



# CLINIC CRISIS

Ellen Tesser, who arrived on Monday morning from Ruby for an appointment only to find the clinic closed, chats with Eastern Victoria MP Melina Bath. Ms Bath took it upon herself to come down and help direct people to the Leongatha hospital or encourage them to make other arrangements. Ms Tesser was thinking more about the staff than herself: “That’s really sad for all the staff,” she said when she heard the clinic had closed.

THE future of Leongatha Healthcare has been thrown into chaos after practice owner Dr Chris Webster announced he was forced to close the Koonwarra Road clinic.

But staff have disputed his claims, citing “longstanding concerns” about workplace safety and governance.

Dr Webster told the Herald Sun and The Age he was forced to “radically downsize” due to financial pressures partly caused by his involvement in the Erin Patterson mushroom murder case,

**By Rick Koenig**

and planned to reopen a smaller “boutique” practice closer to town.

He said the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners’ decision to strip him of his ability to supervise trainee GPs and a “complete lack of support” from fellow GPs had put the practice on a road to “financial oblivion”.

However, in a statement sent to the Sentinel-Times on Sunday evening, Leongatha Healthcare staff disputed

the claim.

The statement said reports in the Herald Sun and The Age “contain factual inaccuracies that risk misleading patients, staff and the wider community”.

“There are a number of complex issues underlying the current situation, including longstanding concerns raised by staff and clinicians regarding workplace safety, governance and the management of the practice by the current owner,” the statement said.

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# Wide community impact from Leongatha Healthcare closure

IT'S not just the Leongatha and district community or the staff of the Leongatha Healthcare Group which has been hit by the sudden closure of the generational clinic in Leongatha.

Other medical centres across the region from Phillip Island, Wonthaggi and Inverloch, to Korumburra and even in the Latrobe Valley have had to scramble to make arrangements as patients from Leongatha spread out for care.

The small Inverloch Healthcare group immediately posted a message on its Facebook page alerting locals to the fact that they had to close their HotDoc booking platform temporarily while they assess the situation.

A spokesperson for the clinic said the news of Leongatha's closure had come as a shock to everyone and they were liaising with doctors and hospitals to see what might be done.

"We are taking new patients, but we are only a small clinic and had very limited capacity," said a spokesperson for Inverloch Healthcare.

The Foster and Toora Medical Centres, while sympathetic to the plight of Leongatha patients, have advised that they will not be accepting additional appointments.

"At this time, we will not be able to accommodate appointments for new patients who do not receive their regular care from FMC," said Foster/Toora on its Facebook page on Monday.

Both Wonthaggi Medical Group and Korumburra Medical Group have responded by opening up more appointments, but again, these are limited.

"We want to help in any way we can whether that's with re-employment of staff or doctors," said practice manager at Wonthaggi, Gayle Bloch.

Wonthaggi Medical Group has clinics at Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Newhaven.

"We have some new registrars coming on staff in February with the new rotation and we'll have more capacity then."

"But if there are new patients in the area that need to see a doctor, we are accepting appointments."

Likewise at the Korumburra Medical Centre.



Leongatha Healthcare on Koonwarra Road has closed after practice owner Dr Chris Webster announced he was forced to shut the clinic.



Dr Chris Webster has announced he will close Leongatha Healthcare's Koonwarra Road clinic.

"We've opened up appointments to help Leongatha patients and we have three more doctors coming on in a few days' time, so we'll have more capacity then," said practice manager at Korumburra Lisa Bain.

Korumburra will also be welcoming some new registrars at the start of February which will

also increase capacity. Meanwhile, unsuspecting patients have been turning up at a closed Leongatha Healthcare clinic all morning where Eastern Victoria MP Melina Bath had taken it upon herself to speak to patients, direct them to the Leongatha hospital as required or to discuss other

arrangements.

Ellen Tesser was one of those who arrived on Monday morning from Ruby for an appointment, only to find the clinic closed.

She was pleased of the opportunity to chat with Ms Bath about the situation and what to do next.

But Ms Tesser was thinking more about the staff at the clinic than herself.

"That's really sad for all the staff," she said when she heard the clinic had closed.

It had been a busy morning at the Leongatha hospital where Robert Pearce was one of those displaced Leongatha Healthcare patients who had turned up to see a doctor.

"I have an appointment on Wednesday but my daughter told me over the weekend that they were closed. I've come up here to see if I can see someone," he said.

"I've been going there for years and got very good service. I think it's ridiculous what's been happening."

"A lot of people are going to be disappointed."

He said the biggest problem was no one knows what's going on or what to do if they've got an appointment.

## Clinic crisis

From page 1

Veteran Leongatha GP Dr Hugh Chisholm told ABC Gippsland Radio on Monday morning the "wonderful community of Leongatha" should be patient while the problems are sorted out.

"We were caught totally by surprise because we only got notified at 4pm on Friday it's closing, and yeah, we're in a state of shock and disbelief, really," Dr Chisholm said.

"But yeah, we are working together. The team is united, a wonderful lot of staff and doctors, and we'll do what we can to look after the health and wellbeing of this community."

Dr Chisholm assured patients their medical records were secure.

"I'd like to reassure them that their medical records are safe, and we will gain access to them at some stage," he said.

He laid the responsibility for the closure squarely at the feet of Dr Webster.

"At the moment, it's the responsibility of Dr Webster, because he owns the business, and he's knocked everybody else out," he said.

The staff statement said the practice was made up of 18 GPs, five practice nurses and seven administration and reception staff who "remain committed to working collaboratively toward a constructive outcome".

Nationals MPs Melina Bath and Danny O'Brien said in a joint statement they were working with government agencies to ensure the community could continue to access GP healthcare in Leongatha.

Bayside Health Regional Care Group Chief Executive Louise Sparkes said the hospital was actively supporting community members affected by the closure.

"While this practice is not part of Leongatha Memorial Hospital or Bayside Health Regional Care Group, we are working closely with the Department of Health, local clinicians, and partners to help maintain community access to care and minimise disruption," Ms Sparkes said.

"All hospital services at Leongatha Memorial Hospital are continuing as normal."

Community members who need medical care that cannot wait for a GP appointment can attend the Urgent Care Centre at Leongatha Memorial Hospital, 66 Koonwarra Road, where additional medical and nursing staff are available.

Free 24-hour health advice is also available through Nurse-On-Call on 1300 60 60 24.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINES

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

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

AC0916-V3

6 Day  
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<b>TUE   Jan 20</b> Mostly sunny. Wind AM: E 15-20km/h Wind PM: E-SE 20-30km/h 15° <b>28°</b>	<b>WED   Jan 21</b> Sunny. Wind AM: E 15-20km/h Wind PM: S 15-20km/h 14° <b>26°</b>	<b>THUR   Jan 22</b> Partly cloudy Wind AM: SW 20-25km/h Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h 13° <b>21°</b>	<b>FRI   Jan 23</b> Sunny. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: E-SE 15-20km/h 11° <b>27°</b>	<b>SAT   Jan 24</b> Mostly sunny. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: SW 15-20km/h 13° <b>35°</b>	<b>SUN   Jan 25</b> Mostly sunny. Wind AM: W-NW 15-20km/h Wind PM: S-SW 15-25km/h 16 <b>27°</b>

IN BRIEF

Bushwalker's lucky  
escape at Wilsons Prom

A BUSHWALKER who suffered a medical condition while hiking at Wilsons Promontory had a lucky escape after a fellow trekker found him and called triple zero.

The 24-year-old Hastings man was located about 900 metres into the bush near the Waterloo Bay walking track about 2.42pm on January 14.

Police from Wonthaggi, Leongatha and Foster attended, coordinating with paramedics and Parks Victoria to assist the man out of the area.

He was transported to hospital for further medical care.

Speeding drivers  
caught on Bass Highway

WONTHAGGI police detected multiple speeding offences on Bass Highway in the early hours of January 13.

A 28-year-old Mount Waverley man allegedly clocked 115km/h in a 60km/h zone at Grantville and had his vehicle impounded.

A 36-year-old Leongatha man was also allegedly caught doing 95km/h in a 60km/h zone at Kilcunda while driving a heavy vehicle without a licence.

Both men will face Korumburra Magistrates' Court.

Several other drivers received fines and licence suspensions for speeds ranging from 73km/h to 98km/h in the 60km/h zone.

Police urged motorists to slow down, warning "no excuse, no trauma".

Police seek flag thief  
after Inverloch steal

POLICE are seeking information after an Australian flag was stolen from the front yard of an Inverloch property on January 2.

The flag was taken from a flagpole at a residence on Ocean View Court between 5pm and 7pm.

A witness observed the incident and photographed the offender, attempting to persuade

them to return the flag, however the offender refused.

Wonthaggi Police Sergeant Timothy Ryan said it was a disappointing act.

"It's a disappointing act on a flag which means so much to so many," Sergeant Ryan said.

"It means a lot to the community but also to the 87-year-old Inverloch resident who puts it up proudly to display."

An image of a man has been released to assist with the investigation.

Visit the Bass Coast Eyewatch Facebook page for details.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or at [crimestoppersvic.com.au](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au).

Rhyll man faces  
court over fire

A 50-YEAR-OLD Rhyll man will be summonsed to court after allegedly lighting a fire during a fire danger period.

Cowes and Phillip Island police attended Rhyll Newhaven Road about 2pm on January 14 and found about 3.3 metres of garden waste being burnt off.

Fire restrictions were in force at the time.

The man was interviewed in relation to the offence.

Teenage hikers rescued  
at Cape Woolamai

FOUR teenage hikers were rescued after going about 300 metres off the track at Phillip Island Nature Park near Cape Woolamai on January 15.

The group found themselves stranded in bush near Quarry Point about 1.49pm.

They were ill-equipped with no food or water and strong easterly winds made it difficult for them to return the way they came.

The Police Rescue Coordination Centre in Melbourne arranged for resources and Wonthaggi police attended with support from Cape Woolamai Surf Life Saving Club, deploying a jetski and ATV.

The hikers were returned safely.

Wonthaggi Police Sergeant Timothy Ryan urged people to stick to marked trails.

"Don't deviate from the track, we only end up rescuing people that don't go the way they're supposed to," Sergeant Ryan said.

Serial thief arrested  
in Wonthaggi

A 22-YEAR-OLD New Zealand man has been remanded in custody after police arrested him on Billson Street, Wonthaggi on Saturday, January 17.

Officers from Wonthaggi, Inverloch, Loch, Bass Coast Highway Patrol and Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit conducted a vehicle interdiction about 11.12am.

The man was wanted for multiple thefts and deceptions across Victoria, predominantly relating to vehicles purchased from social media marketplaces using false details.

He was charged with 11 offences and will appear at Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court on Monday, January 19.

Police were still searching for four stolen BMWs and urged anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Group seeks independent  
candidate for Bass

A NEW community group is searching for a local independent candidate to contest the seat of Bass at the 2026 state election.

Voices of Bass formed in November last year and has been holding listening posts across the electorate to gather feedback on local issues.

The group says the main concerns it has heard from voters include housing, coastal erosion and the Emergency Services Levy.

Bass is one of Victoria's most marginal seats.

Labor's Jordan Crugnale won by just 202 votes in 2022 and announced in October she would not recontest the seat.

Voices of Bass says it was

inspired by Voices of Monash, which supported Deb Leonard as an independent candidate in the 2022 and 2025 federal elections.

It says Leonard's campaigns helped secure funding commitments for projects including the Fish Creek Football Netball Club, Woorayl Lodge Aged Care in Leongatha and the Drouin bypass.

The group says political data analyst Brent Hodgson has confirmed voting trends in Bass suggest an independent could win the seat.

More information is available at [voicesofbass.com.au](http://voicesofbass.com.au).

Kongwak Hall generator  
fires up for first time

THE Kongwak Public Hall's new backup generator was activated for the first time last week when wild weather caused widespread power outages in the area.

About 20 local residents came to the hall to charge their phones and access the internet during the outage.

The 35kVA generator was installed on November 1 last year after the hall received \$94,769 from AusNet's Energy Resilience Community Fund.

The grant also funded Starlink satellite internet, enabling the hall to operate as an Emergency Relief Centre.

Cabaret star brings solo  
show to Wonthaggi

AUSTRALIAN cabaret artist Chloe Halley brings her solo show Little Miss Typecast to The Shed at the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine on Friday, January 30 at 7.30pm.

Fresh from a smash-hit debut at Chapel Off Chapel, Halley's show is a cheeky high-energy cabaret about her career being typecast in child roles despite being an adult.

Expect big vocals, dance numbers and sharp comedic storytelling.

Tickets are available via Trybooking.

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# Phillip Island bushfire sparks koala park fears

FIRE crews were still at the scene of a previously dangerous bushfire south of Harbison Road on Phillip Island, late into the night on Sunday, blacking out hotspots and tree stumps, after gaining control of the blaze early in the afternoon.

Twelve fire trucks, several smaller firefighting appliances, speed ploughs and earthmoving equipment were brought in after the alarm went out at about 11.30am on Sunday, with two helicopters also involved.

One helicopter provided fire ground management with an aerial perspective while the water bomber, a Bell 412Ep flying as a Helitak 331 tanker, was also brought into action with immediate impact.

The fire bomber made dozens of sweeps across the fire front, coming in with sirens roaring as it dumped hundreds of litres of water, reducing the intensity of the blaze with every pass and allowing ground crews to gain control.

But not before there were concerns for the conservation reserve and the northern boundary of Newhaven College.



Firefighters continued blacking out at the Phillip Island bushfire well into the night on Sunday ahead of some hot, dry weather later in the week.

CFA officials are yet to say how the fire started, initially as a grass fire but spreading quickly into bush between Harbison Road and Phillip Island Road, to the north of the Phillip Island Koala Conservation Reserve and the college grounds.

But it has been reported that farm machinery may have been the ignition point.

Firefighters responded in numbers with brigades from a wide area around Western Port and Bass Coast responding, along with Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police.

At the height of the blaze, with trees and long-dry grass fully alight and running ahead of a strong northerly wind, Emergency Victoria

issued a Stay Informed advice for the area between Cowes-Rhyll Road and Phillip Island Road, downgraded to a Threat is Reduced message by 4.11pm.

The event was a stark reminder that bushfire can strike anywhere, anytime and residents should have their personal fire plans ready.

## Gruesome find in Silverleaves prompts speculation

SPECULATION has run wild since last Thursday, January 15, when police acknowledged that human remains had been found at the rear of a residential property in Silverleaves on Phillip Island.

The bones, reportedly a skull and other remains, were discovered while plumbers were working at the rear of the site, looking to replace pipes into an existing septic system.

The discovery was made at 8.35am on Thursday and police were immediately called to investigate.

Following an initial inspection of the site, the property was cordoned off with police tape and both Homicide detectives and the Missing Persons Unit were notified.

They have since attended the location and the remains have been taken away for testing.

However, contrary to speculation about the identity of the deceased person, Baw Baw Police Area Commander, Acting Inspector Paula Linford told ABC

Gippsland Radio this week that it could take days, if not weeks before police could make a definitive statement about the find.

The bones will undergo forensic testing and the circumstances surrounding the death of the person are yet to be determined.

This includes whether the matter is suspicious, according to police.

The owners of the property, who have spoken to the Sentinel-Times, said that while the discovery was initially a little disturbing, they expressed sadness and a hope that the police investigation might bring the family involved some closure.

The site was described as a typical suburban backyard with a trench for the septic works and a sandy hole where the bones were located.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report at [crimestoppers.com.au](http://crimestoppers.com.au)



Police at the scene in Silverleaves on Phillip Island where human remains were found by plumbers replacing septic pipes in a residential backyard.

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# Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



OUR coastline is such a special part of life here in Bass Coast. It's where locals unwind, where families make memories, and where visitors fall in love with our region. Recently, when I visited Cape Woolamai Beach and saw the new beach safety signage in place, I was genuinely struck by how much it stands out. You can't miss it, and that's exactly the point. These signs are designed to grab attention, cut through the noise and help people pause and think before heading into the water.

This project has been one of the real highlights of our beach safety work over the past year. It's been built on strong research and community input, with Life Saving Victoria working closely with Council, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Parks Victoria, our Visitor Information Centres and local life-saving clubs. What I love most about this approach is that it recognises the real people who visit our beaches, our culturally diverse visitors and international tourists making sure the safety messages reach as many people as possible.

The new signs at Cape Woolamai are part of a trial that also includes Kilcunda and Forrest Caves, all beaches that have been sites of drownings in recent years. This important trial also includes beaches on the Mornington Peninsula, part of an ongoing partnership with Mornington Peninsula Shire to increase our impact. This work has helped achieve real, practical outcomes that save lives.

Thank you to our lifesavers, emergency services and volunteers. You show up day after day, often in tough conditions, to keep people safe. I'm proud that advocacy from Bass Coast and other coastal councils recently helped secure extra State Government funding for Life Saving Victoria. No conversation about beach safety is complete without acknowledging the surfers and local community members who so often jump in to help during rescues. I am told this happens so regularly it is part of being a surfer in our community. This deserves recognition.

Beach safety isn't just about signs or campaigns though. It's about all of us taking responsibility. Checking conditions, choosing safer swimming spots, paying attention to warnings and looking out for each other.

Please slow down, take a moment to read the signs, respect the ocean and make safety part of every beach visit.

# \$2 million drift car project cost blowout

By Bruce Wardley

IN a major cost blowout for the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine Drift Car Restoration Project, Parks Victoria has revealed it will cost another \$2 million to finish the job.

Updating Friends of the State Coal Mine on progress at the Wonthaggi mine site, Gerard Delaney, Chief Ranger for Parks Victoria South Gippsland and Bass, admitted the initial \$1.5 million grant from the state government would not be enough to finish the project.

President Garry (Moz) Wilson said things didn't seem to be adding up. "\$1.5 million was going to cover the whole project," Mr Wilson said.

"Why will this not cover the whole job?"

"How much money is left, what's been spent and who's it been spent on?"

Responding to a further question on how much money would be needed, Mr Delaney said no detailed plan was available when the \$1.5 million was allocated.

"Prices are hard to predict," Mr Delaney said.

"I'm asking you to trust government."

Project Manager Ned Cutcliffe said the drift car needed to meet amusement ride standards and the whole rail needed to go because it was not in good condition.

"In the worst case scenario,



President of Friends of the State Coal Mine Garry (Moz) Wilson prepares to take another tour group on a walking tour down the main heading shaft of the Wonthaggi mine. B05\_0326

the timber bars and sets may not be up to scratch."

Every contractor will be paid, according to Mr Delaney.

"The public needs to know what's going on," said one volunteer.

"Why is it taking so long?"

Mr Delaney said the project had been challenging cost-wise.

"It needs to meet contemporary standards and contemporary standards cost more," Mr Delaney said.

"Another \$2 million is needed."

"We need another \$3 million," said volunteer Dyonn Dimmock.

"Get it done," said another volunteer.

Mr Cutcliffe said it was a priority project and Parks Victoria

would meet with Friends of the State Coal Mine to provide an update every couple of months.

The Friends of the State Coal Mine were told the current wooden sleepers would need to be removed to allow silt to be drained away and would probably be replaced with concrete sleepers.

Mr Cutcliffe said concrete may be more expensive but good timber is hard to source.

"It will always be a damp environment, but concrete could last 20, 30 or 40 years."

Mr Wilson said timber lagging needed to go back as part of the heritage aspect of the State Coal Mine.

"People are interested in the ceiling timber," Mr Wilson said.

Mr Cutcliffe said Heritage

Victoria would make the final decision and planners would try to build some maintenance balance into the heritage permit.

The Drift Car Restoration Project is anticipated to start in late February depending on the heritage permit and the signing of contracts for ground support works.

Contractors will be working 12-hour days, seven days a week with a total of 60 days on site.

Ms Dimmock said more volunteers are needed at the State Coal Mine to do specific jobs including tour guides for the walk-in walk-out mine tours.

No experience is necessary with on-site training provided by Parks Victoria.

For more information visit parks.vic.gov.au

## Shattered homeowners pick up the pieces after Dalyston housefire

DEVASTATED at the loss of their home of 24 years, Mandy and John Egan were still in shock as they looked back over the smouldering remains of their much loved house.

Fire ripped through their Walker Street, Dalyston property at 9.14am last Wednesday.

"We lost one of our cats Roy the Rag Doll," Ms Egan said.

Three dogs and two other cats survived the fire after a passer-by saw smoke from the Bass Highway, called triple zero and opened the gate to allow the animals to escape.

"It's such a close community, I can't believe this has happened," said a neighbour.

The couple had just left for work when it is thought an electrical fault may have caused the fire in the kitchen of the home.

The flames quickly spread to the main bedroom.

"I'd just taken down the

By Bruce Wardley

Christmas decorations and cleaned the rooms," Ms Egan said.

"I was working in Cowes, and my husband was in Leongatha.

"It was only our second week back at work after taking holidays.

"I'm dumbfounded, we'd just got over Christmas."

The house was partially engulfed as the street was closed to traffic.

"We have our daughter's wedding in early March," Ms Egan said.

"We've lost everything including our clothes and family photos.

"We'd just moved our daughter's car to the house to keep it safe."

The Egans' \$75,000 caravan parked next to the burnt out car escaped the fire.

"It is only 12 months old, it was our dream, we'd only used it twice."

The Egans' home was the first to be built on that side of the street.

"We're now homeless," Ms Egan said.

"Our daughter has just moved to Drouin so we will have to stay there with the animals."

Going through waves of emotion, Ms Egan said she still hadn't told her parents.

"Even my prescription glasses are gone."

Two of the family's dogs were found on the rail trail on their way to Wonthaggi and the cattle dog came back wet after taking refuge in a farmer's dam.

The farmer could hear the dog splashing and council helped locate the other two dogs, according to Ms Egan.

"You never expect it to be you."

Wonthaggi Police Sergeant Timothy Ryan said police responded from Wonthaggi, Bass Coast Highway Patrol and Cowes to support firefighters from Dalyston, Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Kilcunda.

Sergeant Ryan praised the passer-by who saw the fire from the Bass Highway for his fantastic efforts.

"He drove down the road and removed a number of items including gas bottles, set free some animals which would have been trapped and removed some other hazardous items," Sergeant Ryan said.

"He went in there and did a great job."

Sergeant Ryan also thanked the firefighters who managed to control the fire and stop it spreading to nearby farmland.

Police are not treating the fire as suspicious.



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# Police pet food drive a boost for furry friends

HORRIFIC stories about the damage caused, the heroic saves and the lucky escapes from last week's bushfires, especially as a result of the Longwood fire in central Victoria are still emerging.

And many are still coming to terms with the loss of more than 900 structures, including almost 300 homes, 411,000 hectares of land, more than 15,000 head of livestock, and fatality. Terip Terip beef producer Maxwell Hobson.

But as catastrophe turns to coping and ultimately recovery, many communities elsewhere in the state are answering the call.

Earlier this week, the farmers of South Gippsland and Bass Coast were first out of the blocks, donating hay and organising transportation and delivery through the Lions' Need for Feed initiative or the Victorian Farmers Federation's own Emergency Fodder Support Program and Disaster Relief Fund.

Coming in close behind them were the Bass Coast Proactive Policing Team in conjunction with the Phillip Island and Bass Coast Dog Owners Association (PIBCDOA) collecting donations of pet food and accessories to be taken directly to the fire-affected areas.

Turns out Leading Senior Constable Nick Carlson is both a member of the Uniform Branch at the Wonthaggi Police Station and the Vice President of the PIBCDOA so it was an easy job to marry up



Acting Sergeant Matthew Cadman and Sergeant Chris Brickman (with 'Kevin') and some of the pet food.

the two for a worthy cause.

After posting the appeal for pet food and accessories for the "furry friends" of bushfire victims on social media, the response went viral with pet food drops, new dog beds and other accessories arriving within minutes at the Wonthaggi Police Station.

"Items donated will be taken by us to the relief centres to be given to the victims who have lost everything," said the Bass Coast Police Service Area Eyewitness page.

"Donations of pet food and accessories can be left at the Wonthaggi Police Station 24/7. New items or items in excellent conditions please.

"Please dig deep so our fur babies are not left out."

Cheryl Owens and the many members of her dog owners' group were only too willing to pitch in and help.

"Yeah, we've had the same sort of reaction. We've got our committee people running around buying and picking up dog food. We've already been given a lot of stuff and hundreds of dollars to buy food.

"Of course, our target audience is dog owners, but they need food and supplies for all pets. I'm sure they'll even take bird seed," said Ms Owens.

"We've heard stories from up there where couples got out with

only the things they could carry and their dog. They've got nothing else.

"One guy said his cat ran off at the height of it and it hasn't come home. He doesn't hold out much hope.

"As individuals and as an organisation we know what people's pets mean to them and the response has really been overwhelming.

"Nick Carlson, who is a well-known police officer at Wonthaggi, is also our vice president, and he told us what he was planning to do and we were only too happy to get on board."

Ms Owens said the Wonthaggi Police Station was happy to take deliveries of pet food and supplies 24/7 and she's also pleased to accept donations at the shop (Cape Winds Gifts, Shop 7, 157/159 Marine Parade, San Remo) until other arrangements can be made.

"It's shocking what's happened but it's wonderful to see so many people ready to help," she said.

Meanwhile, the farming community of South Gippsland and Bass Coast have already started to make their mark with donations of hay, either dropping it off at the Korumburra Showgrounds, where there's an unloading tractor available, or organising pick-ups through the Need for Feed website or via the VFF.

To collect the tractor key at Korumburra call Shirley Arestia on 0438 551 207.

## Brothers seriously injured in e-scooter crash

TWO brothers have been seriously injured after the illegal e-scooter they were riding crashed into a parked car at Cape Paterson on Sunday.

Police allege the 22-year-old rider and his 17-year-old passenger, both from Kew, were travelling at 56km/h along Surf Beach Road when they collided with the rear of the stationary vehicle.

The speed limit for e-scooters in Victoria is 20km/h.

Police inspection of the e-scooter found it had the capacity to travel at 99km/h.

Neither rider was wearing a helmet or protective clothing.

The 22-year-old was taken to Frankston Hospital and the 17-year-old was taken to Wonthaggi Hospital for treatment.

The parked car was written off.

The rider will receive infringement notices for failing to wear an approved helmet, exceeding 20km/h on an e-scooter, and carrying a passenger.

The passenger will receive an infringement notice for failing to wear a helmet.

Police have urged parents to inspect any e-scooter their child has and make sure it is legal.

"The vast majority of the e-scooters we intercept in Bass Coast and South Gippsland are not legal," Wonthaggi Police said.

"We are sick and tired of dealing with these illegal vehicles, and we will take action against any offending, and this includes illegal vehicles which are being used by children and teenagers."

# STAY SAFE IN BASS COAST

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

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



[beachsafe.org.au](https://beachsafe.org.au)

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

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



**8** | TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

# Leongatha Art and Photography Show launches

By Andrew Palocz

LEONGATHA Rotary Club's Art & Photography show kicked off on Friday night at the town's Memorial Hall, with the painting 'Charles Bridge Prague' by Langwarrin's Glenn Hoyle taking out Best in Show.

While unfortunately the artist wasn't present, judge Kerry Spokes summed up why his work was chosen after it caught her eye despite being hung in a spot where many may have missed it.

"This acrylic painting really did take my breath away, and throughout the judging process I kept coming back to the foyer to view this work; this beautiful painting has such fantastic contrast and interest, with the buildings receding in the background and the sentinels on the bridge," she said.

Ms Spokes noted the highlights on the people, the soft shadows cast and the beautiful light dancing on the brick paving, remarking that all these factors contribute to the work's status as Best in Show.

This year, the awards were presented in a separate room rather than on the Memorial Hall stage, enabling many of the audience members to be seated, with the artworks that won various categories displayed as they were announced.

One of the show's hangers, Bob Hickman, added to the entertainment as he raced to return winning pieces to their rightful spots in the hall, remarking in mock horror at the large size of some works.

Ms Spokes declared she won't be available for judging duties next year, planning to enter the 50th Leongatha Art & Photography Show.

Living and working in South Gippsland, with a studio near



Toora's Maureen Harley with her winning watercolour 'Pinehaven Woolshed'. A14\_0326

Foster, she is a passionate advocate for the local arts sector, her current work using monoprint techniques and exploring the elements and their interaction with the landscape.

Responsible for judging all the non-photographic categories, she acknowledged it was a challenging task, although one she clearly enjoyed.

Mark Jones, who has more than 30 years' experience in photographic work judged the best Colour, Black and White, and Digitally Modified photo categories.

He spoke of the significance of the photography section and the contribution of those who entered.

"Photography has been a bit of a dying art with the advent of mobile phones but it's really important to see people still contributing and it doesn't matter whether you get the best photo tonight or not, this is about the fact that you've chosen to enter," Mr Jones said.

Gary Beresford's 'The Morning

Wren' took out the Digitally Modified section.

The judge found the composition well balanced and the wren a point of interest but not a distraction.

"I wanted something at the end of the leading line so I put the wren there," Korumburra's Mr Beresford said after the judging, having begun modifying his photos long ago with an early version of Photoshop.

Boolarra's Sherie Howard won the Best Colour category with her photo 'Blue Heaven'.

"I was looking for light, shade, and definition," Mr Jones said, noting Ms Howard's work had all of that and captured the power and emotion of the waves, the light through the seawater bringing different tones of blue.

Ms Howard told the Sentinel-Times "I've never come across colour like that before."

Impressively, the stunning image was taken without a tripod when it was blowing a gale.



Korumburra's Simonne Murray with her acrylic painting 'Ghost Gum at Midnight' based on photos taken over the years camping, predominantly along the Murray River. A15\_0326

Best Black and White (Monochrome) was claimed by Julie Gilbert of Tyers, for 'Elegance'.

"Monochrome is an art of its own because you rely on light, shade and tone to add definition and impact, and I found this image had all of these aspects as well as a sense of mystery, with the subject's face partially hidden and looking at the unknown," Mr Jones said.

The subject is Ms Gilbert's granddaughter, the photographer having made the outfit in which she modelled, in this instance inspired by a steampunk theme.

Ms Gilbert explained she likes to use a dark backdrop and to direct the light where she wants it.

"I love making the costumes as much as taking the photos," she said.

Sentinel-Times caught up with Maureen Harley who claimed the Best Watercolour with her work Pinehaven Woolshed, the painting depicting a scene in Woodside.

She was excited to go one better

than last year when she earned a Highly Commended.

"To get this at this show is a real hoot," she said.

With the award being the Richard Pegler Memorial Best Watercolour, the success was all the more meaningful for Ms Harley who used to work for Richard at Cash's Weaving.

Prior to the judging, Sentinel-Times met Stephanie Murdoch whose 'The Fancy Two Tailed Cat' went on to take out the All Abilities section for those aged over 18, her work entered through Yooralla.

There are too many categories to detail in what is another display of artistic diversity, the maximum number of 650 works entered.

The Art & Photography Show is open daily from 10am until 4pm at Leongatha Memorial Hall, with adult entry costing just \$5 and almost all works available for sale, proceeds supporting artists and Rotary projects.



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## South Gippsland Shire Council News

### Australia Day in South Gippsland

Last week, South Gippsland Shire Council celebrated the 2026 South Gippsland Australia Day Awards. The Awards recognise the individuals and organisations who go above and beyond for our community. Those who volunteer and give so much time, energy and effort into making South Gippsland a great place to live, learn, work and enjoy. Awards like these shine a light on our regions unsung heroes and celebrate the outstanding achievements of everyday people in our community.

South Gippsland Shire Council would like to thank and congratulate all of this years nominees. Without further ado, here are our 2026 Australia Day Award recipients.

#### Citizen of the Year - Valerie Wilson

Valerie is a pillar of community spirit with decades of service in Bena and Korumburra. Her extensive volunteer resume includes over 30 years with the Lions Club and Bena Hall Committee, and 20 years as the Korumburra Uniting Church Treasurer. A natural mentor and renowned caterer, Val has supported local schools, coached junior tennis, and continues to visit residents at Carinya Lodge. Her commitment to excellence, selfless, and dedication to local organisations, exemplify the qualities of Citizen of the Year.

#### Young Citizen - Erica Begg

Erica Begg is a dedicated volunteer and future leader from Leongatha. Since joining the Girl Guides at eight, she earned the Baden-Powell Award and supported numerous charities like the RSPCA and Clean Up Australia. Since 2023, she has served on the South Gippsland Shire Youth Council,

contributing to projects like the Mirboo North Youth Disco and the 2025 Youth Parliament. She also assists with Lions Club markets. Her approachable nature and commitment to enriching young lives make her a respected role model.

#### Young Citizen - Rhiannon Rawlins

Rhiannon is a transformative leader at Korumburra Secondary College. As a Rural Youth Ambassador, she established a Student Run Council and successfully advocated for student-led initiatives like new CrossFit Stations. Her impact extends to the wider community through an intergenerational Meals on Wheels program she initiated, connecting students with elderly residents. Notably, Rhiannon is the first non-school captain invited to the School Council, where she ensures student voices influence decision-making while building sustainable programs for the future.

#### Community Event of the Year - Loch Food and Wine Festival

The Loch Food and Wine Festival is a volunteer-run annual event that has celebrated Gippsland produce for 17 years. Drawing over 3,000 visitors, it provides a vital economic boost to local businesses during the winter off-season. Beyond tourism, the Festival reinvests in the community, donating thousands to local schools, preschools, and historical groups for projects like playground equipment and sensory gardens. It serves as a significant celebration of regional pride, fostering community connection while showcasing fine local food and wine.

To read the full bios of our Australia Day Award recipients and nominees, please visit:

[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)

#### COMMUNITY GRANTS

South Gippsland Shire Council's Community Grants are now open for application.

These grants are an opportunity for Council to give back to local clubs and community groups who give so much to others.

Grants can be used for both minor and major projects and equipment, planning activities, as well as festivals and events.

Applications close Tuesday 31 March 2026.

For more information and to apply, please visit:

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

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

# Turbines too close to Ramsar site, they say

LOCATED only a few kilometres from the Corner Inlet Ramsar site and the Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park, the proposed \$388 million Gelliondale Wind Farm has plenty of detractors.

The 13-turbine project, which was resubmitted for ‘fast-track’ approval by the state government in July last year, is now open for public comment, until February 13, 2026.

But it’s a case of déjà vu as far as the residents of Hedley, Gelliondale and Alberton West are concerned.

“We did all this two years ago, before Synergy Wind withdrew their application, and then re-submitted it under the Development Facilitation Program process,” said one of the neighbouring objectors, Marie Avery.

The closest turbine to her farming property is just 2km away.

However, while she’s not happy about having these massive, 201-metre-high structures dominating the local landscape, it’s the facility’s impact on the environment that’s of most concern.

“The environmental impact reports they’ve prepared are simply inadequate,” Mrs Avery said.

“Take the White-bellied Sea-Eagle for example. They dismissed their presence as a concern because they say only a few were only observed flying over the site.

“In fact, there are only 25 pairs in Corner Inlet and to see two of them passing over the site of the proposed wind farm is very significant,” she said.

Here’s what the Flora and Fauna Assessment, prepared for the applicant Synergy Wind Pty Ltd had to say about the likely impact on ‘vulnerable’ White-bellied Sea Eagles, the second largest raptor found in Australia:



The proposed 13-turbine Gelliondale Wind Farm east of Welshpool is too close to the Corner Inlet Ramsar site, according to opponents of the project.

“White-bellied Sea-Eagle is not likely to be impacted by the operation of the wind farm as it is mostly found along the coast and was only found on three occasions to venture inland passing over the wind farm site. No White-bellied Sea-Eagle nests were found during extensive bird studies at or adjacent to the wind farm site.”

Ms Avery also has concerns about the presence of flying foxes in the area and ‘endangered’ Gang-gang Cockatoos which she says are more prevalent in the area following the extensive loss of habitat in East Gippsland as a result of the 2019 bushfires.

Threatened species observed during bird utilisation surveys conducted for Synergy Wind include:

- Blue-winged Parrot (EPBC Act: Vulnerable), regularly in small numbers and one group with 39 birds
- Gang-gang Cockatoo (EPBC Act: Endangered; FFG Act: Endangered), four individuals recorded in Summer 2024 and a group of up to

18 individuals observed twice in autumn 2025 (all below RSA).

- Swift Parrot (EPBC Act: Critically Endangered; FFG Act: Critically Endangered), one bird
- White-bellied Sea-Eagle (FFG Act: Endangered), three observations, one of which at RSA height
- White-throated Needletail (EPBC Act: Vulnerable & Migratory; FFG Act: Vulnerable), numerous.

“It’s simply too close to the Ramsar site and the Nooramunga reserve which has been assessed as having extremely high environmental value but also existing in a state where it requires little or no maintenance.

“The introduction of a wind farm so close to these important wetlands and coastal areas will completely upset the balance,” Mrs Avery claimed.

“If this was the Great Ocean Road, Mornington Peninsula, the Yarra Valley or even the western side of the Prom, they’d have it protected from



Recorded activity by the ‘endangered’ White-bellied Sea-Eagle, over the site of a proposed wind farm at Gelliondale is evidence enough of the risk it poses to wildlife, especially birds, in the adjacent Nooramunga Marine and Coastal Park. (Photo credit Tim Bergen).

these renewable energy projects but because it’s here, out of sight for the decisionmakers, they couldn’t give a toss.”

The project includes the development of a 40MW battery energy storage system on site at Gelliondale, located on land between the South Gippsland Highway and the coast, east of Welshpool.

A full suite of planning documents and reports is available on the Planning Victoria website, search Gelliondale Wind Farm or Ministerial permit number: PA2503835

You can also visit Synergy Wind and review the application material and other project information at the Gelliondale Wind Farm Project Office, which is open on Thursday afternoons from 1pm to 6pm throughout the public notice phase. It is located at 310 Commercial Road, Yarram.

Submissions can be emailed to the Planning Minister at email address: development.assessment@transport.vic.gov.au They must be received by February 13, 2026.

Mayor’s Message



South Gippsland Shire Council



Cr Nathan Hersey

Our community is shaped and strengthened by the many locals who step up, volunteer and contribute to South Gippsland. I’m often reminded that we truly are a community filled with people who care for others. The past week has been just another reminder to me of how our people give so much. Thank you to everyone who gives time, energy and resources to support others!

## Prepare

Watching the recent disasters unfold across Australia, reminds us that being prepared is extremely important. Having a plan and knowing what to do in an emergency can make a huge difference.

It’s also easy to keep updated with fire danger ratings, storm warnings and incidents that could impact you, using the VicEmergency app and website.

These resources provide a centralised location for all Victorians to access timely emergency information about bushfires, storms, floods, heatwaves and more. The VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226) also provides information to help the community before, during, and after weather events.

If you haven’t already done so, I encourage you to download the VicEmergency app and save the hotline number in your phone.

## Property Numbers

It’s also important that emergency services can easily identify your property quickly. Please make sure your property number is clearly visible from the roadside, to better assist our emergency services. If you live in a rural area, you can obtain a property number by contacting Council’s Rates team on 5662 9200.

Thank you to our local emergency services for attending calls and keeping us all safe.

## Need for Feed

I have been encouraged by the support from our community in organising and donating towards the Need for Feed programme, with a collection point in Korumburra.

I would like to thank all who have generously donated and the volunteers who have played a part in organising the trucks and feed for affected communities across Victoria. Thank you!

## South Gippsland Australia Day Awards

On Wednesday, South Gippsland celebrated the nominees and recipients of the 2026 South Gippsland Australia Day Awards. I would like to congratulate Valerie Wilson (Citizen of the Year), Erica Begg and Rhiannon Rawlins (Young Citizens of the Year), and the Loch Food and Wine Festival (Event of the Year) on your awards. There is always a strong field of nominees in all categories, and I thoroughly enjoy celebrating the people and events that make South Gippsland so special.

Thank you to everyone who came along to share the night with us and celebrate the nominees and winners. It was excellent to have Councillors Brad Snell, John Schelling and Scott Rae attend as well as Mary Alred MP who all participated in the celebrations.

## Australia Day Events

Across South Gippsland there are over 10 events happening for Australia Day, so there are plenty of opportunities to celebrate with your community.

To find out what’s happening, you can visit [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadayevents](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiadayevents).

# Help the Strzelecki Group support those hit by fires

By Andrew Palocz

MEMBERS of the Strzelecki Group of Fire Brigades are combining to collect hay and silage for those in fire-affected areas of Victoria, partnering with Aussie Hay Runners.

The brigades are calling on community members to support the cause through donating good quality transportable hay or making a financial contribution to Aussie Hay Runners.

The cause is close to the heart of Berrys Creek Fire Brigade Second Lieutenant Meg O’Loughlin, being a dairy farmer.

Berrys Creek Fire Station is serving as a hay collection depot, as is the Leongatha Salesyards, with each site having a tractor for unloading.

As well as collecting hay and silage to be picked up by Aussie Hay Runners, Strzelecki Fire Brigade members will transport some themselves, providing trucks and drivers.

“On Australia Day weekend, we’ll have two semi loads of silage going,” Meg said.

They’ll head off on Saturday, January 24, with one load going to Tallangatta and the other to the Yarck drop-off point for Aussie Hay Runners.

While plenty more hay is needed, Meg is delighted with



Strzelecki Group of Fire Brigades is calling for people to donate hay or silage to help those in fire-affected areas of Victoria feed their livestock, with Berrys Creek CFA and Mirboo North CFA members among those picking up bales.

the response so far.

“The phone has not stopped ringing,” she said, then elaborating on what had come in by Thursday when the Sentinel-Times called.

“We’ve had 350 small squares of hay donated, which fire brigade members are going round and picking up and they will head off on a tray truck as well on the Australia Day weekend run.”

A bit more than two semi loads of silage and about 400 rounds of hay have also been donated.

With the support of Nutrien

South Gippsland Livestock, money was raised for the cause at Thursday’s Leongatha Store Sale through the sale of four steers and a heifer, the donated cattle raising more than \$10,000.

“That money has come back to the Strzelecki brigades to pay for fuelling trucks and get all the hay up there and the balance of that will go to BlazeAid which is a not-for-profit organisation that rebuilds fences,” Meg said.

Those with hay to donate that is in good transportable condition are encouraged to

contact Meg O’Loughlin of Berrys Creek Fire Brigade at [meg.oloughlin@members.cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:meg.oloughlin@members.cfa.vic.gov.au) or on 0439 571 405.

You can also call Brian McCormack of Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock on 0407 931 735.

Please note that pet food is also welcome to support domestic animals in fire-affected areas.

Those wishing to donate money to Aussie Hay Runners can send funds to:

BSB: 633 000  
Account number: 236 957 379

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# Rail trail visits jump as visitor spend exceeds \$15 million

By Bruce Wardley

VISITOR numbers to the Great Southern Rail Trail and other South Gippsland tourist hot spots have remained strong over the New Year despite a cool start to summer.

The Visit South Gippsland website showed strong month-on-month growth in December attracting 33,000 online visitors compared to 31,000 in November.

The Great Southern Rail Trail web site jumped from 6,000 to 9,000 views over the same period. Visitor spending in South Gippsland for December exceeded \$15 million.

South Gippsland Shire Council Coordinator for Arts, Culture and Visitor Economy Penni Ellicott said tourist numbers had initially been impacted by the cooler weather.

"Wilson's Promontory has always been the jewel in the crown but the popularity of other attractions such as the Great Southern Rail Trail and the many wonderful food and drink experiences in South Gippsland have grown steadily," Ms Ellicott said.

Early data has shown main street tourist spending jumped from \$11.6 million in November to \$15.6 million in December which was on par with previous years.

"South Gippsland Shire is anticipating a further increase in visitor



**Paul Zezula owner of Great Southern Ride in Meeniyau said more people are coming to South Gippsland for the rail trail and discovering the fine food and wine in the region.** B22\_0326

spending over January," Ms Ellicott said.

"We expect solid visitor spending right through to Easter with a gradual increase each month during summer and autumn.

"It's always our towns that benefit first but we have hidden gems such as Agnes Falls, our pristine beaches, food and drink offerings, cellar doors and farm stays which have all remained popular."

Owner of Great Southern Ride in Meeniyau Paul Zezula said there had been noticeable increase in traffic on the South Gippsland Highway particularly on weekends.

"More day trippers," Mr Zezula said.

"The rail trail has been

continually good."

Mr Zezula said many visitors were experiencing the rail trail for the first time.

"It's close to Melbourne and people coming to South Gippsland for the rail trail discover the fine food and wine in the region.

"Many restaurants feature food that comes from this area."

For more information on visiting South Gippsland go to [visitsouthgippsland.com.au](http://visitsouthgippsland.com.au) or look for Discover Visit Gippsland on Facebook. To learn more about the Great Southern Rail Trail go to [gstr.com.au](http://gstr.com.au) or look for Great Southern Rail Trail on Facebook and [greatsouthern.railtrail](http://greatsouthern.railtrail) on Instagram.

## Music scholarship program extended into 2026

FIFTEEN young musicians from 10 regional South Gippsland schools were awarded music scholarships at a summer festival concert performed at Leongatha Secondary College's Mesley Hall.

Sponsored by the Martin Carlson Foundation in partnership with Soundhouse Music Alliance and Music For All and the South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN, the music scholarships recognised the outstanding talent of young local musicians and vocalists.

"The Martin Carlson Foundation is gaining much momentum within our region and is proving to be a major supporter of our youth and community organisations," said Foundation Trustees Gary Brittle and Darren Polglaise.

"It was a fantastic evening with the South Gippsland school music program."

Darren Polglaise and Gary Brittle said they were so encouraged by the wonderful young musicians they had decided to continue the scholarships moving forward.

A new music program sponsored by the Martin Carlson Foundation was one of several new initiatives announced for 2026 to encourage young people to develop and recognise opportunities that can



**Martin Carlson Foundation trustees Gary Brittle and Darren Polglaise, Ellen Sorrell (Assistant Principal Korumburra S.C.), Rosie Handley (Korumburra S.C. Music Coordinator) and Sarah Lawless (South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN) announced music scholarships for 15 local secondary school students.** B29\_5025

assist the region within the creative arts sector.

Soundhouse Music Alliance CEO Robert Walker spoke about the work of the Music Alliance and the partnership with the Martin Carlson Foundation.

The scholarship winners announced at the concert were Mila (Foster S.C.), Ghun (Leongatha S.C.), Sandy, Olivia, Alice and Zak (Mirboo North S.C.), April and Violet (Korumburra S.C.), Arthur, Hugh and Kayden (Bass Coast S.C. San Remo campus) and Abbie, Cody, Flynn and Ruby (Bass Coast S.C. Dudley campus).

The scholarships will cover musical instrument hire as well as music fees for 2026.

Sarah Lawless from South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN and Mark Tudor of the South Gippsland Bass Coast Trade Skills Alliance were thanked for their tireless work in preparing for the summer concert.

Highlights of the concert included Ocean Blue played by a junior guitar ensemble and a vocal ensemble performing the Sound of White by Missy Higgins.

The application process for the next round of music scholarships will begin in August or September 2026. For more information about the music scholarships contact the South Gippsland Bass Coast LLEN or search for the Martin Carlson Foundation on Facebook.

Bass Highway (M420), Grantville  
Traffic Signals Installation

New traffic signals will be installed at the Dandy Premix Quarries intersection to reduce truck traffic through Grantville and improve safety for pedestrians and motorists using the Bass Highway.

- Works commenced July 2025 and are scheduled for completion February 2026
- Lane closures, reduced speed limits, contra-flow traffic, modified traffic layouts
- Deep Creek St and Bass Hwy Service Rd access impacted
- Bass Hwy bus stops within the work area have been temporarily relocated

COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF ROADWORKS

Roadworks commenced late-July 2025 on the installation of Traffic Signals at the Regional Group Australia (formerly Dandy Premix Quarries) quarry intersection, 1381 Bass Highway, Grantville. Roadworks are scheduled to be completed by end February 2026.

During roadworks reduced speed limits have been in place, along with lane closures and contra-flow traffic through the Bass Highway construction zone with modified traffic layouts in place.

ROADWORK TIMES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Roadworks across the four (4) stages are generally undertaken Monday to Saturday (6 days/week) between the hours of 7.00am – 7.00pm. Some short-term roadworks, including the Stage 4 application of a wearing course on all Bass Highway lanes that have undergone roadworks will be carried out overnight.

Traffic controls including Variable Message Signs (VMSs), Safety Barriers, Portable Traffic Lights, Traffic Controllers and Truck Mounted Attenuators (TMAs) continue to be in operation. Periods of contra-flow traffic operation – traffic transferred from usual carriageway across median to share part of the other carriageway, with traffic moving in the opposite direction – continues to be required for Stage 3B.

Stage 1 Roadworks were confined to the existing quarry intersection median strip and the access/egress lanes.

Stage 2 Roadworks (Northbound), Stage 3 (Southbound) and Stage 4 (Sealing Course to both) continue to involve Bass Highway Lane, or Carriageway closures and contra-flow traffic.

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Deep Creek Street and the Bass Highway Service Road traffic has been temporarily impacted during Stages 2 and 3A and some further impact will be experienced during Stages 3B and 4 from 12 January 2026 to completion of Roadworks in February 2026 – see diagram.

- **Deep Creek Street** – continued temporary use of Bonney Road for Bass Highway access and egress, including for Smith Street, Broome Court, Stewart Street, Malcolm Drive and Panoramic Drive traffic.
- Since 19 December 2025 northbound LHT in and LHT out of Deep Creek Street for Bass Highway access and egress has been reintroduced. Importantly, **Emergency Egress Southbound from Deep Creek to the Southbound carriageway of Bass Highway** was also reintroduced and will continue to operate during the Stage 3B and Stage 4 roadworks from 12 January 2026 until project completion. This traffic guidance scheme acknowledges the critical need for southbound egress from the Deep Creek estate in the event of, or serious threat to residents by a bushfire from the north.
- **Bass Highway Service Road (western side of Bass Highway)** – temporary northbound egress to Bass Highway under traffic controller supervision. This will also impact on traffic from Blackwood Drive, Swan Street, Vision Lane and Lang Street using

the Bass Highway Service Road for northbound entry to Bass Highway.

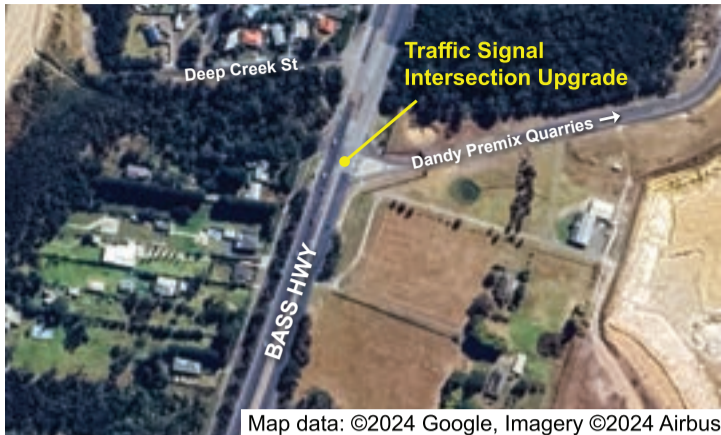
BUS STOPS

Two Bus Stops in the construction zone (northbound & southbound) will continue to be temporarily relocated north (approximately 100m and 200m respectively) with signage, waiting area provision and pedestrian protection provided.

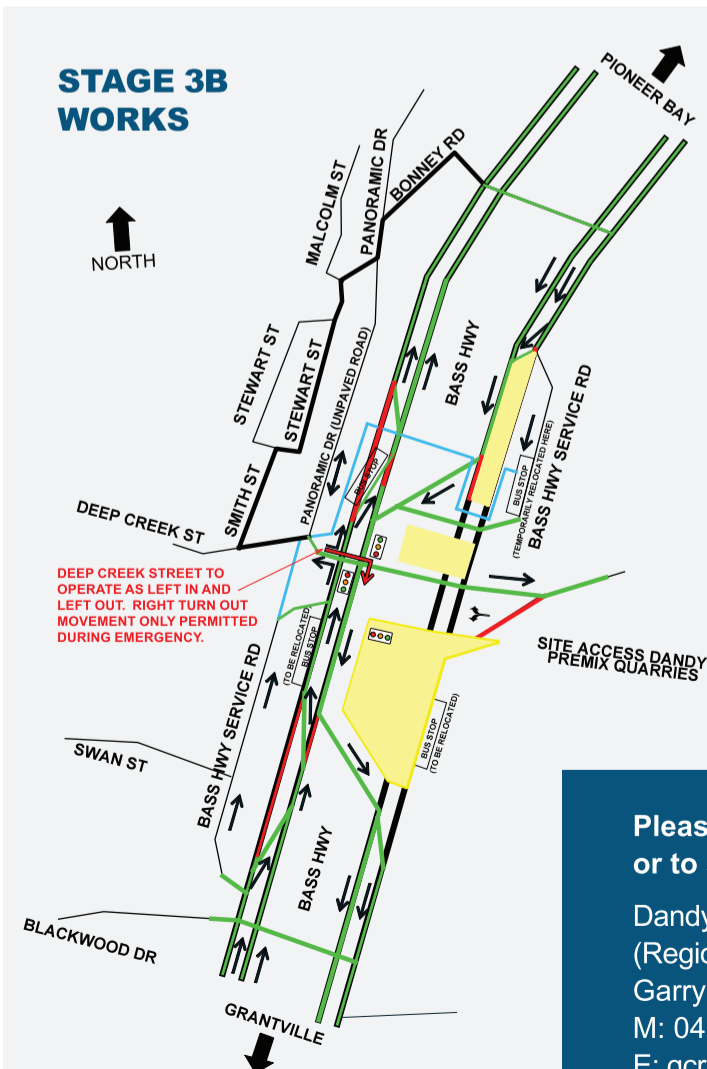
PROJECT OUTCOMES

Stage 3B Roadworks will have northbound trucks exit the quarry by turning right from 12 January 2026 via the temporary operation of portable traffic lights in combination with traffic controller supervision.

Completed installation of the permanent Traffic Signals will further facilitate trucks to turn right, northbound onto Bass Highway, resulting in a major reduction in quarry trucks through Grantville. The Traffic Signals will also improve Bus Stop pedestrian safety and assist safer Deep Creek Street traffic flows onto Bass Highway.



Map data: ©2024 Google, Imagery ©2024 Airbus



Motorists are urged to obey speed limits and traffic controls during the roadworks. Your cooperation will greatly assist the safety of workers, pedestrians & other motorists.

LEGEND

- LANE CLOSURE
- PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
- WORK AREA
- TRAFFIC SIGNAL
- PERMITTED MOVEMENT DURING EMERGENCY

Please contact us for further information or to share your feedback.

Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd  
(Regional Group Australia)  
Garry Cranny, Sustainability Manager  
M: 0419 587 440  
E: gcranny@regionalgroupaustralia.com.au



**Monash University Researcher Dr Jake Kotevski with Albert and Lucy Parkes holding a sickle-shaped Megaraptor toe bone and the Cape Paterson claw, the first dinosaur bone found in Australia.** B26\_0326

## When monster dinosaurs ruled the Bass Coast

THE discovery of a fossilised dinosaur skull fragment at Shack Bay and a number of other isolated bones between Inverloch and San Remo have confirmed the giant meat-eating megaraptorid dinosaur Theropod Australovenator once ruled the Bass Coast.

Monash University Researcher Dr Jake Kotevski speaking at the Bunurong Environment Centre at Inverloch said Australovenator, or Southern Hunter was a fearsome predator which fed on small, fast-running, two-legged herbivores.

“We are now certain Australovenator lived on the Bass Coast between Inverloch and San Remo between 60 and 100 million years ago when Australia was part of Antarctica.”

An internationally renowned palaeontologist specialising in Australian dinosaurs from the Cretaceous period, Dr Kotevski is part of the Dinosaur Dreaming team which will conduct a major dig in February organised by Monash University and Museum Victoria.

According to Dr Kotevski a number of very interesting fossils have been found along the Bass Coast over the past four years, closely linked to similar dinosaurs found at Lightning Ridge and Winton in New South Wales and Queensland.

Theropod Australovenator is 45 million years younger than the more commonly known herbivore dinosaurs from the Jurassic period and could have measured up to seven metres long.

The first dinosaur bone found in Australia was the Cape Paterson claw which was discovered in 1906.

The Dinosaur Dreaming project at Inverloch began in 1995.

In 1996 the bone of Qantassaurus intrepidus a small-bodied herbivorous ornithomimid dinosaur was found at Flat Rocks and named after the airline Qantas which helped transport fossils.

Estimated to be two to three metres in length Qantassaurus intrepidus was thought to be similar in size to a kangaroo.

“A whole episode of the BBC television series Walking with Dinosaurs was produced in Australia,” said Dr Kotevski.

Flat Rocks and Twin Reefs are part of the Strzelecki group.

“Collection of specimens is quite difficult, the rock is like cement.”

**By Bruce Wardley**

In 2007 a skull bone was found which was exceptionally rare according to Dr Kotevski.

“The Monster of the Bass Coast was likely to be six to eight metres in length making it the largest known predator in Victoria. The skull piece was found at Shack Bay.”

Dr Kotevski said we need to keep looking because there is so much more to discover.

“Meat-eating dinosaurs are the most exciting and we have our own unique dinosaurs.”

With a constantly eroding coast Dr Kotevski said it was a race against time.

“Rising sea levels are going to become a problem,” he said.

“The cliffs are actively eroding and falling.”

A car-sized amphibian with a head the size of a dustbin lid, Koolasuchus cleelandi was named after its discoverers local residents Mike Cleeland and Lesley Kool.

Resembling something between a huge newt and a crocodile Koolasuchus cleelandi was adopted as the fossil emblem for the State of Victoria in 2022.

Fossils of Koolasuchus are only found at a few beaches and coves in South Gippsland.

A replica of Koolasuchus cleelandi can be found at Wallace Avenue Community Park in Wallace Avenue Inverloch.

The South Gippsland Conservation Society is running tours this week to discover what once roamed the shores of Bass Coast.

Eagles Nest was one of Australia's first dinosaur bone discovery sites with fault lines from ancient earthquakes and petrified trees.

At Flat Rocks you can find dinosaur fossils, petrified wood, and learn about the ancient geological history that connects Victorian era fossil discoveries with Australia's rich palaeontological finds.

Tours will run from the Bunurong Environment Centre in Inverloch on Thursday, January 22, Friday, January 23 and Saturday, January 24 from 9.30am and 10am.

Low tide is crucial for accessing rock platforms where fossils and dinosaur footprints are found.

For bookings go to events.humanitix.com/host/bunurong-coast-education

# Weaving basketry magic into Inverloch's environment

**By Andrew Paloczi**

MANY of those enjoying Inverloch's Ayr Creek trail have no doubt stopped and pondered the unusual spectacle of a couple of unique baskets suspended from a gum tree, wondering who made them and how they got there.

Sentinel-Times recently paid a visit to the site near the Ayr Creek Bridge, catching up with Deb Frank, Glenda Pitman and Meg Viney who are involved in the Basket Tree project to which others have also contributed.

The Inverloch Basket Weavers meet on Friday afternoons, sharing their creativity and being inspired by group founder Meg Viney who has vast experience in basketmaking. “This is merely a beginning,” Meg said of the current look of the Basket Tree.

The enthusiastic group will continue creating baskets for the initiative, with Bass Coast Shire Council throwing its support behind the nature-inspired art installation, with members of its team securing the baskets in place.

Meg explained the aim



**Deb Frank, Meg Viney with dog Charlie, and Glenda Pitman stand near Inverloch's Basket Tree.** A02\_0326

of the project is “using the environment to draw attention to the environment”. The baskets are made entirely of natural materials.

She pointed out that the stunning setting in which the Basket Tree is located is seen by many people, with the Ayr Creek trail used by those walking into town, school kids on bikes, and people exercising their dogs.

The scenic area and beautiful grassy spur with the tree hanging over

it caught Meg's eye, the proximity of the bridge and a seat boosting the appeal.

Council staff will add plants to the area that are suited to basketmaking.

Deb created one of the initial baskets for the tree, with about eight members of the Inverloch Basket Weavers group teaming up to craft the other.

Meg acknowledged the support from the council that enabled the Basket Tree concept to become reality.

“We are extremely grateful to the council for allowing it in council space and for being so wonderfully cooperative and hanging the work for us, and understanding what we were trying to achieve,” she said.

“Anybody who wants to join in and learn about basketry can come,” Meg said of the weekly Friday sessions that run from 1.30pm until 3pm at Inverloch Community House, costing just a gold coin donation.

## A natural method to horsemanship; ask less, receive more

FOUNDER of The Natural Horse Whisperer, Peter Bland, has recently launched The Rope Whisperer, a handcrafted, gentle approach to horsemanship – a technique that Mr Bland says is the kindest and most efficient way to connect and naturally handle a horse.

“For generations, people have blamed the horse for pulling back, but The Rope Whisperer helps the horse and its rider stay emotionally regulated. It fosters a calm response, not just compliance, and the initial groundwork is how we establish a connection with the horse before we begin riding,” Mr Bland said.

“I've always ridden bareback, no need for reins or saddle on our farms. In our lessons at Wattle Bank Farm, I teach all ages the same technique at the very beginning of their education before giving them a saddle. We teach the importance of body positions and shapes and the use of our legs to help guide the horse on a ride.”

Mr Bland turned a childhood spent on cattle properties into a lifelong career centred around horses – and this new product, he says, grew directly from that lived experience.

“As a child, I was taught a fairly British or English way of riding – a lot of contact through the horse's mouth, fairly heavy-handed, heavy leg, spurs, the whole thing,” Mr Bland said.



**Peter Bland of Wattle Bank Farm recently launched The Rope Whisperer, a gentle approach to connecting with horses.**

Raised on stations across Queensland, King Island and the Macedon region, he says horses were a part of daily life from his earliest years. “My grandfather taught me to ride when I was in nappies.”

Over time, Mr Bland said his approach softened. Mentors with more indigenous traditions of horsemanship helped him move away from force-based techniques. “Rather than have the focus on hopping on a horse immediately, we spend more time on the ground learning movement and balance,” he said. “This philosophy guided me to a principle – ask less,

receive more.”

The Rope Whisperer was developed from this evolution and a lifetime of tinkering. “It was a single device that came from my affinity for rope and knots, one that I could use to lead, train and ride without force,” Mr Bland said. “One tool for a trainer, a rider, owner, adult or young person.”

“I haven't used a bridle since.”

After refining the design, Mr Bland patented it and launched it publicly in 2025, pairing the product with his face-to-face teaching at Wattle Bank Farm; lessons are based on trust, respect and non-coercive horsemanship.

“Riders regain confidence, beginners learn to use their bodies rather than reins for control, and the horse responds without the pain-based cues from traditional methods.”

The Rope Whisperer can be purchased online or in-store at Wattle Bank Farm. To learn more about Mr Bland and the most humane way to engage with horses, follow @natural-horsewhisperer on social media or sign up for a free online webinar held fortnightly at [www.natural-horsewhisperer.com](http://www.natural-horsewhisperer.com). In-person tuition and masterclasses can be found on [www.wattlebankfarm.com.au](http://www.wattlebankfarm.com.au)

# Feeling safe the priority

By Bruce Wardley

A NATIONAL survey has revealed what Bass Coast and South Gippsland residents have known for some time.

Feeling safe is the key to a good life with 65 per cent of us saying it's our top priority.

Across the nation, people are calling for both stronger law enforcement and deeper investment in addressing the social drivers of crime.

Local experiences of safety have dropped from 6.8/10 to 6.2/10 in just one year.

A survey last year of 246 people in South Gippsland and 285 in Bass Coast Shire revealed 61 per cent of local residents felt unsafe.

According to Victoria Police while Bass Coast and South Gippsland areas remain overwhelmingly safe places to live we know feeling safe is just as important.

"The community can be assured local police from general duties to detectives to highway patrol, work around-the-clock to keep them safe.

"We also know how important connection is for our local community and do everything we can to engage with residents whether it be through the Bass Coast Eyewatch page, Coffee with a Cop or attending community events."

Proactive police attended the Bass Coast Wonthaggi Summer Show to engage with the community and spread community safety tips.

Local police also ran a highly successful Cordial with a Cop



Leading Senior Constable Nick Carlson and Senior Constable Megan Krause from the Wonthaggi Proactive Policing Unit. B21\_4125

session for younger community members at the Leongatha Library.

"These efforts will continue well into 2026 as we know how important they are in building safety and trust within the community," said a Victoria Police spokesperson.

Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath said every Victorian had the right to feel safe in their home and on the street.

"Rising crime erodes trust and the state government has a responsibility to act."

Ms Bath said community safety must be treated as a basic right, not a luxury.

"When crime continues to climb unchecked as it has in Victoria, communities are left vulnerable and quality of life is impacted. Our local communities deserve protection, not excuses. Labor's soft-on-crime approach has left families feeling fearful and has emboldened criminals."

Of all the factors that go into liveability feeling safe has been found to be the most foundational.

If people don't feel safe where they live, they are less likely to participate in community life, and that has knock-on effects for both health and economic outcomes.

Perceptions of safety are increasingly shaped by the rising incidence of crimes against individuals.

While the actual likelihood of being a victim of crimes like carjackings, aggravated burglaries or home invasions remains very low, the possibility alone is enough to affect how people feel.

And because safety matters so deeply to us all, any reduction in this experience at the local level puts significant downward pressure on a community's liveability. Community was more important in regional areas than the big cities with more reliance on neighbours and local networks.

## Garlic lovers set to descend on Korumburra

VICTORIA'S biggest celebration of Australian garlic returns to the Korumburra Showgrounds on Saturday, February 28.

The South Gippsland Garlic Festival, formerly the Meeniyan Garlic Festival, will feature more than 70 stallholders offering everything from fresh garlic bulbs to preserved products and garlic-inspired dishes.

Gates open at 9am and the festival runs until 6pm.

Visitors can learn about the huge array of garlic varieties grown in Australia, how to cultivate garlic at home, how to use it in the kitchen and even the health benefits of the pungent bulb.

The festival features several precincts including Garlic University, an educational hub where growers share their expertise, a Festival Kitchen with local chef demonstrations, and a Festival Stage with live entertainment throughout the day.

Local breweries and winemakers will also be on hand alongside the Food and Produce Precinct and Crafts and Home-wares Precinct.

For families, there will be kids activities and entertainment to keep the little ones occupied.

Korumburra is 120km southeast of Melbourne, about 60 minutes from the suburbs, on the way to Wilsons Promontory.

V/Line coaches from Southern Cross Station stop in the heart of town for those who prefer public transport.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children aged three to 16 and free for children under three.

A family ticket covering two adults and two children is \$35 and concession is \$10 with a valid card.

Tickets can be pre-purchased at [www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com) or paid for by Eftpos at the gate.

Dogs are welcome but must be kept on a leash at all times.



## Saturday February 28

9am - 5pm  
Korumburra Showgrounds

Join us to celebrate all things garlic!  
Learn how to grow, cook, and taste this culinary gem,  
all while enjoying food, music, and activities with the community!

Culinary Delights

Live Music Entertainment

Chef Cooking Demos

Free Kids Activities



Adults - \$15, Children (3-16) - \$5  
Concession - \$10, Family\* - \$35, Under 3 - Free  
\* Family : 2 adults, 2 children (3-16)

[www.southgippslandgarlicfestival.au](http://www.southgippslandgarlicfestival.au)

Book Tickets now!





SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 | 15



## Unslashed highways spark fire fears

SOUTH Gippsland's major roads are lined with dry fuel as bushfires continue to burn across Victoria.

Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath has slammed the state government for failing to slash roadsides along highways it manages.

More than 350,000 hectares have burned, and at least one person has died since January 7, with more than 300 buildings destroyed.

"Locals are justifiably concerned that a single spark from a cigarette, a vehicle, or even broken glass could ignite the dry roadside vegetation," Ms Bath said.

"After high rainfall in spring and early summer, growth has exploded, while the recent extreme heat has created a tinderbox.

"Besides being unsightly and a road safety issue, out-of-control roadside vegetation is a serious hazard that acts as a wick during fire events and compromises evacuation routes."

The Department of Transport and Planning manages state highways, including the South Gippsland Highway, and is responsible for roadside slashing.

Ms Bath said private landholders faced legal requirements to keep properties fire safe.

"It's time the Allan Government applied this standard to public land and roadsides under its management," she said.

A spokesperson for the Bass Coast Shire Council confirmed that council-managed roadsides are generally cut twice per year, once before summer, with the second cut commencing after that period.

"At present, we have completed one full cut and are progressing through the second cut," the spokesperson said.

"Our schedule has been slightly impacted by public holidays, total fire ban days, and a small number of machinery breakdowns, which is to be expected.

"However, we anticipate continuing to make steady progress on the second cut over the coming weeks."

Peter Miller, President of the Bass Coast Victorian Farmers Federation, said the severe problem of noxious weeds, particularly on the South Gippsland Highway, poses safety risks and is a fire hazard.

"And not only that, but neglected roadsides are also causing dense grasses, blackberries and tea tree growth, which is preventing proper drainage, causing water to pool on road surfaces after rain and contributing to potholes and therefore dangerous driving conditions," Mr Miller said.

"The vegetation is growing through guardrails, obscuring sightlines, making it dangerous on the roads."

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale said the Department of Transport and Planning's first state-wide cut was completed in December, with further cuts planned in early 2026.

"DTP works in close consultation with emergency services to determine the timing of their fire risk reduction program," Ms Crugnale said.

"I encourage community members to report hazards and any concerns about the condition of the arterial road network by calling the hotline on 133 778."

## Lang Lang gears up for Show n Shine

FOR more than a decade the hardworking members of the Koo Wee Rup-Lang Lang Rotary club have set aside the second Sunday in February, this year on Sunday, February 8, to promote a car show and in more recent times added lawn mower racing and a swap meet.

Based at the Lang Lang Showgrounds, the event has entertainment for all.

The car show normally has more than 500 classic vehicles parked on the football ground whilst in the region of 100 are judged in various classes.

Last year's swap meet saw traders from many regions of Victoria offering their products both new and used.

The lawn mower racing caters for competitors ranging from very young to senior citizens, all having a blast on the dirt racetrack.

The racing mowers can vary from what looks like an old Rover Rancher to a custom-built frame with performance to boot.

Power comes from modified motorbike engines and for safety the cutting decks are long gone.

Each year the organising committee strives to bring something a little different to top off the entertainment.

Last year jet cars proved to be very popular and one will



More than 500 classic vehicles are expected at this year's Show n Shine.

return this year along with a monster truck.

There will be a selection of stalls with various products for sale in addition to food outlets as well as a carnival for the younger brigade.

Gates will open at 7am at the venue on the corner of Westernport Road and McDonalds Track whilst those setting up a swap meet stall can arrive an hour earlier.

Admission is \$10 per person and \$25 for swap meet stallholders.

The organisers wish to acknowledge the ongoing support of Bendigo Bank, Burson Auto Parts, Shannons, Evergreen Turf, Cranbourne Mitsubishi, Berwick Ford as well as others.



Lawn mower racing caters for competitors young and old.

## Monster trucks thrill massive Nyora crowd



Tropical Thunder gets airborne at Nyora Raceway's monster truck spectacular.

A MASSIVE crowd packed Nyora Raceway for a night of monster truck mayhem and speedway racing.

The venue was buzzing with food vans and stores, with the souvenir shop doing a roaring trade as fans turned out for the spectacular.

Monster trucks Tropical Thunder and Son of the Devil opened proceedings, teasing the crowd with jumps and nose stands before going head-to-head in time trials.

Formula 500 Juniors hit the track with 13 entries putting on a great show.

Newcomer Tyson Heaphy impressed in a car loaned to him by the Farrell family, stepping up from SSA Juniors to try his hand at the open wheel class.

His proud parents and brother watched on as their biggest supporters.

Cruz Farrell took the win in his new V71 machine, leading

from start to finish.

The young gun has come through quarter midgets and SSA Juniors and proved he can steer with the best of them.

Senior 500s brought 19 cars to the track, split into two heats for the massive field.

Terry Rankin took the feature win in the V3.

The highlight was the V8 dirt mods with heats, a pole shuffle and a 50-lap final.

Drama struck on lap one when several cars were involved in a crash but managed to continue.

Club president Marcus Redcliffe then flipped his car in turn three and four, but walked away unscathed thanks to safety gear and a quick response from the infield crew.

The car needs repairs but Redcliffe is expected to race at Lismore next weekend.

Nyora Raceway's next meet on February 7 features FMX riders Cam Sinclair and Bilko.

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# Wonthaggi Toyota



NEW YEAR SPECIALS...OVER 75 CARS TO CHOOSE FROM



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**27,990** DRIVE AWAY

Pleasure to drive, 89,399kms, auto hatch SN: W102238



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Smooth mover, 96,271kms, auto SUV SN: W102304



2020 Hyundai Santa Fe ActiveX TM2

**29,990** DRIVE AWAY

Versatile & Stylish, 95,143kms, auto SUV SN: W102280



2022 Toyota C-HR Koba

**31,990** DRIVE AWAY

Eco-friendly Hybrid, 100,289kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV. SN: W102197



2022 GWM Haval H6GT Ultra

**34,990** DRIVE AWAY

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



2021 Subaru Forester 2.5I Sport S5

**36,490** DRIVE AWAY

Performance plus, 53,126kms, auto 4WD SUV SN: W102221



2024 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross Exceed YB

**40,990** DRIVE AWAY

Just arrived, 1,210kms, 8 speed auto SUV SN: W102317



CAR OF THE WEEK

2022 Volvo XC60 B5 Momentum

**45,990** DRIVE AWAY

Fully equipped, 61,402kms, auto AWD wagon SN: W102302

# Leongatha Toyota

FINANCE AVAILABLE INSTORE. ASK ABOUT AN EXTENDED WARRANTY.



2017 Hyundai Accent Active

**14,990** DRIVE AWAY

Great first car, 49,318kms, auto hatch SN: L101467



2018 Toyota Corolla Hybrid

**27,990** DRIVE AWAY

Excellent economy, 62,299kms, auto hatch SN: L101468



2025 Kia K4 Sport

**32,990** DRIVE AWAY

Smart Motoring, 1,700kms, auto sedan DUH 609



2021 Toyota Camry SL

**41,990** DRIVE AWAY

Premium Hybrid, 57,149kms, auto sedan SN: L101464



2021 Ford Ranger FX4 Max

**41,990** DRIVE AWAY

Super capable, 95,418kms, auto 4x4 double cab BQJ 947



2025 Kia Tasman S

**48,990** DRIVE AWAY

Ready to work, 3,359kms, 8 speed auto double cab DUH 615



2022 Toyota Landcruiser Prado GXL

**54,990** DRIVE AWAY

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



4X4 OF THE WEEK

2025 Ford Ranger XLT

**68,990** DRIVE AWAY

Popular pick-up, 2,974kms, auto 4x4 double cab DRA 869

## Wonthaggi Toyota

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

## Leongatha Toyota

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

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OH WHAT A FEELING

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



**The late Keith Hogan, who passed away earlier this month aged 97.**

## Back to the Burra Pool Keith Hogan Memorial

KEITH Hogan had the strongest of community spirits and the patience of a saint. Keith was for many years the supervisor at the Korumburra Outdoor Swimming Pool, but he may as well have been Santa Claus, because for a generation of kids in his charge, every day spent at that pool felt like Christmas.

Keith passed away earlier this month at the age of 97.

To honour his legacy, the Korumburra Outdoor Swimming Pool will open during the Australia Day weekend on Sunday, January 25, to host a Back to the Burra Pool Keith Hogan Memorial Day.

Everyone is invited to come along, have a swim and reminisce about those carefree summer days of the seventies and eighties, from cooling off in the water to standing dripping wet at the kiosk, shelling out the princely sum of 20 cents for a bag of mixed lollies.

Keith - or Mr Hogan as he was known - remembered everyone by name. His announcements over the crackling PA system were legendary.

Those caught doing bombs or executing death-defying stunts on the diving boards were told in no uncertain terms to pick up their towels and make their way to the office.

Mic Stephens summed up the thoughts of many when he posted to the Korumburra and District History Group Facebook page.

"Walking down to the pool from the primary school and then back with wet jocks and Saturday mornings retrieving black bricks from the deep end at swimming lessons stick in my head, as does Mr Hogan," he said.

"Well dressed, impeccable tan, supervising the best pool ever. Inspirational."

Keith treated each and every child with kindness and fairness. And while those diving boards have long since gone, his memory lives on.

The Back to the Burra Pool Keith Hogan Memorial Day will be held at the Korumburra Outdoor Pool in William Street on Sunday, January 25 from 12 noon.

## Pound Creek brigade continues tradition

THE Pound Creek Rural Fire Brigade will host its annual Australia Day barbecue on Monday, January 26, continuing a tradition that began in 1999.

The free event was established as a way for the brigade to thank the community for donations that helped build its fire station.

Festivities begin around 11am with the official ceremony at 11.30am, including the national anthem and flag raising, followed by a guest speaker.

A barbecue lunch and salads will be served, with a raffle offering prizes donated by local businesses.

Brigade members welcome residents from Pound Creek, Inverloch, Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay to attend.

Those interested in joining the CFA can contact secretary Andrew Mutton on 0408 015 712.

# Glen Alvie to mark Australia Day with community gathering

By Trent Westaway

RESIDENTS and visitors are invited to gather at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve on Australia Day for a morning celebration.

The event will take place on Monday, January 26, beginning at 10am with the unfurling of the flags and the National Anthem.

Glen Alvie Committee of Management secretary Barbara Luke said the morning was designed to be welcoming and to give people a chance to reconnect and reflect on the district's past.

"It's really just a friendly get together," Ms Luke said. "People who probably haven't seen one another for a while can come along, have a chat about the old times in the district and just enjoy being together."

This year's guest speaker will be former Glen Alvie resident Paul Kamphuis, who has gone on to build an international career in sports infrastructure.

Currently the General Manager of Polytan Asia Pacific, Mr Kamphuis has spent more than two decades working in elite hockey, including involvement in the development of turf used at the Beijing, London, Rio, Tokyo and Paris Olympic Games. He has also worked closely with the International Hockey Federation on the advancement of dry hockey turf and recently presented at the Hockey5s World Cup in Oman. He also spearheaded many local turfing projects, including the Glen



**Barbara Bowman and Barbara Luke at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve gazebo, dedicated to the women of Glen Alvie in recognition of their contributions to the district. W06\_0326**

Alvie Recreation Reserve.

Ms Luke said inviting former locals who had achieved success beyond the district had become an important part of the Australia Day tradition.

"Over the last few years, we've tried to have a local person who has gone on to do very well in their job," she said. "Paul is a former local resident and it's really nice to have him come back and speak."

A key feature of the morning will be the planting of trees by representatives of three former Glen Alvie families. The tree planting tradition began in 2000 as a way of recognising

families who have long standing connections to the area and was paused only when COVID was at its peak.

"We decided back then to plant trees up at the reserve to recognise local families that have been in the district for a long time," Ms Luke said. "We've just started that up again and this year we've got three former families coming along to plant trees."

The reserve has since become a great place for reflection, with a gazebo overlooking the cricket field and surrounding hills. The committee is now hoping to add an audio feature

that will tell the stories behind the trees and the people they represent.

"We'd like people to be able to come up there and listen to what's happened in the district over the years and why the trees were planted," Ms Luke said.

A gold coin donation will be requested on the day to help fund the project. Morning tea will also be provided.

Ms Luke encouraged anyone with an interest in the district or Australia Day to attend.

"Everybody is more than welcome," she said. "Just show up and enjoy it."



**You are invited to attend:**

Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre,  
Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

**Monday, January 26, 2026**

Starts at 7.30am with community breakfast,  
followed by entertainment, an address by the Rotary Australia Day  
Ambassador and the presentation of Rotary Community awards.

**We look forward to seeing you there**

Past award winners and families warmly welcome to attend.



JA23739

## 32nd Rotary Club of Wonthaggi Australia Day breakfast

AUSTRALIA Day will be celebrated in Wonthaggi with a Rotary Club community breakfast at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre in Graham St from 8am to 11am on Monday, January 26.

"Australia Day is an important day of celebration, unity and commitment," Rotary Club of Wonthaggi Australia Day Committee member John Duscher OAM said.

"It means different things to people but is firmly based on respect, inclusiveness, pride and unity."

Mr Duscher said Australia Day is an opportunity to demonstrate that we care and support each other by taking strength from the past and providing hope for the future.

"And haven't we been put to the test with the recent floods and fires, again the response has been incredible," he said.

"Wonthaggi Rotary is again proud to host this important event which is now in its 32nd year."

Presentations of community awards will commence in the Union Theatre at 9am.

Everyone is welcome.



## More local talent on show at Dalyston on Australia Day

NOW in its sixth year Oz Day at the Daly will continue its tradition of showcasing local talent with the addition of the Knuckleheads to the line-up.

The Knuckleheads are a four-piece Wonthaggi band who started playing together in 2022 before having an 18-month break.

They recently got together again and are back enthusiastically doing gigs around the district.

Consisting of Steve Alexander on drums, BJ Wylie on bass guitar, Leigh De Munk on lead guitar and Jason Mottershead on vocals and guitar they play late 90s and 2000s rock and love to engage their audience.

Old rockers never stop and the 820 Door Jams return to play their wide range of rock from across the ages.

They put on a great show at the 2024 event and are looking forward once again to bringing the Australia Day crowd to life.

Bass Coast has produced a wealth of local talent over the years and the very popular young singer-songwriter and guitarist Imogen Price from Phillip Island will kick off the musical entertainment at 5pm.

Together they will provide four hours of musical entertainment catering for a wide range of musical tastes.

Local production company Production Corp together with Bass Coast Sound and Video have again



**Phillip Island singer-songwriter Imogen Price will kick off musical entertainment at Oz Day at the Daly.**

been engaged to provide a first class sound, light and video operation.

The day is all about family fun and while there will be carnival rides and face painting there will also be plenty of games and activities and the very popular tug of war.

A balloon artist and bubble maker will also help keep the littlies occupied.

The atmosphere is relaxed and though some seating and tables are provided, people are advised to bring their own chairs or picnic rugs.

Activities continue into the evening with the highlight being the fireworks finale at 9.30pm.

The quality of the fireworks dis-

plays has always been amazing and Fitzpatrick's Fireworks are expected to put on another great show.

Local residents are reminded to make sure they secure pets and animals that may become distressed by the fireworks.

Oz Day at the Daly is a ticketed family friendly event held at the Dalyston Recreation Reserve on Australia Day.

Catered for by the Dalyston Football Netball Club gates open at 4pm with all activities ending after the 9.30pm fireworks display.

The venue is licenced and there is strictly no BYO alcohol.

Tickets are available on [www.trybooking.com/DIFLO](http://www.trybooking.com/DIFLO)

## Wonthaggi revved up for Show 'n' Shine

THE Wonthaggi Show 'n' Shine has become synonymous with Australia Day weekend in the local town, and the family favourite car event will be on again this year.

For 15 years, this event has been an opportunity to enjoy a morning of classic vehicles, eclectic stalls and community spirit.

The event will be held from 8am to 1pm on Sunday, January 25, at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve.

As well as the classic vehicle displays, there will also be CFA and SES demonstrations.

Over on rec three, a swap meet and market will be up and running. The market is a new fixture to the event, with stalls offering everything from crafts, to tools, to bric-a-brac.

"We are looking forward to seeing the market open up the event to everyone with something to suit different interests," organiser Gavin Coyne said.

"We've gotten some great interest from stallholders, and we are able to fit up to 160 sites at the recreation reserve."

Mr Coyne thanked the major sponsors of the event for their continued support.

These include AutoPro, Shannon's Insurance, Tyrepower, Greg's Panels, Wonthaggi Motorcycles and Power Equipment, new sponsor Total Tools, and Wonthaggi Toyota Kia.

The Bass Coast Historical Automobile Club will provide the

judging with presentations at noon.

"It's fantastic to have an outside independent group on hand to do the judging, and we thank the club for its support," Mr Coyne said.

"We're looking forward to this year's event after a solid turnout last year. It always feels like a strong event and the oval fills up pretty quickly."

The event wouldn't go ahead without the work of the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club, which will be contributing volunteer hours and catering.

"We value the great work from Wonthaggi Power. I can't say enough about the club in terms of its contribution and efforts," Mr Coyne said.

"Bass Coast Shire Council has also been helpful with granting us permits and we greatly appreciate the efforts of our car enthusiasts. The amount of love and time they put into their cars is impressive, and they come from all over to be part of the event."

Car enthusiasts will also be looking forward to the Car Cruise, which will take place on Saturday afternoon.

Run by Kris Baker from Tyrepower, anyone can come along and meet up at the Wonthaggi netball courts at 4.30pm to cruise around Bass Coast.

This is followed by a dinner at the Wonthaggi Power FNC social rooms, which will be catered by the club.

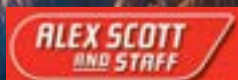
# OZ DAY @ THE DALY

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GATES OPEN AT 4PM

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## AUS DAY WEEKEND SUNDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2026

# SHOW N SHINE

## SWAP MEET & MARKET

WONTHAGGI REC. RESERVE KORUMBURRA ROAD



**GATES OPEN: 6AM STALL HOLDERS, 8AM PUBLIC ENTRY**

**\$20 STALLHOLDER SITE \$15 JUDGED CAR ENTRY  
\$10 SHOW CAR & DRIVER \$5 ENTRY FREE UNDER 15**

**JUDGING CLOSES 9.30AM SHARP**

**MORE INFO GAVIN COYNE 0407 866 066**



Wonthaggi Toyota



**Representatives of the Loch Village Food and Wine Festival celebrate its status as South Gippsland Event of the Year, with Loch resident and South Gippsland Mayor Nathan Hersey joining in. A04\_0326**

## Loch festival claims award

LOCH Village Food and Wine Festival organisers were undoubtedly celebrating in style after it was named South Gippsland Event of the Year on Wednesday.

Chairperson of the event's organising committee Mark Heath accepted the honour on behalf of the team that makes the festival a success.

Describing the acknowledgement as humbling and paying tribute to all the groups nominated and the hard work volunteers put into their events, Mr Heath said their efforts benefit South Gippsland.

"For the Loch Food and Wine Festival, the most important thing for us has been volunteers; we could not do this without them, and everybody gives so much time," he said, noting the festival has been running for almost 17 years.

"South Gippy's got a lot to offer," the local wine producer said, highlighting its food and wine and variety of agricultural producers.

"So, I think this is a testament for all of us," he remarked.

Before the announcement of the winning event, Cr Hersey congratulated all the nominees, remarking on the importance of events for South Gippsland, both in terms of vibrancy and economic benefits.

Former Loch Village Food

**By Andrew Palocz**

and Wine Festival Chairperson Howard Booth backed up those sentiments, speaking of the boost the June event brings to town and saying it leads to the best weekend of trading for the year for some local businesses.

"A lot of people come and stay for a few days," he said, explaining that wanting to bring visitors into Loch Village during winter sparked the idea for the festival, which is held on the Sunday of the King's Birthday weekend.

It's the first time Loch Village Food and Wine Festival has been named South Gippsland Event of the Year, having previously earned the honour of Event of the Year for the Korumburra District.

"I think it's a great accolade and our volunteers deserve a pat on the back for all the work they've done over the years," Mr Booth said of the latest award.

Having for the first six years of its history been held in the street, the festival shifted to its current home in the railway reserve to allow for expansion.

While there's an aim to do something different each year, there is no plan to make the event too big, enabling it to keep its charm and not run into the challenges of hosting a 'major event'.

# Young Citizens share win in South Gippsland

**By Andrew Palocz**

SO impressive are the achievements of the two South Gippsland Young Citizen of the Year nominees they couldn't be split. Leongatha's Erica Begg and Korumburra's Rhiannon Rawlins sharing the honour at the awards ceremony in Meeniyan on Wednesday evening.

Joint Young Citizen of the Year Erica Begg, the granddaughter of last year's Citizen of the Year Ian Rasmussen, found confidence and purpose through Girl Guides, driving her desire to serve her community and embrace a range of volunteer opportunities.

Through assisting with Anzac Day and Australia Day events as well as numerous fundraising campaigns and community projects such as Clean Up Australia Day and the RSPCA Cupcake Day, she earned the Baden-Powell Award.

She's also been a member of South Gippsland Shire Youth Council since 2023 and was part of the 2025 Youth Parliament team.

She was overcome with emotion when announced as the joint winner, later expressing gratitude to Guide leader Chris Oliver who nominated her for the honour.

"It's such a great community to volunteer in," Erica said.

Rhiannon Rawlins' contribution within Korumburra Secondary College, where she recently completed Year 12, and in the broader community saw her recognised as joint Young Citizen of the Year.

As part of the Rural Youth Ambassadors Program, she developed a Student Run Council at KSC to get student input into the School Council, helping drive improvements that would boost students' motivation in attending school.

"We got students from different groups of all year levels, some people who were sporty and some who were more kept to themselves, and it really brought the school together," she said.

Outside the school gates, through her Vocational Major Project, she established a meaningful connection between elderly residents and Year 12 students through afternoon teas at Alchera House.

"They still talk about it," she



**Young South Gippsland Citizens of the Year Rhiannon Rawlins and Erica Begg with Citizen of the Year Val Wilson. A02\_0326**

said of the residents' reaction, adding it was one of their favourite days last year.

She also introduced the Meals on Wheels program to the school, with students delivering meals to those who need them.

"I get to see the community flourish, and I still walk to the hospital and see the students collecting the meals, and that feels amazing," she said.

Bena's Valerie Wilson, usually known as Val, doesn't seek the limelight, happy to do what is required to benefit her community and the various organisations for which she volunteers, but the focus was on her at Meeniyan Town Hall on Wednesday when she was deservedly named South Gippsland Citizen of the Year.

That is recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Korumburra and Bena communities.

"This is just overwhelming," Val said after being announced as the winner, noting all nominees for the South Gippsland Australia Day Awards are brilliant in their own right, and encouraging them to keep up the good work.

"We need to recognise all volunteers in our community; we have lots of volunteer groups in our Shire," Ms Wilson remarked.

She credited her parents for having shown her the way to help others.

She is the long-term Treasurer of Korumburra Uniting Church where she continues to organise catering events.

Having been involved in the

fundraising activities of Korumburra Lions Club for more than 30 years, she is currently the organisation's Membership Chairperson and one of those in charge of catering for large and small community events.

Ms Wilson is also a long-term member of the Bena Hall committee and has in more recent years embraced the game of croquet, taking on the role of Treasurer before becoming President.

She was previously an active member of the local Agricultural and Pastoral Society Ladies Auxiliary for more than 20 years, still assisting with catering at annual events.

Ms Wilson was a keen tennis player and member of Bena Tennis Club, mentoring other players and coaching the juniors.

One of those she mentored on court, Noelene Cosson, nominated Ms Wilson for Citizen of the Year, praising the outstanding work ethic and capabilities she brings to all the organisations with which she is involved.

"Val's organisational abilities are exceptional, and she is regarded as a reliable and highly capable leader," Ms Cosson said.

The new Citizen of the Year summed up why she continues to be a highly active volunteer, saying "I just enjoy giving."

Like most of those driven to help their communities, Ms Wilson doesn't look for recognition, but was honoured to receive it, and there's no doubt her status as Citizen of the Year is a popular choice.

# Melina BATH MP

NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



Australia Day is for all Australians,  
no matter where our journey began.  
It's a day to come together, celebrate our  
way of life and acknowledge our history.



181 Franklin St, Traralgon



Melina Bath MP



5174 7066



melinabath.com.au

# Australia Day 2026

## EVENT PROGRAM



### DUMBALK

**6.30pm - 9.30pm Australia Day BBQ**

**Dumbalk Memorial Park**

- Free BBQ
- BYO drinks and chairs
- Children's activities

Contact: Walter Aich 0419 559 367

### FOSTER

**1.00pm - 3.30pm Australia Day Activities**

**Outside the Foster and District Historical Museum**

- Live band
- Stalls, book sale and special exhibitions
- Free entry into the Museum
- Awards ceremony and afternoon tea from 2.00pm

Contact: Prue Fleming 0418 775 717

### KONGWAK

**8.30am - 10.30am Australia Day Breakfast**

**Kongwak Public Hall**

- Flag raising ceremony
- Egg and sausage breakfast
- Guest speakers: David and Nichole from Harman's Wines

Contact: Bill Brown 0407 881 025

### KORUMBURRA

**11.00am - 1.00pm Australia Day BBQ and Activities**

**Coleman Park, 39 Queen Street, Korumburra**

- Acknowledgment of local Australia Day Award nominees
- Guest speaker - Mary Aldred, Monash MP
- Live music with Terry Lay and Christine Ross
- Free sausage sizzle, lamingtons & aussie cookies
- Free face painting and family activities
- Some chairs provided.

Contact: Noelene Cosson 0438 551 605

### LEONGATHA

**8.30am to 10.30am Australia Day Event**

**McIndoe Park, Corner of Bent and Turner Street**

- Flag raising and Citizenship Ceremony
- Guest speaker: Mr. Glen Wright OAM
- Sausage sizzle, fresh fruit, lamingtons, tea and coffee
- Coffee van for attendees to purchase a hot beverage

Contact: Keryn Kay 0438 624 278

### MEENIVAN

**9.30am - 11.30am Relaxed Australia Day Celebration**

**Tanderra Park, Whitelaw Street**

- Welcome speech and acknowledgment of the Meenivan Event nominee Meenivan Area Community Shop (MACS)
- Free Meenivan McMuffin breakfast by the CFA and Cuppa by the CWA
- Entertainment by local band KeaChange
- BYO chairs and rugs

Contact: Tarnya Wilson 0427 647 473

### MIRBOO NORTH

**10.30am - 11.30am**

**Australia Day Celebration and Morning Tea**

**Baromi Centre, 38 Couper Street, Mirboo North**

- Awards ceremony acknowledging Mirboo North nominees
- Morning tea

Contact: Joy Koh 0407 058 638

### TARWIN LOWER

**12.00pm - 2.00pm Australia Day BBQ**

**At the long table, Tarwin River Boat Ramp**

Adults \$10, Children age 12 to 18 \$5, Children age 11 and under, free

- BBQ: Sausages and burgers with onions, bread and salad
- River Duck Races
- Raffles - drawn on day
- Classic and veteran vehicles on display
- All proceeds will go to the Tarwin Lower Mechanics Institute Hall Committee

Contact: Lisa Breen 0412 105 004

### VENUS BAY

**9.00am - 12.00pm Australia Day Breakfast**

**Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club**

- Free Australia Day breakfast
- Flag raising ceremony
- Entertainment

Contact: Richard Moore 0408 902 604

### WELSHPOOL

**11.00am - 2.00pm Australia Day Family Day**

**Welshpool Park**

- Free BBQ
- Children's yard games

Contact: Tina Gamlin 0409 444 162

These events are supported by South Gippsland Shire Council and the National Australia Day Council.



## Sentinel-Times

## COMMENT

State of roadsides  
a sign of neglect

THE Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria and Shadow Minister for Public Land Management, Melina Bath, highlighted it first last week, the bush-fire hazard running down both sides of almost every road and highway in this region and across the state.

She's right.

The amount of long grass that that been left to grow right up to the roadway is the worst it's ever been.

So, what went wrong this year?

And it's not just the state-controlled roads which haven't received their usual mowing and seasonal tree trimming ahead of the fire danger period.

The same goes for shire-managed roads in both Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

Contractors got to work and started mowing the road reserves along the Bass Highway between Leongatha South and Inverloch in the past few days but their work, while welcome, only served to highlight how long, rank and dry the roadside vegetation is in most other areas.

The South Gippsland Highway, between Nyora and Leongatha is especially bad, and as Ms Bath said, only waiting for a spark from a passing truck, car, trailer or piece of machinery to start a damaging fire, as was the case with the tragic Longwood bush-fires north of Yea.

The weeds, especially ragwort, are also running rife in this area, particularly between Loch and Korumburra.

What it means, as we suspected, is that while the state government is distracted by its social engineering and grand plans, it has neglected the basics including keeping the community safe, keeping the CFA properly resourced and providing enough money to manage its assets.

As for local government, they'll tell you they're strapped for cash, that the rate cap is killing service delivery and infrastructure needs but not one of them sets public efficiency targets which include cutting their ballooning wages bills.

It's getting to the point now where councils have little in the way of discretionary funds to meet the community's needs, after paying their burgeoning wages bill and recurrent expenses, and it's only going to get worse.

Maybe it's time for another round of shire amalgamations, what do you think?

Council stands condemned  
over cemetery neglect

THE comments by Jan Ross about the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust gets it right.

Unfortunately Julie, while your concerns are commendable and shared by me and others the target is wrong.

An audit of the current operators of the Wonthaggi Cemetery is not needed, because they are not the problem.

The BCSC as the WCT did not hand over the Wonthaggi Cemetery to the SMCT until the middle of 2025, claiming they were not ready.

No new administration can gear up in six months and fix the more than 20 years of neglect of the Wonthaggi Cemetery by that fabulous entity called the Bass Coast Shire Council.

Others, including the late Mrs Nolene Lyons could point to a much longer period of time of neglect.

First it was a Cemetery Trust then the Wonthaggi Cemetery administration became a Special General Meeting. What is

## Vox Pop

## Do you limit your children's screen time during the school holidays?



**Liam Murphy**  
Wonthaggi

"We have one policy on screen time. They're allowed one pre-2000s Disney movie per day. They love Jungle Book, The Little Mermaid, and Aladdin."



**Zoe Kent**  
Inverloch

"We keep it under an hour a day generally."



**Genevieve Manhal**  
Inverloch

"Limiting screen time is a regular thing for us, not just during school holidays. Generally, under one hour but it changes, sometimes we'll watch a movie."



**Elena Fakos**  
Melbourne

"I'm an auntie, but she does have limited screen time when I'm babysitting. It's usually limited to half an hour to an hour a day."

that kind of administrative creature to operate a cemetery?

Whatever, at the end of the day the Wonthaggi and San Remo cemeteries trustees were BCSC councillors.

The SGT article mentioned that the late Mrs Lyons was not a supporter of the transfer to the SMCT.

That may have been the case in 2023, but I am told her view changed and before her passing she handed over her completed extensive Wonthaggi Cemetery survey to SMCT.

I can recall an email from this lady when I was the Wonthaggi RSL Secretary saying that under no circumstances would her survey results be given to the BCSC because of their bad behaviour toward her.

Keep in mind this survey was commissioned by Paul Buckley, past BCSC CEO.

How do I know? As the past Wonthaggi RSL Secretary for 11 years from 2012, I had to deal with this mob.

Dealings underlined by pure arrogance on the part of some BCSC councillors and some office staff, developing into mistrust.

Here, I must say, I had nothing but praise for BCSC outdoor staff for their support for RSL commemorative ceremonies.

Some examples: while presenting to the BCSC Cemetery Trust meeting on progress made on identifying veteran burials, I had two councillors on my left completely ignoring my report.

I was later told they were preparing for their next meeting. You come prepared for meetings, if not prepared then don't come.

At the same meeting when the issue of the crosses placed on the graves of unmarked veterans was under discussion, one councillor rolled their eyes saying "my father would turn in his grave if that marker was placed on his grave."

I authorised those crosses, manufactured and placed by a Wonthaggi RSL Vietnam veteran.

The crosses were the very design used to initially mark the graves of Aussie dead in World War One.

We were ordered by this mob to remove those crosses.

When I sent an RSL letter asking for an acceptable design suitable to the BCSC, no response, ever.

At another meeting when the Friends of the San Remo Cemetery tried to make a presentation to the BCSC Cemetery Trust meeting, they were treated with utter contempt and in my view bordering on vile.

Yes a strong word, yet I as an old Vietnam veteran will never withdraw that view.

At another meeting which I did not attend but sent an RSL representative, he reported two councillors shouting down the representatives of the Friends of Wonthaggi Cemetery who were doing cemetery maintenance and cleaning.

I am told they gave back as good as they got.

Finally, the attitude of the BCSC toward the cemeteries can be summed up in the

comments of one BCSC councillor who expressed the view that they were more interested in the living not the dead.

These are the people you elect as your representatives.

Only the past BCSC CEO Paul Buckley and past councillor Les Larke can hold their heads high with respect to the sorry saga of the Wonthaggi and San Remo cemeteries.

As for the \$4 million given to the SMCT to maintain the Wonthaggi Cemetery, that will need to be invested to provide ongoing funds to maintain this cemetery.

The important question is to ask the BCSC why it did not earlier invest these funds in the Wonthaggi Cemetery and likely the San Remo Cemetery in the first place, as was their then responsibility.

Given they had excellent reports from a consultant mapping out what needed to be done at both places to bring them up to say Inverloch Cemetery standards.

Why no action? Why no community consultation? Why sack the Wonthaggi Cemetery volunteers who were maintaining the Wonthaggi Cemetery?

Why? You were too weak to handle people who had the experience and called out the Bass Coast Shire Council. The BCSC hated it.

I could say more, but finally as a Vietnam veteran and RSL life member I am obliged to call out the bad and disrespectful behaviour by the BCSC toward the 687 veterans buried in the Wonthaggi Cemetery, 80 in unmarked graves.

You stand condemned.

To those veterans and all buried at Wonthaggi the BCSC should apologise for your abject failure of your responsibility, in what was a simple task.

**Rod Gallagher, Inverloch**

## Don't kill our bees

WE have been on the South Gippsland Do Not Spray register for several years as we keep bees.

It has been unsuccessfully managed and an updated register is now being introduced.

We do not believe spraying the roadsides offers a good result.

A healthy strip of grass achieved by slashing helps bind the soil preventing erosion of road edges and saving council repair costs.

Spraying of herbicides encourages weed growth and kills native bees, insects, skinks and other wildlife.

We will now be charged \$145 to be included on the updated register because council will not slash our roadside, preferring to spray.

We now also have to maintain our road frontage ourselves.

So we will now pay the shire to not do their job.

**Colin and Juanita Carter, Tarwin Lower**

No spray fee is  
legally questionable

FOR more than 30 years, we have clearly indicated that we do not consent to spraying or spray drift onto our property.

As a result, our roadside reserve has maintained a thriving, weed-free mini-ecosystem, including protected species.

Recently, the shire introduced a \$145 No Spray Register fee, implying that payment is required to exercise this right to non-consent to chemical sprays and spray drift.

We consider this potentially misleading, because landholders already have a lawful right to prevent spraying or spray drift onto private property, and that right cannot be made conditional on payment.

Under Victorian common law, chemical spray drift onto private property may constitute trespass and/or private nuisance.

We do not object to residents who want roadside spraying being able to pay for that service, provided it does not harm neighbouring properties.

However, requiring landholders to pay to exercise a lawful right to protect their own property is legally questionable.

We urge the shire to respect the rights of all landholders and ensure that any spraying or spray drift is fully prevented on private land, without payment.

**S. Ricci and B. Mustchin, Outtrim**

## Gratitude to firefighters

DEVASTATING fires continue to burn across Victoria, putting lives and communities at risk.

Even as the threat is being downgraded, the destruction left behind is profound.

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family affected by the tragic loss of life in the Longwood bushfire, and to the many who have lost homes and livelihoods.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude to the CFA volunteers and emergency personnel who risk their lives to protect others, even as some face the unimaginable challenge of seeing their own homes destroyed.

These fires highlight urgent challenges.

Many firefighters continue to work with outdated vehicles, insufficient equipment and the impacts of long-term budget cuts.

While nothing can replace their bravery, providing modern, dependable tools is essential to safeguard both our volunteers and the communities they serve. Thank you.

**Danny O'Brien MP, Leader of The Nationals, Shadow Minister for Emergency Services**

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.

# Fearlessly adventurous art exhibition now on at Cowes

FOLLOWING the successful presentation of Contempora 1, PICES is pleased to present Contempora 2, now showing at Berninneit Gallery, Cowes, from January 17 to February 1, 2026.

This second exhibition in the Contempora series builds momentum with an impressive display of larger-scale works and a bold exploration of contemporary practice across multiple disciplines.

Contempora 2 showcases a fearlessly adventurous body of work, bringing together painting, woodturning, printmaking, photography and collage.

The exhibition highlights the dynamic intersections between media, where boundaries blur and artists move fluidly between surface, form and concept.

Among the standout works are the dreamlike marinescapes of Guillaume Dillee, whose paintings evoke a sense of movement, memory and atmosphere.

His compositions invite viewers into imagined terrains where colour and gesture suggest place rather than describe it, offering an immersive and emotive experience of landscape as sensation.

In contrast, Stephen Glover's bold abstract works command attention through their confident use of colour, shape and texture.

His works explore abstraction as a space of experimentation, where painterly language intersects with ideas drawn from printmaking, collage and assemblage.

These layered surfaces create visual tension and rhythm, encouraging close engagement and extended looking.



**Chris Farrell's Bamboka, ink on canvas, 105x105cm.**

The exhibition also features compelling contributions from Chris Farrell and Richard Horstman, whose paintings further expand the dialogue around contemporary mark-making and visual narrative.

Chris Lawry's printmaking introduces precision and repetition, while Giulio Marcolongo's woodturned forms bring a tactile, sculptural presence to the exhibition, grounding it in material craftsmanship and physicality.

Jillian Mitchell's photography offers moments of observation and reflection, while Martine Zajacek's collage

practice introduces constructed imagery and layered meaning.

Completing the exhibition, Rain White's paintings contribute expressive energy and personal interpretation, reinforcing the diversity of approaches within the show.

Adding to the exhibition program, PICES will host a Contempora 2 Artist Insights Forum on Sunday, January 18 from 2pm to 4pm.

This engaging public forum offers audiences the opportunity to hear directly from the artists about their ideas, processes and materials.



**Rain White's Winter bushwalk, acrylic on canvas, 64x64cm.**



**Guilio Marcolongo's Bowl 1, woodturning, 18x30cm.**

The panel will feature Stephen Glover, Jillian Mitchell and Rain White, providing insight into their distinct practices and encouraging open discussion with the audience.

Together, the artists of Contempora 2 present a confident and compelling exhibition that celebrates experimentation, scale and material exploration.

The exhibition will conclude with a closing event and raffle prize draw on Sunday, February 1 from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Contempora 2 runs from January 17 to February 1, 2026 at Berninneit Gallery, Cowes.



**Sue Cohen's first day volunteering for Phillip Island Boomerang Bags.**

## Boomerang Bags volunteer call out

THE volunteer sewing group at the Creative Art Station in Cowes is seeking new volunteers to help sustain the long-standing community program in creating Boomerang Bags for the public, an initiative started to help reduce single-use plastic on Phillip Island.

The group meets every Wednesday and Friday, from 9.30am until 2.30pm, and members are free to come and go throughout the day. Vi Pittorino, a long-time volunteer who helps run the sessions, said the decline in volunteers has been gradual but significant. "We're ageing, most of us are in our seventies, some have become ill, and others have moved away," Ms Pittorino said.

The drop in numbers has left the group slightly short-handed, and they require more participants to maintain their regular sewing days.

"New volunteers don't need to worry about equipment or materials, as everything is supplied on-site. Just bring along a lunch, and all machines are provided," Ms Pittorino said.

"Experience isn't necessary either; we're happy to teach anyone willing to lend a hand."

The group also accepts fabric donations, which Ms Pittorino said are useful for both Boomerang Bags and other projects. The Creative Art Station is located at 119 Settlement Road, Cowes.

### • FAITH FACTOR

## When the New Year quietly arrives

**By Captain Amanda Hart - Corps Officer, South Coast Gippsland Salvos**

THE New Year often comes in with a bang - fireworks, celebrations, big hopes for what lies ahead.

But not long after the noise fades, many of us find ourselves back in the rhythm of ordinary life, wondering quietly, what now?

There's a lot of pressure at this time of year to start fresh, set goals and have it all figured out.

But the truth is, many people step into a new year carrying things they didn't choose - grief, uncertainty, fatigue or simply the weight of another busy year ahead.

For some, the question "what's next?" feels less exciting and more exhausting.

What I appreciate about the Christian faith is that it makes room for that honesty.

Renewal isn't presented as a sudden reinvention of ourselves, but as something gentle and ongoing.

The Bible speaks of mercy that is "new every morning," which feels far more realistic than once a year.

Faith reminds me that we don't have to have the whole year mapped out to move forward.

Sometimes renewal looks like taking the next small step, being a little kinder to ourselves or choosing hope again after disappointment.

It's not about perfection or willpower; it's about trust - that we're not walking into the unknown alone.

As the year unfolds, maybe the invitation isn't to ask, "how do I become a better version of myself?" but rather, "how do I live well, right where I am?"

If we can give ourselves permission to start gently, perhaps we'll discover that renewal doesn't arrive with fireworks at all - but quietly, in ordinary moments, one day at a time.

## Saltwater Soul brings coastal vibes to Wonthaggi fashion

SALTWATER Soul might still be fairly new on Billson Street, but the idea behind it was brewing for years.

Found at 15 Billson Street, the Wonthaggi surf and streetwear store is run by locals Tegan Dunlop and her mum Kerri McGrath, who were both born and raised in Wonthaggi.

Both being longtime lovers of clothes and shopping, the pair often spoke about potentially doing something together.

With the coast right on their doorstep and a beach lifestyle shaping their days, a surf wear shop felt like the right option.

Saltwater Soul opened in April 2025, at a time when both women were ready for a change.

For Ms Dunlop, it lined up perfectly with her kids being at school and the urge to take on more work.

For Ms McGrath, it was about filling time again, with the grandkids now in class too.

When the opportunity came up, they didn't overthink it, but rather simply went for it, as a family.

Step inside and you get the vibe they were chasing from the start.

"We have tried to create a store that radiates a relaxed, coastal and happy vibe," they said.



**A family affair at Saltwater Soul, where Kerri McGrath, Indie Dunlop and Tegan Dunlop work together in the Billson Street store. W040226**

It's the kind of store where you can take your time, have a proper look around and not feel like you have to be a certain age or style to belong.

"We stock some of the best brands in surf and street wear including Rhythm, Rusty, Thrills, Brixton, RVCA, Sisstr, Vissla, All About Eve, Sun Bum, Slow

Tide, Aloha Collection and more," Ms McGrath said.

The name Saltwater Soul came from a simple moment.

"We actually just said it out loud one day randomly and it stuck. We loved it! We feel like it represents us and our love of the beach and our coast. Any time our soul needs soothing, we head to the beach!" the pair said.

If you ask them what has been most rewarding so far, the answer comes easy: happy customers and great feedback, with plenty of locals returning through the doors.

"Seeing happy customers and the great feedback we have had since opening. We have so many returning customers which we appreciate so much."

## Coronet Bay’s new garden room set for official opening

THE Coronet Bay Community Garden (CBCG) was successful in receiving funding from the state government as part of the Tiny Towns grant for the construction of a garden room to provide shelter for volunteers.

CBCG secretary Georgie Hawkins said thanks to the funding received in 2024, CBCG now have a wonderful space for volunteers to sit back and relax after a morning’s work in the garden with a much-needed cuppa.

In celebration of the newly established project, the CBCG are hosting an official opening of the garden room on Sunday, February 15, at 3pm. “We would be delighted for the community to join us,” Ms Hawkins said.

“The initial reason for the shelter is that every Thursday morning, volunteers gather to do gardening. We normally use the first half an hour to have a cup of tea and discuss the tasks that are needed. Until the garden room was built, the group often had to cancel sessions when it was too hot, wet or windy.”

The new structure includes a new porch and an enclosed area with glass sliding doors, allowing volunteers to meet and work regardless of the weather.

The grant from Tiny Towns totalled \$30,784, with the project meeting the program’s required local contribution, including \$5,000 donated by Coastal Estates Pty Ltd and \$2,696 from Greg Noakes Photography Pty Ltd as co-contributors.

Construction design and works began in May 2025, once the official grant letter was received. Allways Concrete began laying the slab before Fair Dinkum Builds commenced development, with Taranto Glass in Wonthaggi, then supplying the sliding doors to complete the project.

The project team, consisting of volunteers Georgie, Greg and Josette, drove the grant application. “We are so pleased with the project. We all brought different skills, and seeing it come together - we were a brilliant team,” Ms Hawkins said.

The garden room has already enabled the group to host Live Lightly workshops, supported by the Bass Coast Shire Council. “The space has already made the sessions feel more inclusive and attracted more participants, and for that, we’re thrilled.”

The CBCG official opening is a public invitation and is located at 39a Gellibrand Street, Coronet Bay. For catering purposes, please provide an RSVP by January 31 to coronetbaygarden@gmail.com.

## Rotary bushfire appeal at Cowes

THE Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo will hold a Bushfire Appeal Day on Sunday, January 25 in support of Victorian bushfire relief and recovery efforts.

The event will take place at the Rotary Op Shop, 132 Thompson Avenue, Cowes, from 10am to 3pm.

Throughout the day, the Op Shop will be open, with a traditional sausage sizzle and live music adding to the atmosphere.

All funds raised from the Op Shop, sausage sizzle and public donations will be directed to Victorian bushfire relief programs.

Donations of any amount will be welcomed, with EFTPOS facilities available.

A spokesperson for the club said the day is about more than fundraising.

“It is an opportunity for the community to stand together, show compassion for those who have been affected, and help restore hope in the aftermath of devastating fires.”

Residents and visitors are encouraged to attend, enjoy the entertainment and contribute in whatever way they can.

# Wombat whisperers step up for wildlife

By Trent Westaway

WHAT originally began as a chance encounter on a Venus Bay roadside has turned into a lasting wildlife care commitment for Carrie and David Hutton.

In September 2025, the couple came across a heavily injured wombat joey near the second estate entrance at Venus Bay. David was able to notice markings on the road, something local volunteers use to indicate a wombat has been hit, and to check for surviving young.

“I saw the marks and thought something wasn’t right,” Mr Hutton said.

He immediately turned his car around and proceeded to find a wombat joey, her back badly injured with much of her fur gone. His first thought was mange, but that wasn’t the case. “Her skin was peeling off,” he said.

After wrapping her in a jumper and safely placing her in a carrier, she was transported to a vet, where Linda Pettit from Bunurong Wildlife Care stepped in.

Initially, Ms Pettit shared Mr Hutton’s mange concerns, thus she isolated her in a makeshift den inside her bathroom to protect the other animals at the shelter. Soon after, it became clear mange was not the cause of her injuries, but rather an attack from another wombat.

“It was actually wounds from another wombat, trying to get her out of her burrow. She must have been in some pain. So, yeah, look, just glad I found her,” Mr Hutton said.

The wombat joey, who was



**Volunteers Carrie and David Hutton in Venus Bay, where they have both found and rescued injured or orphaned wombats.** W01\_0326

later named Peta, slowly recovered.

Ms Pettit kept Carrie and David updated via text, and allowed them to visit to check on Peta. From there, something shifted. They kept coming back.

Now, both volunteer at Bunurong Wildlife Care in Inverloch every Thursday afternoon. They clean wombat pens, replace water and bedding, and help with feeds when bottle feeding is still required.

Mrs Hutton has completed training through Warriors 4 Wildlife and Wildlife Victoria, allowing her to assist with rescue and transport of some animals.

“It is not just about cleaning up,” she said. “Linda is teaching

us how to hopefully become carers in the future.”

Mr Hutton said the experience has changed the way he sees the bush around Venus Bay. “They are amazing creatures. Funny wee things. They’ve all got their different personalities.”

Recently Mr Hutton has found three injured wombats after calls had been put out to locate them. This has earned him the affectionate nickname of the wombat whisperer, as he seems to know exactly where to look.

Ms Pettit stressed the importance of having volunteers like Carrie and David. “Without volunteers, what we do is not sustainable,” she said.



**Bunurong Wildlife Care nurses many injured wombats back to full strength.**

“It provides opportunities for myself as the shelter operator to actually do more, to do other work with wildlife, such as rescue and habitat work.”

She said the couple’s empathy stands out. “They’ve been emotionally impacted by the number of wombats they’ve seen hit by vehicles or have catastrophic outcomes. Their empathy is really valuable, and they’re outstanding individuals who look beyond what they do day to day and want to contribute to something in the community.”

Mr and Mrs Hutton hope one day to establish something similar in Venus Bay, but they know it will take time, training and all the right approvals.

## New defibrillators aim to save critical minutes

By Trent Westaway

CAPE Paterson now has two brand new publicly accessible defibrillators, a change many are saying could be the difference between life and death when time is against you.

One of the defibrillators has been installed at the Cape Tavern, and the other at the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club at Cape Paterson Bay Beach. The project has used the combined efforts of Ambulance Victoria, the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi and the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club.

Wonthaggi Life Saving Club president Mark Scott said Cape Paterson was the kind of place where early help was essential.

“There’s a lot of retirees here and a lot of people who swim,” Mr Scott said. “Ambulances aren’t just around the corner. Once you get past that 10-minute mark, survival chances drop away very quickly.”

Ambulance paramedic Imogen Nolan, who is one of the driving forces behind the push for more AEDs, touched on the unforgiving nature of cardiac arrest in smaller coastal communities.

“If CPR doesn’t start within about 10 minutes, the chances of survival are basically zero,” Ms Nolan said. “Every minute without CPR reduces survival by roughly 10 per cent. That window is very small.”

The new defibrillators will require the user to call 000.



**Tea Passon, Michael Turton, Imogen Nolan and Mark Scott at the Cape Tavern, with Mr Scott holding the new publicly accessible defibrillator.** W07\_0326

When this is done, the operator can provide an access code straight away, allowing the cabinet to be opened and the device used.

They are also linked to the GoodSAM program, which notifies nearby CPR trained volunteers if a cardiac arrest is reported.

Ms Nolan said the system relied heavily on community involvement.

“If someone nearby is trained and available, they can be alerted on their phone,” she said. “They’ll be told where the patient is and where the closest defibrillator is, so they can start CPR and use the AED while waiting for paramedics.”

Ms Nolan said her motivation was born from personal experience.

“I live locally and I went to a few GoodSAM callouts on my days off,” she said. “There just wasn’t an AED available.”

She has now helped roll out five defibrillators across the Bass Coast, with more planned in the future.

Cape Tavern owner Michael Turton said the venue had not experienced theft of its defibrillator, despite concerns raised following incidents elsewhere.

“There have been problems in other places,” Mr Turton said. “This setup will allow better security, but people can still get access when they really need it.”

Wonthaggi Rotary Club secretary Ashley Lamers said the project was just the next step in a long journey for safety.

“This was the next stage of our ongoing commitment to the community and the partnership we’ve grown with Ambulance Victoria. We want to ensure we have the resources available if the need for them arises. Every second counts in these situations and we’re more than happy to continue to support this initiative.”

To support the rollout, Ambulance Victoria will host a free CPR and AED demonstration at the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club at Cape Paterson Bay Beach at 12pm on Thursday, January 29.

Ms Nolan said the session was about making people feel capable rather than overwhelmed.

“We rely on the community in those first few minutes,” she said.

## Holidaymakers embrace Inverloch twilight market

By Bruce Wardley

HOLIDAYMAKERS may be opting for shorter stays this year, but the Inverloch Twilight Market held each Wednesday during January has proved to be an enduring delight.

"It's fantastic," said Inverloch Tourist Association President Glenn Morris.

Helping to raise awareness for the 2nd Inverloch Equinox Festival in March Mr Morris said the Twilight Market had been well attended throughout the summer holidays.

"It's now about engaging with people about the Equinox Festival," Mr Morris said.

Part of the promotion for the Equinox Festival from March 20 to 22 was an Inverloch 'Stay Longer Explore Further' postcard distributed by the Inverloch Tourist Association.

An interesting change this year has been shorter stays by holidaymakers.

"It's been picked up by everyone, maybe money is a bit tighter this year," Mr Morris said.

"It's the same at Cape Paterson, more people are coming but for shorter periods."

With the crowds now starting to ease off Mr Morris said accommodation had been heavily booked during the peak of the season including the caravan parks.

"Airbnb's, holiday houses and cabins, the weather has helped."

"Even the extreme heat did not stop people going to the beaches."

Mr Morris said he wanted to keep the vibe of the town going through to March.

"We're keen to see people connect with the Equinox Festival."

"It's the second year for the festival and it will be much bigger this year."

For more information on the Inverloch Equinox Festival go to [inverlochequinoxfestival.com.au](http://inverlochequinoxfestival.com.au) or look for Inverloch Equinox Festival on Facebook.

The final Inverloch Twilight Market for the year will be held on Wednesday January 21 with music by Smiley Doherty, Jimi Kempsey and The Jazz Funtet. Go to [southcoastfm.au/event/summer-twilight-markets-live-music-inverloch-glade/2026-01-14/](http://southcoastfm.au/event/summer-twilight-markets-live-music-inverloch-glade/2026-01-14/) or look for Summer Twilight Markets & Live Music @ Inverloch on Facebook.



Glenn Morris and Rebecca Wright from the Inverloch Tourist Association distributing Inverloch postcards and promoting the 2nd annual Inverloch Equinox Festival in March. B17\_0326



Craig Amy and Leigh Owens entertaining holidaymakers at the Inverloch Twilight Market in The Glade. B10\_0326



Mini Waters' lead singer and guitarist Mitchell Rubly of Melbourne belts it out at the Fish Creek Music Festival on Saturday.

## How time stood still for the music at Fish Creek

STARTED by a couple of mates on the Farrell family farm just outside Fish Creek 25 years ago, the Fishstock Music Festival or Goorumboo – Spirit of the Mountain – hit the stage again last Saturday.

And true to the original spirit of the event, it featured the "simple joy of live music in a beautiful place".

Gates opened to the hidden valley where the festival was held at about 10am and the day kicked off at 10.45am with a welcome to country followed by the first band, The Acquaintances, at 11am and Wayne Thorpe at noon.

Thereafter was a mix of First Nation and Aussie artists including Willoughby Burns on Fire, Mini Waters, Uncle Kutcha Edwards, following his recent gig at the Sydney Opera House, with local band Ozone Street also on the bill.

The happy crowd, measured in its hundreds, set up their chairs and socialised on the grass, came forward to dance, and played cricket or Chinese Hacky Sack, as the entertainment rolled on into the night.

Many stayed over, camping out to extend the one-day festival into a weekend away in rural splendour along the road to Wilsons Promontory.

Poor phone reception kept outside worries at bay for a while, the wind did the same job with the flies.

Organised by a local committee, the proceeds from the festival are distributed locally and have supported such local causes as the South Gippsland Hospital at Foster and the Fish Creek CFA over the years.

# ARCHIES CREEK HOTEL

PROUDLY PRESENTS

January	
FRI 23/1	STEVE KILBEY (SOLO)
SAT 24/1	KARAVANA FLAMENCA FIESTA
SUN 25/1	BATHING IN THE CREEK FESTIVAL
SAT 31/1	FAMILY FEST 2 w/ BOB LOG III + MORE

February	
SUN 1/2	ELLA HOOPER & BAND
SAT 7/2	LORETTA MILLER & BAND
SAT 21/2	PONY FACE PRESENTS NEBRASKA
SUN 22/2	THE PLEASURES & THE DESERTERS
SAT 28/2	KAREN LEE ANDREWS + ROBBIE CAVANAH (UK) + BLAIR DUNLOP (UK)

March	
SUN 1/3	HARRY MANX (GANG)
FRI 6/3	HANNAH COHEN & SAM EVIAN & BAND
SAT 7/3	ROSS WILSON & THE PEACENIKS
THU 12/3	MARY COUGHLAN
FRI 13/3	HUSSY HICKS
SAT 21/3	LIZ STRINGER & BAND
SUN 22/3	BONDI CIGARS
FRI 27/3	EMILY LUBITZ & BAND
SAT 28/3	PLAYLUNCH
SUN 29/3	GRACE PETRIE (UK) & THE MAES

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**10.30am SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

**THE CHORAL**

dir. Nicholas Hytner

A choral society's male members enlist for World War I, leaving the demanding Dr. Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) to recruit teenagers. Together, they experience the joy of singing while the young boys grapple with impending conscription.

General public welcome. Members Free Entry!

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**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 ★



Sarah-Tonin, Rod Pettit and Mal Dunn fundraising for South Coast FM at the Inverloch twilight market. B09\_0326



Lithin, Shamakh and Sivasi from Gomathy's Kitchen at the Inverloch twilight market. B11\_0326



Zarli, Belinda and Miller Arnold on holidays from Berwick at the Inverloch twilight market held each Wednesday from 3pm to 8pm during January. B13\_0326



John and Judy Anderson from Cowes taking time out at the Inverloch twilight market held each Wednesday over January in The Glade. B14\_0326



Steve and Joanne Dunlop and Bernadette Grainger enjoy the Leongatha Art & Photography Show opening on Friday night, with Steve of Middle Tarwin a regular entrant, having three works on show this year. A09\_0326



Korumburra's Heather and Joe Veltri explore the Leongatha Art & Photography Show in which Heather has three entries. A10\_0326



Leo Argento and Andrew Ross of Leongatha Rotary Club enjoy the annual Art Show after helping with the set up. A11\_0326



Morwell's Valerie Hibberd and Alvina Bishop Edwards of Yinnar South take it easy at the opening night of the Leongatha Art & Photography Show, having both entered acrylic paintings, Alvina's 'Branches of Belief' pictured in between them. A12\_0326



Helen and Jayden Barratt of Churchill enjoy the opening of the Leongatha Art & Photography Show. A13\_0326

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Stony Creek races, Leongatha Art & Photography Show and Inverloch twilight market.



Billy Holloway of Meeniyen gets a pony ride on the placid Jupiter at Stony Creek on Sunday.

## Sentinel-Times

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Sam and Amy Sparkes from Melbourne one of the many holidaymakers at the Inverloch twilight market in The Glade. B15\_0326



A family camping holiday for Tracey, Paul, Oscar, Archie and Christine Walton from Monbulk seen here at Inverloch's twilight market. B16\_0326



Mike and Marie Chambers with Claire and Gavin Cassidy from Inverloch enjoying the weekly Wednesday twilight market. B12\_0326



Winners of a 3GG race day package were this group from Leongatha Derrek, Belinda, Charlotte and Violet.



Stony Creek CEO and Group 1 winning jockey Jason Benbow is delighted with the club's new offices, trying them for size with race day coordinator Anne Wall and assistant CEO Max Carter.



Thorpdale friends Johnno and Mick check out the horses at Stony Creek on Sunday.



Life member Tony Livingstone and his sister Delores, the former manager of the club, were asked about their memories of the triple dead heat, almost 40 years later.

# Bespoke and beautiful

PERHAPS one of Leongatha's most desirably situated executive properties, this retreat is set amidst 1.28 acres of botanic beauty.

Located at the end of a private driveway, the home offers seclusion and tranquillity while enjoying easy access to town amenities.

The substantial residence is graced by established silver birch, claret ash and Japanese maples in a setting that only time can create.

The contemporary three-bedroom home also has a study or fourth bedroom, all with built-in robes.

No expense has been spared to create a living environment of iconic standing.

On entering through the custom-made luxury entrance door, polished timber floors and peaked cathedral ceilings create a wonderful sense of space with open-plan, light-filled living areas.

A formal living room provides an alternate entertaining space to the spectacular living and dining zone with access to an extensive alfresco area including an integrated barbecue and rockwall waterfall feature.

The bespoke kitchen features blackwood benchtops, quality European appliances, breakfast bar and large walk-in pantry cleverly designed to be part

of this wonderful environment. The luxurious main bedroom suite includes an eye-catching ensuite comprehensively fitted with open shower, spa bath and his and her walk-in robe.

The second and third bedrooms are equally inviting and both take in the beautiful garden surrounds.

Appointments include a two-car garage with internal access, zoned heating and refrigerated air conditioning, ducted vacuum, four-bay lockable shed and sprinkler system throughout the garden.

The jewel of the crown is a bespoke wine room thoughtfully designed as both a functional cellar and a statement piece, fitted with beautifully grained timber and custom-made wine racking.

The house sits within a gracious garden featuring rose beds, magnolias, maples, ginkgos and a wide range of exotics, not to mention the superb driveway lined with azaleas and abundant birdlife.

A recent addition is a resort-style swimming pool landscaped and designed to evoke luxury.

Built by renowned local builder Ian Davidson, the property is in one of Leongatha's most sought-after locations close to schools, shops and transport.

Inspections by appointment only.



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**\$899,000**

FOR SALE

**LEONGATHA**  
Prestigious Family Home  
• Stunning home on 968m<sup>2</sup> block with farmland views.  
• Luxury chefs kitchen with WIP & quality appliances.  
• Great entertaining area, 8 person spa and garage.  
**\$995,000 - \$1,050,000**

FOR SALE

**FISH CREEK**  
Immaculate Presentation!  
• On approx. 3 acres with stunning gardens and views.  
• Open-plan living, large master suite and study/4th BR.  
• Town water, solar and just minutes from Fish Creek.  
**\$1,150,000**

FOR SALE

**MEENIYAN**  
Lovely Lifestyle Property!  
• Charming home on approx. 1.8 acres in Meeniyan.  
• Spacious kitchen & living and renovated bathroom.  
• Rural setting with dble garage, carport, shed, tank water.  
**\$950,000**

FOR SALE

**WOOREEN**  
Stunning Property  
• 36 acres with mature gardens, 15 km from Leongatha.  
• Plus self-contained one-bedroom second dwelling.  
• Dam, large machinery shed, double lock-up shed.  
**\$1,600,000**

FOR SALE

**LEONGATHA**  
JL & Co Boutique  
• Bair Street location with great exposure & loyal clientele.  
• Fully equipped salon and giftware boutique - WIWO.  
• Ready to operate, all fittings, fixtures, and stock incl.  
**\$80,000**

FOR SALE

**BUFFALO**  
'Belle Crae'  
• 202 acres (approx.), 3 titles, Sth Gippsland dairy country.  
• Fully equipped dairy & quality home.  
• Excellent water, strong pasture & proven productivity.  
**\$3,636,000**

FOR SALE

**PORT FRANKLIN**  
Impeccably Presented!  
• 2-storey home with resort-style bathrooms and kitchen.  
• Spacious open-plan living, alfresco and built-in BBQ.  
• 30m shed with rumpus room, kitchenette, powder room.  
**\$995,000**

FOR SALE

**FOSTER**  
'Fuller Downs'  
• Grazing property on approx. 382 Acres in 2 titles.  
• Renovated home and a fully self-contained bungalow.  
• Farm in excellent condition with great amenities.  
**Expressions of Interest**

**Barry Redmond**  
Director / Estate Agent  
0477 622 292

**Kellie Thomas**  
Licensed Estate Agent  
0438 647 449

**Monique Wightman**  
Marketing & Administration  
(03) 5662 2292

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 | 27



3

2

4

2.3 Acres

480 Foster Mirboo Rd, **Foster Nth**  
**For Sale:** \$799,000  
**Agent** Ray White Foster  
Wendy Gregson 0477 665 868

LOOKING for your own private sanctuary with sustainable living and a peaceful location?

This beautiful property is nestled at the end of a long circular driveway, offering complete privacy and designed to seamlessly blend with the stunning tree ferns and natural bush outlook, with Wilsons Promontory and Inlet views beyond.

The architecturally designed home features expansive decking that enables you to feel part of the natural environment, with illuminated walkways leading to separate garden nooks and seating areas. Take in the vista from the deck or enjoy pure relaxation with your own tree-top spa, enclosed for all-weather use and perfectly positioned for views.

The main residence comprises cathedral ceilings, open plan kitchen with new stainless steel Smeg oven and cook-top, dining and living area with stunning wood floors and natural wood panelling. Windows capture the views and flow onto the decking, offering an outdoor dining experience amongst the treetops.

The bathroom and laundry have been recently modernised and each bedroom has either a garden or natural bush outlook. A standalone one-bedroom bungalow with separate shower and toilet sits close to the main residence, ideal for guests or as an office.

Workshop and car accommodation is well catered for with a 4.6m wide by 2.25m high electric roller door garage large enough for four cars and a workshop, plus a separate 4m height clearance carport ideal for a boat or caravan.

Sustainable living is enhanced with 6kW solar panels, 15,000 litres of tank water and a freerange enclosed chicken coop.

The property is set on approximately 2.25 acres of low maintenance cleared and bushland with private walking tracks. An additional one acre of road reserve is leased with the property.

Located on the Melbourne side of Foster and only 10 minutes to the township, this property offers great potential as a permanent home or short stay accommodation.

Inspection by appointment only.

Proven success, premium living: Discover stages 8, 8A, and 9

PANORAMA Rise Estate offers the perfect blend of established prestige and new opportunity.

This beautifully presented estate is renowned for its lush landscaping and the high-calibre homes that define its streetscapes. With a long-standing track record of exceptional capital growth and strong sales, this is more than just a place to build—it is a secure and smart investment in your future.

The latest release of Stages 8, 8A and 9 offers a diverse range of allotment sizes from 756m<sup>2</sup> up to 1086m<sup>2</sup>. These premium blocks are gently sloping and feature impressively wide frontages, providing the ideal foundation for expansive floor plans and side access for boats or caravans.

Designed with family in mind, the estate will eventually link through to the new Springs Estate, ensuring a quiet, low-traffic environment.

Secure your spot in a community that is already highly sought after and built on a foundation of quality.

Land

756m<sup>2</sup>–1086m<sup>2</sup>

Panorama Rise Estate  
Stages 8, 8A & 9  
**For Sale:** From \$300,000  
**Agent** Ray White Leongatha  
Michael Hanily 0417 311 756



Ray White Leongatha  
03 5662 5800  
15 Bair Street, Leongatha  
raywhiteleongatha.com.au

Ray White Foster & Sandy Point  
03 5639 9202  
17 Main Street, Foster  
raywhitefoster.com.au

Ray White



For Sale

35 Parr Street, **Leongatha**

PERFECT FIRST HOME OR INVESTMENT

- 652m<sup>2</sup> block
- Practical and inviting open plan
- Spacious decking overlooking yard
- Walking distance to schools

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$500,000

3 🏠 1 🚗 2 🚲



For Sale

6 Hilton Court, **Leongatha**

METICULOUSLY UPDATED GEM

- Elevated outlook in a prime location
- Freshly painted with new carpet
- Sleek modern kitchen
- Expansive undercover decking

Michael Hanily 0417 311 756

\$595,000

3 🏠 1 🚗 1 🚲



For Sale

7 Manna Court, **Koonwarra**

THE ULTIMATE HIDDEN RETREAT

- Expansive 5,721m<sup>2</sup> block
- Generous open plan living
- Undercover solar-heated Compass pool
- Substantial undercover entertaining

David Trotman 0418 589 805

\$1,050,000

4 🏠 2 🚗 4 🚲



For Sale

628 Korumburra-Wonthaggi Rd, **Jumbunna**

YOUR DREAM LIFESTYLE PROPERTY

- Approx 3.33 acres
- Water and power connected
- Amazing rural views
- Large dam and lock up shedding

Brooke Howard 0400 206 605

\$500,000 - \$550,000

Land



For Sale

11 Beach Avenue, **Inverloch**

GRAND RESORT STYLE LIVING

- Refreshed with multiple wings
- Outdoor oasis with solar/gas heated magnesium pool and spa
- Landscaped gardens, gym and sauna

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

Contact Agent

6 🏠 4 🚗 9 🚲



For Sale

15 Geale Street, **Meeniyan**

A FAMILY HOME WITH ROOM TO GROW

- Set across approx 11.3 acres
- Spacious living with picturesque paddocks
- Established gardens with lock up shed
- Future subdivision (STCA)

Kasey Bowman 0439 207 196

\$1,100,000 - \$1,150,000

3 🏠 2 🚗 2 🚲



For Sale

16 Gibson Street, **Leongatha**

RESORT STYLE OUTDOOR LIVING

- Expansive open plan
- Kitchen with stone benches and WIP
- Substantial wrap around undercover deck
- Inground pool and 9x8m shed

Michael Hanily 0417 311 756

\$895,000

4 🏠 2 🚗 2 🚲



For Sale

27 Panorama Rise, **Leongatha**

EFFORTLESS STYLE

- Gourmet kitchen with large island
- Ducted heating and cooling throughout
- Undercover deck with built in fireplace
- Substantial 7m x 12m shed with concrete

David Trotman 0418 589 805

\$899,000

3 🏠 2 🚗 4 🚲



For Sale

44 Davis Road, **Foster**

EDGE OF TOWN ACREAGE!

- Craftsman built home with recent updates
- Landscaped gardens with ornamental dam
- 4.4 acres approx. ideal for hobby farming
- 12m x 16m shed with office & mezzanine

David County 0417 397 650

\$1,395,000

4 🏠 2 🚗 2 🚲



For Sale

360 Fullers Road, **Foster**

FAMILY HOME JUST OUT OF TOWN

- Cleared paddocks and bush pasture
- Established blueberry orchard
- Shedding, cattle yards and race
- Well maintained family home

David County 0417 397 650

\$1,299,000

66 Acres 4 🏠 2 🚗 4 🚲



For Sale

47 Old Hat Road, **Foster**

BRAND NEW BUILD (NEVER LIVED IN)

- Rumpus room plus office
- 3.55 acrs (approx)
- 24x12m Shed

Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653

\$1,590,000

3 🏠 2 🚗 2 🚲



For Sale

135 Fullers Road, **Foster**

LIFESTYLE ACREAGE CLOSE TO TOWN

- Tastefully renovated home
- Open plan living with vaulted ceilings
- Separate bungalow, large shed and yards
- Set up for horses or hobby farming

Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653

\$1,100,000

28 Acres 3 🏠 2 🚗 3 🚲



MOTIVATED  
VENDOR

For Sale

55 Arnups Road, **Foster**

CLASSIC HOMESTEAD WITH ACREAGE

- Private location with pastoral views
- Classic homestead with open plan living
- Shed/workshop
- 3 paddocks/dam currently leased

Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653

\$949,000

8.9 Acres 4 🏠 2 🚗 2 🚲



For Sale

4420 Sth Gippsland Hwy, **Foster**

HISTORICAL GEM WITH VIEWS

- Built in 1908 on small acreage
- Original features throughout
- Two living spaces
- Views to Corner Inlet and Prom

David County 0417 397 650

\$895,000

3 🏠 2 🚗 2 🚲



For Sale

47 Townsend St, **Port Welshpool**

BIG SHED, GREAT LOCATION

- 3 bay shed with bathroom and mezzanine
- Undercover deck, built in BBQ, cafe blinds
- Low maintenance 966 m<sup>2</sup> block
- Open plan home, 2 living spaces

Wendy Gregson 0477 665 868

\$799,000

4 🏠 3 🚗 5 🚲



MOTIVATED  
VENDOR

For Sale

10 Ash Avenue, **Sandy Point**

FIRST TIME OFFERED FOR SALE

- Located close to Ned Neals lookout
- Beautifully maintained home
- Large 835m<sup>2</sup> block
- Lock up shed for boat and storage

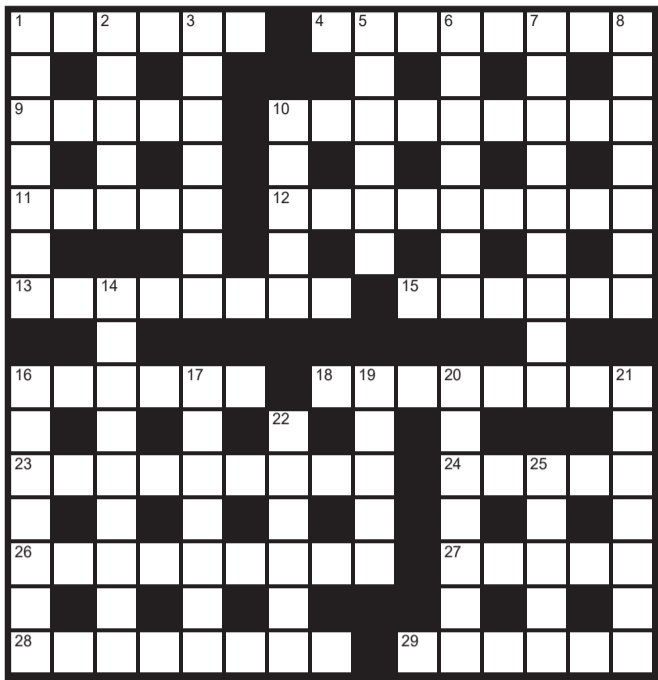
Peter Bellingham 0439 178 653

\$899,000

3 🏠 1 🚗 2 🚲

CROSSWORD

No. 315



- ACROSS
- 1 Gaudy (6)

4 Manages (8)

9 Cancel (5)

10 Warm knitted hat (9)

11 Daub (5)

12 Chewing gum flavour (9)

13 Covertly (8)

15 Spotted (6)

16 Illegal compulsion (6)

18 Nominates (8)

23 Test period (9)

24 Shinbone (5)

26 True to life; practical (9)

- 27 Slow down (5)
- 28 Writing or naming letters of a word in correct sequence (8)
- 29 Frigid (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Spectacles (7)

2 Scope (5)

3 Indulge, – on (7)

5 Makeshift bed (6)

6 Accounts (7)

7 Custom (9)

8 Stung (7)

10 Herb (5)

14 Relating to a large company (9)

16 Exits (7)

17 Having three dimensions (7)

19 Be overcome by a sudden fear (5)

20 Sean Connery starred in *The Hunt for Red –* (7)

21 Majestic (7)

22 Young cat (6)

25 Bird jaws (5)

SOLUTION



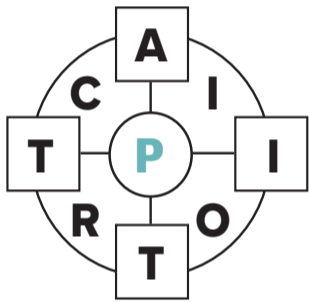
9-LETTER

No. 315

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:

- 12 words: Good
- 18 words: Very good
- 24 words: Excellent

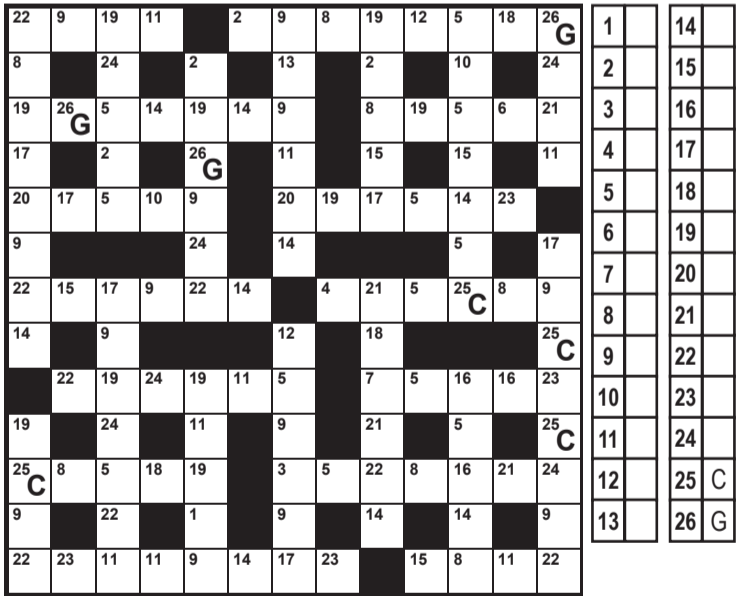


tip, tropic  
rapt, tapir, topic, trap,  
pilot, pita, pitta, port,  
PATRIOTIC, pica,  
patio, patriot,  
optic, pact, pair, part,  
carp, copra, crop,  
apricot, atop, captor,

CODEWORD

No. 305

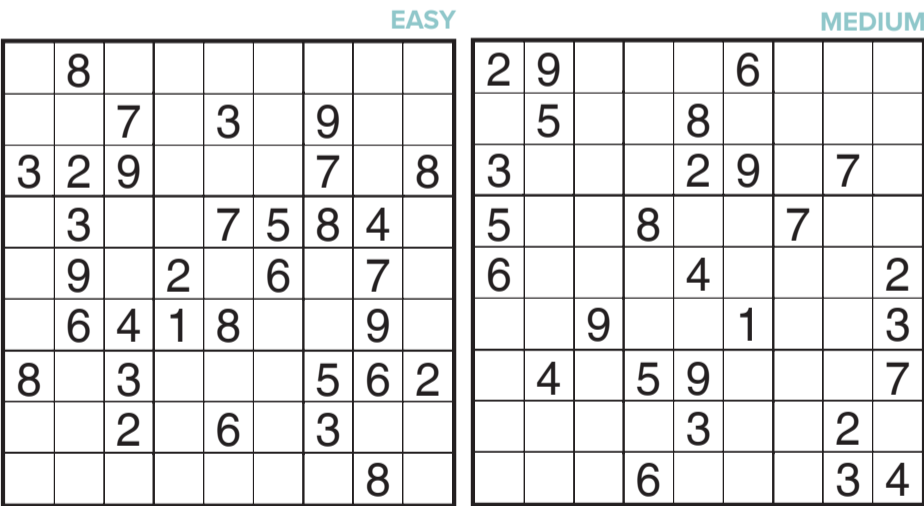
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



SUDOKU

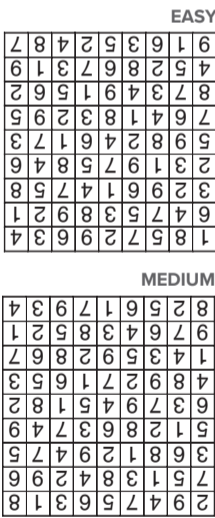
No. 314

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.



0901 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © **pagemasters.**

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. Who was the first wife of Roman emperor Nero?

2. Which band had hits with the songs *Dreams* (1993), *Linger* (1993) and *Ode to My Family* (1994)?

3. How many US states begin with the letter 'N'?

4. The smoky spirit mezcal is derived from which plant?

5. The 2006 film *She's the Man*, starring Amanda Bynes (pictured), is a modern-day retelling of which of Shakespeare's comedies?

6. What long-distance hiking trail spans 4,265 kilometres from Canada to Mexico?

7. Dorothea Brooke is the heroine of which 19th-century English novel?

8. True or false: the shoes, Dr. Martens, were founded by a British doctor?

9. Comedians James Acaster and Ed Gamble co-host which podcast?

10. What was the name of artist Frida Kahlo's spouse?



ANSWERS: 1. Claudia Octavia 2. The Cranberries 3. Eight 4. Agave 5. *Twelfth Night* 6. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) 7. *Middlemarch* 8. False: he was a German doctor 9. *Off Menu* 10. Diego Rivera

WORD SEARCH

No. 225

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



- ADIN  
AVATAR  
BANDWIDTH  
BIT  
BLOG  
BROWSE  
BUTTON  
BYTE  
CACHE  
CHAT  
CLOUD  
COMMENT  
DIRECT  
DOMAIN  
DOWNLOAD
- EMAIL  
EMF  
FAQ  
FIELD  
FILTER  
FOLLOW  
FORMAT  
FORUM  
FORWARD  
GIF  
HACK  
HTML  
HTTPS  
JPEG  
LINK
- LOG IN  
MEME  
MODEM  
PROGRAM  
SEO  
SHARE  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
SPAM  
TYPE  
URL  
VIRUS  
WAN  
WIFI

SECRET MESSAGE: The World Wide Web at your fingertips



Doben Park Shorthorns has a selection of bulls for sale in a range of colours including red, white, red and white and roan.



Shorthorn calves at Doben Park are known for their quiet temperament and ability to grow quickly.



The Benson family has been breeding Shorthorns at Buln Buln since 1977.

## Shorthorns the easy care breed at Doben Park

THE Benson family has been breeding Shorthorn cattle on their properties at Buln Buln in West Gippsland since 1977. Through their stud, Doben Park Shorthorns, they currently run 130 registered and commercial cows, 25 registered and commercial unjoined yearling heifers and 28 registered and commercial weaner heifers. The cows are joined to roan and red Yamburgan bred Shorthorn bulls selected for their excellent fertility, calving ease, mothering, milking ability and docility. These inherent qualities

combine to produce more live and healthy calves which have the ability to grow quickly. These calves finish on pasture or grain which then produces high yielding premium quality meat with marbling and even fat distribution. They are well placed to satisfy demand for superior eating qualities, tenderness and flavour with their marbling ability and are suitable for both the domestic and export markets. The Shorthorn bull can be crossed with Angus or Angus infused females to increase growth through hybrid vigour,

maintaining the marbling both breeds are renowned for. When using a red Shorthorn bull over an Angus cow the outcome is an ideal F1 throughout Gippsland and this cross will produce a predominantly black calf. Using a white or roan bull over the Angus or Angus infused cow will predominantly produce the steely blue calf. The white or roan bull over the Hereford or Hereford infused cow will predominantly produce the strawberry roan or a broken faced calf with the hybrid vigour.

The Shorthorn bull is a great alternative in the dairy industry, producing the type of dairy beef calf processors are looking for. The advantage of the Shorthorn breed is that whilst the steers turn out quality carcasses, their sisters are back at home forming the basis of a functional, efficient cow herd. Through their ability to provide greater weight gain, lay down fat cover and provide a quality carcass from a cross bred female, the Shorthorns continue to provide a profitable opportunity for commercial

cattlemen. This sees Shorthorns highly profitable in the grass fed and feeder markets. Shorthorns are the easy care breed with ease of calving and resistance to both bloat and eye cancer. Doben Park will have a selection of bulls for sale from 20 to 22 months in red, white, red and white and roan. There will also be a selection of cows, calves and heifers available. For more information contact Doug on 0407 343 966 or Sandy on 0409 074 291.



# DOBEN PARK SHORTHORNS

## ...The *EASY CARE* breed



The Benson family welcomes you to Beef Week Open Day:  
**Day 4: Saturday, January 31, 2026**

**Doben Park**  
SHORTHORNS  
EST. 1977

1387 OLD SALE ROAD BULN BULN  
DOUG 0407 343 966 | SANDY 0409 074 291  
benson@dcsl.net.au

**PROFIT NOW COMES IN COLOUR**

**shorthornbeef.com.au**



## Fernleigh Angus showcases even draft of yearling bulls

ON Saturday, January 31 Fernleigh Angus will open its doors as part of its annual involvement in Beef Week.

The day offers a great opportunity to learn more about the Fernleigh program and to inspect the line-up of yearling bulls available for sale by private treaty in 2026.

These yearling bulls have been bred from an exciting group of sires including Ben Nevis Rambo, Banquet Statesman S154, Banquet Nutella N462, KO T55 and Landfall New Ground.

Fernleigh stud manager James Blyth said these sires had produced one of the more even drafts of bulls to date.

"There are some new genetics on offer which have us really excited and we certainly think there is a product here which will suit a range of buyers," Mr Blyth said.

"We aim to breed an animal which excels on the fundamentals of fertility, structural integrity and durability without sacrificing on performance.

"I think the bulls on offer represent real value.

"We want our clients to be in a position to succeed, and to do that we need to offer a product which ticks all the boxes but also one which won't break the bank."

Also on display during the open day will be a significant selection of the Fernleigh female herd.

"The importance of the females in our program cannot be understated," Mr Blyth said.

"Quite often the bulls are the focus of the attention, so we really relish the opportunity to open up our herd and highlight the maternal quality from which our bulls have been bred.

"I would invite anyone who is interested to come and see the bulls and the wider herd, because I think the cattle really do speak for themselves."

For further information on the Beef Week open day or the Fernleigh Angus program, contact James Blyth on 0400 447 443 or follow Fernleigh Angus on Facebook and Instagram.

## Tarwin marks 100 years of Meikle family ownership

THE Meikle family celebrates 100 years on their Meeniyan property this year, with David and wife Ann welcoming visitors to inspect their Tarwin Poll Hereford herd.

The herd takes its name from the river running across the front of the property and has been developed by the Meikles since 1950.

Initiated by David's grandfather Jack and further developed by his father Neville, this herd has been producing cattle for clients for more than 70 years.

In that time they have endeavoured to make the best use of the genetics and technologies available to them coupled with their own experience.

This is a performance recorded herd run along commercial lines.

"Our cattle, including the sale bulls, are expected to perform off grass," Mr Meikle said.

"The sale bulls are scanned to gain an insight to the eye muscle and fat cover.

"All females introduced to the herd and sale bulls are DNA tested."

To further test the performance of their cattle, Tarwin regularly enters steers in the Lardner Park grass fed steer trial.

Their leading steer this year gained weight at 1.94kg per day for the entire period of the trial from June to November compared to the trial average of 1.26kg per day.



The Benson family has been breeding Shorthorns at Buln Buln since 1977.

The four Tarwin steers entered averaged 1.57kg per day.

The female herd is managed along commercial lines, with each breeding female required to produce a calf each year under paddock conditions.

Sire selection is undertaken with an eye on positive management traits such as calving ease.

On display will be the Tarwin female herd with cows on hand for visitors to walk through.

"We aim to have a well grown female that's easy care, structurally sound and able to calve without problems," Mr Meikle said.

Also on display will be sale bulls and heifers plus stud sires on the property.

Sires currently in use include Hereford Super Sire Wirruna Toorak as well as Yavenvale Spotlight, Tarwin Ulli U060 and Tarwin Ural U088.

Light refreshments will be available and the Meikle family welcomes the opportunity to catch up with past clients and visitors new to the stud.

"We enjoy the chance to get feedback from past clients and fellow beef producers as to their requirements as well as catching up with fellow breeders," Mr Meikle said.



## Fernleigh Angus



## BEEF WEEK OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2026  
FROM 9:00AM TO 5:00PM

📍 89 HUNTERS RD, WARRAGUL SOUTH

JOIN US AT FERNLEIGH ANGUS TO INSPECT THE LINE-UP OF YEARLING BULLS AVAILABLE FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY IN 2026

JAMES BLYTH  
P: 0400 447 443

PETER BLYTH  
P: 0419 244 906

fernleighangus@gmail.com



## BALD HILL ENGLISH LONGHORN BEEF WEEK DAY 4

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2026



Established in 2020. Eating Quality is our driver to breed these beautiful cattle.

BULLS AND IMPORTED UK SEMEN FOR SALE

Event held at:  
620  
Five Mile Road  
Nar Nar Goon  
VIC, 3812  
9-4pm



Greg Templeton 0419 385 381  
Vikki Templeton 0418 576 944  
vtempleton@primus.com.au



# BEEF WEEK 2026

## Wattlewood unveils purpose-built bull sale complex

THE Wattlewood Angus team has been working hard to bring their dream to life with a new purpose-built 80-acre bull sale complex at Lang Lang.

The site features six small paddocks to pen the sale bulls for Beef Week on Saturday, January 31, the MLA BredWell FedWell workshop on Tuesday, February 10, and the annual sale on Thursday, March 5.

Fiona and John Glover have built a shed with roller doors to allow air-flow on warm days or close them down should the weather turn inclement.

As always the team has set out to provide a homely feel with welcoming food and drink in the beautiful repurposed silos on site.

On display for Beef Week will be 35 cream of the crop bulls with all the vaccinations and health checks clients have come to expect from this thorough operation.

"Being a part of the industry-backed Immune Ready program allows us to have the comfort knowing that the bulls are ready to go out and work effectively and

efficiently," Mrs Glover said.

"They have all passed their semen tests and are parent verified, so clients can make an informed selection of their next top sire to improve their existing herd."

Coming off a credible third place in last year's Beef Week Heifer Challenge, the couple are proud of the females that ultimately contribute 50 per cent to the sale bulls' genetics.

"Getting the female breeding herd right is a key component to having bulls that just work and are able to get the job done," Mrs Glover said.

The property will also host an MLA BredWell FedWell workshop where attendees will learn about genetic selection and how to get the highest rewards from their property and beef herd.

The Wattlewood Angus annual on-farm bull sale will be held on Thursday, March 5 at 4pm.

Wattlewood looks forward to greeting visitors with a cuppa at Beef Week and welcomes any questions.

Contact Fiona on 0416 216 951 to make a time that suits.



The stage is set at the new Wattlewood Angus bull sale complex at Lang Lang.



Lot 8 Wattlewood Venture V24.



Lot 3 Wattlewood Vroom V8.



Lot 16 Wattlewood Verified V55.

# Tarwin



## POLL HEREFORDS

*The Meikle Family extend a warm invitation to local people to inspect their Tarwin Poll Hereford Stud.*

**Beef Week Day 4**  
**Saturday, January 31, 2026**  
**Open 9am - 5pm**



Hunter Lakes Regal R017

**Location:** Parrys Road, (3 kms from Meeniyana) on Meeniyana-Dumbalk Rd. (Signs will be posted)

**ENQUIRIES:** David Meikle 5664 7556 M: 0429 800 756

**E:** meikledd@dcsl.net.au **W:** <https://tarwinpollherefords.com.au/>



## WATTLEWOOD ANGUS

*ticking all the boxes*

- ✓ Herd Book Registered
- ✓ Semen Tested
- ✓ Parent Verified
- ✓ Genotyped
- ✓ P.I. Negative
- ✓ Naturally quiet
- ✓ Immune Ready (vacc. 7in1, Pestigard, Vibrovax & Rhinogard)
- ✓ Free of Known Genetic Defects (by pedigree or testing)

**ANNUAL BULL SALE:**  
**THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026**  
**AT 4PM**

Sale Update:  
**NEW VENUE**

**Beef Week**  
**Open Day and**  
**Bull Sale Preview:**  
**Saturday**  
**31st January**  
**2026**

**Beef Industry**  
**Workshop:**  
**Tuesday**  
**10th February**  
**2026**

Fiona & John Glover: 0416 216 951 | 4770 South Gippsland Highway, Lang Lang, Victoria | [www.wattlewoodangus.com.au](http://www.wattlewoodangus.com.au)

AuctionsPlus



## Workshop to help livestock breeders get more bang for their buck

JOHN and Fiona Glover from Wattlewood Angus are hosting the Southern MLA BredWell FedWell Workshop to help livestock breeders learn how to get more value from their operations.

The idea to host the industry workshop came to Fiona after having to sell quality breeding females ahead of the tough autumn and winter that Gippsland experienced last year.

She noticed farmers had invested in dairy cross type steers to grow out, which wouldn't utilise the fodder available to maximise profits like a straight bred beef animal would.

BredWell FedWell is a practical one-day introductory workshop on how productivity and profitability can be improved through good breeding and feeding over the livestock production cycle, with a specific focus on profit drivers.

On the back of a decade of success, the workshops have been re-developed to reflect evolving best practice genetics and nutrition management.

The workshop will run at the Wattlewood Bull Sale Complex on the South Gippsland Highway at Lang Lang on Tuesday, February 10.

It is aimed to improve the knowledge and skills of producers so they can develop a customised breeding plan for their enterprise aligned to their profit drivers, identify sires and select animals that help meet their objectives, and learn about feeding animals well to achieve their objective and maximise their genetic investment.

The structure of the workshop will utilise the BredWell FedWell breeding and feeding production cycle, which covers pre-joining and joining, pregnancy, calving and lambing, weaning and beyond, and selection.

Each section in the cycle represents a major decision point in a producer's commercial enterprise, where consideration of both breeding and feeding is required.

The new highly graphical, easy to follow one-day workshop will continue to be delivered on-farm and producers will gain fresh knowledge about the latest research and management strategies in the field.

For more information or to register, head to [www.mla.com.au/bredwellfedwell](http://www.mla.com.au/bredwellfedwell)



A Raedean Reds cow with calf at foot near the farm shed.

## Economic traits drive Raedean Reds breeding program

ANNETTE Walker, Noel Gnaden and their daughter Georgia welcome visitors to their Buln Buln property for Gippsland Beef Week.

The family runs Raedean Reds, a Red Angus stud focused on economic traits with heavy culling for undesirable characteristics.

"A docile temperament is extremely important to us along with structural correctness, good feet and udders," Ms Walker said.

The spring herd will be on display along with an excellent selection of young bulls for sale.

Visitors can walk through all cattle on display and Georgia will be excited to show her stud cattle.

Calves at foot are sired by RA Thor, Raedean Rainman, Tronar Zoro, Willandra Eric and Raedean Uranium.

Young bulls available for purchase include progeny by Hillandale Red Jude J18

crossed with Red MRLA Respect 42G, along with others sired by Raedean Rainman R13, Tronar Jeb, Tronar Kemble and Raedean Statement S15.

The Respect progeny are the only ones in southern Australia after a small quantity of semen was brought in with GK Red Angus in Dalby, Queensland.

The stud continually strives to improve and introduce new bloodlines including genetics from Bandeeka, MRLA, U2, Tronar and GK.

The most recent purchase was new herd sire Goondoola Utah, a complete outcross for the herd.

"We saw his grandsire Red Northline Revival in Canada and were very impressed with him," Ms Walker said.

Visitors are welcome to inspect the Red Angus herd and select their new sire from the high-performing functional female herd.



A Raedean Reds cow and calf in the paddock at Buln Buln.



A Raedean Reds cow with her young calf.

# FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC TRAITS



## OPEN DAY SATURDAY 31 JANUARY 2026

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# BEEF WEEK 2026



Rangatira Charlie 20-1034, a standout new AI sire at Leawood Angus.

## New Zealand genetics thrive at Leawood Angus

LEAWOOD Angus welcomes cattle-breeding enthusiasts to Beef Week Day 4 on Saturday, January 31 at 1545 Princes Hwy, Flynn.

Visitors can inspect the autumn bull sale line-up and enjoy a discussion on all things agriculture.

The breeding program is built around three core objectives: consistency, longevity and profitability.

Consistency comes from more than 82 years of breeding registered Angus cattle and a long history of selectively using New Zealand sires alongside reliable homebred Leawood sires.

Across four generations of family management, the breeding philosophy has

remained steady.

"The most profitable animal in any herd is often the older, structurally sound, low-maintenance cow who calved as a two-year-old and has never missed a calf," Luke Stuckey said.

"That is our definition of longevity and it is built into every Leawood Angus bull."

The 2026 autumn sale will be held on Monday, March 30 at 1pm, offering 50 rising 18-month-old bulls and 40 commercial breeding females.

This year's sale team is headlined by leading New Zealand sires alongside reliable homebred Leawood sires.

A standout new AI sire is Rangatira Charlie 20-1034, a high-capacity bull with

exceptional carcase traits.

"After inspecting Charlie at Kenhardt Angus in 2022, we knew he was the right fit for our program," Mr Stuckey said.

Other feature sires include Cricklewood Pandemic P056, which led the autumn 2025 sale averaging \$14,000 across eight sons, and Sudeley Viking 18101, widely regarded as one of the most impressive sons of the legendary Matauri Reality 839.

Leawood Pirate P391 remains the most heavily used homebred sire, adding extra length, frame and outstanding structural correctness to his progeny.

Contact Graeme on 0429 992 683 or Luke on 0474 992 683.

# LEAWOOD ANGUS

ESTABLISHED 1944

## LEADING NEW ZEALAND GENETICS

# 2026 AUTUMN SALE

## MONDAY, MARCH 30 AT 1PM

### 50 BULLS - 40 COMMERCIAL FEMALES

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FOR SALES PICTURES & VIDEOS

# ON THE LAND

## Farmer forced to slash roadside grass after spray kills bees

By Bruce Wardley

NOT usually one to complain Tarwin Lower farmer Colin Carter is hopping mad after herbicide spraying by South Gippsland Shire killed two of his hives of bees.

"We lost 40,000 bees five years ago after council sprayed the roadside," Mr Carter said.

After years of pleading with council to stop the roadside herbicide program South Gippsland Shire agreed to declare the area a no-spray zone but has asked Mr Carter and his wife Juanita to slash the roadside themselves and pay \$145 for a sign.

"If we don't do what council have asked they have threatened to use contractors to slash the roadside and charge us," Mr Carter said.

Frustrated and angry the Carters said they have slashed some of the road frontage to their property but not the roadside corners because it is too dangerous.

"We're on the 'do not spray' register but it is poorly managed," Mr Carter said.

"Council has declined responsibility for the roadside slashing."

Mr Carter said he would



South Gippsland Shire has told Tarwin Lower farmer Colin Carter to slash his own roadside grass after herbicide spraying killed two hives of bees. B23\_0326

need insurance, road signage and the people to do it himself.

Tarwin Lower is ideal for bees according to the Carters but herbicides are deadly for them.

"We don't use herbicide anywhere near our bees," Mr Carter said.

"We keep the bees near the roadside close to native vegetation.

"It's a good, sheltered spot with lots of tea-tree facing north."

"We slashed along the edge of the road but without proper signage it is too dangerous."

"Farm machinery is not designed for roadside slashing," Mr Carter said.

"Council did a very poor job this year," he said.

"When council sprays the

roadside with herbicides they kill all the good grass which encourages weeds, it even kills the wild bees."

The Carters are so against herbicides they can't understand why council still uses them.

"We don't mind paying for signage but to charge us for slashing the roadside the way they want doesn't make sense," Mr Carter said.

"They're doing it on all the roads in South Gippsland Shire in their control."

"We can control blackberries, pick-up roadside rubbish and clear fallen trees, but we can't be expected to do the slashing," Ms Carter said.

The honey the Carters produce is described as Natural Farm Tea-Tree Honey.

## Looming Chinese beef tariff creating uncertainty

By Andrew Paloczi

WHILE the impact of China's recently announced 55 per cent tariff on imports of Australian beef exceeding a quota of 205,000 tonnes for 2026 is yet to be realised, a local livestock agent said it is already causing market uncertainty.

"I just had a few clients that changed their minds about buying and wanted to sit back and see what happens," Simon Henderson said, an example being a client pulling out of purchasing weaners at Yea.

"It's a slap in the face for the beef industry and it's going to put uncertainty into people's plans," Mr Henderson said, acknowledging the tariff won't come into effect immediately, having heard suggestions it may do so around July.

"So, there's a fair bit of a trading window when it won't affect anything," he remarked, having reflected on the reaction to China's sudden tariff announcement that kicked off 2026.

"They sprung it on us in early January and took everyone by surprise, just when prices were ticking along really well and everyone was upbeat about the weaner sales," Mr Henderson said, noting those sales have still been strong.

For instance, a recent weaner sale in Yea attracted



Livestock agent Simon Henderson has heard concerns about China's plans to impose a hefty tariff on Australian beef when the recently introduced quota is exceeded. A01\_0326

prices of between \$100 and \$150 a head dearer than expected.

Mr Henderson elaborated on the uncertainty those in the beef industry are experiencing following the tariff announcement, giving the example of processors deciding whether to purchase feeder steers to go on feed now in a 150-day program.

Those steers will potentially be ready for processing about the time the tariff kicks in, that making it difficult to determine likely demand.

Part of the uncertainty relates to how much well-off Chinese consumers will be prepared to pay for the benefits Australian beef offers that some other countries can't.

"Australia has a high-end product, lifetime traceability and no risk of Mad Cow Disease," Mr Henderson said, suggesting that adds a premium to the value of Aussie beef.

As previously reported in the Sentinel-Times, Australia has not been singled out, with a number of other countries exporting beef to China also being assigned quotas, their product set to be hit with the 55 per cent tariff once the applicable quantities are exceeded.

"Last year, Australia exported 272,940 tonnes of beef to China, an increase of 41 per cent year-on-year, and significantly more than the new 2026 quota," Nutrien Ag Solutions backed Mecardo reported.



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



Elders auctioneer Morgan Davies with staff members David Hill and Rebecca Bleicher calls for bids on weaners which escaped last week's Longwood bushfires.

Emotion charged weaner sale

YOU couldn't help being struck by the contrast as a light shower of rain passed over the Leongatha Saleyards last Friday while they hosted the sale of cattle from one of the state's bushfire-ravaged areas.

Some of the weaners on offer came from farms that were almost completely wiped out by the Longwood fires north of Yea.

One of the organisers of the 39th annual Yea Blue Ribbon Weaner Sale, being held out of that area for the first time ever, Andrew Hill, said it was a big undertaking moving the sale to Leongatha at short notice but a highly successful one as it turned out.

"It's an outstanding run of cattle and we've had a fantastic response," Mr Hill said.

"We've brought the cattle to the buyers and they've sold well."

Mr Hill said there were a number of his vendors with cattle in the sale who

had lost practically everything in the bushfires of last week, but none attended the event locally while they responded to the devastation back home.

"You don't get the full impact of it until you drive out of Yea and just see what damage has been done by such a hot fire, generating an enormous amount of heat from that shocking wind."

He described scenes of dead and burnt sheep caught up against now-destroyed fence lines, dead cows in dams and black fire damage everywhere with hardly a structure still left standing.

And there was emotion in his voice as he described the losses suffered by one of his Yack clients with a few pens of heifer and steer weaners in the day's sale at Leongatha.

"It's a three-generation farm of about 1,200 acres with a good young bloke taking over the running of

the place from his father, having a real go and getting somewhere with his breeding. And now this.

"We've been able to find somewhere for his cows and calves but we're still looking for somewhere for his sheep.

"We'd like to hear from anyone who can offer agistment, just give them my number."

Mr Hill said his client originally had 600 sheep, lost 200 in the fire, and now had 400 that needed agistment but had miraculously saved most of his cattle.

"They just seem to know the right spot to go to survive."

But little else was saved.

"There's no fences, no cattle yards, no sheds, and no feed... and it won't be until September that they'll have their grass growing again," Mr Hill said.

If you can help with hay or agistment call Elders Yea (03) 5797 4100 or Andrew Hill 0419 322 286.

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre

Store prices ease

By SGSAA

APPROXIMATELY 2600 head were yarded this week, up from 600 on last sale. Quality was very good, with several strong lines of breeder calves and yearlings being presented, while heifer numbers remained limited.

There was a big crowd in attendance and most local agents were active, with competition largely driven by local buyers. Overall prices eased slightly compared to last week, with only a handful of sales showing any notable increase.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Jan. 8, 2026

Steers			
Vere Investments 17 Angus	667kg	\$4.91	\$2790
A & A Bressan 8 Angus	627kg	\$4.55	\$2860
Aggson Farms 10 Angus	613kg	\$4.89	\$3000
Kara-Mia 12 Angus	589kg	\$4.58	\$2700
Beavis 21 Angus	587kg	\$4.77	\$2800
D & M Adams 21 Angus	587kg	\$4.85	\$2850
Turfa 13 Angus	575kg	\$4.80	\$2760
R & A Davie 20 Angus	569kg	\$5.27	\$3000
Baillie Bros 16 Angus	565kg	\$4.91	\$2780
C Wilde 15 Angus	550kg	\$4.87	\$2680
Best 18 Angus	540kg	\$4.62	\$2500
C Wilde 14 Angus	530kg	\$4.83	\$2560
Layton 11 Angus	496kg	\$4.63	\$2300
R & H Harrison 21 Angus	492kg	\$4.99	\$2460
J & L Fiddelaers 10 Angus	484kg	\$4.76	\$2310
Best 16 Angus	472kg	\$4.94	\$2330
Habbies Howe 19 Angus	463kg	\$5.04	\$2340
Lorstan 19 Angus	459kg	\$4.83	\$2220
Whittaker & Staton 18 Angus	426kg	\$5.15	\$2200
Russell 16 Hereford	420kg	\$4.95	\$2200
Habbies Howe 20 Angus	417kg	\$5.22	\$2180
Lorstan 19 Angus	415kg	\$5.10	\$2120
Heggen 18 Angus	406kg	\$5.29	\$2150
Kings Park 17 Angus	405kg	\$4.93	\$2000
Boote 18 Rang	394kg	\$5.48	\$2160
A & D Freeman 15 Angus	393kg	\$5.11	\$2010
Tuffin 18 Hereford	390kg	\$4.76	\$1860
Hall 22 Angus	390kg	\$5.20	\$2030
Wildes 11 Angus	380kg	\$4.81	\$1830
J Flint 22 Angus/BB	368kg	\$4.75	\$1750
Paragreen 10	361kg	\$4.76	\$1720
Sampson Ag 17 Limx	360kg	\$4.85	\$1750
Smith 18 Angus	349kg	\$4.92	\$1720
Game & Beresford 24 Angus	348kg	\$5.15	\$1800
Sampson Ag 14 Lim X	345kg	\$5.00	\$1730
Missen Farming 13 Angus	343kg	\$5.11	\$1760
Cameron Hill 13 Angus X	340kg	\$5.29	\$1800
Wildes 12 Angus	332kg	\$5.12	\$1700
Kings Park 18 Angus	330kg	\$5.12	\$1690
Ajay 13 Angus	323kg	\$5.38	\$1740
R Parkes 14 Angus	321kg	\$5.53	\$1780
Sheagan 10 Hereford	314kg	\$4.07	\$1580
Schellekens & Sons 11 Angus	310kg	\$4.95	\$1540
Smith 23 Angus X	295kg	\$5.01	\$1480
Mardan Lodge 17 Angus X	263kg	\$5.47	\$1440

Heifers:			
A & D Freeman 12 Angus	377kg	\$4.57	\$1730
Henderson Farms 14 Angus	373kg	\$4.54	\$1700
Whittaker & Staton 14 Angus	351kg	\$4.64	\$1630
Sampson Ag 16 Angus	346kg	\$4.41	\$1530
A & D Freeman 12 Angus	337kg	\$4.08	\$1380
Game & Beresford 15 Angus	327kg	\$4.15	\$1360
Habbies Howe 11 Angus	317kg	\$4.09	\$1300
Ajay 16 Angus	306kg	\$4.73	\$1450
Game & Beresford 18 Angus	299kg	\$4.40	\$1320
R,H,C, & T Perrett 13 Angus	292kg	\$3.69	\$1080
Game & Beresford 20 Angus	277kg	\$4.51	\$1250
Smith 23 Angus	275kg	\$4.61	\$1270
Evans 13 Angus	263kg	\$4.60	\$1210
White 10 Angus 261kg @		\$4.21	\$1100



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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
LEONGATHA		WONTHAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
WARRAGUL		PAKENHAM	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244		
WONTHAGGI		Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783			Chase Watters	0423 272 819
		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
GRANTVILLE		Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
Angus Hall	0466 326 487			Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM			
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472		
BERWICK		LANG LANG		KOO WEE RUP	
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Angus Hall	0466 326 487

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Jarrod Bennetts sells for Everitt Seeley & Bennetts. A06\_0326

Stunning Charolais offering among highlights of strong Store Sale

PRICES held up well at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale despite the recent influx of cattle currently on the market due to the ongoing fire crisis. "I thought the sale was quite solid right the way through," Brian McCormack of Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock said, noting that is regardless of a lot of store cattle being sold at all centres during the week. There were approximately 2,800 head available at Leongatha on Thursday, MLA Market Reporter Brendan Fletcher labelling quality "very good" and highlighting the fact some lines of breeder calves and yearlings were on offer. He noted most local agencies were represented with local competition remaining in control and that while a couple of feedlot orders were operating, they were reluctant to compete. "Prices were slightly easier week-on-week with only some isolated sales showing significant change," Mr Fletcher concluded. One of the price highlights showed it isn't all about black cattle, Jarrod Bennetts of Everitt Seeley & Bennetts selling an eye-catching run

By Andrew Palocz

of Charolais steers from Robinson & Hasthorpe in Tanjil South, those animals featuring Mt William Bloodlines. A pen of 19 of those steers, weighing an average of 295 kilos and described by Mr Bennetts as "beautiful handling calves" made an excellent \$5.76 per kilo, selling for \$1,700 each. Twenty 11-month-old Robinson & Hasthorpe calves weighing an average of 332 kilos, that Mr Bennetts enthused "ticked all the boxes", went for \$1,790 a head, a return of \$5.39 per kilo. All the Robinson & Hasthorpe steers sold to strong demand. Simon Henderson of Phelan & Henderson & Co sold a large run of Angus steers, numbering 202, from David and Penny Conn, the animals grown out in Hedley after being bred on Flinders Island. "They have very good, straight-bred Angus cattle," Simon said, with those sold on Thursday being in the 16 to 17 month old bracket. The well-bred animals were by Landfall, Rosedale and Cluden Newry bulls, out of the Conn's

straight Angus cows. Late spring rain enabled the cattle to pile on weight in the last two or three months. The Conn's steers made up to \$5.12 a kilo, that being for a pen of 20 steers, described by Mr Henderson as "beautifully shaped", weighing in at an average of 453 kilos and selling for \$2,320 a head to Jimmy Kyle of SEJ in Leongatha. Another pen of Conn steers achieved \$5.10 per kilo, being snapped up by Eddy Hams of Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock after Mr Henderson urged people to "buy the best". All pens of Conn cattle performed well as did steers from Home Creek in Yarck. "They were consigned through Morgan Croucher of Alex Scott & Staff," Mr Henderson said, noting the high-quality AI bred animals would normally be sold in Yea were it not for the fire situation. A pen of 22 Home Creek Angus steers averaging 441 kilos achieved \$5.46 a kilo, selling for \$2,410 each to SEJ, while a further 17 Angus steers weighing an average of 382 kilos sold for \$2,050 a head, equating to \$5.36 a kilo.



Simon Henderson sells steers from Home Creek in Yarck. A08\_0326

Leongatha saleyards the jewel in RLX crown

THE new owners of Leongatha saleyards plan to grow their national network from 11 facilities to 15. Regional Livestock Exchanges senior business manager Jeff Paull told Stock and Land the company may need to look outside Victoria for future acquisitions given its dominant position in the state. He said Leongatha would become the "jewel in their crown". "RLX owns the biggest saleyards in Victoria now," he said. "We've now got Leongatha, Mortlake is the second-biggest cattleyard in Victoria, then Barnawatha and Ballarat is number four." Mr Paull said the purchase of the Koonwarra complex from Victorian Livestock Exchange came together quickly after the opportunity arose late last year. "I think it was something that had been talked about around the board table and when the opportunity came up, we had to act quickly," he said.

"The sale went through in less than a month, which is rare for a sale of that size." Safety upgrades will be the first priority at the three-decade-old site which recorded 273,000 head of cattle in the year to June 30. "Safety is the number one thing that we focus on and we want to get the yards up to the safety standards that we expect," he said. Mr Paull said the company would invest significantly in the facility over the coming years. "We haven't bought it to run it down," he said. "We see a huge growth opportunity there." "At the moment we're putting together a wish list of projects we want to do to make it bigger and better there." He said the existing team at Victoria's busiest saleyard had impressed the new owners. "We've got good people on the ground there," he said.

EV LX – LEONGATHA

STORE SALE

2000 CATTLE 2000

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 - Starting at 9am

GROWN STEERS

J.L.T. Farming, Grantville (ALEX SCOTT)  
48 Angus steers & heifers, 18-20 mths, By stud "Wattlewood" Angus bulls  
Iona Plain's, Woolamai (ELDERS)  
30 Angus steers, rising 2 yo  
Latrobe Park bred, NE Accred  
T Rendall, Moyarra (ALEX SCOTT)  
18 x Angus steers, 20 mths, GF & ABF  
Bayles River Ranch, Bayles (ALEX SCOTT)  
15 Angus steers, 18 mths, GF & ABF  
R Zelouf, Main Ridge (ALEX SCOTT)  
15 Angus steers, rising 20 mths  
Western district bred, GFO, ABF  
B & R Marshall, Flynn (ALEX SCOTT)  
15 Hereford/BB steers, Mawarra blood, 20 mths  
"Korana", Caldermeade (ALEX SCOTT)  
12 Limo steers, 18 mths, By stud Limo bulls  
M Anderson, Labertouche (ALEX SCOTT)  
8 pure Limousin steers, 18-20 mths, very quiet  
K Malonie (ALEX SCOTT)  
7 Angus & Angus/Hereford steers, 20 mths, GF & ABF  
D & C Wegman, Tyers (ALEX SCOTT)  
4 Angus Steers, rising 2 yo

GROWN HEIFERS

R. V. Farms, Koo Wee Rup (ALEX SCOTT)  
25 Angus heifers, 18 mths. unjoined, Western district bred  
Bayles River Ranch, Bayles (ALEX SCOTT)  
15 Angus heifers, 18 mths, GF & ABF

WEANERS

Belgrano P/L, Glen Alvie (ELDERS)  
150 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-11 mths  
Yard weaned, weaned 4 weeks, Banquet & Fernleigh blood,  
NE Accred, 5in1 Vacc, Piliguard & Multimin treated  
AJ & HJ Brice, Cobargo (BBL)  
70 Angus mixed sex calves, 8-10 mths, VB  
GM, GA Olsen, Mountain View (ALEX SCOTT)  
60 Angus mixed sex weaners, 9-11 mths, by McIndoe bulls, ABF, GF  
F.S. Family Trust, Cape Schanck (ALEX SCOTT)  
60 Limousin m/s weaners, 9-10 mths, By stud Limo bulls  
Gisborne Park, Gisborne (ALEX SCOTT)  
25 Angus steers, 9-10 mths by stud Te Mania bulls  
drenched and Easy Dose pour on 12/12/25, weaned  
25 Angus steers, 9-10 mths by stud Te Mania bulls  
drenched and Easy Dose pour on 12/12/25, weaned

D. Duric, Woodstock (ALEX SCOTT)  
25 Angus steers, 9-10 mths by stud Te Mania bulls  
25 Heifers, 9-10 mths by stud Te Mania bulls  
D & C Wegman, Tyers (ALEX SCOTT)  
40 Angus mixed sex yearlings, 12-16 mths, very quiet  
K & H Nicklen, Erica (ALEX SCOTT)  
40 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-11 mths by  
Fernleigh & Absolute Angus bulls, weaned, 2 x 5in1,  
ABF, GF  
K. Angelopolous, Cardinia (ALEX SCOTT)  
40 Angus mixed sex weaners, 9-11 mths, By stud  
Angus bulls, 2x5 in 1 and drenched  
A/c B. Rindaldi, Wonthaggi (ALEX SCOTT)  
40 Angus steers, 10-11 mths. By 'Absolute Angus'  
bulls, out of 'Leawood' cows  
S & J Bland, Alberton (ELDERS)  
36 Angus/Angus X mixed sex weaners, 10 mths,  
VB, GF, ABF  
S & P Blackshaw, Hill End (BBL)  
28 Angus mixed sex calves, 10 mths  
VB, un-weaned  
Buchanan, Tanjil South (BBL)  
20 Angus steers, 8-10 mths,  
VB, weaned  
JB & CL Dean (ELDERS)  
20 Angus steers, 10-11 mths  
Innesdale blood. Outstanding growth & frame, weaned,  
had all vacc, NE Accred  
G & H Motton, Hallston (ELDERS)  
20 Angus mixed sex weaners 10 mths, VB, GF & ABF  
D Curtis, Leongatha (ELDERS)  
20 Angus mixed sex weaners, 11 mths, Battersby  
blood, VB, GF & ABF  
M Webster, Poowong North (ALEX SCOTT)  
20 Limousin mixed sex weaners, 12 mths, weaned  
W & T Warren (ELDERS)  
15 Charolais Heifer weaners  
R Veli, Longwarry (BBL)  
13 Speckle Park steers, 12-14 mths  
Tobawd Farm, Lang Lang (ALEX SCOTT)  
12 Angus steers, 8-10 mths, 2 x 5 in 1, yard weaned,  
By Banquet blood bulls

JOINED FEMALES & COWS AND CALVES

M Williams, Mt Eccles (ELDERS)  
18 x 18 Angus & Angus X cows with 1-2mth CAF,  
not rejoined  
Tuerong Lakes, Tuerong (ALEX SCOTT)  
11 Angus cows, Te Mania blood, Depastured to stud  
Moorunga bull for Autumn calving

5658 1894

5655 1133

5941 4666

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 | 37

# Farmers urged to register for support



John Warlters from Rural Aid encourages farmers to register for aid.

RURAL charity Rural Aid is issuing an urgent call for all Victorian farmers to register for assistance as bushfires continue to burn across the state, already causing widespread damage to farmland, major stock losses, and destruction of critical agricultural infrastructure.

With fires impacting multiple regions and conditions remaining volatile, producers are facing escalating threats to livestock, crops, fencing, sheds, machinery, water supplies, and their livelihoods. Rural Aid warns the situation remains extremely dangerous

and stresses that registration is critical to ensure help can be delivered immediately.

Rural Aid is urging every primary producer – whether already impacted or at risk – to register now, so assistance can be mobilised without delay as the emergency unfolds.

Rural Aid Chief Executive Officer John Warlters said the fires are already inflicting serious damage, and the full impact is still emerging.

“We are seeing fires tear through productive farmland, destroy fencing and sheds, and leave farmers

facing heartbreaking stock losses,” Mr Warlters said.

“These aren’t isolated incidents - large parts of the state are being impacted, and many producers are under immediate and extreme pressure.”

Mr Warlters said registering with Rural Aid is one of the most important steps farmers can take right now.

“Registering now means that we can respond with financial assistance, hay, water and counselling support.”

Rural Aid provides support to registered farmers at no cost, including financial assistance for urgent

and unexpected expenses, professional counselling and wellbeing support for farmers and their families, emergency hay deliveries to support livestock, water deliveries for drinking and household needs, and volunteer assistance through the Farm Army program for response and recovery.

Farmers are strongly urged to register immediately at [faa.ruralaid.org.au](http://faa.ruralaid.org.au) or by calling 1300 327 624. Registering now ensures Rural Aid can act fast and deliver critical support as fires continue to threaten communities across Victoria.

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**DEATHS**

**ANDERSON, Bertha:**

04.02.1933 - 10.01.2026

Beloved wife of Harold.

Loving mother of Joan, Lillian, Deborah, Annette, Heather, John (dec.), Alex, Syd, William (dec.) and Harry.

Loved by all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Privately Cremated.

**GONINON (nee Scott), Maureen:**

07.02.1930 - 10.01.2026

Loved wife of Birt (dec.).

Loved sister, sister-in-law and Aunt, treasured friend to many.

*'Reunited with her family'*

**HIBBERD-HAYES (nee Tolson), Marie Patricia:**

20.01.1930 - 07.01.2026

Remembering many happy times.

Loved mother of Alison (dec.) and Kym.

Adored Nana of Benjamin, Greer, Tyson and Philipa.

Cherished Nan-Nan of Blaze, Zoe, Van, Austin and Baby Pate.

As per Marie's wishes, a private funeral will be held.

A Celebration of Life will be held on January 20, 2026.

**HOLLONDS, Ewan Edward:**

Aged 70 years.

Passed away on 10/01/2026.

Loved son of Margaret and Allan (dec).

Husband to Marie and proud father to Aimee, Suzie, Blake, Leon and Jesse. Brother to Geoff (dec), Kathy and Des.

**DEATHS**

**MADDISON (WIGHT), Avonia Frances:**

Born 14.7.1928

Passed away peacefully at Wharparilla Lodge Echuca 10.01.2026

Loved and loving wife of Tony (dec.), Mother and Mother-in-law to Ellen and Paul, Ian and Kathi, Lynette and Wayne, Lindsay and Marce, Neil and Shirley, Beverly and Scott, Kathy and Ray (dec.), Leanne and Danny.

Much loved and adored Grandmother of 26.

Great Grandmother to 43.

A very loving, thoughtful and selfless lady at rest.

**NOLAN, Susan Lee (Sue) (nee Cronk)**

22.02.1953 - 11.01.2026.

Dearly loved daughter of Dick and Lorraine (both dec).

Much loved sister of Linda and Peter.

A valued member of Southern Hills Church Korumburra.

**Safe with Jesus.**

**SMITH, Margaret Lesley:**

24.02.1941 - 12.01.2026 at Aldiga Beach Care, Adelaide.

Dearly loved wife to Noel (dec.) for 37 years.

Loving mother and mother-in-law to Geoff and Joanne, Angela and Bob, Tony and Philomena, Steven, Warren and Kate.

Proud Grandma of Catherine and Dean, Stuart, Jaclyn, Riley, Amelie, Eloise and Annabel.

Privately cremated.

**SMITH, Margaret Lesley:**

24.02.1941 - 12.01.2026 at Aldiga Beach Care, Adelaide.

Dearly loved wife to Noel (dec.) for 37 years.

Loving mother and mother-in-law to Geoff and Joanne, Angela and Bob, Tony and Philomena, Steven, Warren and Kate.

Proud Grandma of Catherine and Dean, Stuart, Jaclyn, Riley, Amelie, Eloise and Annabel.

Privately cremated.

**DEATHS**

**WESTON, Barb:**

Aged 77

Passed away peacefully with family by her side at Grossard, Cowes.

Despite her long battle with Alzheimer's, she kept her beautiful and gentle nature.

She was brave, courageous, and gracious to the end.

She will be sadly missed by John, Jarvis and Kara, Tatia and Johnathan, and her 4 beautiful grandchildren.

To know her was to love her, she will be in our hearts forever.

As per Barb's wishes a private cremation will be held.


Our heartfelt thanks to all the staff at Grossard for their loving care and support over the past 3 years.

**FUNERALS**

**GONINON:**

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Maureen Goninon will be held at Handley & Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthagi on THURSDAY (January 22, 2026) commencing at 2.30pm.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.



**NOLAN:**

A service for Ms. Susan Nolan will be held at the Southern Hills Church, 85 Commercial St, Korumburra on Wednesday, January 21, 2026 commencing at 12.30pm.

At the Conclusion of the Service the Funeral will leave for the Leongatha Cemetery.



**IN MEMORIAM**

**CLARK (nee Gifford), Beverley-Ann:**

13.08.1945 - 19.01.2025

One year has already gone Beverley. But the memories of the past together will somehow make up for the loneliness that I feel every day.

Love you, Doug

**IN MEMORIAM**

**McRAE (Ware), Mabel Veronica (Vera):**

January 26, 2020.

Our inspiration every day comes from how you showed us the way.

Loved and remembered always.

Barry (dec.), Kristine, Anthony, Belinda, Janelle, Lauren and families.

**MOORE, Norma Joan:**

15.06.1931 - 19.01.2025

*a handmaid of the Lord*

A year on, we are still grieving.

Yet ever so grateful for the loving arms of Nanna & Pa Brad, Wozza, Fay and Billy Powell, that lifted you up to embrace your loving saviour...on the wings of Love, Faith and Hope eternal.

With thanks to Maria, Ella and Tony Gennaccaro - your husband of 19 years - who with you comforts us from above.

I am so proud to be your daughter...STILL...across the ether...

Rose La Vie, Jem, Emma, Aimee, David and Elena

**BEREAVEMENT THANKS**

**McLAREN, Bruce:**

Jan, Craig, Wendy and families wish to express their sincere gratitude to all who attended Bruce's funeral.

The lovely flowers, cards and comforting words were greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to Ricky and the Leongatha RSL.

**THOMPSON (Connelly), Lila Beverley:**

12/09/1938 - 28/12/2025

Sincere thanks for cards, flowers, love, support and wonderful tributes we received upon the passing of Bev.

Thanks to Dr Ben O'Leary, Palliative Care & District Nurse Teams, Leongatha Hospital, Koorooman House Teams, Celebrant Wendy Rutjens, Handley and Anderson & Leongatha Bowls Club.

Sincerely  
Eric & Family

**THOMPSON (Connelly), Lila Beverley:**

12/09/1938 - 28/12/2025

Sincere thanks for cards, flowers, love, support and wonderful tributes we received upon the passing of Bev.

Thanks to Dr Ben O'Leary, Palliative Care & District Nurse Teams, Leongatha Hospital, Koorooman House Teams, Celebrant Wendy Rutjens, Handley and Anderson & Leongatha Bowls Club.

Sincerely  
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Administration Assistant

Wheel-A-Waste is a locally owned and operated company specialising in waste collection in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland area.

We are currently seeking a part-time Administration Assistant to join our team.

Administration experience and good computer skills are essential.

Please send a cover letter and your resume to: The Manager, Wheel-A-Waste Pty Ltd PO Box 878 Wonthaggi, 3995 or email to: [accounts@wheelawaste.com](mailto:accounts@wheelawaste.com)

Applications close: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

HM13291

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Written applications, including resumes with current references are to be sent to:

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21 Murray St, Wonthaggi 3995  
Email: [damien\\_oconnor@outlook.com](mailto:damien_oconnor@outlook.com)

Applications close Saturday, January 24, 2026

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SITUATIONS VACANT

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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.



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For more information about the position and application process, visit <https://www.cucbasscoast.edu.au/get-involved/>

Applications close: 5pm Friday, January 30, 2026.

HM13295

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Sally Cairnduff - General Manager  
Wonthaggi Miner's Dispensary  
[manager@minersdispensary.com.au](mailto:manager@minersdispensary.com.au)  
[www.minersdispensary.com.au](http://www.minersdispensary.com.au)

HM13293

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JAC23752

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DEADLINE: Fridays 3.00pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

INVERLOCH RECREATION RESERVE

Notice is given of a PUBLIC MEETING to be held at Inverloch Mens Shed on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 at 7.30pm.

The purpose of this meeting is to nominate no less than three (3) or more than nine (9) persons as the Committee of Management for the Inverloch Recreation Reserve for a term of three years.

The current committee's term will expire on March 1, 2026. All positions will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to or on the night. Nominations for women, Aboriginal people, people with disabilities, young people and people from culturally diverse backgrounds are encouraged.

Further information, nomination forms and nominee declarations may be obtained by contacting your local Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Office, or at the meeting.

For further enquiries, please contact the Secretary, Chris Rankin on 0408 680 282.

JAC23750

MEENIYAN MECHANICS INSTITUTE INC.

MEENIYAN HALL

Notice of Public Meeting on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 7pm

Meeniyen Mechanics Institute Inc (MMII) is the voluntary committee of management which maintains and operates the iconic Meeniyen Hall.

Our current committee appointments expire on March 2, 2026 and the public meeting on February 2, 2026 will be held to nominate up to 10 committee members for the next 3 years.

All membership positions including President, Secretary and Treasurer will be declared open and nominations will be accepted prior to February 2, 2026 or on the night.

We welcome people who share our passion for maintaining Meeniyen Hall as an award winning regional live music venue and a space that aims to be accessible to everyone in our local community.

Further information and nomination forms/nominee declarations are available from Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) or at the meeting.

For further information please contact

Sarah Westwood President:  
[hall.president@meeniyen.org.au](mailto:hall.president@meeniyen.org.au)  
or Cathy Waldron Secretary:  
[hall.secretary@meeniyen.org.au](mailto:hall.secretary@meeniyen.org.au)

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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

Local leaders fight to keep MotoGP at Phillip Island

BASS Coast leaders are urging the State Government to secure a long-term contract to keep the MotoGP at Phillip Island after reports the iconic event could be moved.

The Age reported on Friday that Victoria was “poised to lose” the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, citing an anonymous government source who claimed Dorna Sports had demanded the event be moved to Albert Park.

However, an official Victorian Government spokesperson told The Age negotiations were ongoing and the state was committed to holding the event at Phillip Island.

Bass Coast Mayor Rochelle Halstead said the community had made its position clear.

“For decades, the MotoGP has put Phillip Island on the world stage,” Cr Halstead said.

“It has supported local businesses, created jobs, filled our accommodation, and brought energy and excitement to our towns year after year.

“This event is part of who we are, and the strength of feeling across our community demonstrates that.”

Cr Halstead said a recent campaign had seen thousands sign a petition and email Premier Jacinta Allan.

“We know that this event would now be generating close to \$100 million to our local economy,” she said.

“Council has consistently advocated for the long-term future of MotoGP at Phillip Island and I will continue to fight for this event and what it represents for our region.”

Eastern Victoria MP Melina Bath called on the Allan Labor Government to act immediately.

“The MotoGP is one of the Bass Coast’s biggest tourism and jobs drivers, Victoria cannot afford to hesitate,” Ms Bath said.

“Rival states are positioning to poach the race - Labor must lock in the contract to keep the MotoGP at Phillip Island.”

Ms Bath pointed to independent analysis by Ernst and Young which found the 2023 event delivered \$54.6 million in economic benefit, including \$29.4 million in direct local spend and supported 284 full-time equivalent jobs.

“Losing the MotoGP would negatively hit our visitor economy, hurting accommodation, hospitality and retail traders right across Phillip Island and Gippsland,” she said.

“Crowd numbers are strong with more than 91,000 attendees in 2025 - this is the highest since 2012 and up 28 per cent on 2023, a clear signal of the event’s immense pulling power.

“The community has continually demonstrated its support for the event, now Labor must deliver the certainty.

“The Allan Government should do everything possible to keep the iconic MotoGP event where it belongs, right here in Bass Coast.”

The final Australian Grand Prix under Phillip Island’s current 10-year contract will be held from October 23 to 25 this year.



Ben Harding proved himself a star recruit last season, the Parrots no doubt delighted the tough and skilful player will be running out in the green and yellow again in 2026. Photo: Skewesme Photography

Leongatha set for another strong season

By Michael Giles

LEONGATHA footballers resume preseason training on Saturday, January 31 after the Christmas break, with a lot happening during the off-season.

The club looks to have retained all its premiership players including Trood Award and Rodda Medal winner of 2025, now premiership player Ben Harding.

The exception is Essendon great and Leongatha premiership player Dyson Heppell who has joined Collingwood as a development coach in 2026, which he will combine with continuing to play for Port Melbourne in the VFL.

But Leongatha is believed to have added a few promising recruits including local up and comers, and some friends of

them with a full preseason under their belt and focusing on Senior football,” Trevor said.

Promising young ruckman Sam Bradley, who played a mixture of Under 18s and Reserves last campaign, is expected to get a feel for the Seniors in 2026.

The Parrots already look to be the team to beat on the back of an impressive run that has seen them play off in the Grand Final in every completed season since 2015, winning in 2017, 2018, 2021\*, 2022, 2023 and 2025.

Leongatha is also well positioned in terms of junior ranks. “Under 16 numbers are looking good because we were predominantly a bottom-aged side last year, meaning most of our side were first year Under 16s, whereas this year those guys are

He highlighted a core of players who largely featured in the Under 18s in 2025 but tasted Senior action.

Finn Donohue, Aiden Williams and Clayton McGrath were among those who acquitted themselves well when given Senior opportunities and are likely to appear more at the top level this season.

“We’re looking forward to seeing

going to be stepping up and being top-age Under 16s,” Walder said.

While the lack of top-aged Under 16s last year means there won’t be too many stepping up from that level to the Under 18s, Trevor said the Parrots will have enough players in that top underage side.

“It’s early days,” he noted, pointing out many Under 18s tend to start training in February.

“Our numbers on paper show that we should be comfortable but not overburdened with numbers,” Walder said of the Under 18 contingent.

Swimmers share success at Country Championships

A 71-STRONG South Gippsland Bass swim team competed at the 2026 Mattioli Country LC Championships, hosted by the Barwon Region in Kardinia Pool in Geelong, giving their all against the best of the rest of regional Victoria.

The event attracted 770 regional swimmers, including 232 Gippslanders, making it a busy event and the purple caps were frequently spotted going up and down the pool in the heats and finals, buoyed by the support of friends and families.

Swimmers raced in the heats in the morning, with many competing in the afternoon in the finals, including in the relays which rounded up each session.

The coaches were thrilled with the team effort.

Coach Dylan was very happy with their determination.

“It really has been a team effort in getting the points. There has been a lot of people pushing hard to improve their ranking, they may not have won a medal – but a top-10 spot gains a few extra points. Our B relay teams have really worked on this and scored us about 40 points by just pushing that little bit harder,” he said.

“We have a lot of swimmers at their first Countries this year. So many of them are starting their journey into competitive swimming and at the same time, we have a large number of our older swimmers returning for their eighth or ninth Countries, including our new coach



South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club celebrated some podium finishes at the 2026 Mattioli Country LC Championships.

Nathan, to help guide them and help them on their way, which makes for such a fun time. When they all eventually finish swimming, we want them to look back and remember this as a fun time in their life and consider it as something they are proud of, of what they did and what they achieved.”

Nathan Foote, who has returned to the club as a coach enjoyed his time getting to know everyone.

“I’ve been to Countries many times as a swimmer with South Gippsland Bass. The first time there was just a handful of us,

so to have 71 swimmers in the team now is amazing and shows how much the club has grown. I look forward to working with everyone and seeing them enjoy their racing. It’s been fun getting in the water too, competing and enjoying the atmosphere,” he said.

Foote was also the winner of the coaches’ 50m Freestyle race.

Coach Lorri saw some great performances from her Multi Class team.

“We have taken out back-to-back golds in the relays and I just love the support from everyone when they are racing.

There’s always another swimmer who offers to help calm the nerves at marshalling and help wrangle the U12s. There has been a lot of great relay swims from our U12s who are just starting out on their Countries journey,” she said.

Coach Sam loved watching the older swimmers compete.

“My daughter is here as a swimmer for the ninth time and she and her friends are just as competitive in the over-17 relay as they were when they were in the U12s. They are great role models for the club – last night the younger kids got to see their B team celebrating seventh spot – showing them that it isn’t just about the medals, but about putting in as a team for the club.”

The swimmers were well supported by all the SGB families, who made the most of the time and spent time enjoying the region’s sights between racing.

The Gippsland clubs were extremely competitive and all featured high on the club scores table.

South Gippsland Bass maintained its place as one of the dominant regional clubs, finishing fourth overall.

It was a real team effort with points being earned by many of the swimmers as they competed in their events.

The final points score had the other Gippsland clubs also placing well, with Traralgon in second, Warragul sixth and Sale 10th.

# Speed cubers set to return to Inverloch

INVERLOCH will once again become a hub of fast fingers, flying cubes and fierce focus when the World Cubing Association Speed Cubing Tournament returns on February 7-8 at the Inverloch Hub.

Now in its third year, the official two-day competition welcomes cubers of all ages, genders and experience levels, from first-time competitors to elite national contenders.

Spectators are welcome to attend for free, while competitors must register by January 30 to secure their place.

The 2026 tournament features the iconic 3x3 cube as the headline event, alongside Clock, blindfolded solving, pyraminx, skewb and megaminx, offering challenges for every solving style and skill level.

Last year's event saw the Hub buzzing with rhythmic clicks, cheers and intense concentration as families, locals and visitors watched competitors ranging from primary school students to seasoned adult cubers.

The weekend made national headlines when Kyle Jones from Queensland broke the Australian Clock record with a lightning-fast 1.99 second solve, officially placing Inverloch on the Australian speed cubing map.

Among those returning is Gippsland local Michael Tripodi, current Oceanic Big Blind record holder, alongside Inverloch Speed Cubing Club founder Harvey Welsford, who began cubing at the local library in 2022 and now competes nationally.



Nicholas Allen Crow solves a Rubik's Cube at last year's Inverloch tournament.

"Speed cubing is fun, challenging and incredibly social," Harvey said.

"Having official rankings makes it exciting, but the friendships and community are just as important."

Parents and educators continue to praise speed cubing for building problem-solving skills, concentration, memory and fine motor coordination, all while offering a screen-free hobby that's genuinely addictive.

Competitor registrations close January 30 at 11.59pm via the World Cubing Association website <https://www.worldcubingassociation.org/competitions/DontInverlochUp2026/register>.

For more information about the Inverloch Speed Cubing event, contact Speed Cubing Australia via <https://www.speedcubing.org.au>.



Zayd Chaudry solved his cube blindfolded at the Speed Cubing Tournament in Inverloch last year.



The heaviest fish was awarded to Kuno Brautigam by President Tony Swinden with a salmon weighing 1820g.

## Venus Bay Angling Club recognise the heaviest catch

VENUS Bay Angling Club recently presented their 2025 awards at the annual general meeting and community BBQ, with President Tony Swinden congratulating the members on a successful catch.

The heaviest fish was presented to Kuno Brautigam for a salmon weighing 1820g, and the runner-up to Kerry Field with a trevally weighing 1480g.

The highest aggregate points went to Matthew Bell with 5194 points, and runner-up Kerry Field with 2820 points, and the junior heaviest fish was Fletcher Cameron with a flathead, weighing in at 1380g, and runner-up was Nathan Gledhill with a trevally, weighing in at 810g.

Roslyn Shelley said young Nathan was excited to collect his trophy. "Congratulations to all our winners and good luck for 2026 to all our fisher people, young and old."

## South Gippsland Bridge

MONDAY night continues to hold, with four tables this week.

Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs were leading (59.52).

They were followed by Ruth Stevenson and Kathy Dowd (56.55), and Mary Brewis and Neville Chapman (54.76), with Bill Damm and Peter Campbell and Susan Ruffin and Alan Johnston tied in fourth (51.19).

Deb Anglim and John French topped the Nationwides locally in Wonthaggi on January 13 (58.85).

They were closely followed by Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles (58.33), Marie Sands and Ken McKenzie (56.25), Philip and Neville Chapman (52.08), and Bron Sund and Michael Dooley (50.51).

Deb Anglim and John French (58.33) led in N/S on Friday, then Matti Shub and John Quayle (57.55), Alan Johnston and Clive Hope (55.73), Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson (53.91), and Anne Ferrari and Wendy McKergow (52.34).

E/W saw Faye Rowlands and John Currier (69.91), Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson (62.50), Moya Crowley and Michael Dooley (60.65), and Judy Walker and Grant Austen (50.93) achieving good percentages.

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.

# Phoenix fly into Phillip Island for school holiday event

By Trent Westaway

THE crowd at A Maze'N Things was treated to a special visit from the South East Melbourne Phoenix on Monday, January 12, as they stopped by the Phillip Island attraction for a day of fun.

The visit had the venue buzzing during an already busy summer period, with kids lining up to meet the National Basketball League players and grab autographs and photos throughout the day. Phoenix players Pat Ryan, Daniel Foster, Ellis Biggar and Akech Aliir were all present on the day, happy to spend time with their fans.

Many activities were available on the day, running alongside the appearance, including a design your own shoe competition with a double pass to a Phoenix home game prize, badge making, face painting and various basketball activities. Those who wore their team jersey on the day were also rewarded with



Phoenix players Pat Ryan, Daniel Foster, Ellis Biggar and Akech Aliir spent time signing jerseys and posing for photos with young fans at A Maze'N Things.

20 per cent off their entry cost on the day.

Well over 100 people attended specifically to see the players, in addition to the large amount of regular summer holiday visitors.

A Park Lane Group spokesperson said the response from kids and parents was

overwhelmingly positive. "The day went amazingly well. The sun was shining and there was a really positive vibe across the venue," they said. "Kids and families were incredibly excited to meet the players, with lots of smiles, high fives, photos and jersey signings. For many,

it was a real school holiday highlight."

Following the success of the team's visit, A Maze'N Things is already planning other community focused events, especially during the school holidays, with families being encouraged to keep an eye on future announcements.

## 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 20	
▲ 2:15am	1.50m
▼ 7:57am	0.81m
▲ 1:42pm	1.27m
▼ 7:55pm	0.35m

WEDNESDAY January 21	
▲ 2:55am	1.56m
▼ 8:40am	0.72m
▲ 2:32pm	1.33m
▼ 8:35pm	0.34m

THURSDAY January 22	
▲ 3:31am	1.60m
▼ 9:18am	0.63m
▲ 3:19pm	1.38m
▼ 9:12pm	0.35m

FRIDAY January 23	
▲ 4:05am	1.63m
▼ 9:55am	0.54m
▲ 4:03pm	1.43m
▼ 9:48pm	0.37m

SATURDAY January 24	
▲ 4:39am	1.63m
▼ 10:30am	0.46m
▲ 4:47pm	1.47m
▼ 10:28pm	0.42m

SUNDAY January 25	
▲ 5:11am	1.62m
▼ 11:05am	0.38m
▲ 5:32pm	1.50m
▼ 11:09pm	0.49m

MONDAY January 26	
▲ 5:43am	1.59m
▼ 11:42am	0.31m
▲ 6:19pm	1.51m
▼ 11:51pm	0.57m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au



The first winners of Breakaway Bowls for the year were Brian Newman, Linda Newman, Peter Novak and Jan Clark.



Friday's Breakaway Bowls winners were Pat Novak, Rhonda Rattenbury, Helen Gladstone and Ray Peters.



The encouragement prizes at the Foster Bowls Club went to the Yarram team of Graeme 'Sully' Sullivan, Kath Tripp and Ken 'Smokey' Dawson.



The January Triples winners were Theo Tymmenssen and Desley and Ned Tindale from Yarram at the Foster Bowls Club.



Winners of the annual Pairs Day at Leongatha Bowls Club were Craig and Brian from Ringwood, pictured with sponsor Darryl McGannon of Edneys.



The best game winner at the Foster Bowls Club was the Fish Creek team of Don Cripps and Bill Symmons. Absent: Bruce Knee.

## BREAKAWAY BOWLS

BREAKAWAY Bowls is back and what a turnout for the first game of the year.

Twenty-four players enjoyed a great day.

The winners were Brian Newman, Linda Newman, Peter Novak and Jan Clark.

They won with plus 10.

Well done to everyone who turned up to play.

Another day of fun and games was had by all on Friday.

It was good to see one of the newer members in the winners' circle – well done, Ray.

The winners were Pat Novak, Rhonda Rattenbury, Helen Gladstone and Ray Peters.

They had a score of plus 17.

## FISH CREEK

THE resumption of Saturday Pennant last week saw a great result for all three teams.

Fish Creek was at home and Division 2 was up against Phillip Island and had a convincing victory 70/16 to 48/0.

It was a good effort by all.

Division 4 played Tarwin and perhaps had the best win of the day with final scores being 72/16 to 44/0.

The ladder is very tight with Fish Creek in a bunch between third and sixth.

Keep up the good work, team.

Division 6 came from behind to score an exciting win 34/8 to 32/2.

It is also clinging to a spot in the top four.

A special thanks to everyone who filled in this week with seven regulars being unavailable or ill.

The club is fortunate to have an excellent culture.

Last Tuesday saw the resumption of Midweek Pennant and Division 2 journeyed to San Remo, which was undefeated.

Fish Creek was able to come home with a terrific win 62/13 to 52/3.

The rink of Bron Williams, Paul Kerr, Linda Heywood and Peter Poletti had a big win, whilst Don Cripps' team had a draw and Wendy Watkins' team lost by five.

Division 4 lost to Inverloch 30/2 to 41/8, which will make it tough to play finals.

Last Tuesday, Foster kicked

off the Barefoot bowls summer season under good weather with full rinks.

An excellent night was had by all with the winning team of Peter Kinnie, Michelle Jellef and Chris Harver.

Big thanks to the barefoot sponsors in Brandt and Southern Stockfeeds.

This Thursday, January 22, is the monthly Turkey Triples and thanks to sponsors The Bendigo Community Bank Toora and Foster.

Anyone wanting a game please contact Bill Symmons or Graham Hoskin.

## FOSTER

BOWLS is back in full swing at the club after the Christmas break.

The first counter tea was last Friday.

It was very yummy as always.

Pennant games have started back.

A close battle for ladder positions in Midweek Pennant means Foster needs to step up its game.

Division 1 had a loss to Inverloch, while Division 3 had a great win at Phillip Island.

Saturday Pennant saw a win by both divisions.

This cemented Division 3's top spot and Division 4 moved up one spot.

Keep up the great work, everyone.

The next barefoot Jack Attack competition has begun.

It is looking awesome with a full house of 16 teams.

The January Triples was sponsored by Ray and Judy Prain and Gippsland Funerals.

The winners for the day were the Yarram team of Theo Tymmenssen, Desley and Ned Tindale.

Runners-up were the Foster team of Malcolm Ellis and John Warren.

'Best Game', sponsored by Foster IGA, was won by the Fish Creek team of Don Cripps, Bill Symmons and Bruce Knee.

The encouragement prizes of drink vouchers from the club went to the Yarram team of Graeme Sullivan, Kath Tripp and Ken Dawson.

It was another great day on the green for all.

The club hopes to see work

started on the back green this week.

Fingers crossed.

## INVERLOCH

SOCIAL bowls at Inverloch saw 36 players play two games of three-bowl triples last Thursday.

The day started off a bit overcast but cleared later.

Four teams ended up winning both their games.

The runners-up on the day with 32 points was the team of Laurel Lee, Ryan Luke and Harry Evans.

This was a great result for the team as Harry is a blind bowler who has represented the Inverloch club at the blind bowlers' championships in his first year of playing.

The winner on the day was the team of Joy Brown, Diane Hallas and Theo Hermann.

Theo was visiting from Upwey-Tecoma Club.

They won with a score of 36 points – another great result.

## KORUMBURRA

FOLLOWING the Christmas break, Midweek Pennant resumed with both teams at home.

Division 1 hosted Phillip Island in some tight matches.

Les Davis went down 14 shots to 11, Ben Peachey lost 17 shots to 16 and Di Ashton lost 16 shots to 22.

In Division 2, Peter Hearn won 22 shots to 15 and Jim Garnham won 24 shots to nine.

Unfortunately, Cheryl Moore went down 25 shots to 12 – still an overall nine-shot win.

In Saturday Pennant, Division 1 hosted Phillip Island and came out victors.

Charlie Edgerton got up 19 shots to 15 and Shane O'Loughlin won 24 shots to 12 while Rob Cosson went down 15 shots to 19 – still a 12-shot overall win.

Division 3 travelled to Mirboo North.

Grumpy had a 35 shot to 15 win, Rob Sund won 22 shots to 17 and Ken Cecil won 21 shots to 16 – an overall 30-shot win.

Division 4 hosted Wonthaggi.

Alan Cherrett went down 23 shots to 29, Andy Robertson won 18 shots to 17 and Peter Hearn lost 12 shots to 28.

Division 6 travelled to Wont-

haggi with Jo Lomagno the only winner, winning 20 shots to 19.

Lena Harfield went down 30 shots to 11.

Congratulations to Shane O'Loughlin and Vera Sund on making it to the Champion of Champions.

Unfortunately, Vera went out in the first round.

However, Shane went through to become the Champion.

Well done to Shane and Vera.

## LEONGATHA

WELCOME back everyone.

Hope you all enjoyed the break.

Let's start 2026 on a positive note and on the right foot.

Let's try to start the new year by leaving the old year behind and let's put in the hard yards to take on the second half of the season.

The club has been busy since Christmas.

The Club Champions travelled to Wonthaggi for the Champ of Champions.

Russell and Dot both played well – congratulations on making it that far.

Leongatha had the Meat 'n' Fish Day.

Eighteen players were needed for the event to go ahead.

The winners with two wins plus eight were Les, Lynn and Moxey.

Runners-up were Gary, Sue and Janis.

Thanks to those people who turned up and helped.

The annual Pairs Day sponsored by Edney's Leongatha dealership was held with great success.

This is the biggest day on the calendar.

A lot of work goes into these events so a big thank you to all that made it a bonza day.

Nature turned on the weather, which made the long day more pleasant.

The field came from far and wide, plus close clubs from around the area.

The raffle winners were Bill from Morwell, Heather from Leongatha, Brett from Inverloch and Lynn from Morwell.

Only the fittest finished the day.

Ringwood took the top honours with Craig and Brian getting a plus 70, taking the first prize winnings from sponsor Darryl McGannon of Edneys.

They were very happy campers.

Second place with plus 66 were a father and son combo from Parkdale, Todd and Jett.

It was great to see a young fella show up.

It was worth the trip down with dad.

Third was a Wonthaggi duo of Caroline and Craig.

Fourth was another Wonthaggi team of Rob and Birty.

Lastly, best game saw Warragul take the chocolates home.

Thanks to everyone, especially the sponsors.

Without them, the club wouldn't be bowling.

Thank you also to the volunteers who helped, making days like this possible.

Wednesday social bowls in humid conditions was won by Jim Lye and Bill Fisher.

Runners-up were Michael and Les.

What a fun day.

The committee changed the game around with skips having a go at leading and vice versa.

It was a great way to learn different positions.

It's a shame more bowlers don't join in.

Tuesday Pennant saw both teams away.

Division 1: Wonthaggi ran over Leongatha – not the start the club was hoping for.

Division 4: Toora 43 to Leongatha 27.

Saturday Pennant.

Division 1 at home against Inverloch: a close one 60 to 55.

Division 2 away against Inverloch: little needs to be said.

Division 5 at home against Tarwin: won 77 to 38.

Keep January 20 and 28 in your diary.

Tuesday traders' night starts up again so put your teams in and the monthly Wednesday Triples are also starting up.

Social bowls are up and running every Wednesday.

Names are to be in by 12pm for a 1pm start.

Don't forget the coaching and practice Monday mornings with Allan.

Also don't forget the club games need to be played as soon as possible.

Good bowling.



The Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were Thelma Kavanagh, Fred Demenech and Teresa Ireland.



Jean Wyld, Thelma Kavanagh, Theo Scholey, and Maggie Scapin were Tuesday's Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls winners.

## WONTHAGGI

BACK to normal this week, with the last four weeks in the countdown to the Pennant finals.

Tuesday saw Division 1 play host to Leongatha at Wonthaggi.

On a fine, mild day all rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 107, Leongatha 31.

Division 2 travelled to Korumburra looking for a win.

Things didn't go according to plan, with Korumburra also playing for a place in the top four and able to take the points.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 49, Korumburra 58.

Division 3 played host to Port Welshpool at Wonthaggi.

This match was always going to be close, as the two teams are one and two on the ladder.

Wonthaggi played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 67, Port Welshpool 56.

Thursday saw a fine but windy day greet 20 bowlers for two matches of three-bowl pairs.

There were three teams that were two-game winners, with the unlucky team being Roger Lee and John Gilliland.

The runners-up were the team of Dave Harrison and Bryan Donohue with a score of two wins and 32 points.

The winners were Paul Holmes and Stan Jackson with a score of two wins and 34 points.

Friday night was a success, with a very good number of members and visitors.

The jackpot didn't go off, so next week it will be \$120.

Stan Noad won the meat tray, while John Migliorisi won the chicken tray.

Fred and Teresa each won a brekky pack, all supplied by Wonthaggi Meat Supplies.

Other winners were Rob, Lisa, and Jenny.

Saturday saw a fine but windy day.

Division 1 travelled to Mirboo North looking for a win to keep its place in the top four.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 84, Mirboo North 51.

Division 2 played host to San Remo at Wonthaggi in tricky

conditions.

In a game against a good team, all rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 69, San Remo 45.

Division 4 (3) travelled to Korumburra looking for a win.

After a slow start by two rinks, Wonthaggi were able to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 74, Korumburra 53.

Division 4 (4) played host to Phillip Island at Wonthaggi, looking to secure their place in the top four.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 73, Phillip Island 48.

Division 6 played host to Korumburra at Wonthaggi.

Looking for a win to keep top spot on the ladder, both rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 49, Korumburra 31.

Bowls this week:

Tuesday: Pennant.

Tuesday evening: Bare Foot Bowls starts with doors open at 4pm and bowls to start at 6pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 9.30am and social bowls at 1pm.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Pennant.

Don't forget the Friday night members' draw this week, being \$120, with meat trays and other prizes to win.

Have a good week and good bowling.

## WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT was another lovely week of bowling and socialising.

Tuesday's winning team were Theo Scholey, Jean Wyld, Thelma Kavanagh and Maggie Scapin with a big score of plus 26 (two games).

Runners-up with plus 16 (two games) were Sylvia Mattock, Jeannie Slocombe and Helen Rook.

Friday's game was closer with only one point between winners and runners-up.

Winners were Teresa Ireland, Thelma Kavanagh and Fred Demenech with plus six (two games) closely followed by Jim Wilson, John Ferguson, Lia Smith and Judy Sweetnam.



Korumburra's Longest Day Cancer Council Fundraiser winner Julie Hillberg with 42 points and event organiser Aliesha Wrigley.

## KORUMBURRA

### Ladies

TWENTY-THREE players out enjoyed the weather with some great scores on Wednesday.

The A Grade winner was Trudy Olden (30) having a fabulous 49 points, carving three shots off her handicap – well done.

Runner-up was Lyn McIvor (22) with 41 points.

B Grade's winner was Lorraine Knox with (41) 43 points.

Runner-up was Lyn Leppin (36) scoring 37 points.

BDTL went to Sherrin Solly 39 points, Barb Twite 38 points and Maree Wittingslow 36 points.

NTPs on the first Viv Enbom (Kelly's Bakery) and closest on the 13th was Karen Sorrell.

Thursday Twilight was a windy night with so much leaf litter obstacles on the greens.

Congratulations to the winning pair Scott Burgess and Colette Pearl.

NTP went to Bob Stiff.

On Saturday, 14 Women braved the wild winds.

Winning with a nice 44 points was Shelley Snooks (16) on a countback from Jenny Blackmore (23).

BDTL went to Trudy Olden (27) 41 points and Lorraine Knox (39) 39 points.

NTPs went to Sherrin Solly on the first (Kelly's Bakery), seventh Shelley Snooks, 10th Trudy Olden and 13th Julie Hillberg.

Last Sunday, 14 players took part in the Longest Day event, battling windy and challenging conditions, all in support of Cancer Council.

The winner of the best 18 holes was Julie Hillberg, finishing with an impressive 42 points, to claim the Luscious Cafe voucher.

Nearest the pin honours went to Zac Scholte on the first, Shelley Snooks on the seventh, Trudy Olden on the 10th and Merrissa Cosson on the 13th.

The club thanks Ian Morris for sponsoring the sleeves of balls, along with the generous raffle donors and winners: Deb Wrigley (Robert Wood – custom painting), Clint Newcombe (Wrigley hamper supported by The Burra Pantry and Larder), Merrissa Cosson (BBQ equipment – Leongatha Butcher, Fresh Meat and Fish Supply), Melinda Hams (Blayke's Pizza, Pasta and More voucher and hat) and Lyn McIvor (KGC Golf Simulator voucher).

## LEONGATHA

RESULTS: Tuesday, January 13. Competition: Stableford – All Day Red, Yellow, Blue Tees.

Total Entrants: 89.

A Grade winners: Malcolm Gin (10) 41; Russell Williams (8) 40.

B Grade winners: Roy Kleverkamp (14) 40; Peter Hart (15) 39.

C Grade winners: Mark O'Dwyer (20) 42; David Richards

(17) 40.

D Grade winners: Selina Tracey (29) 39 (Green Acres Golf Club); Antony Roberts (28) 38 c/b.

Nearest to pin: fifth Michael West 142cm, 14th Chad Clasby 149cm and 16th Roy Kleverkamp 81cm.

Thursday, January 15:

Competition: Stableford.

Total Entrants: 84.

Overall winner: Trevor Moss (37) 40.

A Grade winners: Anthony Sparkes (10) 37; Craig Hams (9) 35 c/b.

B Grade winners: Gary McGrath (15) 37; Darren Read (14) 36 c/b.

C Grade winners: Donald Smith (19) 37; Bert Borg (20) 36 c/b.

D Grade winners: Trevor Moss (37) 40; Frank Keily (29) 39 (Future Golf).

Nearest the pin: fifth Darren Read 212cm; 14th Gary McGrath 106cm; 16th John McInnes 251cm.

Saturday, January 17:

Competition: Stableford.

Total Entrants: 113.

Overall winner: Colleen Touzel (23) 41 c/b.

A Grade winners: Rebecca Brown (8) 37 (Yarra Yarra Golf Club); John Hannebury (10) 36 (Kew Golf Club).

B Grade winners: Dave Brownnet (14) 33 c/b; Jason Dennerley (14) 33.

C Grade winners: Bernard Skerys (17) 40; John Simon (16) 37.

D Grade winners: Colleen Touzel (23) 41 c/b; David Barrack (21) 41.

Nearest to pin: fifth John Simon 120cm; 14th Hudson Price 94cm and 16th Miles Hilton 155cm.

### Ladies

THE course was in excellent condition for the January Monthly Medal.

There was very little evidence of debris and fallen branches caused by the strong winds last week thanks to the team of volunteers and course staff.

Twenty-seven players opted for the Stableford event and 16 played in the Monthly Medal.

Life member and octogenarian Dot Stubbs just back from a four-week break from golf finished the round with a remarkable 97/26/71.

Joy O'Sullivan finished runner-up with 74 net.

Down the line balls were won by Kay Dumbleton 74 net, Jenny Teasdale 76 net and Di Williams 77 net.

Karen Orford won the Stableford event with an excellent 42 points, closely followed by Karen Castle-dine-Briggs with 41 points.

Down the line balls went to 34: Maryanne Gartner, Nan Meagher, Neryl Hopcraft and Richard Price.

Robin Smith had the best score in the nine-hole competition,

finishing with 20 points.

Di Williams was the closest to the flag on the 16th.

## MIRBOO NORTH

SUNDAY, January 11: Hipwell Plate.

Plate winner: Mirboo North (2). (Team): J. Coleman, R. Felmingham, C. Gunn and J. McFarlane.

A Grade: B. McKnight 39 points.

B Grade: J. Robbins 40 points.

C Grade: D. Evans 43 points.

DTL: J. Coleman 40, N. Baker 39, P. Smart, Cayden Gunn and P. Draper 38, D. Byers, D. Leggo, C. Waring and R. Felmingham 37, and R. Fields and R. Fleming 36.

NTP: fourth J. Robbins, sixth B. McKnight, 13th A. Axford and 16th M. Carruthers.

Tuesday, January 13: Stableford.

A Grade: G. Renwick 40 points.

B Grade: D. Symmons 42 points.

DTL: D. Bullen and N. Rutledge 40, R. Felmingham 38, and R. Hoskin and N. Whichello 37.

NTP: fourth D. Bullen, sixth T. Whitelaw, 13th G. Renwick and 16th S. Woodall.

Birdies: fourth N. Rutledge, D. Reynolds, T. Whitelaw and R. Felmingham, 13th S. Mills, and 16th S. McKenzie and T. Baker.

Eagles: N. Whichello 11th.

Saturday, January 17: Four-somes (Sponsor – Woodall family).

A Grade: S and P Woodall (8) 73 net.

B Grade: A and E Woodall (15) 68 net.

DTL: D. Taylor and M. Payne 70.5, and J. and D. Woodall and D. Jerram and A. Liebe 73.5.

NTP: fourth J. Hughes, sixth (Boolarra Pub voucher) J. Conlan, 13th (Mirboo North Pub voucher) M. Richter and 16th M. Payne.

## WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: January 15.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

A Grade winner: Philip McCrimmon 42.

A Grade runner-up: Warwick Judkins 36.

B Grade winner: James Davidson 36.

B Grade runner-up: Roger Kilpatrick 36.

Place getters: Kevin Loughran 36, Martin Cox 36, Adrian Nixon 36, Rod McBride 35, Jonathon Wade 35 and Graeme Crawford 35.

NTPs: Gino Henniquin fourth, Jonathan Wade eighth, Warwick Judkins 13th and Chris Flintoff 17th.

Results: January 15.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.

Winner: Bill Howard 20.

Place getters: Norm Burne 19 and Kevin Bayley 18.

NTP: Norm Burne eighth.

Results: January 17.

Competition: Stroke.

Overall winner: Kevin Bayley 66.

A Grade: Rod McBride 70.

Runner-up: Keith Ridout 70.

B Grade: Miles Foster 70.

Runner-up: Andrew Hooton-Shandley 70.

C Grade: Kevin Bayley 66.

Runner-up: Rohan McRae 66.

Place getters: Inoke Baudromo 70, Craig Charles 71, Frank Huber 71, Graeme Crawford 71, Glen Turner 72, Martin Jays 72, Don Paproth 73, Peter Dell 73, Glen Rieley 74, Simon O'Halloran 74, Dio Apostolopoulos 74, Michael Craven 74, Secondo Tiziani 74, Geoff Bell 74, Steven Brann 74, Phillip Studham 74, Ian McDonald 74 and Garry O'Connor 75.

NTPs: second not claimed, Rohan Todd fourth, Frank Huber propin eighth, Rohan Todd 13th and Robert Geyer money hole 17th.



The final four in the Phillip Island Blitz Golf playoff on Saturday were Peter Wilson of Nyora, Mark Boulton of Phillip Island, the winner, Victorian professional Matias Sanchez and women's professional Caitlin Cotterill.

## Two locals play off for Blitz Golf honours

ULTIMATELY, it was up-and-coming Victorian professional Matias Sanchez who won the day with a birdie putt on the play-off hole at Phillip Island's Red Rocks Golf Club last Saturday to claim the Blitz Golf Phillip Island Trophy.

But with two locals making it through to the final four, the rich pickings, including up to \$2000 in prizes, from the event could have come home to Phillip Island or South Gippsland.

Golf pro Caitlin Cotterill won through from the ninth hole group, Mark Boulton of Phillip Island won through from the fourth hole group and Nyora's Peter Wilson from the seventh hole group to join the favourite Matias Sanchez in the final, on the 'Stadium Hole'.

Sanchez won his maiden Challenger PGA Tour of Australasia title at Wilunga in South Australia in October last year.

With 1500 to 1600 cheering fans lining the fairway, all four made a good fist of their lofted shots in to the green but it was Sanchez who made good on a three-metre putt to claim the prize at the first play-off opportunity.

One of the organisers, Sean O'Brien, said the event went off superbly well and praised local volunteers for their support.

## Allambee Mirboo and District Tennis Assoc

SECTION 1 results: Koonwarra 6.50 defeated Westernport Red 2.31; Westernport White 6.43 defeated Korumburra 2.31; Leongatha 4.29 defeated Outtrim 4.26.

Ladder: Leongatha 77; Koonwarra 56; Westernport White 54; Westernport Red 43; Korumburra 41; Outtrim 29.

Section 2 results: Baromi 4.34 defeated Outtrim 4.32; Leongatha 5.44 defeated Korumburra 3.37.

Ladder: Leongatha 60; Baromi 53; Outtrim 46; Korumburra 41.

This week was Gatha Round, so all matches were played in Leongatha, which created a great atmosphere.

However, the wind did make the day a bit more challenging for players and even spectators.

There were good sets and matches in both sections with tiebreakers a feature.

There were some close matches too, with Leongatha in Section 1 winning by just three games, Baromi in Section 2 winning by two games, and Leongatha in Section 2 winning by seven games.

Koonwarra and Westernport Red had four tiebreakers in their match in Section 1 – two each way.

Koonwarra came out winners at the end of the day.

Next week there is no play due to the Australia Day long weekend, so enjoy the week off.



Section 3 Doubles winners Joey Millidonis and Halle Whitten with runners-up Ruben Russell and Lily Van Den Broek.

# Eighth junior tournament delivers strong tennis and community spirit



Section 2 Singles runner-up Ayce Millidonis with winner Cole Hawkins.



Section 1 Singles runner-up Finlay Bennett congratulates winner Luke Aungier.



Section 4 Singles runner-up Lily Van Den Broek pictured enjoying Pringles with winner Ruben Russell.



Cousins Spencer Burns and Bodie Stallworthy competed in their first SGTA Korumburra Junior Graded Unisex Tournament recently.



Section 3 Singles runner-up Edward Hawkins. Absent: winner Joseph Watt.



Section 2 Doubles runners-up Cole Hawkins and Archar Hughes pictured with winners Harrison Crane and Ayce Millidonis.



Section 1 Doubles runners-up Archer Commadeur and Averie Hughes with winners Madison Van Den Broek and Declan Russell.

THE eighth annual SGTA Korumburra Junior Graded Unisex Tournament was held at the Korumburra Tennis Club on January 6 and 7, delivering two days of competitive junior tennis in extremely warm conditions, supported by a fantastic display of community spirit.

Day one saw a full schedule of singles matches completed on Tuesday, January 6, with players pushing through challenging heat to produce some excellent tennis across all grades.

With player safety a priority, organisers implemented an early start on Wednesday morning to ensure all remaining matches could be completed before 12.30pm, successfully avoiding the need for a heat-out.

Doubles matches were contested on day two, rounding out the tournament efficiently and safely.

Across the two days, a total of 80 matches were played, with five courts in constant use.

The tournament featured four graded singles events and three graded doubles events, with 35 players competing.

Participants travelled from across the region and beyond, including Inverloch, Melbourne, Pakenham, Traralgon and the Mornington Peninsula, highlighting the growing appeal of SGTA's junior tournaments.

The Korumburra Tennis Club was warmly thanked for its support of the event, along with the many parents, family members and friends who attended.

The atmosphere throughout the tournament was particularly special, with supporters cheering not only for their own children but for all players, creating a genuine sense of community.

Many parents even stepped onto the courts to assist with bagging, watering and general court duties, ensuring matches continued to run smoothly despite the heat.

On court, players were rewarded with two days of fantastic tennis, featuring close contests, determined efforts and plenty of smiling faces, making the event an enjoyable experience for competitors and spectators alike.

Acknowledgement was also extended to the team at South Gippsland Tennis Academy for running the two-day tournament.

Special thanks went to tournament director Matthew Pocklington, supported by the behind-the-scenes efforts of Keerah Pocklington and Kylie Van Den Broek, whose organisation and commitment were instrumental in delivering a successful event.

Running alongside the tournament, SGTA's head coaches Ricardo and Matt hosted a Performance Week for committed academy players.

This program combined participation in two tournaments with two on-court training days, a psychology session and beach swims, providing players with a well-rounded pathway toward elite mindset development.

The initiative also played an important role in strengthening friendships, team morale and overall academy culture.

A special thank you and congratulations were extended to coach Ricardo for delivering the sessions outside of tournament days.

The eighth annual SGTA Korumburra Junior Graded Unisex Tournament once again showcased the strength of junior tennis in South Gippsland, bringing together players, families, coaches and volunteers for two memorable days of sport, resilience and community connection.

Results:

Section 1 Unisex Singles: Luke Aungier (Inverloch) defeated Finlay Bennett (Melbourne).

Section 2 Unisex Singles: Cole Hawkins (Inverloch) defeated Ayce Millidonis (Pakenham).

Section 3 Unisex Singles: Joseph Watt (Dumbalk North) defeated Edward Hawkins (Inverloch).

Section 4 Unisex Singles: Ruben Russell (Leongatha) defeated Lily Van Den Broek (Korumburra).

Section 1 Unisex Doubles: Declan Russell (Leongatha) and Madison Van Den Broek (Korumburra) defeated Archer Commadeur (Leongatha) and Averie Hughes (Korumburra).

Section 2 Unisex Doubles: Ayce Millidonis (Pakenham) and Harrison Crane (Traralgon) defeated Archar Hughes (Korumburra) and Cole Hawkins (Inverloch).

Section 3 Unisex Doubles: Joey Millidonis (Pakenham) and Halle Whitten (Leongatha) defeated Ruben Russell (Leongatha) and Lily Van Den Broek (Korumburra).

# Tennis tournament a success in trying conditions

THE 26th Annual SGTA Junior and Open Tennis Classic was held at the Leongatha Tennis Club on January 3 and 4, delivering two days of high-quality tennis, strong community support and memorable moments both on and off the court.

Day one proved to be a true test of resilience, with players battling through a long and hot day. Despite the challenging conditions, the standard of tennis remained outstanding across all age groups.

Late in the afternoon, a storm swept through the venue, forcing play to be temporarily suspended and adding an extra layer of drama to an already demanding day.

Day two brought much more pleasant weather and an earlier start, allowing organisers to recover the time lost on Saturday.

Matches continued late into the evening, with the final match completed at 8.30pm, capping off a successful and hard-fought tournament.

The event attracted 85 individual entrants, with players travelling from local areas, Latrobe Valley, West Gippsland, the Peninsula and Melbourne, highlighting the growing reputation of the SGTA Classic.

Impressively, 31 local players competed, showcasing the strength of tennis in the South Gippsland region.

A total of 17 events were contested, ranging from 10 and Under divisions through to Open Men's and Ladies Singles, Doubles and Mixed, as well as popular community events such as Family Doubles and Veterans Doubles.

A total of 180 matches completed over the two-day event.

SGTA extend sincere thanks to the Leongatha Tennis Club Committee, including president Warren Littlejohn, Greg Marshman and Frank Dekker, who also generously ran the fundraising barbecue throughout the tournament to support players and families.

A special thank you goes to the SGTA tournament crew — Matt and Keerah Pocklington, and Kylie Van Den Broek — for their tireless work across the two days.

Kylie played a key role managing entries, creating draws and liaising with players and parents to ensure the event ran smoothly.

Gratitude is also extended to all parents and players, who displayed excellent sportsmanship, positive attitudes and respect throughout the tournament, contributing to the welcoming and supportive atmosphere.

SGTA also acknowledged the support of coach Brad, who brought six talented players from Melbourne and assisted around the venue and coach Chris, who attended with his family and went above and beyond by helping the tournament crew with bagging courts, watering and sweeping lines.

Coach Chris is also the tournament director of the upcoming Ace Classic Tournament in Pakenham on the Australia Day long weekend, where he will team up with coach Matt.

A major highlight for that event will be the appearance of Destanee Aiava, adding excitement to the local tennis calendar.

Running in parallel with the

tournament, SGTA's head coaches Ricardo and Matt hosted a Performance Week for committed academy players.

This program combined two tournaments with two on-court training days, a psychology session and beach swims, creating a pathway toward elite mindset development while also building friendships, team morale and a strong academy culture.

A big thank you and well done to coach Ricardo for the delivery of the sessions outside of the tournament days.

The 26th Annual SGTA Junior and Open Tennis Classic once again demonstrated the power of community sport, bringing together players of all ages, families, coaches and volunteers for a celebration of tennis in South Gippsland.

**Results:**

10 and Under Group A Unisex Singles: Frederick Steele (Melbourne) defeated Quinn Donaldson (Leongatha).

10 and Under Group B Unisex Singles: Lily Van Den Broek (Korumburra) defeated Ruben Russell (Leongatha).

10 and Under Unisex Doubles: Spencer Crane (Traralgon) and Edward Hawkins (Inverloch) defeated Lily Van Den Broek (Korumburra) and Ruben Russell (Leongatha).

12 and Under Boys Singles: Harrison Crane (Traralgon) defeated Archar Hughes (Korumburra).

12 and Under Unisex Doubles: Cole Hawkins (Inverloch) and Archar Hughes (Korumburra) defeated Harrison Crane (Traralgon) and Ayce Millidonis (Pakenham).

14 and Under Boys Singles: Finlay Bennett (Melbourne) defeated Jimmy Joyce-Biss (Drouin).

14 and Under Girls Singles: Lily Van Den Broek (Korumburra) defeated Halle Whitten (Leongatha).

14 and Under Unisex Doubles: Finlay Bennett (Melbourne) and Archar Hughes (Korumburra) defeated Declan Russell (Leongatha) and Madison Van Den Broek (Korumburra).

Family Doubles: Joey Millidonis (Pakenham) and Chris Millidonis (Pakenham) defeated Quinn Donaldson (Leongatha) and Peter Donaldson (Leongatha).

Men's Open Singles: Matthew Pocklington (Leongatha) defeated Tim Bloye (Drouin).

Ladies Open Singles: Madison Van Den Broek (Korumburra) defeated Imelda Rongoni (Pakenham).

Men's Open Doubles: Matthew Pocklington (Leongatha) and Brad Perks (Melbourne) defeated Josh Bloye (Drouin) and Tim Bloye (Drouin).

Ladies Open Doubles: Madison Van Den Broek (Korumburra) and Averie Hughes (Korumburra) defeated Penni Millidonis (Pakenham) and Imelda Rongoni (Pakenham).

Open Mixed Doubles: Matthew Pocklington (Leongatha) and Madison Van Den Broek (Korumburra) defeated Tim Bloye (Drouin) and Alexandra Radcliffe (Drouin).

Veterans Doubles: Warren Littlejohn (Leongatha) and Greg Marshman (Leongatha) defeated Paul Ramsbottom (Leongatha) and Frank Dekker (Leongatha).



Open Men's Doubles runners-up Josh and Tim Bloye with winners Matthew Pocklington and Brad Perks.



Open Women's Singles runner-up Imelda Rongoni and winner Madison Van Den Broek.



Freddy Steele and Lily Van Den Broek were the U10 winners.



U10 Unisex Doubles runners-up Ruben Russell and Lily Van Den Broek with winners Spencer Crane and Edward Hawkins.



The Boys U12 Doubles runners-up Ayce Millidonis and Harrison Crane pictured with winners Archar Hughes and Cole Hawkins.



Women's Open Doubles runners-up Imelda Rongoni and Penni Millidonis with winners Madison Van Den Broek and Averie Hughes.

KILCUNDA BASS

A GRADE saw the Sharks pitted against Glen Alvie last Saturday.

Kilcunda-Bass won the toss and elected to bat first.

Glen Alvie's bowling attack was extremely tight across the board.

Opener Sean Kenny top scored with 26 off 47 balls.

Mates Josh Gent and Lachy Van Rooyen scored 14 off 22 balls and 10 off 26 balls respectively.

For Glen Alvie, Jake Dwyer took 2/8 off four overs, and Cal-lum Wright was tight taking 2/9 off seven overs.

Aaron Cameron took 2/22 off seven.

Kilcunda-Bass was bowled out for 91.

In reply, Glen Alvie scored 1/93 in 16 overs to take the win.

The top scorers for the home side were Brad Connelly with 34 off 38 balls and Joel Beaston with 28 not out off 34 balls.

Lachy Van Rooyen took the only wicket for the Sharks.

Kilcunda-Bass hosted MDU at the Bass Recreation Reserve in B Grade.

MDU won the toss and sent the Sharks in to bat first.

Consistent bowling from MDU kept wickets falling for Kilcun-da-Bass.

Opening batsman Peter Miller top scored for the Sharks with 47 off 82 balls, supported by Dom Peniazek with 26 off 45 balls.

Pick of MDU bowlers was Ty-rone Zukovskis, who claimed 3/17 off eight overs.

Kilcunda-Bass was set to de-fend 8/142.

MDU opener Joel Sinclair made light work of the task at hand, top scoring with 69 off 49 balls.

Max Murray also contributed 24 off 31 balls.

MDU got over the line in the 35th over with a score of 6/145.

In the absence of star all-rounder Mitch Cuthbert due to injury, it was a tough day at the office for the Sharks.

In C Grade, Kilcunda-Bass made the long trip to Foster.

Kilcunda-Bass won the toss and sent the home side into bat first.

Michael Cooke opened Fos-ter's innings well with 23 runs.

Middle order batsman Max Johnston top scored with 39 runs and 25 runs was added by Ben East.

The pick of Kilcunda-Bass' bowlers was Jayden Tregear, who took three wickets.

Foster was set to defend 9/167.

Kilcunda-Bass captain Mat-thew Grayson led the charge to victory with 45 not out.

Cooke continued his form with two wickets, with Lance Moon taking the only other wicket in the innings.

Kilcunda-Bass won the day with a score of 4/168.

KOONWARRA/LRSL

KOONWARRA/LRSL impres-sively outplayed top of the table Nyora in A2 on Saturday.

Playing at the Koonwarra Rec-reation Reserve, Nyora won the toss and chose to bat.

A late surge of impressive bowling from Louis Read held Nyora to 10/116.

Read took 4/18 for the game.

Tanuj Namalge claimed two wickets.

Namalge continued to push the Cougars toward victory as he



The visiting Wonthaggi Club cricketers had more to contend with than simply the bowling of Phillip Island's Damien Holmes, who finished their innings with 2/34 off his eight overs. As an indication of how prevalent Cape Barren Geese are on the island, this one wandered in close to the Cowes oval wicket and showed no signs of moving on.

opened the batting and made 74 runs.

Kayden Scrimshaw contrib-uted 18 not out, getting Koon-warra/LRSL across the line with Will Cashin.

For Nyora, Jona Watts tried to slow Koonwarra/LRSL, but the game belonged to the Cougars.

Koonwarra/LRSL won with a score of 3/117 in 16 overs.

LEONGATHA TOWN

LEONGATHA Town's B Grade side won the toss and elected to bat.

Town scored steadily early on, however the loss of wickets at regular intervals prevented them from fully building mo-mentum.

A crucial 50-run partnership between Luke Bowman (26) and Beau Gillatte (23) steadied the innings and laid an important platform.

Support from captain Colin Bruce (20) and some valuable late-order contributions proved vital, pushing Town to a com-petitive total of 9/163.

With the ball, Town was off to a flyer.

Matt Davies struck with his very first delivery, setting the tone for the innings.

All bowlers contributed well, with Pandu Jayasinghe (3/25) leading the way, supported by Sam Clark (2/34) and Davies finishing with an impressive 1/6.

Korumburra responded with determined and steady batting, keeping the pressure on and taking the match deep into the final overs.

Despite the late push, Town held their nerve, executing well when it mattered most to re-strict Korumburra to 154 and

secure a hard-fought victory.

A great game of cricket, played in good spirit, with Town show-ing composure under pressure to get over the line.

Congratulations to captain Col Bruce on taking away the win for his 250th game at Leongatha Town Cricket Club.

Col's first senior game for town was back in the 1999/2000 season.

He's close to 3000 runs and more than 250 wickets, top score 131 and best figures 7/8.

Good on ya Col, thank you for all the Saturdays for all these years that you've given to Leon-gatha Town Cricket Club.

Leongatha Town posted a competitive total of 179, built around a fantastic knock of 83 from Ash Hickey in C Grade.

Hickey anchored the innings superbly, showing patience early before accelerating as partner-ships developed around him.

Jack Aeschlimann provided solid support with 28, while Cal Smith held up an end nicely to finish unbeaten on 17.

Town were unlucky to lose Karl Aeschlimann to a run out on 17 after he had looked well set.

With the ball, Town was led once again by a bowling master-class from Poly Kallookkaran, who finished with excellent fig-ures of 3 for 16.

Hickey capped off an out-standing all-round performance by backing up his 83 with 3 for 24, while Jack Aeschlimann chipped in with one wicket.

All bowlers contributed well and kept the pressure on throughout the innings.

Despite Town's strong ef-fort, Koonwarra/LRSL chased steadily and reached the target at seven for 181.

A special mention to Cal Smith, who followed up his batting con-tribution with a maiden effort behind the stumps — well done.

PHILLIP ISLAND

PHILLIP Island lost to Wont-haggi Club in B1 on Saturday.

Playing at the Cowes Recre-ation Reserve, Club won the toss and chose to bat.

Ian Hughes and Kai Allison contributed to Club's winning score with 25 runs each.

For Phillip Island, Timothy Niv-en and Damien Holmes claimed two wickets each.

Phillip Island was chasing 8/141.

Club captain Sean Roche led by example and took four wick-ets, slowing Phillip Island's run rate.

Phillip Island's top batsmen were Tharidu Asurumuni and Damien Holmes with 20 runs each.

Justin Tran also contributed 19 runs.

Phillip Island fell short with a score of 10/125.

THE IMPERIALS

THE B2 side experienced a challenging day against Koon-warra/LRSL.

With a number of players mak-ing the trip to the Gold Coast to watch racehorse Unit 5 have a win in its second race, the Imps were undermanned.

The club has a part share in Unit 5 so although disappointed with the cricket results, there was better luck on the racetrack.

The Imps gathered their ring ins who put up a decent fight against the polished Koonwarra/ LRSL side.

"We think the score could've been closer. We bowled well and

batted well, but Koonwarra was too strong with the bat," Imps captain Sam Vagg said.

"There were a few hard dropped catches early in their innings. A few of those early wickets would've helped, but that was not the case on the day."

Vagg top scored with 54 runs.

Tailenders Martin Reidy and Michael Malloy gave a strong performance to finish off the in-nings, pushing the score out to 174.

With the ball, Cooper Rickard played a strong game and took two wickets.

Reidy was also in good form.

Next week, the Imperials are set to play MDU at Dumbalk.

With a few of the guys back on the selection list, the Imperials will be looking to emulate their win against MDU earlier in the season.

MDU

MDU's B Grade side secured a victory against Kilcunda-Bass on Saturday.

MDU made the trip to the Bass Recreation Reserve to take on the Sharks.

Kilcunda-Bass batted first and made 8/142.

Tyrone Zukovskis bowled 3/17 off eight, Scott Browne took 1/28 off eight and Andrew Richardson took 1/28 off eight.

For Kilcunda-Bass, opening batsman Peter Miller kept the home side in the game with 47 runs.

MDU made 6/145 in reply to get the win.

Joel Sinclair top scored with 69 off 49.

Max Murray contributed to the score with 24 off 31 and Callum McCaughan finished it off with 17 not out off 27.

WONTHAGGI CLUB

WONTHAGGI Club delivered a dominant all-round performance in front of the Wonthaggi Workmen's Cricket Club past players crowd in A1, cruising to a commanding 151-run victory over Imperials — and it was Ryan Thomas who stole the show as the clear match-winner.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, Wonthaggi posted a formidable 6/244 from 40 overs.

The innings was anchored by a superb 85 from Ryan Thomas, who combined patience with aggression, finding the boundary seven times and launching two sixes in a knock that set the tone for the afternoon.

He was well supported by Joel Brann's explosive 54 off just 27 balls, including five towering sixes, as the home side surged past 240 in front of an appreciative crowd.

With the ball, Thomas capped off a memorable day with a sensational spell, tearing through the Imperials' middle and lower order to claim 6/28 from eight overs.

His accuracy and movement proved too much to handle, triggering a collapse that saw Imperials bundled out for 93 in 25.2 overs.

Solid support came from Fraser West (1/22) and Heath Dobbie (2/10), while the fielding effort was sharp, highlighted by multiple catches from Jack Sheerin and Mitch Thomas.

In front of Wonthaggi's past players and sponsors, it was a performance to remember — a complete team display, headlined by Ryan Thomas' match-winning heroics with both bat and ball, and a statement victory for the Club.

In B1, Wonthaggi Club showed tremendous grit and resilience to grind out a hard-fought 16-run victory over Phillip Island in a contest defined by determination, discipline, and key moments that swung the game the visitors' way.

After winning the toss and electing to bat, Wonthaggi found conditions challenging against a tight Phillip Island bowling attack.

Early wickets kept the scoreboard in check, but the innings was held together by a gutsy and composed knock from Kai Allison, who finished 25 not out from 72 balls.

Under pressure for much of the innings, Allison absorbed the heat, rotated the strike, and provided the backbone Wonthaggi needed to reach a competitive 8/141 from 40 overs.

Valuable support came late from Jai Williamson (21 off 21), who helped push the total beyond 140.

With the ball, Wonthaggi's attack rose to the occasion, led superbly by captain Sean Roche, who delivered a match-defining spell of 4/19 from seven overs.

Roche struck at crucial moments, breaking partnerships and keeping Phillip Island in check whenever momentum threatened to build.

One of the defining moments of the afternoon came directly after the drinks break, when Mark McCall produced an incredible caught-and-bowled, reacting sharply to snatch the ball out of the air and remove a well-set batter.

The stunning effort lifted the fielding side and shifted the



Town's Jack Hume finished with 20 runs. W11\_0326

energy firmly back in Wonthaggi's favour.

Further support came from Bryce Evans (3/28) and McCall (2/23), as the pressure told and Phillip Island were eventually dismissed for 125 in 38.2 overs.

It was a true team performance, built on resilience with the bat, relentless pressure with the ball, and moments of brilliance in the field — a victory that showcased Wonthaggi Club's fighting spirit and leadership under pressure.

Wonthaggi Club was overpowered by a dominant Korumburra side in C1, going down by 94 runs after a standout innings from Peter Edwards set the tone for the match.

After Korumburra won the toss and elected to bat, Edwards produced a breathtaking 152 off 97 balls, peppering the boundary with 19 fours and six sixes to propel his team to a formidable 8/236 from 35 overs.

Despite a strong bowling effort from Luke Borne (4/31) and support from Mohamed Ashik Mohamed Nizar (2/42), the visitors couldn't contain Edwards' onslaught.

In reply, Wonthaggi fought hard but lost wickets regularly.

Luke Borne (42 off 30) and Kevin McLean (24) provided some resistance, yet the chase was halted at 142 in 26.3 overs.

Korumburra's bowlers, led by Thomas Sorrell's impressive 5/26, ensured there was no late surge.

It was a tough afternoon for Wonthaggi, with Korumburra's batting firepower ultimately proving decisive.

Wonthaggi Club's young guns in C2 stole the spotlight in a dominant 85-run victory over Nyora, delivering a performance full of energy, composure, and promise.

After being sent into bat, Wonthaggi posted a strong 6/169 from 35 overs, built around a superb, unbeaten 59 from Heath Crump.

Calm under pressure, Crump anchored the innings while Blake Ton provided the spark with a lively 49, helping push the total well beyond Nyora's reach.

With the ball, it was Brayden Pentland who led the charge, ripping through the middle order with a match-winning 3/11 from four overs.

He was well supported by a

sharp all-round team effort, including tidy spells from Alan Babu (2/20) and a key wicket from Archie Dynes.

Nyora was eventually dismissed for 84 in 24 overs, sealing a comprehensive win for Wonthaggi and underlining the impact of the club's emerging talent.

It was a great day out for the future stars of Wonthaggi Cricket Club.

KORUMBURRA

CONGRATULATIONS to Peter Edwards on a big century, going large with a career-best 152 against Wonthaggi Club.

Great support from Tom Sorrell as well, ripping through the batsmen to take a Michelle with figures of five for 26.

In A Grade, Glen Alvie batted first and, despite losing regular wickets, was able to build a significant partnership through the middle order to reach a total of 176.

Emerging young bowler Levi Gooch was the pick of the bowlers this week, finishing with excellent figures of 4/35 from eight overs, followed by Harry McNeill with 2/23.

Wickets were also taken by Jacob Whiteside, Ruben Foster and Rumesih Rangana.

Much like last week, Korumburra got off to a quick start with the bat, but regular wickets and an inability to build solid partnerships proved costly to its innings.

Rangana was the standout with the bat, scoring a brisk 32 off 17 balls, including three fours and two sixes, while Jacob Whiteside provided a very steady contribution of 26 off 50 balls with four fours.

Batting first in B Grade, Town got off to a shaky start, with Aaron Damon taking advantage of the new ball by picking up a wicket in his first over.

Liam Dole followed up with a couple of wickets to put Town on the back foot before they were able to consolidate through a few partnerships to reach a total of 163.

Aaron Damon was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 3/39 from eight overs, well supported by Liam Dole with 2/20 and Shane Dole with an excellent 2/13.

George Edwards and Noah Belvedere also chipped in with a wicket apiece.

The batting innings started

slowly with a couple of early wickets, before the Cobras were able to build several solid partnerships to keep the scoreboard moving.

Emerging young bat Noah Belvedere led the way, anchoring the back half of the innings with an outstanding 40 off 64 balls, including five fours.

He was well supported by Shane Dole with 29 off 51 balls (five fours), Matt Allen with 28 off 53 balls, and Tyler Dole's brisk 18 off 18 balls.

The game went right down to the final overs and was an outstanding performance from the young Cobras.

Batting first, C Grade was led brilliantly by Peter Edwards, who produced an outstanding innings of 152 off 97 balls, smashing 19 fours and six sixes as he punished Club to all corners of McMahon's Reserve.

"Peachy" was dominant throughout the innings and was well supported by Charlie Carew, who finished unbeaten on 24 off just 10 balls with five fours, and Darren Scott with a handy 12 off 17 balls.

Club got off to a quick start in reply but was unable to capitalise, with veteran Darren Scott doing the early damage, well supported by Kyle Dorman.

Tom Sorrell then entered the attack and tore through the back half of the Club innings, taking the final five wickets to finish with outstanding figures of 5/26.

Darren Scott (3/35) and Kyle Dorman (2/39) claimed the remaining wickets.

NERRENA

FINE bowling skills from the Red Caps delivered a comfortable win in A1 against OMK.

OMK won the toss and went into bat first.

Mitch Croatto got a direct hit run out in the second over.

Mitchell Clark then got Ethan Lamers out for a duck, followed by captain Koby Brann for a golden duck on the next ball.

Nerrena had OMK at 3/7.

A couple more quick wickets saw OMK in trouble with the score sitting at 6/15.

Pawan Thind and Ryan Williams kept the Diggers in the hunt with 33 and 35 runs respectively.

Williams logged a couple of sixes to rattle Nerrena.

However, a catch from Tom Cameron dismissed him and Nerrena restricted OMK to a score of 10/115.

Jack Curtis and Clark opened for Nerrena.

The score was at 33 when the first wicket fell.

Cameron joined Clark at the crease, and Clark was bowled when the score reached 58.

Cameron and James Kelly pushed the score out to 3/111 off 20 overs.

Kelly and Eamon Berryman got the Red Caps over the line with 10 overs to go.

"It was a good win against OMK. We will play Phillip Island next, hoping to get another win before the bye," Nerrena president Zak Trease said.

"That will set us up for the last two games of the season."

Around the grounds, work has started on Nerrena's new cricket nets, thanks to funding from Cricket Victoria and South Gippsland Shire Council.

It is anticipated this project will be completed by the end of the season.



Goannas' opener Graham Ingle drives against Iona/Koo Wee Rup.

Goannas defeat the Combine

OVER 60s CRICKET

THE Gippsland Goannas Over-60 Cricket team travelled to Iona on Sunday for the round nine clash with the Iona/Koo Wee Rup Over-60's.

Winning the toss, the Combine batted first, making 102 for the loss of six wickets from their 40 overs.

The Goannas' bowlers were Adrian Quirk four overs 1/15, Keith Orchard two overs 0/5, Ian Southall four overs 0/11, Peter Anton five overs 1/1, new recruit Kingsley Rajasingham five overs 1/12, Andy Slevin seven overs 1/32, Jim Armstrong four overs 1/4, Bob Penrose five overs, 0/13, and Ray Smith four overs 0/6.

Ian Gibson had two catches and Penrose a run out.

The Goannas replied, passing the score in the 18th over.

Ray Floyd was stumped for 22, Graeme Ingle, 23, and Graeme Rankin, 34, both retired from their 25 balls, while Smith 15 and Rajasingham six were the not out batsmen.

Rankin, the captain of the Goannas Over-50s, has now qualified to play in the 60's.

The Goannas Over-50s will travel to Ballarat for their next game on Sunday, while both the Over 60 and Over 70 teams will travel to Bendigo to take on Vic Country in a double-header at the Atkins St oval in North Bendigo.

Kookas back on the winners list

OVER 60s CRICKET

THE rampaging Kookas travelled to Brighton to take on the Bayswater Beachers last Sunday.

Skipper Mr Cricket Gary Adams won the toss and wielded the willow.

Peter Miller with a stylish 29 not out and Dave Tessari 16 not out got the Kookas away to a dream start.

This launched the Kookas into overdrive, with Tony Teflon Lathan smashing a rapid 35 not out, Ian Thorn a sublime 31 not out, young Phill Richards 25 not out, Mr Cricket Adams 31 not out, president Neale White 23 not out and to add icing to the cake, Mick Whiteside bludgeoned 22 not out to finish with 2/246.

The Kookas then bowled dangerously and accurately.

Best of the trundlers included Gary Adams 2/10, Brendon Thomas 1/3, Neale White 1/6, Rick Murphy 0/25 and Pieter Loos 0/24.

Man of the match was Gary Adams for a fine all-round performance.

The Kookas are back in town. They look to finish the year on a journey of fun, stellar cricket and friendship, which is the Kooka way.

Hartley Wells

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Leongatha

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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Ryan Thomas (Club) 85 ; Ryan Thomas (Club) 6/28
A2: Tanuj Namalge (Koon L/RSL) 74 ; Louis Read (Koon L/RSL) 4/18
B1: Jesse Dugard (Inverloch) 51 ; Sean Roche (Club) 4/19
B2: Joel Sinclair (MDU) 69 ; Michael Lynch (Nyora) 4/32
C1: Peter Edwards (Korumburra) 152 ; Thomas Sorrell (Korumburra) 5/26
C2: Luke Jones (OMK) 88 ; Matthew Boswell (Koonwarra K/RSL) 6/25

 Choices

The floor you've been searching for

 BEAUMONT TILES

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Cnr Carneys Road & Bass Highway,  
Wonthaggi. 5672 2148

LADDERS				RD 10	
Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
A GRADE, Division 1			A GRADE, Division 2		
Nerrena	84	1.664	Nyora	96	1.328
Club	84	1.616	Kilcunda Bass	90	1.580
Inverloch	72	1.234	Koonwarra L/RSL	66	1.557
OMK	66	0.930	Glen Alvie	48	0.937
Phillip Island	36	0.959	Korumburra	36	0.780
Town	12	0.641	MDU	24	0.963
Imperials	6	0.445	Foster	0	0.350
B GRADE, Division 1			B GRADE, Division 2		
Club	98	2.938	Nyora	84	1.256
OMK	90	2.980	MDU	78	0.935
Nerrena	66	1.450	Koonwarra L/RSL	72	1.279
Inverloch	60	1.192	Kilcunda Bass	54	0.853
Town	30	0.416	Glen Alvie	42	1.086
Phillip Island	18	0.539	Imperials	30	0.738
Korumburra	6	0.255			

LADDERS			RD 13		
Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
C GRADE, Division 1			C GRADE, Division 2		
OMK	108	1.448	Club	102	2.734
Club	90	1.701	Glen Alvie	96	0.943
Phillip Island	72	0.917	Inverloch	84	1.475
Korumburra	54	1.073	Koonwarra L/RSL	84	1.364
Nerrena	54	0.858	Town	36	0.592
Kilcunda Bass	48	0.824	Nyora	36	0.442
MDU	42	0.636	OMK	30	0.658

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 11 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 (DAY 1)

A GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

P-Island v Nerrena	Cowes	Ashleigh Stride
Club v OMK	Wonthaggi Turf	Shane Moore
Imperials v Inverloch	East Campus	Ken Scrimshaw
Town - BYE		

A Grade, Division 2 - 1PM START

Koon L/RSL v G-Alvie	Leongatha Turf	Graham Wightman
MDU v Kilcunda Bass	Meeniyan	Les White
Nyora v Foster	Nyora	Michael Thomas
Korumburra - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

Korumburra v P-Island	Korumburra	Geoffrey Parkinson
OMK v Club	Outtrim	Tyson Tootel
Town v Nerrena	Scorpion Pk 1	Geoff Birnie (D1)
Inverloch - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 2 - 1PM START

Koon L/RSL v G-Alvie	Koonwarra	TBA
Kilcunda Bass v Nyora	Bass 1	Steve Williamson
MDU v Imperials	Dumbalk	TBA

ROUND 14 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

C GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

Korumburra v OMK	Poowong	TBA
Club v MDU	Wonthaggi SC	TBA
Nerrena v P-Island	Nerrena	TBA
Kilcunda Bass - BYE		

C GRADE, Division 2 - 1PM START

Club v Town	McMahon	TBA
OMK v Nyora	Digger Park	TBA
Inverloch v G-Alvie	Inverloch FG	TBA
Koonwarra L/RSL - BYE		

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective umpires can contact

Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421



Max Carter opened the batting for Town, finishing with 11 runs. W09\_0326



Inverloch's Harry Butcher delivers a ball in the opening overs of their clash with Town. W08\_0326

# Inverloch too accomplished for Leongatha at Thompson Reserve

INVERLOCH kept their strong season going with a win over Leongatha Town in an A grade Division one clash at Thompson Reserve on Saturday.

Played in windy but warm conditions, the match was always going to be an uphill battle for the visiting Scorpions, managing just a single victory so far this season.

Batting first, they struggled to build momentum and were eventually dismissed for 90 in the 34th over.

A few batsmen hung about for a while, but Inverloch's tidy bowling and keen fielding meant the pressure remained steady.

Harry Butcher led the way, snagging three wickets in eight overs.

Six Leongatha players left without a run to their name, with three out

Trent Westaway

for golden ducks.

Jack Hume gave the visitors something to cheer for, batting with patience for 20 and later taking three wickets in eight overs.

Town's Madura Madusanka top scored with 37 not out and claimed two wickets in his own eight over spell.

Leongatha began their chase with promising signs, as just the third ball of the innings saw Stingray Riley Harris out for a duck on account of lbw.

That brief spark for the Scorpions soon faded, as the Stingrays settled and began to chip away at the small total.

Ron Abeyasinghe led Inverloch's scoring with 31 runs.

Dylan Clark added a useful 17 as

the winning run arrived in the 28th over, with Invy finishing 6/91.

Leongatha captain Jesse Giardina spoke with the Sentinel-Times in the opening overs of the match, saying his side needed to bat as a unit after letting runs slip away in earlier weeks.

"We just need to build an innings together and work as a unit," Giardina said.

"Our team is probably better than a one-win side at the moment."

He also highlighted Jack Hume as a player capable of making a strong impact, something he was certainly correct about, despite the loss.

The victory firms up Inverloch's place in the top four.

They now sit comfortably in third position, while Town's finals chances have slipped away this season.

## Gippsland Cricket League teams deliver great performances

IT was a busy day of GCL cricket on Sunday with the Leongatha and District Cricket Association having U18, U15 and U13 games played with some great results and individual performances.

U18 – Cameron White Cup T20:

Game 1: Sale Maffra 9/141 defeated Leongatha and District Cricket Association (LDCA) 6/132.

Klayton McGrath 59 and 4/23; Archie Moore 49.

Game 2: Bairnsdale 92 defeated by LDCA 3/93.

Clayton Quaife 45 not out; Archie Donohue 3/8; Archie Casey 2/4; Isaac Bolge 2/10.

With a long list of unavailable players, the LDCA had to draw on the great depth in its ranks, a close loss

and a convincing win the results.

Klayton McGrath and Clayton Quaife leading from the front, with great performances from Archie Moore and Archie Donohue who were debuting in the U18 team.

The boys have now qualified for the Cameron White Cup Final and will be aiming to win it for the third consecutive season.

U15: LDCA 130 defeated Sale Maffra 75.

Toby Nicholas 36; Max Johnston 14; Oliver Bolge 10 not out; Nate Luff 2/20; Toby Nicholas 2/18; Frazer Livingstone 2/13; Aedan Parker 2/1.

The U15 team continued its good form, a low-scoring affair highlighted by a great last-wicket partnership of 29 between Toby Nicholas and Oliver

Bolge.

It was a team performance with ball with the wickets shared around.

The U15 team finished on top of the ladder and will host the final on Saturday, February 8.

U13: Sale Maffra 158 defeated LDCA 9/129.

Louis Sorensen 19; Clancee Salmon 19; Dihen Yuthmika 18; Liam Meyer 17; Hugo Luff 16 not out; Flynn Belvedere 2/17; Dihen Yuthmika 2/13.

The U13 boys played their best game of the series, improved bowling and fielding backed up by some really good intent with the bat showed what the boys are capable of.

There's some great young talent coming through the ranks in the LDCA.

# OMK down Stingrays in top-four B1 clash

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

THE Diggers strengthened their position near the top of the ladder with a convincing B grade Division one win over Inverloch at the Outtrim Recreation Reserve over the weekend.

The contest loomed as a genuine test between two established top-four sides in what has become a tightly fought B1 competition.

With the leading quartet already pulling clear of fifth-placed Leongatha Town, every result between those four teams carries just a little bit of extra weight.

Inverloch batted first, but their innings never quite reached the height they were chasing.

After losing two early wickets, the Stingrays settled and showed some resilience despite the early wobble.

Captain Warren Stewart spoke with the Sentinel-Times midway through the innings, saying his side had recovered well after the slow start.

“We got off to a poor start. We lost two early wickets but then we consolidated pretty well,” Mr Stewart said.

The innings was anchored by Jesse Dugard, who was on an absolute heater, compiling 51 runs before finally being caught out.

James McNamara provided important momentum with a very efficient 30 from just 30 deliveries, while Jake Dennerley added a solid 29.

Inverloch were eventually bowled out for 157 in the 39th over, falling just short of the 175 their skipper had identified as the target total on the ground.

OMK’s bowlers shared the workload with David Jeffries and Justin Greenwood leading the way with three wickets each.



**Invy’s James McNamara was scoring quick, finishing with 30 runs and six boundaries off just 30 balls. W15\_0326**

The Diggers approached the chase well, spreading the runs around.

Adam Busana set the tone with 36, while Kris Kerr finished with 34.

Trevor McGeachin and Peter Dell saw OMK to the finish line, remaining unbeaten on 25 and 18 respectively.

OMK eclipsed Inverloch’s 157-run total in 33 overs.

Despite the loss, Inverloch had a standout bowling performance from McNamara, who claimed two wickets along with three maiden overs, while conceding just 11 runs.

The result sees OMK move into second place on the ladder, while Inverloch slips to fourth, with the race for finals tightening up.

**RIGHT: Trevor McGeachin sends one down the pitch. He finished 0/14 with the ball in hand. W13\_0326**



# Thursday night magic as Scorp dominate Inverloch

WOMEN’S CRICKET

THE women’s Scorp came into Thursday night’s match feeling calm and ready.

Inverloch, now in its fourth year of the women’s competition, had yet to lose a home-and-away match — but this one was never about records or sheep stations.

It was simply for the love of cricket.

Scorpion Park was buzzing. Junior training had wrapped up and kids were running amok, seniors hovered around the nets, and friends and family gathered at the rooms for a classic Thursday night.

Batting first, Town built steadily at the crease, keeping the scoreboard ticking with sharp running and quick movement in the field.

Nat Challis (20) and Lucy Carter (16) led the way, with valuable contributions from Alyssa Edwards (13) and Kathryn Stewart (12) pushing the total to 120.

It felt competitive — and then something clicked.

This was winnable.

What followed was a fielding and bowling effort to remember.

Gen Anderson struck first with a stunning three-wicket over — the first caught smartly by Kate Oates, followed by two



**Leongatha Town’s women’s team following its midweek clash with Inverloch.**

sharp chances taken by Kathryn Stewart.

Momentum continued to swing Town’s way when Alyssa Edwards claimed a wicket, well held by Brenda Stewart.

The energy in the field lifted another gear when Olivia Marinou produced a standout performance, taking an excellent catch and later backing it up with a thrilling direct-hit run out that brought the crowd

to life.

Anderson then added another, cleanly bowling her fourth to finish with 4/26.

Kathryn Stewart continued her excellent spell, bowling one and later claiming another via a run out to complete her impressive 2/9.

Nat Challis chipped in with a wicket of her own, and Alyssa Edwards rounded out the innings with another, ensuring

Inverloch never found a way back into the contest.

With 10 wickets down, Town’s total was lifted to an imposing 150, leaving Inverloch 34 runs short.

A huge thank you to Inverloch for a competitive and spirited contest, and an even bigger thank you to the incredible support crew at the club — the team felt every cheer and every bit of encouragement out there.

LDCA - JANUARY 17 HIGHLIGHTS

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

**Club 6/244 d Imperials 93**  
Club Batting: R Thomas 85, J Brann 54  
Club Bowling: R Thomas 6/28, H Dobbie 2/10  
Imp. Batting: T Sauvarin 26, A Williams 23  
Imp. Bowling: J Cochrane 3/57, A Williams 1/17  
**Nerrena 5/116 d OMK 115**  
OMK Batting: R Williams 35, P Thind 33  
OMK Bowling: E Lamers 2/24, R Williams 1/11  
Nerrena Batting: T Camerson 46, M Clark 24  
Nerrena Bowling: M Clark 3/13, T Wightman 3/26  
**Inverloch 6/91 d Town 90**  
Town Batting: M Madusanka 37\*, J Hume 20  
Town Bowling: J Hume 3/28, M Madusanka 2/12  
Inv. Batting: R Abeysinghe 31, D Clark 17  
Inv. Bowling: H Butcher 3/16, R Abeysinghe 2/21  
**Phillip Island – BYE**

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

**Koonwarra L/RSL 3/117 d Nyora 116**  
Nyora Batting: D Esler 35, J Henry 31\*  
Nyora Bowling: J Watts 2/26, M Cordeux 1/38  
K-L/RSL Batting: T Namalge 74, D Scrimshaw 18\*  
K-L/RSL Bowling: L Read 4/18, T Namalge 2/15  
**Glen Alvie 9/176 d Korumburra 94**  
Glen Alvie Batting: M Dakin 68, B McRae 47  
Glen Alvie Bowling: M Dakin 4/32, A Luke 3/25  
K’burra Batting: R Rangana 32, J Whiteside 26\*  
K’burra Bowling: L Gooch 4/35, H McNeil 2/23  
**Kilcunda Bass 4/168 d Foster 9/167**  
Foster Batting: M Johnston 39, B East 25  
Foster Bowling: M Cooke 2/29, L Moon 1/23  
K-Bass Batting: M Grayson 45\*, G Miller 33  
K-Bass Bowling: J Tregear 3/22, B Lucas 2/17  
**MDU – BYE**

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

**OMK 6/158 d Inverloch 157**  
Inv. Batting: J Dugard 51, J McNamara 30  
Inv. Bowling: J McNamara 2/11, J Mottram Carter 1/22  
OMK Batting: A Busana 36, K Kerr 34  
OMK Bowling: D Jeffries 3/14, J Greenwood 3/24  
**Town 9/163 d Korumburra 154**  
Town Batting: K Bowman 26, B Gilliatte 23  
Town Bowling: P Jayasinghe 3/25, S Clark 2/34  
Korumburra Batting: N Belvedere 40, S Dole 29  
Korumburra Bowling: A Damon 3/39, S Dole 2/13  
**Club 8/141 d Phillip Island 125**  
Club Batting: K Allison 25\*, I Hughes 25  
Club Bowling: S Roche 4/19, B Evans 3/28  
P Island Batting: T Blackwell 27, T Asurumuni 20  
P Island Bowling: T Niven 2/32, D Holmes 2/34  
**Nerrena – BYE**

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

**MDU 6/145 d Kilcunda Bass 8/142**  
K-Bass Batting: P Miller 47, A McBride 20  
K-Bass Bowling: R Duff 3/25, J Dickson 2/28  
MDU Batting: J Sinclair 69, M Murray 24  
MDU Bowling: T Zukovskis 3/17, S Arnup 1/9  
**Koonwarra L/RSL 5/175 d Imperials 7/174**  
Imperials Batting: S Vagg 54, M Reidy 28\*  
Imperials Bowling: C Rickard 2/25, M Reidy 1/32  
K-L/RSL Batting: B Anderson 66, K Thorne 48  
K-L/RSL Bowling: S Chadwick 3/28, B Pedlow 1/18  
**Nyora 188 d Glen Alvie 133**  
Nyora Batting: R White 54, M Lynch 45  
Nyora Bowling: M Lynch 4/32, L Brock 3/2  
Glen Alvie Batting: Z Scholz 34, J Matser 22\*  
Glen Alvie Bowling: J Brown 2/13, L McRae 2/31

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

**Phillip Island 8/216 d MDU 110**  
P-Island Batting: J Parry 52, D Mani 32  
P-Island Bowling: D Mani 3/7, M Cleary 3/12  
MDU Batting: D Thomas 46, S Mcrae 33  
MDU Bowling: S Mcrae 2/20, D Zuidema 1/24  
**Korumburra 8/236 d Club 142**  
K’burra Batting: P Edwards 152, C Carew 24\*  
K’burra Bowling: T Sorrell 5/26, D Scott 3/35  
Club Batting: L Borne 42, K Mclean 24  
Club Bowling: L Borne 4/31, MA Mohamed Nizar 2/42  
**OMK 7/186 d Kilcunda Bass 8/162**  
OMK Batting: M Walker 49, M Sawyers 42\*  
OMK Bowling: S Handley 2/26, M Loader 2/36  
K-Bass Batting: S Oates 67, J Matser 22\*  
K-Bass Bowling: P De’Rubeis 2/42, C Bettles 1/23  
**Nerrena – BYE**

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

**Glen Alvie 6/184 d OMK 6/182**  
Glen Alvie Batting: J Tiziani 51, P Loos 46  
Glen Alvie Bowling: P Loos 3/16, K Andersen 1/20  
OMK Batting: L Jones 88, A Sorensen 41  
OMK Bowling: S Loader 3/29, M Whiteside 2/17  
**Nyora 84 lt Club 6/169**  
Club Batting: H Crump 59\*, B Ton 49  
Club Bowling: Braydon Pentland 3/11, H Crump 2/2  
Nyora Batting: K Maclure 35, C Robertson 13  
Nyora Bowling: T Dowel 2/28, K Maclure 1/18  
**Koonwarra L/RSL 7/181 d Town 179**  
Town Batting: A Hickey 83, J Aeschlimann 28  
Town Bowling: P J Kallookaran 3/16, A Hickey 3/24  
K-L/RSL Batting: S Paterson 42, A Boxall 30  
K-L/RSL Bowling: M Boswell 6/25, J Hawkins 1/15  
**Inverloch – BYE**



**Jockey Jackie Beriman drives Trak Chiller to the line for a fast-finishing win in Race 4 at Stony Creek on Sunday over Stewart with the favourite Finance Shogun fading into third.**

## International flavour to ‘triple dead heat’ day

IT was something of a league of nations in the jockeys' room at Stony Creek on Sunday with journeyman French hoop Valentin Le Boeuf and Irish Group 1 winning jockey Shane Foley both plying their trade with some limited success on the day.

Ironically, the Irishman, who has experienced Group One victories in both the UK and France, including on Barnavara in the Group 1 Prix De L'Opera at Longchamp in October last year, saddled up the Boy from Oz in the first at Stony Creek.

The Amy and Ash Yargi trained three-year-old was a creditable third but set something of a pattern of placings for Foley on the day, second in the third race on Farnanheit for Anthony and Sam Freedman, a very narrow second on Scream against Stony specialist

Juice Box and another close-up second on Remigius in the last.

There was less than a length in three winners for Foley on the day.

And the Frenchman, Le Boeuf, who only came to Australia “for a bit of a look” two years ago, after a working holiday to the French territory of New Caledonia, managed a third on Lord Paramount for Sale trainer Sharyn Trolove.

Le Boeuf, who had his most recent race win in Australia at Pakenham, over 2500 metres on Diamond Flash One, for Frankie Stockdale last week, walked the track between the third and fourth races to get a read on the going.

“It feels better five or six out from the rail coming to the finish line, we will see what that does,” he said.

And it was hardly surprising to see four female jockeys; Sheridan

Clarke, Jackie Beriman, Melea Castle and Zoe Waller win four of the seven races at Stony Creek on Sunday after the salubrious surrounds the club has installed in the female jockey's room.

The club has moved its office to the former totalizator betting area and refurbished the old office with new change rooms for the female jockeys and a bathroom and showers that would do a five-star international hotel proud.

Unfortunately for Sheridan Clarke, her mount Ripplebrook was a late scratching at the barrier prior to the last race after it reared up in the stalls, reportedly taking fright in the gusty winds, dumping Clarke out the back of the gates and being ruled unfit to ride after the shake up.

But other than that mishap, it was a great day of racing with

punters' favourite, Bob the Horse, and jockey Zoe Waller holding off the fast finishing Remigius to win the feature race of the day, the \$22,000 Rod Carmichael Handicap over 1600 metres, commemorating the Triple Dead Heat at Stony Creek in that race on January 23, 1987.

Results:

Race 1: 1st number 4. Vellasky, trainer Paul Koumis, jockey Brad Rawiller, 2nd number 3. Saxon Blood, 3rd number 5. Boy From Oz, margin 3.75 lengths.

Race 2: 1st number 6. News Travels Fast, trainer David and Coral Feek, jockey Jake Noonan, 2nd number 3. Elite Pete, 3rd number 8. Pari Mo. Margin short-half head.

Race 3: number 4. O'mosa, trainer Doug Harrison, jockey Sheridan Clarke, 2nd number 8.

Farnanheit, 3rd number 6. Sea Warning. Margin two lengths.

Race 4: 1st number 6. Trak Chiller, trainer Michael Harrison, jockey Jackie Beriman, 2nd number 11. Stewart, 3rd number 1. Finance Shogun. Margin short-half head.

Race 5: 1st number 1. Juice Box, trainer Rebecca Kelly, jockey Bailey Kinninmont, 2nd number 2. Scream, 3rd number 7. Lord Paramount. Margin, short-half head.

Race 6: Number 3. Tactfull, trainer Rory Hunter, jockey Melea Castle, 2nd number 6. Jakk's Fortune, 3rd number 4. Unquestionably. Margin 1.5 lengths.

Race 7: Number 6. Bob The Horse, trainer John Moloney, jockey Zoe Waller, 2nd number 10. Remigius, 3rd number 15. Kyokushin. Margin 0.35 length.



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