

Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 | \$2.00



Wonthaggi Police officers stay posted at Venus Bay No 4 Beach as the recovery mission for missing 12-year-old Danny continues.

RECOVERY MISSION



Australia Day celebrations

Pages 20-23

THE search for a 12-year-old boy who went missing while swimming at Venus Bay on Sunday has become a recovery mission.

Police confirmed on Tuesday they were now working to recover the body of Danny, from Taylors Hill, who was last seen by family members in the water at No 4 Beach about 11.30am on January 25.

A large-scale multi-agency search took place involving local uniform officers, Air Wing, Water Police Squad, Coast Guard, SES, Life Saving Victoria and members of the public.

The search continued into last light on Sunday evening and recommenced on Monday, with Senior Sergeant Matt Wade

By Rick Koenig

from Wonthaggi Police Station on scene co-ordinating efforts.

Venus Bay's No 4 Beach is known for its rough surf and strong currents.

Parks Victoria warns the beach is not patrolled by lifesavers and swimming is not advised.

The tragedy came as Life Saving Victoria warned drowning risk roughly doubles on public holidays, with large numbers of people expected to visit beaches and waterways over the Australia Day long weekend.

LSV CEO Cath Greaves said water safety was everyone's responsibility.

"No one wants a day in, on or around

the water to turn into tragedy," Ms Greaves said.

Victoria's volunteer lifesavers and paid lifeguards have performed 401 rescues and 879 first-aid interventions since the beginning of the summer patrol season in November.

A total of 22 people have drowned in Victorian waterways so far this financial year.

Danny was described as being about 170cm tall with a thin build, dark short hair and dark eyes.

He was last seen wearing a navy blue rash vest and navy blue boardshorts with a white stripe.

Police said they would continue searching the water and surrounding area.

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It's closing time but what about opening

By Michael Giles

THE man at the centre of the sudden closure of Leongatha's main medical clinic, Leongatha Healthcare, Dr Chris Webster, is not taking calls.

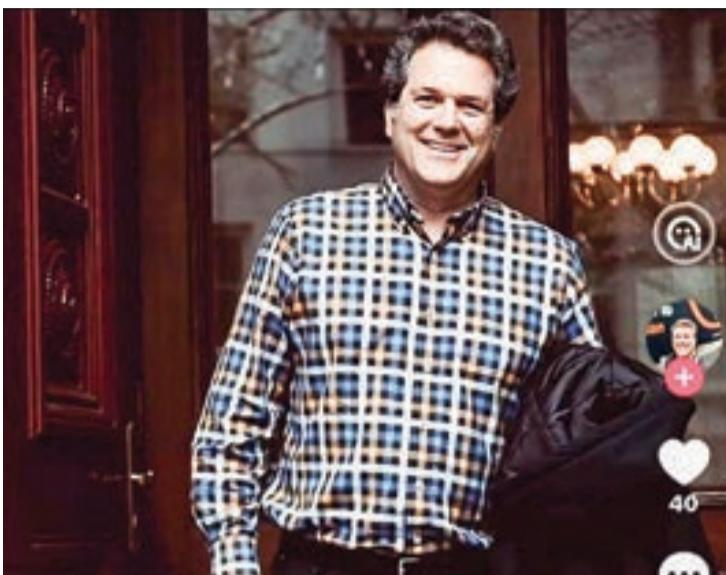
As revealed in an article in The Age newspaper last week, Dr Webster and his wife own the clinic, where as many as 19 doctors practised.

One of them, veteran Leongatha medico Dr Hugh Chisholm, told the Sentinel-Times last week that there were up to 8,000 patients on the books at the clinic at the time of closure.

While he is yet to comment on what happens next, a prolific contributor to social media, Dr Webster posted a video on TikTok only days after the closure of the medical centre on Friday, January 16, set to the tune of Closing Time by American rock band Semisonic, which appeared to relate to the incident.

It has since been removed, along with a number of other TikTok contributions by Dr Webster, but not before it generated some public comment and questions from former patients of the clinic.

Question: I have questions Dr Chris. Where are you reopening? Will you bulk bill when you do and will you let me know when it's official so



A prolific contributor to social media, Dr Chris Webster posted this image on TikTok in the days after the closure of his medical clinic, in a video set to the tune of Closing Time. The video has since been removed but not before attracting public comment.

I can follow you to the new clinic?

Dr Webster responded: 14 Koonwarra Road is closed. Leongatha Healthcare is still open, but the doctor is on leave. Call again after Australia Day.

Comment: Devastating hope you reopen soon.

Comment: Hi Chris. Can you tell me how we get results from scans and blood tests? I was booked to see my doctor tomorrow. Are we going to

receive emails or anything with information? I understand you may have needed to close the practice for personal reasons but are you just going to leave us all hanging and wondering? It's very stressful, what are we meant to do if your doctors have permits for our scripts? You need to let your admin back in and get some emails and letters sent out with information and suggestions on steps we need to take. You owe the community that at least.

The Sentinel-Times has contacted Dr Webster this week for a comment but despite inviting people to call Leongatha Healthcare after Australia Day, there has been no answer.

Former Leongatha Healthcare doctors and staff say they have had the same lack of response this week.

Dr Chris Webster came to prominence during the Erin Patterson mushroom murder trial, between April and July last year, as the doctor who alerted police to allegedly suspicious behaviour by the accused when she first presented to the Leongatha hospital on Monday, July 31, two days after the poisonous family lunch, complaining of abdominal pains.

He was later sanctioned by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) over comments he made about Ms Patterson, following the guilty verdict, sanctions he says which impacted the viability of the clinic in its present form.

Dr Webster has been reported as saying he intends to reopen Leongatha Healthcare as a boutique clinic elsewhere in town, although no details on when and where have yet been provided.

Meanwhile, doctors displaced by the closure of the clinic are attempting to set up their own medical centre.

Meaningful progress on new Leongatha clinic

By Michael Giles

A WEEK on from the sensational shutting down of Leongatha's main medical clinic, Leongatha Healthcare in Koonwarra Road, there was news last Friday of meaningful progress being made on replacement services.

A group of displaced doctors from the clinic, who have been working their way through a legal and regulatory minefield on plans to open a new clinic, issued a statement on Friday afternoon.

The statement doesn't tell the 8,000 patients displaced by the closure of the Leongatha Healthcare clinic what they want to hear, that a new clinic will open this week, but there are positive signs nonetheless.

The statement headed "Continuity of patient care" reads as follows:

"In response to the abrupt and unexpected closure of Leongatha Healthcare, a group of displaced local doctors are progressing plans to continue care for the community.

"We recognise the anxiety and uncertainty this situation has caused for patients, families and staff.

"While there are still some steps to complete, meaningful progress is being made, and updates will be provided as timelines become clearer.

"We sincerely thank patients, the broader community and our health, hospital and government partners for their patience, understanding and support during this transition period.

"Further information will be shared as soon as it becomes available."

Displaced doctors and staff had hoped to be able to open an alternative clinic within days of the closure of the doors at 14 Koonwarra Road but legal and regulatory constraints have intervened. They expect to be able to make an announcement this week.

It follows arrangements reportedly made with the owner of the Leongatha Healthcare business, Dr Chris Webster, for patients with labelled medication held by Leongatha Healthcare on their behalf to be able to get access to those items at the Leongatha Hospital's Urgent Care Centre.

Local MPs Melina Bath and Danny O'Brien issued statements after being advised of the arrangements.

Patients who need their medication administered should attend the Leongatha Hospital Urgent Care Centre between 9am and 4pm on the day the medication was expected to be given.

Patients who do not require their medications to be administered in the short term can be assured that their medications will remain at Leongatha Hospital for when they are next needed.

Gippsland charity ready to assist bushfire victims

LOCAL charity Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund stands ready to assist residents in the event of bushfires spreading to the region.

With fires burning in other parts of Victoria and record temperatures predicted, GERF president Andy Tegart said there was a real possibility of bushfires reaching Gippsland.

"If that happens, GERF is ready to assist," Mr Tegart said.

The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund exists to provide rapid financial support for Gippslanders who have been significantly impacted by a natural disaster including bushfires, floods and storms.

"GERF financial support can

be used for a range of needs from basics like food, shelter and clothing, to keeping livestock safe or education resources for kids," Mr Tegart said.

"We work with other recovery organisations and local councils as well as affected residents to ensure our support is going fast to those most in need."

To be eligible for a GERF grant residents must have experienced significant property damage or their home must be uninhabitable.

Applicants must also be a Gippsland resident and the property must be their primary place of residence, whether owned or rented.

GERF works in cooperation with local councils across Gippsland.

"In the event of bushfire damage, your council will help you to lodge an application to GERF," Mr Tegart said.

"If you are eligible a grant will be provided within a day or two. The goal is to provide help as quickly as possible."

GERF is a registered charity run entirely by local volunteers, helping fund emergency relief for Gippslanders with damaged property.

"Being run entirely by volunteers allows us to keep expenses low and return every dollar to the community," Mr Tegart said.

The charity has provided assistance to hundreds of Gippsland families over the years following major disaster events including the 2019-20 Black Summer bushfires and various flood and storm events.

Donations to GERF are tax deductible and go entirely to supporting Gippslanders impacted by natural disasters.

The warning comes as CFA volunteers across the region remain on high alert following a challenging start to the fire season.

Residents are urged to have a bushfire plan in place and know when to leave.

To find out more about GERF or make a donation visit www.gerf.org.au

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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND



WED | Jan 28

Partly cloudy.

Wind AM: W 15-25km/h

Wind PM: S 15-20km/h

17° **24°**



THUR | Jan 29

Partly cloudy.

Wind AM: Light

Wind PM: E 15-25km/h

14° **29°**



FRI | Jan 30

Partly cloudy.

Wind AM: E 15-20km/h

Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h

16° **30°**



SAT | Jan 31

Possible shower.

Wind AM: Light

Wind PM: S-SW 15-20km/h

15° **27°**



SUN | Feb 1

Shower or two.

Wind AM: SW 25-35km/h

Wind PM: SW 25-35km/h

14° **22°**



MON | Feb 2

Partly cloudy.

Wind AM: SE-SW 20-25km/h

Wind PM: SE 15-25km/h

12° **21°**

IN BRIEF

Police hunt woman after Wonthaggi stabbing

POLICE are continuing to investigate an alleged stabbing in Wonthaggi North in the early hours of Saturday, January 25.

Emergency services responded to reports a man had been stabbed by a woman at an address on Parkes Street about 3am.

The man sustained serious injuries and was airlifted to a Melbourne hospital.

The woman fled the scene prior to police arrival and has not been located.

Police said the people involved are believed to be known to one another.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

Fake \$50 notes circulating in South Gippsland

LOCAL traders are being urged to remain vigilant after fake \$50 notes were discovered in South Gippsland and Bass Coast.

Inverloch Tourism Association president Glenn Morris said he had contacted Inverloch Police who have cautioned everyone to be careful when receiving notes.

A local surf shop reported receiving several fake \$50 notes.

If an offender is still on the premises call 000, otherwise report to Inverloch Police Station or the Police Assistance Line on 131 444.

Disqualified driver caught with drugs and counterfeit cash

A 31-year-old Wonthaggi man was arrested after police intercepted his unregistered vehicle on Korumburra Road about 1.14am on Wednesday, January 22.

The vehicle had no registration plates and was being driven erratically.

Police allege the man's

licence was disqualified and a search of the vehicle located drugs and counterfeit money.

The vehicle was impounded for 30 days due to its unroadworthy condition.

The man will be summonsed for driving while disqualified, using an unsafe and unregistered vehicle, possessing drugs and possessing counterfeit money.

Drunk driver nearly four times limit on Phillip Island

A 50-year-old Sunset Strip man returned an alleged blood alcohol reading of 0.194 after police intercepted his vehicle on Phillip Island Road about 12.45am on Sunday, January 25.

Police observed the grey Ford Ranger allegedly driving erratically, honking at other vehicles and nearly colliding with traffic before losing control and hitting a grass embankment.

The driver's licence was immediately suspended and the vehicle impounded for 30 days.

The man will be summonsed to Korumburra Magistrates' Court for drink driving and traffic offences.

Locals rescued on Lake Victoria

FIVE men in their 30s, including one from Leongatha and another from Mirboo North, were rescued after their boat overturned in Loch Sport on the weekend.

Emergency services responded to reports of a group in trouble on Lake Victoria about 11.30pm on Saturday, January 24.

Multiple agencies assisted with the rescue including the police Air Wing, Paynesville Water Police, Paynesville Coast Guard and Ambulance Victoria.

All five men were successfully retrieved by the Coast Guard crew.

Life membership for Inverloch Probus stalwart

DAVID Paroissien was presented with life membership of the Probus Club of Anderson's Inlet at the January meeting in Inverloch.

Mr Paroissien has been a member for more than 21 years, held all positions on the committee including president, and produces the club newsletter.

The Probus Club of Anderson's Inlet meets on the third Thursday of each month at 10am at the Inverloch RSL Clubrooms.

Contact secretary Jill Widmer on 0478 227 072.

Free business mentoring for South Gippsland

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council has partnered with NEX Business Farming Wellness to offer free, confidential one-on-one mentoring sessions for local businesses.

Sessions are available daytime or early evening, in-person or online.

Whether facing challenges or planning the next move, the independent mentors can help with cash flow, business planning and finding balance.

Ross River virus detected in Gippsland

VICTORIANS heading to holiday hotspots are being urged to protect themselves from mosquito bites after Ross River virus was detected in mosquito traps around Geelong and Gippsland in recent weeks.

"We've seen an increase in mosquito activity along coastal areas and with detections in multiple locations, we're reminding Victorians to do what they can to avoid being bitten," Chief Health Officer Dr Caroline McElnay said.

Symptoms may include fever, joint pain, muscle aches and fatigue.

More information is available on the Better Health Channel.

Nominations open for Victorian Sport Awards

NOMINATIONS for the Victorian Sport Awards are open until February 13.

Presented by the Victorian Government and Vicsport, the awards recognise 18 categories covering individual and team athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and media personnel.

Nominations can be submitted via the Vicsport website.

Winners will be revealed at the MCG on Wednesday, May 13.

Tourism mentoring program applications open

APPLICATIONS are open for the 2026 Ken Hore Tourism Mentoring Program, now in its 12th year of nurturing emerging tourism professionals in Gippsland, Phillip Island and Bass Coast.

Since 2014, the program has helped 75 tourism professionals build their skills, confidence and networks.

Applications are open to individuals who have worked in tourism for five years or less and are currently employed in the Gippsland or Phillip Island tourism sector.

MP calls for specialised bushfire machinery

EASTERN Victoria MP Melina Bath is calling for specialised forest contractor machinery to be used in bushfire mitigation and hazardous tree removal.

Ms Bath said purpose-built machines with heavy cabin and operator protections are available but not being deployed, with lighter excavators and hand felling used instead.

She said new oversize-overmass restrictions on DEECA-managed roads are also creating delays, with permits taking days to obtain.



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Community rallies as popular local faces the boot

By Andrew Paloczi

A BELOVED Leongatha volunteer faces deportation despite years of unpaid service to the community she loves.

Ariane 'Kiki' Joseph has won widespread support from community groups and organisations fighting to keep her in Australia with an early February hearing to determine her fate.

As the Sentinel-Times reported in August 2023, Kiki arrived in Australia in 2019 caring for her blind Leongatha-based aunt Marie-Claire.

While her aunt has since gone into aged care, Kiki has continued to be an active member of the community despite her visa conditions not allowing her to do paid work.

She has filled voluntary roles at The Salvation Army and St Peter's Op Shops, continuing to do weekly shifts at the latter, having a philosophy of always helping when she can.

"You can make a difference if you want," Kiki said.

An experienced singer who performed professionally before moving to Australia, she belongs to Leongatha group the 'Treble F Singers' and is an active member of St Laurence O'Toole Catholic Church and part of its choir.

Kiki also plays trumpet in the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band.

She has now gained an aged care qualification (Certificate III), that process including unpaid placements at Leongatha's Woorayl Lodge and at Inverloch Coast Care Community (Opal HealthCare).

With a warm personality and



Ariane 'Kiki' Joseph performs at a recent Rotary event. A03_0426

experience as a carer, Kiki would relish the chance to help reduce the shortage of aged care workers, having enjoyed her experience in the sector during her placements.

"I had a wonderful time with the residents," she said, finding it rewarding being with them, listening to their needs and helping as required.

Having qualifications in beauty therapy, Kiki was able to provide a boost for residents by doing their nails.

Along with her background as a singer, she was a kindergarten teacher prior to her arrival in

Australia, illustrating her abundant people skills.

She was a teacher and performer in Shanghai, where she raised her now 21-year-old daughter Ella as a single mother, but the expensive nature of living there encouraged their move Down Under after 11 years in China.

While finding her volunteer roles rewarding, giving her balance and a sense of living, Kiki would love to contribute further through paid work, and remarked that she can only get by through eating some meals at The Salvation Army and the

generosity of her sister Annick Cerdor who pays her rent.

Respected locals Bernadette and Bruce Grainger are staunch supporters of Kiki and are having no difficulty obtaining signatures backing the call for her to remain in Australia.

Rotary members and Friends of Rotary were happy to add their support at a recent event the Sentinel-Times attended, with those in other community groups also keen to help.

Kiki has received an array of letters highlighting her contribution to the community and why she should be allowed to stay.

Inverloch home engulfed by flames

A HOME in Powlett Street Inverloch was completely engulfed by flames on Tuesday afternoon after a fire erupted in hot and windy conditions.

The blaze started just before 5.30pm and quickly took hold, with a local resident reporting flames leaping high above the roof of the property.

Concerned neighbours gathered outside watching as emergency services attacked the fire.

Inverloch Fire Brigade Captain Shane Frogley said crews had extinguished the blaze multiple times only for it to reignite due to the strength of the wind.

The fire was eventually brought under control.

Mr Frogley said the cause of the blaze remained unknown at this stage.

No one was inside at the time and the residents were safe, however the house was completely engulfed by flames and sustained significant damage.

Inverloch and Wonthaggi Police managed traffic on the scene while firefighters worked to contain the blaze.

RIGHT: CFA crews attack the blaze which kept reigniting due to strong winds.



Danny O'BRIEN MP
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CFA funding crisis
puts volunteers
in harm's way

By Bruce Wardley

VOLUNTEER firefighters are allegedly being pushed to breaking point by State Government funding cuts that have left the CFA running a \$50 million deficit.

According to Victorian Farmers Federation President Brett Hosking, the gap between funding and demand on volunteers has placed regional communities at unacceptable risk.

"It's at a point where we're putting people in harm's way," he said.

VFF analysis shows the CFA's real purchasing power has been gutted by nearly 14 per cent since 2020-21 despite a nominal uplift in the past 12 months.

In 2024-25 alone the CFA recorded a \$51.8 million deficit bringing the cumulative funding shortfall to more than \$145 million over four of the past five years.

"You can't do 36 per cent more work while real funding is cut by 14 per cent. The only way that works is by pushing volunteers to breaking point," Mr Hosking said.

"Our volunteer firefighters don't ask for much. They give their time freely and put their bodies on the line. They ask only that they have the equipment, training and support they need to do the job. Right now the funding is failing them."

The criticism follows the release of the 2024-25 CFA Annual Report which Nationals Leader Danny O'Brien said confirmed years of funding cuts under Labor.

"The annual report reaffirms funding cuts to the CFA in the 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 financial years despite the Premier repeatedly claiming her government had only ever increased funding," Mr O'Brien said.

The report shows spending on PPE and equipment fell \$8.3 million while spending on volunteer compensation and insurance fell nearly \$14 million.

Mr Hosking said the timing of the report's release mid-fire season was telling.

"CFA volunteers are out there right now protecting lives and property across regional Victoria. Regional Victorians won't accept the CFA being systematically starved of resources," he said.

The funding shortfall comes as volunteer brigades across Bass Coast and South Gippsland continue to respond to grassfires, scrub fires and motor vehicle accidents throughout the summer months.

The State Government has been contacted for comment.



AS Mayor of Bass Coast, I want our community to know just how strongly Council is advocating to protect the future of the iconic Phillip Island MotoGP.

For decades, the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix has been part of the fabric of our region. Since first being held at Phillip Island in 1997, this event has grown into the largest regional sporting event in Australia and one of the most significant fixtures on Victoria's Major Events calendar. It has put Phillip Island on the world stage, attracted international visitors, and brought enormous pride to our community.

The MotoGP delivers far more than thrilling racing. It supports hundreds of local businesses across hospitality, retail, accommodation and tourism, creates jobs, fills our towns with visitors and generates millions of dollars in economic activity for Bass Coast and the broader Gippsland region. In 2025 alone, more than 91,000 people attended the event, the highest attendance in more than a decade, demonstrating just how strong demand and community support continues to be.

That is why Council has taken decisive action. Alongside South Gippsland Shire Council, Destination Phillip Island, Destination Gippsland and regional business leaders, we have formed a united coalition to campaign for the long-term future of MotoGP at Phillip Island. Together, we have written to the Premier, the Australian Grand Prix Corporation, MotoGP rightsholders and political leaders across the state to seek urgent commitments to keep the race where it belongs, at its Island home.

The community response has been nothing short of extraordinary. Thousands of residents, businesses and visitors have already signed the 'Save our MotoGP' petition and contacted the Premier to make their voices heard. This groundswell of support sends a powerful message that the MotoGP is part of our identity, our economy and our community spirit.

We now know how significant the economic benefit is to our local region. That impact flows directly into local jobs, family-run businesses and community services, helping sustain our visitor economy well beyond race weekend itself.

Council will continue to advocate strongly and consistently for this event and what it represents for Bass Coast and Gippsland. We will not step back from this fight.

If you haven't already, I encourage you to add your voice by signing the petition at engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/motogp. Every signature strengthens our case and reinforces to decision-makers just how important this event is to our region.

We will keep standing up for Phillip Island and the future of MotoGP in Bass Coast.

Coal miner's daughter Wonthaggi's newest OAM

WONTHAGGI'S newest Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) recipient, Wendy Crellin, was born here, the third generation of a coal mining family which on both sides came here in 1910 to work in the new State Coal Mine.

Of Cornish and Scottish mining stock, the Opies and the Kennedys were already hardened to the conditions they found here, having also mined for gold in Clunes and elsewhere in central Victoria after arriving in Australia by boat.

However, when her union organiser father Allan Lincoln Opie was seconded to NSW to address trouble in the mines in the Hunter region in 1943-44, Wendy was lost to this area at the age of three.

And it was only a fluke of fate that allowed love to intervene, and she returned to the town with her surgeon husband John in 1971.

But by then, after schooling at Essendon in Melbourne and ballet tuition at the Borovansky Ballet School, she had assembled the skills that were to serve her and Wonthaggi well for the following 50 years.

If Mrs Crellin had done little else with her life than establish Ballet Barre for Seniors here a few years ago, providing



Wonthaggi's newest recipient of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), Wendy Crellin, paid tribute to the many volunteers she has worked with over the years who don't always get the recognition they deserve.

tuition, exercise and social interaction for 55 to 60 local seniors five times weekly, it would have been enough to earn her the national recognition she received in the Australia Day honours this week.

But her record of community service, principally to Wonthaggi, goes way deeper than that.

"We were all brought up doing community work and I'm proud to say my three children

have followed on with that," Mrs Crellin said at home in North Wonthaggi on Australia Day.

Mrs Crellin had been fielding phone calls from friends and colleagues all morning but finally there was time to reflect on an honour which she says she shares with the many other volunteers she has worked with over the years.

"Delighted of course, but it

makes me think of the many people involved in community organisations locally who don't get that sort of recognition but go on doing what they do nonetheless," she said.

"It's ordinary Wonthaggi people doing wonderful things for their community.

"My approach is that if you're only going to get one go at this so you might as well do something that brings joy to other people and satisfaction to yourself.

"And at the same time, you get so much back while also meeting all the wonderful people who work and live in your community."

Mrs Crellin received her award for service to the community through a range of organisations including president of the State Coal Mine Rescue Station Arts since 2005, founder of Seniors Classical Ballet Classes, 10 years as president of the Bass Coast Artists Society and 20 years on the Rose Lodge Community Aged Care board.

She also served two terms as a councillor for the Borough of Wonthaggi in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

The Wendy Crellin Wing at Rose Lodge was named in her honour.

Music carnival and fireworks at Oz Day at the Daly

By Trent Westaway

DALYSTON Recreation Reserve came to life on Monday as families and visitors gathered to celebrate Australia Day with a concert and carnival-themed event.

Families began to trickle in shortly after the gates opened at 4pm, with the reserve buzzing by late afternoon, filled with the sounds of live music, laughter and revelry.

Children under 18 entered for free, making the event a great family occasion.

Live music contributed to the festival-like atmosphere as multiple local acts took the stage.

Imogen Price kicked things off at 5pm, followed by 820 Door Jambs at 6.30pm and the Knuckleheads at 8pm, before fireworks lit up the Dalyston sky at 9.30pm.



Ash, Kim and Maddie Chetland from Wonthaggi enjoying everything Oz Day at the Daly has to offer. W11_0426

There were plenty of activities for the kids, with carnival-style games including pop a duck, pull a string and laughing clowns.

Rides such as bungee trampolines, along with face painting and bubble blowers, allowed kids plenty of

options.

Banners around the reserve carried the Australia Day message "Reflect, Respect, Celebrate".

Dalyston Football Club vice-president Andy Thomas spoke about the opportunity Australia Day presents

to pause and appreciate a country many often take for granted.

"Our country is a special place. At times I don't think we realise how special it is," he said.

"It's a celebration, but also an opportunity to be thankful that we are living in Australia."

Events coordinator Frank Angarane said the day was designed as an affordable and inclusive community event.

"We're trying to push local musicians. We use local entertainers, local traders, local contractors. It really is a local event."

Both organisers emphasised the importance of volunteers and the support of local businesses, particularly Alex Scott, who contributed to the fireworks display.

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Anne Forbes with Luciblooms Memorial Youth Awards winner Lily Dewar-Oldis displaying her painting *Pond-ering Koi*, photo of Lucia Berghella, Lilah Zun with her work *Sunset Lake* that earned an honourable mention, and Bob Hickman with the painting of Ksenia Chechkova titled *Landscape* that also gained an honourable mention. A39_0426

Luciblooms honours young artists

TALENTED young artists were recognised on Australia Day through the Luciblooms Memorial Youth Awards in memory of Lucia Berghella and presented by her mother and painter Anne Forbes.

Lily Dewar-Oldis won with her bright and lively painting *Pond-ering Koi*, saying afterwards that she is honoured and overwhelmed with joy just like the fish in her painting and will be inspired to enter other art shows.

"I knew I wanted to paint koi fish," she responded when asked how she chose her subject, with the opportunity to enter the Leongatha Art and Photography Show making it

the ideal occasion.

Anne explained why Lily won the \$200 first prize.

"Lily, I chose your koi painting because it really stood out from all the other youth artworks; you've beautifully captured the gorgeous koi and the way they move through the water," she said, encouraging her to continue with her art.

Lilah Zun picked up an honourable mention for her work *Sunset Lake*, earning her a \$100 prize. Anne struck by the beautiful and calm place the painting shows.

"I liked the way you used light and dark values to portray the

reflections in the water and your painting reminds me of some of the gorgeous sunsets we see in the South Gippsland landscape," she said.

Ksenia Chechkova's painting *Landscape* claimed the other honourable mention.

"It struck me with its use of vivid colour to depict what is a familiar landscape around here; the way the tree was painted and the curve of the hills shows great talent and I was quite surprised that it was done by someone under the age of 13," Anne said.

Lucia continues to inspire Anne's choice of award recipients, the pair having enjoyed painting together.

"I'm not just looking at skill but also what reminds me of Lucia; sometimes the subjects remind me of her fun spirit and at other times the colours talk to me."

Lucia was an intelligent, cheeky bright girl who loved to paint, dance, listen to music, hang out with her mates and play with her two dogs.

While the Luciblooms Awards tie in perfectly with Leongatha Rotary Club's aim to encourage youth art, there is also the need to raise awareness of the little-known condition that took Lucia's life at the age of 13, Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy.

Action needed to highlight condition

By Andrew Paloczi

ANNE Forbes is determined that the annual Luciblooms Memorial Youth Awards in Leongatha, named in memory of her daughter Lucia Berghella, continue to encourage young artists but also highlight Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP), the condition which claimed Lucia's life aged just 13.

"We don't know what causes SUDEP so it's vital that research is continued," Ms Forbes said.

However, while the cause remains a mystery, she stressed there are ways to reduce the risk posed by the condition if those with epilepsy are made aware of the situation.

"Information is power, so I advocate around people knowing about SUDEP as much as possible," Ms Forbes said, outlining some of the steps people can take to minimise the threat of the condition if they are made aware.

"You can do things like getting a lot of sleep and avoiding alcohol and drugs. People with epilepsy who have nocturnal seizures can have alarms put in their bedroom," she said.

She explained that while there is a SUDEP checklist, many people who lose family members to epilepsy say they have never heard of SUDEP.

Ms Forbes said many neurologists are reluctant to speak about SUDEP for fear of frightening those with epilepsy.

She also highlighted the fact that being diagnosed with epilepsy can be a drawn-out process, with Lucia not having been diagnosed despite Ms Forbes expressing concerns to relevant medical personnel.

"She had a nocturnal seizure and we took her to Monash Medical Centre and they played it down and said 'It's not likely to happen again,'" Ms Forbes said.

Three days later a specialist in a telehealth appointment also played down the situation and reiterated it's unlikely to happen again.

Lucia passed away in bed days later, her mother making the heartbreaking discovery.



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Leongatha SES catering team Theresa Jans, Val Bremmer, Lachie Grimes, Hamish Clarke, Jayden Saario and Darren Cartwright preparing a fundraising barbecue at Big 4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch with Kristian Nielsen Park Manager and Jacob Nielsen. B24_0426

SES fundraising barbecue at Big 4 Ingenia Holidays Inverloch

A FUNDRAISING barbecue for the Leongatha SES was well supported by hundreds of visiting holidaymakers at the Big 4 Ingenia Holiday Park in Inverloch.

"It is always a great opportunity to do a community event," said SES volunteer and event organiser Darren Cartwright.

"To get out so people can see us."

Park Manager Kristian Nielsen said it was part of the

By Bruce Wardley

guest experience at Big 4 Ingenia Holiday Park to create an awareness of the great work of the SES.

"It's about engagement with the community to support the SES," said Mr Nielsen.

"The SES does great work."

Mr Cartwright said Leongatha SES had been busy particularly with fallen trees throughout South Gippsland

and a number of vehicle rescue incidents.

"So far we haven't had to search for lost holidaymakers this year, but a number of volunteers have been called out to assist with the fires in East Gippsland."

"People have been good in regard to heatstroke and kept well hydrated," said Mr Cartwright.

Big 4 Ingenia Holiday Park in Inverloch organises activities

for guests every day with different food vans and entertainment.

"The park was full for the Australia Day weekend," said Mr Nielsen.

"We had 350 bookings for the park and foreshore camping ground."

Leongatha SES is proud to have an equal number of male and female volunteers.

"New members are always welcome," said Mr Cartwright.

New rescue dinghy for South Gippsland Yacht Club

By Bruce Wardley

SAILING conditions were ideal for the South Gippsland Yacht Club Australia Day Impulse Traveller Series at Inverloch.

The three days of sailing also proved a useful try-out for the club's new Highfield inflatable rescue craft.

"It's a big step up from our old inflatable," said Club Commodore Matt Kiely.

Valued at \$26,000 the purchase of the Highfield rescue craft and 25HP 4-stroke Yamaha outboard motor was made possible with the support of the Bendigo Community Bank Inverloch, Inverloch Marine and a discount achieved through Australian Sailing.

It has electric tilt and



Henry Mueller, Simon Wilson and Matt Kiely (Commodore) with the new South Gippsland Yacht Club rescue dinghy at Inverloch. B08_0426

electric start making it easier to operate in rescue situations according to Mr Kiely with improved safety for the crew and sailing lessons.

"Training will be provided in the new rescue craft,"

he said.

The club has a number of SES members who will assist with the training.

Maximum speed is 25 knots and for the safe operation of the rescue craft two club

members are needed.

"It can take up to four passengers," said Mr Kiely.

A perpetual trophy was awarded at the end of the three-day Australia Day Series.

This year has been the club's most successful season weatherwise according to Mr Kiely despite the cancellation of some club events due to high winds.

"It tested the new boat," Mr Kiely said.

"One round of training was successful, but the second round was cancelled."

The Australia Day Series featured Sabre, Impulse, Tai-pan and Aeros in three divisions.

Division A catamarans, Division B faster mono-hulls and Division C slower mono-hulls.

Offshore wind auction announced amid project exodus

THE State Government has announced Victoria's offshore wind auction will open in August for an initial two gigawatts of capacity, just weeks after three major projects off the South Gippsland coast collapsed and a fourth was suspended.

Energy and Resources Minister Lily D'Ambrosio said the Request for Tender would give industry certainty to invest.

"We're working closely with developers on the progress of this exciting auction to ensure strong competition to secure the best projects and best value for Victorians," Ms D'Ambrosio said.

But Nationals MP Melina Bath said the announcement rang hollow given the recent exodus of developers from Victorian waters.

The three wind projects slated for closure are Gippsland Dawn (BlueFloat Energy), Kent Offshore Wind (RWE) and Gippsland Skies (an AGL-led consortium). Navigator Offshore Wind Farm (Origin Energy and RES) has been placed on hold.

Describing the Allan Government's handling of Victoria's energy transition as "shambolic", Ms Bath said Labor's energy bungling fell on the shoulders of Premier Jacinta Allan and Ms D'Ambrosio.

"In a vote of no confidence in the Allan Government, multiple developers have withdrawn from developing offshore wind citing poor economic prospects in Victoria," she said.

"Offshore wind is central to the Allan Government's energy transition plans but after 11 years not one project has been deemed viable or progressed beyond a paper pipe-dream while the state's coal-fired power stations creep closer to closure."

Ms Bath said it was doubtful the state's offshore wind targets of 2GW by 2032, 4GW by 2035 and 9GW by 2040 would be achieved.

"Government red tape has ensured the investments are unviable. Labor's offshore wind ambition is fading fast, with licensing and critical port infrastructure still not in place to support turbine construction and deployment."

Developers have cited commercial non-viability, rising supply chain and construction costs, policy and auction delays, and regulatory hurdles as reasons for shelving projects.

Despite the cancellations, Australia's most advanced project Star of the South is progressing according to developer Southerly Ten.

Late last year Star of the South executed a major land purchase at Reeves Beach where the project's cables will come onshore and lodged its Environmental Impact Statement for federal approval.

Chief Development Officer Erin Coldham said a successful first project in Gippsland would pave the way for the rest of Australia's offshore wind industry.

"Offshore wind is essential to Australia's energy system as our coal plants retire. We need new sources of electricity and South Gippsland is home to some of the best offshore wind conditions in the world," Ms Coldham said.

The offshore industry is expected to create more than 6,000 jobs and generate billions in investment.

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South Gippsland
Shire Council

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Community Grants

Applications for South Gippsland Shire Council's Community Grants are now open!

Bring your project to life with funding of up to \$10,000.

To help with your application, Council is hosting seven drop-in sessions across South Gippsland. Here you can have a chat, ask questions, and receive assistance from our dedicated Grants Officer.

In addition to the drop-in sessions, Volunteering Gippsland is providing a Grants and Funding training opportunity at the Korumburra Hub on Wednesday 11 February from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.

Register at:
[volunteeringgippsland.com.au/
calendar](http://volunteeringgippsland.com.au/calendar)

For more information and to start your application, please visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

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

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

DROP-IN SESSION DETAILS:

[Leongatha Library](#)

Monday 9 Feb - 10.00am to 3.00pm

[Korumburra Library](#)

Wednesday 11 Feb - 10.00am to 3.00pm

[Foster Library](#)

Thursday 12 Feb - 10.00am to 3.00pm

[Toora Library \(Toora Community Hall\)](#)

Tuesday 17 Feb - 10.00am to 2.00pm

[Mya Mya Café, Uniting Church, Poowong](#)

Wednesday 18 Feb - 10.00am to 12.00pm

[Mirboo North Library](#)

Thursday 19 Feb - 12.00pm to 5.00pm

[Venus Bay Community Centre](#)

Wednesday 25 Feb - 12.30pm to 4.00pm

EOI: Coal Creek Food Vendor



Coal Creek is on the lookout for a local food and drink vendor to join our Living Heritage Days, held on the first Saturday of every month (from the 07 March).

This is a great opportunity for local businesses to expand their trade and connect with customers, all while enhancing the Coal Creek experience.

[Expressions of Interest close midnight Saturday 14 February.](#)

Submit an EOI at the link below.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/CoalCreekEOI

GREAT SOUTHERN RAIL TRAIL SCULPTURE PROJECT

South Gippsland Shire Council is seeking an artist or arts collective for a unique commission: to design and deliver a site-responsive sculptural installation on the Great Southern Rail Trail (near Koonwarra).

For more information and to submit an Expression of Interest, please visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/GSRT-
sculpture-project](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/GSRT-sculpture-project)

Submissions are open until 5.00pm Monday 2 February 2026.

IMPOUNDED VEHICLE

Council impounded a green Hyundai hatchback from Law Road, Foster (15 January 2026) in accordance with Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Year: 1997

Engine Number: KMHUD11NPWU271440

Unless the vehicle is collected and relevant fees paid within 14 days of the date of this notice, the vehicle will be offered for sale to the public. For enquiries, please contact our Community Safety team on 5662 9200.

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Hopeful signs for Yarram timber mill

By Michael Giles

THE Pentarch Group has emerged as a possible new operator for the Yarram softwood mill closed by AKD late last year.

Pentarch has reportedly been advertising for supervisory, production and administration staff for a Yarram sawmill.

AKD, Australia's largest softwood producer, announced the immediate closure of its Yarram mill in November last year.

The decision saw 73 employees lose their jobs amid challenging market conditions and the prolonged slowdown in housing construction across the country.

The Yarram sawmill produced lower-grade fibre products for landscaping and pallet and packaging manufacture.

The job advertisements state the new business at Yarram would focus on processing Eucalyptus Nittens or silver gums for pallet and packaging feedstock.

The ads also state Pentarch Forestry is working through the final stages of assessing a potential site in Yarram and that understanding the strength of the available workforce is a critical step.

Pentarch did not comment on the advertisements.

Meanwhile Pentarch has acquired Queensland-based Superior Wood to take effect on January 30.

Should Pentarch go ahead and acquire AKD's operation at Yarram it may also provide a lifeline for workers displaced by the closure of the historic Swifts Creek mill.

Extra funding will be found for State Coal Mine

By Bruce Wardley

A MAJOR increase in the projected cost of the Wonthaggi State Coal Mine upgrade has been defended by Bass MP Jordan Crugnale.

"As the original funding announcement included the repair of the drift car, and this was also reiterated at a meeting I attended last year with the CEO of Parks Victoria, his team and SCM friends and volunteers, the safety work required which is part of the drift car project will exceed the original allocation," Ms Crugnale said.

"It is my job as the local MP to make sure we find the additional funding required to deliver on our commitment to restore it. This is what I have been working on and discussing with the Minister and will continue to do so until we get the extra funds required."

Ms Crugnale thanked Friends of the State Coal Mine volunteers for their continued advocacy and the Parks Victoria team for their presence and engagement.

"As a collective we are all working towards the same objective and outcome for this wonderful and historical local asset," Ms Crugnale said.

Parks Victoria Chief Executive Lee Miezis said the priority was for the safety works on the main heading which would get underway next month.

"This is a critical part of the drift car project. We know how important the mine is for the volunteers and local community and we will continue regular meetings to keep them updated," said Mr Miezis.

Work on the main heading will install modern support for the tunnel to make it safer.

Vet warns extreme heat could be deadly for pets

AS temperatures start to climb across the region, local vets are warning pet owners to take another look at how and when they exercise their animal.

In coastal towns such as Inverloch and Cape Paterson, a stroll with the dog is just part of the daily routine. However, RSPCA Victoria is sounding the alarm after fielding 20 disturbing heat-related complaints in a single day earlier in the month. They also reported that some animals are being left without basic water or shelter protection in scorching conditions.

While the worst of the heat may still be on its way, vet David Beischer from Gippsland Veterinary Group in Wonthaggi says the hotter days are already starting to have an impact.

"We are seeing more of those sorts of cases but it's not all that bad just yet this year. The worst heat days are probably still ahead," Dr Beischer said.

Unlike us, dogs don't have a lot of ways to cool themselves down.

"Dogs don't have sweat glands the way we do," he explained. "Their main way of losing heat is by panting, but on a hot day that's just not very effective."

Beach towns like Inverloch and Phillip Island are sprinkled throughout the Bass Coast, and walking the dog along the beachfront is basically a daily ritual for many locals. However, the beach environment can be both helpful and hazardous.



With hot days becoming more frequent, vets are warning pet owners about the dangers of walking in scorching temperatures. W17_0326

"The beach can actually be a relief for dogs on a hot day. They can cool off a bit. Giving them a good spray or creating some air movement over their skin can be a real help. A wet towel or a fan can help them cool down as well."

But Dr Beischer warned dog owners not to just assume all outdoor surfaces are safe just because they're near the water.

"Dogs have some pretty thick foot pads, but if temperatures get hot enough, they can cause problems to the tissue," he said. "Grass is always a better option, so you just need to be smart about choosing your walking route and the time of day you take the dog out."

The early warning signs of heat stress in a dog can turn serious in a hurry if you ignore them

"Their breathing rate goes up and you might see some drooling, or they get agitated or look distressed. In bad cases they may just stop in their tracks and not even want to walk. If that happens you need to get them cooled down as quickly as you can."

Some dogs are also far more vulnerable to heat than others. Thick-coated breeds like Bernese Mountain dogs are in a higher risk category, as are older dogs with health issues in their heart or lungs.

Despite all the warnings, the advice for owners is pretty simple

"The easiest thing is to just try to avoid the heat altogether," he said. "Choose a more moderate time of day, the evenings are usually pretty good, and you'll be fine."



Bayside Regional Health's Maternal Child Health Service teams gratefully accepted donations of hampers and vouchers from Bass Coast CWA groups, which will be distributed to families in need throughout the year.

CWA groups back local families

BAYSIDE Regional Health was grateful to receive generous donations from Bass Coast CWA groups recently.

Christmas hampers and vouchers were donated to the Maternal Child Health Service to be distributed to families in need throughout the year.

The donations were made by the Phillip Island, Cowes, Grantville and Woodleigh groups.

"Part of what the CWA is all about is supporting local mothers and children, and they came to us with ways to support families," Maternal Child Health Service team leader Kathryn Anderson said.

"For us, our service is more than weighing babies now. We support families facing a range of health and social issues from birth to school age. We

help with breastfeeding in the early days, sleep settling, home visits, playgroup referrals – as much as possible to help take the pressure off.

"Distributing these hampers and vouchers over the year will help families who maybe can't afford formula or nappies one week or require help with other resources like highchairs. The vouchers are in small amounts just to help lift the burden of the cost of living."

Some of the hampers were Christmas themed to spread some holiday cheer, while others were baby specific, containing items such as knitted goods and powders.

Ms Anderson said the Maternal Child Health Service will continue its partnership with the local CWA groups and thanked them for their kindness and generosity.

"We have a team of seven passionate Maternal Child Health Nurses. It has been a real pick-me-up for the families who have received hampers and vouchers so far, and it's wonderful to be able to provide that," she said.

The Maternal Child Health Service also provides help to families with a community clothes rack in their centres in Wonthaggi, Grantville, San Remo and Cowes.

Families are welcome to take clothes as needed, or pay it back by donating clothes.

Nappies have also been donated to the centres.

Ms Anderson said the Maternal Child Health Service will continue its partnership with the local CWA groups and thanked them for their kindness and generosity.

Mayor's Message



Cr Nathan Hersey



Community Grants

The second round of Council's Community Grants Program is now open, for funding of up to \$10,000.

Council is running drop-in sessions throughout February for members of local community groups, to get tailored advice on potential grant applications. Sessions will be taking place in Leongatha, Korumburra, Foster, Toora, Poowong, Mirboo North and Venus Bay.

To find out when Council will be in your area, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants and click on 'Community Grants'.

Australia Day

Australia Day events were held across South Gippsland on Monday, bringing locals and visitors together to celebrate our country and our region.

I attended events in Korumburra and in Leongatha, where the first Citizenship Ceremony of the year was hosted. It was great to see 16 locals become Australians, celebrating citizenship of this great country. It was a reminder of how fortunate we are to live in such a welcoming community, where people want to live and remain.

We also announced the winners of the South Gippsland Photography Competition. Congratulations to Stephen Rawling on winning the under 15 category and Ian Osborne on winning the open category. Thank you to everyone who submitted an entry, and congratulations to our winners!

South Coast Community Leadership Program

Applications are now open for those wanting to be part of the South Coast Community Leadership Program.

The Program is run alongside Bass Coast Shire Council and is intended to help community members build their leadership skills and connect with like-minded locals. Our community is run by so many volunteers who take up leadership roles in clubs and community groups, and Council is pleased to support our community members who give so much.

Applications close Friday, February 13, 2026.

To apply, please visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/leadership

Looking Forward in 2026

There is plenty that will happen throughout 2026 at South Gippsland Shire Council. It takes planning and work to bring new council initiatives to development stage. Of interest is the Nyora Infrastructure and Connectivity Study, which has commenced thanks to a grant from the Victorian Government's Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program and funding in Council's 2025/26 Budget. This Study will help Council plan for better traffic flow and safer connections in Nyora – something that many locals have been asking for.

Council will also continue reviewing its asset portfolio and is commencing a Heritage Study to help identify heritage buildings and township characteristics that contribute to our local identity. This work will help to protect the identity of our townships, ensuring that the local heritage so many people appreciate in South Gippsland can remain for the future.

All quiet in Cowes ahead of Thompson Avenue works

By Bruce Wardley

TRAFFIC getting into and out of Cowes over the remainder of the summer period is about to be tested with Bass Coast Shire Council to close the lower section of Thompson Avenue for Phase 2 of the Cowes Foreshore Precinct Project.

Despite traffic snarls leading into all local tourist towns ahead of the Australia Day long weekend, including Cowes, traffic along the Cowes foreshore was flowing freely.

Bass Coast Shire has warned of temporary traffic delays and short-term changes to footpath access when Thompson Avenue is reduced to one-way traffic from February 2.

Vehicles will be required to enter from Chapel Street and exit via the eastern laneway and rear car park behind Pino's Trattoria connecting to Bass Avenue.

Eastbound traffic on The Esplanade will be one-way from Warley Avenue towards Bass Avenue, but pedestrian access will be maintained on both sides of the works area to provide access to all shops and businesses throughout the construction period.

Although every effort will be made to reduce the impact of the works the public has been advised to expect construction and landscaping activity, use of heavy machinery and some noise, vibration and dust.

This major transformation to the Cowes streetscape has been supported by \$8 million in funding from the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program alongside private investment and funding from council.

Works will include upgraded stormwater drainage and underground services, realignment of communications infrastructure, reconstruction of road and footpaths, new kerb and channelling, improved public lighting and new landscaping and greenery.

Bass Coast Shire said the upgrades will help support outdoor dining, improve pedestrian safety, and create more inviting spaces to gather, shop and relax.

\$27 million upgrade planned for Cowes wastewater plant

WESTERNPORT Water is planning a significant mechanical and electrical upgrade to the Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant to support economic prosperity and liveability on the Bass Coast.

The Next Generation Upgrade Project represents an estimated \$27 million investment and is planned to commence in late 2026, with construction taking approximately three years.

Commissioned in 1982, the Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant is Westernport Water's primary treatment facility, servicing Phillip Island and the township of San Remo.

Planning for the future, keeping services affordable, and reducing environmental impact are high priorities for Westernport Water and its customers.

Although the plant has been upgraded a few times over the years, a significant upgrade is now essential to ensure it can reliably meet future housing demand, economic growth, peak holiday periods and wet weather



An aerial view of the Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant which is set for a \$27 million upgrade.

events.

Westernport Water has completed a detailed feasibility assessment to find the best overall solution to ensure the scale and cost of the upgrade is proportional to the need, with a strong focus on limiting customer bill impacts while delivering essential service improvements.

The upgrades will also deliver climate benefits, with Westernport Water planning to decommission the plant's primary source of greenhouse gas emissions, the anaerobic digester, significantly reducing the treatment plant's carbon footprint.

Westernport Water Managing Director Dona Tantirimudalige

said, subject to planning approval, this project will be their largest ever single infrastructure project.

"It will help secure Phillip Island as a popular and attractive region to live, visit and invest," Ms Tantirimudalige said.

"We encourage customers and community members to attend one of the information sessions advertised to find out more and ask questions about this important project."

Community information sessions will be held on Thursday February 12 from 10am to 1pm at Berninnett in Cowes in the Small Community Room, with bookings not required and light refreshments provided.

An online session via MS Teams will also be held on Wednesday February 18 from 7pm to 8pm, allowing residents to join from home.

Email cowesupgrade@westernportwater.com.au to register for the online event by Tuesday February 17.

Timely book release following gruesome findings

DESPITE the public interest in the upcoming launch of The Vanishing of Vivienne Cameron: Forty Years Searching for the Phillip Island Murderer, by Vikki Petraitis, the sensitivity of the case remains a taboo on Phillip Island.

Crime writer, Vikki Petraitis, launched the Casefiles podcast, The Vanishing of Vivienne Cameron, in 2020, exploring the case in a series of 10 compelling episodes, and the popularity of the podcast, which offers more detail than the original book, The Phillip Island Murder, co-authored by Vikki Petraitis and journalist Paul Daley, has ignited renewed curiosity.

Vikki said the objective has always been a search for the truth about what happened to Vivienne Cameron; it has never been about causing offence.

Interest in the podcast and

impending book release has been heightened by a gruesome discovery at Silverleaves on Thursday, January 15, where homicide detectives and the Missing Persons Unit were notified after human remains were found at a property in Hazelwood Court.

Since the discovery, speculation has run rife on social media about the potential connection between the bones, found in a shallow grave in Hazelwood Court, Silverleaves, and the disappearance and alleged suicide of Vivienne Cameron.

Although a spokesperson for Victoria Police confirmed that the bones are still being forensically analysed, this process is expected to take some months.

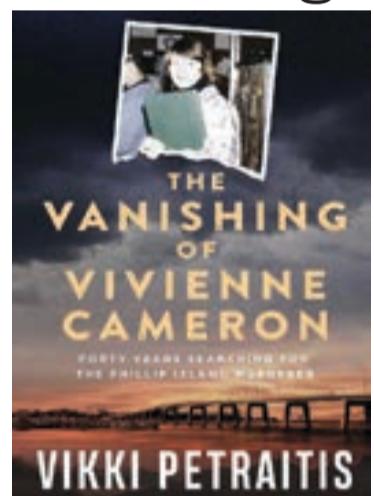
"The fact that so many on the island wondered if it might be Vivienne Cameron suggests that there

are many who don't believe she went off the bridge," said Vikki.

"I have had so many messages over the 35 years I've been looking at the case. Ultimately, we will all have to wait for the results of forensic testing. I imagine this would also be difficult for members of Vivienne's family."

Vikki confirmed that an official book launch and signing in a formal capacity on the island was never considered due to the sensitivity of the case. "I want the attention on the case, not on me," she said.

Renewed interest in the case of Vivienne Cameron is coincidentally timed with the launch of Vikki Petraitis' new book, The Vanishing of Vivienne Cameron: Forty Years Searching for the Phillip Island Murderer, available in stores and online on January 28.



The Vanishing of Vivienne Cameron: Forty Years Searching for the Phillip Island Murderer, by Vikki Petraitis released on January 28.

NEXT GENERATION UPGRADE PROJECT

COWES WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Westernport Water are embarking on a major upgrade to the Cowes Wastewater Treatment Plant to support economic prosperity and liveability on the Bass Coast.

Find out more by attending one of the community information sessions below. The project team will be available to share information and answer any questions you might have.

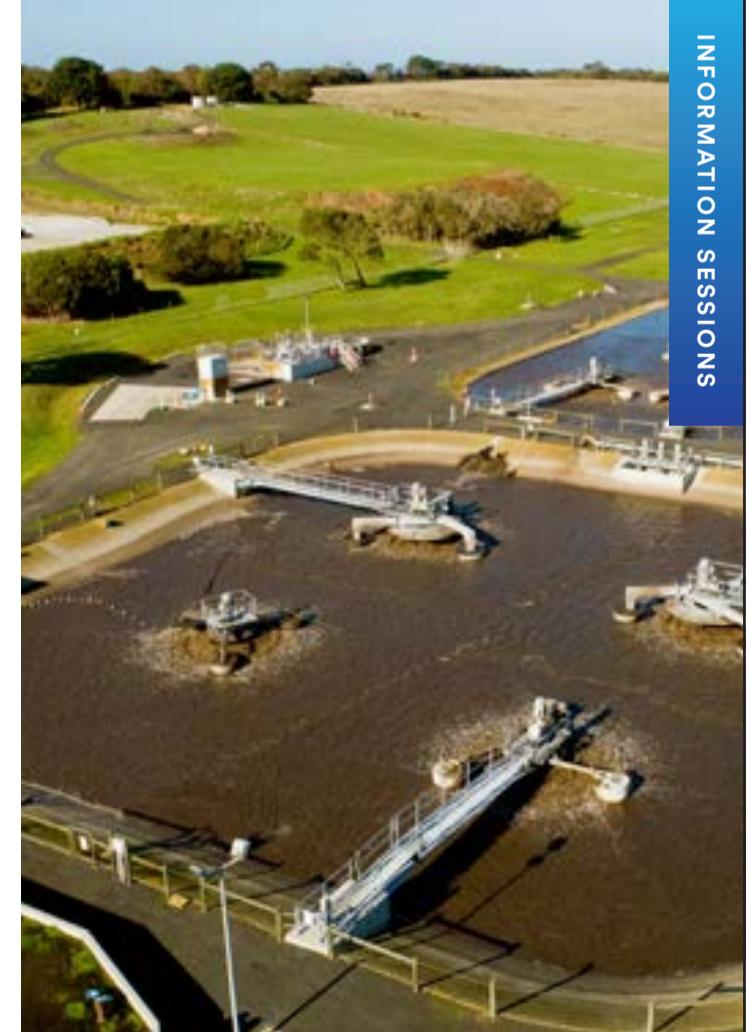
Information sessions

Berninnett, Cowes Small Community Room	Thurs 12 February 10am - 1pm	Members of the project team will be available to share information and answer questions. Light refreshments provided. Bookings are not required.
On-line via MS Teams Event	Wed 18 February 7pm - 8pm	Join from the comfort of home. Hear from members of the project team. Ask questions via Q&A chat. Email cowesupgrade@westernportwater.com.au to register by Tues 17 February.



westernportwater.com.au

INFORMATION SESSIONS





Organisers and participants from across the Bass Coast and South Gippsland came together at the annual commemoration at Wishart Reserve. Photo by Geoff Russell.

Community gathers to honour Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner

MORE than 100 people gathered at Wishart Reserve in Wonthaggi on Tuesday, January 20 for what has now become an annual commemoration of Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner.

The ceremony brought many community groups together, including First Nations leaders, reconciliation advocates, and community members for an afternoon of remembrance. The event was organised by the Bass Coast Reconciliation Network, an umbrella body made up of local organisations committed to reconciliation initiatives, working in close partnership with the Bunurong Land Council.

The Bass Coast Reconciliation Network includes representatives from Bass Coast

Health, Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks and MYLI - My Community Library.

The day started with a Welcome to Country by Bunurong Elder Uncle Mark Brown, followed by a smoking ceremony led by Uncle Josh West and Uncle Mark Brown.

The event was emceed by Patrice Mahoney. First Nations woman Krishna Methven spoke, guiding the audience through a deeply personal perspective. Ms Methven has heritage from Tasmania, from the Country of Maulboyheenner, and shared reflections on the ongoing connections between Tasmania and Victoria. She spoke about attending Mammalargenna Day in December and the launch of a

commemorative canoe carved in memory of Maulboyheenner, which symbolically carried his spirit across the water from Victoria back to Tasmania.

Rob Ogden gave a powerful address on the trauma Tunnerminnerwait and Maulboyheenner faced long before their execution. He described them as warriors, as freedom fighters, and as men who had experienced far more than any young men ought to have experienced in their young lives.

Bass Coast South Gippsland Reconciliation Group secretary Marg Lynn said the purpose of the event was to acknowledge a history that sits close to home.

"This is truth telling about a circumstance that happened

on our doorstep," she said. "For people living around Wonthaggi, Cape Paterson and Harmers Haven, this history is part of this place, and it is something we all ought to understand."

This year's commemoration carried added weight following the passing of Treaty legislation in Victoria and a formal apology to Aboriginal people by the state government. Ms Lynn said there was a growing sense of cautious optimism.

"It's been, in many ways, a very positive year in terms of First Nations politics. Treaty was passed and the state government gave an apology to Aboriginal people," she said. "There's a feeling we're on the cusp of some new developments and new positivity."

Local tyre shop marks 20 years serving Korumburra

DAVID Amor has been servicing Korumburra's cars, four-wheel drives and SUVs for 20 years from his workshop at 20 Sanders Street.

Korumburra Tyre Service is now the only tyre service operating in town, and Mr Amor offers efficiency, reliability, professionalism and a wealth of knowledge.

As well as a great range of tyres from well-known brands, Mr Amor offers fitting and balancing, wheel alignments, puncture repair, new batteries, services, free quotes and inspections.

"Korumburra Tyre Service is easy to find in the industrial estate," Mr Amor said.

"You just come up the laneway and your one stop shop is there."

Mr Amor's extensive industry experience helps to ensure his customers find the right tyres and vehicle maintenance to suit their needs.

During his time in the local industry, Mr Amor has received strong feedback from his customers, and word of mouth has generated more business.

He keeps more than 80 tyres in stock and said good value for money has always been part of his approach.

"Good value for money has always been part of my business and I'm here to support the locals," he said.

Mr Amor encouraged locals to shop local and said he was always happy to help.

"Please come in and see us, don't be a stranger, we're here to help," he said.

With reasonable prices and free advice, Korumburra Tyre Service is a reliable provider that is trusted by locals.

The business is open 7.45am to 5.30pm on weekdays.

If you're having issues with your tyres or worried about their current condition, call 5655 1003 or visit 20 Sanders Street, Korumburra.

Community Grants

Drop-in sessions



Are you a not-for-profit community group? Does your group have a project/program/event and need funding to get it off the ground? Consider applying for a community grant! The next round closes on Friday, 8 March. Council's Community Grants Officer is out and about talking all things grants:

Community Grant drop-ins – come and chat:

- Thursday, 29 January – Berninnett, Cowes, 9:30am to 4:00pm
- Monday, 2 February – Inverloch Community Hub, 9:30am to 4:30pm
- Thursday, 5 February – Corinella & District Community Centre, 10:00am to 4:00pm
- Monday, 9 February – San Remo Library – 1:00pm to 4:30pm
- Wednesday, 11 February – Berninnett, Cowes – 9:30am to 4:00pm
- Friday, 13 February – Grantville Transaction Centre – 9:30am to 4:00pm
- Wonthaggi – please call (03) 5671 2211 to make an appointment

Grant Writing Workshop – how to navigate SmartyGrants and Council's grant application process:

- Online: Monday, 9 February – 7.00pm to 8.30pm. Bookings are required, please visit www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/grants



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Aurora australis lights up Bass Coast skies

RESIDENTS all over the Bass Coast were treated to a magical display on Tuesday, January 21, as the aurora australis lit up the night sky.

Photographers and onlookers alike were drawn to various coastal vantage points to get a glimpse of the spectacle.

Cape Paterson-based photographer Peter Fogarty was amongst those lucky enough to witness the aurora firsthand, capturing photos from Surf Beach, Phillip Island shortly after sunset.

"I was aware a few days out that there was a good chance," Mr Fogarty said. "There was a lot of chatter in the community, and the aurora

By Trent Westaway

apps were sending alerts. A couple of hours out, it became clear it was going to be really good. I headed out just after dark and waited for the sun to set, and the aurora appeared straight away. It was beautiful."

Mr Fogarty says he's been photographing the auroras for more than a decade, but even he ranked Tuesday's among the most memorable he's ever seen.

"Top three for sure," he said. "There have been one or two that were more powerful, but this was extremely impressive."

"You could see the glow across the horizon and the beams moving through the sky," he said.

Despite the difficulty of working in complete darkness, the hordes of people keen to see the spectacle provide perhaps the biggest challenge.

"Focusing is always tricky in the dark, but there were a lot of people around with torches, which makes it harder," he said. "That said, it's so great to see people out and interested in what is happening above us. Seeing the community come together to enjoy yet another remarkable piece of the Bass Coast jigsaw is fantastic."

He described the visuals as "awe-inspiring," an opinion no doubt shared by most of the onlookers. "I was looking after my grandson at the time, and because it was so powerful, I took him out to see it. He got to experience mother nature at its best."

The aurora australis occurs when energy from the Sun reaches Earth and interacts with the planet's magnetic field, causing gases high in the atmosphere to glow. These light displays are usually seen much further south, but strong solar activity can occasionally push the aurora north, allowing sightings from Victoria.

Wonthaggi Buffaloes distribute final funds to seven community groups

By Trent Westaway

by generations of Buffaloes in this town, so we decided to give it back to seven organisations and charities which are worthy," he said.

The Wonthaggi Lodge, also known as the Charles Essex Lodge No 55, is part of a long-standing philanthropic organisation that has operated quietly in the background of Wonthaggi for many decades.

The closure marks the end of an era for the lodge, which has been a fixture of the Wonthaggi community for generations.

"We are not a secret society, but we have secrets within the organisation," Mr Williams said.

"This was our money made

He said the decision to close was forced upon them.

"We were forced into closing by the grand secretary because he claims we cost too much money," he said.

Among the recipients was Bayside Health Wonthaggi, which will put its donation towards a syringe driver to support patient care, while the South Coast Gippsland Salvation Army will put their money into support services for local families, such as food relief.

Garry "Moz" Wilson was present, representing not one but two organisations.

He said the Friends of the State Coal Mine would use the funds to help reinstate the drift car, often used to

take visitors underground during tours, and the Wonthaggi Fire Brigade would use their share on tools and equipment.

Justin Thomson from Wonthaggi SES said they'll also be using their funding on tools and equipment.

Wonthaggi Life Saving Club plans to install a publicly accessible defibrillator at the Cape Paterson Community Hall.

The final donation went to the Wonthaggi and District Historical Society, which will use the funds to document the history of the Wonthaggi Branch of the Buffaloes.

Mr Williams thanked the Wonthaggi Club for hosting the event.



Hayden and Dave of the Bass Coast Transport Accident Commission (TAC) L2P program.

Seeking volunteer mentors to decrease learner wait times

BASS Coast Transport Accident Commission (TAC) L2P program is community-based, run by volunteers, and developed to assist eligible young learner drivers who do not have access to a supervising driver or vehicle, in gaining the driving experience required for a probationary licence.

The program is urgently seeking volunteer mentor drivers who are passionate about road safety and eager to support local young people.

The volunteers are required to be fully licensed drivers who have an hour or two to spare each week.

Eligible learners are matched with a fully licensed volunteer mentor to complete supervised driving in a program vehicle.

Mentors play a vital role in supporting young people to drive safely, reducing accidents, injuries and fatalities among young drivers, contributing to safer roads.

Locally, the Bass Coast TAC L2P program is receiving a high number of learner applications.

Several valued long-term mentors have recently retired from the program, leading to an increase in wait times for learner drivers.

Leigh, who has been a L2P mentor for more than 16 years, says that whilst the prime objective of being a L2P Mentor is to assist young people to develop good driving skills and attitudes before attaining their driver's licence, there's a lot more to it.

"During the countless hours you'll spend with your learner, your interactions will extend to much more than just driving. As you get to know each other, the generation gap diminishes and often results in a very enlightening experience for you both."

Volunteer mentors receive full training and ongoing support throughout their time with the program.

All driving sessions take place in a program vehicle which is fully maintained and insured.

No special qualifications are required beyond holding a full driver's licence, and mentors can choose session times that suit their schedule.

Training for new mentors will be held in Wonthaggi in February.

To learn more or apply as a volunteer mentor, please visit transport.vic.gov.au/l2p.

Alternatively, you can contact TAC L2P Program coordinator Melanie Mumford at Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre on 0467 590 679.

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Well earned retirement for Keith and Doreen

By Andrew Paloczi

IT'S the end of an era in Korumburra with Keith and Doreen Kelly closing the doors of their T For Tyres business on Friday January 23 after almost 30 years.

While they still own a couple of tyre businesses in Wonthaggi, they won't be having to do too much of the management of those, so are effectively retired just in time to celebrate their 61st wedding anniversary.

They look forward to spending more time in Lakes Entrance where they own a house, and to doing some gardening.

Keith and Doreen might also visit their grandson who lives in Canada and is keen for them to come.

While Keith has kept busy over the years with a range of tyre related tasks, his wife and business partner has taken care of wages and bookwork.

Some customers have been with the business since it opened further down the street in 1997 with staff members happy to stick around for the long haul.

One of those staff, David Murray has been part of the business for about 28 years.

He's enjoyed interacting with the customers and says the job has kept him fit.

"They're easy to work for," he said of Keith and Doreen, adding he wouldn't still be there if



Long-term employee David Murray and Keith Kelly reflect on their time at T For Tyres during the final week of the business. A02_0426

that weren't the case.

While Keith had long worked in the tyre business locally before opening T For Tyres in Korumburra, he started out at the Kongwak Butter Factory where he spent about three years in the grain store lugging heavy bags on his back.

He moved on to work for a carpenter before 18 years at Joe's Soft Drink in Korumburra where he learned on the job as well as travelling to Gosford NSW to complete his syrup making course.

Keith recalled that the trick is striking the right balance between syrup and sugar.

It's been tyres since he left Joe's, with Keith eventually combining running a business with being a foundation member of the Korumburra Round Table, and also part of the Korumburra Business Association.

Long a passionate sportsman, Keith represented Bena in the footy, being captain for a couple of years and spending time as the club's Senior coach, a role he also filled at Loch and

Stony Creek.

He is a Life Member of the Leongatha & District Cricket Association, having long featured in A Grade, and briefly played District Cricket for Prahran and Fitzroy, with work commitments making it impractical for him to continue playing in Melbourne.

He fondly recalls being recruited to Carlton Football Club in 1969, albeit it proved too difficult getting the time off for training.

Enjoy your retirement Keith and Doreen.

ExxonMobil Australia Decommissioning What has the VALARIS 107 Jack-up Rig been up to in Bass Strait?



Esso Australia's Bass Strait decommissioning team reached several major milestones last year including investing nearly \$3 billion in early decommissioning works, safely sealing more than 200 wells in Bass Strait, and removing and recycling over 10,000 tonnes of steel (enough steel to build another Eiffel Tower).

A key enabler of this progress is the heavy-duty VALARIS 107 jackup rig, which has been supporting activities across our operations since the end of 2024.

A jack-up rig is a mobile offshore platform with a floating hull and long, extendable legs that can be lowered to the seabed, lifting the entire platform above the waves to create a stable base for drilling or decommissioning wells or other underwater works.

To date, the VALARIS 107 has safely sealed 26 wells across eight of our former oil and gas production facilities. Delivering a campaign of this size and complexity on a single rig is a remarkable achievement—and a clear demonstration of the scale, ambition, and progress of Esso's multi-year decommissioning program in Bass Strait, the largest of its kind in Australia.

In addition to carrying out decommissioning activities, the VALARIS 107 has been supporting our investment to deliver more gas to Australia. Last year the rig drilled and installed the new Kipper 1b well, which started producing gas for Australian households and businesses late last year. The VALARIS 107's next task will be to start drilling wells for the Turrum Phase 3 project.

The \$350m Turrum Phase 3 project involves drilling five new wells in the Turrum and North

Turrum gas fields to access currently undeveloped gas resources. Turrum Phase 3 will be one of the largest gas developments on the east coast this decade and continues Esso Australia's long and proud history of reliably supplying gas to the domestic market for over 50 years. Turrum is expected to come online before winter in 2027.

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



Bonnie Logan, Anky Logan (mother) and Lilly Logan are shopping locally for back-to-school items. w06_0426

Great diversity of shops is good for everyone

THE Wonthaggi Streetscape plan, completed at the end of last year, was introduced to deliver a sense of vibrancy to the town, and local business owners say they welcome, not fear, more neighbours as shop fronts and retail stores remain for sale or vacant.

Barbara Muller, owner of long-running gift shop A Garden of Thoughts, said they've established a niche for themselves in Wonthaggi.

"We had a good December, and January's been quite reasonable, a welcome change after some weaker years," she said.

"It's great to see customers choosing to shop in person for quality and to support shops they know."

"Residents want to have shops in their local area, so they keep supporting local businesses."

Ms Muller said the core customer is steady and values sustainable, long-lasting purchases over churn.

That helped shape how the shop sources stock.

"We do serve a big demographic," she said.

"We're sort of shifting away from slow-moving furniture toward gifting."

"It seems many are willing to purchase for others but are pulling back on their own new household refresh due to the strain on cost-of-living."

In saying that, Ms Muller said that seeing new neighbours join the shopping strip is never a competition.

"It's always more diversity in the shopping, which helps create healthier shopping districts," she said.

"We'd be more than happy if other shops opened."

"A diverse mix of stores makes the area a destination and brings customers back for repeat visits."

Responding directly to local needs helps make high streets stronger places to visit, especially during the back-to-school season, with a variety of shops in Wonthaggi helping mother Anky Logan from Bass tick off her school list all in one place.

Ms Muller said that adaptability keeps small businesses viable in a changing market.

"Sometimes people are ready to roll with the punches, listening to what the customers want and responding to that will help the business succeed," she said.

Ms Muller hopes to see more businesses open in Wonthaggi to help the shopping district thrive.

The Bass Coast Shire Council Wonthaggi Activity Centre Plan is a 20-year vision to support the town's growth as a regional centre.

The plan was adopted in April 2021 and aims to create a vibrant, pedestrian-friendly environment.

The streetscape upgrades included 13 Crepe Myrtle trees planted along Graham Street and 26 new car parking spaces.

Council received \$2 million from the Regional Infrastructure Fund in 2021 towards the streetscape improvements.

Wonthaggi is identified as a Regional Centre in the Bass Coast Planning Scheme and the Gippsland Regional Growth Plan.

Based on realestate.com listings, approximately 17 listings are available in Wonthaggi, including retail, shopfronts and commercial premises.

ROADWORKS NOTICE

REGIONAL
GROUP AUSTRALIA

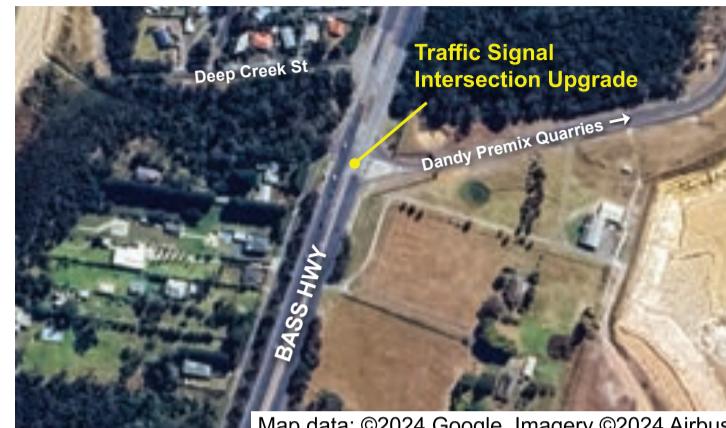
Dandy
PRE MIX

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



Map data: ©2024 Google, Imagery ©2024 Airbus

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.

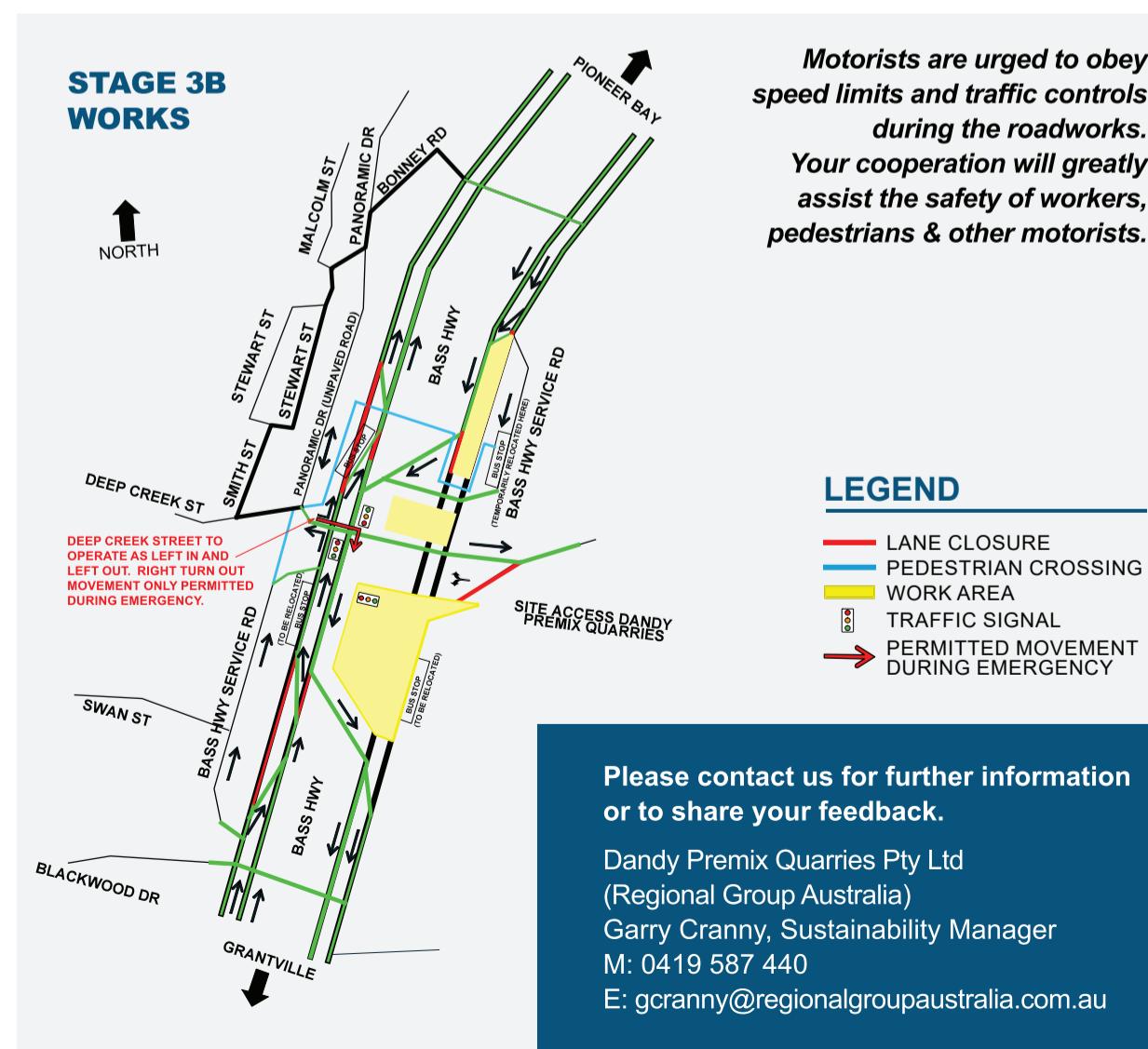
BUS STOPS

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.



Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

Whatever the reason, patients shouldn't suffer

WHO knows what led to the closure of Leongatha Healthcare on Friday, January 16 or whether it's a temporary or permanent situation.

The co-owner of the practice, Dr Chris Webster, allegedly told The Age newspaper on Saturday, January 17, that one of the reasons for closing the doors of the clinic at 14 Koonwarra Road was because "its lease ran out".

He may have been misquoted.

Whatever the case, one of the co-owners of the property, veteran Leongatha medico, Dr Hugh Chisholm, told the 'Sentinel-Times' last week, before he himself was admitted to hospital, that this wasn't the case.

Dr Webster has also said that the punishments meted out to him by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), following comments he made about convicted triple murderer Erin Patterson, made it no longer viable to run his clinic at its present scale.

"The decision had an immediate effect and obviously a devastating and long-term effect," Dr Webster is quoted as saying.

It's no secret that government controls on doctors' consultation fees also keep country clinics under pressure.

All staff entitlements will be paid, he said, claiming existing patients had been informed of the clinic's closure.

He was also reported by The Age as saying that he and his wife retain the ownership of the Leongatha Healthcare business and plan to reopen, a single doctor clinic, in a new location in town "within weeks".

In fact, in answer to comments made on his colourful TikTok account during the week, Dr Webster indicated he was on leave and encouraged the writer to "call again after Australia Day".

Whatever the situation is, the sudden closure of the town's main medical clinic left up to 8,000 patients in the lurch and sent doctors, clinics and hospitals scrambling to fill the considerable vacuum, for which the community is most grateful.

That special effort looks set to continue while more permanent arrangements can be put in place.

However, while everyone feels for the staff and doctors who have been displaced by this sudden turn of events and is appreciative of their efforts in the interim, it's the interests of the patients which are paramount.

Increasing capacity elsewhere so that those who need to see a doctor can see one is the most important, but so is securing the health records, which we're told are owned by Leongatha Healthcare, and therefore by Dr Webster.

Patients have the right to access those records and those that want to place on the record a request to do so should notify Leongatha Healthcare by email to: reception@leongathahealthcare.com.au

Hopefully, Dr Webster can attend to those emails on his return from leave this week.

Vox Pop

Should there be a limit on gun ownership?



Matt Huitema

Pound Creek

"No, it's tough enough the way it is. Taxpayers should not be forced to pay the bill for gun buy-backs."



Paul Wade

Inverloch

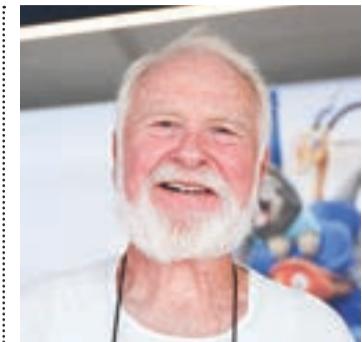
"They just need to continue the laws they've got. Guns are needed for farmers and enthusiasts. I was brought up on a dairy farm, and we always needed a gun."



Paul Bye

Yarram

"No, you can't take guns off people, the controls should be on who gets a licence."



Rod McLean

Wonthaggi

"I believe in gun control but so many people still require guns. The bad people already have guns so why take guns off the good people. There has to be a line."

Australia Day spirit on display

Australia Day is, at its heart, about reflecting on the character and spirit of the Australian people. In recent weeks, that spirit has been clearly on display during the bushfires that have ravaged the state.

Across fire-affected communities, Victorians have helped one another without hesitation. Opening their homes to strangers, sharing what they had, volunteering their time, and standing shoulder to shoulder in the face of loss and uncertainty.

Our firefighters, many of them volunteers, worked tirelessly to protect lives and property, backed by local communities that rallied around them and stepped up in every way possible.

These actions speak louder than any words about what Australia Day represents to many of us. Mateship, resilience, generosity, and a willingness to help others in tough times are values deeply woven into our national identity. They are not limited to one day of the year, but Australia Day provides an opportunity to recognise and appreciate them.

The response to the bushfires demonstrates that our nation's greatest strength lies in the compassion and resilience of our people.

That is something worth acknowledging and celebrating.

Happy Australia Day!

Danny O'Brien MP, Member for Gippsland South

Standing with Afghanistan veterans

No matter what some poorly informed commentator on the other side of the globe might say, the veteran community in Wonthaggi, who know the truth of your service and sacrifice, stand with you and for you, our Afghanistan veterans.

Mutual support is forever.

Kevin Walsh, President, Wonthaggi RSL Sub-Branch

Speed sign insanity

With the idiotic 40km/h sign in McBride Avenue, this insanity has reached greater heights with the sudden appearance of a 40km/h sign in Graham Street.

What next? A 120km/h sign on the Cape Paterson to Inverloch winding and mainly double-lined road?

Go figure!

John Hennessy, Inverloch

Wind farm concerns miss the bigger picture

In the Sentinel-Times January 20 edition article on concerns about the Gelliondale wind farm, we are getting a rerun of the Orange Bellied Parrot meme that was trotted out during the Abbott



Spare a thought for these little fellas

IT'S hot. Too darn hot. However, while most of us have been able to adopt our own strategies for beating the heat after a run of hot days, it didn't get any easier for this little duck family in Korumburra over the weekend. They stopped the traffic while they tip-toed across King Street in search of somewhere suitable to take a cooling dip.

government years to try and squash the Bald Hills wind farm, and more recently, the Robbins Island project off Tasmania.

However sincere ornithologists are about endangered bird species living proximately to wind farms, the politics of this inevitably tangle with fossil lobby groups trying to block, slow down, discredit or obfuscate attempts to deal with fossil burning induced climate change.

The fossil industries and their media backers have been enormously successful in doing this since at least the 1980s, which means we are several decades behind where we need to be to prevent potentially severe climate outcomes.

Gelliondale and projects like it should have been constructed 40 years ago. And if they had been, we could have been a lot pickier about siting them and taken a bit more time for mature reflection and sensitivity as to potential for collateral damage.

Anyone who takes the trouble to follow what is going on will have observed that our earth is noticeably heating and that we are starting to see a global tendency for increasingly frequent and more severe weather events, which very likely will get much worse if we continue to behave as if the whole climate thing is a catastrophising hoax which we do not have to deal with.

The thing now is to try and make the best of an already fraught situation with little time left to successfully deal with it. That means avoiding where possible siting turbines inside known migratory flight paths, making sure that available technologies to mitigate bird strikes are deployed where practicable, and making sure there is funding for breeding programs for especially at-risk birds like slower moving raptors.

The bottom line is that we are rapidly running out of time to head off potentially disastrous climate change that will hit the entire biosphere, not just birds.

It would be a really good idea if we started to think and behave as if that were the case. Even if the climatologists are conceivably wrong, do we want to bet the children's entire inheritance on it?

Christopher Nagle, Grantville

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.



Wonthaggi Toyota

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



2015 Volkswagen
Polo 81TSI Comfortline GR
13,990 DRIVE AWAY

Economy plus, 124,195kms, 6 speed manual hatch SN: W102293



2017 Ford EcoSport Trend BK
14,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2019 Holden Trax LT TJ
16,990 DRIVE AWAY

Great first car, 30,096kms, 6 speed auto SUV SN: W102248



2016 Nissan X-Trail TS T32
17,990 DRIVE AWAY

Compact & practical, 172,984kms, auto SUV SN: W102259

CAR OF THE WEEK



2023 MG MG3 SZP1
17,990 DRIVE AWAY

Bold design, 32,470kms, 4 speed auto hatch SN: W102349



2020 Hyundai
Santa Fe ActiveX TM2
29,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2016 Holden VF Series II
29,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2021 Toyota Camry Ascent
32,490 DRIVE AWAY

Reliability plus, 71,089kms, 6 speed CVT auto sedan SN: W102235

Leongatha Toyota

FINANCE AVAILABLE INSTORE. ASK ABOUT AN EXTENDED WARRANTY.



2023 Volkswagen
Tiguan 110TSI Life 5N
26,990 DRIVE AWAY

Roomy and refined, 44,483kms, 6 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L101398



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



2019 Toyota Granvia GDH303R
49,990 DRIVE AWAY

People mover, 83,842kms, auto SUV SN: L101472



2022 Toyota
Landcruiser Prado GXL
54,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2020 Toyota Landcruiser GXL
80,990 DRIVE AWAY

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

4X4 OF THE WEEK

Wonthaggi Toyota

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

Leongatha Toyota

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



OH WHAT A FEELING



Secretary Andrew Mutton, guest speaker Melissa Pardoe and Captain Mick Hughes at the Australia Day Pound Creek Rural Fire Brigade BBQ.

Australia Day at Pound Creek Rural Fire Brigade

THE volunteers at Pound Creek Rural Fire Brigade held their annual Australia Day BBQ continuing a tradition dating back to 1999.

Firefighter Julian Walker said Australia Day is an important date for Australia.

"It's a time to celebrate the uniqueness of the Australian character. At the Pound Creek Rural Fire Brigade, it's the Brigade's way of saying thank you to the community for its support both in kind and in donations throughout the year."

The South Gippsland Shire Brass Band provided music as they have done every year since 1999.

At midday, Captain Mick Hughes gave a brief address followed by the raising of the flag and the national anthem.

Guest speaker Melissa Pardoe has a long association with Pound Creek dating back to her early teens when her parents bought a farming property on the Koonwarra-Pound Creek Road.

Ms Pardoe went on to qualify as a chemical engineer and filled many senior roles in the gas and oil industry both within Australia and overseas.

Mr Walker spoke about community safety and the CFA Mobile Engagement Unit on display.

Following the talk, everyone headed into the station for a BBQ lunch with salads and homemade slices.

The day also featured a live car fire training demonstration and a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses.



Samuel Ashley from Melbourne enjoyed the day at Rhyll for Australia Day.

Gathering of neighbours in Rhyll

THE Phillip Island and District Historical Society teamed up with Rotary of Phillip Island and San Remo for a relaxed community celebration in Rhyll Park on Australia Day.

Family and friends gathered to enjoy live music and local food while children enjoyed balloon animals and face-painting.

John Lovell said it is a privilege to live in such a special part of the world.

"It was a truly memorable day of connection and reflection, made even more special by the sunshine that helped fill the park with a sense of togetherness," he said.



Gavin Coyne of Autopro presented Tyson and Trevor Gordon with Best American for Tyson's 1959 Apache Chevrolet pick-up at the Wonthaggi Show 'n' Shine. B50_0426

Dazzling display of motoring at Wonthaggi Show 'n' Shine

By Bruce Wardley

CARS gleaming in the warm summer sun the annual Wonthaggi Show 'n' Shine Swap Meet and Market at the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve attracted hundreds of eager car enthusiasts from right across Gippsland and Melbourne.

Supporting the Wonthaggi Power Football and Netball Club the weekend event drew plenty of curious onlookers and admirers of fine automobiles. It was attended by Wonthaggi SES, the Wonthaggi Lifesaving Club and Victorian Police.

Sponsored by Total Tools, Greg's Panels, Autopro, Tyrepower, Kia, Wonthaggi Toyota, Shannons and Wonthaggi

Motorcycles and Power Equipment the Show 'n' Shine has long been a firm favourite with the wider community.

Wonthaggi Power supporter and owner of Autopro Wonthaggi and Cowes Gavin Coyne said the show attracted Australian muscle, European and Japanese vintage vehicles.

"We could not have asked for better weather," said Mr Coyne.

"It was an opportunity to show your car, find a rare part or just enjoy the event. Each of the vehicles on display represented hundreds of hours of work."

Judges from the Bass Coast

Historical Automobile Club said it was one of the best fields they had ever seen.

Willie Watt took out Best Tuff Street for his '76 LX Torana which took 10 years to build and Best Engine Bay for his '74 LH Torana.

Paul Kennedy won Best Hot Rod for his 1946 Ford Jailbar pick-up which took 15 years to complete.

Best Original Muscle went to Trevor Male for a 2006 HSV Signature Red Commodore Coupe. Nico Polato won Best Vintage Pre-1950 for his 1928 Touring Hupmobile. Shane Bolding was awarded Best Aussie Original for his VL Commodore. Brian Beckerleg

won Best Bike for his 1968 BSA 600 Spitfire. Tony Easton was awarded Best Japanese for his Datsun. Tyson Gordon won Best American for his 1959 Apache Chevrolet pick-up and Jessie Denman was awarded Best Euro for a 1926 Bayliss Thomas.

Viv Pepper of Shannons presented Greg Clark with the Shannon's Choice Award for a 1958 Austin Healey 100.

Paul Curtis won the Kids Choice Award for his unusual '71 Mercedes 280 S hearse.

The Kids Choice Award was introduced to help support the Wonthaggi Power Under 14s who also sold raffle tickets to raise money for junior football.

40th annual Kilcunda Lobster Festival draws a big crowd

By Bruce Wardley

THE CHANCE to win a Bass Strait lobster on the Kilcunda Lobster Festival spinning wheel drew a big crowd to this year's 40th annual Kilcunda Lobster Festival.

Held in perfect conditions on the Kilcunda foreshore overlooking Bass Strait the lobster spinning wheel was kept busy all day raising funds for the Kilcunda community.

Started in 1985 as part of the Back to Kilcunda weekend the lobster festival reappeared the next year as the annual Kilcunda Lobster Festival and has been held regularly since.

The highlight is always the lobster spinning wheel according to the President of the Kilcunda Community Association Marcel Van den Bronk.

"We expect 5,000 to attend this year," said Mr Van den Bronk.

"We will have 100 spins on the wheel this year compared to 80 last year."

Last year the festival



Tammy and Ben Patterson, Chris Lunn and Graham French on the lobster wheel fundraising at the 40th annual Kilcunda Lobster Festival. B34_0426

committee ran out of lobsters.

Lobster lunches, Moreton Bay bug salads, prawn rolls and prawn pots proved popular with festival goers along with a wide variety of food choices, trinkets and craft items available from the many stallholders.

More carnival rides were

added this year attracting plenty of young thrill seekers.

Assisting with the festival were 70 volunteers including Girl Guides assisting with recycling. Organisers expected 300 lobsters to be consumed all supplied locally by the San Remo

Fisherman's Co-op.

"Most of the funds will be used for the maintenance of the community hall to support community groups such as table tennis, tai chi and carpet bowls," said Mr Van den Bronk.

"We also support the CFA and SES."



New Australian citizens from 16 countries were welcomed to the Bass Coast by Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP, Eastern Region MPs Renee Heath MLC and Melina Bath MLC, Cr Tracey Bell and Cr Jan Thompson. B79_0426

Bass Coast attracts new citizens from around the world

By Bruce Wardley

Attended by Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP, Eastern Region MPs Renee Heath MLC and Melina Bath MLC, Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead, Cr Tracey Bell and Cr Jan Thompson, 37 new citizens proudly took their oath of allegiance followed by the national anthem.

"It's one of the best roles of my job," said Cr Halstead.

"It's great to welcome our new Australians. It takes

enormous courage to move your culture to another country.

"We ask you to respect your country Australia with pride and play your part in making Australia your home."

Reading a message from Home Affairs, Immigration and Citizenship Minister Tony Burke, Monash MP Mary Aldred said Australia welcomed the new citizens as one of the most desired nations on earth.

"Today your new nation

says welcome home," she said.

Ms Aldred spoke of the legacy of First World War General and Chairman of the State Electricity Commission Sir John Monash who gave the electorate of Monash its name.

Several young families were among those who took the oath of allegiance at the Australia Day ceremony in Wonthaggi as well as two older citizens who have lived in Australia for more than 50 years.

Young Fella a popular choice for Wonthaggi Citizen of the Year

By Bruce Wardley

LIFELONG community volunteer Rodney McLean better known to his friends as Young Fella was named Rotary Club of Wonthaggi Citizen of the Year at the 2026 Australia Day Community Awards at Wonthaggi's Union Theatre.

A humble, well-known, popular and respected community member Mr McLean has been a long-time volunteer with the Wonthaggi Fire Brigade, Wonthaggi Uncle Bob's Club and Friends of the State Coalmine.

Daughters Julie De Menech and Tanya Coldebella joined their father on stage as Mr McLean accepted his award from Rotarian Graeme Sprague.

Rotary Club of Wonthaggi President Leah Montebello said it was an opportunity to focus on the values we hold so dearly.

"In these tough times of anger, distrust and sadness, we need to pull together, reach out and ensure no-one is left behind," said Ms Montebello.

A Community Service Award was presented to Glen Alvie residents Elwyn and Jean Matthews for their significant contribution to local schools, the Fire Brigade, CWA, local football and cricket and the Rose Lodge Opportunity Shop.

John Walsh received a Community Service Award for his contribution to



Rotary Club of Wonthaggi 2026 Citizen of the Year Young Fella Rodney McLean accepting his award on Australia Day with daughters Julie De Menech and Tanya Coldebella. B76_0426



SES Controller Jarryd Hargraves accepted the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi Spirit of the Community Award for the Wonthaggi SES Unit. B75_0426



Karen and Haizen Africa welcomed as new Australian citizens at the Australia Day citizenship ceremony in Wonthaggi. B78_0426



Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead with new Australian citizens Surdeep and Amarjit Singh now proud to call their Curry Club restaurants in Cowes, Wonthaggi and San Remo a fully Australian owned business. B81_0426

Our new citizens who call Bass Coast home

By Bruce Wardley

from the Philippines and three-year-old Haizen have just purchased their own home in Wonthaggi.

"We've been living in Australia for six years," said Karen.

"We both work in aged care."

Karen is a registered nurse and husband Henry is training as a care worker.

"Australia has been good to us," said Henry.

Karen studied nursing at Deakin University and Henry has a traineeship at Rose Lodge.

"It's a community here. We're away from our family but it feels like home."

Genalyn Pascual, a registered nurse, and Rodel Pascual, a kitchen hand, and 12-year-old Ryen are living the great Australian dream in San Remo.

"The locals have been very loyal to us."

Keen to return that loyalty the Curry Club donates food to the PICAL pantry in Cowes.

Also celebrating their move to Australia, Karen and Henry Africa

Ryen was born in Australia and loves Australian wildlife.



MACS President Lorys Tuxen speaks about the op shop's \$1 million milestone. rk04_0426

Meenyan celebrates op shop's million dollar milestone

By Rick Koenig

THE Meenyan community celebrated Australia Day on Sunday with a focus on the local op shop's \$1 million milestone.

Meenyan Progress Association President Richard Sutterby nominated the milestone for South Gippsland Shire's Event of the Year because of the significant cash injection into the community.

The Meenyan Area Community Op Shop reached \$1 million in donations to local organisations in 2025 after 17 years of operation.

Mr Sutterby said the achievement highlighted the spirit of Meenyan and its community-minded focus.

"We're celebrating that and what the community means to Meenyan and the community focus that Meenyan seems to have," he said.

More than 100 past and present volunteers gathered in February 2025 to mark the milestone and MACS President Lorys Tuxen said every one of them deserved recognition.

"Every volunteer past and present should be thanked for the time and energy they put towards sustaining this thriving endeavour," Ms Tuxen said.

Ms Tuxen acknowledged Treasurer Jenny Draper for tracking the financials which allowed the organisation to realise they had reached the milestone.

Mr Sutterby presented Ms Tuxen with a plant to be placed in the park while local band Keachange provided entertainment.

CWA Meenyan and Meenyan Stony Creek Fire Brigade put on the famous Meenyan muffins.



Brad Harry shearing with Garry Knox in background at Woodleigh Hall's Australia Day event.

Click go the shears at Woodleigh Hall

AUSTRALIA Day was celebrated at Woodleigh Hall with a sheep shearing demonstration, egg and bacon breakfast and gumboot throw.

Members of the McClelland Spinners and Weavers displayed their craft while Ruth, the Loch hairdresser, took on the challenge to "shear" a human head in a contest with the sheep shearer.

Respects were paid to past presidents Evan Jones and Lew Potter with plaques on a new flagpole.

South Gippsland welcomes new citizens on Australia Day

By Andrew Paloczi

AUSTRALIA Day started in style in Leongatha with 16 South Gippslanders becoming official Aussies during a Citizenship Ceremony at McIndoe Park, an early start ensuring pleasant conditions before expected hot weather set in.

"It's a great honour," Miriam Bosse from Germany said after the event, having come to visit family in Albury in 2013 and meeting her future husband, moving to the Land Down Under in 2017.

While proud to be Australian, she has tried Vegemite for the first and only time.

Another of the new citizens Rita Dahal Khatri expressed delight at being Australian.

"I always wanted to be a citizen because I love this country so much," she said, noting the friendly people, multicultural aspect and plentiful opportunities such as jobs.

Following the Citizenship Ceremony, local South Gippsland Young Citizen of the Year Erica Begg was acknowledged, having played a part in the flag raising ceremony conducted by a group of Leongatha Girl Guides and Scouts.

Proud Leongatha resident Glenn Wright OAM welcomed the new citizens, sharing with them some of the town's history including the famous exploits of young local Lennie Gwyther and his horse Ginger Mick on their ride to Sydney for the opening of the Harbour Bridge.

The stirring sounds of singer Jen Holm and the South Gippsland Shire Brass Band captured the spirit of the occasion, attendees joining in the National Anthem and I am Australian.



Rita Dahal Khatri is delighted to become an Aussie, with Member for Monash Mary Aldred, Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien and South Gippsland Shire Mayor Nathan Hersey just as pleased to congratulate her. A29_0426



Leongatha Scouts and Girl Guides prepare for the flag raising ceremony. A25_0426

Mirboo North honours quiet achiever and beloved market



Mirboo North Citizen of the Year 2026 Rachael Woodall with her mother Jan who nominated her for the award. rk11_0426

By Rick Koenig

A WOMAN who helped her community recover from the devastating February 2024 storm has been named Mirboo North's Citizen of the Year.

Rachael Woodall was recognised at Sunday's Australia Day ceremony for her tireless volunteer work and her efforts to lift spirits after the storm which killed one person and left more than 20 homes uninhabitable.

Ms Woodall made a special effort to ensure Christmas trees were decorated and visible in 2024 to share a message of resilience when the community needed it most.

Her mother Jan nominated her for the award with assistance from staff at the local aged care facility where Ms Woodall delivers newspapers six days a week.

Asked who she would like to thank, "I suppose my family because I'm never at home," Ms Woodall said.

"I don't do it for accolades, I just do it to help everybody."

Last year's joint winner Di Kiddell presented the award and said her memories of Ms Woodall's service went back to the Child Care Centre.

The Mirboo North Market was named Community Event of the Year for its growth from 40 stalls to 130 over five years.

Ruth Rogan from Mirboo Country Business Inc presented the award and described the monthly market as the jewel in the crown of the organisation's activities.

"Not only does it bring people together but it brings in a huge amount of money into our organisation and then to the community for different projects," Ms Rogan said.

Peter and Liz McCarthy accepted the award on behalf of the market team.

Following the event, St Mary's Anglican Church put on morning tea including a scones tower for the community to enjoy.



Australia Day done perfectly

By Andrew Paloczi

KORUMBURRA celebrated Australia Day just right, with a barbecue, lamingtons, Aussie songs, and expressions of pride in the nation, former councillor Jenni Keerie's Acknowledgement of Country blending in seamlessly with that sentiment.

Speakers took windy conditions and resultant audio issues in their stride.

The national day offered the chance for locals to thank South Gippsland Citizen of the Year Val Wilson, and Young Citizen of the Year Rhiannon Rawlins.

Local events nominated for the shire's Event of the Year were also praised, with the South Gippsland Garlic Festival, Korumburra Swap Meet, and winner the Loch Village Food and Wine Festival all earning a mention.

Official proceedings at what was a relaxed event got underway with Korumburra RSL President David Jackson raising the Australian flag and the singing of the National Anthem.

"We live in the best region in



South Gippsland Citizen of the Year Val Wilson shares a laugh with MC Jenni Keerie and Member for Monash Mary Aldred. A34_0426

the best country on earth, and despite all the challenges right now with some people doing it tough, Australia Day is a day for all of us to come together to acknowledge what a great country we live in," Member for Monash Mary Aldred said.

Elaborating on the region, she noted its importance in growing and manufacturing things the rest of the nation relies on.

Councillor Bron Beach, back from a 10-week European adventure with family, shared the realisation that "There's nowhere else like Australia."

Describing Australia as a free country, Mayor Nathan Hersey said that is something people should be proud of, touching on those who have fought on behalf of the nation and the appropriateness of the Australia Day event

happening alongside the Korumburra Cenotaph.

Cr Hersey spoke of the "shared Australian spirit" of which he has been reminded following recent tragedies, with people volunteering and stepping up to support each other.

"I don't think it matters whether you came here as an early settler, whether you're from an Indigenous background or whether you've just become an Australian, we should unite to be proud of Australia and who we are and recognise that we all have responsibilities to keep it a great place to be," he said.

He related the desire to volunteer back to the local region, noting South Gippsland Shire has one of the highest rates of volunteerism in the nation and that makes events such as the celebration of Australia Day possible.

Once formalities were complete, it was time to tuck into a Korumburra Lions Club snag in bread complete with onion and bonus coleslaw, topped off with a Koringal Women's Service Club lamington or biscuit.



With five Olympic Games hockey venue projects behind him and two more at Los Angeles and Brisbane in the planning, Paul Kamphuis is a Glen Alvie sporting fanatic living the dream on the world stage.

Love local, dream big says Paul Kamphuis

BORN and raised in Glen Alvie, Paul Kamphuis' love of sport and community plus an engineering degree has been his ticket to travel to more than 80 countries around the world pursuing his dream job.

But, as he explained to an Australia Day crowd at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve's community centre on Monday, he's never forgotten the fun he had as a kid playing footy and cricket on the oval and in the local community.

President of the recreation reserve committee of management Neville Chapman made the introductions with Mr Kamphuis starting off with some memories of playing in the last Glen Alvie junior football team before doing engineering and science at uni in Melbourne.

After a brief stint in local council engineering, he answered an advert for a job at a company building sporting facilities and got on the team to resurface the State Hockey Centre in Parkville.

So successful was that project that it developed into the company being the preferred contractor for the numerous Olympic and Commonwealth Games, including Beijing, Rio and Paris with Los Angeles and Brisbane to follow.

"The company now employs more than 2,000 people worldwide and we're doing \$1 billion in projects every year," he said.

Lifesavers say thanks on Australia Day

MORE than 100 club and community members gathered at the Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club on Monday for an Australia Day breakfast.

"Every year, we hold this Australia Day event to thank our community partners, particularly the CFA, CERT, the Venus Bay Community Centre, the Men's Shed and our councillor Sarah Gilligan," club secretary Richard Moore said.

Life Saving Victoria also presented certificates to volunteers who oversee Public Rescue Equipment on the beach.

Venus Bay Angling Club Australia Day comp

THE Venus Bay Angling Club Australia Day weekend competition was a bit of a challenge with the wind and early tides and only eight fish were weighed in. Prem Nath won first prize, a \$50 Cavity voucher with a nice whiting. Phil Nebel came second with a 1380g pinky and takes home the IGA voucher donated by Arma Window Tinting.

Nathan Gledhill won his first trophy in the juniors section. The secret weight prize was won by Tony Bryant. The next competition is on February 13, 14 and 15.



Inverloch RSL president Ross Gabb and Inverloch RSL member Dr Terry Shannon OAM JP spoke at the Australia Day celebration in Inverloch on Monday. W09_0426

Kongwak Australia Day breakfast pairs tradition with tourism success



Kongwak Public Hall Committee president Brian Brown helps special guests, award-winning winery creators David and Nicole Harman, raise the flag at Kongwak on Australia Day.

THE Kongwak Public Hall served up its traditional Australia Day breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon and sausage on Monday.

Guest speakers David and Nicole Harman of Harman Wines shared how they left Melbourne in 2004 to create a highly successful tourism business, growing from a nervous first day at their cellar door in 2014 to welcoming 35,000 visitors a year.

In March they travel to Fremantle to compete in the Australian Tourism Awards for the second year running as Victoria's top Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries category winner.

A flag raising and national anthem followed the address.



Find savings to ease back-to-school costs

THE back-to-school costs could possibly be a burden for many families in the looming cost-of-living-crisis with the average spend on electronics, uniforms, shoes and stationery climbing.

According to Compare the Market, parents don't get much of a break between summer holiday spending and the school lists coming through.

Compare the Market's Chris Ford said January could be an expensive month, with many families still counting the cost of Christmas.

"This year the average spend is more than \$700, and that's a lot for families who may already be struggling under the weight of energy bills, insurances and mortgages."

If someone were to put the average \$767 school supply bill on a credit card with an interest rate of 18 per cent, it would take them almost five years to clear the debt, making minimum repayments.

With the addition of interest, that debt would ultimately cost those parents \$1,150.

Mr Ford encouraged parents to try to limit debt where possible and look for other ways to save, to help cover school costs.

Parents of Cowes Primary School confirmed that thankfully stationery is covered by the school, and uniform is available through the State Schools Relief, or second-hand uniform is available for a minimal cost.

Police urge caution around school zones

WITH thousands of children returning to school this week, police are reminding motorists to slow down and take extra care around school zones.

There will be an increased police presence around schools across the state to ensure motorists are adhering to reduced speed limits.

Motorists should also be on the lookout for school crossing supervisors and consider their safety as they step out onto roads to assist children.

Motorists who fail to stop at a children's crossing face fines of \$494 and three demerit points.

Police say speed and distraction are major factors in collisions around schools and will be targeting drivers failing to adhere to the speed limit or using mobile devices.

State Highway Patrol Inspector Nicole Yin said people needed to take extra care when travelling around school zones.

"Children are among our most vulnerable road users," she said.

"They're less developed physically, cognitively and have less experience around traffic."

"It's up to all of us to ensure kids are protected."

"For motorists, this means slowing down and being more alert around schools."

"We're also asking parents, carers and teachers to talk to children about the importance of road safety."

Financial support for regional students

AS THE year begins, so does the organisation of plans, and for last year's secondary graduates who have applied for tertiary study, there come the confronting cost-of-living pressures and requirements for on- or off-campus living.

With the expansion of online and blended learning, both TAFE and universities have significantly reduced the need to relocate.

Many students are now able to study entirely online or minimise on-campus attendance, and that's where the Country Universities Centre Bass Coast is specifically designed to support regional students, including help with financial support.

Services Australia has a range of student payments to help, those that are specifically designed for regional students, including the Tertiary Access Payment, relocation scholarships and student start-up loans.

To help students navigate these options, CUC Bass Coast produces an annual Scholarship Guide.

Sarah Bourke of CUC said this is a free and easy-to-use



Country Universities Centre Bass Coast can assist with student financial support to help registered students like Alex and Grace succeed in their tertiary studies.

resource that outlines available financial support and links directly to university scholarship platforms.

"This guide plays a critical role in reducing financial barriers and supporting informed decision-making," she said.

"Research shows that people living in regional and rural Australia are around 50 per cent less likely to participate in higher education, which is

a staggering statistic.

"Country Universities Centres were established specifically to address this gap by bringing higher education support closer to home."

CUC Bass Coast is one of four affiliated Regional University Study Hubs in Victoria alongside Wangaratta, Swan Hill and Hamilton, and part of a national network of 56 hubs supporting more than 15,000

regional and remote students.

In 2025, CUC Bass Coast experienced a significant increase in demand, reaching 208 registered students, representing a more than 50 per cent increase in student usage.

Board Chair Martin Keogh said reaching 200 students is more than just a number.

"It affirms the heart of our mission," he said.

"At CUC, we've always believed in creating a space where regional students feel supported, connected and empowered to succeed without leaving their communities."

More than 60 per cent of CUC Bass Coast students are working while studying, and flexibility is critical to their success.

The Centre supports this by offering extended opening hours, campus-style facilities and a quiet, safe learning environment.

Visit CUC at 21-23 Baillieu Street, Wonthaggi, for assistance with remote learning and student payment support.

CUC Bass Coast are holding an Open Day on Wednesday, March 5 from 10am until 2pm.

Newhaven College announce 2026 student leaders



Newhaven College Captains 2026: Harry Arceo, Tilly Stecher, Isabel Mahon and Kadek Humphris.



Middle School student leadership 2026 led by Middle School Captains Ivy Addison (front, third from right) and Annabelle Fallu (back, second from right).

NEWHAVEN College believes in nurturing and encouraging children throughout their school years, helping to build inner confidence and respect that stays with them into adulthood.

Students are encouraged to look beyond themselves and strive to make a meaningful difference.

Junior School's 2026 student leaders were introduced at the final assembly in 2025 to loud and supportive applause.

The Junior School student leaders for 2026 are: Junior School Captains Samuel Phillips, Milla Kirkhope, James Andrianopoulos and Cecilia Federici; Sambell House Captains Sophie Clark and Nathaniel Regnier; McHaffie House Captains Cooper Mol and Mason O'Connor; Bass House Captains Harley Filsell and Julian Ryan; Clarke House Captains Nate O'Connor and Willa Boyce; Performing Arts Captains Hazel Werner and Casey Felstead; Wellbeing Captains Macie Oudshoorn and Benji Ellery.

Middle School student leaders for 2026 are: Middle School Captains Annabelle Fallu and Ivy Addison; Music Captain Michael Christofi; Wellbeing Captains Steven Chen and Alice Bell; Drama Captain Sophia Hardy; Sports Captains Flynn Doig and Alice Martindale; Sustainability Captains Sam Bowtell and Molly McKenzie.

Year 12 Leadership will be inducted at the College's first all-school assembly in 2026.

College Captains are Harry Arceo, Kadek Humphris, Isabel Mahon and Tilly Stecher.

The college community congratulates the 2026 student leaders and looks forward to seeing them develop their leadership skills over the coming year.

Celebration of Colin McKenzie-McHarg's life well lived

Colin McKenzie-McHarg ~ 15 November 1941 – 15 December 2025

By Andrew Paloczi

COLIN McKenzie-McHarg was warmly remembered during a recent Memorial Service in his honour held at Leongatha Recreation Reserve, the occasion filled with moments of joy and humour as well as acknowledgement that he will be greatly missed.

The Grandstand Function Room was filled with people celebrating his life, many knowing him through his long and distinguished career as a lawyer and his extensive service to Rotary.

"He was a bloody good bloke," Lindsay Moore said after outlining Colin's contribution to Leongatha Rotary Club, an organisation he joined in 1990.

Lindsay believes Colin's desire for public service and his love of people drove him to join, saying Colin became a proud Rotary member, representing the organisation's core values of service, leadership, diversity, fellowship and integrity.

Colin's distinguished service to the club included being secretary, vice president and president, also holding other posts such as sergeant at arms, membership director and editor of the club bulletin, the latter demonstrating his "eloquence and turn of phrase".

Work colleagues from Colin's long and distinguished career as a lawyer reflected on the rare attributes he brought to the profession and the positive environment he created for staff and clients.

Colin's wife of 50 years, Christine spoke of him securing work as an Articled Clerk at Oakley Thompson & Co in Leongatha in 1976 after studying law in Melbourne.

"In a couple of years, Colin



became a partner in that firm and thereafter built a strong and respected legal practice in Leongatha, first with other partners, and later venturing out on his own," Christine said.

"He loved the variety of work, the down-to-earth country people and especially his wonderful staff, many of whom stayed for 20 years or more."

One of those to have worked for Colin elaborated on why staff stuck around, Jane Wright highlighting the experience of those in the Oakleys Law team.

"Colin was more than an employer; he was a mentor, a friend and a steadfast supporter," she said, noting that in an industry known for pressure and intensity, those who joined the business from other firms were often struck

by the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

Colin had a knack for calmly working through a problem and finding a solution.

He would see clients on the spot, keen to nip a legal problem in the bud.

While renowned for his care and thoughtfulness, Colin didn't always fit in with the modern concept of political correctness, using terms such as "good girl" when praising the work of a team member, but that always came from the right place.

He continued working until his recent illness at the age of 83.

Colin was born in Western Australia, his family moving from Perth to Kalgoorlie when his dad took up a position as bank manager there.

His father's sudden death in 1951 prompted his

move to Melbourne, Colin

mother to return to Victoria, doing so with four children aged under 10.

While she reorganised her life in Melbourne, Colin was taken in by his paternal grandparents for a couple of years, beginning his association with the town of Walwa in north-east Victoria.

He loved his time there, learning to become a farm boy, droving cattle and helping with milking, also playing with his many cousins and attending Walwa Primary School.

After moving to Melbourne, Colin visited Walwa on his holidays, continuing that association as an adult with annual McKenzie-McHarg gatherings in the town at Easter.

When he finished his secondary schooling, Colin worked as a teller in a suburban bank branch before accepting a bank-sponsored program to take on an arts and economics degree at Monash University, followed by a law degree.

He and Christine met at the uni after she placed a notice for someone to drive her to campus.

"He would frequently tell people I advertised for him," she said.

Colin's daughter Kate said that while not an extrovert, her father loved people.

She also spoke of the joy he got from good food and wine and from finding a bargain.

With a passion for history, Colin was drawn to cemeteries where he would spend hours reading the inscriptions on headstones and getting a feel for the stories of those buried there.

"There's some comfort in knowing he's now resting in his favourite cemetery surrounded by people he loved," Kate said, Colin having been laid to rest in Walwa.

New South Coast FM manager with a passion for football and local music

By Bruce Wardley

PASSIONATE about music and with a background in AFL football newly appointed Manager of South Coast FM Andre Sawenko brings a wealth of experience to the job.

Recently moved to Venus Bay after running his own media production business in the Northern Territory Andre first earned his radio stripes with Triple M Footy.

Working alongside former AFL players and commentators Brian Taylor, Garry Lyon, James Brayshaw, Jason Dunstall and Mark (Howie) Howard, Andre spent seven years with Triple M as a Technical Producer for the station's football broadcast team.

Andre's move to South Coast FM has reignited the excitement of his old radio days.

"I've always wanted to get more involved in community work and I felt South Coast FM was somewhere I could do that and something I was familiar with. Venus Bay has always been a place of respite for me and an escape from work."



Newly appointed manager of South Coast FM Andre Sawenko brings a taste of Triple M football and a love of local music to community radio. B18_0426

There's a lot to like about South Coast FM according to Andre including a great group of volunteers that have been at the station for a long time and enjoy what they do.

"They're passionate about the community, and that's what I love about local radio."

Artists that are under-represented have a platform for their work at South Coast FM.

"It's important we can help promote their music and help with events and gigs."

A 44-year-old Xennial bridging the gap between Generation X and Millennials Andre has an eclectic taste in music.

"We service a broad demographic," said Andre.

Andre would like to see an increase in the number of members and sponsorship.

"We currently broadcast to 100,000 people and more in the peak period. There is a huge opportunity there. I'd like to see that everyone who receives our radio station has an equal opportunity to be

involved and feel connected with us."

Speaking about the programming at South Coast FM Andre said it was important the station listens to its audience and knows what they want from the station.

"We need to understand the tastes of the whole community and what they expect delivered on our station to keep them informed and entertained."

An email from a female listener who had recently lost her partner and just moved to the area, described how she was comforted by having a radio station for local people.

"It was a fantastic thing to hear," said Andre.

"We have an obligation to service the community and would love to see more members join and support South Coast FM."

South Coast FM broadcasts on 88.1, 89.5 and 89.1 or stream live at southcoastfm.au

Look for South Coast FM on Instagram or Facebook or to become a member go to southcoastfm.au/join-us/membership-application/

Veterans and War Memorial grants open

THE Nationals' Melina Bath is encouraging local organisations to apply for two key grant programs to support veterans and honour their service through the preservation of memorials.

The Veterans Capital Works Grant Program offers grants of up to \$50,000 to upgrade buildings and facilities used by groups that assist veterans, their families and communities.

Ms Bath said the program aims to create safe, modern and welcoming environments that strengthen community connections and improve access to services.

"Community groups can also apply for funding through the Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour Program, which supports not-for-profit organisations to protect, restore and enhance local memorials, honour rolls and avenues of honour," she said.

"These projects help ensure local tributes remain respectful and enduring symbols of service and sacrifice."

The memorial restoration program offers up to \$10,000 for planning and design work and up to \$30,000 for restoration and conservation projects.

Eligible organisations include RSL branches, local councils and other not-for-profit groups delivering services to veterans.

Funded projects should be delivered between July 2025 and June 2026.

For program guides and to apply, visit vic.gov.au/veterans-capital-works-grant-program or vic.gov.au/restoring-community-war-memorials-and-avenues-honour

Applications for both programs close on Monday, February 3.

• FAITH FACTOR

I've seen the light!

By Janet Snashall-Woodhams,
Ministry Team: Inverloch-Wonthaggi
Uniting Church

HAVE you ever had a moment when something just clicked?

Where things fell into place and suddenly the world looked a bit brighter?

We've all experienced those flashes of insight, big or small, that change how we see things.

We imagine a light bulb going off above our head.

That's at the heart of Epiphany.

A Greek word that means manifestation or appearance.

In the Christian calendar Epiphany is celebrated 12 days after Christmas on the 6th of January.

It marks the time when the Magi visited the child Jesus, guided by a brilliant star.

For many, Epiphany is a time to reflect on guidance, discovery, and the light that can emerge in unexpected places.

The significance of Epiphany stretches far beyond ancient stories and church pews.

Epiphany is about recognising light and hope wherever it appears.

It's an invitation to notice moments of wonder in our everyday lives, whether that's a neighbour's kindness, a fresh perspective at work, or the courage to speak up for fairness and dignity.

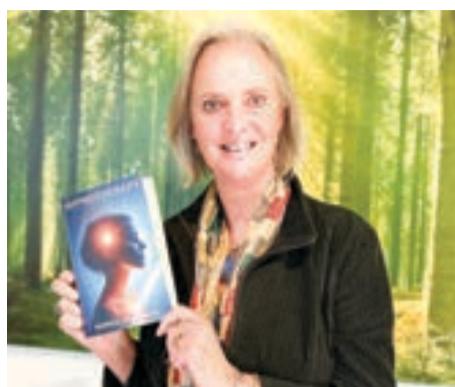
Arise, shine; for your light has come (Isaiah 60:1-6) speaks of light breaking into the darkness and nations gathering in hope.

The Gospel story (Matthew 2:1-12) of the Holy Ones from the East reminds us that wisdom can come from unexpected places and people, and that each of us is welcome on the journey.

Whether you're lighting a candle at church, contemplating a sunrise over the back paddocks, or simply taking a moment to consider where hope might be found in 2026, Epiphany calls us all to look for new light, new learning and new possibilities within ourselves and in the world around us.

This year, may we all have the courage to seek, to wonder, and to let our light shine.

And to that I say Amen, so be it!



Local author Danielle Aitken recently launched her fourth book, *Hypnotherapy: The Art and Science of Transformational Healing*, available at the Leongatha Art and Craft Gallery.

Unlocking the healing potential of the mind

CLINICAL Hypnotherapy is often misunderstood, yet it is a fascinating and evidence-supported therapeutic tool, readily available to those who choose to embrace its potential.

In Danielle Aitken's new book, *Hypnotherapy: The Art and Science of Transformational Healing*, old myths are debunked and a light is directed towards what is possible when professionally regulated, well-trained hypnotherapists work with the subconscious mind in a safe, ethical and clinically informed way.

Danielle launched the new book on January 19.

It is her fourth book, following *Sarah's Story Life after IVF*, *The Ripples What Lies Beyond* and *The Health and Happiness Handbook* and *Companion Journal*.

Danielle shared that hypnosis is not about losing control, quite the opposite.

"In fact, it is a natural state that we all experience from time to time.

"Those moments just before sleep, or when daydreaming, or when deeply absorbed in a book or film.

"In this focused state characterised by a slowing of brain waves, the mind becomes more receptive," she said.

Clinical Hypnotherapy is now strongly supported by research in a wide range of applications.

It is used effectively to help people manage anxiety and chronic stress, overcome phobias, ease depression, improve sleep and address trauma.

It is also widely recognised for its success in treating functional gut disorders such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

As President of the Australian Hypnotherapists Association, Danielle is passionate about the future of hypnotherapy in Australia.

Hypnotherapy: The Art and Science of Transformational Healing is now available at the Leongatha Art and Craft Gallery, online at danielle-aitken-author.com, Amazon and Booktopia.

Hit cabaret comes to Wonthaggi



Chloe Halley brings her hit cabaret *Little Miss Typecast* to Wonthaggi on Friday, January 30.

WONTHAGGI Theatrical Group is thrilled to bring the hit cabaret *Little Miss Typecast* to Wonthaggi, starring exciting cabaret newcomer Chloe Halley, following its smash-hit debut at Chapel Off Chapel in Melbourne.

"I'm thrilled to be bringing the show to such a well-equipped space before touring to Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival," Halley said.

Stuck playing the kid while her peers get to grow up, Halley is pint-sized, pigeonholed and possibly losing it.

Little Miss Typecast is a cheeky, sharp-as-a-tack cabaret packed with killer songs, dance breaks for days, and a desperate attempt to prove she can grow up too.

The show promises an evening of high-energy comedy, dynamic vocals and tongue-in-cheek storytelling about life as a performer who never quite grew out of the child roles.

Audiences can expect hilarious anecdotes, genre-bending musical numbers and just the right amount of chaos.

Halley has spent years navigating the entertainment industry as a performer who looks younger than her age, constantly being cast in roles meant for children despite her adult talents and training.

The cabaret draws on those frustrating yet funny experiences, turning them into sharp observational comedy and powerhouse musical performances.

With a mix of original songs and clever reimaginings of well-known tunes, the show takes audiences on a journey through the highs and lows of being forever typecast.

Halley's background in musical theatre shines through in every number, with choreography that ranges from polished to deliberately chaotic.

Fresh from its successful Melbourne season, *Little Miss Typecast* has been praised for its clever writing, Halley's impressive vocal range and the show's ability to balance genuine emotion with laugh-out-loud moments.

The intimate setting of The Shed at the State Coal Mine provides the perfect venue for this up-close cabaret experience.

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group continues to bring diverse and exciting performances to the region, and *Little Miss Typecast* represents an opportunity for local audiences to see a show destined for the national festival circuit.

The performance runs for 50 minutes and is suitable for mature audiences.

Little Miss Typecast plays at Wonthaggi Theatrical Group's The Shed at the State Coal Mine on Friday, January 30 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are available at wtg.org.au.

Don't miss this chance to see one of Australia's rising cabaret stars before she takes the show to Adelaide and Melbourne's biggest comedy stages.

Send us your photos

If you're having a 21st, club function, wedding, or other social event, take some photos, name the people in the snaps and email to news@sgst.com.au

Sentinel-Times

It won't cost a cent to see them in print!

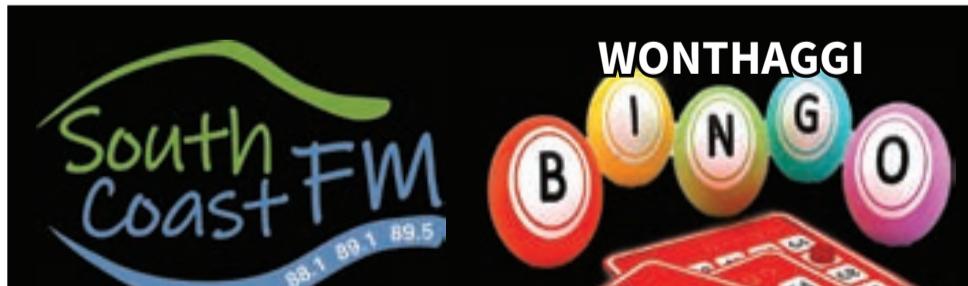
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THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm

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

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★



President of the Kilcunda Community Association Marcel Van den Bronk with Kitty Mitchen dressed as a Rock Lobster at the Kilcunda Lobster Festival. B37_0426



Dave Wingfield from the Kilcunda CFA with Maryanne Van den Bronk testing CFA fire-fighting equipment on display at the Kilcunda Lobster Festival. B39_0426



Steve Finlay and Pam Morris are ready to celebrate Australia Day, with Pam's daughter Ella becoming an Aussie at the Leongatha Citizenship Ceremony. A30_0426



Peggy, Ganessen and Rainie of Leongatha CRC Church look forward to the Australia Day celebration. A31_0426



Glenn Taylor of Tooradin with his '76 HX Holden Statesman and a '71 HQ Statesman De Ville at the Australia Day weekend Show 'n' Shine in Wonthaggi. B29_0426



Jacob Saieve travelled from South Morang with a Holden SS VX Series 1 Commodore for the Australia Day weekend Show 'n' Shine. B30_0426



Leading Snr Constable Matt Dengerink Bass Coast Highway Patrol with Percy, Johnny and Luke Metselasar of Inverloch at the Show 'n' Shine. B33_0426



Ella Whiting from Junction Village at the Wonthaggi Australia Day weekend Show 'n' Shine with her '51 Ford Mercury. B31_0426



Will Coyne presented Paul Curtis with the Kids Choice Award for an unusual one of a pair '71 Mercedes 280 S hearse at the Wonthaggi Show 'n' Shine. B53_0426

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the Kilcunda Lobster Festival, Leongatha Citizenship Ceremony, Wonthaggi Show 'n' Shine, the Rotary Club community breakfast in Wonthaggi and Australia Day celebrations in Korumburra.



Karen Davis, George Bain and Felicity Shand busy selling lobster lunches, prawn pots, fresh crayfish and Moreton Bay bugs at the 40th annual Kilcunda Lobster Festival. B42_0426

Sentinel-Times

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Laurie and Noel Gregg of Poowong are ready to celebrate Australia Day in Korumburra. A36_0426



Cheryl and Alan Launder of Middle Tarwin attend the Korumburra Australia Day celebration in support of South Gippsland Citizen of the Year Val Wilson. A37_0426



Michael Bohmer from South Dudley and Sue Millen from Pound Creek at the Wonthaggi Rotary Australia Day breakfast at the Union Theatre. B64_0426



Highly productive grazing property

A 286-acre grazing property in the rolling hills of Mardan has hit the market with a price tag of \$2.82 million.

The 115.9-hectare holding at 105 Holmes Road comprises two titles and offers a balance of gently undulating and well-sheltered hill country suited to cattle and sheep breeding and fattening.

SEJ Real Estate agent Irene Walker said the property featured reliable annual rainfall of more than 1000mm and abundant water from natural springs and catchment dams.

The land is divided into 15 paddocks with fencing suitable for both sheep and cattle and includes heavy-duty stock yards with new sheep yards.

Ms Walker said the property had a solid fertiliser history across its red and grey soil profiles and a carrying capacity guide of 18 DSE per hectare.

Infrastructure includes good shedding for machinery and hay storage along with a two-bedroom weatherboard cottage.

The property is located 20km from Leongatha, 7km from Mirboo North and 25km from the Koonwarra cattle selling centre.

For inspections contact Irene Walker on 0429 045 632.

2 - 286 Acres

105 Holmes Road, **Mardan**
For Sale \$2,820,000
Agent SEJ Real Estate
Irene Walker 0429 045 632



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LEONGATHA
Ph 5662 4033



FISH CREEK



- 3 bed, 2 bath, 2 car
- Walk to shops & rail trail
- Light, bright, and open plan
- Spacious fitted bedrooms
- Fenced rear garden

\$530,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

TOORA



- Picture perfect period home surrounded by charming cottage gardens
- 2 bed, 1 bath, 2 car, 882m² block with side access for parking the boat/van
- Barn with parking for 2 cars, studio/ workshop space or an ideal conversion
- Spacious living and dining with country kitchen, fireplace and reverse cycle
- Two BRs, master with BIRs plus rear sunroom ideal for 3rd bed or study
- Covered patio, vegetable garden beds, an easy walk to school and shops

\$495,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

PORT WELSHPOOL



- 4 bed, 2 bath home
- Superbly presented as new
- Modern open plan
- 3 min stroll to the sand
- Parking area & garden shed

\$635,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

LEONGATHA



- Great central location
- Walk to shops & sporting
- 3 bed, 1 bath, 1 car
- Low maintenance block
- Dual access driveways

\$490,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

DUMBALK



- 'Loves Lane Grazing' 87ha / 217acres of traditional blue gum grazing
- Undulating to steep hill country, affordable entry into livestock production
- Exc. Standard of fencing, ideal for ewes, lambs, cows & calves
- Secure water with combination of spring & catchment dams & troughs
- Stock lane ways for ease stock movement in hills to yards
- Well sheltered hill country with storage shed, power & home sites (STCA)

\$1,580,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

LEONGATHA NORTH



- Lifestyle living at its best
- 4ha/10ac flat with views
- Impressive home & shed
- 3 bed, 2 bath, open plan
- Est. Orchard & 3 paddocks

\$1,730,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



A lifestyle to breathe, belong and call home

WELCOME to a truly rare country lifestyle retreat — a private sanctuary where serenity, space and natural beauty exist in perfect harmony.

Set among rolling green hills and framed by breathtaking panoramic views, this exceptional property offers an extraordinary sense of peace and seclusion.

With Coal Creek gently flowing through the land, you have your own private nature reserve.

Rich, fertile soil and year-round water supply create an environment that is both abundant and sustainable, ideal for those seeking a genuine connection to nature.

Spanning 17.8 acres, plus an additional three-acre creek reserve, the property captures the essence of relaxed country living.

Whether you are enjoying quiet mornings overlooking the sweeping countryside, tending the gardens or gathering family and friends in open, sun-drenched spaces.

At the heart of the land sits a beautifully renovated home, warm and welcoming, and thoughtfully designed for comfort and ease.

Four generous bedrooms, two bathrooms and a separate study provide flexibility for family living, guests or working from home.

Light-filled living areas flow seamlessly to the outdoors, inviting the landscape in, while a four-car garage offers excellent storage and everyday practicality.

Complementing the main residence is a fully self-contained cottage, offering exceptional versatility.

Perfect for extended family or visitors, it provides a

private haven while enhancing the property's lifestyle and investment appeal.

The gardens are nothing short of enchanting.

Lovingly established and carefully curated, they offer both beauty and productivity, with flourishing vegetable gardens, a boutique vineyard and more than 20 mature fruit trees providing seasonal abundance.

Quiet garden spaces invite moments of reflection and calm, surrounded by ever-evolving natural beauty.

Infrastructure is equally impressive, with a large two-bay shed for machinery and equipment, extensive parking and storage, a garden shed and three fully fenced paddocks suitable for animals or hobby farming.

More than 3000 native plants have been added in recent years, ensuring the landscape continues to flourish and mature in harmony with nature.

Every element of this remarkable property has been created to support a lifestyle of comfort, self-sufficiency and quiet enjoyment — a place to slow down, breathe deeply and truly feel at home.

This is more than a residence.

It is a rare country sanctuary offering timeless views, productive land and enduring beauty — an exceptional opportunity for those seeking a meaningful lifestyle escape without compromise.

Perfectly positioned five minutes to the vibrant township of Korumburra, eight minutes to Leongatha, 25 minutes to the beautiful beaches of Inverloch and only one hour and 35 minutes to Melbourne CBD.



5 | 3 | 6 17.8 Acres

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- Quality fencing with solar electric

Web ID: 300P178306

\$1.9 Million



Outtrim 91 Acres

Primary Production Investment

- 5 dams, some spring fed
- Fenced into 5 paddocks
- 2 x lockup sheds, stockyards

Web ID: 300P191129 **\$1.65-\$1.80 Million**



Korumburra 8091m²

Convenience, Dual Living on 2 Acres

- Renovated 3-bed home
- 1-bed unit for dual living
- Shedding inc. stables and horse boxes

Web ID: 300P185342

\$875,000



Jack River 3.4 Acres

Tranquil Lifestyle Retreat

- North Facing 3-bed home
- Polished concrete floors
- Shed with concrete, power & wood heater

Web ID: 300P188124

\$695,000



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Four acres of north-facing paradise with dual occupancy potential



5 | 3 | 6 1.6ha

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Agent Conjunctional Agents
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DISCOVER the perfect harmony of sustainable architecture and lifestyle luxury.

This stunning contemporary designed brick veneer and lightweight cladded, seven-star rated home is masterfully positioned on nearly four acres to capture an abundance of natural light and sweeping, north-facing rural views.

With its earthy textures, expansive windows and thoughtful layout, this property offers a rare sense of warmth and sophistication.

The heart of the home is designed for family comfort and effortless entertaining with an open plan living, dining and kitchen area overlooking the stunning northern established deciduous trees, established gardens and spectacular views over the Strzelecki Ranges and beyond.

Offering space and versatility for everyone, the home features three distinct living areas that seamlessly connect to a vast undercover north-west facing outdoor entertaining area.

One living zone provides a sense of privacy, functioning as a self-contained guest or secondary master suite, complete with a custom built-in bar, making it the ultimate hub for hosting family and friends.

The expansive primary master suite includes a walk-in robe and a full ensuite with a spa bath and separate shower, while the four additional generously sized bedrooms are well serviced by two well-appointed bathrooms.

The natural sound insulating and thermal mass of the internal feature mud brick walls ensures a temperate climate year-round, complemented by the home's passive solar orientation.

There is also solar water heating, slab heating and a solar power system making it energy efficient.

The property also includes a

separate, self-contained studio completely independent for privacy with its own distinct feel, giving it dual occupancy potential.

Currently used as a high-end home office, this space offers incredible flexibility as a professional workspace, a creative sanctuary or easily adapted for multi-generational living or guest accommodation.

Step outside to an inviting outdoor oasis where professionally landscaped gardens blend seamlessly with the rolling hills beyond.

Ideal for the hobbyist, tradesperson or collector, this sustainable property boasts two massive, secure and enclosed sheds with concrete floors, one including a partial upper mezzanine and all offering ample clearance for boats, caravans or heavy machinery.

Additional infrastructure includes a separate garden shed, concrete wash bay, motorbike and horse or calf rearing shelter, small stock yards with loading ramp and plenty of water storage of approximately 90,000 litres servicing the entire property.

Completing the home are established garden beds, a fruit orchard and a secure dog run, chook shed and run with automatic dawn to dusk access.

This is more than just a house, it's a lifestyle statement.

Experience the tactile beauty of this ultimate sustainable living paradise and the freedom of wide open spaces without sacrificing on convenience, located just seven minutes to Korumburra and Leongatha, minutes from the Great Southern Rail Trail and the added bonus of having the school bus running right at the front gate.

This truly is one of the best homes in the region.

Contact the team at Alex Scott and Staff Leongatha or conjunctional agents Ray White Leongatha to arrange a private viewing.

A bespoke hilltop estate with 180° views

COMMANDING an elevated position atop approximately 103 acres of productive grazing land, this architect-designed residence offers a rare blend of privacy, craftsmanship, and panoramic beauty. From the moment you arrive along the sweeping driveway, the home reveals itself as a masterpiece of design – where every angle, every room, and every window celebrates the breathtaking 180-degree views across Phillip Island to Wilsons Promontory.

Crafted to harmonise with its natural surroundings, the residence showcases timeless materials and elegant finishes.

Stone cladding features throughout, including a dramatic central fireplace that forms the heart of the home. Polished Australian hardwood floors add warmth and richness, while expansive glazing invites the outdoors in, flooding the interiors with natural light.

Offering six generous bedrooms, including two with en-suites and two beautifully appointed shared bathrooms, the home provides

luxurious comfort for family and guests alike. The indulgent bathrooms, some with deep soaking tubs, frame vistas over the rolling Gippsland hills – the perfect setting to unwind and breathe in the serenity.

The chef's kitchen is a statement of both style and function, complete with a butler's pantry and a ten-seat dining area ideal for entertaining. Every detail has been considered to enhance both daily living and grand-scale gatherings.

Surrounded by approximately 103 acres of open grazing land, the estate captures the drama of its elevated setting – wide skies, sweeping horizons, and absolute seclusion. The property is serviced by multiple dams and complemented by a substantial barn-style shed, hay shed, and machinery shed, ideal for farming or private recreation use.

A true country sanctuary, this remarkable estate captures the essence of luxury rural living – space, seclusion, and a view that simply takes your breath away.



6 | 4 | 3 41ha

470 Densley Road, **Woolamai**
For Sale \$2,995,000.
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Angus Hall 0466 326 487
 Alan Steenholdt 0409 423 822



LEONGATHA



OPEN SAT. JAN 31, 11-11.30AM

97 Parr Street

- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 living
- 2 car garage + shed and parking
- Great family home close to schools

\$850,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



Coming Soon

- 3 bedroom brick, renovated throughout
- Views across town
- Walk to schools and shops

Contact Agent

Contact: Korumburra Office

WOOLAMAI



470 Densley Road

- A Bespoke Hilltop Estate with breathtaking 180° views
- 6 bedroom, 4 bathroom, 3 car garage

\$2,995,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



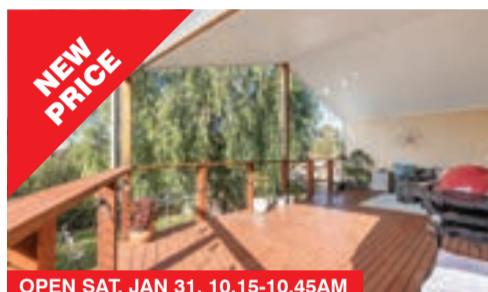
68 Hagelthorn Street

- 1015m² allotment
- 3 bedroom hardiplank home
- Great development potential (STCA)

\$475,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



OPEN SAT. JAN 31, 10.15-10.45AM

59 Horn Street

- Neat 3 bed 1 bath in great location
- Walking distance to schooling precinct
- North facing deck with farmland views

\$549,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

NYORA



57 Walters Road

- 3 bedroom brick on 2 acres
- 4 car lock-up garage
- Horse paddocks

\$980,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

GRANTVILLE



5 Shepherd Road

- Neat and affordable 3 bedroom home in a quiet location
- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, single garage

\$549,000

Contact: Grantville Office

NORTH WONTHAGGI



41 Toorak Street

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom brick home
- Large block with laneway access
- Quiet no through road

\$575,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



23 Brown Street

- 4 bedroom home, 2 living, 2 bathroom
- Large carport and secure yard
- Extensive internal makeover will impress

\$649,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



31 Mine Road

- Retail/Commercial Freehold
- Highway frontage
- Rear Access

\$395,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

GRANTVILLE



32B Portview Avenue

- Modern investment opportunity in central Grantville
- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, double garage

\$590,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



47A Billson Street

- 3 bedroom, 2 bathrooms
- Low maintenance block
- 2 separate living zones

\$549,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

KOONWARRA



7 Koala Drive

- Beautiful as new home on half acre
- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Close to rail trail and Koonwarra store

\$895,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



Daisy Bank Estate

- 15 Blocks
- All services available
- Titled and ready to build

From \$284,500

Contact: Korumburra Office

CORINELLA



113-115 Jamieson Street

- Elevated coastal family retreat with panoramic views on nearly 1 acre
- 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, double garage

\$1,250,000

Contact: Grantville Office

WONTHAGGI



4/29 Korumburra Road

- 3 bedroom, 2 storey unit
- 2 living areas, 2 bathrooms
- Close to town centre

\$475,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA

5662 0922

41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299
Tony Giles 0407 528 192
Dan Huther 0418 334 801

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

GRANTVILLE

5678 8433

1505 Bass Highway

Angus Hall 0466 326 487

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163

Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

Phil Hanley 0417 140 508



Sapphire Ewes to battle it out at Foster Show

By Andrew Paloczi

FOSTER Showgoers will be treated to the Back to Back Wool Challenge on February 28, Kooroaman Sapphire Ewes taking on an outfit from Box Hill, the sides battling each other and the clock as they each spin wool straight from the sheep's back and knit a completed jumper.

Sentinel-Times has proudly trumpeted the exploits of the Leongatha-based Ewes previously, including their win last year at Tarndwarncoort near Colac in 11 hours, 42 minutes and 12 seconds, shaving a little more than an hour off their previous best as they defended their title.

Both teams competing in Foster are raising funds for Rare Cancers Australia, with attendees sure to marvel at their spinning and knitting expertise and able to contribute to the cause through buying knitted items, making donations or purchasing raffle tickets.

Last year's event at Tarndwarncoort raised just more than \$10,000 for the cause.

Each team is assigned a shearer who will use old-style hand shears, with spinning commencing as soon as there is sufficient wool available.

The teams will each have support volunteers to keep their members nourished during what is a draining



Kooroaman Sapphire Ewes members Colleen Harvey and Belinda Smart are pictured in the lead up to last year's Back to Back Wool Challenge. A20_1225

physical and mental test, with the need to maintain a steely focus, and hazards such as cramping hands.

With all but a couple of the Ewes living in Gippsland, it will be exciting to compete closer to home.

Team Leader Linda Howie expressed her appreciation to the Foster Show committee which jumped at the chance to host the Back to Back Wool Challenge when approached.

Adding to the significance of the occasion, it is the 30th anniversary of the Challenge.

While there are only a couple of teams in action in Foster, the

Challenge is open to competitors from around the world, with the current competition phase running from the start of July 2025 to the end of June this year.

"Everybody competes under the same rules and knits the jumper to the same pattern," Linda said, with times compared at the end of the competition phase.

Kooroaman Sapphire Ewes placed third in the world last time, being the fastest team in Australia.

"You can use any breed of sheep," Linda said.

However, the wool from some

varieties is easier to spin than that of others, with staple length and lanolin content decisive.

"The more lanolin in the wool, the stickier it is and it's harder to spin," Linda said, adding that breeds with longer strands of wool also lend themselves to easier spinning.

Cheviot sheep from the Foster area will be used at the Show, with the breed's wool having a staple length of three to five inches and a reputation as a hardy wool suitable for outerwear.

In previous competition, the Ewes have worked with wool from Polwarth sheep as that breed was developed by Richard Dennis of Tarndwarncoort.

The Ewes haven't been resting on their laurels after past success.

"We've worked on our strategy to increase our efficiency in spinning the wool and knitting and we've been practising on Cheviot fleece," Linda said.

While warm weather will make the wool easier to work with, it's hoped conditions don't get too hot for competitors.

The much larger crowd at Foster, compared to Tarndwarncoort is sure to lift the spirits of the teams as the arduous nature of the contest is felt.

Action starts at 8am when the shearing commences, with hopes the winning team will complete its jumper before 8pm.

Managing and treating dams in fire-affected areas

By Clem Sturmels, Land Management Extension Officer

FARMERS in fire-affected areas are encouraged to monitor their dams and remove floating debris as soon as possible following heavy or prolonged rain. They should also consider installing sediment traps upstream of their bigger dams.

Following fires, many dams became unusable due to pollution from decomposing organic matter or after being filled with soil, sand, and gravel.

While little can be done in the short term to remove the heavier materials, quick action to remove floating materials can be highly effective in maintaining water quality.

Typically, these floating materials consist of ash, charcoal, straw, grass, leaves, and manure. These materials can cause issues for the water supply if they aren't quickly removed.

Within a couple of days, debris will sink and begin to break-down causing the water to become putrid and potentially unusable for livestock.

There are many ways to remove debris from dams, including dragging the material to the bank using a chain mesh boom. Use of chain mesh, which is commonly used to construct tennis court fences, suspended from a series of floats to create a boom to clear the debris. The boom can then be dragged across the dam using ropes attached to each end.

Once the debris has been dragged to the side of the dam, it can be removed using a small weldmesh cage or with a sieving bucket on an excavator. While upstream sediment traps will reduce the risk of pollution, it is inevitable that some dams will become contaminated.

When time permits, sediment traps can be installed to prevent debris from entering dams. There are a number of ways that farmers can establish a sediment trap.

Common approaches include attaching wire netting on the upstream side of existing fences where they cross the drainage line (to trap the flood debris) or establishing a temporary netting fence across a drainage line if there is no existing fence.

For current available bushfire support visit www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires

No more chunky cattle under MLA's push for objective grading

By Bruce Wardley

MLA Objective Measurement Program Manager Dr Dean Gutzke said removing subjectivity from grading would allow processors to better predict eating quality.

"This level of consistency is especially important for branded beef programs where uniformity in tenderness, marbling and overall eating experience is key to premium positioning in both domestic and international markets," Dr Gutzke said.

The new technology measures marble score, fat and muscle distribution providing producers with data-driven feedback on why carcasses have been downgraded.



Meat and Livestock Australia wants cattlemen to ditch subjective terms like "chunky" when describing cattle. B04_0426

Tarwin PT
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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 Meenyan) on Meenyan-Dumbalk Rd. (Signs will be posted)

ENQUIRIES: David Meikle 5664 7556 M: 0429 800 756

E: meikledd@dcsi.net.au W: [https://tarwinpollherefords.com.au/](http://tarwinpollherefords.com.au/)



MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre 

Similar rates for stores

By SGSA

AGENTS yarded 3,000 head at this week's EVLX Leongatha store sale in another good yarding with all grades and weights and breeds on offer.

The usual group of local feedlot and processor buyers attended along with local agents in a market that held around firm for the better end of the cattle and firm to a little easier for the secondary types.

The heavier cattle were mostly purchased for orders from Campbell Ross and Wayne Reid along with a few local bullock men taking a few pens as well.

Anthony Hullick kept a floor in the trade types for Westside Meats to feed or kill along with Gathercoles and a couple of other trade orders.

The Angus weaner section had a couple of feature annual drafts on offer which presented very well with buyers willing to pay a premium for properly yard weaned calves with some unweaned calves discounted.

Crossbred and dairy types sold at similar rates and cows and calves sold to good competition with most making well over split value.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026

Steers

J Zappia 12 Angus	667kg	\$4.57	\$3100
BW & MT Hartung 15 Angus	648kg	\$4.70	\$3050
M Tekema 10 Angus	648kg	\$4.62	\$3000
JD & JA Kay 18 Angus	593kg	\$4.85	\$2880
Gippsland Farming Co 13 Ang	587kg	\$4.59	\$2700
JA & JA Kay 15 Angus	568kg	\$4.80	\$2730
Gippsland Farming Co 11 Hfd	550kg	\$4.54	\$2500
AI & JE Macaulay 16 Angus	544kg	\$5.05	\$2750
J & L Tribuzi 11 Angus	526kg	\$4.75	\$2500
A Porter 14 Angus	512kg	\$4.47	\$2290
T Rendell 10 Angus	502kg	\$4.68	\$2350
Mount Worth Pastoral 14 Ang	459kg	\$4.79	\$2200
KJ & HM Nicklen 13 Angus	448kg	\$4.95	\$2220
Halcyon Ridge P/L 10 Angus	446kg	\$4.93	\$2200
Sj Clayton 10 Angus	432kg	\$4.88	\$2110
Boundary Road Invest. 10 Hfd	423kg	\$4.46	\$1890
OC Gibson 12 Angus	418kg	\$4.66	\$1950
GM GA & KA Olsen 18 Angus	416kg	\$4.56	\$1900
Gunabah Station P/L 15 Ang	412kg	\$4.53	\$1870
SR & JA Bland 21 Angus	408kg	\$4.73	\$1930
KW & RF Battersby 10 Angus	407kg	\$5.03	\$2050
B Rinaldi 21 Angus	407kg	\$4.91	\$2000
W & L Rendell 17 Angus	402kg	\$4.67	\$1880
A Chakuan 10 Angus	401kg	\$4.53	\$1820
E Ruffolo 12 Angus	386kg	\$4.71	\$1820
KJ & HM Nicklen 16 Angus	384kg	\$5.13	\$1970
Allanvale P/L 10 Angus	375kg	\$4.80	\$1800
D Durik 16 Angus	373kg	\$4.95	\$1850
Azemi Investments 10 Angus	371kg	\$4.44	\$1650
Belgrano P/L 22 Angus	370kg	\$6.08	\$2250
DJ & SJ Mitchell 23 Angus	370kg	\$5.21	\$1930
J Dean 16 Angus	367kg	\$5.25	\$1930
D Curtis 10 Angus	365kg	\$5.06	\$1850
Somerleigh Farms 14 Ang/BB	363kg	\$4.90	\$1780
B Dakin 11 Angus	361kg	\$4.98	\$1800
J Flegg 12 Angus	355kg	\$4.90	\$1740
Gisborne Park Farm P/L 16 Ang	348kg	\$5.31	\$1850
Belgrano P/L 26 Angus	340kg	\$5.85	\$1990
M Triantafyllou 13 Angus	338kg	\$5.26	\$1780

Heifers

J & L Tribuzi 13 Angus	483kg	\$4.53	\$2190
R Visser 22 Angus	433kg	\$4.41	\$1910
H Mcphie 12 Angus	424kg	\$4.45	\$1890
W Henwood 21 Angus	423kg	\$4.53	\$1920
SR & JA Bland 10 Angus	394kg	\$4.18	\$1650
WC & TL Warren 11 Char	387kg	\$4.65	\$1800
G Oconnell 13 Char	385kg	\$4.57	\$1760
Steadfast Cartage P/L 10 Ang	362kg	\$4.17	\$1510
Vaughan Agri Ventures P/L 10 Ang	359kg	\$4.03	\$1450
D Curtis 15 Angus	354kg	\$4.18	\$1480
J Dean 18 Angus	351kg	\$4.52	\$1590
A Chakuan 16 Angus	350kg	\$3.88	\$1360
DJ & SJ Mitchell 16 Angus	346kg	\$4.21	\$1460
D Durik 23 Angus	341kg	\$4.42	\$1510
Belgrano P/L 20 Angus	339kg	\$4.60	\$1560
GM GA & KA Olsen 14 Angus	339kg	\$3.77	\$1280
Stay Calm Farming 11 Angus	331kg	\$3.62	\$1200
Gunabah Station P/L 14 Ang	328kg	\$4.32	\$1420
D Wegmann 13 Angus	325kg	\$4.00	\$1300
RB & KM Fleming 10 Limo	323kg	\$4.42	\$1430
K Angelopoulos 23 Angus	314kg	\$4.36	\$1370

Cross Breeds

N Ripper 15 Angus X Strs	507kg	\$4.40	\$2230
Somersleigh Farms 11 Ang X Strs	427kg	\$4.42	\$1890
JW & AM Brown 10 Angus X Strs	334kg	\$4.22	\$1410

Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, January 19, 2026

Jersey & Jersey x \$15 to \$59

Friesian Bulls \$34 to \$78

Beef Bulls \$15 to \$150

Beef Heifers \$30 to \$120

Number of Calves: 95

Number purchased to rear: 57

Prices still good for quality cattle

By Andrew Paloczi

WITH approximately 3,000 head available at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, MLA Market Reporter Brendan Fletcher said that while prices were cheaper in places, that was in line with quality, with prices remaining firm or slightly dearer where quality allowed.

"Quality declined with a larger proportion of secondary and crossbred cattle on offer," he observed.

Underlining his view that better quality animals continued to sell well, he highlighted the top price for weaner steers was \$2,250 a head for 22 Angus that averaged 371 kilos, equating to \$6.06 a kilo.

"The top of the weaner heifers made \$1,800 a head for 11 Euro crosses weighed at 388 kilos, or \$4.64 a kilo," Brendan said.

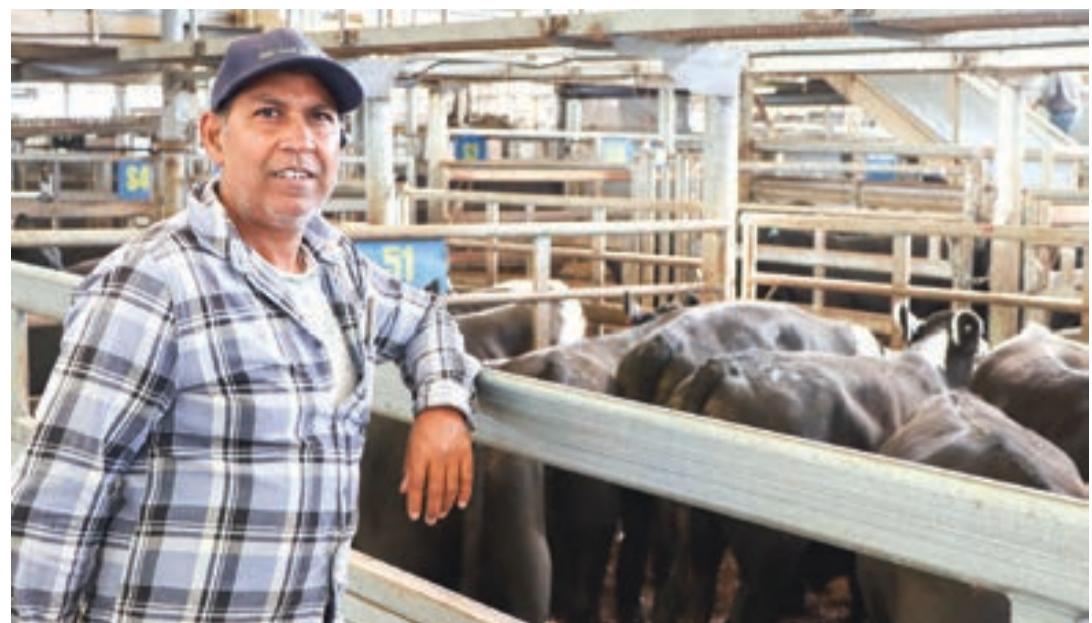
Cattle breeder Ajay Bhardwaj, who farms in Poowong East and Toongabbie was proud to show Sentinel-Times a pen of his 15-month-old steers, noting they were bred from a "very good bull" purchased from Latrobe Park Angus Stud that was joined with his Angus heifers and a couple of Black Baldy heifers.

"I look after them very well, feed them good grains," he said of his cattle, explaining he is happy to spend money to make money and adding "You have to look after them like a child."

The pen of eight 446 kilo steers, that included both Angus and Black Baldy cattle, were praised by auctioneer Jayden Ferrari of Baw Baw Livestock before selling for \$2,190 a head to commission buyer Campbell Ross, equating to \$4.91 a kilo.

"That's the market everywhere, so I'm happy with that," Ajay said.

Earlier, he pointed out that if



Ajay Bhardwaj with a pen of his steers at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A04_0426

someone hangs onto those cattle for six to eight months they will be very big, with their breeding and height enabling them to handle the weight easily.

His other four steers, weighing an average of 319 kilos achieved \$1,520 a head at \$4.76 a kilo.

Ajay spoke of the impact of good breeding and care on his heifers, describing them as very solid with a good build, and remarking that if a buyer chooses to breed from them, they can be confident in having high-quality calves.

Seven of his heifers went for \$2,000 a head or \$4.49 a kilo, averaging 445 kilos each, while his smaller heifer calves weighed an average of 313 kilos and went for \$1,240 a head or \$3.96 a kilo.

Ajay was happy with all the prices achieved for his cattle, remarking he would normally have kept them until they weighed about 550 kilos but has some projects happening on his farm and needed to clear space.



Buyers and onlookers during Thursday's Store Sale. A05_0426

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36 BRIDGE STREET, KORUMBURRA PH: 5655 1133 FAX: 5655 2480

Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA	FOSTER
David Ryan 0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner 0408 595 174
LEONGATHA	Brian Vuillermain 0429 436 040
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager 0408 176 063	WONTHAGGI
Jack Curtis 0427 762 670	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager 0408 595 183
WARRAGUL	David Holden 0428 749 390
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager 0418 595 265	Alan Bolding 0419 723 255
Terry Ahearn 0438 562 816	PAKENHAM
Jordan Sim 0448 058 435	David Setches - Livestock Manager 0409 443 473
Mark Malacarne 0418 654 590	Glen Barwick 0408 975 476
Georgie Snell 0417 100 657	Morgan Croucher 0457 001 877

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA	LEONGATHA	MELBOURNE LAND
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898	Andrew Newton 0402 940 320	Matt Koster 0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI	Peter Dwyer 0428 855 244	COVES
Phillip Hanley 0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299	Greg Price 0419 337 441
Cal Nation 0439 334 163	Tony Giles 0407 528 192	Brian Silver 0407 347 509
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783	Dan Huther 0418 334 801	Chase Watters 0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE	WARRAGUL	VENUS BAY
Angus Hall 0466 326 487	Alan Steenholdt 0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie 0417 631 252
INVERLOCH	PAKENHAM	Sue Lawrie 0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond 0403 525 413	Tom Gibson 0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP
BERWICK	LANG LANG	Angus Hall 0466 326 487
Tom Gibson 0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898	JAN21216

SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE



South Gippsland Shire Mayor Cr Nathan Hersey gets set to send off a convoy of 4WDs and trailers, loaded with small squares, for bushfire-affected farmers in the state's north-east at the Korumburra Showgrounds on Saturday.

That's the Aussie spirit helping out a mate in need

HUNDREDS of bales of round hay and small squares, donated by farmers across South Gippsland and Bass Coast, some of it dropped off at the Korumburra Showgrounds, has already found its way to where it's needed most in recent days.

And in the best traditions of mateship and having a go, those traits so highly prized by the community ahead of Australia Day, a large number of volunteers, many of them from Melbourne, answered the call from the Need for Feed and turned up with their trailers and their friends on Saturday to load up and join the convoy.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Cr Nathan Hersey was there to send them off.

"It's been really great. We've had a lot of generosity come from our locals here in South Gippsland and across Bass Coast as well, who have dropped off hay here for farmers in fire-affected areas," Cr

Hersey said.

"We've set this spot up here in Korumburra as a central location for exactly this to collect the hay to go up to the areas and the response has been fantastic.

"One of the things I've been really pleased to see today is that people have come from all over Melbourne and volunteered their time to come here and collect trailer loads of square bales, and they're taking them up to Alexandra now to go straight out to farms that need it most."

Cr Hersey said that as well as the hundreds of small bales left at Korumburra, hundreds of round bales were loaded up and sent off by b-double to join a convoy at Officer on Sunday.

"There's also been, I believe, 300 round bales go directly from South Gippsland and Bass Coast farms through this program as part of the Need for Feed drive," he said.

Cr Hersey also called

Lions Club member and Need for Feed coordinator Graham Cockerell to let him know what was coming his way.

Speaking to the Sentinel-Times Mr Cockerell expressed his gratitude on behalf of farmers seriously impacted by the bushfires, particularly in the state's north-east.

"It's just totally black, most of it," he said of the impacted area north of Yea.

As bad as you've seen?

"Well, we've seen some pretty sad ones since we've been going in 2006 so we've seen a lot of bad fires but yes, it's pretty bad," said Mr Cockerell.

But it's not over.

While the Korumburra Showgrounds collection site has closed in preparation for the Korumburra Show on Friday and Saturday, February 13 and 14, you can still donate hay by contacting Need for Feed or the VFF.

They'll pick up 20 or more round bales directly or you can still leave donated hay at Lardner Park.



Piloting the big rig loaded with donated round bales from the Korumburra Showgrounds on Saturday were Daniel and Zoe Cahill of Cockatoo, a Gippsland cartage contractor, driving a truck from Seymour to join a regional hay drive convoy.



South Gippsland farmers hit by no-spray fee

By Bruce Wardley

by Council in line with service levels and legislative requirements. Inclusion on the No Spray Register is optional."

Ms Jones said council remains committed to balancing environmental considerations with its responsibility to manage roadsides safely and effectively for the whole community. This helps ensure spray operators can reliably identify no-spray areas and that the register is applied consistently across the municipality.



Tarwin Poll Herefords on the Meenie family's Meenieyan property, which celebrates 100 years of family ownership this year and is open for Gippsland Beef Week.

EVLX - LEONGATHA

STORE SALE 2000 CATTLE 2000

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 - Starting at 9am

GROWN STEERS

DA & PM Conn, Hedley (PHC)

165 Angus steers, 15-16 mths
Flinders Island Bred, Landfall, Rosedale & Cluden
Newry blood

Jasmel Nom, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)

100 Angus steers, 14-15 mths
Alpine Angus blood Lines
VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred

Joroka, Nerrena (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus mixed sex, 14-15 mths

T & D Flint, Seaspray (NUTRIEN)

30 Hereford steers, 14 mths

RJ Campbell, Leongatha (SEJ)

12 Angus steers, 20 mths

W & J Bullock, Meenieyan (NUTRIEN)

10 Angus steers, 18 mths

P Novotny, Toora (SEJ)

15 Angus steers, 18 mths

Wildwood Dairies, Inverloch (SEJ)

8 Angus X Friesian steers, 18 mths

RJ Clarke, Calrossie (SEJ)

8 Angus steers, 10 mths

weaned, By Dunoon Sires

WEANERS

DJ & C Webb, Arawata (SEJ)

120 Angus mixed sex, 11-12 mths

Lawson blood, weaned, VB, GF, ABF

F & C Cameron "Wild Dog", Ventnor (SEJ)

100 Angus mixed sex, 11-12 mths

Alpine Angus blood, weaned 12 weeks

Drenched & B12 on 1/12/2025

VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred

Brae-Heid, Barwon Downs (ESB)

60 Angus steers, 10-11 mths

30 Angus heifers, 10-11 mths

Ballanee blood, yard weaned, Multimin & 5in1 vaccinations



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Nutrien 5662 2291 0429 050 349 5997 1555

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS



5662 2291 0429 050 349 5997 1555



AF 0100

Powering Her Pathway into clean energy trades



The Powering Her Pathway program helps women start a career in the power and clean energy industry.

WITH more than 10 years' experience in administration and scheduling under her belt, Jasmine wanted 2026 to be the year of a career pivot.

As a Gippsland local, Jasmine had been watching new clean energy projects get underway, and she instinctively knew she wanted to be part of this exciting new sector.

What she didn't know was the pathway to get there.

"Since 2023, I have been trying to gain entry into the power and clean energy industry," she said.

"However, without a clear pathway and with limited information and resources, I found it difficult to navigate the process on my own."

That's when she noticed a post

about Tradeswomen Australia's new program, Powering Her Pathway, on LinkedIn.

The program provides a road map for women interested in entering clean energy trades, starting with tailored vocational training at TAFE Gippsland, followed by supported job placements into skilled clean energy positions across the Gippsland region.

The TAFE Gippsland course is a free six-week taster, providing insight into the trades involved in renewable energy development, as well as hands-on training.

For Jasmine, it ticked all the boxes.

"I feel like I am now on the pathway," she said.

"I'm enrolled in the TAFE

Gippsland course, and I am excited about starting an apprenticeship with Tradeswomen Australia's partner organisations."

Tradeswomen Australia's CEO Clea Smith said the program is ideal for women looking to enter trades because it has been designed with local energy partners committed to creating workplaces where women are supported.

"Clean energy is being built in Gippsland, and the energy transition needs local workers."

"Powering Her Pathway is giving local women a clear, supported pathway into the jobs it's creating," she said.

To find out more about Powering Her Pathway, visit tradeswomenaus.com.au or email rachel@twaus.com.au

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DEATHS

BUTLER,
(née O'Neill)
Moya Theresa:

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Moya Butler, who peacefully passed away on January 24, 2026, aged 88. Beloved wife of Peter Butler (dec.). Cherished mother of Shane and Julie, Kathy and Gerard, Gavin and Susan. Loving grandmother to Michael, Darren, Jason, Ryan, Rebecca, Aaron, Jarryd, Jade, Rhys, Stacey and Adam. Adored great-grandmother to 11 great-grandchildren.

Forever loved and sadly missed.

DEATHS

HUDDLESTON,
Tauri Janet:

05.05.1957 - 23.01.2026. Died surrounded by her family. Loving Mum to Nicholas, Aurora and Mia. Adored Grandma to six. Privately Cremated. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date, details will be on www.handleyandersonfunerals.com.au

DEATHS

MOTHERWELL
(née Lee), Joy:

Mum, you finally got your wish "my turn" to go. You will soon be re-united with Dad. I will miss our 5 o'clock Sunday call but will miss you more. Love you always - Sharon

Mum, I will miss our Tuesday and Sunday chats but most of all I will miss you. Numbers up. - Love Robyn

DEATHS

SYKES, Colin Keith:
11.05.1945 - 19.01.2026

Beloved and cherished husband of Margaret for 53 years. Loving father and father-in-law of Peter and Liz, Andrew, Nicholas, David and Samantha.

Proud grandpa of Daniel, James, Tim, Naomi, Rebekah, Joanna, Dylan, Leigh, Ella, Drew, Neo, Alex, Henry, Lavinia, Eddy and Harper.

You struggled so much toward the end my darling, but now you are safe and secure in your Saviour's arms.

"What a day that will be, when my Jesus I shall see. And I look upon His face, the One who saved me by His grace. When he takes me by the hand and leads me to the Promised Land. What a day, glorious day, that will be!"

FUNERALS

SYKES:
A service celebrating the life of Colin Sykes will be held at the Bass Coast Baptist Church on the corner of Wentworth and Parkes Street, North Wonthaggi (Scout Hall), Thursday January 29, 2026, commencing at 2pm.

A private burial will be held prior to the service.

IN MEMORIAM

BATH, Stanley Thomas:

Passed from his loved ones on 26.01.1993.

Also remembering Muriel and George Tatterson, Lylia, Des and Patricia King.

"...it is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

Meree and Family.

MCRAE, Mabel Veronica (Vera):

09.04.1921 - 20.01.2020.

It seems like yesterday. Missing you every day. Mum you would be watching Djokovic at this time.

Your enduring love, strength and wit are with me always.

Your loving son Denis.

FUNERALS

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Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of Rev. Fr. Bernard (Bernie) Krotwaar will be offered at St John's Catholic Church, Waterloo Rd, Trafalgar on Tuesday, February 3, at 11am.

The Funeral will leave at the conclusion of the Mass for the Trafalgar Cemetery.

The Funeral Mass will also be live-streamed. To view, please visit: www.nielsenfunerals.com.au

Vigil Mass will be offered in the above Church on Monday evening, February 2 at 7pm.

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SMITH:

A Celebration of Life for Mrs. Margaret Smith will be held at the Salvation Army, 2 Long St Leongatha VIC 3953 on Thursday, January 29, 2026, commencing at 1pm.

As was Margaret's wishes, please wear bright colours.

Margaret's Service will be live streamed. To view, please visit handleyfuneralservices.com.au

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Applications close: 5pm Friday, February 6, 2026.

AF0099

HM13295

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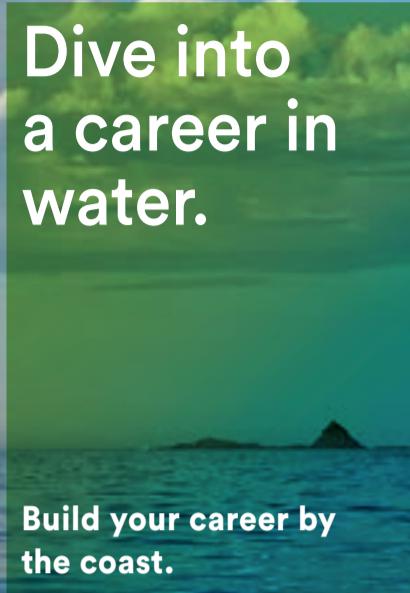
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AF0104



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PUBLIC NOTICES

CREDITORS, next of kin and others having claims against the estate of any of the undermentioned deceased persons are required to send particulars of their claims to **STATE TRUSTEES LIMITED** ABN 68 064 593 148, of 1 McNab Avenue, Footscray, Victoria 3011, the personal representative, on or before **2 April 2026**, after which date State Trustees Limited may convey or distribute the assets, having regard only to the claims of which State Trustees Limited then has notice.

MARSHALL, Kathleen, late of 74 Seaview Ave, SAFETY BEACH, VIC 3936, deceased, who died on 23 September 2025.

22 January 2026

JA23761

PROPOSED LEASE OF LAND

Part John Terrill Memorial Reserve Fish Creek



Council at its ordinary meeting held 10 December 2025 pursuant to section 115 of the Local Government Act 2020 resolved to commence the community engagement process to enter into a lease of the land to the Fish Creek Football Netball Club shown above with an area of 1,654m². being parts of the land contained within Lot 17 and Lot 18 LP4377. The lease will include but not limited to the following provisions:

- The lease shall be for the land only;
- The term of the lease shall be 50 years;
- The rent shall be the standard community rental fixed from time to time in Council's leasing policy, currently \$104.00 plus GST per annum;
- The permitted use of the land shall be for the construction and use of a new building for club rooms and associated community purposes

A person may make a submission to this proposal.

Submissions are to be received no later than by 5pm Wednesday 25 February 2026 and addressed to the CEO, 9 Smith Street Leongatha Vic 3953. Any person making a submission is entitled to be heard in support of the submission. If a person or a representative wishes to be heard in support of the submission, they must state this in their submission.

Copies of the submitter's name and address will be disclosed at any public Council meeting at which the proposal will be considered.



JA23761



Inverloch centenarian Trevor Scott (left) receives a signed Carlton guernsey from club legend David McKay to mark his 100th birthday.

Inverloch's last WW2 veteran honoured

By Rick Koenig

INVERLOCH centenarian Trevor Scott has been honoured by the AFL club he's supported since 1932.

The town's last surviving World War 2 veteran received a Carlton guernsey signed by captain Patrick Cripps and the senior playing group to mark his 100th birthday.

The guernsey featured the number 100 on the back with "TREVOR" beneath it.

Four-time premiership player David McKay made the presentation at an Inverloch RSL ceremony to mark the milestone.

McKay told carltonfc.com.au it was a privilege to hand over the guernsey.

"What a remarkable man Trevor is," he said.

"He is a person you can genuinely look up to and it is of no surprise that he is so highly regarded within the ranks of the RSL."

Mr Scott said he was thrilled with the gesture.

"I reckon this is a fantastic thing," he said.

"I don't know if I'd fit into today's Carlton line-up, but I'd at least look the part."

"For David to present the guernsey was also a big thrill."

The former Mirboo North footballer was born in Leongatha as one of nine siblings and adopted Carlton as his team during the Great Depression in 1932.

His two older brothers supported Collingwood and Richmond, so he chose Carlton to be different.

Mr Scott was there when Carlton beat Collingwood in the 1938 Grand Final under captain-coach Brighton Diggins, and later tried out at Geelong under Reg Hickey's watch.

When war broke out in September 1939, Mr Scott's older brothers Vernon and Wallace enlisted.

He followed suit in January 1944 at age 18 and initially trained as an aircraft technician in Adelaide before re-mustering as an airfield guard to reach the front line faster.

The air force posted him to Torokina on Bougainville Island where he guarded planes against Japanese infiltrators.

"I used to sleep all day and be on duty all night, guarding the airplanes and making sure that there were no Japanese infiltrators coming along, trying to blow the planes up," he said.

"It was very lonely and I did get very frightened that night and you were surrounded by jungle and you didn't know what was going on."

After the war Mr Scott worked at Peter's Ice Cream for 28 years.

He met his late wife Joan in Maffra in 1948 and they married the following year, raising three children.

Now with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Mr Scott has seen Carlton win 11 premierships and remains a committed Blues supporter.

When asked to name his all-time favourite Carlton player, he simply replied: "If they're wearing a Carlton jumper they're all favourites."

Great turnout at Grand Ridge parkrun

A LARGER group took part in the parkrun at Grand Ridge Trail recently.

Sixty-five walkers and runners were welcomed and briefed this morning by run director Jodie Pincini.

Jackets were on then off as people dithered over what to wear in the occasional shower and cool breeze.

This week, there were people from the UK as well as Melbourne and the local parkrunners hope they enjoyed the beautiful forest track.

Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun is blessed with bird calls as the runners puff along, favourites being whip birds, yellow-tailed black cockatoos and kookaburras.

First to make it back was fastest male runner Jacob Sweeney with a time of 18.49.

The fastest female was Aliesha Wrigley with a time of 24.50.

Congratulations to both runners for these fantastic results.

Some personal bests were also reached.

Great efforts from Adrian Smith, Aliesha Wrigley, Miranda Kennedy, Kerry Buckley, Joel Neal, Rachael Blackshaw, Matilda Busch, Duane Bray, Diana Reardon, Katie Blackshaw, Vanessa Hardie, Vicki Weir, Kirsteen



It was a good morning on the Grand Ridge Rail Trail for parkrun recently.

Aubrey, Julian Meredith, Lance Meredith and Lisa Meredith.

There were several first timers and visitors.

Welcome and congratulations to Jacob Sweeney, Derek Couper, Warwick John Payne, Stuart Brown, Donna Anderson, Lucy Woodward, Fiona Christensen, Tina Couper, Karen Carpenter, Mathew Fraser.

Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrunners are very grateful to volunteers Tim Buckley, Matilda Busch, Rober Gray, Sarah Lewis, Robert Nelson, Katrina Palmer, Jodie Pincini, Carmel Quirk, Diana Reardon, Peter Reeves, Val Smith and Audrey Valentine.

What a fabulous start to the weekend.

Just in case you want inspiration, the oldest person currently doing parkrun in Australia is 102.

Colin Thorne began parkrun aged 93.

Croquet tournaments back on for 2026

CHRISTMAS has come and gone and 2026 is well on the way.

Members of the Wonthaggi Croquet Club have continued with their usual play on the regular club days over this period and are now also starting their travels to other clubs for tournament play.

The first of these was a Level Play Singles event at Sale on the weekend of January 17 and 18.

Two Wonthaggi members, Mike Butterfield and Virginia Wheeler, competed in Sections 2 where Mike finished with four wins and Virginia with three wins.

The section was won by Denise Bray from Phillip Island.

John Priller, Sue Priller and Jo Butterfield competed in Section 3 with John winning four games, Sue three games and unfortunately Jo missing out.

The section was won by Lynette Taylor from Traralgon.

Section 1, with no representative from Wonthaggi, was won by John Carr from Mornington with Richard Parks from Williamstown as runner up.

The internal Singles Championships kicked off with Sections 1 and 2 playing on January 20.



Wonthaggi Croquet Club's Singles Championship Section 1 winner Michael Barber and Section 2 winner Sue Baker.

Five players battled it out in Section 1 with three players, Michael Barber, Paul Andrews and Gerry Kool, finishing with three wins each.

On a hoops countback, it was Michael who triumphed with +7, Paul as runner-up with +6 and Gerry with +5.

As Section 2 had only three entrants, they played each other twice with Sue Baker coming out on top with three wins, Tom Lacey with two wins and Neil Warburton with one win.

A barbecue lunch broke up a fun day, and thanks goes to all who assisted on the day.

Well played all.

Meanwhile, president and accredited GC referee Tom Lacey, officiated at Cairnlea for the Victorian Croquet Association

Golf Croquet (VCA GC) Doubles on January 21 and 22, Open GC Singles on January 24 to 26 and competed in the Australia Day Singles on January 23, where he won two games.

Sue Baker assisted on these days with the scoring and general administration.



Impulse Association Travellers Series winner Pete Kiely with South Gippsland Yacht Club commodore Matthew Kiely winner of the SGYC Australia Day Regatta.

Australia Day Regatta won by club commodore

By Bruce Wardley

THREE days of racing in the Australia Day Series at the South Gippsland Yacht Club in Inverloch held in conjunction with the Impulse Association Travellers Series ended with club commodore Matthew Kiely taking home the coveted winner's trophy.

Geoff Rippingale came in second with Toby Leppin in third place.

Pete Kiely won A Division, Matthew Kiely B Division and Tanith Ryan C Division with Pete Kiely the overall winner.

The next major event on the South Gippsland Yacht Club calendar is the Inverloch Classic Dinghy Regatta on Saturday, February 17 and Sunday, February 18.

This popular annual event focuses on the fun of sailing dinghies on Anderson Inlet and includes social and race events plus a display of boats on the beach and on the water.

PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE

ON Monday, there were six and a half tables. Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour won North/South pairs with 61.79 per cent. Shirley Stewart and Jill Short won East/West with 66.25 per cent.

On Wednesday, there were five and a half tables. Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson won with 68.06 per cent.

The club celebrated Moya Crowley's birthday with yummy cakes.

STH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

SEAN Munley and Bruce Higgs topped Monday night again with exactly the same score as last week (59.52).

That's consistency.

Then Susan Ruffin and Alan Johnston (58.33), Peter Campbell and Bill Damm (52.98) and Ann Marie Tytler and Fred Meislebach, also 52.98.

Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles won Tuesday decisively with 61.11.

Then Philip and Neville Chapman (58.33), Marie Sands and Ken McKenzie (54.17), Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka (54.17) and Bron Sund and Michael Dooley (53.65).

Friday's game was topped by Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs (57.55), Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson (55.56), Faye Rowlands and John Currier (55.15), Matti Shub and John Quayle (52.78), Bron Sund and Anne Gibson (52.64) playing N/S. Playing E/W Amanda Stewart and Adam Trumble (57.81), Marie Sands and Maureen Stiles (56.92), Moya Crowley and Michael Dooley (56.57), Anne Speakman and Jenny Jacob (53.76), and Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka (52.11).

All scores represent percentages of total points available.

It is great to see the burgeoning interest in Bridge with four, five and a half and 11 tables on Monday, Tuesday and Friday respectively.

John French is starting a new round of lessons for newcomers to the game on February 16 in Inverloch.

Please contact him on 0417 568 753 if interested.

You will discover a very absorbing game.



Anderson Inlet Angling Club member Darcy Vallence with his first big fish a 45cm flathead caught at Mahers Landing.

Young angler shows how its done with a prize catch

By Bruce Wardley

SEVEN-year-old Anderson Inlet Angling Club member Darcy Vallence had to be helped reel in the biggest catch of his life when he landed a 45cm flathead at Mahers Landing.

Proud grandfather David Francis says the giant flathead weighed in at more than half a kilo.

"The family took it back to Melbourne and baked it as an entrée," David said.

The new multi-million dollar Mahers Landing jetty and boat ramp has proved to be a hit with fishermen with Darcy not the only one to have landed a prize catch.

"Darcy is a new junior member to the club."

According to his grandfather Darcy was using bluebait on a 2 metre rod with a 4500 light reel on a 13-14 lb fishing line.

"I'd just rigged the line up for him, he was so thrilled."

Darcy's flathead took the bait just after 7.30pm on an outgoing tide.

"The family was on holidays from Melbourne and it's the biggest fish he's ever caught."

The Anderson Inlet Angling Club is keen to increase the number of junior members.

"It's been good this summer," said David.

The older anglers are waiting for the crowds to thin out before going back to fishing.

"If you haven't got a line in you can't catch a fish."

The most popular spots are proving to be Mahers Landing and Pensioners Point.

Some handy catches of smaller flathead and pinkies have been made off the beach.

"There's even been some gummies around," said David.

"Some small salmon have also been taken off the surf beach."

For more information look for the Anderson Inlet Angling Club Inverloch on Facebook.



Hugo and Nathan Hersey, Craig and Kate Grant and Ian and Jo Cash at the Korumburra Agricultural and Pastoral Society barbecue that helped raise funds for the running of the Showgrounds and provision of better facilities for those attending events there. A15_0426

Korumburra Rodeo a boon for locals and Show Society

By Andrew Paloczi

FRIDAY'S Korumburra Pro Rodeo not only entertained locals and visitors but also raised funds to improve facilities for spectators at the town's Showgrounds and help with maintenance and running costs there.

It broke a long absence of rodeo action in Korumburra.

Korumburra Agricultural & Pastoral (A&P) Society President Danial Robbins explained that while the organisation wasn't running Friday's event, with M5 Rodeo Promotions in charge of that, society members were still involved.

Those members ran car parking within the Showgrounds and a sausage sizzle, and M5 hired the venue from the A&P Society, with Danial outlining how money generated through those sources will help.

"We've got some new seating going around the oval and we're in the process of

purchasing two mobile grandstands that will seat up to 40 people each," he said, the grandstands being funded by the Society and through an external grant.

There are also hopes of revamping the exhibit shed.

With the annual power bill for the Showgrounds in the vicinity of \$20,000, along with other costs, events that bring in funds are crucial.

Friday's attendees saw competitors from all over Australia and overseas, with Charters Towers, Darwin and Germany represented.

"Feedback was awesome, with people saying it was great to have the rodeo back," Mr Robbins said, remarking that the venue and M5 Promotions' setup were praised.

He added that there were benefits for local businesses, with M5 reaching out to

service providers as diverse as water truck operators and electricians.

Mr Robbins expressed appreciation to South Gippsland Shire Council for working with the A&P Society to iron out parking issues after challenges arose during the recent Monster Truck event at the Showgrounds.

"The logistics of traffic worked really well," he said of Friday, noting people followed signage not to park along the highway and that the highway gate is no longer open for events.

The Rodeo is one of a string of events being held at the venue early this year, with the Korumburra Show coming up on Friday February 13 and Saturday February 14, followed by horse competition on Sunday February 22.

The South Gippsland Garlic Festival is on Saturday February 28.



Sam Garraway hangs on in Bull Riding competition. A06_0426



Former carpenter's apprentice and Poowong Magpies junior Jai Newcombe (left) has been named Hawthorn co-captain alongside James Sicily in a historic first for the club.

From chippy to AFL captain

By Rick Koenig

POOWONG product and lifelong Hawks fan Jai Newcombe has been named co-captain of Hawthorn following a remarkable rise from country footy to AFL stardom.

The 24-year-old joins James Sicily at the helm in the first co-captaincy in the club's history.

Gippsland Power knocked Newcombe back at 16, 17 and 18 due to his small stature.

He cracked the squad as a 19-year-old in 2020 but COVID wiped out the entire season.

At that point Newcombe was working as a carpentry apprentice in Warragul and playing for the Poowong Magpies.

Box Hill Hawks general manager Daniel Napoli invited him down for a pre-season trial and Newcombe made the long commute twice a week from Warragul to train with the VFL side.

After just six games under then-coach Sam Mitchell, Hawthorn selected the lifelong Hawks fan at pick 2 in the 2021 mid-season draft.

Nine days later he made his AFL debut against Sydney and set a competition record with 14 tackles.

Newcombe has now played 102 games, won the 2024 Peter Crimmins Medal as the club's best and fairest, and wears the iconic No.3 jumper previously worn by Leigh Matthews, Jordan Lewis and Mitchell.

Newcombe told SEN Mornings his dad Clint, a Poowong club stalwart with more than 300 games, shaped him into the player he is today.

"My Dad's been massive in terms of what I accept for myself, which then allows me to continually push myself to be better," Newcombe said.

"The constructive criticism as a kid was big in me developing into the person that I am now."

Newcombe broke the news to his parents over dinner at the family home in Poowong.

"Dad sort of sat back in his chair with a massive smile on his face," he said.

"It took him a few seconds to come to terms with what I had just said.

"Mum was clapping her hands and was filled with excitement straight away."

Newcombe said the co-captaincy model would allow him and Sicily to share the growing responsibilities of the modern captain's role.

"I think we're going to round each other off very nicely," he said.

"He's been the main driver of us progressing the way we have and I'm very lucky to now be standing alongside him."

Hawthorn CEO Ash Klein said Newcombe's development on and off the field had been impressive.

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

WEDNESDAY	January 28
12:35am	0.66m
6:52am	1.51m
1:02pm	0.24m
8:09pm	1.47m

THURSDAY	January 29
1:21am	0.75m
7:34am	1.45m
1:49pm	0.24m
9:15pm	1.44m

FRIDAY	January 30
2:13am	0.84m
8:25am	1.39m
2:44pm	0.26m
10:26pm	1.42m

SATURDAY	January 31
3:15am	0.90m
9:30am	1.34m
3:53pm	0.29m
11:40pm	1.43m

SUNDAY	February 1
4:36am	0.92m
10:51am	1.30m
5:17pm	0.31m
12:49am	1.47m

MONDAY	February 2
12:49am	1.53m
6:05am	0.86m
12:16pm	1.32m
6:36pm	0.29m

TUESDAY	February 3
1:51am	1.53m
7:22am	0.75m
1:30pm	1.37m
7:40pm	0.28m

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au



Foster Bowls Club's week one winners were RAM, Michelle, Paul, Adam and Roxy.



Jill Edwards, Roger Wittingslow (skip), Marg Griffin and Harry Dunn were the Thursday social bowls winners at the Inverloch Bowling Club. Absent: Carol Waters.



Louis Magri (S), Marg Hoy (3) and Garry McAllister (L) were the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners this week.



Peter Morgan, Linda Newman, Marj Ford and Brian Newman were the Breakaway Bowls winners on Friday.



The winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls on Tuesday were Pat Smith, Fred Demenech and Jean Wyld.



Friday's winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were Robert McLaren, Theo Scholey, Ray McCurry and Jim Wilson.



Monday's Breakaway Bowls winners were Jenny Bakker, Ken Webb, Pat Novak and Marg Brown.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

IT was another great day for indoor bowls on Monday and once again all the members had a blast.

The winners were Jenny Bakker, Ken Webb, Pat Novak and Marg Brown.

They won with +11 – well done.

A great day was had by all on Friday. The winners were Peter Morgan, Linda Newman, Marj Ford and Brian Newman.

They won with +15 – well done.

There's no bowls until next Friday. See you all next Friday at 1pm at the Cape Paterson Community Hall.

FOSTER

BOWLERS are back for another Jack Attack competition at the club in 2026.

It's looking like a great one.

Everyone is keen as mustard.

Winners for the night were RAM, players Michelle, Paul, Adam and Roxy.

The night's sponsors were Charlie and Bev Tyers.

Runners-up were the new team, Snapdragons, players Bryce, Mikey and Tom.

They received the chocky prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

An awesome thank you to them for their sponsorship once again.

The raffle was a big hit as usual with continued support from Celarbrations at Foster with the bottle of wine prize, Prom Meats with a meat voucher and the club with an array of goodies.

Last week, the weather was a little cooler than expected but luckily the sun kept making an appearance.

Winners for the night were the Dee Gee K's, Claire, Paul and Kylie.

The prizes were sponsored by Bohnny's Cafe.

Many thanks to them.

Runners-up were the Low Rollers, Nicole, Ben and Tania, winning the chocky prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens.

The main competition starts this week, ahead of a six-week competition.

This Wednesday night is a dress up night and it will be a beach party/Australia Day theme.

Looking forward to seeing everyone get in on the fun, just hoping it's a warm night.

INVERLOCH

THURSDAY social bowls saw 34 bowlers battle the wind with success.

A change for scoring for the day provided a change with winners decided by total shots up.

The hard luck story of the day was Team Tasmania consisting of Carol Thorn (skip), George Scott, Jon Abbott and Rob Higgins.

They finished with 10 shots up.

Runners-up was Team South Australia that finished with 15 shots up.

This team consisted of Terry Orford (skip), Doug Slater, Judy Parker, Jeff Curwood and Lance Lancaster.

The winning team was Team ACT with 16 shots up.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Thursday social bowls winners were Peter McBain and John Kappeler.

They have all done well in representing the club.

There's still time to make it to Balclarat.

All you need to do is just win.

The ladies' Club Pairs was played and won by Jenny and Sue.

No other club results as of yet.

SW GIPPSLAND MIDWEEK BOWLS

FIFTY bowlers turned up to Koo Wee Rup on Thursday, January 22, for the second meeting of the year for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group.

The bowlers were welcomed to the club by president John Nicholson while Bev and Vern Elliott organised the teams for the day.

A number of first-time attendees were welcomed to the fold including Allison Devine and Sue Buchan from Cranbourne Bowls Club.

Once the bowlers were told their teams and went to the green the weekly challenge began.

A big thank you to the generous players for their donation to the Royal Children's Hospital tin as a result of their embarrassing wrong bias bowls.

The mild summer's day, although a bit windy, saw a generally high standard of bowls across the seven rinks.

The winners on a score of 35 were Louis Magri (S), Marg Hoy (3) and Garry McAllister (L).

Runners-up on a score of 34 were Bill Sherriff (S), Bobby Arnold (L), Alex Martin (2) and Steve Muhi (3).

Best one game winners on a countback with a score of 18 were Maggie Prosser (L), Peter McWilliams (2), Steve Edge (S) and Amanda Bozelle (3).

A big thank you to Koo Wee Rup president Tim Katz for setting up the green and manning the bar and to Maggie Prosser for looking after the kitchen and cleaning up afterwards.

Next week on Thursday, January 29, the group will be meeting at Lang Lang Bowls Club to once again enjoy a great day of social bowls.

Please be on site by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams.

Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching capacity, there will be a strict 10am cut-off time.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another busy week at the club. Tuesday saw Division 1 play host to Phillip Island at Wonthaggi on a fine, mild morning.

In a battle between the two top teams on the ladder, it was clear Phillip Island wanted to keep top spot.

At the end of the day, Wonthaggi went down.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 48, Phillip Island 64.

Division 2 ventured down the highway to do battle against Lang Lang.

Wonthaggi had to win to keep its place in the top four.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 74, Lang Lang 44.

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Division 3 played host to San Remo at Wonthaggi in a tough match against another team in the top four.

At the end of the day, Wonthaggi was able to get the points.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 58, San Remo 54.

Tuesday night saw Barefoot Bowls restart, with a lot of happy faces back on the greens in fine, warm weather.

Thursday social bowls at 1pm produced 30 bowlers to play two games of three-bowl pairs.

There were two teams that were able to win both games, with the winners being decided on percentage.

They were Peter McBain and John Kappler with a score of two wins and 32 points, eight shots up.

The runners-up were the team of Sheila Ormerod and Jenny Miller, also with 32 points, eight shots up.

Friday night was a success with very good numbers on a fine, warm night.

The members draw went off, with Raye being present to take home \$120.

Next week the jackpot will be \$50.

Hans was the happy winner of the meat tray, while John took home the chicken tray.

Maggi and Roger each won a brekky pack. Other winners were John, Howard, John M, and Howard.

Saturday saw Division 1 play host to Korumburra at Wonthaggi on a fine but hot afternoon.

Korumburra was needing a win to keep in touch with the top four, so it was always going to be a tight match.

All rinks played well to record a good win.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 64, Korumburra 51.

Division 2 travelled to Toora, looking for a win.

The problem was Toora was also up for a scrap to get the points.

At the end of the day, Toora was able to get home.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 53, Toora 59.

Division 4 (3) and Division 4 played each other, starting at 10am because of the weather.

Both teams played well, with Division 4 (3) able to get the points.

The final scores: Div 4 (3) 68, Division 4 42.

Division 6 ventured to Toora looking to keep top spot on the ladder. Both rinks played well to record a win.

The final scores: Wonthaggi 48, Toora 31.

Bowls this week:

Tuesday: Pennant.

Tuesday night: Barefoot Bowls at 6pm (doors open at 4pm).

Thursday: Social bowls at 9.30am and at 1pm.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Pennant.

Don't forget Friday night, with the members draw being \$50 plus meat trays and other prizes to win.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT was lovely to see 25 players on Tuesday.

The winners with +20 (two games) were Jean Wyld, Pat Smith and Fred Demenech.

Runners-up with +10 (two games) were Carol Thorpe, Teresa Ireland, Judy Sweetnam and Paul Holmes.

On Friday, the winners were Jim Wilson, Theo Scholey, Ray McCurry and Robert McLaren, scoring +21 (two games). Runners-up with +17 (two games) were Maggie Scapin, Allan Ireland and Jeannie Slocum.



Women's captain Janet Monk was Leongatha Golf Club's A Grade winner.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, January 13:

Stableford: 41 players.

A Grade winner: Mat Wrigley (2) 45 points.

B Grade winner: Bree Claffey (51) 46 points.

NTPs: first Mat Wrigley, seventh Mick Belvedere, 10th Greg Marsh and 13th John Solly.

Thursday, January 15:

Stableford: 24 Players

A Grade Winner: Steve Duffield (11) 41 points.

B Grade winner: Joseph Salvatore (27) 41 points.

NTPs: first Cade Maskell, seventh Nick Besley, 10th Mick Belvedere and 13th Steve Duffield.

Saturday, January 17:

Sponsor: Al and Barb Twite.

Stableford: 49 players.

A Grade winner: Peter Van Agtmael (16) 44 points.

B Grade winner: Don Olden (24) 39 points.

NTPs: first Rob Gallagher, 10th Murray Webb and 13th Robert Goss.

Tuesday, January 20:

Stableford: 40 players.

A Grade winner: Jaarl Enbom (13) 41 points.

B Grade winner: Mark Marotti (31) 39 c/b.

NTPs: first Guy Fields, seventh Blayke Spokes, 10th Ian Gibson and 13th Mick Belvedere.

Thursday, January 22:

Stableford: 24 players.

A Grade winner: Barry Kerr (8) 41 points.

B Grade winner: Blake Webb (50) 56 points.

NTPs: first Peter McMaster, seventh Peter McMaster, 10th Chris McConnell and 13th Barry Kerr.

Saturday, January 24:

Sponsor: Tim Morgan.

Stableford: 52 players.

A Grade winner: Clint Newcombe (8) 42 points.

B Grade winner: Iain Riddell (16) 41 points.

NTPs: first Greg Shuttlesworth, seventh Wayne Knights, 10th Greg Jones and 13th John Solly.

Ladies

WEATHER conditions were ideal last Wednesday.

Thanks to the grounds staff and volunteers, the course is in top condition, hence the great scores coming in lately.

Well done to A Grade winner with 40 points, was Lyn McIvor (21).

Runner-up with 37 points on a c/b was Julie Hillberg (20).

B Grade winner was Deb Wrigley (27) also with 40 points, runner-up was Barb Twite (25) with 38 points.

The C Grade winner was Colette Pearl (36) with a fabulous score of 43 points.



Korumburra's Wednesday Stableford winners were A Grade Lyn McIvor, B Grade Deb Wrigley and C Grade Colette Pearl.

Runner-up was Lyn Leppin (35) with another great score of 42 points.

BDTL went to Joan Wardle 41 points, Chris Rickard 38 points, Maree Wittingslow 37 points c/b.

NTP on the first was Julie Hillberg (Kelly's Bakery), seventh and 13th green was Shelley Snooks, and closest on the 10th was Lyn McIvor.

The nine-hole competition had four women play, congratulations to Leanne Thomson winning with a nice 19 points.

Thursday Twilight golfers had a lovely evening out playing.

Well done to the winning pair Laurie and Sandra Webster having 24 points.

Fourteen women played early to beat the heat on Saturday.

Winning on a c/b was Julie Cole (53) with a fabulous 39 points.

Runner-up was Lorraine Knox (39) also with 39 points.

BDTL went to Julie Hillberg 36 points and Karen Sorrell 35 points.

NTPs on the first was Lyn McIvor (Kelly's Bakery), seventh Merrissa Cosson and 13th green Jenny Blackmore.

This Wednesday is the Opening Day with a three-four person Ambrose event.

The club encourages all to play, including the nine-hole members.

Look forward to seeing you all.

LEONGATHA

RESULTS: Tuesday, January 20:

Competition: Stableford

Total entrants: 87.

Overall winner: Patrick Mitchell (13) 39 points.

A Grade winners: Patrick Mitchell (13) 39 points; Chad Clasby (6) 36 c/b.

B Grade winners: John Simon (15) 35 points; Malcolm Legge (15) 34 points.

C Grade winners: Geoff McDonald (18) 34 points c/b; Fred de Bondt (21) 34 points.

D Grade winners: Damien Wigfield (22) 36 points (Beaconsfield Country Golf Club); Colin Moyle (22) 35 c/b.

Nearest the pins: fifth Christopher Buckland 78cm second shot; 14th Frank Kauhausen 202cm; 16th Michael Street 193cm.

Thursday, January 22:

Competition: Stableford.

Total entrants: 79.

Overall winner: Dave Brownell (14) 37 points.

A Grade: Jeremy de Silva (7) 33 c/b; Michael West (7) 33 c/b.

B Grade: Dave Brownell (14) 37 points; Mark O'Dwyer (18) 34 points.

C Grade: Bert Borg (19) 35 points; David Forbes (20) 34 points.



On a hot streak, Toni Taylor was Meenyan Golf Club's January Medal winner and Stableford winner. She is pictured with January Medal runner-up Susan Straw.

DTL: R. Thompson 40, D. Taylor 38, D. Woodall, W. Gervasi 37 and T. Bradshaw 36.

NTP: fourth C. Hogbin, sixth N. Baker, 13th M. Payne and 16th T. Whitelaw.

Birdies: fourth S. Woodall, sixth J. Butler, 13th T. Bradshaw and 16th T. Whitelaw.

Saturday, January 24: Stableford.

A Grade: J. Woodall (11) 41. B Grade: N. Whichello (13) 40. C Grade: Cam Le Page (30) 39. DTL: C. Gunn and J. Hughes 39, M. Payne 38, J. McFarlane 37 and S. Evison 36 c/b.

NTP: fourth G. Renwick, sixth (Mirboo North pub voucher) M. Payne, 13th H. Leeds and 16th J. Woodall.

Birdies: 16th J. Woodall.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: January 22.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Overall winner: Adrian Nixon 37.

A Grade: Jarvis Harvey 36.

Runner-up: Craig Charles 36.

B Grade: Adrian Nixon 37.

Runner-up: Jonathon Wade 36.

Place getters: Warren Dumm 36, Blake Cornelis 36, Philip McCrimmon 35, Gary Youlton 35, Roger Kilpatrick 34, Jamie Davidson 34, Glen Turner 34 and Graeme Campbell 34.

NTPs: Craig Charles second, Rod McBride fourth, Peter Ali eighth, Gary Youlton 13th and Jarvis Harvey 17th.

Results: January 22.

Competition: Stableford back nine-hole.

Winner: Graham Ryan 20.

Place getters: Willy Williams 19 and Ray Hender 17.

NTPs: Graham Ryan 17th.

Results: January 24.

Competition type: Stableford.

Overall winner: Paul Brusamarello 42.

A Grade: Robert Geyer 40.

Runner-up: Peter Dell 40.

B Grade: Paul Brusamarello 42.

Runner-up: Gary Kirk 41.

C Grade: Peter Brewster 41.

Runner-up: Jenson Garnham 41.

D Grade: Peter Magnusson 40.

Runner-up: Cooper Lindsay 39.

Place getters: Stephen Judd 39, Glen Turner 39, Tim Slade 39, Daniel Crellin 39, Norm Burne 39, Alan McLean 38, Mark Tiziani 38, Alan Jones 38, Brad Andrews 37, Darcy O'Halloran 37, Max Aherne 37, Scott Williams 36 and David Riccardo 36.

NTPs: Bruce Betts second, Alan McLean fourth, Scott McLean eighth, Stephen Judd 13th and Frank Huber money hole 17th.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, January 20: Stableford.

A Grade: M. Woodall (8) 37.

B Grade: G. Shandley (13) 37.

C Grade: M. Miller (23) 42.

Three victories across age groups

THE Gippsland Goannas enjoyed a successful weekend with all three senior teams recording victories.

The Over-50s travelled to Ballarat where the Buninyong Reserve was in perfect condition. Graeme Rankin lost the toss and the Goannas were asked to bowl first.

Bowlers piled on the pressure early, capturing early wickets to have Ballarat on the back foot from the start.

Steve Rogers was fantastic at the top of the innings to take 2/29, Paul Hennessy bowled with plenty of flight to finish with 2/27 and Chris Malone was outstanding through the middle and later stages taking 2/16.

Anthony Bloomfield, Simon Forbes and John Daddo all made good contributions with the ball, taking a wicket each.

Debutant Scott Hoare behind the stumps took a couple of good catches and two fantastic stumpings.

Chasing 151 to win, Forbes and Rankin got the team off to a good start.

Geoff Stewart entered the arena for the first time as a Goanna after travelling from Bairnsdale.

Rankin departed for a well-made 22 bringing Bloomfield to the crease, though he came and went quickly for a duck.

Stewart and Malone steadied the ship before Stewart departed for a classy 38 in his first outing. Rogers and Malone were exceptional through the middle overs before Malone fell for a solid 33.

Rogers and Daddo saw the team over the line with Rogers finishing on 36 not out, the Goannas bringing up victory with seven overs to spare to maintain top position on the ladder.

The Over-60 and Over-70 teams ventured to the home of the Bendigo Cricket Club to play Vic Country veterans at Atkins St reserve in North Bendigo.

The Over-60s batted first making 7/164 from 40 overs with Ray Floyd 26, Jim Armstrong 29 and Peter Anton 24 among the contributors.

Guest Euroa players Phil Thompson, Phil Brown and Rick O'Brien all helped move the score along. Tight bowling restricted Vic Country to 9/148 with Adrian Quirk taking 2/24, Anton 2/17 and Ray Smith 3/35.

Anton's efforts with bat and ball earned him player of the match. On the adjacent artificial wicket, the Over-70s also batted first making 5/199 from 40 overs.

Ian Gibson and Warren Dummett retired for 22 and 25 respectively before Murray Moore exploded with 35 runs from 15 balls, retiring on 39.

Gordon Cowling hit 42 from his 30 balls while Chris Bowen retired on 21.

Heather Farley and Deidre Hunter also contributed as the Goannas posted a strong total. Tight bowling restricted Vic Country to 4/155 with Cowling taking 1/7 from five overs and Andrew Smith 1/42 from eight.

Moore was named player of the match.

The Over-70s next play at Yarra Valley on February 3, the Over-60s host Mornington on February 1, and the Over-50s host Eastern Hawks on February 1.



2026 INDOOR NIGHT NETBALL TUESDAY NIGHTS STARTS FEBRUARY 17

(ends June 23) played at
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HMA1329

Gary Adams OAM keeps on keeping on

LEGENDARY Leongatha and District Cricket Association player and administrator Gary Adams is the worthy winner of just about every accolade the game can hand out, including a 50-year service award received from Cricket Victoria a couple of years ago.

But in the Australia Day Honours List for 2026, which recognises and celebrates the contribution of 949 Australians, Mr Adams was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to sport and to the community.

His contribution to the sport both locally and at representative level is immense, and not just to cricket but also includes football, basketball and a wealth of junior sports wherever he was needed.

And he also had a decorated career in education.

"I've been a big believer in the importance of getting involved in your local community and when Sharon and I moved here, we made it our business to get involved, not just as a way to meet people and make friends but also to make a contribution," Mr Adams said this week.

"And sport especially is a great way for kids to get involved in their community, with a lot of life lessons along the way, and believing that, we felt we had to get involved ourselves.

"Actually, I was back at the weekend to celebrate the 35-year reunion of the first OMK premiership in 1990-91 and it gives you the opportunity to look around and reflect on the terrific contributions made by a lot of people around the area.

"I was lucky enough that a few people got together when we decided we'd move to Melbourne to be closer to the family and also spend more



For a contribution to cricket stretching beyond 50 years and for services to the community generally, Gary Adams has been awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the 2026 Australia Day Honours.



Together with his wife Sharon, Gary Adams made a significant contribution to sport, education and the South Gippsland community generally.

time in Queensland, and did they work on making an application and I respect them for that.

"But really, there are a lot of people who deserve recognition and it would be

good if more people could take the trouble to nominate people they know are deserving of that sort of recognition."

These days Mr Adams and his wife Sharon share

their time between Buderim on the Sunshine Coast and at a unit in the Melbourne Docklands, having family in both locations, but he's still involved in both the administration of cricket and playing the great game.

Most recently it was at the National Over 70s Championship for Victoria Blue.

"I got to see the T20 semi-finals down there on Sunday but had to rush back to Melbourne because I was organising an over 80s game at Elsternwick Park today (Monday). I'm the Over 70s director for Vets Cricket Victoria, which is about right because I'm in that age group.

"But yes, very humbling to get an award like this and I'd really like to thank those who put in the work to nominate me. And thanks to all those who've reached out in recent days," he said.

For a full list of Gary Adams' contribution to sport and education in South Gippsland, go to the Sentinel-Times website at www.sgtimes.com.au

SGTA Hot Shots shine on court at the Australian Open



Local future tennis stars enjoyed their recent experience at the Australian Open.

One of the standout moments of the day came for Savannah Pocklington from Leongatha, who was given the special honour of performing the coin toss for the ladies' doubles match featuring Emiliana Arango and Elsa Jacquemot against Gabriela

Dabrowski and Luisa Stefani, a truly unique experience on the sport's biggest stage.

After the on-court session, players and their families were able to spend the day at the Australian Open, with their accreditation including full ground pass access.

SGTA would like to sincerely thank Tennis Victoria and Tennis Australia for making this incredible opportunity available to regional players from South Gippsland.

At midday, coach Matthew Pocklington departed early to compete in the \$7500 Ace Classic in Pakenham, where he also had the chance to see Australian star Destanee Aiava competing in the doubles event.

So many exciting activities happening with the SGTA crew.

If your child would like to be part of the SGTA Hot Shots crew and gain access to opportunities like this, lessons start from Monday, February 2.

Families are also encouraged to keep an eye out for Friday Night Hit and Sizzle, featuring fun Hot Shots activities, Cardio Tennis for adults, point-play competitions and a high-level singles competition.

To get involved, contact the SGTA team today at sgta.office@gmail.com.

KORUMBURRA

BACK into two-day cricket this week, the B Grade Cobras batted first and made a solid start before losing captain Shane Dole to a soft tissue injury.

George Edwards set the tone early with a positive, well-made 27 off 35 balls including four boundaries.

Despite the strong start, the middle order was unable to capitalise and the Cobras found themselves under pressure until Jayden Douglas joined Phil Richards at the crease.

The pair put together an important 62-run partnership for the seventh wicket, stabilising the innings. Richards was unlucky to fall just short of a half-century, finishing with a composed 49 off 111 balls striking seven fours.

Douglas provided excellent support with a well-constructed 20 off 55 balls including four boundaries.

In reply, the Island batted for 11 overs to close out the day.

Douglas continued his impressive all-round form, leading the way with the ball by removing both Island openers with some outstanding bowling, finishing the day with figures of 2/27.

Fresh from a big win last week against the second-placed Wonthaggi Club, the Cobras took on ladder leaders OMK in search of another big scalp in C Grade.

OMK batted first but the Cobras' bowling attack never allowed them to build any momentum.

Captain Patrick Beadel led from the front with the ball, finishing with impressive figures of 3/26.

He was well supported by Charlie Carew (2/30) and Tom Sorrell (1/23).

The bowlers were backed superbly in the field, highlighted by Tom Jenkins who snaffled two outstanding outfield catches.

In reply, the Cobras' batting innings began with plenty of starts but no one in the top order was able to convert into a big score. At 5/61 the match was finely poised but skipper Paddy Beadel had other ideas.

Combining with Darren Scott, the pair put on a decisive 70-run partnership for the sixth wicket to swing the game in the Cobras' favour.

Scott was the standout with the bat, smashing a fluent 33 off just 35 balls including seven fours.

Badel capped off a terrific all-round performance with a composed 28 off 55 deliveries hitting four boundaries.

Support also came from Peter Edward (19), Carew (12), Trevor Allen (11) and James Dunn (10).

The Cobras eventually sealed a well-earned victory, continuing their strong run of form against top-of-the-ladder opposition.

NYORA

NYORA cruised into a comfortable position against Foster on Saturday.

Playing at the Nyora Recreation Reserve, the home side batted first and declared at 363 eight down.

Opening batsman Daniel Esler was in top form, recording 120 runs on the scoreboard.

Luke Palmer contributed another 75 runs and captain Jake Henry finished it off with 33*.

Foster went into bat and made



Glen Alvie opening batsman David Harris reached his half-century before being bowled by Pieter Loos. B12_0426

3/34 off 16 overs.

Two wickets were taken by Aidan Simmons and one was taken by Trent Breen.

"Everyone played their part and it was a strong performance in the heat," Henry said.

"We're hoping to knock Foster off early and get the win. We've had a good season and we're looking to keep our spot on the ladder, setting us up for finals."

Despite the scoreline, Foster put up fierce competition on the day.

KILCUNDA-BASS

DESPITE a shaky start, Kilcunda-Bass was able to record a defendable total of 217 against MDU on Saturday.

Playing at the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve, Kilcunda-Bass chose to bat first after winning the toss.

Aaron Conron opened the batting and managed to hit 44 runs despite early wickets falling around him.

Conron held the top end together but the score was 4/55 until Cameron Davidson stepped up to the crease.

Batting patiently, Davidson batted for the majority of the day, going out in the last over.

Davidson accumulated 66 runs, with Gregory Miller, Ben Rookes and Jackson Baker also batting sensibly to increase the run rate.

"We'll go into bowl next week. Hopefully we've put enough runs on the board to get the win. We'll just have to put the pressure on," Kilcunda-Bass president Ash Larcombe said.

Kilcunda-Bass has its Lucky Squares function on this Saturday.

This event will be held in the social rooms at 7pm.

KOONWARRA/LRSL

KOONWARRA/LRSL is chasing 9/198 following the first day of a two-day match against Glen Alvie on Saturday.

Playing at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve in hot conditions, Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bat.

Matt Donohue opened the batting with 56 runs, with Lucas McRae and captain Ben McRae later adding 30 and 20 runs respectively to the tally.

Nick Arnup was in fine form for the Cougars, taking four Glen Alvie wickets throughout the innings.

Jason Kennedy took three wickets and the remaining



Koonwarra/LRSL's Harry Scrimshaw celebrating a catch. Photo: Jodie Arnup.

wicket was claimed by James Rushton.

Koonwarra/LRSL will have its opportunity to reply this weekend.

FOSTER

AN embattled Foster A2 side will be tasked with chasing Nyora's total of 363 this weekend.

In the first day of the two-day match on Saturday, Foster travelled to the Nyora Recreation Reserve.

Nyora won the toss and chose to bat.

A 120-run haul from Daniel Esler put Foster on the back foot.

However, Foster fought back hard with Ben East claiming 4/109, Andrew Pattie taking 2/58 and Eddie Smith taking 1/37.

Nyora declared at 8/363 and sent Foster into bat.

A shaky start to the innings left Pattie and Luke Rooker at the crease at stumps with 15* and 4*.

Foster faced 16 overs and is sitting on 3/34.

MDU

MDU has a challenge ahead, tasked with chasing down second-placed Kilcunda-Bass' total of 10/217 this weekend.

Kilcunda-Bass ventured to the Meeniyan Recreation Reserve on Saturday and won the toss.

Aaron Conron started well for the Sharks with 44 runs and Cameron Davidson later top scored with 66 runs.

MDU bowler Scott Browne has ensured the home side is well and truly in with a chance with an outstanding bowling performance.

Browne claimed 5/65, taking out the opening partnership and the middle order batsmen.

Captain Mitch McGrath took three wickets and Sembakutige Chathura Lakshan and Max Murray claimed singles.

MDU will have its turn to bat this Saturday.

THE IMPERIALS

THE Imperials set themselves up well with 199 against MDU in B2 after the first day of the two-day match.

Playing in the heat in Dumbalk, the Imperials won the toss.

Gary Sauvarin opened for the Imps, putting a whopping 102 runs on the scoreboard.

He opened with Cameron Bruce, which resulted in a 50-run partnership.

Nerrena batsmen Tadgh Ganon, Tom Cameron and Mitch Croatto managed to lift the score to something a little more respectable.

Phillip Island will be chasing 10/105 this weekend.

PHILLIP ISLAND

PHILLIP Island's C1 side battled against Nerrena at the Nerrena Recreation Reserve but ultimately conceded defeat.

Nerrena won the toss and chose to bat.

Gareth Tanti for Phillip Island led the charge, taking four wickets.

Captain Michael Cleary and Deane Mani claimed a wicket each.

Phillip Island was chasing 6/217.

Island batsman Oliver Hodson proved to be a force for the Sharks, opening the innings and remaining at the crease for the whole 35 overs.

He made 81* with Gareth Tanti contributing 28 runs.

However, a strong performance from Nerrena's bowlers restricted the run rate from the rest of the order.

Phillip Island finished up with a score of 8/146.

LEONGATHA TOWN

IT was a stinking hot day on the postage stamp at Wonthaggi, with conditions testing both sides from the outset.

Batting first, Leongatha Town posted 149, built around a gritty knock from Karl Aeschlimann who sweated out a hard-earned 43 under relentless heat and pressure.

Jack Aeschlimann provided solid support with a well-compiled 26 while Nijo Devassy added valuable late runs, finishing on a quick 23 not out to give Town something to bowl at.

Unfortunately, it proved to be a tough afternoon in the field.

Despite plenty of effort, Town managed just the one wicket, with Poly Kallookkaran the lone breakthrough, finishing with 1/34.

Wonthaggi capitalised on several missed chances, with a number of dropped catches including three off three balls from Cal allowing the hosts to build momentum.

In the end, Wonthaggi reached 1/151 to claim the win but plenty of positives with the bat and lessons to take forward from a challenging day in trying conditions.



Hartley Wells
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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Mitch Croatto (Nerrena) 44 ; George McCausland (Phillip Island) 4/16

A2: Daniel Esler (Nyora) 120 ; Scott Browne (MDU) 5/65

B1: David Britt (Club) 111 ; Dale Robinson (Phillip Island) 6/14

B2: Gary Sauvarin 102 ; Henry Dolphin (Nyora) 4/33

C1: Oliver Hodson (Phillip Island) 81* ; Gareth Tanti (Phillip Island) 4/39

C2: Lucas McMillan (Inverloch) 89* ; Angus Benetti (Club) 4/14

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Thomas Wyatt dismissed lbw off the bowling of Drew Herbert for 27. B22_0426

LADDERS

RD 14

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
C GRADE, Division 1					
OMK	108	1.399	Club	114	2.959
Club	102	1.701	Inverloch	96	1.474
Phillip Island	72	0.850	Glen Alvie	96	0.904
Korumburra	66	1.062	Koonwarra L/RSL	84	1.364
Nerrena	66	0.958	Nyora	48	0.540
Kilcunda Bass	48	0.824	Town	36	0.532
MDU	42	0.636	OMK	30	0.667

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 11 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 (DAY 2)

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	Meenyan	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	John Schelling (D2)
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 15 - SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

C GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

Nerrena v MDU	Nerrena	TBA
P-Island v Korumburra	Rhyll	TBA
Club v Kilcunda Bass	McMahon	TBA
OMK - BYE		

C GRADE, Division 2 - 1PM START

Nyora v Koon L/RSL	Poowong	TBA
Glen Alvie v Club	Glen Alvie	TBA
Inverloch v OMK	Inverloch FG	TBA
Town - BYE		

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective umpires can contact
Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421

Brothers face off for the annual Blair Hunter Cup

By Bruce Wardley

THE legacy of Blair 'Rowdy' Hunter lived on over the weekend with the annual tribute match between OMK and Wonthaggi Club given extra intensity when brothers Koby Brann (Capt. OMK) and Joel Brann (Capt. Wonthaggi Club) lined up against each other.

Blair Hunter was a standout player joining OMK ahead of the 1990-91 season.

Showcasing his exceptional talent and passion for the game, Hunter was instrumental in leading the team to a premiership that year. Blair's impact on the cricket community was profound. His untimely passing at the age of 34 deeply affected the Gippsland region but his memory now lives on through this commemorative match.

Blair Hunter's record as a cricketer was impressive.

OMK Cricketer of the Year in 1991-92, Blair played for Dandenong in 1992-93, went to England to play with the Bolton (Manchester) Astley Bridge Cricket Club in 1993 making 109 off 39 balls including nine sixes, Dandenong Cricket Club again in 1993-94 and Captain and Coach of OMK in 1995-96.

Blair was awarded Cricketer of the Year three times in the Leongatha and District Association, Umpires Player of the Year twice and a member of the Team of the Year four times.

At OMK he was nine times A Grade Cricketer of the Year, played 146 games including three A Grade premierships and was Captain/Coach of the 1998-99 premiership making 106 runs not out.

Hunter was A Grade Captain for seven years, made 5300 runs with a batting average of 46.9, took 294 A Grade wickets for an average of 15.1, made 10 A Grade centuries and took 75 A Grade catches.

The Blair Hunter Cup honours Blair's memory and the mark he left on the community.



Brothers Koby Brann (Capt. OMK) and Joel Brann (Capt. Wonthaggi Club) with young cousins Cade and Tate Aitken playing in opposing teams for the annual two-day Blair Hunter Cup at Wonthaggi Turf. B23_0426

The annual match is fiercely contested and has become a celebration of Blair's life.

"It's played in good spirit but is still very competitive," said the players.

Particularly when the Brann brothers face off in opposing sides.

OMK Skipper Koby Brann was dismissed for 23 caught by Stewart Beaumont off the bowling of Drew Herbert. When OMK came to the crease Koby took a handy catch off the bowling of Travis Pickering to dismiss Alexander Geyer for no score.

OMK finished with 10/172 off 68.5 overs on Day 1 with Wonthaggi Club losing two costly wickets for five runs before the end of play. The game continues next weekend.



A showcase of Blair Hunter memorabilia on display in the OMK clubrooms.



Joel Brann claims the wicket of Pawan Thind caught by Lochlan McLean in a spectacular display of bowling B20_0426

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

Phillip Island 2/35 v Nerrena 105

Nerrena Batting: M Croatto 44, T Gannon 21
Nerrena Bowling: A Gannon 1/7, J Hoy 1/16
PI Batting: B Johnston 18*, T Niven 10*
PI Bowling: G McCausland 4/16, J Williams 2/26

Club 2/3 v OMK 172

OMK Batting: P Fermanis 35, T Wyatt 27, K Brann 23, C Quafe 21
OMK Bowling: T Pickering 2/2
Club Bowling: J Brann 4/27, D Herbert 2/19

Imperials 130 v Inverloch 0/36

Imperials Batting: R Mclellan 41, A Meyer 23, Inverloch Batting: R Harris 20*, R Newman 14*
Inverloch Bowling: R Abeysinghe 4/19, K Rotthier 2/16, H Butcher 2/22

Town - BYE

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

Koonwarra L/RSL v Glen Alvie 9/198

Glen Alvie Batting: M Donohue 56*, L McRae 30, B McRae 20, W Simmonds 13
K L/RSL Bowling: N Arnup 4/27, J Kennedy 3/32, J Rushton 1/29

MDU v Kilkunda Bass 217

K-Bass Batting: C Davidson 66, A Conron 44, G Miller 23, J Baker 22
MDU Bowling: S Browne 5/65, M CGrath 3/58, M Murray 1/17, S Chathura Lakshan 1/50

Nyora 8-d/363 v Foster 3/34

Nyora Batting: D Esler 120, L Pamer 75, A Simmonds 34, J Henry 33*
Nyora Bowling: A Simmonds 2/6, T Breen 1/6
Foster Bowling: B East 4/109, A Pattie 2/56

Korumburra - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

Korumburra 151 v Phillip Island 2/56

Korumburra Batting: P Richards 49, G Edwards 27
Korumburra Bowling: J Douglas 2/27
P Island Bowling: D Robinson 6/14, A Williams 2/9
S McMillan 1/22, D Holmes 1/29

OMK v Club 314

Club Batting: D Britt 111, G Britt 73, I Hughes 40, G Adams 20, S Roche 20
OMK Bowling: P Dell 5/47, N Auddino 3/61, J Greenwood 2/67

Town 101 v Nerrena 3/134

Town Batting: A Hickey 21, S Clark 14
Town Bowling: S Clark 3/19, Nerrena Batting: G Murphy 44*, C Dougherty 41*
Nerrena Bowling: J Donohue 3/10, W Croatto 3/25

Inverloch - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Koonwarra L/RSL v Glen Alvie 226

G-Alvie Batting: Zack Scholz 97, Steven Smith 34, Ryan Sinclair 27, Lachlan McRae 18
Koon L/RSL Bowling: Reggie Read 3/53, Blake Smith 2/44, Ryder Pedlow 2/20

Kilkunda Bass 122 v Nyora 0/23

K-Bass Batting: R Gardiner 24, J Hackett 18
Nyora Batting: H Dolphin 15* B Hayes 7*
Nyora Bowling: H Dolphin 4/33, L Brock 2/10, M Lynch 2/21, B Hayes 1/14

Imperials 199 v MDU

Imperials Batting: G Sauvarin 102
MDU Bowling: S McRae 3/43, K Sinclair 2/62

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

Korumburra 6/131 d OMK 6/130

OMK Batting: P Harper 39, A Sorensen 30
OMK Bowling: J Myors 2/21, Fill-in 2/21
K'burra Batting: D Scott 33, P Beadel 28*, K'burra Bowling: P Beadel 3/26, C Carew 2/30

Nerrena 6/217 d Phillip Island 8/146

Nerrena Batting: B Croatto 37, D Curtis 34
Nerrena Bowling: C Marinou 3/31, B Salmon 2/9
P-Island Batting: O Hodson 81*, Fill-in 28
P-Island Bowling: Fill-in 4/39, D Mani 1/37

Club d MDU

Club won by a forfeit.

Kilkunda Bass - BYE

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Club 1/151 d Town 149

Town Batting: K Aeschlimann 43, J Aeschlimann 26
Town Bowling: PJ Kallookkaran 1/34
Club Batting: B Osborne 77*, J Licis 51*
Club Bowling: A Benetti 4/14, B Ton 2/8

Nyora 6/155 d OMK 8/151

OMK Batting: M Wightmann 45*, M Whiteside 32*
OMK Bowling: M Greenwood 2/30, J Battersby 1/13
Nyora Batting: K Maclure 38, O Cranston 36*
Nyora Bowling: G Alsem 3/43, O Cranston 1/8

Inverloch 5/263 d Glen Alvie 5/184

Inverloch Batting: L McMillan 89*, S Hayes 58*
Inverloch Bowling: D Cashin 2/26, A Nowell 2/39
Glen Alvie Batting: K Andersen 62, O Luff 32*
Glen Alvie Bowling: P Loos 1/21, J McNally 1/31

Koonwarra L/RSL - BYE

Finals secured for Glen Alvie and Town

GLEN ALVIE

IN an important final match of the home and away season, Glen Alvie secured a win against the Kilcunda-Bass Great Whites on Sunday.

Playing at the Bass Recreation Reserve, the Great Whites won the toss and chose to bat.

Sarah Tyrell and Jessica Abrahams opened well, making seven and 10 runs respectively.

Seven runs were also contributed by Tessa Johnston.

With the ball, the clear standout on the Glen Alvie side was Sara Donohue who claimed four wickets.

Singles were taken by Grace Luff, Ella Cargill, Gaby Hynes and captain Jess Luff.

Glen Alvie came away from the innings with a 10-wicket haul, resulting in a starting score of 30 runs.

Cargill was Glen Alvie's top scorer with 11 runs and Hynes and Madelene Ylen each contributed 10 runs.

The bowling honours amongst the Great Whites were shared between Johnston, Abrahams and captain Joanne Huckett with two wickets each.

The end result was Glen Alvie 108 defeating the Great Whites 67.

This win earned Glen Alvie fourth place on the ladder and a ticket to the finals.

LEONGATHA TOWN

ON Sunday morning, half of Leongatha was gathered on The Gump at Scorpion Park for a hometown derby with the two South Gippsland women's teams facing off for a place in the finals.

Reigning premiers Koonwarra-Leongatha RSL Cougars and underdogs Leongatha Town Scorpions.

Fresh off a win the previous week, the Scorpions were up and about.

The batting performance of the first pair was outstanding with Nat Challis making 46 runs, the ball was hitting right in the sweet spot and shots were carefully placed.

Throughout the innings, the Scorpions batted beautifully with standout performances from Lucy Carter (12), Olivia Marinou (12) and Kate Oates sealing the innings off with



Glen Alvie recorded a win in its last game of the home and away season against Kilcunda-Bass Great Whites on Sunday. Pictured back from left, Caroline Moore, Gaby Hynes, Marion Bals, Ella Cargill, Sara Donohue, Luan Sinclair, front from left, Grace Luff, Tayla Kershaw, captain Jess Luff and Madelene Ylen. Absent: Lauren Sinclair.

23 for a total of 139.

Seven wickets had fallen, meaning that Koony was starting off on 21 penalty runs.

It was on.

With the ball Town performed well, with Lucy Carter taking three wickets, supported by Alyssa Edwards, Olivia Marinou and Nat Challis each nabbing one.

Some sharp work in the field from Carter, Sarah Knox and Kath Stewart took another three runouts, resulting in 27 penalty runs pushing the Scorpions run total to 166.

Thank you Cougars for your friendship and class and your commitment to fun, competitive women's cricket.

You're an absolute pleasure to play cricket with.

A huge shout out to the supporters at the club and everyone who has been getting around the women's Scorpions this season.

The Scorpions are through to the finals now and would love to see another big home crowd as they find their best form right at the pointy end.



Leongatha Town's Nat Challis and Gen Anderson after batting their allotted overs.

Kookaburras dominate veterans clash in convincing win



Neil White's bowling performance earned him the opposing captain's award for best Kookaburra player.

THE Esplanade Maribyrnong Reserve Turf was the venue for the 40 over per side veterans' cricket match between Barkley Street Maribyrnong Cricket Club and the South Gippsland Kookaburras on Tuesday, January 20.

Kookaburras captain Rob Francis chose to bat on a fast ground after winning the toss.

Eight batters retired after facing 30 balls without being dismissed.

The principal run getters were Pieter Loos (41), Neil White (27), Rob Francis (27), and Keith Houghton (26).

All others got a start, with a further five making more than 10 runs.

After 40 overs, the total score was 4/225.

Notable Barkley Street Maribyrnong Cricket Club (BSMCC) bowlers were Graeme Lechte eight overs 2/24, and Ray Matters six overs 2/26.

All having eaten a well appreciated lunch from the hosts, upon resumption of play, the BSMCC captain Mark Reid was the standout batter, scoring 40 not out.

The rest of the team could not match his standard, getting out frequently to accurate Kookaburras bowling with only two others making double figures.

After 40 overs, the score was

9/110.

Nine Kookaburras bowlers used the turf wicket well, bowling tightly as evidenced by six of the opposition batters being bowled.

The successful wicket takers were Neil White three overs three wickets for two runs, Mike Newton 4/2/8, Pieter Loos 6/2/23, Rob Francis 5/1/10, and Peter Little 4/1/5.

Unfortunately, Mike Newton tore a calf muscle while bowling and looks unlikely to participate in Kookaburras matches from now on.

He announced his retirement from the club after six years of solid commitment.

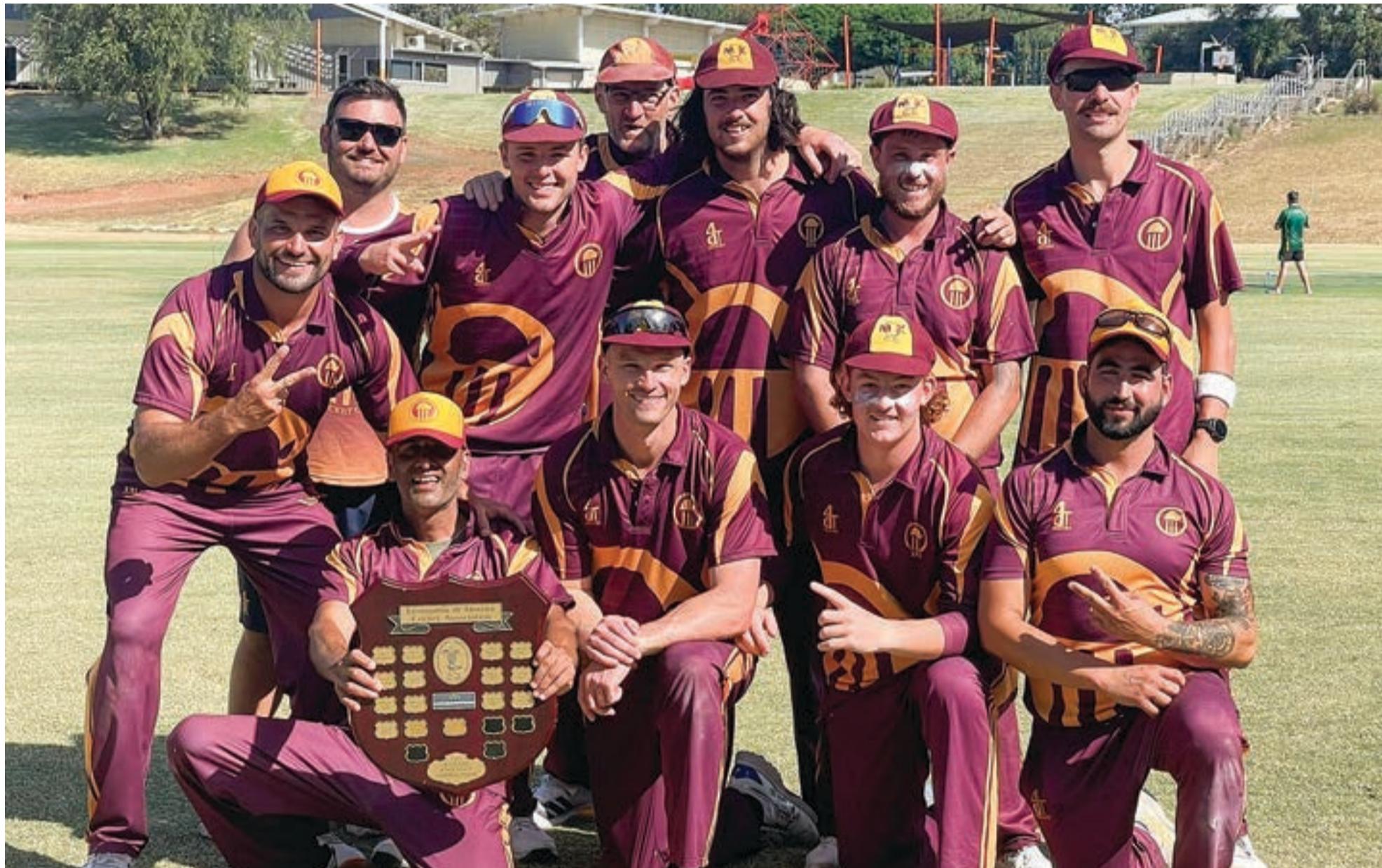
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The South Gippsland Homes T20 Premiers for 2025-26 are OMK. They are, from left, back, Paul Fermanis, Ryan Williams, Koby Brann, Peter Dell, Ethan Lamers, Trevor McGeachin, Travis Pickering, front, Vishal Sharma, Adam Trotto, Clayton Quaife and Pawan Thind.

OMK T20 champs after chaotic finish

THERE was a super thrilling finish to the South Gippsland Homes T20 Competition last Sunday at Scorpion Park in Leongatha when Nerrena needed a get-table 12 runs off the last over to catch OMK's modest target of 138 to take the silverware.

But it wasn't to be.

In a chaotic last over just about everything that could happen did happen with OMK bowler Ryan Williams sending down the over of his life to save the day.

But even that didn't start well

with Williams starting with a disastrous wide, one to the total and another delivery to come.

Nerrena's Jack Curtis looked to be the man of the hour, already past 60 and batting well with the experienced Mitchell Clark up the other end.

The pair exchanged singles looking for a lose one that never came. Ultimately on ball five from Williams, Clark hit out but was caught by Adam Trotto in the deep, out for 13 off 12 balls.

With two deliveries remaining,

and the new batsman Jarrod Hoy facing, Williams came to the party again, clean bowling Hoy, but just as importantly keeping Curtis off strike with one ball to come and five needed to at least tie the game.

Tadgh Gannon got bat to ball, and they took off but he was run out going for a second run that wasn't there, leaving Curtis stranded on a heroic 66 off 57 balls, enough for man of the match honours but OMK took the shield as pandemonium ensured.

Earlier, Nerrena and OMK had

won through their semis in convincing style, OMK scoring 188 against Wonthaggi Club's 141 and Nerrena polishing off MDU's 105 target in 16 overs.

Umpires were Ash Stride and Shane Moore.

Country Week reunion

A feature of the day was the 50-year reunion of the LDCA Provincial Division Country Week premier team of February 1976.

"It was fantastic to see so many former players and their families

in attendance, sharing memories and reminiscing about their premiership success from years gone by. The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by all," said a spokesperson for the LDCA.

Those to return were as follows: Graeme Elliott, Ian Salmon, Rex Thorn, Marg Fennell (for Rob), Jan Salmon (for Clive), Brad Wigney (for Barry), Al Sperling, Ian Carlson, Steve Macnamara, Chris Howard, Graham Challis, Al Rayson, Graeme Hogan and Lindsay Moore.

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