managing to secure the win in the end.  
It was another spectator worthy match.  
There was some great bowling witnessed from all players.  
Congratulations to the winners and the runners up.  
Bev and Mark went on to play in the Strzelecki South Champ of Champs on January 3 and 4 at Wonthaggi.  
They played some great matches with them both winning their first games.  
After lunch, Mark played an excellent match, but his opponent proved too strong.  
Bev went on strongly to win her second game.  
It was game on again for her on Sunday morning in the semi-finals.  
Sadly, things went a little pear shaped and she had a loss.  
Both Mark and Bev did the club proud.  
It was a great achievement for them both.  
Pennant starts back on Tuesday, January 13, followed by the Saturday competition on January 17.  
The club needs to put its head down and keep up the good work with only five games before finals begin.  
The next nine-week Jack Attack competition is starting back



Bev Tyers and Mark Taylor represented the Foster Bowls Club at the Strzelecki South Champ of Champs held in Wonthaggi on January 3 and 4.

up on Wednesday, January 14.  
Check out the Facebook page or give Bev a call on 0408 369 298 to enter your team or for further information.

WONTHAGGI

IT was a week of hot weather.  
The Wednesday Turkey Triples were called off due to the weather.  
Thursday saw a smaller number of social bowlers due to events at other local clubs.  
The winners, with a score of one win and a draw and 26 points, were Frank Tagell, Ken Webb, and Rod Beech.  
The runners up were Steve Bruynen, Joy Phillips, and Barry Donohue with a score of one win and a draw and 24 points.  
Friday night was a success, with a good number of members enjoying the night.  
The members' draw didn't go off, which means that next week the draw will be worth \$110.  
Wally was happy to take home a meat tray, while John took home a chicken tray.  
Jeannie and Leanne were happy brekky pack winners.  
Other winners were Deidre, Roger, and Allan B.  
Saturday saw 28 bowlers grace the greens on a fine but windy day.  
Only one team was able to win two games.  
That team was Stan Jackson, Bob Cornelis, and Alan Bolding, with a score of two wins and 32 points.  
Bowls this week:  
Tuesday: Pennant.  
Thursday: Social bowls at 1pm.  
Friday: Coaching at 10am.  
Saturday: Pennant.  
Don't forget the Friday night members' draw, this week standing at \$110 plus meat trays.  
Have a good week and good bowling.

Indoor

A BIG welcome back to all bowlers.  
Hopefully the club will have a wonderful 2026.  
Winners on Tuesday with a big score of +26 (two games) were John Postlethwaite, Judy Sweetnam and John Ferguson.  
On Friday, the winning team with +12 (two games) were Robert McLaren, Fred Demenech, Paul Holmes and Carole Thorp.





Australian rider Oli Bayliss will lead the charge in the World Supersport class, hoping to improve on his 2025 season. Photos: Peter Cleeland.

# World Superbikes set for season of change

By Peter Cleeland

THE opening round of the Motul World Superbike Championship to be held at the Phillip Island circuit from Friday, February 20 until Sunday, February 22, 2026, will provide a completely new look competition with many riders opting for new teams for the forthcoming season.

With the retirement of six-time World Superbike champion Jonathan Rea and the move by BMW's Toprak Razgatlioglu (three-time champion) to the Yamaha team in MotoGP, the sport has lost two of its most successful riders in the history of the event.

Italy's Nicolo Bulega (Aruba Ducati) has been joined by Iker Lecuona (over from Honda), while Alvaro Bautista leaves the factory Ducati team to ride with Yari Montella for Barni Spark Racing on privateer Ducatis.

A must-watch team, RoKiT BMW has recruited Danilo Petrucci and 2025 MotoGP rider Miguel Oliveira to contest races in 2026.

There will be huge expectations placed on Oliveira, who has had a wealth of experience and success at the MotoGP level, to do well in his first season of WSBK.

The Portuguese rider had 117 starts in MotoGP for five wins, and he has been recruited by the 2025 Championship-winning team, RoKiT BMW.

Lone Australian rider Remy Gardner will pilot the GYTR GRT Yamaha with former World Supersports star Stefano Manzi joining him.

Honda Racing has two new signings in British rider Jake Dixon and Indian rider Somkiat Chantra, who will be looking to be closer to the



Ducati rider Nicolo Bulega will be one of the main contenders in the World Superbike Championship in 2026.

front, contesting for podium positions in 2026.

The Bimota by Kawasaki Racing Team has enlisted the experienced pairing of Alex Lowes and Axel Bassani, while Pata Yamaha will look to Xavi Verge (over from Honda) and Andrea Locatelli to press for victory.

Lorenzo Baldassarri (up from World Supersports) and Tarran McKenzie, both on Ducati Panigale V4Rs, will be challengers for the top 10 positions.

The dark horse in the championship, Italy's Andrea Iannone (Ducati Panigale V4R), has the experience, speed and the machine to challenge Nicolo Bulega, who won the three races at Phillip Island in 2025.

Andrea's biggest hurdle will be keeping the bike upright!

With so many changes, the 22-rider field is sure to provide maximum entertainment as they try to come to grips with the handling and setting up of their machines during testing and qualifying in the week-long visit to the Island circuit!

An action-packed Championship with 14 teams, 36 races that commences in February and ends in Spain in October, is one of the most

gruelling challenges in motorcycle racing.

Closed track test sessions at Phillip Island commence on Monday, February 16 and are finalised on Tuesday, February 17.

The World Superbike season launch kicks off on Friday, February 20, with official qualifying for both World Supersports and World Superbikes scheduled for Friday, February 20 and Saturday, February 21.

Tissot Supersport shootout and race one for Superbikes are slotted in for Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday, race two for World Supersports and the 10-lap Tissot Supersport Sprint race for Superbikes and the 20-lap second full distance race will take place after lunch.

Added to the dramatic feast of motorcycle racing, spectators will witness races in the Australian Superbike, Australian Supersports and Australian Supersport 300 classes.

With the prospect of good weather, outstanding racing, and the best motorcycle track in the world, spectators will flock to the Island to witness the season opener.



Zara Littlejohn in action for William Woods University.

## Littlejohn leads American college into final year

By Trent Westaway

WHAT originally began on a court among the rolling hills of Leongatha has now taken Zara Littlejohn across the world and into a leadership role at an American university.

Zara will soon be entering her fourth and final year at William Woods University, located in Fulton, Missouri.

The former Leongatha Tennis Club junior is not only competing in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) but is also serving as the captain through a period of great success for the team, winning three straight conference championships and aiming for a fourth.

Looking back on her American journey, Zara describes it as both rewarding and demanding.

"Overall, it's been very enjoyable but also very challenging, both mentally and physically," she said.

"It's very full on over there, but you get so much reward from your teammates and your coaches. Living away from home is difficult, but you build an international family and that makes a big difference."

Her athletic and personal development has not gone without recognition, as she was appointed as team captain in her junior season, a role she will continue in her fourth year.

"I was honestly very honoured," Zara said.

"We have girls from all over the world, different cultures and backgrounds. To be chosen to lead them and be their go-to person was really special."

Acting as a bridge between players and coaches, Zara is able to help build team cohesion.

"I have a lot of behind-the-scenes conversations with the coaches and the girls," she said.

"It's about helping the team connect so that when match day comes, we are already strong off the court as well as on it."

Zara's modesty regarding her achievements is obvious to anyone who has spoken to her, but her father Warren Littlejohn says

that leadership qualities were always there.

"She's pretty balanced," he said.

"She doesn't get too carried away with results. Some people only focus on the outcome, but Zara focuses on the journey. Australians tend to be very team orientated and I think that's something the coaches over there really value."

On the court, the collegiate level of competition has allowed Zara's game to continue to flourish.

"All the hours on court have made me more confident and solid," she said.

"The doubles tactics and different formations they use over there have really broadened my game."

One of her most proud moments came last season, as she led William Woods University to a conference championship.

"That was definitely a stand-out," she said.

"It was a tough win against our biggest rivals, and it led us on to nationals in Alabama."

Balancing high-level athletics with study remains a key challenge of the college experience.

Zara is having no problems though, maintaining straight A grades while competing.

"They are very strict on the student athlete side," she said.

"They say you're actually a student before you're an athlete."

For Mr Littlejohn, watching from Australia brings pride while sometimes reminding him of the distance.

"We just support her from afar," he said.

"It's not easy, but she's resilient and she's grown a lot."

Zara will fly back to the United States on Tuesday, January 13 and return to training the very next day, marking the beginning of three weeks' preparation before official matches commence, and another push for nationals begins.





**Forward coach Jack Blair, new senior coach Tristan Francis and senior assistant midfield coach Matt Wade will look to lead Wonthaggi to success in 2026.**

## Power charging up for 2026

CHANGE is often necessary for growth, something the Wonthaggi Power Football Club will test in their upcoming season with a refreshed list, a new voice, and a strong sense of belief that the club is ready to contend once again.

After serving as head coach for five seasons, former Collingwood premiership player Jarryd Blair has announced he will be stepping down from his role as senior coach, handing the responsibility to Tristan Francis.

After being appointed to coach his home club in 2021, a decade after featuring in Collingwood's 2010 premiership side, Blair's campaign began under what most would call very challenging circumstances.

No football was played in 2020 due to the pandemic, and the 2021 season was also abandoned halfway through, with Leongatha declared the minor premiers.

Despite these incredibly unique circumstances, the club was able to quickly adapt and see improvement under Blair's leadership, finishing third in 2022 and runners up in 2023, before experiencing minor slips to fourth and sixth in 2024 and 2025.

In that period the club has developed a strong group of young talent, some standouts including Jack Hutchinson, drafted to the West Coast Eagles in 2024, and several players who progressed to VFL level, such as Ryan Sparkes, who was named Gippsland's Most Valuable Player in 2023.

Tristan Francis will step into the senior coach role with his own impressive football resume, being drafted into the Collingwood System in 2008 and later winning a VFL premiership with Port Melbourne.

He will now step into the role as a non-playing senior coach, focusing solely on leading the team from off the field.

Head of football operations Stuart Gilmour said Francis was the perfect fit, both because of the relationships he has built and the clarity his vision brings.

"He was really clear about his desire to take the team further, and he already had strong relationships with the playing group," Gilmour said. "The response from the boys has been really positive. They

have taken it and run with it."

Though Francis will be leading the charge, Blair remains an important figure at the club, continuing as a senior player and happily taking on a mentoring and development role, working mostly with players transitioning through under 18s and into senior football.

"He's come up with a program, and he is spending a lot of time developing our boys," Gilmour said.

Change however, is not always entirely positive, as Wonthaggi will head into 2026 without their 2023 league MVP, Ryan Sparkes, as he departs for Inverloch Kongwak.

Gilmour, however, sees the silver lining, confident they have covered the loss through solid recruiting and more evenly spread responsibility.

"We were heavily reliant on Ryan, but we feel we have a really good balance now," he said.

Among the key inclusions is Bryce Joyce, a midfielder from Ellinbank, who brings leadership, work rate and proven league form, and Daniel Bourke, a genuine ruckman who will be a key structural piece of the club in 2026.

Matthew Wade will also join the team after coaching and playing stints elsewhere, including a premiership with Calder.

Wonthaggi's focus on junior development is also continuing to shape the future of the club.

Gilmour said the work began as far back as 2017 and has been about rebuilding numbers, pathways and engagement across all age groups.

"It has taken years of planning and effort, but we are starting to see the results now," he said.

Facilities will also see improvement, with new netball rooms in development to support both the Wonthaggi Power netball program and the local association.

Gilmour firmly stated that the club doesn't view 2026 as a rebuilding year, but as a genuine opportunity to be competitive.

"Success for us is having teams on the park at every level, a strong culture, a safe environment and stability across the club," he said.

"And then of course, we want to be playing the last game of the year."



**Phillip Island's Gemma Fischer played in the girls' competition last year. She is an up-and-coming talent to watch and is currently in the Hawthorn Next Gen Academy.**

# Participation spike for women's footy

A NEW football season is on the way and the women's league is thriving.

More than double the clubs have expressed interest in joining the women's competition following the 2025 season.

This year, the Gippsland League has taken over the management of the female football competitions in Gippsland and expressions of interest are now open to join the women's and U18s competitions.

Local clubs are encouraged to get onto the Gippsland League's female football website to register their interest.

So far Bairnsdale, Warragul, Woodside, Nar Nar Goon, Boisdale/Briagolong, Wonthaggi, MDU, Warranor, Phillip Island and Sale City have expressed potential interest in entering a Youth Girls team, Inverloch has shown interest in an U18s team, and Woodside, Nar Nar Goon, Boisdale/Briagolong, Wonthaggi, and Koo Wee Rup have registered interest in entering a women's team.

"Last season, we had four teams in the competition. To potentially have 10 or 11 and the opportunity to introduce divisions is amazing," Gippsland League's pathways and programs coordinator Elli Linney said.

"Having more clubs involved will be good for the competition. It became too repetitive with the four games playing each other, so it will be fantastic to have a more structured competition."

Should these expressions of interest develop into a commitment, the league may consider introducing east and west competitions to increase participation and decrease travel time.

"We are seeing a massive participation increase this year and



**Drouin is among the teams expressing interest in the women's and girls' football competition in 2026.**

it goes to show how well supported women's football is now," Ms Linney said.

"It's really exciting. The profile of football is changing. There are more opportunities than ever before and the increased access to football for women has helped these clubs to step up."

A fixture is yet to be drawn up, but Ms Linney said it is likely to be flexible.

Youth Girls have historically played Friday night matches with most women's games primarily played on a Sunday.

However, clubs will also have the option to introduce games on Saturdays as well.

"We are eager to see our female footballers get the recognition they deserve through greater support and opportunities from their clubs, supporters and the media," Ms Linney said.

An U16s competition is running through the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition.

This competition also looks to be growing from six to 10 or 12 teams with interest from Nar Nar Goon, Hill End, Warranor, Phillip Island, Inverloch, Warragul Industrials, Drouin, Leongatha, Wonthaggi, Nyora and Longwarry.

"We are closing the age gap in Youth Girls, which is helping to retain numbers," coordinator Bobbie Lee Blay said.

For the Gippsland League competitions, clubs can submit their expressions of interest via the website [femalefootballgl.com.au](http://femalefootballgl.com.au).

Expressions of interest can be entered as a team or individual player, and Gippsland League representatives will be happy to help navigate those pathways.



## South Gippsland Bridge Club

ON Monday night, the club had winners, then a three-way tie for second.

The winners were Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs (76), and second place was shared by Linda and Grant Austen, Bill Damm and Peter Campbell, and Susan Ruffin and Alan Johnston (all 48).

Tuesday, January 6, saw Pamela Nisbet and Anu Goodman lead with a very respectable 72.87.

They were followed by Matti Shub and John Quayle (57.14), Ruth Stevenson and John French (56.2), and Ruth Harvey and Denise Allitt (54.02) playing N/S.

In E/W, Neville and Philip Chapman (63.54), Bron Sund and Mike Dooley (54.41), Anne Speakman and Alan Johnston (53.57), and Catherine Burton and Robyn Synan (52.73).

Pamela Nisbet and Anu Goodman led again with 64.76 in N/S on Friday at Inverloch, followed by Deb Anglim and John French (59.44), Alan Johnston and Clive Hope (57.55), Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd (54.46), and Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh (54.36).

Playing E/W, Ann Marie Tytler and Fred Meiselbach (55.44), Faye Rowlands and John Currier (53.65), Marie Sands and Maureen Stiles (52.89), and Neville and Philip Chapman (52.52). All scores represent percentages of total points available.

Anyone wanting to learn the game or join the club will be most welcome.

Please contact president Mary on 0427 338 598 or secretary Kathy on 0438 859 561.

## Major showjumping event at Korumburra

THE Korumburra Showgrounds will host a major horse event this Saturday and Sunday when hundreds of horse riding enthusiasts descend on the town for the Korumburra Chique Showjumping Event.

Come and enjoy horses in action on Saturday, January 17 and Sunday, January 18, 2026 from 10am-both days with horses competing in showjumping in classes with fences that range in height from 70cm to 1.20m.

The Korumburra Pro Rodeo will follow on Friday, January 23, 2026. Gates open at 2pm. Main performance 6.30pm-9pm, with live music till 11pm.



Kilcunda-Bass' veterans' footy team is ready to launch 2026 with the first training session of the year scheduled for Wednesday, January 14.

# Magpies and Giants join veterans football competition

VETERANS' footy is on the rise with more clubs entering the 2026 competition.

Playing in the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition, Cora Lynn, Korumburra and Dalyston have been added to the fixture.

Neerim South will not be entering a team this season, so it will be a 10-club competition.

"It's good to see new clubs joining the competition. Nar Nar Goon has been dominating and has gone two seasons undefeated. They are the benchmark and it will be interesting to see if these new clubs can challenge them," West Gippsland Football Netball Competition operations manager Brett Tessari said.

"In our first year we had seven clubs, so to have 10 clubs now shows that veterans' football is becoming more popular and there's plenty of interest. We are looking forward to a competitive season."

For local newcomers Dalyston and Korumburra, entering a veterans' team is another opportunity

for families to get involved in their respective clubs.

"We have a nice team forming with a group of guys who are keen to get back into it," Dalyston coach Hayden Wallis said.

"Our aim is to go as far as we can, get a bit fitter and be unified as a club."

Dalyston has had 45 to 50 footballers keen to get back out on the field.

For Korumburra, a team formed while watching Seniors footy, deciding it was time to pull the boots back on and have a kick for themselves.

Training kicked off on December 17 before the Christmas break and will resume in the second week of February.

"We are hoping the team will bring more new families and new faces to the club. We have a few non-locals coming to play, so it will be great to have some new people around," Korumburra's veterans' president Matt De Grandi said.

"It'll create a good culture around the club. We are pumped to be part of the competition and looking forward to seeing what happens."

Existing local clubs Kilcunda-Bass and Phillip Island are keen to build on their previous seasons in 2026.

Phillip Island has been strong, finishing third in 2025 and looking to make a premiership appearance this year.

"We've been going for four years and we've had strong numbers – it's going well," Phillip Island club president Chris Ross said.

"We made the preliminary final last season; it was a really good year."

Under coach Joel Goodall, Phillip Island started training before Christmas, focusing on ball work and skills.

"These guys are keen to be part of the club, and the team has improved each season. We're looking to take it to finals again this season," Ross said.

"They are an unbelievably motivated group of blokes, so we hope to get that grand final win."

For Kilcunda-Bass, veterans' footy is about the opportunity to come together, keep fit and continue to be involved in local footy.

"Veterans' footy has brought more families to the club, which has had a positive impact on the junior numbers as well. As a club, we are focused on family involvement," coach Jozz Hart said.

"We are also flexible with training so we can be an inclusive club for players across the Waterline areas."

Hart said the aim for 2026 was to get participation up, focus on fitness and offer an inclusive club culture.

Kilcunda-Bass' training schedule can be found at kb-vets.team with the first training to be held at the San Remo Jetty for kick, run and swim on Wednesday, January 14.

Veterans' footy is set to kick off on Saturday, April 12.

## New parkrunners take on the Grand Ridge Rail Trail

A GROUP of 48 keen runners, walkers and dogs were welcomed on Saturday morning by run director Jodie Pincini at the usual picnic table.

Cool conditions on an already shady, ferny track helped everyone feel good as they set off in the familiar friendly gaggle, the sounds of feet crunching on gravel and excited chatter of voices sometimes drowned out by puffing.

First to make it back was the fastest male runner Jimand Benno with a time of 20.48.

The fastest female was Stacey Krausz with a time of 24.38.

Congratulations to both runners for this amazing result.

Some personal bests were reached with fantastic efforts by Stacey Krausz, Arlen Lingford, Matilda Busch, Angus Buckley, Hilary Dorling, Shirley Buckley and Gillilan Buckley.

Well done for reaching these

personal bests.

There were several first timers and visitors on the track.

Welcome and congratulations to Jimand Benno, Mark Mason, Paula Fowler, Stevie McDonald, Leyton Turner, Vanessa Swanson, Derek Holcombe, Jake Swanson, Melissa Blackshaw, Rachael Blackshaw, Katie Blackshaw, Lance Meredith and Julian Meredith.

Everyone at parkrun hoped you enjoyed the beautiful trail and come back again soon.

Volunteers make this whole show happen, and the parkrunners are very grateful to Libby Belton, Katherine Conrad, Robert Gray, Robert Nelson, Katrina Palmer, Jodie Pincini, Diana Reardon, Helen Reeves, Peter Reeves and Rongshang Zhang for their efforts.

Thanks everyone for a great morning of fun and fitness.



A great turnout was welcomed to the Grand Ridge Rail Trail for parkrun on Saturday.



AROUND THE GROUNDS...

OMK

TWO centuries were recorded in OMK's C1 game against MDU on Saturday.

Playing at the Outtrim Recreation Reserve, the Diggers' opening batsmen Mathew Walker and Owen Fitzpatrick both crossed the line to make 100 and 104 runs respectively.

After hitting triple digits, they retired not out, sending Tom Walker and Scott Handley to the crease.

They finished the job, putting on 51\* and 26\* respectively.

OMK reached a score of 0/293 after 35 overs.

For MDU, Gary Webster and Craig Hooper put on a solid partnership, but the OMK bowlers were also in fine form.

Two wickets were taken by Adam Fisher, and the rest were shared between Ben Maguire, Fitzpatrick, Luke Walker, Jordan Grabham and Tom Walker.

MDU finished up with a score of 7/118.

The action continued in C2 where father/son duos helped the Diggers secure a win over Leongatha Town.

Luke and Liam Jones performed exceptionally well with Luke making 88\* with the bat and Liam claiming 2/23 with the ball.

Andrew and Louis Sorensen also appeared together on the field.

Daniel Wylie was the pick of OMK's bowlers, taking 3/27.

"This was C2's first win for the season and it was a great team effort," OMK's Jordan Myers said.

"We're very happy with how the second half of the season has started across C Grade."

OMK is looking forward to its Pink Stumps Day set to be held on February 7.

Glenn McGrath will be in attendance on the day and all proceeds from the event will go towards the McGrath Foundation.

Tickets are sold out for the event, but people can still check out OMK's Facebook page to be part of upcoming raffles and silent auctions.

PHILLIP ISLAND

IN a crucial fourth versus fifth clash on the Cowes Oval, Inverloch was in all sorts of trouble in its A Grade match against Phillip Island.

Inverloch had two ducks at the top of the order and precious few runs to show until the ever-reliable Dave Newman 52 and Wally Taberner 22 steadied the ship in the middle stages with some careful but opportunist batting.

Even so, their total of 7/142 looked nowhere near enough as the smoke drifted over the ground from the Otway bushfires.

Phillip Island's bowling efforts were led by George McClausland, who claimed four wickets.

Wickets were also taken by Timothy Niven, Jobe Williams and Thomas Niven.

Phillip Island then went into bat. Inverloch's Lewis Rankin, Rhys Newman and Cooper Newman caused a slow start for the Sharks.

The significant scores of the day came from captain Daniel Mock with 32 runs and Williams with 35 runs.

Ultimately, Phillip Island fell short with 7/142.

THE IMPERIALS

B GRADE entered 2026 with a bang, defeating Glen Alvie by just one run.

The Imperials batted first and with three batsmen delivering the majority of the score – Kane Maskell 44, Andrew Meyer 43 and captain Sam Vagg 59\*.

Glen Alvie bowled a few wides, which contributed to The Imperials overall score of 200.

James Jeffery bowled well for the Imperials early.

The Imperials also had two bowlers who had not played for the club but gave a strong performance in Michael Malloy and Nathaniel Slater.

Slater was the pick of The Imperials' bowlers, taking 4/36.

"It was a good game of cricket, and the run rate was fairly controlled so both sides thought they were in with a chance," Imps' club president Kristian Gray said.

"It was a good start to the new year, and we were pretty happy to get the win in the end."

Unfortunately, A Grade suffered a loss to Nerrena.

A Grade's top scorers were captain Jack Ginnane 19 and Timothy Sauvarin 18. The only wicket was taken by Jake Cochrane.

WONTHAGGI CLUB

MATCH winner David Britt was philosophical if a bit annoyed about going out in the 90s for the second time this season against the same opponents, as Wonthaggi Club faced Leongatha Town in B1 on Saturday.

"Honestly I didn't know I was that close," he said after making 94 off 87 balls.

"They put down a couple of tough chances, so I was a bit lucky, but when I went out, I thought I got enough on it."

In the blustery conditions, the high outfield shot held up in the wind, and while it also seemed to swirl around in the air, Leongatha's Luke Bowman managed to chase it down.

It proved to be the crucial innings. Club made what you'd normally consider to be a winning score of 6/242 off 40 overs, but Town were up for the fight, led at the top of the order by Matt Davies who hit out strongly for 55 off 54 balls with the side going on to make 193 all out off 37.4 overs.

"We outrighted them last time we played them, so they've certainly improved," Wonthaggi Club president Luke McGuirk said.

The bowling was evenly shared, with the standouts being captain Sean Roche and Stewart Beaumont with three wickets each.

In C1, Club played Nerrena, which was a tough opponent.

Club managed to chase down Nerrena's score with just four overs to spare and only two wickets down.

The experienced Jason O'Reilly and young Jed Caddy paved the way to Club's win with 77\* and 40\* respectively.

They combined well with some orthodox stroke play from both players, hitting with the breeze to advantage in a promising start by them.

With the ball, the wickets were taken by Mohamed Ashik Mohamed Nizar, Ryan McGuirk and Matt Sharp.

C2 lost in the last over to Koonwarra/LRSL.

Luke McGuirk and 13-year-old Heath Crump opened the batting and performed well, making 36 and 61\* respectively.

Club bowled well in patches but could not reduce the Cougars run rate enough to secure a win.

OMK Pink Stumps visit to Sydney

By Andrew Paloczi

THE outstanding efforts of OMK's Pink Stumps Day in raising funds for the McGrath Foundation were again acknowledged with OMK representatives invited to the SCG for the annual Jane McGrath High Tea on Tuesday, January 6.

Jane McGrath passed away in 2008, having become a cancer support campaigner while battling the disease, establishing the McGrath Foundation with husband and Australian cricketer Glenn in 2005.

The Foundation raises money to fund McGrath Cancer Nurses across Australia, delivering clinical, psychosocial and emotional support to people with any type of cancer throughout their treatment.

That is a broadening of the organisation's reach, having long focused on caring for those with breast cancer and people close to them, Jane having originally been diagnosed with that condition in 1997.

OMK has shown a knack for raising more for the McGrath Foundation than any other cricket club nationwide.

In addition to the High Tea, the Diggers received silk unfurling tickets, enabling them to play a part in displaying a special banner featuring Jane McGrath's image and the message that "No one should go through cancer without care."

Cancer survivor Emily Perczyk of Hallston, who will speak at OMK's upcoming Pink Stumps Day, and her mum Gail were given the honour of representing the club, helping unfurl the banner.

Along with that pair, OMK Pink Stumps Day committee members Andrea Curtis, Kate Norton and Marnie Whiteside attended the Jane McGrath High Tea.

"It's a frock-up event where you come dressed in pink," Curtis said.

Glenn McGrath spoke to attendees about his experience and what the McGrath Foundation is currently doing and its goals.



OMK Pink Stumps Day representatives Marnie Whiteside, Andrea Curtis, Kate Norton and Emily Perczyk with Glenn McGrath at the SCG.

As the event organiser for OMK's Pink Stumps Day, Curtis told the Sentinel-Times why those at the club continue to be strongly committed to supporting the Foundation.

"The McGrath Nurses provide both physical and emotional support for families living with cancer to help them navigate that journey," she said, noting the service is provided free and "The goal is that every Australian has access to a McGrath Nurse."

"They achieved that with breast cancer and now they're extending it to all cancers," she said.

While cancer can be a heavy subject, there was plenty of positivity at the SCG about the McGrath Foundation and the role it plays.

"It's an opportunity for us to connect and network with the organisation, but it is a day of celebration as well of what the McGrath Foundation has achieved," Curtis said.

Governor General Sam Mostyn attended this year, inviting the OMK representatives to her Sydney residence Admiralty House, where they enjoyed a tour and heard about her role.

"She wanted to recognise what a valuable contribution we're making for Australians by doing what we are doing with our fundraising for Pink Stumps Day," Curtis said.

While OMK's Pink Stumps Day function on Saturday, February 7 is sold out with 280 people booked in, everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy the cricket and contribute to the cause.

There'll be an auction on the day.

Glenn McGrath will be at Outtrim Recreation Reserve from about midday and will toss the coin for the match between OMK and Imperials, also participating in cricket activities during a break in play.

Pink Stumps snags in Leongatha



Some of those behind the OMK Pink Stumps Day serve at last year's barbecue fundraiser, with this year's sausage sizzle set to take place at Mitre 10 in Leongatha.

SOME of the crew behind OMK Pink Stumps Day are taking charge of the barbecue tongs at Leongatha's Mitre 10 on Saturday, January 17 between 8am and 1pm, proceeds from sausage sales adding to the fundraising total for the McGrath Foundation.

With the annual Pink Stumps match being played on Saturday, February 7, OMK's fundraising efforts are building steam.

Visit the 'OMK Cricket Club Pink Stumps Day' Facebook page to enter the raffle for a Thermomix.

Prizes are currently being finalised for another online raffle, with an online auction to run in the week prior to Pink Stumps Day, and details of both will be posted to the above Facebook page when ready.



KOONWARRA L/RSL

A GRADE made the trip over to Kilcunda Bass, hiring out the bus and taking the trip as a team.

Captain Callum Buckland started off the day by winning the toss and sending them in for a bat.

Despite losing Jaydan Tregear (5) early, the Kilcunda Bass batters started off strong, putting on a big partnership before James Rushton (1/28 from eight overs) bowled Cameron Davidson (52) leaving them 2/119.

Most of Kilcunda Bass' runs came from an unnamed batter who made 76 runs before Azhar Mehmood (2/35 off eight overs) took his wicket.

The best of Koonwarra/LRSL's bowling came from Jason Kennedy who took 3/33 off seven overs, helping to keep Kilcunda Bass to 7/186.

Another highlight came from Colin McPhee, who took three catches for the day.

On the batting side of the day, despite losing the match by 12 runs, Koonwarra/LRSL batted right through until the 39th over, making it a tight contest before losing all wickets for 174 runs.

The highest scorer was James Rushton who made 43 off 34 balls, the next coming from Buckland (25) and Kayden Scrimshaw (20).

The Kilcunda Bass bowlers were well spread with five players taking two wickets in their spells, C. Davidson (2/23 off 7.4 overs), T. Smith (2/41 off eight overs), R. Brown 2/22 (five overs), M. Grayson(c) (2/32 off six overs) and B. Rookes (2/23 off four overs).

A Grade stays at third place on the A2 ladder, with Kilcunda Bass now two games ahead.

The next match is against ladder-leaders Nyora out at the Koonwarra Recreation Reserve.

B Grade played out at Koonwarra Recreation Reserve against Kilcunda Bass on Saturday afternoon.

Captain Brad "Ando" Anderson won the toss and sent them in for a bat.

Kilcunda Bass' opening batters were cruising early on, the first wicket not taken until the 11th over, Ben Davison (1/22 off eight overs) removing Peter Miller (18) via caught behind.

Brett Joseph led Bass with the bat making 55 runs off 94 balls to help boost the total before Ryder Pedlow took his wicket via stumped.

This just being one off Ryder's poles.

The 12-year-old took 7/22 off seven overs, an ever-impressive effort from the youngster to help bowl Kilcunda Bass out for 152.

The other two wickets came from Britney Thomas (1/24 off eight overs) and Reggie Read (1/29 off five overs).

Another highlight in the field was Ando's keeping behind the stumps.

Brad took one catch and three stumpings to lead the team.

Reggie Read also took two catches off his good mate Ryder's bowling.

Batting was highlighted by the quickness of the ground on Saturday.

The boys found the gaps and ball would race to the boundary.

Kevin Thorne (9) and Will Cashin opened up the batting, the pair put on 17 together before losing Kevin via lbw.

Will and Brett Pedlow (34) then formed a crucial partnership of 44 before Brett was bowled by Rohan Duff (2/44 off eight overs), Rohan taking the only two wickets of the day.



**Dave Newman's captain's knock of 52 off 78 featured a combination of strong defence and opportunistic hitting at a crucial stage for the Stingrays.**

Louis Read then came out to join Will in the middle, the pair putting on the winning partnership of 93.

Louis finished 33 not out off 52 balls.

Will Cashin, one over after making his first career half century, decided he wanted the rest of the runs, hitting 20 runs off the 26th over with four consecutive boundaries, leading the team to 2/154 and making 73 runs off 68 balls.

It was a great win for B Grade. The team jumps up to third on the B2 ladder.

The next game is against Imperials at East Campus Oval.

Furthermore, congratulations to Ben Davison on his 150th senior game for the club.

C Grade played against Wonthaggi Club on Saturday afternoon at the Leongatha Velodrome Oval.

Captain Matt Boswell continued the trend, winning the toss and sending club in for a bat.

The Wonthaggi openers started very well.

Luke McGuirk (36) and Heath Crump (61\*) put on a 52-run partnership before Mick Caruana (1/30 off three overs) took the first wicket via lbw.

Matt Boswell (1/24 off seven overs) took the only other wicket for the day.

Club finished its overs 2/156.

Despite losing Dom Murdica (7) early, highlights will come from him bringing up his 3000th run with the club.

Well done Dom, it's a big milestone across many years.

The highest run scorers for the match came from Glenn Matthies (38), Glenn Boxall (32) and Dylan Van Puyenbroek who made his highest score (33) in his 50th senior match for the club.

Shane Paterson also rounded out 24 runs not out to help reach the total in the final over.

Well done to the team, who hold its spot at fourth on the C2 ladder.

The next match is against Leongatha Town at Scorpion Park.

KORUMBURRA

BIG congratulations to Hudson Jefferis on making his A Grade debut.

A raw bowling talent, "Huddo" delivered a strong opening spell, applying early pressure and showing plenty of promise in his first outing at the level.

While he didn't pick up a wicket, his effort certainly highlighted his potential going forward.

Bowling first, the Cobras got off to a flyer and had Nyora on the back foot before they could settle.

That momentum was halted by an outstanding fourth-wicket partnership of 180, which swung the game firmly in Nyora's favour.

From there it was plenty of leather chasing as Nyora closed out their innings at 6/243.

Jacob Whiteside was the pick of the bowlers with an impressive 2/12, while skipper Harry McNeill also claimed two wickets.

Rumesh Rangana swapped the wicketkeeping gloves for the ball, sending down some tidy overs and finishing with a wicket as well.

In reply, Rumesh Rangana got the Cobras off to a flyer early, but regular wickets meant they were unable to build the partnerships required to sustain the run chase.

Rangana top-scored with a quickfire 43 off 24 balls, including three fours and four sixes.

Jacob Whiteside contributed a solid 30 off 43 balls with six boundaries, while Mitch Young added 25 off 52 balls with three fours.

Unfortunately, they were the only batsmen able to make a significant impact on the scoreboard.

Batting first, it was six and out in the opening overs for Peter Edwards, setting the tone for the innings in C Grade.

Trevor Allen made a solid contribution early with a tidy 24 off 33 balls, including three fours and a six, while Darren Scott added valuable runs late in the innings with 27 off 23 balls, hitting two fours and a six.

Despite being behind the eight ball with the bat, the side responded superbly with an outstanding bowling performance to restrict Kilcunda Bass to just 75.

The bowlers made scoring difficult throughout the innings, applying constant pressure and taking regular wickets.

Veteran Darren Scott led the way with exceptional figures of three for nine off 6.2 overs, capping off a strong all-round performance.

He was well supported by Tom Sorrell with two for 21, Peter Edwards with two for 11 and Jai Townley chipping in with one for eight, as the Cobras wrapped up a convincing win.

LEONGATHA TOWN

AFTER losing the toss, Town was made to go into bowl first in B Grade.

Hugh Livingstone getting an early wicket was a great start, but the runs kept coming from Wonthaggi Club.

Wonthaggi finished its innings 6/242.

The pick of the bowlers was Ethan Smith with 3/31 off eight overs and Livingstone with 2/42 off eight overs.

It was Town's chance to bat with Matt Davies (55) and Mark Hardy (four) opening.

They lost Hardy early, which brought Pandu Jayasinghe (39) to the crease.

The runs started flowing.

After losing Davies and Jayasinghe, skipper Col Bruce (34) and Beau Gillatte (40) came in and pushed the total closer to a win but fell just short at 10/193.

C Grade won the toss and batted first.

It started off shaky with Alex Aeschlimann and Shem Hickey being dismissed early for ducks.

Aneesh Sasidharan stepped in for a well batted 55.

Nigel Hodges with 36 and Stu Ord with a quick fire 16 at the end finished the batting innings with 10/156.

It was Town's time to bowl.

Poly Joseph started with 2/31 off seven overs.

Other wicket takers were Mitch Hogarth and Nijo Devassey.

OMK passed Town four down in the 27th over.

Leongatha Town has a past players reunion on February 7, which is expected to be a great night.

MDU

A COMPETITIVE game of cricket resulted in a win for MDU over Glen Alvie on Saturday.

Playing at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve, MDU won the toss and chose to bat.

MDU pulled out all the stops with amazing efforts from Paul Le Page and Tharindu Nuwan, who both recorded centuries.

Le Page made 106 off 100 with 16 fours and one six, and Nuwan made 101 off 75 with five fours and 10 sixes.

Wayne Prosser contributed 20 off 41.

MDU was tasked with defending an outstanding score of 5/284.

Glen Alvie replied with 7/222, giving the win to the visitors.

With the ball, the pick of MDU's bowlers was Joel Sinclair, who took 4/23 off five.

Mitch McGrath claimed 1/33 off six and Semba Lakshan took 1/47 off eight.

NERRENA

THE Red Caps delivered a convincing win against The Imperials on Saturday.

The Imps won the toss and chose to bat.

Nerrena was off to a good start when Archie Gannon claimed Cameron Bruce's wicket and the score was 1/5.

Imps skipper Jack Ginnane managed to get 19 runs on the board and the score was 3/48.

Mitch Clark stepped up to bowl and ran through the Imps' batting order.

Taking four wickets, Clark ensured the Imps were bowled out for 72.

Jack Curtis and Clark opened the batting for Nerrena.

The score was 1/40 when Curtis' wicket was lost to Jake Cochran. Clark and captain Thomas Cameron brought the score to 73, winning the game.

In B Grade, Nerrena suffered a rocky start against OMK.

At 4/30, things were looking grim. However, Damien Symmons and Joel Renden steadied the ship with 35 and 23 runs respectively.

Tailenders Will Croatto and Jaxon Checkley made 29 and 20\*, bringing the score to 10/167.

Croatto and Checkley continued their fine form with the ball, claiming 2/23 and 4/24.

Three wickets for Charlie Dougherty allowed Nerrena to restrict OMK's run rate and win the game.

"We're happy with the start to the new year.

"A Grade is sitting equal top of SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

the ladder and B Grade is third," Nerrena president Zack Trease said.

"It's good to get the win to start the second half of the season."

Nerrena is looking forward to its 90th anniversary, which is set to be held on February 7.

NYORA

THE A2 side was shaken by the swift dismissal of the opening partnership but managed to turn the situation around to record a win against Korumburra.

Batting third in the order, Myles Cordeux stepped up to the crease following the dismissal of Daniel Esler at 1/12 and was there to stay.

Cordeux amassed a whopping score of 123\*, keeping Nyora well and truly in the game.

Jona Watts added 77 runs, and the overall team resulted ultimately came to 6/243.

Nyora's dominant performance continued with the ball.

Mitch Rowe had a day out, claiming five Cobra wickets.

Aaron Thompson and Reece Cordeux also took two wickets each.

B Grade endured a loss to MDU but took plenty of positives from the match.

Col Knox was the best bat, making 37 runs.

The only other meaningful contribution came from captain Lochie Rowe with 31 runs.

With the ball, Nyora made a slow start and didn't challenge MDU for the first 20 overs.

Nyora warmed up by the second half and Viraj Peiris led the charge to better bowling performance.

The only wickets for the day were taken by Jaylen Waixel and Elijah Le Serve.

Le Serve is one of Nyora's U15s players who is starting to make a name for himself in senior cricket.

This was Le Serve's third senior game for the season, and he was tasked with bowling more overs during this week's game.

"Elijah took a wicket in his first over – he did a really good job," Nyora's Adam White said.

"He was asked to do a job late in the innings, so there was a bit of pressure on him, but he stood up to the challenge and proved he's one of the players of the future."

An undermanned C Grade side delivered a good performance against Inverloch at the Poowong Recreation Reserve.

Craig Robinson was the top scorer with 38 runs and Travis White batted well with 32\*.

Nyora's young bowlers stepped up in this game with Tristan Dowel and Will Uren both taking a wicket.

For Uren, this was his first senior wicket.

"We have a lot of top age U15s this season and we are trying to give plenty of senior experience to our junior players," Adam said.

"These U15s will be heading into U17s, and we have a lot of U13s as well.

"There is a lot of great talent coming through thanks to our junior coach Gus MacDonald."

Nyora is excited to see what 2026 brings on the field and is counting down to its Pink Stumps Day off the field, which is scheduled for February 14.

Head over to the Facebook page for tickets.

Early bird tickets are still available at \$50.

Once these are gone, the price per ticket will be \$60.





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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Joel Brann (Club) 87 ; Mitchell Clark (Nerrena) 4/9

A2: Myles Cordeux (Nyora) 123\* ; Mitch Rowe (Nyora) 5/43

B1: David Britt (Club) 94 ; Jaxon Checkley (Nerrena) 4/24

B2: William Cashin (Koon L/RSL) 73\* ; Ryder Pedlow (Koon L/RSL) 7/22

C1: Owen Fitzpatrick (OMK) 104\* ; Darren Scott (Korumburra) 3/9

C2: Luke Jones (OMK) 88\* ; Daniel Wylie (OMK) 3/27

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LADDERS

RD 9

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
A GRADE, Division 1			A GRADE, Division 2		
Nerrena	72	1.626	Nyora	96	1.535
Club	72	1.446	Kilcunda Bass	78	1.522
OMK	66	1.010	Koonwarra L/RSL	54	1.420
Inverloch	60	1.188	Glen Alvie	36	0.855
Phillip Island	36	0.959	Korumburra	36	0.824
Town	12	0.653	MDU	24	0.963
Imperials	6	0.501	Foster	0	0.333
B GRADE, Division 1			B GRADE, Division 2		
Club	86	3.388	Nyora	72	1.263
OMK	78	3.274	MDU	66	0.893
Nerrena	66	1.450	Koonwarra L/RSL	60	1.273
Inverloch	60	1.315	Kilcunda Bass	54	0.867
Phillip Island	18	0.519	Glen Alvie	42	1.150
Town	18	0.340	Imperials	30	0.739
Korumburra	6	0.186			

LADDERS

RD 12

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
C GRADE, Division 1			C GRADE, Division 2		
OMK	96	1.470	Club	90	2.718
Club	90	2.322	Inverloch	84	1.475
Phillip Island	60	0.779	Glen Alvie	84	0.927
Nerrena	54	0.858	Koonwarra L/RSL	72	1.354
Kilcunda Bass	48	0.837	Town	36	0.577
Korumburra	42	0.923	Nyora	36	0.485
MDU	42	0.704	OMK	30	0.612

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES  
& UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 10 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

A GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

Club v Imperials	Wonthaggi Turf	Ashleigh Stride
Nerrena v OMK	Leongatha Turf	Ken Scrimshaw
Inverloch v Town	Inverloch Turf	Shane Moore
Phillip Island - BYE		

A Grade, Division 2 - 1PM START

Koon L/RSL v Nyora	Koonwarra	John Schelling
Korumburra v G-Alvie	Korumburra	Michael Thomas
Foster v Kilcunda Bass	Foster GC	Brad Phillips
MDU - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

OMK v Inverloch	Outtrim	Graham Wightman
Town v Korumburra	Scorpion Pk 1	Tyson Tootell
Phillip Island v Club	Cowes	Les White
Nerrena - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 2 - 1PM START

Kilcunda Bass v MDU	Bass 1	TBA
Imperials v Koon L/RSL	East Campus	TBA
Nyora v Glen Alvie	Poowong	Geoff Birnie

ROUND 13 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

C GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

Phillip Island v MDU	Rhyll	TBA
Club v Korumburra	McMahon	TBA
OMK v Kilcunda Bass	Digger Park	TBA
Nerrena - BYE		

C GRADE, Division 2 - 1PM START

Glen Alvie v OMK	Glen Alvie	TBA
Nyora v Club	Dalyston	TBA
Town v Koon L/RSL	Scorpion Pk 2	TBA
Inverloch - BYE		

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective umpires can contact

Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421



Wonthaggi Club A1 captain Joel Brann works the ball into the onside, being watchful early before going on the attack, his rapid 87 being a deciding factor in the win over Leongatha Town. A13\_0226

Brann and Thomas combine to ensure Club's victory over Town

By Andrew Paloczi

A SOLID knock from opener Mitch Thomas and a blistering innings from skipper Joel Brann set up a strong score for Wonthaggi Club, the challenging target of 265 and disciplined Club bowling soon having home side Leongatha Town in deep trouble.

The Scorpions went down by 62 runs, their only noteworthy scorers being Sebastian Kyle with 75 runs and Archie Fixter an unbeaten 49.

Earlier in the day, after choosing to bowl first, Leongatha Town was in the hunt when Fixter dismissed Sulakshan Mendisque for 15 to have Wonthaggi 4/104 in the 18th over.

That's when Brann strode to the wicket.

While his knock of 87 off 61 balls suggests he flew out of the blocks, Brann, who conceded he hasn't made many runs lately, allowed himself time to get set at the crease before unleashing.

"It was important for those first 20 runs or so just to rotate the strike," he said, explaining that was made easier by batting with the well-set Thomas who was finding the boundary.

Brann remarked he had a little luck during his innings, being dropped, but Leongatha Town players were clearly impressed with his knock, several Scorpions heard after the match congratulating him on his batting.

Thomas finished with 68 off 90 balls.

Jack Hume was the best bowler for Leongatha Town, dismissing Wonthaggi's openers and number three



Sulakshan Mendisque is beaten on this occasion during his innings of 15 for Wonthaggi Club at Scorpion Park. A10\_0226

batsman and finishing with 4/46 off his eight overs.

Brann followed his batting heroics by playing his part with the ball, his medium pacers accounting for both Leongatha openers, bowling captain Jesse Giardina for a duck and trapping Rory Gilliatte in front of his stumps for five, Brann finishing with 2/38 from his eight overs.

Fellow medium pace bowlers Fraser West (2/33) and vice captain Jakeb Thomas (2/47) were the

winning side's other multiple wicket takers, both completing their full allotment of overs.

"He's relentless," Brann said of West, praising his consistently strong performances since breaking into A Grade a few seasons ago.

Brann praised his side for its batting and bowling, particularly pleased with Club's ability to capture five wickets in the first half of Leongatha Town's innings, a setback the Scorpions never recovered from.



GLEN ALVIE

GLEN Alvie failed to chase down MDU's score at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

MDU won the toss and chose to bat.

Paul Le Page opened for the visitors and proved unmoveable.

He and Tharindu Nuwan combined well to record a whopping 106 and 101 runs respectively.

Twenty runs were also contributed by Wayne Prosser.

Glen Alvie's top bowler was Archie Luke with 2/30 with other wicket takers being Archie Donohue, Lucas McRae and captain Ben McRae.

MDU finished its 40 overs at 5/284.

Matthew Donohue opened well with 33 runs.

The top performing batsmen for Glen Alvie on the day were vice captain Matthew Dakin with 69 runs and Darcy Hale with 39 runs.

MDU bowler Joel Sinclair caused the most problems for Glen Alvie, claiming 4/23.

Glen Alvie could not reach MDU's score and finished the day with 7/222.

INVERLOCH

INVERLOCH'S exceptional bowling and fielding performance allowed it to chase down Phillip Island's score of 141 to win by one run at the Cowes Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

Inverloch won the toss and chose to bat first but ran into a bit of strife early and was five wickets down before any real damage was done on the scoreboard.

Walter Taberner and captain David Newman steadied the ship with 22 and 52 runs respectively.

Some excellent bowling kept the Stingrays in the game.

Phillip Island's opening bats were dismissed for ducks with a wicket taken by Lewis Rankin and a run out by Rhys Newman.

Rankin was the pick of the bowlers with 2/17.

"It was good to get the first win of the new year, so we just have to keep that momentum going," David Newman said.

"Next week, we will play Leongatha Town in a one-day match at home, so that will be another test."

Inverloch is currently sitting fourth on the A1 ladder, looking to maintain its spot in the finals throughout the rest of the home and away season.

KILCUNDA BASS

IT was Jaydan Tregear's 200th club game and Kilcunda Bass hosted Koonwarra/LRSL at the Bass Recreation Reserve.

The visitors won the toss and chose to bowl.

Unfortunately, Tregear was lost early, but Cameron Davidson and Brenton Murphy made up the ground.

Davidson made 52 runs and Murphy made 76 runs.

A few smaller partnerships through the middle allowed Kilcunda Bass to reach a total of 186.

Kilcunda Bass displayed some solid fielding and a few wickets held Koonwarra/LRSL back.

Wicket taking was a shared effort with Davidson, Todd Smith, Ryan Brown, captain Matthew Grayson and Ben Rookes all taking two wickets each.

It was enough for Kilcunda Bass to hold its ground and win the game by 12 runs.

Kilcunda Bass is now two games clear in second place, sitting behind Nyora.

The last one-day match of the season will be played against Foster.

"Hopefully we can secure another win and put ourselves in a good position for the rest of the season.

"It's looking like we won't be falling out of finals at this stage," Kilcunda Bass president Ash Larcombe said.

Kilcunda Bass is looking forward to its lucky squares function set to be held on January 31.



An unbroken partnership of 116 between Jason O'Reilly 77 and Jed Caddy 40 was the defining moment in the C Grade Division 1 match between Wonthaggi Club and Nerrena at the Dudley Campus Oval on Saturday.



Wonthaggi Club's Jason O'Reilly slaps one to the boundary on his way to 77 not out in response to Nerrena's 164 at the Dudley Campus Oval on Saturday.

Cougars split double-header as Glen Alvie secures second

KOONWARRA L/RSL

THE women's team played off against Inverloch on Sunday afternoon out at Koonwarra Recreation Reserve in round five.

Captain Melissa Gheller won the toss and sent in Inverloch for a bat.

Inverloch was kept to a total of 126 runs (27 penalty runs) from their batters.

Kathy Zacharopoulos (1/5 off two overs) had the best bowling figures, followed by Gheller (1/12 off three overs) and Beth Drury (1/19 off four overs).

On the batting side, the team was led by Gheller, who hit 32 runs off her limited balls.

The next highest scorer was Zacharopoulos (13) and then Teagan Hughes (9).

Sadly, the total wasn't enough to compete.

The team lost by 16 runs finishing on 110 runs (12 penalty runs).

This was the last of the

girls' games for the day as they also played round six in the morning, making it a double header.

On Sunday morning, the girls made the trip out to Koonwarra, their opponents being the Kilcunda Bass Great Whites.

They lost the toss with Bass captain Joanne Huckett electing to bat first.

Kim Peters (1/14 off three overs) and Gheller (0/17 off three overs) opened the attack, putting the pressure on before Bass batter Jessica Abrahams came out to hit 26 runs off her limited balls, top-scoring for the Great Whites.

Drury (2/11 off two overs) took the best figures for the day.

Melissa Buckley (1/10 off 2.3 overs) and Tarryn Boden (1/12 off two overs) also picked up a wicket each.

This all contributed to limiting the Great Whites to 110 runs (zero penalty runs).

With the target set, the

Cougars' batters came out to bat.

Gheller, making her stint with the bat, made 22 runs off her limited balls.

Peters (12) was partnered with leading run-scorer Zacharopoulos (28) to help Koonwarra/LRSL to 153 (21 penalty runs).

It was a great effort from the ladies, which was fuelled by runs across the board as well as tidy bowling helped them to a good win.

With its loss in the afternoon, Koonwarra/LRSL move to third on the Open Women's ladder.

Its next game is against fourth place Leongatha Town.

GLEN ALVIE

GLEN Alvie secured second place on the ladder following a win against the Kilcunda Bass Hammerheads on Sunday morning.

Playing at the Dalyston Recreation Reserve, Glen Alvie won the toss and sent the

Hammerheads into bat first.

Sally Phillips led the charge with 18 runs with Sophie Hale adding 17 runs late in the innings.

Captain Melissa Ferretto finished off the day with 11 runs, resulting in a score of 95 for the Hammerheads.

Glen Alvie gave a great performance out on the field and gave itself a 21-run head start after taking seven wickets.

The wicket taking efforts were shared by Grace Luff, Ella Cargill, Gaby Hynes, Sara Donohue, Luan Sinclair and captain Jess Luff.

For Glen Alvie, Hynes was the pick of the batters as she made 12 runs.

Madelene Ylen contributed eight runs to the score, and Grace Luff, Cargill and vice-captain Caroline Moore each delivered seven runs.

Only one wicket was lost, claimed by Hale.

With a final score of 108, Glen Alvie went home with another win under its belt.

LDCA - JANUARY 10 HIGHLIGHTS

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

**Inverloch 7/142 d Phillip Island 9/141**

Inv. Batting: D Newman 52, W Taberner 22

Inv. Bowling: L Rankin 2/17, R Abeysinghe 1/19

P-Island Batting: J Williams 35, D Mock 32

P-Island Bowling: G McCausland 4/18, J Williams 1/22

**Club 9/264 d Town 8/202**

Club Batting: J Brann 87, M Thomas 68

Club Bowling: F West 2/33, J Brann 2/38

Town Batting: S Kyle 75, A Fixter 49\*

Town Bowling: J Hume 4/46, R Hume 2/51

**Nerrena 1/73 d Imperials 72**

Imperials Batting: J Ginnane 19, T Sauvarin 18

Imperials Bowling: J Cochrane 1/13

Nerrena Batting: M Clarke 31\*, J Curtis 17

Nerrena Bowling: M Clark 4/9, S Murphy 3/16

**OMK – BYE**

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

**MDU 5/284 d Glen Alvie 7/222**

MDU Batting: P Le Page 106, T Nuwan 101

MDU Bowling: J Sinclair 4/23, M McGrath 1/33

Glen Alvie Batting: M Dakin 69, D Hale 39

Glen Alvie Bowling: A Luke 2/30, A Donohue 1/32

**Kilcunda Bass 7/186 d Koon L/RSL 174**

K-Bass Batting: Fill-in 76, C Davidson 52

K-Bass Bowling: R Brown 2/22, B rookes 2/23

Koon L/RSL Batting: J Rushton 43, C Buckland 25

Koon L/RSL Bowling: J Kennedy 3/33, A Mehmood 2/35

**Nyora 6/243 d Korumburra 120**

Nyora Batting: M Cordeux 123\*, J Watts 77

Nyora Bowling: M Rowe 5/43, A Thompson 2/21

K'burra Batting: R Rangana 43, J Whiteside 30

K'burra Bowling: J Whiteside 2/12, H McNeil 2/36

**Foster – BYE**

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

**Club 6/242 d Town 193**

Club Batting: D Britt 94, S Beaumont 37

Club Bowling: S Beaumont 3/25, S roche 3/30

Town Batting: M Davies 55, B Gilliatte 40

Town Bowling: E Smith 3/31, H Livingstone 2/42

**Nerrena 167 d OMK 137**

Ner. Batting: D Symmons 35, W Croatia 29

Ner. Bowling: J Checkley 4/24, C Dougherty 3/18

OMK Batting: T McGeachin 38, Z Lamers 28

OMK Bowling: T McGeachin 3/23, N Auddion 3/34

**Inverloch 7/192 d Phillip Island 145**

Inverloch Batting: B Poll 44, J Strickland 43

Inverloch Bowling: C O'Flynn 3/27, I Seuren 2/16

P-Island Batting: T Hornsby 48\*, T Blackwell 28

P-Island Bowling: J Tran 3/28, A Williams 2/28

**Korumburra – BYE**

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

**Imperials 7/200 d Glen Alvie 9/199**

Imperials Batting: S Vagg 59\*, K Maskell 44

Imperials Bowling: N Slater 4/36, J Jeffery 1/29

Glen Alvie Batting: S Smith 53, A Moore 51

Glen Alvie Bowling: L McRae 4/30, J Hynes 2/34

**MDU 3/145 d Nyora 141**

Nyora Batting: C Knox 37, L Row 31

Nyora Bowling: E Le Serve 1/17, J Waixel 1/26

MDU Batting: J Bright 46, D Thomas 43

MDU Bowling: K Sinclair 3/21, Z Bright 2/19

**Koon L/RSL 3/145 d Kilcunda Bass 141**

K-Bass Batting: B Joseph 55, R Miller 18

K-Bass Bowling: R Duff 2/44, A McBride 0/36

Koon L/RSL Batting: W Cashin 73\*, B Pedlow 34

Koon L/RSL Bowling: R Pedlow 7/22, B Davison 1/22

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

**Club 2/166 d Nerrena 4/164**

Nerrena Batting: D Curtis 71, C Harrison 30

Nerrena Bowling: B Salmon 1/34, D Grigg 1/25

Club Batting: J O'Reilly 77\*, J Caddy 40\*

Club Bowling: R McGuirk 1/16, M Sharp 1/15

**OMK 0/293 d MDU 7/118**

OMK Batting: O Fitzpatrick 104\*, M Walker 100\*

OMK Bowling: A Fisher 2/7, O Fitzpatrick 1/0

MDU Batting: G Webster 39, C Hooper 30

MDU Bowling: T McGrath 0/39, G Hooper 0/51

**Korumburra 105 d Kilcunda Bass 72**

Korumburra Batting: D Scott 27\*, T M Allen 24

Korumburra Bowling: D Scott 3/9, P Edwards 2/11

K-Bass Batting: S Oates 13, C Bettles 12

K-Bass Bowling: O Jobe 2/5, P De'Rubeis 2/11

**Phillip Island – BYE**

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

**Inverloch 2/194 d Nyora 9/119**

Inverloch Batting: J Foote 81\*, W Chapman 41\*

Inverloch Bowling: M Marston 2/20, J Foote 2/26

Nyora Batting: C Robertson 38, T White 32\*

Nyora Bowling: W Uren 1/13, T Dowel 1/31

**OMK 4/157 d Town 156**

Town Batting: A Sasidharan 55, N Hodges 36

Town Bowling: P J Kallookkaran 2/31, M Hogarth 1/32

OMK Batting: L Jones 88\*, M Whiteside30\*

OMK Bowling: D Wylie 3/27, L Jones 2/23

**Koon L/RSL 6/158 d Club 2/156**

Club Batting: H Crump 61\*, L McGuirk 36

Club Bowling: A Babu 2/24, B Pentland 2/25

K-L/RSL Batting: G Matthias 38, D Van Puyenbroek 33

K-L/RSL Bowling: M Boswell 1/24, M Caruana 1/30

**Glen Alvie – BYE**





# Dell delivers 450 games

By Andrew Paloczi

PETER Dell's accomplishment in reaching 450 club games for OMK was worthy of celebration on Saturday, and while the Diggers couldn't get the better of host Nerrena, the milestone man impressed with the ball.

Dell, who modestly described the occasion as "just another game", opened the bowling after the Red Caps chose to bat, not having to wait long for the wicket of Gerard Murphy, and going on to take an economical 1/21 off his eight overs.

With various circumstances leading to Dell not bowling much yet this season, he was happy with his performance on Saturday.

By the time he took his wicket, teammate Adam Trotto (2/37) had already accounted for Nerrena opener Loc Roberts and number three batsman Kade Berryman, both dismissed for ducks.

The chances of OMK marking Dell's achievement with a win seemed strong when Nerrena was dismissed for 167, with Trevor McGeachin and Nicholas Auddino taking three wickets each for the Diggers.

Damien Symmons (35), Will Croatto (29), Joel Renden (23) and Jaxon Checkley (20 not out) helped build a big enough total to give the Nerrena bowlers something defensible, with a last wicket partnership of 51 crucial.

Soon after OMK took the crease, wickets to Red Caps Croatto and Checkley put OMK



**Peter Dell is ready to take the field for his 450th game for OMK.** A14\_0226

in the perilous position of 2/1, with openers Adam Busana and Kris Kerr failing to trouble the scorers.

McGeachin backed up his strong showing with the ball, top scoring with 38, while Xavier Lamers (28) and Justin Greenwood (20) were the only other OMK batsmen to make significant contributions.

Checkley led the way for the Nerrena bowling attack with 4/24, Charlie Dougherty taking 3/18 and Croatto 2/23, each of them bowling eight overs.

Dougherty ensured Dell wouldn't produce any batting heroics in his milestone match, taking a caught and bowled to dismiss the 450 gamer for a duck, one of four OMK batsmen who failed to score.

OMK president Russell White summed up Dell's immense contribution on and off the field.

"He's got the most A Grade wickets for the club, is a sensational committee man and

looks after the ground at Outtrim," White said.

Dell is a Life Member of OMK and has collected a swag of awards, including being named Best Club Person and Most Dedicated four times each.

He first played for the club in the 1993/94 season, before returning after a brief period playing District Seconds for Northcote, and has been on the OMK committee for all but his first season for the Diggers.

Dell originally came to OMK from Wonthaggi, bringing vast cricketing experience and slotting straight into the A Grade side, having now taken about 820 wickets at that level at an average of 17 or 18.

He has played in four A Grade Premierships plus two A Grade T20 Premierships, a B Grade Premiership and four LDCA A Grade Premierships, having during his career served as the Senior Coach, and as A and B Grade Captain.

Dell was also part of the Gippsland Cricket League Premiership side in 1994/95.

He has been OMK's Cricketer of the Year in A Grade five times and once in B Grade, also having been the LDCA's Cricketer of the Year in B Grade, and is a member of the LDCA's best side for the period 1994-2019.

Having represented the Australian Over 50s cricket team in the UK, Dell is looking forward to playing for his nation again in New Zealand next month.

Those at OMK can expect to see plenty more of him on the field, with no plans for retirement any time soon.



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