

Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 | \$2.00



Cricket legend turns region pink

Pink Stumps organisers, OMK and Imperials players gather around Glenn McGrath at the annual Pink Stumps Day in Outram. See full story in sport.

VAPE FIGHT

Inverloch store still open despite raid

FEDERAL Member for Monash Mary Aldred has told parliament an Inverloch pop-up vape store is still open despite being raided by federal authorities last month over allegations it was selling vapes to children.

Ms Aldred used a speech in parliament this week to highlight the impact the illicit tobacco and vaping trade was having on regional towns like Inverloch.

"Inverloch is one of the most beautiful

By Rick Koenig

parts of my electorate," she said.

"But like many parts of Australia right now, Inverloch has an illegal tobacco and vape outlet in town."

Ms Aldred said she had been contacted by concerned residents about the store.

TGA officers and Victoria Police raided the store in late January and

seized hundreds of vapes but the outlet remains open.

"While the TGA continues to consider what to do next, the outlet remains open for business," Ms Aldred said.

She said organised crime cartels were driving the illicit tobacco and vaping trade across Australia, terrorising small business owners, assaulting retail staff and costing the tax office billions.

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Fake AI image
sparks racist
pile-on
page 7

Council grants
\$116,000 to
community
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Alison's 'Magic
Beach' a national
treasure
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Private Coastal Sanctuary



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

PRICE FREEZE



Visitors, traders finding ways around Cowes' centre works

IT has been full steam ahead with stage two of the Cowes Foreshore Precinct Project in the past week with contractors excavating the roadway and drains and starting on the footpath at the lower end of Thompson Avenue.

The council has warned of heavy machinery creating noise and vibrations but thanks to a constant watering program, dust has been kept to a minimum.

Traders like Manpreet, the owner and chef at Bani's Greek Restaurant and Bar, which is right in the firing line, are supportive of the redevelopment but say the works are already impacting trade.

"They came and talked to us, so we know what they are doing. It's supposed to be finished by June," said Manpreet.

"Hopefully, it will be a big improvement but for sure, it's a disruption to trading."

"One good thing, they've held off on ripping up the footpath in front, with the tables, until after Easter."

Council lists the construction dates of stage two from February 2 to April 2, just before Easter, but work is expected to resume after that date.

Others have expressed concern that the works were



At Bani's Greek Restaurant and Bar, owner and chef Manpreet says the reconstruction works have already had an impact on trade but he's hopeful the project will make a big difference.

started before the big World Superbikes' weekend at the Phillip Island GP Circuit, from February 20-22, when traditionally there's a big crowd in exactly that part of Thompson Avenue in Cowes.

"I know it's at San Remo, but they've also got the Channel Challenge that same weekend. You'd expect a big crowd on the Island," said one local business operator.

But, then again, most week-

ends are busy in Cowes these days.

Council watcher Graham Jolly wants to know when the toilet block will be constructed in Olive Justice Place.

"I seem to remember Cr Bauer getting council to vote for the toilet block to be built sooner rather than later. It's much needed," he said.

He provided the following reference:

At the May 21, 2025, council

meeting, the following motion was passed:

* 6.2 Inclusion of public toilets at Olive Justice Place. Council Decision. Moved: Cr. Ron Bauer/Seconded: Cr. Jon Temby. Motion: That Council as part of stage two of the Cowes Streetscape Plan, a public toilet block be constructed at the Olive Justice Place. CARRIED.

The Bass Coast Shire Council has been asked to respond.

Toora artist takes out People's Choice Award

TOORA watercolourist Maureen Harley has won the People's Choice Award at the 49th Leongatha Rotary Art and Photography Show for her work Pinehaven Woolshed.

The \$300 prize was sponsored by Riseley's Transport.

The show closed on Saturday, February 7 after three weeks exhibiting 650 works from 163 artists living in Gippsland and a few from Melbourne.

Works on display included oil paintings, watercolour, acrylic, pastel, ink, pencil, charcoal and other mediums alongside glass sculptures, timber sculptures, Chinese paper cut art and mixed media and 3D art.

The photography section showcased work in black and white, colour and digitally enhanced formats.

The show attracted 1,947 visitors over the three weeks bringing people into the town and local area to boost tourism and the local economy.

Students from Leongatha primary and secondary schools submitted art as did other students independently.

There were entries from 15 adults in the All Ability section and five young people from Leongatha Specialist School with several of those artists able to come and see their work on display.

Local businesses and community members collectively donated thousands of dollars in sponsorship to support prize money for artists and students each year.

The Rotary Club of Leongatha also recently made donations to Queensland, NSW and Victoria for flood and bushfire relief.



Maureen Harley with her People's Choice Award-winning watercolour Pinehaven Woolshed alongside Leongatha Rotary Art and Photography Committee chair David Panther.

Inverloch store still open despite raid

From page 1

More than 200 tobacco shops have been firebombed since 2023 and the retail industry estimates it has lost \$2 billion in legal sales to the illegal trade over the past four years.

Australian Border Force seized more than 467 tonnes of cigarettes and tobacco in the final quarter of last year alone.

"The black market cigarettes and vapes would have been worth more than \$1 billion in evaded excise that would have gone towards funding roads, schools and hospitals," Ms Aldred said.

Ms Aldred raised concerns about the ability to enforce the new licensing scheme which requires all Victorian businesses selling tobacco to hold a licence for the first time.

"The 14 inspectors from the Tobacco Licensing Victoria Agency are expected to cover the entire state to dish out fines but not shut down illegal shops," she said.

Quit Director Rachael Andersen echoed those concerns.

"We have reservations about the limited powers of Victorian licensing inspectors and the size of their workforce with just 14 inspectors for the whole state," Ms Andersen said.

"Under the Victorian scheme inspectors will be unable to close shops found selling illicit tobacco nor can they act against stores selling illegal vaping products."

Ms Aldred said government price increases on cigarettes were driving up crime and smoking.

"Illegal tobacco is putting all Australians at risk," she said.

"It's about time the federal government and this minister got serious about addressing it."

The story generated strong reaction on social media.

"I'm shocked to read that licensed stores that sell illegal vapes and illegal tobacco cannot be shut down by the regulator. The fines will just be counted in as a cost of doing business," Alison Taylor posted.

"All you vape haters have totally missed the point. Selling to kids. These shops would not exist if the government would let adults decide for themselves," Rob Carroll said.

Glen Forbes said locals and police had raised the issue previously.

"The owner of that block has allowed this. There are really other good businesses there the community love and he engaged this one?" Mr Forbes posted.

He also flagged a new outlet in Wonthaggi.

"Now target the one that just set up in Ritchies Arcade Wonthaggi. Local police need to walk down the street and have a look," he said.

Michael Webb said vaping in public was becoming a problem.

"Nothing worse than walking behind or passing someone who decides to exhale their vape fumes in your direction," he said.

Trudy McMahon Banks asked whether a business found selling illicit products would have its licence revoked.

"If a business has a licence to sell tobacco and is found to be selling illicit tobacco and vape products or breaking any licensing laws, does the licence get revoked?" she posted.

MARY ALDRED
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MONASH

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6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH
GIPPSLAND



TUE | Feb 10

Cloudy.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: S-SE 15-20km/h

15° 25°



WED | Feb 11

Shower or two.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: NW 15-25km/h

16° 31°



THUR | Feb 12

Partly cloudy.

Wind AM: SW 25-35km/h
Wind PM: SW 25-35km/h

13° 21°



FRI | Feb 13

Cloudy.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: S 15-20km/h

13° 21°



SAT | Feb 14

Partly cloudy.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: E-SE 15-25km/h

12° 27°



SUN | Feb 15

Sunny.

Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: E-SE 15-20km/h

14° 29°

IN BRIEF

Bushfire contractors still waiting for pay

CONTRACTORS who provided heavy machinery to support this summer's bushfire suppression effort have not been paid, with an estimated \$15 million in outstanding invoices.

Nationals leader and Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien raised the issue during question time, saying some contractors had been waiting more than six weeks.

"These are highly skilled contractors with very expensive machinery and large costs," Mr O'Brien said.

"To not have been paid for their work is threatening their businesses."

Mr O'Brien said contractors had been told Forest Fire Management Victoria did not have the staff to process timesheets.

Shadow minister for public land management Melina Bath said the non-payment was shameful.

"Contractors are an integral part of fire suppression, removing dangerous trees, installing containment lines and opening roads," Ms Bath said.

New property taxes catch out landholders

CHANGES to property taxes and charges that came into effect on January 1 may catch some Gippsland landholders off guard, Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien has warned.

Mr O'Brien said changes to the vacant residential land tax may affect some landholders for the first time.

"Some residential land that may have been previously exempt will now attract vacant residential land tax if it has remained undeveloped for too long, or if a home has been uninhabitable or under renovation for an extended period," Mr O'Brien said.

There is also a common misconception that owners of a single property are exempt, but Mr O'Brien said this is not al-

ways the case.

Vacant residential land must be declared even if no tax ends up being payable.

Property owners involved in short-stay accommodation are also facing new reporting and payment obligations depending on how much income the property earns each year.

Information is available from the State Revenue Office at sro.vic.gov.au or by calling 13 21 61.

Retailers urged to get licensed under tobacco scheme

LOCAL tobacco retailers are being urged to ensure they are properly licensed after Victoria's new tobacco licensing scheme came into effect on February 1.

Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien said the introduction of a licensing scheme had been a long time coming.

"This is a reform we have pushed for in an effort to crack down on the illegal tobacco trade that has fuelled organised crime, violence and firebombings," Mr O'Brien said.

Mr O'Brien said Gippsland had not been immune from the impacts of the illicit tobacco trade, with residents raising concerns about illegal sales and the strain on councils and police.

A licensing scheme will only work if it is backed by strong enforcement and real consequences for those who break the law," Mr O'Brien said.

Virtual ED opens for ADHD prescriptions

VICTORIANS with ADHD who urgently need a top-up prescription will be able to access one through the state's Virtual Emergency Department from September.

Under the change, people with an existing ADHD diagnosis who cannot see their regular doctor can dial into the Virtual ED for a free online consultation.

A doctor will verify their current medication and dosage and send a prescription directly to their local pharmacy.

The one-off refill will cover at least 30 days and up to six months at the clinician's discretion.

The service will be available for adults and children aged six and older with an existing diagnosis and treatment plan.

The state government has also announced GPs will be able to diagnose and prescribe for ADHD, saving families the cost and wait times associated with specialist appointments.

Lent evensong series at St Peter's Leongatha

ST Peter's Anglican Church Leongatha will host an evensong series during Lent and Holy Week.

Archdeacon Graham Knott will deliver a sermon series titled What a Difference a Day Makes, exploring Jesus' last 24 hours before the crucifixion.

Services will be held at 4pm on Sundays from February 22 through to March 29, with additional services on March 30 and 31 and April 1.

Refreshments will follow each service.

For more information, contact Marion on 0427 519 534.

Marine biologist reveals Western Port secrets at Corinella

ACCLAIMED marine biologist and filmmaker Sheree Marris hosted a presentation on her major upcoming project, Western Port Down Under, at the Corinella and District Community Centre on Saturday morning.

Ms Marris is shifting the narrative on what many consider the "muddy cousin" of Port Phillip Bay.

Her work showcases a vibrant hidden ecosystem teeming with life, from weedy sea dragons to soldier crabs building "muddy igloos".

Saturday's session gave the wider community a chance to hear directly from Ms Marris about the science, biology and cinematography being captured for the project.

The Western Port Down Under project is also building a legacy for the next generation, with accompanying school programs designed to teach children about their local marine environment.

Bushfire recovery grants open for farmers

VICTORIAN primary producers affected by the January 2026 bushfires may be eligible for a recovery grant or concessional loan.

Eligible activities include hiring equipment for property clean-up, purchasing essential materials to resume operations, and removing debris and injured or dead livestock.

Applications are open through Rural Finance at ruralfinance.com.au or by calling 1800 260 425 and will close at 4pm on October 21.

The Rural Financial Counselling Service is also available to help farmers work through applications.

Farm field days focus on trees and business resilience

FARMERS across Gippsland are invited to two upcoming trees on farms field days.

The first will be held on Tuesday, February 17 at 3310 South Gippsland Highway, Darriman from 9.30am, featuring forestry expert Tim Fowler from Heartwood Unlimited.

The second will be held on Tuesday, February 24 at 585 Torwood-Topiram Road, Torwood from 10am, including a site visit to a 14-year-old hardwood plantation.

An online Farm Business Resilience Program will also begin on Wednesday, February 25 from noon, running over six weeks.

Registration details are available on TryBooking.

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History and few home truths from Hugh Hendry

IF YOU want an historical perspective on Korumburra you could do worse than ask 99-year-old World War II veteran Hugh Hendry.

He's likely to be the last local man, who served in the war, still standing at this year's Anzac Day observance.

A former Korumburra councillor for nine years, between 1965 and 1974, before that a butcher in Bena and Korumburra, and after leaving council, the manager of Coal Creek for 15 years; he knows the district's secrets and where the bodies are buried, as they say.

So, let's get the controversial one out of the way first up.

He reckons the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre belongs to the town's seniors.

"When I was on council, aware of all the fundraising that Merv Close did (fellow councillor), and the effort put in by the community to get the Senior Citizens Centre built, it was always our understanding that council gave them the land," said Mr Hendry this week.

"It was the same with Carinya Lodge. Council bought the land with the aim of providing homes for war widows. It's gone on to become a registered Not-for-Profit Organisation but council's not going to go up there and say 'hey, we own the site,'" he said.

It's not a legal declaration that's likely to stand up in court but it's something.

An article in the Korumburra Times, reporting on the opening of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre in April 1961, seems to bear that out.

In praising the Korumburra Council and the community for providing such a handsome facility for the district's seniors, Mr Randall White, Director of the Old People's Welfare Council of Victoria, "expressed thanks to the Shire of Korumburra for the donation of the land on which the building is located".

Why would he say that if it wasn't true?

Shire President Cr J Anderson chimed in, according to the report, appealing "to all senior citizens in the shire to regard the centre as their own and to use it and its amenities".



Closing in on his 100th birthday later in the year, Korumburra's Hugh Hendry has a personal perspective on the dispute over the town's senior citizens club and the future of Korumburra in general.

The South Gippsland Shire Council says it has documentation which proves the former Shire of Korumburra purchased the land in 1948 and that it was transferred to the South Gippsland Shire Council following amalgamation in 1994.

The council offered the opportunity for the seniors to use the Korumburra Community Hub but for various reasons, including its location on a steep hill, and insufficient space for members to share a meal together, they've had to hold their meetings elsewhere.

Unless mediation is successful in the next few weeks, the matter looks headed for the Supreme Court.

An independent, government-appointed planning panel recently agreed with council's decision to rezone the site from Public Use Zone (PUZ) to Commercial Zone 1 (C1Z).

The issue will be considered by council next Wednesday, February 18 in the Council Chambers at Leongatha at 2pm.

It's not the only thing Mr Hendry says "that's likely to get me into trouble", but staring down 100 years, coming up later in the year, he's

entitled to have his say.

"The authorities, including federal, state and local governments, had apparently made the decision 60 years ago that Korumburra and Leongatha were too close together and that Leongatha was best placed to grow and should be supported.

"Korumburra is booming right now, but a lot of decisions have been made over the years, in relation to infrastructure, that haven't helped the town."

Mr Hendry said he believed the decision to put a median strip down the middle of the main street, for example, reducing the number of car parking spaces from 317 in Commercial Street to just 97 had "destroyed the commercial centre of Korumburra".

"When you're trying to attract the travelling public to stop in your town, you've got to provide the amenities for them to use; carparking spaces, public toilets, places to get food and drink and other services.

"The other thing that attracts cars is other cars. If you've got people stopping and parking their cars, others will do the same, if there's space.

"When they removed all those car spaces, and you can work out what each of them is worth in revenue to a town, they cost business in Korumburra hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

"But it's not just Korumburra. There's no major effort to provide parking in regional towns in Australia."

He also believes the shire's finances aren't fairly distributed across the shire, which was a problem he encountered when he was a councillor.

A cook for the air force during World War II, Mr Hendry started his working life in the community as a butcher following post-war retraining.

Having worked in other people's butcher shops, including in Church Street Middle Brighton, at Heyfield and ultimately in Bena and Korumburra, where he was able to buy his own shops, he's experienced the benefit first-hand of customers being able to park and shop.

"In those days, there was a butcher shop in Bena, Nyora, Kongwak, Loch and Poowong and four butcher shops in Korumburra, most of them employing four or five people."

Still busy with a young family and long hours at the butcher shop through the 1950s, 60s and early 70s, Mr Hendry could see that the Korumburra shire's revenue wasn't being fairly distributed around the shire, so together with Brian Blake and others, he helped form the Korumburra and District Development League.

It was to lead to a number of major developments for the town, including the purchase of Alp's farm for the industrial estate, the expansion of the showgrounds and the establishment of the regional saleyards.

And Coal Creek? That's another story.

Mr Hendry loves Korumburra and he's pleased he's lived long enough to see it prosper again, but what it needs, he says, is a change of attitude about what's possible, not only by the council but also by the local residents themselves.

Island Hot Springs stage one to launch soon

THE Phillip Island Hot Springs Project, designed as a premier wellness precinct, is scheduled to launch stage one in mid-to-late 2026.

The long-awaited project received \$5.2 million in funding initially announced in June 2022 through the Regional Tourism Investment Fund (\$4.7 million) and Enabling Tourism Fund (\$500,000).

Stage one is scheduled to launch the Lagoon Bathing Precinct.

This flagship phase will deliver geothermal experiences, breathtaking views that showcase the natural beauty of Phillip Island and the ultimate level of relaxation amid nature-inspired thermal pools, saunas, cold plunges and wellness zones.

The site will also feature a complete revamp of The Cape Kitchen, reimagined and redesigned into something the developers describe as truly special, offering healthy, elevated dining options open to Phillip Island Hot Springs Project guests as well as the general public.

Further stages, including expanded spa treatments and accommodations, are currently under design and will be announced in due course as the project progresses.

Despite the 2022 funding announcement, a spokesperson for the Phillip Island Hot Springs said the project has a history of planning and design, with physical construction on the current iteration commencing in 2024 after a comprehensive redesign process.

"Hatcher Advisory and the Onsen Group assumed involvement in late 2024, enabling us to secure site access, complete detailed designs, build out a clear roadmap and bring construction fully back on track to align with our targeted mid-to-late 2026 opening," the spokesperson said.

More than \$60 million has been committed to creating the premier geothermal sanctuary that promotes rejuvenation, relaxation and connection to nature on Phillip Island.

The government investment supports expanded pools, coastal experiences and planning for future wellness facilities at the Phillip Island Hot Springs Project, underscoring its role in boosting regional tourism and creating more than 100 jobs for locals, including operations, wellness services, guest experiences, dining, maintenance and grounds-keeping, with employment opportunities posted online as the opening day approaches.

The natural environment will be restored with more than 100,000 indigenous trees and shrubs planted.

Details on annual memberships, supporting local and frequent visitors, will be announced closer to opening.

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Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



With the Council meeting cycle commencing next week after the summer break, I'd like to take this opportunity to warmly invite our community to be part of the decision-making process that helps shape the future of Bass Coast.

Council meetings play an important role in ensuring transparency, accountability and good governance. They are where key decisions are made about services, projects, advocacy and long-term planning for our Shire. Meetings are open to the public, and I encourage anyone with an interest in local issues to come along and see first-hand how Council operates.

Meetings will be held both in the Council Chamber in Wonthaggi and at Berninnett in Cowes, supporting greater access across our community. The full meeting schedule, along with detailed agendas, is available on the Council website. Agendas are published on the Friday before each meeting, providing an overview of the reports and recommendations being considered.

If you're planning to attend in person, we ask that you please RSVP via the website so we can ensure everyone is comfortably accommodated.

One of the most important ways you can have your say is through our community engagement activities, delivered in person throughout the year and via the Engage Bass Coast platform. Our Council officers and Councillors regularly host pop-up sessions across Bass Coast, providing opportunities to ask questions, share feedback and speak directly with decision-makers.

Engage Bass Coast is Council's dedicated

online engagement hub, and I encourage everyone to keep an eye on the site and subscribe for updates about upcoming consultations and engagement opportunities.

Over the coming year, there will be a range of important projects seeking community input. This includes the development of our new Communications, Engagement & Advocacy Strategy, a key document that will guide how Council connects with and represents our community into the future.

Importantly, 2026 will be a big year for advocacy. Council will continue championing the projects, infrastructure and investment our region needs to thrive. Our updated Advocacy Priorities will be presented to the February Council meeting, setting the direction for how we work with State and Federal Governments, industry and partners to deliver for our community.

Of course, one of the most significant engagement processes each year is the development of Council's Annual Budget. In the coming months, the draft Budget, including the Capital Works Program, will be released for community feedback.

This is your opportunity to review proposed projects and initiatives, and to make submissions on what matters most to you and your neighbourhood. Community input plays a vital role in helping Council prioritise investment and deliver projects that reflect local needs and aspirations.

Whether it's attending a meeting, sharing feedback online, or making a Budget submission, I encourage you all to take opportunities to engage with Council.

Bike riders stopped in their tracks at Inverloch

OVER the summer holidays, residents of Ovata Place in Inverloch regularly fielded the same question from holidaymakers and locals alike.

"How do you get to Wonthaggi from here?"

Mounted on bikes, usually in twos, threes, or more, sometimes with packs on their backs, they'd arrived at what they thought was the start of the 14km Inverloch to Wonthaggi Trail.

Having ridden up Goroake Street from the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club on a newly minted path, over the pedestrian bridge (past "Snake" park) and into Tea Tree Crescent and finally Ovata Place, they were greeted with a signpost saying "Wonthaggi 13km".

But oh dear, with no way to cross busy Toorak Road, on a blind bend, to meet up with the pathway, initially along Drowleys Road, the way forward was by no means clear.

Notwithstanding the fact that the trail isn't even open, there's apparently been some argy-bargy with VicRoads about the location and design of a safe crossing of Toorak Road and the



The signpost says "13km to Wonthaggi" but bike riders have been stopped in their tracks when the Inverloch to Wonthaggi pathway falls well short of crossing Toorak Road.

council still hasn't locked in an approved plan.

But that hasn't stopped everyone from exploring the inland route between the two towns.

The Sentinel-Times asked about the timing for the crossing and whether the

"pedestrian refuge and road widening" proposed would be covered within the \$7.7 million scope of works.

"Yes, the cost of the crossing is included and is currently in the final stages of approval," said the council

this week.

"Construction of the exciting and much-anticipated Inverloch to Wonthaggi Trail is progressing well, with no expected delays at this stage."

Council listed the completion date as mid-year 2026.

Rotary honours local community champions



Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath with Wonthaggi Rotary president Leah Montebello at the Australia Day Community Awards.

THE Wonthaggi Rotary Club has continued its 32-year tradition of celebrating local volunteers at this year's Australia Day Community Awards.

Rodney McLean was named Citizen of the Year in recognition of decades of volunteer work.

A life member of the CFA and long-serving volunteer with Uncle Bob's Club and the Friends of the State Coal Mine, Mr McLean was recognised for his quiet and generous service.

Community Service Awards went to Elwyn and Jean Matthews, John Walsh and Jamie Moresco.

Russell Cargill received the Community and Sports Award while Geoff Glare and Anne Looney took home the Environment,

Conservation and Arts Award.

The Wonthaggi SES Unit was presented with the Spirit of the Community Award.

Rotary president Leah Montebello and the organising team of Brett Tessari, Ashley Lamers, Don Paproth, John Duscher, Graham Sprague and Ray McCurry hosted the celebration.

Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath formally recognised the award recipients in State Parliament.

"Rotary shines a light on the quiet achievers who strengthen our communities," Ms Bath said.

More than 250 service awards have been presented by the club since the tradition began.

Danny O'BRIEN MP State Member for Gippsland South

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Fake AI image sparks racist pile-on

By Rick Koenig

AN AI-generated image of Middle Eastern men on a Phillip Island foreshore sparked a racist pile-on after a social media user posted it to a Facebook group with 35,000 members.

Facebook user Jack Christopher posted the fake image to the Phillip Island Notice Board early on Thursday morning with the caption "Does anyone know what is happening down at the foreshore this morning?"

The post drew more than 200 comments including racist abuse and threats of violence.

AI detection platform Hive Moderation rated the image as 99.9 per cent likely to have been generated by ChatGPT before the poster admitted it was fake and said the incitement was intentional.

"I know, that's the point," he said.

Under new online vilification laws being legislated by the state government the post would be illegal.

Premier Jacinta Allan this week announced the acceleration of the Justice Legislation Amendment (Anti-Vilification and Social Cohesion) Bill 2026 which specifically targets conduct that incites hatred against groups based



The AI-generated image posted to the Phillip Island Notice Board Facebook group sparked more than 200 comments including racist abuse and threats of violence.

on race or religion.

The bill includes tougher penalties for online conduct and comes amid what Ms Allan called "American-style division that is starting to creep more and more into our community."

"There should be no place to hide in this state if you're a racist stirring up hate on the streets or online," Ms Allan said.

The image showed men of Middle Eastern appearance wearing keffiyehs sitting on what appeared to be the Cowes foreshore.

A keffiyeh is a traditional Arab headdress that has

become a symbol of Palestinian identity and is frequently used in anti-Muslim and anti-immigration content online.

The post is an example of "ragebait" - provocative content designed to trigger emotional responses and drive engagement through outrage.

Facebook parent company Meta bans threats of violence against religious or ethnic groups but ragebait posts designed to provoke abuse often evade automated detection.

It came during a politically charged week with pro-Palestine protests held across the country against the visit of Israeli President Isaac Herzog.

The post was deleted overnight on Thursday.

AI-generated misinformation targeting the Muslim community spiked sharply after the December Bondi Beach massacre with the Online Hate Prevention Institute identifying 653 pieces of online hate content in the four weeks after the attack.

Responses to the Phillip Island post included "Looks like a fresh boat load", "TERRORIST SUPPORTERS" and "Hopefully waiting for a boat to take them to the Gaza strip."

Facebook user Mikhaela Barlow called the post a "dog whistle".

"Someone took an image of the Cowes foreshore and fed it into an AI generator and asked it to insert a group of Middle Eastern men in keffiyehs," she said.

"The racism didn't come from nowhere - it was activated."

Mr Christopher said the image was part of a "broader discussion about how easily AI-generated content can influence online reactions."

But OpenAI's safety measures for ChatGPT restrict images depicting ethnic or religious groups in politically sensitive contexts unless specifically prompted.

The post was deleted overnight on Thursday.



Ambulance Victoria responded to the scene of a motorcycle crash at the Wonthaggi Motocross Circuit on Sunday, February 1.

Coroner's report after Wonthaggi motorcycle fatality

By Michael Giles

POLICE will prepare a report for the coroner after the death of a man following a crash in Wonthaggi on Sunday, February 1.

Emergency services were called to the West Area Road motocross circuit after it was reported a motorcycle had crashed on the racetrack just after 1.30pm.

A 19-year-old Eden Park rider was airlifted to hospital with critical injuries but has since died.

Officials of the Victorian Off-Road Championship (VORC), Victoria's premier off-road racing competition, and members of the Dandenong Motorcycle Club (DMCC) have expressed their grief on social media for a talented young competitor "with an unbelievable amount of dedication to the sport he loved".

"A cheerful, fun and all-round great young man."

As well as expressing "deepest heartfelt condolences" to the teenager's family, DMCC has expressed its gratitude to its officials and first responders on the day.

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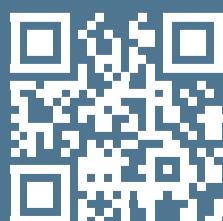
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Victoria has tough new bail laws

These laws are aimed at reducing the risk of reoffending, by making it harder to get bail if you're accused of a violent crime.

There are also new offences if you break your bail conditions or commit a crime while on bail.



**Scan to learn more about
Victoria's new bail laws**



Authorised by the Victorian Government,
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne



A similar but slightly smaller cutter suction dredge operated by Hall Contracting will soon be on its way to Anderson Inlet to start sand renourishment works at Inverloch.

Suction dredge on its way to Inverloch

By Bruce Wardley

DREDGING of Anderson Inlet to restore the Inverloch surf beach is set to start on schedule with the Hall Contracting sand dredge Kirra about to make its way to Inverloch.

The dredge and accompanying workboats will be unloaded and mobilised at Inverloch Charters near Mahers Landing on Treadwells Road. A grassed area adjacent to the Inverloch jetty will be used for an on-site office and unloading of poly pipes.

Hall Contracting took possession of the cutter suction dredge Kirra in March last year and has

spent about 3,000 man-hours giving the dredge a total makeover.

Upgrades to the Kirra include a stern winch to improve the dredge's manoeuvring capabilities, conversion to a 24V electrical system creating a more energy-efficient control system, a zone control panel to simplify operation of the onboard electrical systems, a state-of-the-art fire suppression system, and a fresh lick of paint.

A total of 100,000 cubic metres of sand will be piped onto the

Inverloch surf beach which DEECA estimates is equivalent to 4,500 tip truck loads. Water quality tests will be conducted daily to ensure poor quality water is not pumped onto the beach.

The pipeline along the surf beach has been designed to be moved to higher ground or placed on blocks during king tides. According to Hall Contracting the dredge can continue to operate in high winds and a light swell although work will be halted during lightning storms for the safety of the crew.

Community Bank
Inverloch



You're invited Community Information Session

A Community Grant may be just what your organisation needs to make a great idea happen.

Come along to our information session regarding our 2026 Round 1 Grant/Funding Program.

When Monday, February 23, 2026

Time 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Where Community Bank, Inverloch,
16c Williams Street, Inverloch

RSVP By Friday, February 20, 2026 via email
penelope.rose@bendigoadelaide.com.au
or 0428 742 800

 Bendigo Bank

The Inverloch Community Grants Program is a management account of the Community Enterprise Charitable Fund ABN 12 102 649 968 (the Fund). The Bendigo Centre, Bendigo VIC 3550. Sandhurst Trustees Limited ABN 16 004 030 737 AFSL 237906, a subsidiary of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Limited ABN 11 068 049 178. AFSL 237879. is the trustee of the Fund. A1390570 OUT 48369687 05/02/2026

HM13320

'Too scared to go out at night' she says

THE 36-year-old Wonthaggi man charged with a range of offences after a bizarre incident in the Wonthaggi shopping centre on Saturday night, September 27 last year, heard in court on Friday how his alleged behaviour had impacted his victims.

The local woman and her young daughter who were allegedly pursued by the offender, who was nude below the waist while committing a lewd act in the car park of the Wonthaggi Plaza Shopping Centre, told Magistrate Matthew White the incident had made her anxious and fearful about going out at night.

She was also concerned about the long-term emotional and psychological impact on her daughter.

She said her husband, who was in the car at the time of the incident with the couple's young son, constantly expressed his concerns every time she left the house.

"I'm not comfortable about shopping there anymore and go out of my way to shop elsewhere," she said.

The victim said the incident had impacted her independence.

Where she had felt safe before she said she no longer went out at night at all if she could help it, declined to take shifts at work if it meant going home in the dark and was even fearful of putting the bins out or

feeding the dog outside.

She frequently had flashbacks about the incident and was seeking psychological support.

The man at the centre of the incident of public sexual indecency has been charged with 12 offences including sexual touching of a child under 16, engaging in sexual activity likely to be seen by others, exposing his genitalia in a public place, assault and committing indictable offences while on bail.

He was also charged with the theft of a \$10,000 motorbike and offences allegedly committed while in the police lockup including an incident when he flooded his cell by blocking the pipes.

As well as hearing a victim impact statement the alleged offender also had some other unrelated charges added to the list involving the theft of three spray paint cans from Supercheap Auto in Wonthaggi on September 20 last year.

Allegedly committed in company with another person the cans were used to spray paint a nearby LED advertising sign and trailer.

The case which has already been before the courts on several occasions was not wrapped up on Friday and is not due to return to court until April 9 allowing time for additional psychiatric assessment and reports.

The alleged offender has been remanded in custody until that time.

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South Gippsland
Shire Council

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Connect with Council

South Gippsland Shire Council is providing more opportunities for the community to engage with Council.

Meet the Mayor

Book an appointment to meet with Mayor Hersey to discuss an idea or issue that's important to you and your local community.

'Meet the Mayor' is held on the second Tuesday of every month between 9.00am and 11.00am. Half-hour meetings are available in person at Council's Main Office, 9 Smith Street, Leongatha, or virtually upon request. To book a meeting, visit: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetthemayor

Please note you will need to complete the booking form and provide a brief summary of the issue you would like to discuss.

Connect with Council

Drop in and have a chat with Councillors on the following dates:

Wednesday 4 March — Venus Bay

Wednesday 3 June — Loch

Wednesday 2 September — Port Welshpool

No booking required — just come along on the day. Venue locations will be advertised closer to each date.

Present to Council

Provide an update directly to Councillors on matters that concern you or your community.

Presentation time is available on the first Wednesday of each month from 2.00pm. These sessions are more structured and must meet presentation guidelines.

For more information, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/presentingtocouncil

Public Agenda Questions

Submit up to three questions related to an agenda item, in line with the guidelines.

Learn more at:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/publicquestions

Free Measles Vaccine Available



Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccinations are available at Council immunisation sessions. The vaccine is recommended for anyone born during or after 1966 who does not have documented evidence of receiving two doses.

Measles is a highly infectious disease that can cause serious illness. There have been three cases in Gippsland in recent weeks.

No Medicare card is required to receive a free vaccine.

To book in at one of Council's community immunisation sessions, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

Details will be available on Council's website: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councilmeetings

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

COMMUNITY GRANTS DROP-IN SESSIONS

The second round of community grants is now open for application until 31 March 2026.

These grants support initiatives that enhance the quality of life, heritage, recreation and cultural opportunities for local residents.

To assist with applications, Council is hosting drop-in sessions with our Community Development staff. The next three sessions will be held at the following times:

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

For more information, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

RFT/464 - Bridge Street Korumburra Reconstruction

Tenders close at 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 17 February 2026

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha

03 5662 9200

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au



South Gippsland Shire Council Community Grants recipients at Wednesday's awards ceremony.

Council grants inject \$116,000 into community

TWENTY successful applicants were acknowledged at an awards ceremony on Wednesday with \$116,719 allocated through round one of South Gippsland Shire Council's Community Grants program.

The grants went to a diverse mix of community organisations across three categories: Strengthening Community Sports, Developing Community Assets, and Building Community Capacity and Culture.

"It was a pleasure to celebrate some of our outstanding local community groups and clubs and to hear their exciting plans for the future," Mayor Nathan Hersey said.

Cr Hersey said South Gippsland Shire has one of the highest levels of volunteerism in Australia and the highest in

Gippsland and the Community Grants program is a way for council to support community organisations.

"Council invested \$116,719 but these dedicated groups converted that to more than \$306,000 in project value," he said.

Round two is open now with applications closing on Tuesday, March 31.

Drop-in information sessions will be held throughout February.

Visit southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitygrantinformation to learn more.

"I strongly encourage community members to consider applying for round two and take advantage of the drop-in sessions held by council," Cr Hersey said.

Successful recipients included Poowong Recreation Reserve (\$10,000 for a new oval mower), Prom Coast Centres for Children (\$10,000), Friends of Mossvale Park (\$10,000 for a master plan), Mount Eccles Mechanics Institute (\$10,000 for hall roof replacement) and Koonwarra Mechanics Institute (\$9,050 for painting the community hall).

Other grants went to Poowong Basketball Association (\$8,350 for stadium kiosk and entrance), Bena Public Hall (\$6,400 for replacement guttering), Jumping Horse Club (\$5,280 for the Korumburra Chique Show) and (it's no) drama LTD and (\$10,000 for the coLAB Inclusive Arts Festival).

Loch Memorial Reserve received \$2,650 for a gazebo

repaint, Opportunity Lochs \$4,031 for kitchen renovations, Korumburra Amateur Swimming and Life Saving Club \$3,935 for a pool thermal blanket and the Loch 150 Year Celebration Committee \$4,152.

Foster Football Netball Club received \$4,713 for a canteen refurbishment, Korumburra RSL Sub-branch \$1,700 for picture rails, South Gippsland Shire Brass Band \$2,322, Outtrim Reserve Committee \$5,000 for an audio visual system, Foster and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society \$1,072 for the Back To Back Wool Challenge at the 2026 Foster Show and South Gippsland Swimming Association \$4,975 for a semi-automatic timing system.

Regional schools calling for fit-for-purpose facilities

GIPPSLAND students will be returning to classrooms that have been officially rated as poor or below average according to new Department of Education data.

Documents secured under Freedom of Information laws show 18 Victorian government schools in the electorate of Gippsland South have received "poor" or "below average" School Condition Assessment Scores, which measure outstanding maintenance issues, defects and damage across school buildings and grounds.

The report rates schools on a zero to five scale for building condition, infrastructure and outstanding maintenance. Scores of 3.25 or below indicate poor condition; 3.26-3.37 are considered average, with Mirboo North Primary School receiving a total score of 3.14.

Mirboo North Primary School scored the lowest, while schools in Boolarra, Poowong, Rosedale, Korumburra, Yarram, Foster and other Gippsland communities were all assessed as below average.

Assistant principal of Mirboo North Primary School, Anthony Collins, said the original school wing on site

was built by returned servicemen from World War I.

"It is in the process of being heritage listed and due to the age of the original old building, the roof needs constant vigilance and at times repair," Mr Collins said.

"The ongoing maintenance is something we plan for and monitor each year for it to be kept to heritage scope. That being said, it's a lovely wing to our school and presents as a beautiful building with unique classroom layouts and a warm ambience for students."

Nationals Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien said Gippsland children deserve better and deserve a state government that will invest in them.

"These numbers reflect leaking roofs, deteriorating buildings and facilities that have not kept pace with modern learning needs," Mr O'Brien said.

"When 18 schools in Gippsland South fail to meet an acceptable standard, it is clear regional students are being left behind."

Mr Collins confirmed the school has an old portable on site that still houses before and after school care, along with a Digital Technologies classroom.

"Again, we ensure it is functional, but it has been a useful space over the years, in particular when the school numbers were at their peak," he said.

The gymnasium is also an issue well known in the area, and with Premier Jacinta Allan visiting in 2025, she was fully aware of the situation.

"It is the only indoor gymnasium in the town, and all town user groups face constant struggles with the facility being able to provide adequate conditions for safe and reliable use," Mr Collins said.

"The playing surface is lino over concrete, which has over time been an issue for user groups to conduct adequate indoor training. Both primary and secondary schools utilise the site to the best of their ability, but we do hope for future generations to be at the end of something much more fit for purpose."

The stadium has received political attention at different times and government grant proposals have been suggested as ways forward.

"However, in my time here over the last decade, there seems to be limited funding," he said.

"A working group has started to establish connections

with user groups, along with the primary and secondary schools, collaborating to ensure the best road forward for revenue support and grant applications."

Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath has gone into bat for local schools identified in the recent 2025 School Conditions Report, demanding the Allan government prioritise school upgrades in her electorate.

Speaking in state parliament, Ms Bath said the Allan government has a responsibility to properly maintain school buildings, grounds and equipment.

"Our children are our greatest asset, and they deserve modern, fit-for-purpose educational facilities in which to learn."

On a positive note, Mr Collins said the school grounds have benefited from the Victorian School Building Authority continuing to work alongside staff by recently funding the whole school perimeter fence.

"Ramps are undergoing structural changes currently, which will improve access and better meet code for building entries. This work was commenced last year and is continuing," he said.

Mayor's Message



Cr Nathan Hersey



OUR local area is enriched and strengthened by the support and dedication of the many people who contribute and volunteer through our local clubs, groups, committees and churches.

We live in a world where many people are inward focussed, yet in South Gippsland, we have one of the highest levels of volunteerism anywhere in Australia and certainly the highest in Gippsland.

It's always a pleasure to recognise and thank those people who make our community and region so strong.

Community Grants

Last week, we celebrated the successful Community Grant recipients. These celebration events are the perfect opportunity to see how our investment in grants can be turned into great projects by passionate local groups. In this round, Council invested \$116,719, but these dedicated groups converted that to over \$306,000 in project value!

This is one of the most direct ways we support our community, and I am proud that our Council has committed to support the Community Grants each year.

Thank you to Cr John Schelling and Cr Bron Beach for assisting with the presentation of certificates and recognising our locals who contribute so much.

The current round of Community Grants closes on March 31. You can get tailored support by attending one of our Information Sessions. Check out these details and apply at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

Access and Inclusion Advisory Committee

The Committee has been doing a great job working towards developing an Access and Inclusion Plan for South Gippsland. The Committee is now taking Expressions of Interest from local organisation representatives to be part of this important work.

If you believe your organisation can make a difference on this Committee, please complete an Expression of Interest by Wednesday 25 February at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/access-inclusion-committee

Measles

Exposure sites for measles have been identified in Gippsland. Council is currently providing free Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccines for anyone who may not have previously received two doses. This includes people aged 20 to 59 years, anyone born during or after 1966, people who do not have documented evidence of receiving two doses, or serological evidence of immunity.

You can book online at: www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation

Upcoming Events

Looking for a step back into yesteryear? The Friends of Coal Creek are running a Federation Cricket and Picnic Day on Sunday, February 15 from 10am to 4pm. Enjoy a family-friendly day including cricket and a grand picnic on the green, plus plenty of traditional games such as quoits, bean toss and sack races. It's sure to be a great event!

The Festival of Small Halls is returning to South Gippsland, and this time it is visiting Foster and Poowong East on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28 respectively. Doors open from 6.30pm with the show beginning at 7.30pm. At Poowong East, you are welcome to BYO a picnic. For more information and tickets, please visit: www.festivalofsmallhalls.com

Let's get out and celebrate that South Gippsland is a great place to live, work and enjoy!

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The school leadership group at Inverloch Primary School which has now reached full capacity (front row) Lawson, Emmy, Matilda and Charlotte (middle row) Ava, Tiana, Henry, Jack, Oskar, Rosie, Isla, Bella, Alana, Eva, Macy and Zahli (back row) Matilda, Celena, Alistair, Lenny, Lewis, Hazel, Coco and Hazel. B20_0526

Inverloch Primary School reaches capacity

By Bruce Wardley

CAPE Paterson primary school kids could soon find themselves with limited choices.

With 470 students enrolled this year at Inverloch Primary School, Inverloch has reached full capacity and can no longer accept enrolments from Cape Paterson.

For parents who work in Inverloch or access childcare or kindergarten in the town, Wonthaggi is now the only option with no plans for a primary school at Cape Paterson.

School zones in Cape Paterson, Wonthaggi and Inverloch are determined by the Victorian Department of Education with priority given to students

residing within the closest government school zone.

According to a Department of Education spokesperson, every student is guaranteed the right to attend their local Victorian government school and students can also choose to enrol at a school outside their zone if the school has sufficient accommodation.

All school enrolment zones are reviewed annually to take account of new and any closed schools, to balance demand and supply and provide the best access to Victorian government schools for local students.

School zones are based on the shortest practical route from a parent's permanent home to their local school.

Enrolments at other schools are possible only if there is capacity based on the Department of Education's placement priority order which includes siblings at the school.

If a child lives at multiple addresses, the permanent residence for a child is the address where they spend most of their weekdays.

The priority order of placement for out-of-zone enrolments starts with students with a sibling at the same permanent address who

are attending school at the same time.

All other students are considered in order of the closeness of their home to the school.

Applications on compassionate grounds are considered on a case-by-case basis if a family's circumstances are challenging and the designated local school is not suitable.

Families can find their local school by visiting findmyschool.vic.gov.au.

If a school decides not to accept an application for enrolment, parents can appeal.

For more information about the appeal process go to vic.gov.au/enrolling-foundation-prep.

Independent regulator makes final decision on Project Marinus

THE first stage of the giant Marinus Link project set to begin construction at Sandy Point this month has been given the final go-ahead by the Australian Energy Regulator.

Marinus Link CEO Stephanie McGregor welcomed the AER's decision as bookending the project's assessment and planning phase, paving the way for full construction.

"We thank the AER for recognising our discipline in managing the project's construction costs on behalf of electricity consumers," Ms McGregor said.

"Our role now, as a regulated company and the custodians of national energy infrastructure, is to deliver efficiently, responsibly, and ensure the benefits are enduring for all Tasmanians and Victorians."

"Preparatory works are already underway across our project footprint."

"This final decision gives us the confidence to take construction into full swing later this year."

The AER is responsible for ensuring energy consumers have access to a reliable and secure market and that they pay no more than necessary for energy to their homes and businesses.

This is done by setting the maximum amount of revenue that monopoly electricity networks and natural gas pipelines can earn from consumers.

Marinus Link is a national electricity and data interconnector project between North West Tasmania and the Latrobe Valley in Victoria.

Marinus Link Pty Ltd is jointly owned by the Commonwealth of Australia, the State of Tasmania and the State of Victoria.

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Why I will not compromise my faith

IN A world where almost everything is negotiable, many people ask why there are some Christians who refuse to compromise their faith.

Opinions change.

Laws shift.

New discoveries reshape how we understand life.

"Surely," many say, "faith should evolve with the times."

But Christian faith is not built on changing ideas or social trends.

It is built on a living person, Jesus Christ.

When I was growing up, my parents used the phrase "fair-weather friends" to describe people who stayed close when life was easy but disappeared when things became hard.

To some, faith is treated the same way, embraced when convenient, adjusted when challenged and abandoned when it becomes uncomfortable.

But real faith, like real friendship, is revealed in the storm.

There was a time when my life was dominated by alcoholism, drug addiction, self-harm and suicidal thoughts.

I searched desperately for peace, stability and meaning.

I tried many ways to fix myself and escape the cycle I was trapped in.

Nothing worked.

I was exhausted, hopeless and unable to change my life on my own.

That is when I encountered Jesus Christ.

Jesus did not offer me a temporary solution or a self-help program.

By Ps Karen Evans
Wonthaggi Christian Life Centre

He offered forgiveness, freedom and a new life.

Through Jesus, I discovered that God had not turned away from me, even at my lowest point.

Where there had been chaos, Jesus brought order.

Where there had been despair, He brought hope.

Where there had been emptiness, He gave me a reason to live.

My life was not simply improved, it was transformed.

This is why I will not compromise my faith.

When Jesus Christ rescued me, restored me and gave me a new life, faith became more than belief.

It became trust in the One who gave His life and rose again so that I can truly live.

I cannot give credit to anything else for the change Jesus brought to my life.

Faith in Jesus is not about resisting progress or ignoring change.

It is about standing firm in the truth that only Jesus Christ can heal the human heart and give lasting hope.

When everything else failed me, He did not.

If you wonder why some Christians remain steadfast, the answer is simple: when Jesus gives you a new life, you do not walk away from Him.

And perhaps the most important question is this: have you encountered Jesus Christ for yourself?

Alison's 'Magic Beach' a national treasure

MAGIC Beach, by Fish Creek's Alison Lester, has been named Guardian Australia's "Best Children's Picture Book of all Time".

It won a popular poll, in which as many as 15,000 votes were cast daily for the top 50 children's books, from when voting opened on January 27 until the winner was announced on Friday, February 6.

Interestingly enough, Ms Lester was visiting the beach that was the inspiration for the 1990 award-winning classic, Walkerville South, when she was advised that Magic Beach had topped the poll last Thursday.

"That is fabulous news and how amazing it is that I am at Magic Beach while you are telling me," Ms Lester told the Guardian.

During an interview with Gippsland ABC radio on Friday, Ms Lester explained why she thought the book resonated so strongly with Australian children and their parents but had not had the same connection overseas.

"I was saying to someone yesterday that of all my books, Magic Beach is probably the least translated," Ms Lester told ABC's Bec Symons.

"And I think maybe that the way we go to the beach here in Australia doesn't kind of fit in with everyone else's, like we don't have a lot of banana lounges. It's all a bit wild and woolly. But yeah, I think Australians love the beach, and that's why that focus resonated for such a long time," she said.



Fish Creek's Alison Lester signs books for young fans during a visit to Berninnett in Cowes last year.

3. Where is the Green Sheep? by Mem Fox, illustrated by Judy Horacek - 1609 votes
4. Diary of a Wombat by Jackie French, illustrated by Bruce Whatley - 1556 votes
5. My Shadow is Pink by Scott Stuart - 1436 votes
6. Animalia by Graeme Base - 1340 votes
7. Room on Our Rock by Kate and Jol Temple - 1290 votes
8. There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake by Hazel Edwards illustrated by Deborah Niland - 1267 votes
9. Come Over to My House by Sally Rippin and Eliza Hull, illustrated by Daniel Gray-Barnett - 1008 votes.
10. All the Ways to Be Smart by Davina Bell, illustrated by Allison Colpoys - 1002.



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Energy grant empowers Waterline community

GRANTVILLE Recreation Reserve has received a \$33,630 grant from Aus-Net's Energy Resilience Community Fund to boost its emergency preparedness.

The funding has allowed the Committee of Management to install a solar-generated battery backup system and an auto-start generator at the hall.

The system will enable Waterline community members and emergency services personnel to access a functioning community hub during emergencies and unplanned power outages such as the February 2024 storm cell event and The Gurdies bushfires last December.

The reserve and hall are managed by volunteers appointed by the Minister for the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action.

"While hall hire and market stall holder fees mostly cover the operating and maintenance costs, the



Grantville Recreation Reserve Committee of Management members Di Goeman (secretary), Helen Zervopoulos (president) and Daniel Baker (treasurer) with the new solar battery backup system and generator.

committee relies on grant funds to make improvements to the hall and the reserve," committee secretary Di Goeman said.

The committee thanked Sam Leighton and his team from Sunscape Solar in Grantville for their initial advice on the system, their professionalism and

quality installation.

Local resident Mike Boyer also donated his time to install protective safety fencing around the generator.

For more information about the Grantville Recreation Reserve and Hall, visit www.grantvillehall.com.au.

Still planning what's next for Wonthaggi Hospital

THE Age is reporting that two major hospital upgrades promised by Labor at the 2022 election are late and two others including West Gippsland Hospital and Wonthaggi Hospital are still in their early stages.

The \$290 million in upgrades at Wonthaggi were promised to be delivered by 2027.

A spokesperson for the Allan government said all four projects were undergoing detailed planning work which had been funded in previous budgets.

It is essentially what they said when they handed down the 2024-25 state budget and when responding to the Sentinel-Times in

December last year.

"Meanwhile, planning continues for the remaining four Hospital Infrastructure Delivery Fund projects, including the second stage of the Wonthaggi Hospital, delivering additional capacity and a new birthing complex for families on the Bass Coast," from the 2024-25 state budget.

A spokesperson for Health Minister Mary-Anne Thomas responded when the Sentinel-Times asked about the status of the promised Wonthaggi Hospital funding in December last year.

"We're continuing with detailed planning work to expand Wonthaggi Hospital

- funding for this planning was provided in previous budgets," the spokesperson said.

"In Victoria, we have a significant pipeline of health infrastructure projects - we are staging the delivery of our major hospital investments, helping to make sure we balance these builds with our broader infrastructure agenda."

"We've already delivered a number of major health projects across West Gippsland and the Latrobe Valley including the major expansion of Latrobe Regional Hospital and new ambulance stations in Traralgon, Moe, Warragul and Morwell."

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Department of Health

A LEGAL LIFE

Stumbling blocks

By Daniel Prior, Partner, Prior Law

DURING COVID, which seems like a distant and suppressed memory now, I toyed with the idea of importing a record pressing machine so that I could start a record pressing company. I didn't have the money to do so (the new ones are frightfully expensive), lacked all the necessary skill to do so, had no time to do so, but when I was appearing in Court whilst on a desk in my daughter's bedroom, locked away from the world, it seemed like a good idea and I went down that rabbit hole nonetheless.

I had, up to this point, been a bit oblivious to how complex the steps were to create a record and soon realised that whilst I may be able to press the "biscuit" or "puck" of vinyl, I could not do so without a master record and the stampers, which have their own intricate complexities well beyond me. Over time, the dream gave way to reality. I am ok with that. But I still love listening to music on the record player. We recently sourced one for the office for the late in the afternoon pick me up Chopin or Rachmaninov.

I have Paul Kelly's album Foggy Highway on record. Many, many times has the record spun in my loungeroom. "Stumbling block" is the opening track and every time I listen to it is nice to know that even a lyricist of the like of Paul Kelly might be occasionally afflicted by a stumbling block.

A stumbling block, as a figurative term, is as old as the hills and has its roots in something that causes someone to lose faith in Jesus.

Most would now consider that a stumbling block is something that prevents them from moving on, an obstacle or impediment. This is the nature of the stumbling block in Paul Kelly's song.

Day to day, we see many people with stumbling blocks that are preventing them from moving on. Discussions with family never had, postponed indefinitely. Decrepit fences never fixed. Relationships that have withered never ended. Part of our job is to try and help them move on in some way, to move past the stumbling block.

In my car I listen to streaming music. Originally, when I started listening to streaming music, I wanted to listen exclusively to albums, pretending I still had a CD stacker in the boot. Over time, that gave way as I searched for the song that best summed up where I was at, at that moment. The result has been a rather distracted and impatient listening, rarely letting more than a couple of songs play out before skipping to find another.

I was disappointed with where my music listening patience had gone.

But we need patience. We need to be making decisions not just about how we feel in the immediate, but what we know we will need into the future. We need to be continually reminding ourselves that if we play our cards right, we have a long time on this here earth, and being impatient about it, isn't going to serve us in the long term.

Using the patience and giving ourselves the time, we need to keep working out how to move past the stumbling blocks in our lives.

For my part, I am going back to albums, and as the musical arc of the album washes over me, my mind will rest and I will try and work through any stumbling block that may lie in front of me.

As the year is back and rollicking along, I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable 2026. Move aside your stumbling blocks and look forward to what the year will bring.

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FIM1290847

Fish Creek pushes for more parking after streetscape overhaul

FISH Creek Hardware owner Brad Anderson is still battling parking problems months after South Gippsland Shire Council's streetscape plan reshaped the town centre.

The Fish Creek Community Development Group (FCCDG) has drawn up a document for locals outlining where things stand.

Since the removal of the cenotaph parking area and turning circle, traffic on the road between the rail trail and the service station has increased dramatically along with the road to the tennis courts and CFA.

Following a December 10 meeting with council, FCCDG were told there is no funding for further work in the near future. Council said it would monitor the area once streetscape works are complete.

The group have discussed options to ease parking and traffic flow including using spots further from the main strip, parking on the grass south of the community garden and encouraging trades and shop owners to park on Ryan Street.

FCCDG is also requesting short-term parking signs outside the Post Office, Pharmacy and General Store.

A community meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11 in the Memorial Hall at 7pm.

Visage brings holistic facial rejuvenation to Leongatha

LEONGATHA business Visage Dento-Facial Cosmetics held its launch event on Thursday evening with attendees enjoying generous hospitality and seeing demonstrations of some of the available treatments to help people look and feel their best.

The expert Visage team offers advanced facial rejuvenation and cosmetic treatments to enhance and complement your smile.

"You smile with your whole face, not just the teeth," founder and owner Dr Dean Kim said, his extensive experience as a local cosmetic dentist leading him to take a more holistic approach.

He said community members have been taking an interest in what is happening at the Bair Street site and he is excited to declare the business fully operational.

"We are complementing cosmetic dentistry with dermal therapy and cosmetic medicine, with the cosmetic medicine and dermal therapy provided at Visage clinic," Dr Kim said, explaining South Gippsland Dental Clinic handles the cosmetic dentistry.

Dermal therapies at Visage include chemical peels, facials, microneedling, radio frequency treatment, IPL and LED therapy.

Clinic coordinator Emily McGillivray said the focus is on long-term skin health and rejuvenation.

"We look beyond individual treatments and consider lifestyle, diet and overall well-being to address the underlying



The Visage Dento-Facial Cosmetics team at the Leongatha launch event on Thursday evening.

causes, not just the symptoms," Ms McGillivray said.

Cosmetic injectables such as dermal fillers and Botox are also available.

Dr Kim outlined the expertise of the team, including his experience as a dentist and further qualifications as an accredited Fellow of the International Academy for Dental Facial Aesthetics, having also completed a Master's degree in Aesthetic Dentistry at King's College London.

Bella Kim is a dermal therapist with a strong background in pharmacy and skin health.

Ms McGillivray holds a degree in Applied Health Science (Dermal Therapy).

Registered nurse Katrina Di

Mauro, who holds a postgraduate diploma in cosmetic nursing and injectables, will join the clinic in March.

"We've got highly qualified professionals here to look after people's health and aesthetics in one place," Dr Kim said.

He stressed that Visage focuses on delivering evidence-based practice and uses the latest technology.

The business takes a holistic approach, developing a treatment plan for each client that considers all aspects of health and aesthetics rather than focusing on selling a specific service or product.

A comprehensive skin analysis is part of the process in developing

a treatment plan that is then discussed in detail with the client.

Diet and lifestyle habits are considered with the aim of going beyond providing remedies by addressing causative factors.

Dr Kim has been a dentist at South Gippsland Dental Clinic for 14 years.

"What I love about being a dentist is to restore people's health but also the confidence to smile again," he said, with Visage enhancing that confidence through its comprehensive treatments.

"It's a space where innovation, skill and compassion come together to help people look and feel their best every day," Dr Kim said of Visage.

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Work is set to start on a \$1 million extension of the Phillip Island Road roundabout at the intersection of Woolamai Beach Road to be funded by the National Vietnam Veterans Museum ahead of the development of a new museum at some time in the future.

Hard road ahead for Vietnam museum

THE people who opposed the construction of a new National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island have potentially cost the group \$35 million or more in future construction costs.

Just as importantly, they have likely robbed the Vietnam Veterans who now volunteer at the existing museum the chance to see the new facility in their own lifetime.

As well as that, they have cost them the opportunity to collect valuable pieces of Vietnam War memorabilia from the USA in particular for the proposed museum.

But they have faced challenges before.

And they are just getting on with it.

This week, observant visitors to Phillip Island and locals have noticed some relocatable works offices being

positioned on the site of the new museum opposite the old airport beside Phillip Island Road.

Surely that means a start to works.

"Well, we're not at that stage yet," said general manager of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum Braxton Laine.

"It's a condition of the planning permit that we provide access to the site via the fourth arm of the roundabout at Woolamai Beach Road.

"The committee is yet to decide on a construction schedule after that."

The cost of simply constructing a 40-metre section of the roundabout is not peanuts.

It is more than \$1 million with pavement, kerb and channel and footpaths priced in.

Vietnam veteran and NVVM committee member John Methven said the alarming rise in construction costs from \$35 million to more than \$70 million in the four years of the planning dispute could force the group into a fallback position.

"We might have to look at improving the existing museum and staying there for a bit longer," Mr Methven said.

But he says the group is still committed to going ahead at some time in the future.

But it is a big ask.

Mr Laine says there is a meeting of the group later in February to decide a way forward but acknowledges that the work on the roundabout to provide access to the new museum site is at least a positive sign.

Dumped items continue to impact op shops

By Andrew Paloczi

of in a domestic rubbish bin for kerbside collection.

"We're so grateful for the generosity of those who support our Op Shop; your donations help us care for our community in very real ways," the recent St Peter's post states.

Ms Johnston has previously explained the importance of those donating items suitable for sale doing so by visiting the store when it is open.

"Things that are left in the night, if they're any good they're pinched, or the bags are gone through and they just spread it all over the yard," she said.

Currently, space constraints mean donations of items aren't being taken, with people encouraged to hold onto them until the store is able to accept them.

The recent unwanted mattress was thrown into a yard area outside the store beside a sign stating, "Please note no more donations until further notice", landing on and breaking a gaming chair that would have been of value, along with glassware.

"Dumped goods means less gets donated back to our community due to the cost of removal and it creates extra work for our volunteers," St Peter's posted on its Facebook page this month.

Coordinator Coral Johnston has previously told the Sentinel-Times about the entirely volunteer staff starting their days dealing with dirty clothing and unusable kitchen items left overnight.

She remarked that a volunteer with a trailer sometimes makes multiple trips during the week to a council transfer station to dispose of worthless items left outside the shop.

While council charges for hard waste disposal are likely a factor in prompting dumping, many unwanted items left there could have been disposed

• FINANCIAL LITERACY MADE SIMPLE

Inflation: What the RBA's Latest Decisions Mean for Australians

By David Caporale,
Chief Investment Officer of RELIcapital

Inflation is one of those economic words we hear often, but it can feel distant or abstract. Inflation affects everyday life, from the cost of groceries and electricity to how far retirement savings stretch.

Put simply, inflation measures how quickly prices are rising. When inflation is high, your money buys less than it used to. When it's lower and stable, household budgets are easier to manage.

Where inflation sits today

According to the latest data, Australia's annual inflation rate is around 3.8 per cent. This is lower than the peak reached in recent years, but still above the Reserve Bank of Australia's (RBA) target range of 2 to 3 per cent.

That target range matters. The RBA believes inflation between 2 and 3 per cent supports steady economic growth, rising wages over time, and helps protect the value of savings. Inflation above that level erodes purchasing power, especially for people on fixed or semi-fixed incomes.

Why the RBA raised interest rates

In February 2026, the RBA lifted the official cash rate to 3.85 per cent, responding to inflation proving more stubborn than expected. This decision wasn't about short-term discomfort, but about slowing price growth over the medium term.

Interest rates are the RBA's main tool for managing inflation. When rates rise, borrowing becomes more expensive. This tends to reduce spending across the economy, easing pressure on prices. When rates fall, borrowing and spending usually increase.

The RBA has made it clear that its priority remains bringing inflation back toward the 2-3 per cent range, even if that takes time.

What this means in everyday terms

For many Australians, particularly retirees and near-retirees, higher interest rates can feel like a mixed bag.

On the one hand:

- Savings accounts and interest bearing deposits often pay higher interest when rates rise
- People relying partly on interest income may see some benefit

On the other hand:

- Mortgage repayments rise for those with variable loans
- Personal and car loans become more expensive
- Businesses may pass on higher costs, keeping prices elevated

Inflation doesn't affect every expense equally. Essentials such as food, utilities, insurance and healthcare often rise faster than discretionary items. This is why inflation can feel more painful than the headline number suggests.

Why inflation takes time to come down

Many people wonder why inflation doesn't simply fall once interest rates rise. The answer is that inflation responds slowly. Price pressures are influenced by global supply chains, energy costs, labour shortages and consumer demand - not just interest rates.

The RBA's own forecasts suggest inflation may remain above target for some time before gradually easing closer to the desired range over the next couple of years. That means households are likely to continue feeling pressure, even as progress is made.

What retirees should keep in mind

For retirees, inflation is particularly important because it affects how long savings last. Even modest price increases compound over time. A cost that rises by nearly 4 per cent each year can noticeably reduce purchasing power over a decade.

Keeping an eye on spending, reviewing savings returns, and understanding why rates move can help retirees feel more in control, even when economic conditions are uncertain.

The bottom line

Inflation may no longer dominate headlines the way it once did, but it remains a key issue for households and policymakers alike. The RBA's recent actions reflect an ongoing effort to balance price stability with economic growth.

Understanding inflation and why interest rates change won't lower prices on its own. But it does help make sense of what's happening to everyday costs and why the path back to "normal" takes time.

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A changing retail landscape as Modern Male Menswear closes



After 23 years at the helm, Modern Male Menswear owner Robert Buchan is pictured with his dogs Ollie and Tyler.

AFTER more than four decades of trading in the streets of Korumburra, Modern Male Menswear is preparing to close its doors for the final time as the latest casualty of a shifting retail landscape.

Owner Robert Buchan has been running the store since 2003 and says financial strain is the primary reason behind the closure.

"If I'm being honest, I'm just not making money anymore," Mr Buchan said.

"I've been going backwards for quite a while now and working outside the business just to keep the doors open, hoping things would turn around.

"They haven't."

There have been several owners of Modern Male Menswear over the course of 45 years with Mr Buchan at the helm for the last 23.

By Trent Westaway

He said the store is likely to continue trading until the end of March though an exact closing date is dependent on many factors including stock levels and the sale of the building.

The premises were recently put on the market following the death of the landlord.

"If everything goes to plan, we'll be here until the end of March," he said.

"But if I run out of stock earlier or the building sells and the new owner needs me out, then that's when it will end."

The closure comes amid a wave of retail shutdowns across Australia with national chains Rivers, Katies, Jeanswest and Country Road among those to close stores or collapse into administration since 2024.

Business insolvencies hit a record high of more than 11,000 in the 2023-24 financial year with regional retailers among the hardest hit.

Mr Buchan said the ripple effects of COVID, an increase in online shopping, rising interest rates and changing spending habits have all drastically altered the way people spend their money, particularly in regional towns.

"People are spending more on experiences and less on goods," he said.

"Clothing has been hit hard."

"Weddings used to be a big part of my business and that all changed during COVID."

"People stopped dressing up, stopped buying suits and those patterns never really came back."

He also pointed out the unfortunate reality that many of his longtime customers are simply no longer around and younger generations are shopping differently.

Despite the challenges Mr Buchan said he would always hold the Korumburra community close to his heart.

"It's a fantastic little town. It's the right size," he said.

"Not so big that you lose that sense of identity and not so small that everyone's in everyone's pocket."

"It's just changed. Retail has changed."

Modern Male Menswear is currently holding a closing-down sale with all floor stock marked at 50 per cent off or more.

Items already reduced further will remain at their discounted prices.

Everything is for sale including store mannequins, racks and hangers.

"It's everything on the racks while the doors are open," Mr Buchan said.

"Once it's gone, it's gone."

Mr Buchan said he is at peace with the decision and remains looking ahead.

He has been working in NDIS services for more than a year and plans to continue down that path.

"I'm not retiring," he said.

"I'm just moving on to something else."

"Don't feel sad for me. I've loved it, I've loved the town and I'm grateful for the support."

While the closure marks the end of an era for Korumburra's commercial strip, it reflects a pattern playing out in regional towns across the country.

The Australian Retailers Association has warned that small independent retailers face an increasingly difficult operating environment with rising rents, insurance costs and competition from online giants such as Amazon, Shein and Temu.

Amazon's Australian sales alone are expected to reach \$6.5 billion in 2025 according to Goldman Sachs estimates.

For Korumburra, the loss of Modern Male Menswear will leave another gap in the town's commercial strip though the community continues to evolve along with every other rural town navigating shifting consumer habits and financial realities.

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Rotary Rehabilitation Garden transforms lives

PATIENTS on Phillip Island are recovering from surgery and injury by using the Rotary Rehabilitation Garden at the Phillip Island Community Hospital.

The garden was built after the Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo committed to raising \$100,000 over five years for the project.

The leafy garden is used by patients recovering from surgery and patients who are learning to walk safely and regain function after serious issues such as strokes, falls and fractures.

It features obstacles patients will most likely encounter at home and in public, such as ramps, stairs and a variety of surfaces including footpaths, stones and sand.

Bayside Health Regional Care Group acting CEO Jenny Dempster said the garden has been invaluable in assessing patients' outdoor mobility.

"It has allowed our physiotherapists to make recommendations on equipment that patients can use so they can get out and about and enjoy the Island, as well as replicate the challenges of uneven ground and unfamiliar floor textures," she said.

"We've had many patients that have used the sand in the garden to practise balance, to return to the joy of walking along the beautiful beaches of the Bass Coast."



Members of Freemasons, Phillip Island Health Hub Auxiliary and Rotary Club of Phillip Island and San Remo tour the Rotary Rehabilitation Garden at Phillip Island Community Hospital.

Ms Dempster thanked the Rotary Club for their commitment to enhancing the range of healthcare on Phillip Island.

"Substantial community support, such as this commitment from Rotary, enables us to not only provide a larger range of care services to the Phillip Island community, but also provide unique, person-centred care," she said.

"That is exactly what the Rotary Rehabilitation Garden does."

Gea Lovell, president of the Phillip Island and San Remo Rotary Club, said the club was pleased to see the garden already enhancing lives after opening in 2025.

"To learn of these patients' journeys is heart-warming and rewarding, especially given Rotarians are committed to serving their local communities and making a difference wherever we can," she said.

"Rotarians understand the

journey to rehabilitation can be physically and mentally challenging, long and trying. We're proud to be able to help to lessen that burden by giving patients the chance to undertake physiotherapy outside in a tranquil garden setting amongst fresh air."

The Rotary Club's Charity Golf Day fundraiser will be held on Friday, March 6 at Phillip Island Golf Club. To register visit trybooking.com/DIKVC

Minor land slip causes road closure

A PART of Bass Valley Road will be closed on Tuesday, February 10 while South Gippsland Shire Council conducts a geotechnical investigation on a minor landslip near the Bells Road intersection.

The closure will affect Bass Valley Road between Bells Road and Soldiers Road from 9am to 3pm. Detours will be in place during the closure and motorists are encouraged to plan their trips accordingly.

A council spokesperson said the landslip is minor and did not happen recently. It does not pose any threat to road users.

"The landslip is being investigated as part of the bridge replacement project on Bass Valley Road, to ensure that it will not interfere with any planned works or present a future risk to the road," the spokesperson said. The council confirmed the road closure will last only one day with no further closures planned. All work is subject to weather conditions.

Budget concern as tenders close for Stewart Road bridge

By Bruce Wardley

WITH tenders for the Stewart Road bridge at Kornot now closed ratepayers and residents are seeking an assurance from Bass Coast Shire that council's contribution to the project has been fully accounted for in the current capital works budget.

The Federal Government committed \$1.7 million to the project late last year with Bass Coast Shire required to fund the remaining portion of the \$2.21 million total cost.

Council said it expects to award the contract at the earliest possible opportunity so construction can begin as soon as approvals and procurement are complete.

Construction is anticipated to commence in April and be completed by late 2026.

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A dangerous section of the Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road opposite the Kongwak Scenic Lookout car park.

GIPPSLAND and Bass Coast roads are crumbling with potholes getting wider and deeper the longer they are neglected and the Victorian Farmers Federation and Nationals Member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath are calling for a sustained plan to fix them ahead of this year's state budget.

VFF president Brett Hosking said the longer the problem was ignored the worse it got.

"Drivers are expected to maintain roadworthy cars," he said.

"It's time for cars to drive car-worthy roads to ensure drivers aren't playing a daily game of roads roulette."

Road users have tried to get the state government's attention about a dangerous section of Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road opposite the Kongwak Scenic Lookout car park which is especially hazardous for unsuspecting motorcycle riders.

Heavy rain and poor drainage are causing further damage.

"Not only are our roads a huge safety issue but they are a massive economic handbrake in Victoria," Mr Hosking said.

"Everyone loses when we can't efficiently move freight and the wear and tear on vehicles is sky-high."

"We're calling on the state government to genuinely invest to fix and maintain the mess that is our regional road network."

The state government announced \$976 million in the 2025-26 budget for a Better Roads Blitz to fix potholes and upgrade road surfaces across Victoria.

However the condition of roads in Bass Coast and South Gippsland is proof that maintenance remains inefficient with potholes on South Gippsland Highway and Bass Highway spray-painted with yellow circles but left untouched.

Ms Bath made a social media callout last week asking constituents to name the worst roads. Bass MP Jordan Crugnale said the government was taking action on regional roads.

"We're delivering significant repairs to roads right across Victoria, including the Bass Coast region, as part of our \$976 million 2025/26 Better Roads Blitz," she said.

"Across the Bass Coast region, drivers will see crews delivering major repairs to roads like the Bass Highway, in addition to works already completed to Phillip Island Road."

Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival returns in May



Foxy was a crowd favourite at the 2024 Fish Creek Tea Cosy Festival.



Safety First brought a colourful twist to the tea cosy tradition at the 2024 festival.



Steampunk Tea was among more than 200 entries at the 2024 Tea Cosy Festival.

THE picturesque township of Fish Creek is gearing up for the biennial Tea Cosy Festival which returns from May 16 to 24.

Alongside the main event of the magnificent tea cosy entries, this year's theme "Life on the Farm" will see the town's enthusiasm for creativity shine through exhibitions, workshops, weekend Devonshire teas, makers markets and displays reflecting rural life.

Co-convenor Lisa Williams said the committee had been thrilled to receive the first entries for 2026.

"We've been thrilled to be receiving the first entries in the past few weeks and the committee is super excited to bring another exhibition of humble tea cosy creations to the community," she said.

At the heart of the festival is the Tea Cosy Exhibition in the Fish Creek Memorial Hall.

With more than 200 entries

received in 2024, the exhibition remains the centrepiece and the place where the festival's artistry and spirit are on full display.

"There are so many unique and different entries from across Australia," Ms Williams said.

"And this year we're delighted to have a first-timers section for creators who are new to the festival or new to crafting."

Co-convenor Madeline Getson

said other attractions alongside the tea cosy competition ensured there was something for everyone.

"Art and craft workshops, exhibitions, makers markets and craft stalls will ensure people of all ages can enjoy the festival atmosphere," Ms Getson said.

Following the interest in and success of the first Tea Cosy Festival in 2013, the guidance and

hard work of many volunteers over many years has seen the event grow to become a signature celebration and much-loved biennial tradition.

New for 2026 is a dedicated first-time entrant category designed to welcome crafters of all experience levels.

Entries close on April 13.

For entry details and categories visit teacosyfestival.com.au.

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Expanded range at Wonthaggi Motorcycles and Power Equipment

WONTHAGGI Motorcycles and Power Equipment is prioritising expanding its product range while maintaining the service locals have come to expect from the power equipment retailer.

Owners Craig Pringle, Mick Prezioso and Tom Hall took over the business 12 months ago and have spent that time heavily prioritising the expansion of what the store can offer.

They aim to better serve the diverse mix of customers present in the local area including farmers, riders, tradies and homeowners.

Owner Craig Pringle said the focus had always been on ensuring customers were able to find the right product for their needs no matter their lifestyle or goals.

"Over the last 12 months, since taking over the business, we have tried to expand our brand offering for customers extensively," he said.

The expansion of the motorcycle range is one of the first things noticeable.

Alongside its long association with Kawasaki, the store now also stocks Honda motorcycles, adding to its existing Honda power equipment selection.

The Kawasaki range has also expanded, now growing beyond simply agricultural and kids' bikes and encompassing adventure motorcycles, dirt bikes and select road bikes.

The business's power



Owners Tom Hall, Mick Prezioso and Craig Pringle are continuing to grow Wonthaggi Motorcycles and Power Equipment. W02_0626

equipment and mower range has also been significantly expanded to cater for both residential and commercial customers as they stock Toro zero-turn mowers, Bad Boy mowers from the United States, Walker mowers and Razorback mowers.

"Every mower has its own use and we want to have the right mower for the right customer," Mr Pringle said.

Another major development over the past year has been the move into tractors and farm implements including the introduction of Kioti tractors.

They are constantly adding to their new tractor yard beside the garage which many locals

may have noticed already. Servicing the community for 25 years, Wonthaggi Motorcycles and Power Equipment has already built a reputation for reliability and great customer service and the new ownership trio is keen to ensure that remains a priority.

"We are very enthusiastic and keen on improving customer relations," Mr Pringle said.

"We pride ourselves on customer service. We're not perfect but we are constantly striving for perfection."

Looking to the future, the owners envision Wonthaggi Motorcycles and Power Equipment as an all-encompassing

local store.

"Our vision is to create a one-stop power equipment and motorcycle shop for the community and for our workshop to continue servicing the local area in a timely and friendly way," Mr Pringle said.

He also emphasised the friendly nature of the store and how excited all three owners were to grow alongside the community.

"We are very excited to be here and we love meeting the local community," he said.

"We enjoy people coming in for a chat and checking out what we have. We are always open to feedback and we always want to be better."

New contemporary look for Wonthaggi Primary

By Bruce Wardley

DESPITE the loss of some heritage aspects of Block B at Wonthaggi Primary School the school community has warmly welcomed the current \$6.7 million upgrade and modernisation project which is on track for completion by the end of 2026.

The project involves the upgrade of several learning spaces to give students better learning opportunities including the reception area in Block A and a new building with learning and workspaces, library, staff room and toilets to replace Block B.

The \$6.7 million project received funding approval in the 2023-24 state budget.

Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale said it was wonderful to see the upgrade well underway.

"From the refreshed reception in Block A to the beautiful new building replacing Block B, this \$6.7 million investment is all about creating welcoming, inspiring spaces for learning, creativity and connection where students' curiosity can flourish and young minds can shine," she said.

"Congratulations to the whole school community, we can't wait for its completion."

The interior corridor of the new building will incorporate a colourful First Nations design which includes blue, white and green handprints running along the ceiling.

Built-in carpeted tiered seating will run along the walls with a flat widescreen monitor alongside the opposite wall.

The open interior area of the school will have dramatic zigzag lighting strips running along the ceiling with timber lockers lining the walls.

A large brick arch will provide a semi-covered entry landing that juts out into manicured landscaping with low shrubs, flowers and large boulders.

The school playgrounds will also be upgraded to provide inclusive sensory play spaces.

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WELLBEING counsellors are available across Gippsland to support farmers managing stress and big decisions.

The counsellors work alongside experienced financial counsellors to ensure mental health receives as much attention as the bottom line.

They can visit properties or talk over the phone.

To speak to a wellbeing counsellor, call 1300 045 747 or visit nexsolutions.org.au.

Look Over the Farm Gate grants of up to \$5000 are also open for events and activities that support mental health in response to bushfires and ongoing drought.

For more information, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/drought or call 136 186.

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Supporting you matters to us

New year, new look and 50 years of local eye care



The Leongatha Optometrists team welcome Macy.

AS we welcome a new year across South Gippsland, everyone at Leongatha Optometrists would like to wish our community a safe, healthy and happy new year.

The start of the year is a natural time to reset priorities and for many people, that includes looking after their health.

Your vision and eye health are easy to place on the "I'll get to it later" list, especially when life is busy.

But regular eye examinations are one of the simplest, most practical ways to protect not only your sight but potentially your overall wellbeing too.

This year is also a particularly special one for the practice.

Leongatha Optometrists is celebrating 50 years of service to the local community.

For five decades, generations of families have trusted the team with their eye care.

Whether you've been visiting for years or it's been a long time since your last appointment, the door is always open.

Many eye conditions develop gradually, often without obvious symptoms early on.

A comprehensive eye examination can identify changes sooner rather than later, giving you more options and better outcomes.

It can also help address everyday frustrations that people often accept as normal, such as headaches, eye strain, tired eyes from screens, glare while driving or difficulty reading.

If it has been a while since your last test, the new year is a good prompt to get things back on track.

And if you have children heading back to school, now is also an ideal time to check that vision is not holding them back in the classroom.

The practice is also excited to welcome Macy to the team.

Macy is a bubbly and caring optometrist who is passionate about helping patients feel

comfortable, heard and well-informed about their eye health.

She has a genuine curiosity about the eye and loves how it can offer insight into overall health.

Macy completed her Doctor of Optometry at the University of Melbourne.

Outside of work, Macy loves nature, adventure, sports and cooking.

Leongatha Optometrists is proudly Australian owned and operated and is committed to supporting local industry wherever possible.

The practice also prioritises using Australian-made frames and lenses.

Reaching 50 years is not just about time. It is about relationships, trust and continued commitment to doing things properly.

If you are an existing patient who has not visited in a while, consider this your invitation to return.

If you are new to the area or simply looking for a practice that takes the time to explain things clearly and treat you like a person, the team would love to meet you.

Keeping the Deb Rielly spirit alive through running



The Deb Rielly Run for the Kids is back on Sunday, February 22, from 8am in Kilcunda.

THE Deb Rielly Run for the Kids is back on Sunday, February 22 and is looking to get bigger and better. The event will continue to perpetuate the memory of local legend and tireless community worker Deb Rielly and carry on her desire to help young people and the broader community.

In 2012, Deb created the Keeping Kids on Track Fun Run to encourage families and particularly young people to become more active and get out and about in the environment. The event continued until 2018 before going into a hiatus during the COVID-19 period. Deb passed away in 2019, and in 2024, the Run was resurrected as the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids to help recognise her massive contribution to the community.

The organisers are very pleased to announce that SJD Homes will continue as a major sponsor for the event. Kim O'Connor from SJD

Homes said that the company is happy to continue its association with the Deb Rielly Run and believes that SJD is very aligned with Deb's strong commitment to the local community.

"We are a local business that wants to make a real contribution to the community just as Deb did," said Kim.

Community events such as this rely on the support of

sponsors, and the Dalyston Football Netball Club would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support from Bass Coast Shire Council and Voyage Fitness.

The 2025 event saw the introduction of a half-marathon and timing to encourage participants who have a more competitive edge, and this will continue in 2026 with the aim of continuing to grow the

event and encourage broader participation.

While the run has broadened to attract the more serious competitors, it will remain family-oriented with a range of distances for less serious runners and walkers. There is also the opportunity for competitors to form teams with prize money for the team with the most members.

Starting at the main Kilcunda Foreshore car park, the various distances will take in the Kilcunda Trestle Bridge, Bass Coast Rail Trail and for the half-marathon part of the George Bass Walk.

The event is being organised by the Dalyston Football Netball Club with support from other community groups. For further information, contact the event coordinator, Frank Angarane, on 0418 529 310 or email ontheroad3995@gmail.com. To register, visit raceroster.com/events/2026/112964/deb-rielly-run-for-the-kids

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41,990 DRIVE AWAY

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2021 Ford Ranger XLT PX MK III
41,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2025 Kia Sportage SX
43,990 DRIVE AWAY

Demo model, 450kms, 6 speed auto SUV SN: DUH 614



2022 Ford Ranger XLT
49,990 DRIVE AWAY

Fully equipped, 99,078kms, auto 4x4 double cab L101475



2019 Toyota Granvia GDH303R
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OH WHAT A FEELING

Sentinel-Times

COMMENT

What's on your election list?

JACINTA Allan and Victorian Labor are firmly in election mode.

Ms Allan put her own team on notice with an address to the Labor Caucus last Monday, ahead of the first sitting day of the year last Tuesday.

And the Premier was immediately at loggerheads in parliament with the new Opposition Leader Jess Wilson about leadership while being challenged by Ms Wilson on the state's alarming crime rate and low police numbers.

So it's game on, everywhere it seems except in the marginal electorate of Bass.

While Labor and the Greens have named their candidates, Chris Buckingham and Sophie Thorn respectively, neither the Liberal Party nor the Nationals have a candidate in the field, nine months out from the poll.

It likely means that the Nationals won't be spreading their already limited resources even thinner by running a candidate in Bass, but the Liberals will be contesting the seat, with a strong chance of winning, if there's even a modest swing away from the government in the November 28 election.

Or perhaps they're leaving the field open to One Nation which established its Gippsland branch base at a well-attended public meeting at the Drouin football ground a couple of weeks ago.

There's a lot at stake

Organisations and authorities, including local government in the electorate, will want to be lobbying the candidates to get their parties to add much-needed projects and services to the campaign agenda - starting with the promised \$290 million expansion of the Wonthaggi Hospital.

Key to those works is an ambitious plan to deliver a higher level of clinical care to the region's mums and their babies, which is an upgrade that both parties need to be committing to, unless the Allan government can make an announcement of funding in that regard in the May budget.

What promises would you like to see local candidates making on our behalf? Is public housing, cost of living and economic management the most important or would you like to see a return to the basics of good health services, better schools, road maintenance and land management?

Perhaps reduced taxes and charges, starting with scrapping the new Emergency Services Levy, is top of the list.

Erosion risk overstated

INVERLOCH'S coastal erosion problem is real but the area at risk is often overstated.

The Keith Godridge analysis of the Cape to Cape Resilience Plan inadequacies in the edition of February 3 is to be commended.

Many media articles in the past have implied Inverloch is at risk of coastal water inundation.

This is not the case.

I suggest the area be referred to as the Surf Beach Precinct, which is only about nine per cent of the total area of greater Inverloch.

There will always be a surf beach at Inverloch, but unfortunately it might be in a slightly different location as climate change erosion intensifies.

If east coast lows in Bass Strait increase in magnitude with eight-metre-plus waves and gale force winds, the current strategy may just be a waste of money.

The stress of people in the Surf Beach Precinct is real and I am sure many people have great empathy for their situation.

David Turnbull, Inverloch.

Vox Pop

Are you concerned about rising interest rates and the cost of living?



Peter Donnell

Glen Forbes

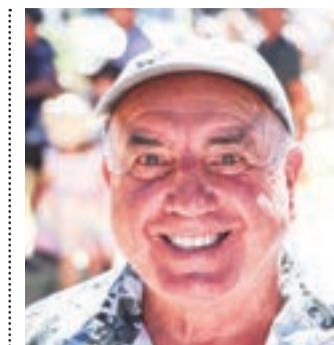
"It's hard to say, it goes up and down. I've got a business and it certainly affects our customers. They're taking the wrong approach, because we need people spending money."



Rob Mac

Wonthaggi

"I've played the game long enough and got everything squared away. I own what I own and I'm not in debt. Interest rates aren't the biggest concern for me."



Frank Sciore

Bass Coast

"Yes, I am. I feel sorry for the younger people that can't afford houses."



Simon McCleery

Bass Coast

"Only marginally. They could be a lot higher."

Social housing development deserves support

HOUSING Matters Bass Coast is strongly supportive of the three-storey development at 9 Hagelthorn Street.

We appreciate that local residents may have concerns about height and impact on property values, but these concerns are unwarranted.

The visual impacts of the height will be mitigated by the fact that it is a sloping site, so the development will not appear out of place.

Australian and international evidence indicates that new social housing has few negative impacts on property values.

More importantly, in the context of a housing crisis and declining affordability, all social and affordable housing initiatives should be supported.

Any social housing development funded by the state provides five per cent of the units to be suitable for disabled access.

To reflect the needs of our community, we would like this component to be increased from five per cent to 10 per cent.

Figures show that 26 per cent of Bass Coast residents are living with a disability.

Wonthaggi has the highest need in the shire and is 12 per cent higher than the Australian average.

A vibrant and sustainable community needs both public and private investment in housing.

Jessica Harrison and Beth Banks, Housing Matters Bass Coast.

Thank you Sentinel-Times

I WOULD like to express my sincere gratitude to the Sentinel-Times for taking the time to meet with a group from the Korumburra Seniors.

Secondly, to read through the many documents and explain clearly and factually on page 30 of last week's paper that the hall belongs to the Korumburra Seniors.

Sadly our council and councillors have not shown such intelligence or empathy, preferring to ignore the subject.

Give it back.

Angie Bowen, Korumburra.

Gas not the answer to cheaper power

THE recent opinion piece by Danny O'Brien claiming gas keeps the lights on and bills down deserves scrutiny.

He is right about the importance of gas in electricity generation in Victoria, but for the wrong reason.

Gas is the most expensive means of electricity generation according to AEMO, which runs the electricity market.

Gas is important now and likely for the

next 10 years because it is the only fuel able to respond instantaneously to variable peak consumer demand.

The AEMO December quarter 2025 report showed gas use for power generation down 30 per cent, coal down 4.6 per cent while grid-scale battery supply to the grid nearly tripled.

As a result, wholesale electricity prices reduced by 40 per cent in 2025 to an average of \$50 per megawatt hour.

Generation capacity in Australia is now supplied by 50 per cent coal and gas and 50 per cent renewable sources.

Renewable generation is now starting to drive down wholesale electricity costs, a trend that will continue.

To bet on expensive gas to generate electricity does not recognise present reality.

Rod Gallagher, Inverloch.

Give seniors back their hall

I AM writing to express deep concern about the ongoing refusal of South Gippsland Shire to allow the senior citizens of Korumburra the use of their own hall.

This hall is not a luxury.

It is a vital community space that has long supported the mental health, social connection and wellbeing of older residents.

Seniors rely on it for gatherings, concerts, shared meals, exercise, meetings and many other activities that keep them engaged, active and connected.

For many elderly people, especially those living alone, these activities are essential.

The loss of access to this hall has left many feeling ignored and neglected.

At a stage of life when people deserve respect, inclusion and care, they are instead being sidelined.

What makes this situation particularly distressing is that this is a hall the seniors themselves helped build and sustain over many years.

To deny them access now is not only hurtful, it is unjust.

I urge South Gippsland Shire to show empathy, listen to its elderly residents and return the hall to those for whom it was created. Our seniors deserve better.

Francene Smethurst, Korumburra.

Stop the water con

DESPITE the encouragement of voluntary activity by locals, I cannot suppress indignation at the misleading impression given by the Gippsland Water article urging residents to reduce water use.

Reading it, you would think the state government is doing all it can to manage water. Not so.

On my most recent water bill in Inverloch, I am charged \$276 to cover water access and sewerage, and \$26 for water used.

Less than 10 per cent of my total water cost is based on actual usage.

There is next to no incentive for users to save money by saving water.

Look no further than the role of our publicly-owned water corporations: in most years, they are expected to cover their costs and pay dividends to their state government owner.

So for cash-strapped government, a stable income overrides conservation.

Governments of all stripes have long hidden this taxation behind worthy exhortations to save water, when actually they thrive on the millions they rake off from its sale.

It is like tobacco and gambling taxes: how do you seriously promote less of something if you have become dependent on revenue from it?

Stop the water con.

Ken Blackman, Inverloch.

Seniors committed to a solution, they say

In December 2015, elderly members of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre Inc signed a lease with the South Gippsland Shire Council. This lease included the following clause 1.5.

"Ownership of Improvements: The Lessee (Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre Inc) acknowledges that all buildings, fixtures and fittings and structures on the premises at the commencement of this lease and all structural additions and improvements subsequently made by the lessee (Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre Inc) or the lessor (South Gippsland Shire Council) to the premises during the term of this lease are and shall remain the property of the lessor (South Gippsland Shire Council)".

On the balance of probabilities, the people that gave instructions to include this clause in the lease had a working knowledge and understanding that the buildings sitting on the site are owned by the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre Inc.

They would have also known that these buildings had been held in a Perpetual Trust since the 19th of December 1984 when the trust document was signed and executed by the former Shire of Korumburra nominating the councillors as the Trustees.

As successors at law, the South Gippsland Shire Council were bound to honour the terms and conditions of the Perpetual Trust.

Whether the actions of the people involved constitute "Malfeasance in Public Office" will be for our duly elected councillors to determine in the fullness of time.

The Management Committee of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre Inc is committed to resolving this issue locally and requests a meeting with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Strzelecki Ward councillors this week.

Kris Crichton, Secretary Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre Inc.

Back to School

Korumburra Secondary College welcomes new staff and student leaders

KORUMBURRA Secondary College has started the 2026 school year with a strong focus on student wellbeing and engagement.

Acting Principal Naomi Coleman said the college had 415 student enrolments while maintaining a continued emphasis on school-wide positive behaviour support.

"This approach prioritises consistent, positive and engaging classroom practices that support every student's learning, inclusion, wellbeing and attendance," she said.

The year began with the return of student 360 meetings which allow each student to meet one-on-one with their mentor teacher to discuss goals and aspirations.

Ms Coleman said the meetings helped each student build better relationships with staff members who are supporting more personalised learning pathways.

There have been several additions to the Korumburra Secondary College community in 2026 including Katelyn Foley as a mathematics teacher and Year 8 mentor, Danny Noonan as a mathematics and health and physical education teacher as well as a Year 7 mentor and Jo Parsons who is returning to the college as a mathematics and science teacher.

The college has also



The 2026 school captains at Korumburra Secondary College, from left Naomi, Phoebe, Natalie, Georgia and Emma.

welcomed Shell Herman who will be teaching humanities, English and art after an extended casual replacement role last year.

Student leadership is strongly represented at the college with five school captains leading students into 2026: Naomi, Phoebe, Natalie, Georgia and Emma.

The college also celebrated former Student Run Council leader Rhiannon Rawlins congratulating her after she was named South Gippsland

Young Citizen of the Year.

"Rhiannon's leadership and initiative in launching the Student Run Council is a significant achievement and a source of great pride for our school community," Ms Coleman said.

Keira, Taylah and Jess will lead the Student Run Council in 2026.

RIGHT: Katelyn Foley is just one of many new friendly faces at Korumburra Secondary College this year.



Newhaven College's inaugural Indigenous Liaison Leader, year 12 student Lulu Lightowler, is aware of the responsibility to act as the link between leaders, culture and the community.

Newhaven College starts the new year with a new leadership role

AT NEWHAVEN College's first all-school assembly, the induction of the 2026 student leaders saw each student pledge to represent all Newhaven College students, ensuring it is a safe and happy place to learn.

Principal Tony Corr sees the responsibility of student leaders seriously.

"The philosophy is that 'every student is a leader', and that all students are expected to actively uphold the five school values of Excellence, Empathy, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility," Mr Corr said.

"By serving as role models for these values, College Leaders set an example for the entire College."

As part of the year 12 leadership, an Indigenous Liaison Leader role has been created.

In his address to the student leadership, Mr Corr said at its

heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples, for the benefit of all Australians.

"On our journey to reconciliation, we need you, the students, to be an active part of that," he said.

"The appointment of an Indigenous Liaison Leader amongst you, our students, is one way of doing that."

Year 12 student Lulu Lightowler is proud to take on the inaugural position.

"Being named Indigenous Liaison for year 12 is a huge honour and is a responsibility I'm taking very seriously," Ms Lightowler said.

"It is about the school being a space where Indigenous culture is celebrated and respected by everyone."

"It's a huge responsibility to

act as the link between our leaders, culture and the community.

"I'm committed to making sure we as a school all learn and grow together."

During the assembly, the high achievers of 2025 VCE were applauded, with College Proxime Isaac Savona speaking about his journey to achieving the second-highest ATAR for the College in 2025.

College Dux Lara Smyth, who achieved a 99.15 ATAR, was away for the ceremony due to being in Hong Kong for a STEM program she was awarded by Jane Street, a research-driven trading firm.

Mrs Milkins-Hendry read Lara's speech on her behalf, where Ms Smyth reflected on the concept of "comparison being the thief of joy".

She admitted that she had put so much effort into

comparing herself to others that she had forgotten to rejoice in her own successes.

"You should never measure your own achievements in relation to others, but instead in your own reflection on your perseverance and pride in what you have accomplished," Ms Smyth said.

"If you try to only focus on yourself, your effort, your mistakes and your decisions, year 12 becomes a whole lot easier."

With 58 student leaders across the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools, the College is set up for a year of wonderful representation in 2026.

There are still some places available at the College for 2026.

Contact admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au or call 5956 7505 for more information.



A positive start at Bass Valley PS

AN exciting year has been promised for Bass Valley Primary School in 2026.

The school welcomed new staff members Meg Evans (wellbeing leader), Hayley James (disability inclusion coordinator), Kara Sekulov (Grade 3/4 teacher), Emma De Ryke (STEM teacher) and Andrew Lucas (grounds and maintenance officer).

The 30 new Prep students have all settled in amazingly thanks to the Ready Set Go Program that was run in term four, 2025.

Not one tear was shed on day one at morning drop off by the students, but the same couldn't be said for all parents.

The school currently sits at 205 enrolments and each and every one of them has been really excited to test out the latest addition to the playground.

Fundraising efforts over the past few years have led to a new playground, which has been a big hit already.

The school has also introduced their two new school pets, Comet and Neil, two beautiful pygmy goats that teach the students about being kind, caring and responsible.

Principal Aaron Bickery is excited at what 2026 promises.

"In week one, we spent two full days with all of our staff members at school focusing on driving high standards in academic, social and emotional areas across the school," Mr Bickery said.

"We have unpacked the school's Instructional Model and are ensuring a consistent whole school approach to everything we do."

The school is excited to extend on its softball, teeball and cricket success at state level and is only one state championship victory away from being the equal highest school in Victoria in number of state championships.

The school motto for 2026 is "Every moment counts and every action matters".

This reminds all involved at Bass Valley Primary School to make the most of every opportunity to improve the young people's lives. School tours are available and enrolments are open all year round. Contact the school on 5678 0208.

First day of Prep



Newhaven College Prep Millah Barac proudly holds up her first day banner.



Newhaven College Preps Navy Young, Annika Cohoe and Sophie Pedersen are proud to start the first day of their school journey. Annika has two older brothers at the school, and Sophie has three older sisters, as well as her mum, Sarah and dad, Cameron.

Back to School



Taio and Taj (back row) and Max and Cody (front row) settle into their first Science class for 2026.

Bass Coast College students return

BASS Coast College kicked off the 2026 school year welcoming more than 1700 students across all four of its campuses.

This includes 140 year 7 students at Dudley Campus, 137 year 7 students at San Remo Campus and 315 year 10 students at the Senior Campus, as assisting students in transitioning to the next stage of their learning remains a priority for the college.

The college leadership team is well represented, with Madeleine Hosking, Anabelle Bremner, Alexandra Jaskula, Sienna Macmillan and Isaac Meyer stepping into leadership roles this year.

College principal Leith Cummins said the year began on a positive note and the college remains focused on maintaining high academic standards.

"Across the college, our focus remains on high academic rigour, underpinned by an inclusive and supportive learning environment," Mr Cummins said.

This approach is strengthened through the ongoing use of the Berry Street Education Model and School-Wide Positive Behaviour Supports.



Finn Dallinger on his first day of school at Newhaven Primary School, pictured with a tree planted by his grandmother Jenny Dallinger when she was a Newhaven Primary student.

School community growing at Newhaven

NEWHAVEN Primary School had a brilliant 2025 with excellent results in NAPLAN.

The school is now at capacity, only taking students from the zoned area.

Newhaven Primary has added an extra class for 2026 with 180 student enrolments.

Ella Godbold was welcomed to the teaching staff to accommodate the extra classroom.

Newhaven Primary School has a very proud history and generations of families who have attended.

This includes the Dallinger family. Finn Dallinger was brought to school for his first day at Newhaven Primary by his mum Phoebe.

A tree was planted by his grandma Jenny Dallinger when she was a student at Newhaven Primary School.

This year, the Newhaven Primary School team will continue to provide all students with excellent teaching, learning and well-being programs for all students to thrive.



Twenty-five students started Prep at Wonthaggi North Primary School last week.

Enrolment rise for Wonthaggi North Primary

DESPITE a few nerves, the cohort of 25 Prep students started their time at Wonthaggi North Primary School on a positive note last week.

Wonthaggi North Primary School (WNPS) has experienced a significant increase to its enrolment rate, going up by 15 per cent across the whole school.

Principal Toby Mahoney credited the rising enrolment rate to the ongoing work the staff has been putting in over the last two years.

"There was a shuffle in our approach across the school

and a change to the culture. A lot more consistency has had a positive impact on our school community," he said.

The consistency is evident through the school's 100 per cent retention rate of its staff, with WNPS soon to welcome two additional education support staff.

It is an exciting time at the school, with students eagerly awaiting the completion of two new junior playgrounds.

Construction on the first playground is set to begin this week.

"There was a lot of student voice involved in the design

of these playgrounds. They had the opportunity to have a vote," Mr Mahoney said.

A third facility upgrade is also in the pipeline.

WNPS is in the planning stages of developing a unique play space focused on sensory learning.

Ideas include a nature play space that may include rock and water features, aimed to support diverse learners.

The school is planning to consult with landscapers to develop this project.

In term one, the students are looking forward to the athletics carnival and an

upcoming Wow Day.

The school also held its community picnic last Friday, which allowed family and friends to gather in the yard and enjoy the afternoon.

"It was a really well-supported event and a really nice way to start the year," Mr Mahoney said.

Mr Mahoney said the goals for 2026 are to continue to help the students build connections, and build on the restorative approach to teaching and learning the school has taken on, facilitated by Real Schools.

Nyora Primary School welcomes new principal



NYORA Primary School has kicked off 2026 with a new principal and three vibrant classes underway.

Leah Cartledge has taken the reins as principal and is already making a positive impact across the school community.

The school runs three multi-age classes covering prep to grade one, two to three and four to six.

An extensive transition program ensured new prep students and their families arrived confident and ready to learn.

"Nyora Primary School continues to be a place where students are known, supported and encouraged to thrive," Ms Cartledge said.

Enrolments remain open across all grades.

LEFT: New Nyora Primary School principal Leah Cartledge with her prep and grade one students.

Back to School

New faces and fresh focus at Korumburra Primary School

KORUMBURRA Primary School welcomed about 40 new prep students last week, all of whom are ready to embark on their long journey of learning.

Acting principal Luke Haustorfer said the number of prep enrolments was "fairly consistent" with the trends of previous years, and the school's total enrolment for 2026 currently sits at about 350 students.

Mr Haustorfer will step into the role of principal for the year's entirety, while ongoing principal Nathan Pirouet is on leave.

He steps through the gates of Korumburra Primary after eight and a half years at Toora Primary School, where he also served as principal.

Mr Haustorfer said Korumburra Primary has also welcomed a range of new staff across both classroom roles and education support roles.

One of the biggest changes that families may notice is happening behind the scenes, with a strong push towards staff training and shared approaches.

Mr Haustorfer said all staff have been required to undertake training in the Berry Street Education Model, which will give staff more strategies to support things like engagement and wellbeing across many types of learning needs.

"It's been really well received



Student Tahlia Besley is one of Korumburra Primary School's new prep students.

and really helped student experience and success," Mr Haustorfer said.

The school has even worked with the renowned Dr Nathaniel Swain, who is both an educator and instructional coach.

He has assisted staff, allowing them to cultivate their best practice.

Mr Haustorfer said the school's biggest focus for 2026 is on evidence-based best practice for teaching and learning and embedding the learning done around the Berry Street Education Model.

New outdoor space and OUTSIDE program for Powlett River

FROM five preps two years ago, Powlett River Primary School welcomed 15 new foundation students, delighted and ready for the school year.

Principal Wendy Nicol said that, with thanks to the prep transition program, the amazing early childhood educators in the area and parents, together they have all played a key role in getting these preps ready for school.

"We have an enrolment of 56 students here at Powlett River, and they are all excited for the new outdoor learning space that was completed over the holidays," Ms Nicol said.

The space includes different zones: a sensory garden, music area, central meeting place, stage area, climbing equipment and slide.

"This was a successful capital works grant application," she said.

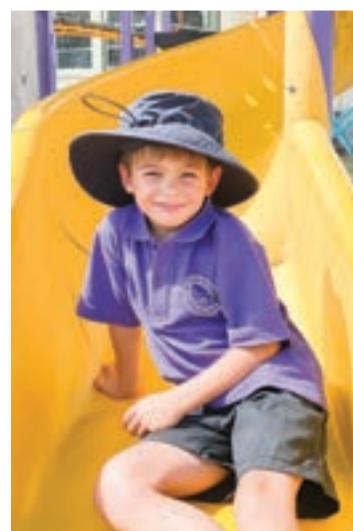
"The design came from student and staff ideas, and school council member and parent Holly Russell put everything together and created a design package for application.

"This outdoor space will support our outdoor learning program, OUTSIDE!"

Teaching staff will continue guiding the students in their mathematical and English programs this year, as well as developing the new OUTSIDE curriculum.

"OUTSIDE is our outdoor learning program," Ms Nicol said.

"It came from our staff's desire to offer something more



Prep Owen is settling into prep at Powlett River Primary School.

for our students."

After a lot of research, the importance and benefits of learning in nature and the importance of challenge and play became clear.

Students spend the whole day outside learning about themselves, each other, and the environment.

"We have brought together environmental studies, outdoor education, and social-emotional learning into a program for all students," Ms Nicol said.

"In 2025, students had two days a term outside.

"This year, we will be increasing the days and seeking input from organisations and members of the community who have special skills in this area, to support the program."

WHAT'S ON

YOUR LOCAL GUIDE TO ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

FOIL welcomes Zane Lovitt to Inverloch Library

THIS year, Friends of Inverloch Library (FOIL) is pleased to celebrate its 30th anniversary, and in recognition of its commitment to literacy, FOIL volunteers are welcoming crime writer Zane Lovitt on Friday, February 13 at 6pm.

Julie Statkus of FOIL said the celebration recognises the enthusiastic volunteer committee who work together to raise funds to support the Inverloch Library and literacy in general.

"Hosting regular author events is the main source of income and provides the opportunity to bring the community together," Ms Statkus said.

In an interview with Mr Lovitt, he shared that he was invited to a FOIL event after finishing up at a session at the Port Fairy Writers Festival, where he met Ms Statkus, and he is looking forward to travelling to Inverloch for an evening talking about crime fiction.

As a longtime storyteller, Mr Lovitt's creative career began in film, but ultimately turned to novels because writing books allowed him to complete work independently and explore sustained storytelling in a way that filmmaking couldn't.

"It was always writing for me, writing was my thing. I love writing stories, and especially stories that I find kind of thrilling and mysterious," Mr Lovitt said.

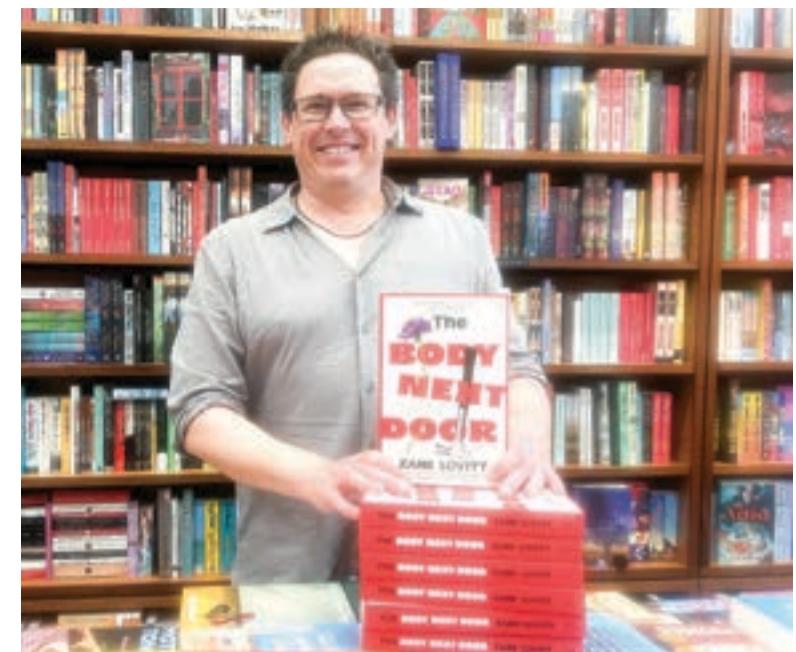
"I was brought up with Agatha Christie novels and Hitchcock movies; that was always going to be it for me.

"Cinematic storytelling was going to be the delivery system, if you like.

"And the reason for the switch, I'm afraid, is very clinical; it's just the dearth of the industry.

"Movies require more than one person's artistic vision, and there's not much room for practice.

"Whereas if you write a book, even if someone doesn't publish it, you've at least got a finished piece."



Crime writer Zane Lovitt is a special guest at Inverloch Library on Friday, February 13.

Mr Lovitt said he began writing novels in order to produce something off his own bat, rather than relying on financing from the Australian film industry.

Mr Lovitt's latest novel, his third published book, The Body Next Door, was released in March last year, a piece that he planned out and then wrote in 12 months.

"I was shocked that I could do that, actually, but the next book that I am working on at the moment -- which I don't think will only be 12 months -- is sticking with the tone of The Body Next Door," Mr Lovitt said.

"My first couple of books were dark.

"That sort of private detective fiction, or at least a take on private detective fiction, they had a fair bit of violence, some adult themes and I've found just in the last few years that I'm less inclined to write darker pieces, so I'm keen to offer something that's lighter."

Mr Lovitt said he likes to think that The Body Next Door is funny and is thrilled when people tell him that they laughed out loud when they read it.

This is the goal for Mr Lovitt, reading with lighter aspects and likeable characters, with a mix of suspense and mystery.

Mr Lovitt is delighted to be part of FOIL's anniversary celebration and he's keen to discuss The Body Next Door and his other pieces with visitors to the Inverloch Library and share his passion for storytelling.

Ms Statkus confirmed that new members are always welcome to join FOIL, with membership forms available at the Inverloch library.

Members receive regular newsletters, which include early notice of author talks.

To attend the evening with author Zane Lovitt, book online at trybooking.com/DIZNG or ring Inverloch library on 03 5674 1169.

Clay artistry at Berninnett with artist-in-residence

BERNINNETT Art Studio invites the community to create ceramic instruments in a hands-on workshop led by Melbourne-based artist Benjamin Woods.

Visiting artist Benjamin Woods will host a ceramic instrument-building workshop at Berninnett Art Studio on Saturday, February 14, from 10am to 12.30pm.

Benjamin is an experienced teacher and artist who will guide participants through a fail-safe method for producing a playable clay flute. The two-and-a-half-hour hands-on workshop is suitable for adults and children older than 12, with no prior experience necessary.

All ceramic flutes will be fired after the workshop and ready for collection from Berninnett two weeks later. Ticket pricing is \$20 for adults and \$12 for kids and concessions. Pricing includes all materials and firing.

Benjamin is an artist and researcher living in Naarm, Melbourne, whose sculpture and sound installation practice incorporates improvisation and place-based research. He holds a BFA Honours and MFA from the Victorian College of the Arts, and a PhD in Fine Art from Monash University.



Learn the artistry behind clay art at Berninnett on February 14 at 10am.

Sound score for the sandy ghost shrimp exhibition by Benjamin Woods will be exhibited at Berninnett Art Gallery from July 18 to August 30. This workshop will take place during his residency at Berninnett Art Studio, where he is developing new work for the exhibition as the studio's first artist-in-residence.

A Lecturer at Monash

University Fine Art, co-director of Run Artist Run studio residency space, and a member of the Climate Aware Creative Practice research group and Australasian Queer Research Network, Benjamin also participates in Tributaries collective and the collaborative project Lolo.

Places are strictly limited, visit basscoastculturalvenues.com

Jazz royalty Rebecca Barnard returns to Phillip Island

MELBOURNE singer Rebecca Barnard will return to South Gippsland on Sunday, February 15 with her band for an evening of jazz, roots and originals.

Barnard, the daughter of legendary Australian jazz drummer Len Barnard, grew up immersed in the sounds of Billie Holiday and Louis Armstrong, singing with her father's band from the age of 13.

Her uncle Bob Barnard was one of Australia's most celebrated jazz trumpet and cornet players.

At 14 she discovered Joni Mitchell and Bob Dylan, and the blend of jazz, folk and rock has defined her career since.

Barnard spent a decade as backing singer for Stephen Cummings after his time with The Sports before forming her own band, Rebecca's Empire, in the 1990s.

She has performed and recorded with Paul Kelly, Renee Geyer, Tim Rogers and Deborah Conway among many others.

Performing at Phillip Island Jazz Club alongside Barnard will be Monique diMatta on piano, Ben Robertson on double bass and Hugh Stuckey on guitar.

Organisers are expecting strong demand and are asking patrons to book and pay early.

For more information, contact Jill Boyce on 0417 416 300 or Geoff Taylor on 0409 948 613.

Archies Creek Day Doof set to deliver world-class electronic music

PLATYPUSS and Bando are running a Day Doof at Archies Creek Hotel on Saturday, February 14, from noon until late.

A regional event driven by local DJs striving to bring world-class electronic music to Gippsland.

Adam Turner, also known as Platypuss, said Archies Creek Hotel is iconic and the local community deserves to experience this music.

"It's so important for the young people in our community to have access to events like this," he said.

Adam grew up in Leongatha and is now a local of Bass Coast, performing at some of the biggest alternative dance festivals around the world, with multiple international shows under his belt, most recently performing in New Zealand.

Bando is from San Remo and has performed at festivals nationally for more than a decade.

"Bando is a strong supporter of electronic music in Bass Coast and has run multiple events in the local area," Adam said.

The lineup for the Archies Creek Day Doof showcases

10 artists prepared to transform the venue into a festival wonderland, with world-renowned artist Unknown Concept, who leads events across Europe, Asia, North America and Oceania.

"Unknown Concept is a pillar of the psychedelic techno scene, and we're lucky to have him performing right here."

Skwid is from South Gippsland and grew up in Yanakie, and is now touring internationally.

Skwid delivers high-energy psytrance, and so does Mudita, who is coming across from the Mornington Peninsula.

Mudita performs throughout Australia and runs her own local gigs to keep the dance scene alive.

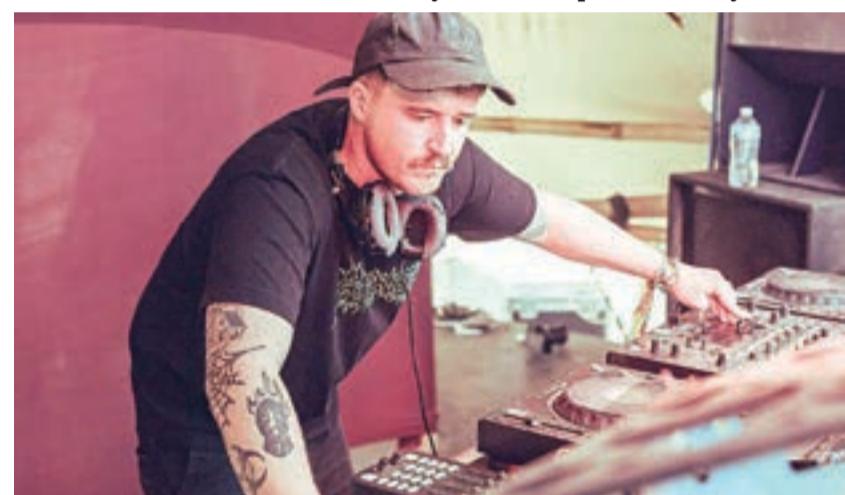
"The crowd can prepare for a big one, expect cocktails, cold beers, pizza and market stalls, and the sound and lighting will intensify the high vibes," Adam said.

"This is a family-friendly event, with children under 12 free."

Tickets are still available on Eventbrite or visit www.archiescreekhotel.com.au/events/archies-creek-day-doof.



Bando is in the Archies Creek Day Doof lineup on February 14.



Platypuss set to deliver a world-class electronic music set to Gippsland.

Stellar music lineup heads to Meeniyan



ThornBird, aka Vikki from The Waifs, kicks off the Lyrebird Arts Council's stellar lineup on February 19 at Meeniyan Town Hall. Photo: Donna Simpson.



Sarah Blasko returns to Meeniyan Town Hall for two nights on March 5 and 6.

LYREBIRD Arts Council has announced an extraordinary run of international and Australian music acts heading to Meeniyan Town Hall from February to March.

The season opens on February 19 when Vikki from The Waifs performs as ThornBird.

Drawing on her life traversing the landscapes of Utah and Western Australia, Vikki brings a global sound to the intimate Meeniyan stage.

On February 27 New York-born and Tamil Nadu-raised singer Ganavya blends spiritual jazz with Indian devotional traditions for a transcendent live experience.

Her show at the Sydney Opera House sold out overnight.

March brings what can only be described as "The Festival of Meeniyan" starting with a long weekend of live music.

Sarah Blasko returns for two nights on March 5 and 6 with the second night already sold out.

American artist M. Ward and his band The Undertakers follow on March 7 bringing warm vocals and atmospheric folk-blues storytelling.

Willie Watson returns from the USA on March 8 with a full band.

The Old Crow Medicine Show founder and collaborator with Gillian Welch and Dave Rawlings brings his signature folk and timeless songcraft.

An arts hub of displays by local artists will run at Trulli Italian Restaurant across the road from the hall over the long weekend.

The month rounds out with two high-energy American acts.

Breakout family band Annie and the Caldwells bring their disco soul on March 13 after performing in more than 20 countries since releasing their debut album "Can't Lose My (Soul)".

Three-time Grammy winner Fantastic Negrito closes the run on March 14 with his trademark hard-hitting riffs and soul-drenched ballads.

Tickets for all shows are available at lyrebirdarts council.com.au.



Life Member David Shambrook and wife Ronda. A19_0626



Fran Murphy and Monica and Tom Lay, Tom being an Under 16 Premiership player with Nerrena. A20_0626



Grace Berryman and current Nerrena player Jack Curtis. A21_0626



Rob "Tortoise" Torcutti and Life Member Peter "Plumber" Trease are delighted that Nerrena Cricket Club has notched up 90 years. A22_0626



Sisters in law Helen Shaw and Therese Brown at Pink Stumps Day in Outtrim. W17_0626



Karen Anderson, Mary Ross-Heazlewood and Chris Blundy having a fun time at Pink Stumps Day. W18_0626



Gemma Clarke and Carlie Swann soaking up the Outtrim atmosphere at OMK's annual Pink Stumps Day. W19_0626



Mairead Donohue, Grace Green and Georgia Chiavaroli were among the crowd at Pink Stumps Day in Outtrim. W20_0626



Marty Box provided the musical entertainment at Pink Stumps Day in Outtrim. W21_0626



Pictures of you and your friends at Korumburra Golf Club, Pink Stumps Day in Outtrim and celebrating 90 years at Nerrena Cricket Club.



Imperials captain Jack Ginnane and OMK captain Koby Brann with cricketing legend Glenn McGrath. W24_0626



Korumburra Golf Club's Monthly Medal winner Dave Enbom 64 nett with men's captain Ian Cash.



Korumburra's recent winner Gail Beer with her Leongatha Sportspower voucher.



Kim Wilmes, Betty Henry and Lisa-Joy Worden were fabulously dressed at the Woolamai Cup over the weekend. W26_0626



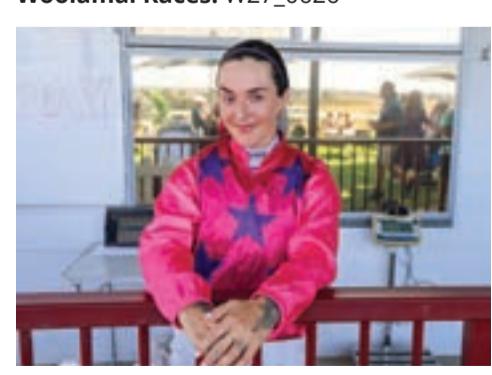
Walter Green from Traralgon enjoyed the face-painting on offer at the Woolamai Races. W27_0626



Brad and Nikya Wright enjoying a father-daughter outing while supporting a great cause at Pink Stumps Day. W22_0626



The Warrandyte Pink Ladies showed their full support at Pink Stumps Day. W23_0626



Not one, not two, but three race wins for jockey Maddison Morris at Woolamai over the weekend, including the Alex Scott & Staff Woolamai Cup. W25_0626



3 | 1 | 2 38.5 Acres

155 Coulters Road, **Mardan**
For Sale \$990,000
Agent SEJ Real Estate
Irene Walker 0429 045 632
iwalker@sej.com.au

A beautiful place to call home

IN the picturesque and productive countryside of Mardan, 38.5 acres of flat to gently undulating grazing land comes with a classic 1960s brick veneer home filled with love and opportunity.

Offered for the first time since established, this property at 155 Coulters Road features traditional blue gum grazing ideal for cattle, horses, sheep or your choice of agricultural pursuits in addition to income from leasing or agistment.

The home is set back off the road amongst a cottage garden with feature ornamental trees, fully fenced with lovely garden views out across the paddocks and rolling hills beyond.

The kitchen had an update in the 1990s offering plenty of storage, a pantry and electric cooking. The original combustion stove is not in use at present.

A dining room with garden views, reverse cycle air conditioner and separate family living room complete with wood fire round out the living spaces.

Three generous bedrooms all have built-in robes with the family bathroom the original 1960s pink and whilst in working order, it is ready for a future upgrade.

The toilet is separate with a good-sized laundry, spacious hallway and plenty of storage space. Externally there is a garage with two car spaces and workshop area.

The farm is made up of four larger paddocks with the addition of the front driveway paddock. There are lovely shade trees, a dam and troughs for stock water.

This property offers the new owners the joy of lifestyle living with opportunity to garden, create, renovate and run livestock.

It is ideally located just 15 minutes to Leongatha for all shopping needs, 12 minutes to Mirboo North and 40 minutes to the Latrobe Valley.



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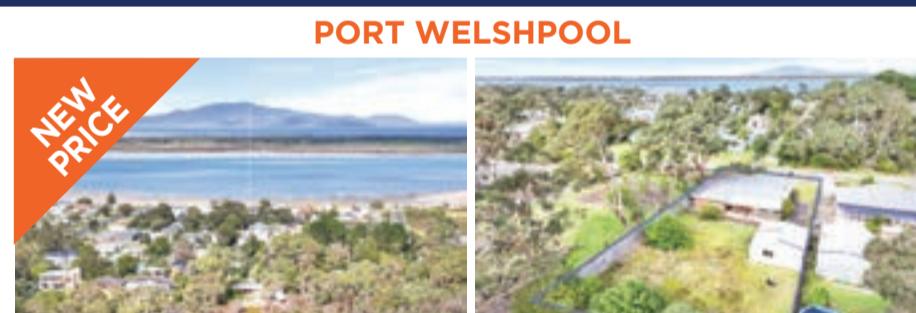
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- 3 bed 2 bath
- Walk to shops & rail trail
- Light & bright open plan
- Spacious fitted bedrooms
- Fenced rear garden

New Price \$510,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



- Solid built brick veneer 2 bed, 1 bath home on approx. 1016sqm
- Open plan living room flowing out to a covered north facing patio
- Large bedrooms, master with WIR. Formal dining or optional 3rd bedroom
- Spacious central bathroom with corner spa plus a (2) toilet in the laundry
- Space to extend or add a second storey STCA & adjoins bush reserve
- Fully fenced rear garden, LU double garage/workshop, flat parking area

New Price \$459,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



- Great central location
- Walk to shops & sporting
- 3 bed, 1 bath, 1 car
- Low maintenance block
- Dual access driveways

New Price \$469,500

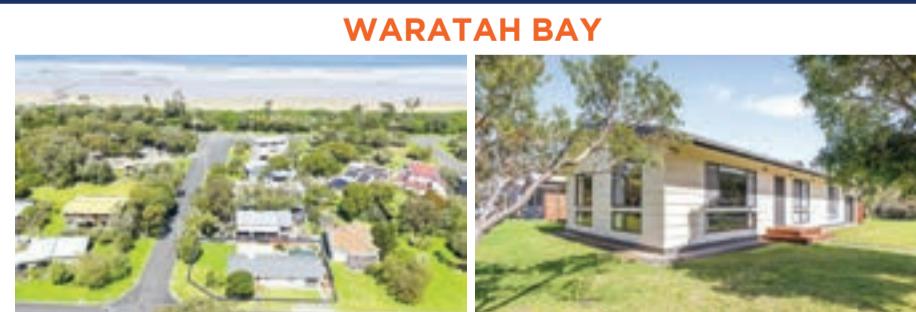
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



- 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

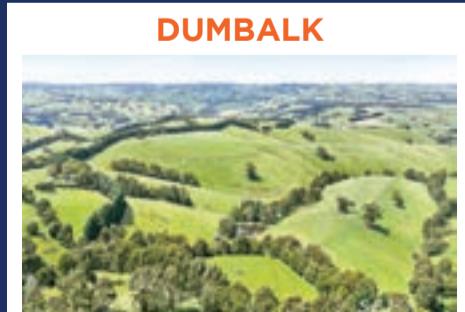
Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



- Perfect position just 5 doors from the beach access trail
- 3 bed, 1 bath home is designed for low maintenance and easy holidays
- Stylish kitchen with modern appliances, and covered deck
- Central wood heater plus RC/AC for year round comfort
- 3 fitted bedrooms with new carpet, and sparkling central bathroom
- Corner block approx. 572sqm, Lock up shed for bikes and boards

\$840,000-\$870,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801



- Traditional Bluegum Grazing
- Undulating to steep
- Affordable entry farming
- 85 ha / 210 acres (approx.)
- Ideal cattle & sheep

\$1,580,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



'Miranda' - Magnificent panoramas on 2.5 acres

SET on approximately 2.5 acres of established gardens, 'Miranda' is a wonderful lifestyle property offering breathtaking coastal views across Corner Inlet to the iconic Wilsons Promontory National Park.

Private and rich in history, this circa 1905 country homestead presents a rare opportunity to secure a truly special tree-change and sea-change in one.

'Miranda' is currently being run as a B&B and has previously operated as a restaurant and wedding venue, highlighting the versatility of this property.

It offers boundless potential, whether it's a private retreat or lifestyle property with income possibilities.

The main homestead showcases timeless period features including pressed metal ceilings, fretwork, open fireplaces and soaring ceilings.

It offers three generous bedrooms, each with an ensuite, plus a multi-purpose room incorporating storage and laundry facilities with an additional guest bathroom.

Formal living and dining rooms are complemented by a well-appointed kitchen with wood heater and expansive walk-in pantry, along with a second living area/sunroom that captures sweeping coastal views.

Adjoined via an outdoor deck, the Cottage provides flexible accommodation with a one-bedroom layout, cosy lounge with wood heater and reverse-cycle air conditioning, separate kitchen/dining, bathroom, laundry and a private deck perfectly positioned to enjoy the outlook.

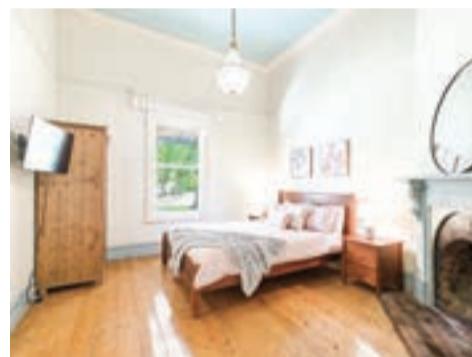
This would be ideal for guest accommodation. Tucked away in an elevated position, the Studio enjoys its own presence with water views, soaring ceilings and stained-glass windows.

This open-plan, split-level space includes a kitchenette, bathroom, wood heater and separate external toilet, making it ideal for a home office, creative studio, wellness retreat or additional accommodation.

With two driveway entrances, town water, NBN, 5kW solar, sheds, workshop, gardens and orchard, 'Miranda' combines character with modern convenience.

Just minutes to Toora, close to Foster and within easy reach of Melbourne, this is a unique opportunity to secure something special.

Inspection is strictly by appointment only. Please contact Katrina Griggs on 0428 571 083 or Sharon Turton on 0447 604 796 for an inspection or any questions.



4 5 4 2.5 Acres

5208 South Gippsland Hwy, Toora

For Sale \$890,000-\$970,000

Agent Elders

Katrina Griggs 0428 571 083

Sharon Turton 0447 604 796



Real Estate

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Korumburra 17.8 Acres

A Lifestyle to Belong & Call Home

- Renovated 4-bed, 2-bath home
- Self-contained one-bed cottage
- 3 well fenced paddocks

Web ID: 300P192267

\$1.8 Million



Krowera 3.19 Acres

A Picture Perfect Escape

- 3-bed, 2-bath sandstone home
- Open plan living
- Freshly painted and new flooring

Web ID: 300P190286

\$930,000



Koonwarra 18 Acres

A Private Rural Sanctuary

- 4-5 bedroom home
- Lockup shed, storage & garden shed
- Solar panels and inverter

Web ID: 300P186829

\$1.3 Million



Korumburra 683m²

Comfort & Convenience

- 3 bedroom home all with BIR
- Renovated bathroom
- Central ducted gas heating

Web ID: 300P163853

\$650,000



Elders Korumburra
11 Commercial Street
Ph 5658 1894

BEN TOWNSEND
Licensed Estate Agent
0400 594 487

SHARON TURTON
Sales Consultant
0447 604 796

KATRINA GRIGGS
Sales Consultant
0428 571 083

HELEN ARRESTIA
Sales Support
03 5662 3523

NATALIE RES
Property Manager
0439 383 091

Elders Leongatha
37 Bair Street
Ph 5662 3523



Your private coastal sanctuary in Rhyll



7 | 3 | 5+ 4000m²

13-15 Reid Street, **Rhyll**
Auction Sat, Feb. 21 at 2pm on site
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Cowes Office (03) 5952 2633

RARELY does a property emerge that perfectly captures the essence of a grand coastal escape but Allansfield at 13-15 Reid Street is an exception.

Nestled on an expansive double block of 4000sqm in the heart of the tranquil fishing village of Rhyll on Phillip Island, this unique estate has been masterfully developed as an exclusive sanctuary for large families and group retreats.

At the heart of the estate lies the impressive main residence, a home of grand proportions featuring a dedicated manager's unit with its own kitchen alongside a sprawling five-bedroom layout.

It is anchored by two massive living areas and a formal dining space. The main kitchen is designed to handle everything from quiet morning coffees to festive family dinners for a full house.

With two bathrooms, a separate laundry and wide shady verandahs that overlook the manicured grounds, the main home offers a seamless blend of indoor comfort and outdoor serenity.

A charming fully self-contained cottage sits next to the main residence providing a private retreat for guests or extended family.

The second dwelling features an airy open-plan living area, two comfortable bedrooms, its own kitchen, bathroom and laundry.

For those with a passion for the great outdoors, the property's infrastructure is second to none.

Beyond the large double garage and workshop there is a second utility shed and three expansive carports with an abundance of open space designed for easy manoeuvring and parking of boats, caravans and trailers.

There is even a convenient outdoor bathroom perfect for washing off the salt and sand after a day on the water.

The Rhyll Yacht Club is just at the end of the street and Phillip Island's premier boat ramp and chandlery are virtually on the doorstep.

A short stroll takes you to the local beach, restaurants, General Store and Cafe while parklands and tennis courts are just around the corner.

Whether you are looking for a high-end holiday investment or a multi-generational family compound, Allansfield offers a lifestyle of endless possibilities in Phillip Island's most peaceful enclave.

Private semi-rural retreat

THE property at 57 Walters Road is located on the edge of the Nyora township offering spacious and peaceful surrounds, making it the perfect property for young families or retirees seeking a peaceful retreat.

The charming brick veneer residence features three spacious bedrooms, a well-appointed bathroom with separate spa bath and oversized shower, polished floorboards throughout, sunken lounge, built-in robes in each bedroom and a solid fuel heater and reverse cycle heater and air conditioner ensure comfort throughout the year. A sliding door from the kitchen opens onto the large, covered outdoor deck which is an ideal place to sit and admire the surrounding nature and host gatherings with friends or family.

Set on about 1.8 acres of combined established gardens, trees and small paddocks, this property offers town and tank water and lots of practical features for the hobby farmer or self-sustained lifestyle enthusiast. With dual entries off Walters Road to the property, the private and secluded setting is ideal for relaxation and outdoor activities.

The expansive 12m x 6m garage, with concrete floor and power, will cater for up to four vehicles and there's a bonus workshop/storage shed at the rear of the property to provide ample space for extra storage, hobbies or projects. A chicken coop and extra shelter sheds for small animals makes this property a fantastic choice for anyone looking to embrace a semi-rural lifestyle.

If you're looking to escape to the country to live but need to travel to suburbia for work, then this property is ideally located for you. Only 15 minutes from Korumburra, 40 minutes to the coast and 1.5 hours to the city. Nyora is a great mid-point and growth area.



3 | 1 | 4 7,358m²

57 Walters Road, **Nyora**
For Sale \$980,000
Agent Alex Scott & Staff
 Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898



LEONGATHA



19 Parkside Close

- Beautiful 4 bedroom, 2 living home
- Flat block in great location
- Room for your caravan and more

\$890,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



Coming Soon

- 3 bedroom brick, renovated throughout
- Views across town
- Walk to schools and shops

Contact Agent

Contact: Korumburra Office

RHYLL



13-15 Reid Street

- Expansive 4000m² block
- Two residences
- 8 bedroom, 5 bathroom, 8 car

Auction Sat, February 21 at 2pm

Contact: Cowes Office

NORTH WONTHAGGI



50 Lyndhurst Street

- 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms
- 974m² allotment
- Spacious shed

\$619,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

LEONGATHA



6 Norview Drive

- 35 square family home, 5 bedroom
- 2 living plus 2 studies plus home office
- Large shed, inground pool and more

\$997,000

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

RHYLL



4 Reid Street

- 2000m² block with 200 degree ocean views
- Sun filled expansive decks
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom

Expressions of Interest

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



3 Miners Drive

- 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms
- Short walk to CBD and schools
- 2 generous living zones

\$679,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

KROWERA



KORUMBURRA



730 Sheepways Road

- 'Edrom' – A private country sanctuary
- 4 bedroom homestead on 4 acres
- Studio, cottage and shedding

\$1.4mil - \$1.5mil

Contact: Leongatha Office

31 Mine Road

- Retail/Commercial Freehold
- Highway frontage
- Rear Access

\$350,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

SMITHS BEACH



5 Napoli Court

- Tastefully renovated
- Large backyard, undercover decks
- 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 car

\$940,000

Contact: Cowes Office

WONTHAGGI



2/12 McLeod Street

- 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- Stones throw from town centre
- Excellent investment opportunity

\$395,000

Contact: Wonthaggi Office

MIRBOO NORTH



655 Old Thorpdale Road

- 160 Acre farm with home
- Excellent grazing property
- Plus commercial quarry

\$2,250,000

Contact: Leongatha Office

KORUMBURRA



2 Massimo Way

- Modern 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom
- Elevated corner block
- Ready to move into

From \$665,000

Contact: Korumburra Office

COWES



2/230 Settlement Road

- Generous open plan living
- Private courtyard
- 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom 1 car garage

\$580,000 - \$600,000

Contact: Cowes Office

8 Merrin Crescent

- 4 Bedrooms, 1 bathroom
- Large miners cottage
- 1131m² allotment

\$690,000 - \$730,000

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

COWES

5952 2633

113a Thompson Avenue

Greg Price 0419 337 441

Brian Silver 0407 347 509

Chase Waters 0423 272 819

George Grigg 0458 478 308

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

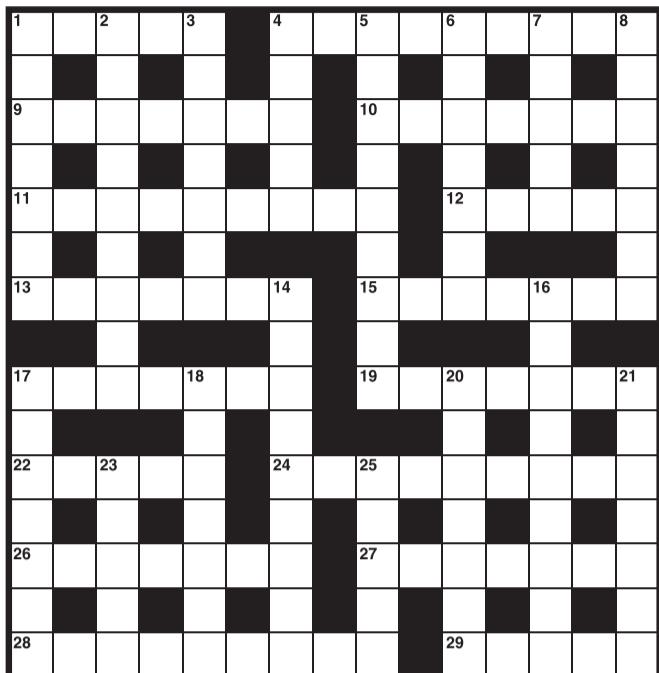
Cal Nation 0439 334 163

Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

Phil Hanley 0417 140 508



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

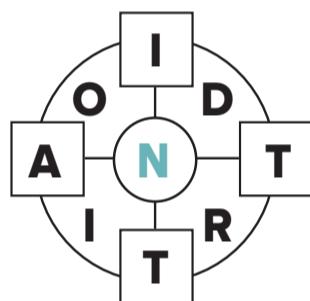
1 Move furtively (5)
4 Under water (9)
9 Fleece clipper (7)
10 Relating to the ocean (7)
11 Signs without words (9)

12 Bath salts (5)
13 Domed building (7)
15 Relating to sight (7)
17 Columns (7)
19 Connived (7)

22 Contraction (5)

9-LETTER

No. 318



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

Today's Aim:

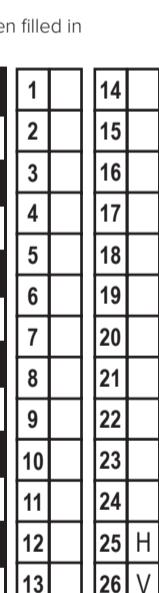
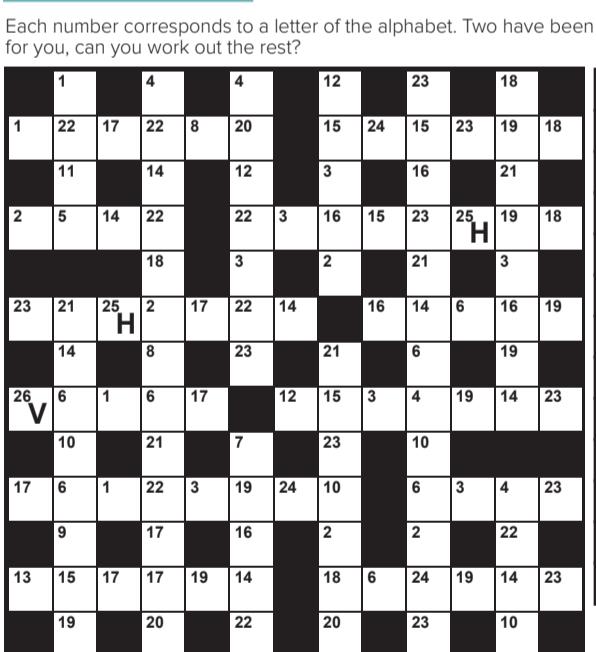
16 words: Good

24 words: Very good

32 words: Excellent

CODEWORD

No. 308



SOLUTION



No. 318

WORDFIT

3 LETTERS 5 LETTERS

ADS ACORN
AID AIDED
AIR ATLAS
ASH AUNTS
ASK AVAIL
BOA CACAO
DAD CEDAR
EEL CHASE
ERA EASES
ERR EATEN
EVE EMAIL
HUB ESSAY
IRE EVERY
KIT GEESE
MOO GENRE
NEE GOOSE
NET HEWED
ODE HORNS
ONE INANE

6 LETTERS

OUT KNOBL
OVA LABEL
PER REGOS
4 LETTERS 6 LETTERS

DESK LANCE
DROP LASTS
DYED LIBEL
GEAR OBOES
HOWL STOOP
KEPT OILED
RIND TABBY
SITS OLIVE
SLAT OUTDO
TENS TONES

7 LETTERS

REGOS CATNAP
LANCE ELICITED
LASTS DEADLY
LIBEL GRADED
OBOES RUINS
STOOP LATTER
OILED SNARL
TABBY REALLY
OLIVE TRIPOD

8 LETTERS

CATNAP OVERLOAD
ELICITED PENALISING
DEADLY MERRIEST
GRADED SCREECHING
RUINS MOTORISE
LATTER OVERLOAD

10 LETTERS

PENALISING PENALISING
MERRIEST SCREECHING
OVERLOAD OVERLOAD
MOTORISE MOTORISE
OVERLOAD OVERLOAD
SCREECHING SCREECHING

SOLUTION



No. 317

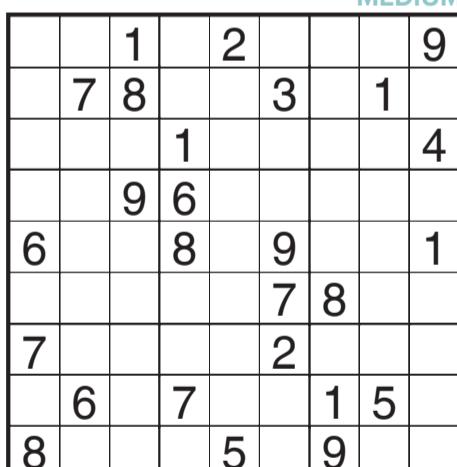
SUDOKU

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

EASY

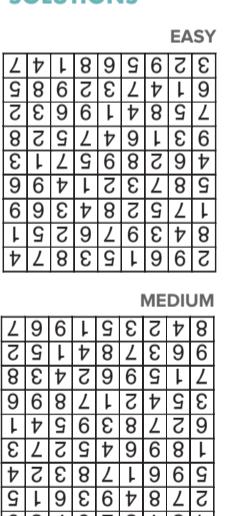


MEDIUM



3001 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. What is the world's largest inland body of water?
2. Jennifer Saunders (pictured) and Joanna Lumley co-starred in which '90s British sitcom?
3. Which Beatles member's solo work includes the 1973 album *Living in the Material World*?
4. Cardamon, cinnamon, ginger, star anise and clove are commonly used in which spice mix?
5. Who is the only Australian prime minister to be dismissed from office by the governor-general?

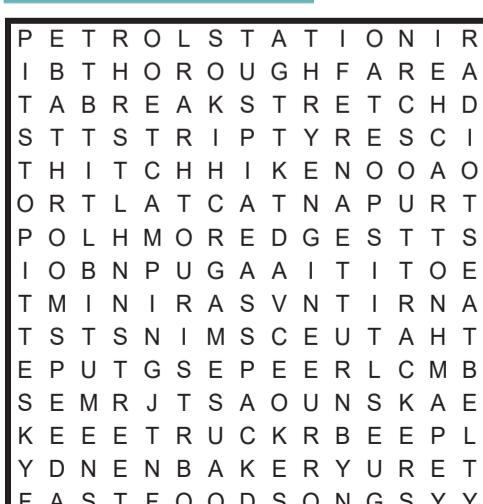
6. In the fairytale, what three things does the miller's daughter give to Rumpelstiltskin in return for him spinning straw into gold?
7. *Slaughterhouse-Five* is a 1969 novel by which author?
8. In which US state would you find the Gateway Arch?
9. Which politician is quoted to have said: 'If you want something said, ask a man; if you want something done, ask a woman'?
10. In 1967, the first ever human heart transplant was performed in which country?



ANSWERS: 1. Captain Sea 2. Absolutely Fabulous 3. George Harrison 4. Chai 5. Gough Whitlam 6. Herne Bay 7. Kurt Vonnegut 8. Missouri 9. Margaret Thatcher 10. South Africa

WORD SEARCH

No. 228



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

BAKERY	LANE	STRETCH
BATHROOM	LOST	THOROUGHFARE
BITUMEN	MAP	TOLL
BREAK	PACK	TOURIST
BUS	PETROL STATION	TRACK
CAMPING	PITSTOP	TRAVERSE
CAR	RADIO	TRIP
CATNAP	ROUTE	TRUCK
ENGINE	SCENERY	TURN
ESKY	SEATBELT	TYRES
FAST FOOD	SONGS	
GAMES	SPEED	
HITCHHIKE	STREET	

SECRET MESSAGE: It's not the destination, it's the journey.



Limited heavy offerings but good quality calves

By Andrew Paloczi

WHILE Thursday's Store Sale yarding of 3,070 head included a good selection of well-bred calves and yearlings, MLA Market Reporter Brendan Fletcher noted those animals "were followed by a larger proportion of dairy cattle and their crosses".

He observed that local agencies were represented, with limited activity from Northern Victoria, and just one feedlot order operated on the heavier steers.

Sentinel-Times saw Anthony Delaney of Elders Delaney Livestock and Property sell 13 Angus cattle from Cattleman Shahin in Loch that weighed an average of 588 kilos and went for \$2,800 a head at \$4.76 per kilo.

"There was a great run of weaners through the sale but there wasn't a lot of feeder or heavier bullock type cattle in the yards in general," he said, elaborating that the Cattleman Shahin steers stood out on the day with minimal competition in their category, albeit they were deserving of the attention.

Mr Delaney summed up the day's outcome and what may lie ahead.

"I think the sale was a very strong result considering it hasn't rained and the season's



Anthony Delaney auctions for Elders Delaney Livestock and Property. A12_0626

running to the end; it was terrific right through," he said.

"We'll be waiting for the autumn break now, which will hopefully happen in March or April and then we'll start to see our spring drop calves come onto the market."

Sentinel-Times saw Jayden Ferrari of Baw Baw Livestock achieve \$4.73 a kilo on a pen of "ripper calves" from Patten S and V in Lardner, the five "NEVER EVER" accredited Angus steers weighed at 437 kilos selling for \$2,070 each.

He expressed disappointment at the price paid for a pen of five Angus steers from the Rogers family in Neerim South, labelling a bid of \$1,230 a head as "way down," but having to sell them for just \$10 more each at

\$4.33 a kilo, those calves averaging 286 kilos.

That lower than desired price came despite Mr Ferrari introducing the pen by saying, "There are only five of them but they're good, aren't they?"

It wasn't all black cattle hogging the highlights, with Mr Fletcher reporting that the top of the yearling heifers went to a pen of six Charolais weighing an average of 463 kilos that fetched \$4.51 a kilo at \$2,090 a head.

"Prices held firm for most heavy categories while weaners sold to more varied competition with quality affecting some sales and values declining up to \$100 a head in some places," he said in summary of Thursday's action.



RLX CEO Brett Freer is pleased with the new look at the Leongatha saleyards. A03_0626

New owner puts stamp on Saleyards

By Andrew Paloczi

Mr Freer is delighted RLX now has a presence in the region and spoke of the importance of community involvement, with the saleyards being a thriving social hub, logistics centre and economic driver.

Each RLX site manager determines how best to support their community.

"It comes down to what the community wants," he said.

RLX is looking to build on the good work of the VLE by continuing to make improvements such as installing slam latches and safety chains on gates. The slam latches enable gates to be easily closed with a push, ensuring cattle handlers can focus entirely on what the animals are doing.

EYE-CATCHING signage is now in place at the local saleyards, the facility's new name Eastern Victoria Livestock Exchange (EVLX) proudly on show after being installed during Thursday's Store Sale.

Brett Freer, CEO of the saleyards' new owner Regional Livestock Exchanges (RLX) was happy to lend a hand to the crew installing the signage, pleased with its appearance and colour scheme, giving it a good polish once installation was complete.

While the VLE name is now gone, the bull that stands proudly atop the signage and overlooks the South Gippsland Highway remains in place, seeming just as at home.

During the process of replacing the signage, a much older VLE sign was revealed.

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
LEONGATHA		WONTAGGI	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
WARRAGUL		PAKENHAM	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
BERWICK		Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Angus Hall	0466 326 487
LANG LANG		Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	SUCCESS THROUGH SERVICE	



Young Farmers reunion part of Loch 150th celebrations

FORMER members of the Loch Young Farmers club will gather for a reunion as part of the township's 150th anniversary celebrations in March.

The Loch Young Farmers club was active from 1953 to 1992 and was part of the Westernport District Council, along with Korumburra, Glen Alvie, Phillip Island and Lang Lang.

The reunion will take place on Saturday afternoon, March 7 at the Loch Memorial Reserve as part of a broader celebration weekend running from March 6 to 9.

Former members from across the district council are invited to attend.

The club was part of the Victorian Young Farmers movement, which had its origins in calf clubs at state schools.

Members were exposed to social skills, meeting procedure, debating, public speaking, demonstration lectures and field days.

Clubs hosted annual balls and competed in events including hay carting, cattle judging and tyre changing.

A snapshot of the club's planned activities for the 1966-67 year included a treasure hunt, a trip to the Royal Show, guest speakers from the butter factory and the local policeman, and an agricultural quiz.

Les White, Terry Smith, Meryl Jones and Faye Ferguson were the office bearers that year.

The last reunion was held in June 1982.

For more details, contact Linda Harvey on 0439 979 831 or Cheryl Green on 0488 592 259.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE FORTHCOMING CLEARING SALE

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AF0113

Friday, February 27, 2026



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Farming news

South Gippsland and Bass Coast

Sentinel-Times



www.sgst.com.au



A superb lyrebird captured by filmmaker Mark B Pearce, whose documentary was screened at Fish Creek Memorial Hall.

Lyrebird documentary raises funds for Cape Liptrap weed removal

TARWIN Landcare Group screened the award-winning documentary The Message of the Lyrebird at Fish Creek Memorial Hall last week, raising \$600 for its community weeding program at Cape Liptrap Coastal Park.

The film, directed by Mark B Pearce and produced by Balangara Films, explores the lyrebird's ability to record the sounds of the past as the species faces threats to its future.

People came from as far as Phillip Island to view the screening.

The 2021 documentary has won multiple international awards including Best Documentary Film at the Annual Indie Cinema Awards in Helsinki and Best Film on Nature at the L'Age d'Or International Arthouse Film Festival in India.

It has screened at festivals across the United States, Canada, Ireland, Cyprus, Hungary and Australia, and aired on SBS

On Demand from January 2026.

The funds raised will go towards the group's Pitt-Stop weeding program, which sees volunteers team up with Parks Victoria staff to remove the invasive weed sweet pittosporum from an area close to Promontory Views Estate.

Sweet pittosporum is listed as a significant environmental weed in Victoria under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act and forms dense canopies that shade out native vegetation beneath.

Birds spread its seeds into bushland from nearby gardens, allowing it to outcompete indigenous plants in coastal areas like Cape Liptrap.

After a couple of hours of work, volunteers are treated to a discounted burger at the Walkerville Kiosk.

PittStop is held on the first Friday of the month and will recommence in May.

Everyone is welcome provided they have a valid Working With Children card.

For more details, contact Marg Carew on 0422 418 559 or balkurra@gmail.com.

The screening also raised awareness about the annual lyrebird count coordinated by Dr Alex Maisey, one of the researchers featured in the film.

Now approaching its 12th year, the count occurs mid-winter at a number of sites across Walkerville and Waratah Bay to monitor lyrebird numbers.

More than 40 per cent of lyrebird habitat was affected by the 2019-20 bushfires, and the documentary highlights their role as ecosystem engineers that turn over forest litter and help regulate fire behaviour.

For details about the annual lyrebird count, follow Prom Coast Ecolink or the South Gippsland Landcare Group on Instagram or Facebook.

Dairy industry warns EU deal risks imports

THE Australian dairy industry has raised serious concerns about a looming free trade agreement with the European Union that it says will put local producers at risk.

Australian Dairy Industry Council chair Ben Bennett said the deal appeared heavily weighted in favour of the EU.

"We think the signing is imminent -- the indications we're getting are that the deal is essentially there," Mr Bennett said.

"Dairy is going under the bus, and it's being driven by the federal government."

The industry warned the proposed agreement would loosen safeguards on European dairy imports, particularly cheese, in a market already exposed to heavily subsidised EU products.

Australia currently imports about 80,000 tonnes of dairy from the EU valued at \$877.4 million, up almost nine per cent year on year, while exporting only about 1600 tonnes in return valued at \$55 million.

"This is not a level playing field," Mr Bennett said.

"European dairy producers receive tens of billions of dollars in subsidies, yet Australian farmers are being asked to compete without such support."

The ADIC is also concerned about the potential removal of the \$1.20 per kilogram tariff on imported cheese, which the industry describes as the last meaningful buffer against a surge of low-priced European product.

"The risk is not theoretical," Mr Bennett said.

"The EU is the world's largest cheese producer by a country mile, and surplus product will inevitably be pushed into markets like Australia if barriers are lowered."

The dairy industry also raised alarm about geographical indications that could restrict the use of names such as parmesan and feta, which underpin many Australian processing businesses and regional jobs.

ADIC deputy chair

John Williams said the industry could not accept an overseas regulatory regime being imposed on Australian businesses.

"Banning long-used names like parmesan and feta would hit local manufacturers, confuse consumers and deliver no clear benefit to Australia," Mr Williams said.

Mr Williams said the federal government must lock in binding, time-bound review mechanisms that assess impacts on dairy and trigger corrective action where harm occurs.

"This is bigger than one negotiation," he said.

"Dairy contributes \$18.5 billion to the national economy and supports more than 70,000 jobs, mostly in regional Australia."

Mr Bennett said the agreement was a one-way deal.

"The EU wants access to Australia's market but is unwilling to reciprocate with equal access to the EU for Australia's exports," he said.

"This is clearly inequitable and unfair."

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre

Store sale holds firm

By SGSA

AGENTS yarded 3000 head at this week's EVLX Leongatha store sale in a mixed quality offering, with more secondary, crossbred and dairy types on offer alongside more cows and calves and a line of store cows.

The regular field of buyers attended in a market which generally held around firm, with the best of the heavy steers making \$4.50 to \$4.80, feeder weights \$4.70 to \$5.15, and weaner steers \$4.70 to \$5.40 for the best with a few lightweights making out to \$5.60.

Heifer demand remained steady with a few very good pens making \$4.50 to \$4.87, the general run making \$4.10 to \$4.40 and plainer types \$3.60 to \$4.00.

Most of the crossbred and dairy steers made \$3.80 to \$4.30 with their sisters making \$3.30 to \$3.90 depending on quality.

Cows and calves made \$2000 to \$2900 with values trading at split value or a few hundred dollars more for the nicer types with a good calf at foot.

A run of 120 Angus store cows from the fire region of Ruffy sold very well to be 10 to 20 cents above the Tuesday fat sale rate, with the entire line purchased by a single buyer.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026

Steers

Cattleman Shahin 13 Angus	588kg	\$4.76	\$2800
TJ, C & LJ Smril 12 Angus	569kg	\$4.48	\$2550
Eddington Holdings 21 Angus	508kg	\$5.15	\$2620
Bv & Sj Richards 18 Angus	508kg	\$4.82	\$2450
G Woolcock 12 Angus	504kg	\$4.66	\$2350
Eddington Holdings 21 Angus	492kg	\$5.16	\$2540
M & I Hendriksen 13 Angus	477kg	\$4.29	\$2050
C Rawson 20 Angus	457kg	\$4.83	\$2210
JT & ME Reid 12 Angus	440kg	\$4.86	\$2140
S & M Dakin 10 Angus	435kg	\$4.75	\$2070
S & D Curtin 24 Angus	435kg	\$4.41	\$1920
Mtx2 Pty Ltd 12 Angus	433kg	\$4.75	\$2060
EA & JE Bennett 14 Angus	431kg	\$4.87	\$2100
M & I Hendriksen 10 Angus	411kg	\$4.37	\$1800
M & J Brady 18 Angus	403kg	\$4.96	\$2000
Gl & Ym Humphrey 11 Angus	390kg	\$4.48	\$1750
AJ & BR & NB Noble 20 Angus	380kg	\$5.10	\$1940
D Davidson 13 Angus	380kg	\$4.73	\$1800
M Zalesiak 22 Angus	374kg	\$5.05	\$1890
Quoin Hill Pship 15 Hereford	363kg	\$4.54	\$1650
C Farr 20 Angus	347kg	\$5.33	\$1850
M Wiemann 18 Angus	347kg	\$5.33	\$1850
R Galante 14 Angus	344kg	\$4.94	\$1700
J & V Garretto 11 Angus	330kg	\$5.15	\$1700
M & V Milnes 17 Angus	329kg	\$5.22	\$1720
Jeetho Farms 10 Angus	321kg	\$5.45	\$1750
M Wiemann 18 Bb	318kg	\$5.03	\$1600
M Zalesiak 10 Angus	317kg	\$5.36	\$1700
AJ & BR & NB Moyle 18 Angus	313kg	\$5.68	\$1780
Woodstock Properties 12 Ang	310kg	\$5.45	\$1690
C Lewis 16 Angus	295kg	\$5.25	\$1550
Bartrace Farm 12 Angus	292kg	\$5.61	\$1640
DR & FC Board 23 Angus	288kg	\$5.69	\$1640
Tablelands Pastoral 11 Hfd	262kg	\$4.38	\$1150
M Wiemann 12 BB	261kg	\$5.82	\$1520

Heifers:

K & K Skews 17 BB	402kg	\$4.87	\$1960
J & V Garretto 10 Angus	393kg	\$4.32	\$1700
S & D Curtis 15 Angus	388kg	\$4.89	\$1900
K & K Skews 17 Hereford	387kg	\$4.41	\$1710
Kingwill Family Trust 16 Angus	379kg	\$4.45	\$1690
Gl & Ym Humphrey 11 Angus	363kg	\$4.54	\$1650
Aj & Br & Nb Moyle 18 Angus	352kg	\$4.34	\$1530
G Moore 14 Angus	347kg	\$4.17	\$1450
The Randers Trust 10 Angus	351kg	\$3.51	\$1530
R Galante 12 Angus	330kg	\$4.54	\$1500
M Wiemann 11 Angus	313kg	\$4.53	\$1420
Bartrace Farm 10 MG	312kg	\$4.03	\$1260
M Wiemann 18 BB	303kg	\$4.35	\$1320
I & K Birch 22 Spk	301kg	\$3.65	\$1100
J & V Garretto 18 Angus	298kg	\$4.32	\$1290
Bartrace Farm 20 Angus	298kg	\$4.36	\$1300
A Madarreri 12 Angus	294kg	\$4.21	\$1240
Jeetho Farms 12 Angus	288kg	\$3.64	\$1050
Bartrace Farm 10 MG	285kg	\$3.85	\$1100
M Wiemann 15 BB	266kg	\$4.36	\$1160

Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, February 2, 2026



Jam Jerrup beef farmer Geoff Groves clearing thistles on his family property.

Bass Coast rating strategy for farmers remains a hot topic

By Andrew Paloczi

WITH Bass Coast Shire councillors to vote soon on the proposed Rating Strategy Review following recent community consultation on a trio of relevant options, Jam Jerrup beef farmers Aleta and Geoff Groves continue to argue farmers will be worse off under all three approaches.

Ms Groves has outlined various concerns with the way council has conducted its consultation on rating strategy, who it has involved and who it hasn't, and its failure to comply with its own policies.

As previously reported in the Sentinel-Times, the Groves are among those calling for retention of council's Land Management Rebate (LMR).

Running Groves Estate on 600 acres, they stress that their business will be significantly worse off under all three proposed rating options than is the case with the existing rating structure.

While the trio of options each involve a reduction in the rating differential applicable to farmland, from the current 80 per cent of the general rate to as low as 65 per cent, those reductions are contingent on ending the LMR, which council states will result in a saving of \$650,000 a year.

Currently the LMR returns \$16 per hectare to participating farmers, effectively reducing rates in recognition of good land stewardship, with Ms Groves stating that land management is for the betterment of all, helping control issues such as blackberries, and must continue to be done for a variety of reasons including animal welfare.

"It's not just our land we take care of," she said, giving the example of spraying weeds between their property and the Bass Highway.

The Sentinel-Times met the Groves late last year

at a Corinella community drop-in session run by council as part of the Rating Strategy Review consultation, where the couple argued their case strongly.

Ms Groves recently sent through a list of concerns with the overall consultation process.

"Consultation was conducted during the busiest period of the farming calendar, hay and silage season, followed immediately by Christmas, significantly limiting farmers' capacity to review material or participate meaningfully," she said.

As well as questioning whether the engagement process was genuinely structured to maximise participation, Ms Groves argued the survey design was flawed, initially requiring respondents to rank the three rating strategy options even if they didn't support any.

While conceding that requirement was later changed, she argued that was not clearly communicated.

Ms Groves remarked that council failed to follow its own policy by not establishing a Rural Land Management Advisory Committee, noting that requirement is clearly stated in its Rural Land Management Policy.

"As a result, advice regarding the value, purpose and equity of the LMR has not come from the body explicitly required by council policy," she said.

"Determining whether the LMR provides value or equity should be informed by land managers with direct experience of the costs, obligations and realities of sustainable agricultural practice, not solely through financial modelling."

Ms Groves points to the Bass Coast Rural Engagement Group, formed in

2013 to ensure an open and productive relationship between council and representatives of the agricultural sector, stressing the organisation wasn't consulted nor informed prior to the release of information on the Engage Bass Coast website.

"Given the scale of the impact on the agricultural sector, early engagement with this group should have occurred as a matter of good governance," she stated.

Another area of contention is what Ms Groves labels inaccurate and misleading statements regarding the LMR; she takes issue with council stating the LMR creates inequity because it is calculated per hectare, resulting in larger farms receiving higher rebates despite "similar land management obligations".

She remarks that "Many land management activities incur costs directly proportional to land area," giving the example of chemical weed control that operates on a per-hectare basis, explaining a 200-hectare farm incurs 10 times the cost of a 20 hectare farm for the same activity.

Ms Groves said that Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Greg Box has stated that farmers' rates are fully tax deductible, but she says tax deductibility depends on individual circumstances.

Ms Groves succinctly summed up her overall concern that councillors won't have the information they need to make an informed decision.

"Councillors should not be asked to vote on a strategy of this magnitude without confidence that the process has been fair, accurate, policy compliant and genuinely informed by the agricultural sector," she said.

Gippsland sheep farmer fined for animal cruelty

A GIPPSLAND sheep farmer has been fined following charges of animal cruelty at the Korumburra Magistrates Court recently.

Julian Beasley was fined \$2500 as part of an aggregate sentence and ordered to pay \$144.60 in statutory costs.

The charges stem from a 2024 investigation by Agriculture Victoria at a Berry's Creek farm, where authorised officers found a mob of sheep without sufficient feed or pasture.

One sheep from the mob was also observed carrying more than 250mm of wool, indicating that it hadn't been shorn for more than two years.

Subsequent visits to the farm indicated further welfare concerns, which Mr Beasley failed to act on despite officers issuing two Notices to Comply under the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals Act 1986.

Agriculture Victoria Compliance Manager Daniel Bode said livestock owners have a moral and legal responsibility to care for animals under their control.

"Victorians have a reasonable expectation that livestock will be cared for by those in charge of them. Sheep require specific treatment to remain healthy and to protect them from pain, injury and disease. Shearing your sheep is critical to reduce the risk of flystrike, impaired vision, and their wool getting stained," Mr Bode said.

In imposing the fine, Magistrate Starvaggi said, despite Mr Beasley's unblemished record and poor health, the offences were extremely serious, and the sheep were enduring "catastrophic circumstances".

Anyone wishing to make a specific complaint in regard to livestock welfare can contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or aw.complaint@agriculture.vic.gov.au

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Kuch Grazing, Darriman (NUTRIEN)

200 Angus steers, 17-18 mths

Landfall blood, MH/IBR Vacc, EU & NE Accred

Mount Angus Stud, Trafalgar (NUTRIEN)

83 Angus steers, 20-21 mths

Pert, Dunoonan, Rennylea & Pathfinder sires

By Merdeduke Quarterback & Rennylea bulls

5in1 10/25, drenched June 25 proimax, NE Accred, ex condition, very quiet

A & A Bressan, Rancey (NUTRIEN)

50 Angus steers, 16-18 mths

20 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths

Von Pace Past, Giffard (NUTRIEN)

60 Angus steers, 15-16 mths

Innesdale & Absolute Angus blood

B & P Svenson, Berry's Creek (NUTRIEN)

50 Angus steers, 16-18 mths

Millah Murrah blood

Ironbar Investments, Kilcunda (NUTRIEN)

50 Angus & BB steers, 18 mths

Local Dist bred

P & J Scott, Kongwak (NUTRIEN)

45 Angus steers, 15-16 mths

By Black Spur Angus bulls, NE Accred

Elm Valley, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)

38 Angus steers, 15 mths

NE Accred & Kunuma blood

Coonmoor Pastoral (NUTRIEN)

35 Angus steers, 17-18 mths

Landfall blood, NE Accred

B Woolfe, Traralgon (NUTRIEN)

33 Angus & BB steers, 22 mths, SG Bred

Paul F/T, Tyers (NUTRIEN)

21 Angus steers, 22 mths, SG bred

F & B Stahl, Inverloch (SEJ)

30 Angus steers, 2 yo

(Property Sold)

Golden Hill, Arthurs Creek (NUTRIEN)

23 Angus steers, 21-22 mths

Pathfinder & Adameluka blood, GF

SP Dunlop, Middle Tarwin (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 18 mths

Black Spur blood

DE & M Lee, Bushy Park (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 16-17 mths

Kunuma blood

TG & RE Rees, Strzelecki (PHC)

18 Poll Hereford m/s, 15-16 mths

A & B Wilkin, Mirboo (NUTRIEN)

16 Murray Grey steers, 15-16 mths

NE Accred

C E Semmens & K Shotter, Fulham (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus dteers, 16-17 mths

Harris & Bowman blood, NE Accred

RW & HJ Harrison, Arawata (NUTRIEN)

15 Hereford steers, 18 mths

L Osbourne, Glengarry (NUTRIEN)

14 Angus steers, 16 mths, SG bred

R & E Newnham, Sale (NUTRIEN)

14 Black Baldy steers, 18 mths

Innesdale blood

McQueston Farms, Kurnot (SEJ)

12 Angus Friesian X steers, 18-20 mths, AF & GF

GROWN HEIFERS

Reality Grazing, Stony Creek (NUTRIEN)

56 Angus/BB Heifers, 16-18 mths

Western district & Gippsland bred

16 Angus X mixed sex, 16-18 mths

High Voltage Consultancy, Flynn (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus heifers, 14-16 mths

Leewood blood, drenched Cydectin Platinum plus & Multimin Evolution 15/12/25

Von Pace Past, Giffard (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus heifers, 15-16 mths

Innesdale & Absolute Angus blood

A & B Wilkin, Mirboo (NUTRIEN)

14 Murray Grey heifers, 15-16 mths,

NE Accred

S & B McConnachie, Langwarrin (NUTRIEN)

10 Angus heifers, 14 mths

WEANERS

McLeod Partnership, Yarram (PHC)

75 Angus & Angus x mixed sex weaners, Landfall & Ardrossan blood, Paddock Weaned 20/1

T & P P/L, Narracan (NUTRIEN)

50 Angus m/s calves, 11-12 mths

Merlewood blood, weaned GF

Bulleondurra, Mirboo North (NUTRIEN)

50 Angus steers, 12-13 mths

Weaned, GF & AF

M Breen, Middle Tarwin (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus steers, 10-11 mths

By Leewood stud bulls, weaned

Peacock Rural Holdings, Hallston (NUTRIEN)

35 Angus heifers, 10 mths

Weaned, VB, GF, AF & NE Accred

Julander Partnership, Lance Creek (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 10-11 mths

By Leewood & West Creek bulls, weaned

Elm Valley, Tarwin Lower (NUTRIEN)

17 Angus heifers, 12-13 mths

NE Accred & Kunuma blood

J Savage, Narracan (NUTRIEN)

15 Poll Hereford steers, 10-12 mths

AM Rizza, Caldermeade (NUTRIEN)

12 Angus & Angus/Hereford X steers, 10-11 mths,

weaned

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Buffalo Pastoral, Buffalo (SEJ)

21 Angus X cows

26 Charolais X cows

14 Hereford X cows

PTIC to Stud Dunoon & Fernhill Bulls

Rhyll hot water systems to switch from night to day in solar trial



Community members at Rhyll Hall information session.

UP to 60 Rhyll households will have their hot water heating shifted from overnight to daytime hours from March 1 as part of a 12-month trial.

The trial, a partnership between community group Totally Renewable Phillip Island and energy distributor AusNet, will use smart meters to automatically switch electric hot water systems from the current overnight window of 11pm to 7am to daytime operation between 9am and 3pm.

An early morning boost period from 4am to 6am will remain.

The idea is to use rooftop solar energy generated during the day rather than drawing on coal-fired power at night.

TRPI chair Simon Helps said residents had been receptive.

"When you explain that we're simply using the sun to heat water during the day instead of coal-fired power at night, residents immediately get it," Mr Helps said.

The switch will be done remotely

through smart meters at no cost to residents and with no action required from households.

AusNet manager of grid evolution Ana Erceg said the trial would test an approach that could be expanded across the network.

"We're excited to support TRPI's vision and test an approach that could be scaled across our network," Ms Erceg said.

TRPI ran information stalls at Rhyll Twilight Markets in December and January and held a public session at Rhyll Community Hall on January 24.

TRPI has previously secured seven neighbourhood batteries from the first tranche of the state government's battery program.

A final drop-in session will be held at Rhyll Community Hall on Saturday, February 21 from 11am to 12.30pm.

For more information, follow Totally Renewable Phillip Island on Facebook.

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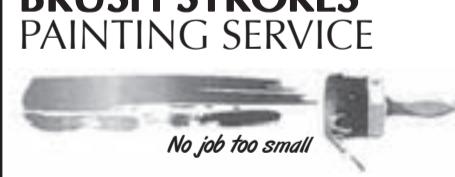
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VALENTINE GREETINGS

To my favourite DJ, Happy Valentines to my Charles from your Camilla.
Love you heaps from the hills forever and a day

DEATHS

BISCHOFF, Rolf August:

Passed away February 1, 2026.
Dearly loved husband of Pat (dec.).
Brother of Christel in Germany.
Now at peace with his adored Pat.

In accordance with Rolf's wishes, privately cremated.

HALL, Julie:

Passed away peacefully on February 5, after a long and courageous battle.
Now finally at peace.
Beloved wife of Stuart, cherished and devoted mother of Kurt and Jarrod, loving mother-in-law to Karlie and Jenna, and adored grandmother to Rhien, Jonah, Luke, Ellie, Harry and Sam.
Julie will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew and loved her.

Please go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au for memorial service details.

HANSCH, William Richard 'Bill':

05.10.1954 - 03.02.2026.
Behind my smiles there are many thoughts and tears, remembering you is easy but the pain of losing you never goes away.

Deep are the memories and special they stay.

I love you - Chris.

A PRIVATE BURIAL WILL BE HELD.

LINDSAY, Colin:

19.10.1941 - 03.02.2026.
Beloved husband of Helen (dec.).

Loving father of Jessica and Ryan, father-in-law and mate to Jess.
Special friend of Pennie-ann.

Adored Pop of Cooper, Imogen, Oliver and Maverick.

Treasured brother of Brian, Joan and Daryl and their families.

Reunited with Helen, together in Heaven forever.

As per Colin's wishes a private cremation will be held.

DEATHS

LINDSAY, Colin:

Loved brother and brother-in-law of Daryl and Ellen. Loving uncle of Michael and Michelle (dec.) and their families.
Colin, The Sunday Sippers will miss you. Sometimes simple words say it best, thank you for all the memories of love and friendship you gave us. We will treasure these always.

LINDSAY, Colin:

19.10.1941 - 03.02.2026.
Much loved brother-in-law of Heather and Rob.

Loving uncle Col of Kane and Nush, Luke and Pip, Joel and Nat.

Great uncle of Millicent and Edwin, Emmeline and Lucinda.

Reunited with Helen.

Col will always be loved and remembered by us all.

MORESCO, Tony:

24.06.1941 - 06.02.2026.
Loved son of Dorothy and Tullio (both dec.).

Partner to Tommy (dec.).

Brother to Brian, Ray, Neil, Geoffrey, Graeme (dec.), Irene and Kay.

Brother-in-law to Lynette, Rita and Peter.

A beautiful soul, never forgotten.

A big thank you to Clinton for the dedicated care and support he gave to his uncle.

Please go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au for funeral details.

PETERS, Gordon William John:

04.07.1943 - 31.01.2026.

Former owner of Revolution Fibreglass.

Passed away suddenly and peacefully surrounded by his family.

Loved husband of Sue. Loving Dad to Andrew and Meagan and dearly loved by their families.

For service and livestreaming details go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au.

LINDSAY, Colin:

19.10.1941 - 03.02.2026.
Beloved husband of Helen (dec.).

Loving father of Jessica and Ryan, father-in-law and mate to Jess.

Special friend of Pennie-ann.

Adored Pop of Cooper, Imogen, Oliver and Maverick.

Treasured brother of Brian, Joan and Daryl and their families.

Reunited with Helen, together in Heaven forever.

As per Colin's wishes a private cremation will be held.

DEATHS

DEATHS

SURACE, John:

In Loving Memory of John Surace.
We are devastated to share that our cherished husband, Dad and Poppa passed away suddenly on February 2.

He was the heart of our family, the centre of our world, and we are completely lost without him.

His love, support, and strength will stay with us forever - a piece of our souls that will never be replaced.

Faye, Bree, Clint, Harlow, Rocky, Dallas, Michael, Mason, Oliver, Rory, and Emma.

SURACE, John:

29.04.1955 - 02.02.2026.
We are saddened and devastated on the passing of our dear friend John.

He was such a great man who we shall miss dearly.

Our love to Faye, Bree, Dallas, Rory and partners and his much-loved grandchildren.

Forever in our hearts.

Love, Merran, Neil, Scott and Bec, Chris, Amy and Brett, and family.

TUDDENHAM (née Cullen), Nancy:

How do I say goodbye to my dearest and much-loved friend of 68 years?

I will miss you so much Nance, my love and admiration for you (and our very special visits and phone calls) will be with me forever.

My deepest sympathy to Vin, Neil, Robbie and families.

I say goodbye Nance, with a broken heart - Maus.

YEOMAN, Cyril John: "John"

25.01.1935 - 04.02.2026.
Husband of Dorothy Yeoman (dec.).

Father to Dawn, Janet (dec.), Steven, Annmarie and Rodney.

Grandfather and great grandfather.

Forever in our hearts.

FUNERALS

GILL:

A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Anne Penuel Gill will be held at the Kilcunda Bass Football Netball Club, Saturday, February 28th commencing at 12noon.

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE 12 NOON MONDAYS

FUNERALS

SURACE:

Funeral Prayers for Mr. John Vincent Surace will be offered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Guy Road, Korumburra on Friday, February 13, 2026, commencing at 11:30am.

A Private family burial will follow.

Please wear something bright and colourful, that's exactly what he would have wanted.

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LEGAL

RAYMOND ORAM, deceased.
CREDITORS, next-of-kin and others having claims against the Estate of

RAYMOND ORAM of 21 Worthy Street, LEONGATHA VIC 3953 who died on 19 December 2024

2024 are required by the Executor **DANIEL JOHN PRIOR** to send detailed particulars of their claims to the said Executor c/- Prior Law of 28 Bair Street, LEONGATHA VIC 3953 by 14 April, 2026 after which date the Executor will proceed to distribute the said Estate having regard only to the claims of which he then has notice. Grant of Probate was obtained in Victoria on 3 June 2025.

PRIOR LAW, 28 Bair Street, Leongatha VIC 3953

MEETINGS



Notice to all animal owners in and around Korumburra area. A pyrotechnic display will be held on the Friday, February 13, 2026.

Approximately 9:15pm. Please ensure your animals are secure at this time, thank you.

Further info contact 0430 021 100

HMC15076

FIREWORKS NOTICE

Notice to all animal owners in and around Korumburra area. A pyrotechnic display will be held on the Friday, February 13, 2026.

Approximately 9:15pm. Please ensure your animals are secure at this time, thank you.

Please ensure you have your nomination forms in.

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to December 18, 2026

Applications need to be made via School Jobs Vic: www.vic.gov.au/school-jobs

Applications close: February 19, 2026



Bookkeeper

Bass Coast Team

Love what you do and where you do it! At Highview, we believe that great work starts with the right people and a supportive environment.

We're an award-winning accounting and financial advisory firm with offices across Victoria and Queensland, and we're looking for an experienced Bookkeeper to join our Bass Coast team on a part-time basis – 3 days / week minimum.

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- Public Practice experience preferred
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HM13323

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Sales Manager

Are you a community minded people person?

South Coast FM, your local community radio station is looking for a Sales Manager to help local businesses get their messages on the air. This is a fantastic lifestyle opportunity to live and work part time in a great area. You will have the freedom of Hybrid work and local travel to build relationships with our wonderful community.

South Coast FM is a radio station broadcasting to over 100,000 people across South Gippsland and Bass Coast - from the SE Suburbs and Phillip Island to Wonthaggi, Foster, Mirboo North, Leongatha & Yarram.

As a Registered Charity we believe in serving the community, come and be part of the team!

Applications close **Sunday, February 22.**

Details at southcoastfm.au apply to manager@southcoastfm.au or call the Station Manager Andre on 03 5674 1900

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VISUAL ARTS / VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN TEACHER

Part Time, permanent. VCE experience preferred.

For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven or contact Director of Business, Alan Nolan on 03 5956 7505.

Applications (cover letter and CV) to be submitted to: recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Applications close Monday 23 February

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.



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Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

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South Gippsland Bridge Club's Catherine Burton (left) and Robyn Synan (right) received the Faye Rowlands Encouragement Trophy from Faye Rowlands herself (centre) after the recent annual general meeting.

South Gippsland Bridge Club

MARY Brewis and Neville won on Monday night (59.52), in a tie with Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs.

Susan Ruffin and Alan Johnston third (56.55) and Matti Shub and John Quayle (54.17) who then blitzed Tuesday's competition with a dazzling 72.4.

They were followed by Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston (56.94), Philip and Neville Chapman (55.73), Bron Sund and Mike Dooley (55.21), and Jenny Jacob and Bruce Higgs (48.44).

For the game after Friday's annual general meeting, the club played a massive 13 tables.

Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs leading (61.38), Philip and Neville Chapman (58.01), Peter Campbell and Matt Higgins (57.69), Robyn Synan and Catherine Burton (54.49) Alan Johnston and Clive Hope (53.53), and Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka (51.44) playing N/S.

Sitting E/W, Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd (62.02), Lois Dwyer and Robin Egan (58.01), Amanda Stewart and Adam Trumble (57.05). Matti Shub and John Quayle (53.69), Anne Gibson and Bron Sund (52.40), and Deb Anglim and John French (50.96).

At the end of the annual general meeting, Catherine Burton and Robyn Synan were awarded the Faye Rowlands Encouragement Trophy by the originator of the award.

Well done to both relatively new players.

Phillip Island Bridge Club

THE bridge tables were buzzing on Monday, as seven teams vied for top honours.

The North/South pairing of Jean Barbour and Greg Nicholson took out the win with an impressive 59.52 per cent, while the East/West duo of Bronwyn Sund and Anne Gibson emerged victorious on their side with 55.65 per cent.

The night concluded on a high note, as players gathered for a social dinner at the Wooli Tavern.

Midweek, attention turned to the Nationwide competition that saw five tables compete.

It was Judy O'Connell and Lorrie Read, clinching first place with a score of 61.57 per cent.

SGYC Eastern Region Regatta

THE Eastern Region Regatta was hosted by South Gippsland Yacht Club at Inverloch over the weekend with club members competing against visitors from the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club and Port Albert Yacht Club.

Two races were held after the south-easterly change came through at midday. Overall winners were Peter Kiely A Division, Matthew Kiely B Division and Tanith Ryan C Division.

The Eastern Region Regatta Perpetual trophy was won by South Gippsland Yacht Club.

Big Build delays threaten local martial arts clubs

By Bruce Wardley

TWO Heenan Taekwondo martial arts clubs in Wonthaggi and Inverloch are under threat because of a prolonged delay in the state government's Big Build program at Pakenham.

Major roadworks to relieve local bottlenecks, improve traffic flow and make journeys easier and safer in Pakenham have adversely affected Heenan Taekwondo martial arts.

"Pakenham is our main operation, it's the headquarters," said owner James Heenan.

Contractors have been on the job for four years according to Mr Heenan causing major disruption and prolonged road closures which have impacted their small family business. Heenan Taekwondo was established in 1999 and has two clubs in Inverloch and Wonthaggi as well as the full-time martial arts centre in Pakenham.

"Without Pakenham the associated clubs on the Bass Coast will be forced to shut down," said Mr Heenan.

"Wonthaggi has been operating since 2015 and Inverloch since 2018."

Cassandra and James Heenan want their complaints heard in Spring Street.

"We've had discussions with state Liberal leader Jess Wilson and Eastern Victoria Liberal MP Renee Heath, and were encouraged to start a petition," said Mr Heenan.



Cassandra and James Heenan from Heenan Taekwondo fear Big Build delays in Pakenham could threaten their martial arts clubs in Wonthaggi and Inverloch. B01_0626

The couple's Urgent Financial Relief Needed Due To Road Closures petition on Change.org has already attracted more than 1000 signatures.

The Heenans are not alone. The \$415.7 million Pakenham Roads Upgrade has been under construction since early 2023 with major works not due for completion until mid-2026. Other Pakenham traders have reported similar trade losses, with some businesses forced to cut staff and reduce opening hours as road closures and detours discourage customers from visiting the area.

"The business which I have

poured my heart and soul into is weeks away from closing down because of a staggering 70 per cent decrease in sales directly resulting from the ongoing roadworks and prolonged road closures," he said.

said Mr Heenan.

"I'm not alone in this struggle, many of my fellow business owners face similar challenges, watching helplessly as our livelihoods are threatened. In recent months, extensive roadworks have all but crippled the flow of customers to our businesses. The road closures and diversions discourage foot and vehicular traffic, leaving our bustling street eerily quiet. It's a stark contrast to the thriving community we once experienced, and as days turn into weeks, the financial strain grows unbearable," he said.

"We call upon local authorities, government officials, and relevant stakeholders to recognise the urgency of this issue. It is vital that financial assistance programs be established to support businesses affected by these

roadworks. Compensation for loss of revenue, grants, or low-interest loans could provide the lifeline so many of us desperately need until the roadworks are complete."

Big Build Victoria has already indicated they will reject the petition because it is not in the government's required format according to Mr Heenan.

"Now we have to start again."

Mr Heenan said Heenan Taekwondo had 120 loyal students aged from three to 68 including special needs students, para-athletes, students from the Gippsland Sports Academy and school kids and their parents.

Mr Heenan said he had taken students overseas to compete in Korea and Vietnam.

"We go to Korea every year," Mr Heenan said.

"It's pretty important that communities come together," said Cassandra Heenan.

"Without community sport what do the kids do? We're trying to promote opportunities for small regional towns so there are pathways for the young generation to follow."

Ms Heenan said they had a number of special needs students that aren't involved in mainstream sports and come to the club because they feel part of a team.

The Urgent Financial Relief Needed Due To Road Closures petition can be found at change.org/p/urgent-financial-relief-needed-due-to-road-closures.

Brann crowned Gippsland's best after standout season

WONTHAGGI Club captain-coach Joel Brann has capped off an outstanding representative season by claiming the Alan Rankin Memorial Trophy as the 2025-26 Gippsland Cricketer of the Year.

The award recognises the most outstanding player across the Gippsland Cricket League representative competition.

Brann was presented with the trophy by Gippsland Cricket president Brendan O'Loughlin after leading the

Leongatha and District Cricket Association through its GCL campaign.

His consistent performances across the season also earned him selection in the GCL Team of the Season.

Brann was not the only Wonthaggi Club player recognised, with teammate Jakeb Thomas also named in the GCL Team of the Season.

"A great result for both players and a proud moment to see our players performing and being recognised at the

highest level of Gippsland cricket," the club said.

The GCL brings together representative sides from five associations across the region including the LDCA, Cricket Latrobe Valley, Sale-Maffra, Bairnsdale and Warragul.

RIGHT: Wonthaggi Club captain-coach Joel Brann with the Alan Rankin Memorial Trophy after being named the 2025-26 Gippsland Cricketer of the Year.



Hungry Cats get the South Gippsland Kookas in gutsy cricket win

FACING a long bus trip on Sunday to Geelong, the South Gippsland Over 60s fronted up to the strong Geelong team on the turf, lost the toss and had to take the field.

The bodies must have still been a bit stiff as Geelong, despite a good catch at first slip to Gaz, raced out of the blocks.

However, some tight bowling and terrific fielding brought the Kookas back into the game as Geelong lost five wickets to be 5/93.

Geelong regrouped and took their score to 9/174 after their allotted 40 overs.

Wicket takers were Adams 3/22 off eight, Loos 2/31 off eight and Whiteside 1/46 off eight.

Fielding was exceptional with three direct hit runouts courtesy of Richards, Loos and Gaz.

A good score to chase but the Kookas' spirits, initially high, dropped when suddenly they were 4/17 off six overs.

Gaz 26, Phil Richards 22 not out and Mick Whiteside 17 got some respectability back and the master blaster Peter Loos hit a hard 42 retired at the end to enable South Gippsland to reach a creditable 143.

Not a bad effort considering their staggering start.

Man of the match awards went to Owen Brew of Geelong for his 3/11 off six overs when he created chaos early and to Peter Loos for his all-round performance.

All in all a great day with no rain, good cricket and lots of stories on the long bus trip home.

RIGHT: Peter Loos was in everything for the South Gippsland Over 60s at Geelong over the weekend, earning him man of the match honours.



Inverloch speedcubing event draws in global legend

By Trent Westaway

CLICKING sounds echoed throughout the Inverloch Community Hub over the weekend as competitors from all over Australia and even beyond its borders came to town for Inverloch's third official World Cube Association speedcubing tournament.

Held on Saturday and Sunday the event now in its third year felt more special than ever thanks to the presence of speedcubing legend Feliks Zemdegs.

The 30-year-old Melbourne native is widely recognised as a pioneer of modern speedcubing.

He has set more than 350 records worldwide including 121 world records and still holds national records in five separate categories.

He even has a Netflix documentary about him titled *The Speed Cubers*.

Organiser Monique Williams said his presence was fantastic for the younger demographic with many getting the opportunity to witness their hero in action.

"It's a bit like if David Beckham turned up to a local soccer match," she said.

This year the hub hosted 51 competitors ranging in age from as young as eight to as old as 56.

Participants came from far and wide including across Victoria, interstate and even overseas with one participant visiting from China.

The competition had



Speedcubing legend Feliks Zemdegs was in attendance for Inverloch's third World Cube Association speedcubing tournament, pictured solving a 3x3x3 cube in under six seconds. W15_0626

multiple categories from the most popular 3x3x3 cube to 2x2x2, 4x4x4 and 5x5x5 as well as blindfolded events, pyraminx, megaminx and more.

Ms Williams said the spirit of the event was inclusive by nature.

"Everyone who competes has a world ranking and every solve is official," she said.

"You might have someone solving a cube in three minutes sitting next to someone solving it in six seconds.

"They judge for each other, they time for each other, they scramble the cubes.

"It's all about community."

The event is run by Speedcubing Australia, a volunteer-run organisation that works with the World Cube Association to deliver sanctioned competitions where competitors can have their scores

officially recorded.

Delegates travel to Inverloch to provide equipment and help ensure results are recorded properly.

The event began three years ago when Ms Williams' son Harvey asked Speedcubing Australia if Inverloch could host its own tournament.

"He'd been going around Australia to tournaments and just wanted one locally," she said.

"So we spoke to Speedcubing Australia and got it off the ground."

Ms Williams said local representation continues to grow with competitors from Inverloch, Wonthaggi, Mirboo North and Phillip Island taking part.

Local cuber Oliver Thomas from Wonthaggi had a great moment at the tournament

setting a new personal best single in the 3x3x3, solving it in under 10.3 seconds.

Roman Rudakov, 15, from North Melbourne set a new Australian record in the megaminx event solving it in 27 seconds.

A megaminx is a 12-sided dodecahedron-shaped version of the Rubik's Cube.

Despite now holding the national record in that category Roman said the 2x2x2 remains his strongest event where he currently sits third in Australia and 25th in the world.

Feliks said it was great to see competitions reaching regional communities.

"When I started there were only a few comps in Melbourne and Sydney," he said.

"Now it's everywhere."

"Every school probably has a few kids into cubing."

"Having regional comps means people don't have to travel far to be part of it."

He said the growth of cubing could be attributed to its simple and rewarding loop.

"You practise, you get better, you learn more and you enjoy that process," he said.

"You can really see the payoff when you put work into it."

He also had some advice for newcomers.

"Practice is number one," he said.

"And when you start don't try to turn as fast as the world record videos."

"Focus on being smooth and calm."

"That goes a long way."

Johnson and Taylor claim longboard titles at Cat Bay

PHILLIP Island Boardriders Club held its third longboard competition at Cat Bay on Saturday and scored sensational conditions.

Longboard director Nala Taylor made the call to start the contest later in the day to wait for the incoming tide allowing the public to enjoy the bay in the morning.

Competitors were judged on nose riding and rail surfing, use of the critical section of the wave, variety of manoeuvres, commitment and control and overall footwork.

Luke Johnson delivered a standout performance to claim victory in the Open Men's division showing remarkable composure and executing critical nose rides throughout his heats.

His mastery on the front of the board also earned him the Best Nose Ride Award.

In the Open Women's division

Taylor impressed judges and spectators with her commitment and stylish toes-over-the-nose riding to claim a well-deserved win.

Mark Letts secured the top spot in the Style Masters division expertly picking off the long lefts and riding them all the way to shore.

The Best Cut Back Award went to Timmi Ungar.

"With such fierce competition in the men's draw it feels incredible to make the podium in such spectacular conditions," finalist Zev Landes said.

Results

Open Men: 1. Luke Johnson (17.50) 2. Timmi Ungar (9.63) 3. Zev Landes (8.17).

Open Women: 1. Nala Taylor (11.83) 2. Jacquie Chambers (8.77) 3. Lucy Camenzuli (7.50).

Style Masters: 1. Mark Letts (13.36) 2. Andrew Lindsey (13.00) 3. Tim Corney (7.40).



Open Men's winner Luke Johnson executes a nose ride at Cat Bay on Saturday. Photo: Andrew Lindsey.

TIDE GUIDE

TIDAL PREDICTIONS FROM PORT PHILLIP HEADS

Approx. Tide Variations: Seal Rocks, Venus Bay, Waratah Bay and Cape Woolamai (Same), Tooradin +2hrs 45, Cowes Pier +50, Stony Point +40

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
February 10	February 11	February 12	February 13	February 14	February 15	February 16
6:12am 1.50m	12:30am 0.66m	1:07am 0.74m	2:47am 0.81m	2:34am 0.89m	3:35am 0.94m	4:57am 0.95m
12:24pm 0.30m	6:42am 1.45m	7:14am 1.39m	7:51am 1.32m	8:38am 1.26m	9:40am 1.20m	10:57am 1.17m
7:14pm 1.45m	12:58pm 0.33m	1:34pm 0.36m	2:15pm 0.41m	3:04pm 0.45m	4:08pm 0.48m	5:25pm 0.48m
			8:43pm 1.35m	9:38pm 1.31m		11:49pm 1.30m

SGB swimmers make splash at All Juniors Gippsland finals

SOUTH Gippsland Bass swimmers made a big splash at the All Juniors Gippsland finals at Warragul Leisure Centre on Saturday with 83 competitors making the club the equal biggest at the meet.

Only host club Warragul had more swimmers on deck with 84 as 323 young competitors from seven Gippsland clubs descended on the pool for one of the season's biggest events.

It was a breakthrough moment for many of the club's youngest members with eight and nine-year-olds taking on the 50-metre pool in all four strokes for the first time at a major competition. The nerves were high but the youngsters dazzled with their determination.

Older SGB squad members helped the younger swimmers settle in and cheered them on from the pool deck.

The day started with standout efforts in the time trials including swimmers who achieved qualifying times for the National Championships later this year.

The top eight in each stroke for the eight to 16 age groups who have not won a medal at country or state level will head to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Saturday, March 21 for the Country All Junior semi-finals.

Approximately three quarters of those who competed qualified for MSAC which is a terrific achievement for the region.

There was plenty of excitement from the younger swimmers when they discovered they had qualified to swim at MSAC, a venue they associate with the big kids.

The growing interest in adult swimming continued with several heats contested in the Masters events.

SGB's strong showing follows a successful 2026 Mattioli Country LC Championships in Geelong last month where the club's 71-strong team finished fourth overall against the best of regional Victoria.

The clubs have one more event at Moe on February 21 before the Gippsland Championships are held from March 7 to 9.

Fierce but friendly competition at the GSI 11

GSI 11 was hosted by East Gippsland Water Dragons at Sale recently. A collaboration between East Gippsland and Sale swimming clubs, with 167 swimmers enjoying a day of outdoor racing, including the 10 SGB swimmers, with plenty of personal bests, getting some qualifying times for upcoming events such as Nationals, as well as getting in some practice before school swimming.

The swimmers will return in just more than a month for the Gippsland Championships, so it was a chance for many of the younger swimmers to increase their familiarity with the pool, including racing in a 50m pool. The clubs were thankful to the officials for making it happen.

This event was a chance for those swimmers from the East of Gippsland to have a close meet, with 51 East Gippsland Water Dragons competing, as it's not often that they get to be the biggest club.

There were also plenty of parents competing - it looks like there will be some great over-35 relays with plenty of Sale Swimming Club parents getting another GSI ticked off, so they can compete. With several Masters swimming groups training throughout the region, there will be some fierce but friendly competition.

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au



The Jack Attack winners at the Foster Bowls Club were the Low Rollers, Taj, Nicole and Tania.



Thursday's South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners were Shirl Corcoran (3), Aggie Gratton (2), Bev Hyslop (L) and Phil Wright (S).



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Turkey Triples winners were Peter Forrest, Marilyn Forrest and Lindsey Meredith from Phillip Island.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

FRIDAY has passed and another team of worthy winners.

The winners were Jan Murphy, Helen Gladstone and Les Stanbury.

They won with +16, a great win.

FISH CREEK

WHAT a great weekend for the Fishy bowls club.

An excellent achievement to see all teams make the finals next Saturday.

Division 2 played second placed Meeniyian and had a convincing win 66/14 to 53/2.

Bill Symmons' rink won 32 to 17, Rob Mortlock won 22 to 20 and Scott Jennings narrowly went down 12 to 16.

This now sees Fish Creek host the second semi which will be against Meeniyian again.

It would be great to see as many supporters there as possible.

Division 4 had to win against Korumburra to finish top four and recorded a big win 68/14 to 51/2.

Rob Poletti's rink won 25 to 12, Bron Williams won 26 to 16 and the Heywoods just falling short 17 to 23.

Fish Creek now plays at Wonthaggi in a knockout final.

Division 6 finished the season strongly and defeated Mirboo North 44/10 to 36/0.

Kelvin Flanders' rink won 22/16 and Fritz McKenzie won 22/20.

Fish Creek now finish second and play at Wonthaggi with a chance of going straight into the grand final.

Congratulations to all sides.

Midweek last Tuesday saw Division 2 defeat Phillip Island 57/14 to 47/2.

Wendy and Bronwyn having the winning rinks.

Fish Creek will also qualify for finals with the last round played on Sunday.

Bad luck story goes to the Division 4 midweek who played Leongatha and lost on the last end on each rink which saw the club go down by three shots 38 to 41.

Fish Creek now can't reach finals but it has been a successful first year for Division 4.

Barefoot bowls continues to thrive and last week's winners were Deb Cooper, Peter Cook and Phil Cornwall, proudly sponsored by Southern Stockfeeds and Brandt.

Last Friday saw a tremendous night at the club with the men's and ladies' pairs final.

It was a great atmosphere viewing from the new elevated deck, which would be as good a facility as any for the area.

The monthly barbecue followed.

In the men's, Bruce Cooper and Bokka O'Keeffe defeated Bill Symmons and Fritz McKenzie who substituted for Ian Eddy.

It was a quality game of bowls with Bill and Fritz getting away

to an early lead but Bruce and Bokka fought back and claimed the title 19 to 14 shots.

The ladies was played between Wendy Watkins and Anne Cowell against Linda Heywood and Bronwyn Williams.

Once again, Wendy and Anne jumped away to a good lead, but Bron and Linda fought hard late but could not make up the leeway with final scores also 19 to 14.

The mixed pairs draw has been done, and early matches need to be completed within the next 10 days or so.

Also, Fish Creek is looking for more names in the 21-up competition.

Good bowling next Saturday to all sides.

FOSTER

THURSDAY, January 29, was the Cellarbrations at Foster sponsored three-bowl Triples event.

It was an all-round great day on the green.

Winners were the Foster team of Sue, Kelvin and Ian.

Runners up were the Fish Creek team of Rob Poletti, Bill Symmons and Mal Heywood.

Best Game prizes went to the Morwell team of Ron, Max and fill-in Matt Gallagher of Welshpool.

The encouragement prizes went to the Foster team of John Warren, Dave Hutchinson and Daryl Talmash.

This is another annual event that will be added to the calendar of events.

There was a full field again last week at Jack Attack.

The club is into the second week of the competition, and a lot of excellent bowling is being seen.

Winners on the night were the Low Rollers, Taj, Nicole and Tania, winning vouchers from another new sponsor jumping on board in Aherns Fruit Market.

Many thanks Josh and the team.

Runners up, winning the chocolate prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens were BMF, with Dion, Jen and Stu.

There was lots of fun with all the raffles as usual.

It was another great night for everyone.

See you all back next week.

INVERLOCH

WEDNESDAY saw the Community Bowls competition start up again.

The enjoyment on bowlers' faces was quite noticeable.

They obviously had been missing the competition.

Thursday social bowls was well attended again.

Winners on the day with two wins and 22 shots up were Mean Price, Chris Nevill, Gary Cantwell and Keith Cousens (skip).

Runners up on two wins and 16 shots up were Gay Higgins,

Peter Gentsch, Liz Jacobs and Phil Price (skip).

The hard luck story for the day was the team of Roger Wittingslow, Jill Edwards, Greg Edwards, Richard Huntriss and Daryl McStravick (skip).

KORUMBURRA

WITH the Pennant season drawing to a close, it has been a somewhat disappointing season in the penultimate week of home and away.

Midweek Division 1 travelled to Corinella.

Ben Peachey had a 21 all draw. Katrina Evans won 16 shots to 14.

Unfortunately, Grumpy went down 23 shots to 12.

In Division 2, the team travelled to Meeniyian.

Jim Garnham lost 18 shots to 22, Geoff Barber won 28 shots to 19 and Peter Hearn lost 20 shots to 13.

In Saturday Pennant, Robert Cosson lost 22 shots to 16, Charlie Edgerton won 18 shots to 15 and Shane O'Loughlin lost 13 shots to 27.

Division 3 travelled to Foster with Grumpy the only winner, getting up 23 shots to 18.

Rob Sund went down 24 shots to 12 and Garry Dorling went down 20 shots to 11.

Division 4 travelled to Fish Creek.

Ben Peachey won 23 shots to 17, Alan Cherrett lost 25 shots to 12 and Wayne Blogg lost 26 shots to 16.

Division 6 hosted Lang Lang.

Jo Lomagno went down 26 shots to seven and Mick Manning won 21 shots to eight.

With Division 6 the only team to make the finals, all players are asked to come and support them next Saturday at home.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

SIXTY-FOUR bowlers turned up at Loch on Thursday, February 5, for the weekly meeting of the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group.

The bowlers were welcomed by the club president John Nicholson while Bev and Vern Elliott organised the teams for the day.

Once the bowlers were told their teams and went to the green the weekly challenge began on a warm and humid day.

As usual a few wrong bias bowls resulted in a donation to the Royal Children's Hospital tin.

The winners this week were Shirl Corcoran (3), Aggie Gratton (2), Bev Hyslop (L) and Phil Wright (S) 38.

Runners up were Bill Sherriff (S), Margaret McConville (L), Max Summers (3) and Robert Benson (2) 36 points.

Best one game winners were Mick Sheers (S), Alison Devine (L), Helen Blake (3) and Derek Fenn (2) 19 points.

A big thank you to Alex for setting up the green.

Also, a big thanks to Trevor for manning the bar and to Robyn and Sally for looking after the kitchen and cleaning up afterwards.

Next week on Thursday, February 12, the group will be meeting up at Corinella 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.

With 64 bowlers attending this week and a capacity of only 56, there will have to be strict on a 10am cut off time.

The club looks forward to your attendance again next week.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another busy week at the club.

Tuesday saw Division 1 play host to Inverloch at Wonthaggi on a fine, sunny day.

With both teams in the top four, it was always going to be a close match.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 53, Inverloch 62.

Division 2 travelled to Inverloch looking for a win.

The match was decided on the last bowl of the day.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 52, Inverloch 56.

Division 3 drove to Foster looking to keep second place on the ladder, but the day didn't go as planned.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 51, Foster 74.

Tuesday night saw a good number enjoy barefoot bowls on a fine, warm evening.

Wednesday was Turkey Triples Day.

With both greens full, the day was a great result for the club.

At the end of the day, only two teams were able to win all four games.

The winners were a team from Phillip Island - Peter Forrest, Marilyn Forrest and Lindsey Meredith - with four wins and plus 20 shots.

The runners up were a team from Korumburra - Wayne, Ken and Neil - with four wins and plus 16 shots.

Best game went to a team from Wonthaggi - Wayne, Scott and George - with a score of 16 shots up.

The NABA award went to a team from Phillip Island - Curtis, Alan and Wayne.

Thursday social bowls at 9.30am saw a good number of bowlers enjoy a bowl and lunch.

Social bowls at 1pm saw a smaller number of bowlers, with many looking for a rest after two days of bowls.

Three-bowl pairs were the order of the day over two games of 10 ends.

There were two teams that were two-game winners, with the winners being Alan Lowe and Lyn Tagell with two wins and 33

points.

The runners up were Frank Tagell and Steve Bruynen with two wins and 31 points.

Friday night was a success, with a good number of members there to enjoy the night.

The members jackpot didn't go off, so next week it will be \$70.

Stan was a happy meat tray winner, while Roger won the chicken tray.

Maggi and Trevor each won a brekky pack.

Other winners were Dennis, Mal and Wayne.

Saturday saw Division 1 travel to Inverloch looking for a win to retain second place on the ladder, recording a good result. The final scores were Wonthaggi 62, Inverloch 49.

Division 2 played host to Inverloch at Wonthaggi on a warm, sunny day with a slight breeze.

All rinks played well to retain third place on the ladder.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 74, Inverloch 46.

Division 4 (3) travelled to Foster looking to retain top place on the ladder.

All rinks did enough to keep first place on the ladder.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 47, Foster 53.

Division 4 (4) played host to Inverloch at Wonthaggi looking for a win to keep third place on the ladder.

All rinks played well to record a good win. The final scores were Wonthaggi 56, Inverloch 49.

Division 6 played host to Inverloch at Wonthaggi looking for a win to keep first place on the ladder.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 41, Inverloch 31.

Bowls this week:

Tuesday: Pennant.

Tuesday night: Barefoot Bowls at 6pm - doors open at 4pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 9.30am.

Thursday: Social bowls at 1pm.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Pennant finals.

Don't forget the Friday night members draw, which will be \$70 this week, plus meat trays and other prizes to win.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT was another great week with 48 bowlers playing over the two days.

Winners on Tuesday with +20 (two games) were Theo Scholey, Judy Sweetnam and Maggie Scapin.

Runners up with +19 (two games) were Carol Thorp, Robert McLaren and Fred Demenech.

Friday saw just one team win both games.

The team included Mary Spooner, Ray McCurry and Max Sweetnam with a score of +8 (two games).

Runners up with one win and a draw (+3) were Theo Scholey, Lia Smith and Fred Demenech.



South Gippsland Golf Inc's Maree Anderson Opening Day winners and runners up were Kay Dumbleton (Leongatha), Dianne Maskell and Trudy Olden (Korumburra) Jo Graeme and Irene Holm (Meeniyan), and Louise Vuillerm and Tanya Thorson (Meeniyan). Absent: Michelle Roberts (Leongatha).



Korumburra's Opening Day Ambrose winning team included Lyn Leppin, Barb Twite, Lyn McIvor and Maree Wittingslow.

KORUMBURRA

TUESDAY, February 3: Stableford: 42 players. A Grade winner: Greg Wilson (13) 41 points.

B Grade winner: Peter McMaster (30) 40 points.

NTPs: first Fletcher McLennan, seventh Mick Bull, 10th Brian Brown and 13th Pete Wallace.

Thursday, February 5: Stableford: 20 players. A Grade winner: Guy Fields (5) 36 points.

B Grade winner: Wayne Knights (19) 43 points.

NTPs: first Steve Duffield, seventh Iain Riddell, 10th Chris McConnell and 13th Barry Kerr.

Saturday, February 7: Monthly Medal and first round of Club Championships: 70 players.

Monthly Medal winner: Dave Enbom (18) 64 net.

A Grade winner: Billy Wrigley (4) 69 net.

Scratch winner: Billy Wrigley (4) 73 C/B.

NTPs: first Zac Scholte, seventh Jack Clink, 10th Greg Shuttlesworth and 13th Jake Cochrane.

Ladies

THE women's 2026 Opening Day on January 28 featured a three-four person Ambrose.

Winners with 60 net: Lyn Lepin, Barb Twite, Lyn McIvor and Maree Wittingslow.

Runners up 60.125 net: Karen Sorrell, Shelley Snooks, Deb Wrigley and Merrissa Cosson.

NTPs: first Julie Hillberg, 10th Deb Wrigley and 13th Gail Beer.

Saturday's Sportspower-sponsored competition winner Gail Beer (27) 44 points. Runner up Jenny Blackmore (21) 41.

BDTL: Julie Cole and Aliesha Wrigley 40, Merrissa Cosson 39.

NTPs: first Shelley Snooks, seventh Gail Beer, 10th Karen Sorrell and 13th Deb Wrigley.

Beginner/Guest Day winners:

Jenny Blackmore and Cherie Douglas; Julie Hillberg and Kim Edwards. Member/Member: Maree Wittingslow and Julie Cole.

Korumburra hosted the SGGI Maree Anderson Opening Day with 70 players. Trudy Olden and Dianne Maskell won B Grade with 48 points.

Monthly Medal winner Trudi Mantell 97(25)72 net. Runner up Kerri Besley 88(14)74 net.

BDTL: Lyn McIvor 77 net. NTPs: first Trudy Olden and seventh Kerri.

LEONGATHA

RESULTS: Tuesday, February 3. 4BBB Par, 67 entrants.

Winners: Bernard Skerys and Nicholas Byrne 10; Dave Brownett and Michael Delaney 7 c/b.

NTPs: fifth Winton Knop, 14th Jeremy de Silva and 16th Christopher Leaver.

Thursday, February 5: Icarus Skin Cancer Clinic Stableford, 81 entrants.

Overall winner: Steve Fisher (18) 39 points.

A Grade: Christopher Buckland (-1) (Yarram) 35 c/b; Nicholas Byrne (10) 35.

B Grade: Malcolm Legge (15) 36 c/b; Gordon Morrison (14) 36.

C Grade: Steve Fisher (18) 39; Matthew Pearce (19) 38.

D Grade: Bruce Clark (21) 37; Gerald Freestone (28) 36 c/b.

NTPs: fifth Ken Smirk, 14th Dave Brownett and 16th Doug Clemann.

Saturday, February 7: Pro Stroke, 73 entrants.

Overall winner: Grant McRitchie (15) -3.

A Grade: Terry Lund (9); Jeremy de Silva (8) -2.

B Grade: Grant McRitchie (15) -3; Steve Piasente (15) -1.

C Grade: Jensen Garnham (22) -2 c/b; Gerry Carcous (20) -2.

NTPs: fifth Harry Stuart, 14th Ian Blencowe and 16th Miles Wrigley.

Beginner/Guest Day winners:

Stableford, 24 entrants. Winners: Karen de Groot (35) 45 points; Anne Gibson (34) 38.

Ladies

FORTY women competed in the Stableford event last week.

B Grade winner Lianne Adamson 41 points. Runner up Leanne Costello on count back.

A Grade winner Deb Miller 41 points. Runner up Maryanne Gartner 38.

BDTL to 35: Glenyce McRobert, Anne Gibson, Sue Bowler, Chris Lay, Robin Smith, Di Williams and Karen Bear.

NTP 16th Colleen Touzel.

MEENIYAN

THE R and H Poletti 4BBB final was won by Susan Straw and Gail Browne. Runners up Andrea Thorson and Pam Erving.

Lorraine Eddy Singles Board won by Irene Holm from Louise Vuillerm.

February Medal winner Louise Vuillerm 96-36-60 net. Runner up Sue Hoskin 98-31-67 net.

Putting: Dot Christie and Sue Hoskin 30 putts.

DLB: Jan Trease 72, Dot Christie 73 and Faye Lepage 76.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, January 27: Stableford.

A Grade: G. Renwick (10) 41 c/b. B Grade: Cayden Gunn (18) 36.

DTL: B. Skinner 41, R. Felmingham, P. Cummaudo and D. Taylor 36.

NTPs: fourth G. Renwick, sixth N. Rutledge, 13th N. Lugton and 16th R. Felmingham.

Saturday, February 7: Stroke.

A Grade: P. Woodall (8) 66 net.

B Grade: S. Evison (21) 67 net.

DTL: N. Rutledge and S. McKenzie 68, S. Mills 69, M. Heiberg and N. Whichello 70.

NTP: fourth S. McInnes, sixth G. Renwick, 13th A. Liebe and 16th P. Woodall.

South Gippsland Golf Inc Maree Anderson Opening Day

SEVENTY women competed in the Opening Day 4BBB at Korumburra Golf Club last Friday. Handley and Anderson Funerals of Wonthaggi provided prizes, continuing 34 years of sponsorship.

A Grade: Kay Dumbleton and Michelle Roberts (Leongatha) 48 points. Runners up Irene Holm and Jo Graeme (Meeniyan) 47.

B Grade: Dianne Maskell and Trudy Olden (Korumburra) 48. Runners up Louise Vuillerm and Tanya Thorson (Meeniyan) 47.

BDTL to 44 points.

NTPs: first Jenny McRae (Wonthaggi), seventh Shelley Snooks (Korumburra), 10th Vicki Roff-Smith (Phillip Island) and 13th Pam Rothfield (Phillip Island).

Next district event is the SGGI Bowl at Leongatha on May 8.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: February 2. Stableford 18-hole.

Overall winner: David Bannerman 41.

A Grade: David Bannerman 41. Runner up Rod McBride 38.

B Grade: Tim Skate 41. Runner up Frank Huber 39.

DTL: Warwick Judkins 37, Martin Cox 37, Ron Shanks 36 and four others on 35.

NTPs: Stephen Kane second, Warren Drummett fourth, Ken Groves eighth, Glenn Hewlett 13th and Gary Youtten 17th.

Stableford back nine: Kevin Bayley 19.

February 7:

Monthly Medal, Stroke and putting - first round Championships.

Monthly Medal: Rod Walker 68.

A Grade: Daniel Crellin 70.

Runner up Simon O'Halloran 71.

B Grade: Glen Turner 69. Runner up Kevin Bayley 69.

C Grade: Rod Walker 68.

Runner up Paul Cornelis 69.

D Grade: Red Rodgers 71.

Runner up Ian McDonald 71.

DTL: 70-72 net including John Walsh, Norm Burne, Shaun Stirton and 16 others.

NTPs: Warren Drummett second, Kevin Jamieson fourth, Michael Hetherington eighth, Leigh Clifford 13th and Daniel Crellin 17th.

Ladies

TWENTY-SEVEN players enjoyed their last round of Stableford before the 2026 Women's Championships.

Overall and B Grade winner Lisa Brusamarello (23) 45 points.

A Grade Jenny McRae (21) 39. C Grade Heather Wintle (40) 44.

DTL: Andrea Grenville 40, Sharon Patullo 40, Donna Brosnan 39, Robyn Wilkinson 39 and Chris Hamilton 39.

NTP: second Sharon Patullo, eighth Lisa Brusamarello, 13th Andrea Grenville and 17th Marg Johnson.

WOORAYL

FEBRUARY Monthly Medal, sponsored by Invisage Blinds, 17 players.

A Grade: Pauline Lancaster c/b from Heather Sullivan, 24-93-69.

B Grade and Medal: Tracey Ryan c/b from Ann Poole, 45-114-69.

BDL: Heather Sullivan 69, Ann Poole 69, Bev Bridge 72 and Sherrill Winkler 74.

NTPs: eighth and 11th Elly Berryman, 17th Kath Davis.

Putting: Ann Poole 28 putts c/b from Heather Sullivan.

Summer Wednesday winner Sherrill Winkler, runner up Bev Bridge.

JSL Summer Trophy winner Sherrill Winkler Avg6 - 69.30. Runner up Janet Thompson Avg6 - 71.77.



Meeniyan Golf Club's February Medal runner up Sue Hoskin with winner Louise Vuillerm.



Woorayl Golf Club's A Grade winner Pauline Lancaster, and B Grade and Monthly Medal winner Tracey Ryan.

Legends honoured in recognition round

THE Leongatha and District Cricket Association has honoured two of its most dedicated servants as part of the Round 12 Recognition Round.

Korumburra Cricket Club nominated life member Darren Scott, while Leongatha Town Cricket Club put forward long-time contributor Jareth Hume.

Scott holds the games record at Korumburra and was inducted as an inaugural Cobra Legend in 2023.

He served as club president and captained both the A and B Grade sides, playing in an A Grade one-day premiership and two B Grade premierships.

He was also recognised as the Wes Olden Medallist in 2020-21.

A lower-order batsman known for his aggressive run-scoring when it mattered most, Scott's slow-medium deliveries proved deceptively effective throughout his career.

"Few names resonate through the history of the Korumburra Cricket Club quite like Darren Scott," the club's nomination read.

"A mentor, a leader, and above all, a dedicated clubman."

Hume began playing for Leongatha Town as a 13-year-old in the under 16s and has gone on to play more than 300 games for the club.

A hard-hitting right-handed batsman, he has made numerous centuries and is a premiership player.

Off the field, Hume served as club president for two terms totalling six years and as secretary for three years prior.

He has also been president of the junior committee and a member of the association's committee of management for several terms.

Hume has spent countless hours curating the Scorpion Park pitch over the past four years and organised a successful club auction to raise funds.

His wife Melissa and their four children are also active contributors to the club.

One of Hume's favourite on-field memories is taking the wicket of Harvey Pool, while a standout batting moment came in a two-day game when he hit a six off the final over to win the match with eight runs needed.

The Recognition Round matches were played on Saturday, February 7 and continue on Saturday, February 14.

Allambee Mirboo and District Tennis

SECTION 1 results: Westernport Red 6.43 defeated Outtrim 2.19; Westernport White 7.45 defeated Leongatha 1.22; Korumburra 4.40 defeated Koonwarra 4.38.

Ladder: Leongatha 85; Westernport White 64; Koonwarra 63; Westernport Red 57; Korumburra 51; Outtrim 38.

Section 2 results: Korumburra 4.36 defeated Outtrim 4.35; Leongatha 4.39 defeated Baromi 4.35.

Ladder: Leongatha 74; Baromi 63; Outtrim 52; Korumburra 49.

Another close round of tennis in both Sections this week.

Both the Westernport teams were at home and had good wins.

Leongatha was without Matt and Keirah Pocklington in its match against Westernport White, but the young players played well and got some great experience.

Koonwarra and Korumburra had the closest game of Section 1, with just two games in it.

Korumburra and Outtrim had the closest game of the week, with just one game the difference.

The score for this match wasn't received until Sunday morning, so the two points for the win weren't awarded to Korumburra.

Leongatha and Baromi also had a close match, but Leongatha won the day.

Quite a few players have headed off to Country Week.

Good luck to all.

I'd also like to congratulate Neil Langstaff, the star of the pickleball court. Neil was the Pickleball Champion in the over 65 doubles. What a star!

Stingettes and Scorps set for grand final

INVERLOCH and Leongatha Town will meet in the Leongatha and District Cricket Association women's grand final on Saturday, February 22 after both sides won their semi-finals on Sunday.

Inverloch v Glen Alvie

THE Inverloch Stingettes earned their ticket into the grand final after winning a tight contest against Glen Alvie on Sunday.

The Stingettes went into the match as favourites after being crowned minor premiers at the end of the home and away season.

Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bowl.

Inverloch put forward some consistent partnerships with Karin Sluiter standing out from the pack with 19 runs.

Jacqueline Newman and Charley Donohue contributed 14 runs each.

Glen Alvie was not going to make it an easy victory for Inverloch, taking eight wickets and adding plenty of penalty runs to kick start its score.

Gaby Hynes took two wickets and her later performance with the bat would earn her player of the match.

Inverloch finished its innings with a score of 8/104 but its fielding performance would stretch that score to a winning total of 125.

Hynes was Glen Alvie's best with the bat making 20 runs which included three fours.

She was closely followed by Madelene Ylen who made 19 runs and belted out four fours.

Two wickets were taken by Inverloch captain Keely Dennerley and the team took a total of five.

Glen Alvie pulled up short with a total of 117 sending the Stingettes into the grand final.

Town v Phillip Island

WITH soft dew on the ground and a giant "80" celebrating the club's long history watching over the oval, Scorpion Park looked a picture on Sunday morning and so did the Scorps.

If there had been an award for most nervous energy before the first ball it would have gone hands-down to club president Cam Dowling. Dowling has personally



Glen Alvie coach Gaby Hynes earned player of the match in Sunday's semi-final. tk04_0626



Glen Alvie captain Jess Luff closed the batting for her side on Sunday. tk03_0626

umpired every women's Scorpions match over the past three seasons standing for every delivery.

It is a mammoth commitment and one that has helped build the program into what it is today.

With two official LDCA umpires on duty Dowling swapped the clicker for the scorebook and the game was ready to begin.

Town won the toss and elected to bat.

The buzz around the women's team was unmistakable.

The crowd kept building until the pavilion was filled to the brim with supporters all eager to see the Scorps take

the field.

With the bat Town put together steady partnerships throughout the innings.

Kate Oates (26), Natalie Challis (25) and Sarah Knox (20) led the way with important contributions.

Every boundary brought a roar from the pavilion while sharp singles and quick twos kept the scoreboard ticking.

At the end of the innings Town had posted a competitive 131 in hot and humid conditions.

Phillip Island began its chase with 15 penalty runs but the Scorps' bowlers kept things tight from the outset.

With disciplined line and

length and sharp fielding pressure runs were hard to come by.

Although only four wickets fell Town never allowed the game to slip controlling the tempo from start to finish.

The final scores were Town 143 and Phillip Island 99.

Credit must go to Phillip Island who fielded a side of eight and consistently punched above its weight this season playing the game in great spirit.

Oates' quick work behind the stumps earned her player of the match.

Town will face Inverloch in the grand final on Saturday, February 22.

Young Billie leads the way at Korumburra Golf Club



IT'S golf championship time around a few of the South Gippsland clubs at the moment and some good scoring too with the weather fine at the weekend and courses in excellent condition.

At Korumburra Golf Club there's a great go for A Grade honours between the master Steve Bromby and up-and-comer 16-year-old Billie Wrigley.

Bromby has claimed the club title a couple of dozen times and the South Gippsland title on numerous occasions as well but everyone at the club is convinced Billie is the heir apparent.

Whether it will be this year is yet to be decided with three rounds to go next Saturday and on the following week-

end but last Saturday the pair were locked on 73 after round one.

Billie took out the A Grade trophy for the day playing off a handicap of four as compared to Steve's +1 but both golfers have some way to go before matching the 63 off the stick by Billie's father Matt Wrigley at the course a couple of weeks ago.

But you can look for a score approaching that number under fast conditions in the weeks ahead.

LEFT: Teenage Korumburra golfer Billie Wrigley is congratulated on his win in A Grade on Saturday and co-leadership in the club championship by club captain Ian Cash.

Wonthaggi Country Club backs Power with sponsorship deal

THE Wonthaggi Power Football and Netball Club has locked in a new sponsorship deal with the Wonthaggi Country Club after more than 20 years of informal support.

Wonthaggi Country Club general manager Steve Curtis said the relationship goes beyond a typical sponsorship.

"Historically we've called it a sponsorship but it's probably more of a partnership," Mr Curtis said.

"There is money that changes hands but it's more so about working together to help each other and help the community."

Mr Curtis said the formal agreement came after the Wonthaggi Country Club was established as a new legal entity.

"The Wonthaggi Country Club didn't exist last year. It had to go through legal structure to form itself. Most of the faces are the same but it's just a different entity."

Wonthaggi Power president Darren Brown said the partnership brings sport and social environments together and helps grow a broader Wonthaggi identity.

"We bring it all together in the town so we can really grow that 'we are Wonthaggi' label," he said.

"We're bringing kids into



From left, Wonthaggi Power Football and Netball Club vice president Zoe Blundell, Wonthaggi Country Club general manager Steve Curtis and Wonthaggi Power president Darren Brown. w01_0626

sport, encouraging them to get active, encouraging them to challenge themselves at the highest level that we play in the Gippsland League, and also support a local venue that we can both leverage off for each other."

Mr Curtis said the Country Club wanted to align with organisations that benefit the broader community.

"We want to let the community know what we're doing and we want to align ourselves with people and organisations that are doing good and that

are broad reaching," he said.

"Not just benefiting a few but benefiting many in the community."

The Wonthaggi Country Club will provide increased access to facilities including hospitality services, function rooms and the golf course.

"We said to the football and netball club, well, how about because you're already using it we let you use it more often and we take a hit on our profit so you can get good use out of it," Mr Curtis said.

Mr Brown said both

organisations are run by volunteer boards.

"We're all like-minded people in a town that's growing that want to see people getting active and social."

Both leaders said long-term planning was a key driver behind the agreement.

"We need to make decisions for our club for five years, 10 years, 50 years, plus," Mr Curtis said.

"The football and netball club must do the same. If you don't have those agreements you can't really plan for the future. So we're all about sustainability. We're all about future planning."

One of the first initiatives will be streaming away games at the Country Club on Saturday afternoons for supporters who cannot make the trip.

The Gippsland League includes away games as far as Bairnsdale.

Mr Curtis said it showed the club's broad reach.

"Often when you think of a football and netball club you think of teenage boys and girls. But Power has a lot of loyal supporters even in their 70s and 80s," he said.

"They have some really passionate supporters that can't drive two and a half hours to get to a match so that connection is really important."

Boots back on for Korumburra Veterans debut season

THE Korumburra Bena Veterans Football team will begin their first ever pre-season on Wednesday, February 11 ahead of their 2026 campaign.

The youngest eligible players will be turning 35 in 2026, as the team prepares to compete in the West Gippsland Football League.

Though talked about for years, Korumburra football committee member Matt DeGrandi decided it was time to turn the concept into a reality.

"We've all joked about it for a long time," DeGrandi said.

"A few beers after senior games, people saying we should get something going."

"Eventually it just gained traction and we decided to actually make it happen."

Preseason starts on Wednesday, February 11 at the Korumburra Showgrounds from 6.30pm and anyone who fits the age criteria is welcome regardless of experience.

"It's a pretty family-orientated place to be at the moment," he said.

"Everyone is welcome."

DeGrandi said preseason will be fitness-focused given the age of the group.

"Everyone's a bit older now, so it's more about getting a few kilometres into the legs," he said.

DeGrandi said the program fills an important gap beyond football.

"A lot of people start playing footy when they're seven or eight and it becomes a massive part of their life," he said.

"When that stops, they don't always know what to do with themselves."

"For some people it's a mental health thing too."

The official fixture begins in the second week of April.

Saint helps give Giants junior program a kick-along

By Andrew Paloczi

JUNIOR Giants were the focus of Korumburra Bena Football Netball Club on Wednesday evening, St Kilda recruit Sam Flanders, originally from Fish Creek, helping run training for players from three junior age groups.

Senior playing coach Josh Hopkins and club president Ken Myors spoke to the players, ranging from Under 14s to Under 18s after training, stressing how important they are to the Giants' future.

Hopkins recalled running water for the Seniors as a kid, playing and watching footy whenever he could, always keen to improve.

He commented on the player points system in Senior footy and the importance of the club having a healthy junior program with young players progressing to Senior ranks, such players incurring less points than Senior recruits from out of the area.

He encouraged the young players to keep coming to training and supporting each other, also inviting them to attend Senior training and to get to know the Senior group.

Hopkins is keen to continue providing Senior opportunities for Under 18s players.

Myors assured the junior players that while the Giants Under 14s and Under 16s are currently a bit light on numbers, the club is committed to fielding sides at both those levels this season.

Under 18s numbers are larger, with things positive for Under 10s and Under 12s.



Korumburra Bena Under 18s coach Matt Kennewell issues instructions to the juniors while St Kilda player Sam Flanders looks on. A08_0626

"You guys are the future of our football club," Myors told the assembled Under 14s, Under 16s and Under 18s, using Flanders as an example of what can be achieved through hard work.

He stressed those in charge of the club are working hard to field junior teams and the players must do their bit too.

Myors reflected on his time coaching Hopkins in the Under 18s.

"He used to play down in the forward pocket and he'd kick three or four goals every game because he was dedicated and he worked hard and he knew exactly what he needed to do," the President said.

Earlier, Myors told the Sentinel-Times of the opportunity the juniors have to enjoy success together over the years, forming lifelong mateships.

After brief speeches from those in charge at Korumburra Bena, Flanders answered questions from the young playing group, topics ranging from footy to what he was having for dinner.

He was asked whether there were challenges in getting teams up at junior level when he was a kid.

"In Under 11s and 13s, we had to get about three towns together to make numbers," he said of his junior days with Fish Creek.

Flanders has fond memories of playing Fourths footy in the morning, then lining up for the Thirds.

Asked how old he was before he played his first Senior game, he said he hadn't yet made his Senior debut when drafted to the AFL, having played a lot of basketball, his

pursuit of that other sporting love seeing him represent the Korumburra Wildcats.

It was through basketball that he became mates with current Korumburra Bena Under 18s coach Matt Kennewell, that leading to the invitation to visit the junior Giants.

Flanders made the decision to pursue footy, confident he could achieve the professional career he desired, and urged those with similar ambition not to be discouraged if they receive some early knockbacks.

"Make sure you stick to it and keep turning up," he encouraged his audience.

When quizzed as to what livewire St Kilda forward Jack Higgins is like, Flanders responded, "He's good, he's a character."

One young player, presumably a fan of the Demons, asked why he didn't shift from Gold Coast to Melbourne instead.

"They weren't offering enough money," Flanders said, adding, "I like the Saints."

As for dinner, his housemate was doing the cooking, so hopefully it was something that would please the St Kilda dieticians, assuming Flanders didn't succumb to the temptation of the golden arches on the drive home.

Hopkins told the Sentinel-Times it is "massive having an AFL player from the area" at the club, praising his willingness to put in the effort and give back to the community.

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INVERLOCH

THE Stingrays launched their A1 battle with Wonthaggi Club on the Inverloch turf last Saturday.

Inverloch lost the toss and Club chose to bat.

Club made a great start with Mitch Thomas and Alexander Geyer at the helm, making a quick getaway to a score of 0/35.

Two quick wickets gave Inverloch momentum, which allowed the fielding side to restrict Club to a score of 168.

"We were pretty happy with that. We aimed for a score fewer than 180," Inverloch's Dylan Clark said.

Harry Butcher bowled well to claim two wickets. Rhys Newman had a good spell at the start, dismissing Thomas before any more damage could be done.

Ron Abeysinghe was the standout, taking four wickets for the day.

Inverloch faced six overs to finish at 0/12 with Riley Harris (3*) and Cooper Newman (9*) at the crease.

The Stingrays congratulate the Stingettes for making the women's grand final after a tight contest with Glen Alvie on Sunday.

LEONGATHA TOWN

A GRADE played host to Phillip Island at Scorpion Park on Saturday.

Town won the toss and chose to bat.

A couple of early wickets to Phillip Island bowler Timothy Niven hurt Town's momentum, but Madura Madusanka and Sebastian Kyle stepped up to record 33 and 28 runs respectively.

Archie Fixter was the star of the show, making 75 runs.

Niven and Jobe Williams shared Phillip Island's bowling honours with three wickets each.

Town was bowled out for 169 and Phillip Island faced 14 overs.

Lachlan Gill dismissed Brodie Johnston for a duck, and Max Arceo and Heath Womersley are at the crease with 5* and 8* respectively.

"Our A Grade has a good challenge on its hands next week," Town president Cameron Dowling said.

B Grade struggled against Phillip Island and was all out for 91.

Ethan Smith managed 41 runs, but Phillip Island bowlers Kurt Lane and Aidan Williams significantly reduced the run rate.

Phillip Island made 5/108 off 27 overs and will chase an outright next week. Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe took 3/36.

C Grade lost to Nyora at Scorpion Park.

Captain Alex Aeschlimann opened with 38 and Matt Craig made 46*.

Town made 9/178, which Nyora chased down 4/183 with Daniel Blackney (50*) and Keith Maclure (30*). Nijo Devassy took 3/45.

WONTHAGGI CLUB

MIDWAY through round 12, Wonthaggi Club's A Grade side is defending 168 against Inverloch.

Inverloch bowled extremely well and put on an excellent fielding performance.

Club had a couple of starts but couldn't get anything going on the scoreboard.

The standout batsmen were Ryan and Jake Thomas, who made 37 and 38* respectively.

Club had an impressive day in B Grade, making 349 against Inverloch.

Gavin Britt and Ian Hughes had a great partnership, adding

85 and 51 runs.

Mark McCall top scored with 89 and Jai Williamson pushed the score to 349 with 51*.

In C1, Club chased down OMK's score of 222 in the last over. Will Speed had a great run with 71* and Mitchell Davey contributed 41.

C2 played Inverloch but fell 24 runs short.

Inverloch batted well to record 211, with David Harris and Dean Cashin putting on a 100-run partnership.

Matt Sharp was the pick of Club's bowlers with three wickets and captain Luke McGuirk made 85*.

McGuirk had a good partnership with Blake Ton who made 55 runs and continued on with Archie Dynes.

"Blake backed up his 50 runs in the juniors with another 55 runs in C2. He has been batting really well lately," McGuirk said.

McGuirk said Club has had a strong season with all teams on top of the ladder except A Grade in second. The under 15s are also on top and the club is looking forward to finals.

KOONWARRA/LRSL

A GRADE made the journey to Foster in its game against the Tigers.

The Cougars won the toss and elected to bowl first to set the tone.

Josh Thomas (0/29 off eight overs) bowled well to go wicketless.

Will Cashin (0/20 off five overs) started up the other end.

Louis Read (2/28 off eight overs) picked up a couple of scalps as did Isuru Darshana (2/24 off eight overs).

Jason Kennedy (1/45 off 16 overs) bowled a massive spell.

James "Jimmy" Rushton took the best figures with 4/37 off 17.1 overs as the Cougars bowled out the Tigers for 205 in 65.1 overs.

Callum Buckland and Kayden Scrimshaw saw out nine overs to survive until next week.

B Grade trekked to Nyora.

Blake Smith (1/27 off 11 overs) opened alongside Sajeswarman "Saj" Kaneshathasan (0/15 off four overs).

Ben Davison (4/39 off 16 overs) and Ryder Pedlow (3/23 off 10 overs) started firing. Cambell Riseley (1/19 off five overs) also picked up a wicket as they had them 7/92.

Nyora's wicketkeeper Adam White dug in scoring 51 before Pedlow had his wicket lbw at 8/151.

Nyora was bowled out for 158 as Reggie Read (1/11 off 3.5 overs) picked up the last wicket.

Kevin Thorne (26*) and Colin McPhee (18) batted 12 overs. The Cougars resume at 1/49 chasing 159.

The Cougars faced Glen Alvie for third on the C2 ladder at The Dome.

Spencer Chawick (1/46 off four overs) struck early. Glenn "Pau-lie" Boxall (3/18 off five overs) opened from the other end.

Tyson Lund (1/35) and Shane Paterson (1/17) snagged a wicket each whilst Matt Boswell took the best figures with 4/11 as Glen Alvie was bowled for 145 in 23.4 overs. Darcy Hale made 74 off 41 balls.

The Boxall brothers opened the batting. Ash Boxall (14) and Glenn Boxall (67) led from the front as the Cougars chased down their total finishing 8/149. Brad Cocksedge (21) was the second top-scorer.



Korumburra's Darren Scott, Trevor Allen and Matt Allen at Trevor's 300th club game. Photo credit: Peter Edwards.

KORUMBURRA

IT was a big week for the Cobras celebrating club stalwart Trevor Allen playing his 300th game in Cobras colours. A true Cobras legend.

This round also marked LDCA Recognition Round, with club great Darren Scott recognised for his outstanding service and contributions to the Cobras and cricket across the district.

A strong batting performance from the Cobras at Summerfield Oval in A Grade.

Tom Crocker made 22 off 35 balls (three fours) and Simeon F contributed 15 off 34 balls, setting up a good opening partnership.

Jacob Whiteside and Rumesh Rangana built a big fourth wicket partnership of 73.

Rumesh was dismissed after a well-made 50 off 60 balls including nine fours.

Levi Gooch joined Jacob and the pair added 43 runs before Levi was dismissed for 15 off 43 balls.

Jacob departed after a terrific innings-high 72 off 131 balls including nine fours.

Captain Harry McNeill brought the innings home with his first A Grade fifty, scoring 53 off 65 balls.

The Cobras took an early wicket in six overs to put MDU on the back foot heading into day two.

In B1, the young Cobra team was treated to a batting masterclass as a Nerrena veteran produced an aggressive 148* off 126 balls, allowing Nerrena to declare at tea.

Hudson Jefferis was the only wicket taker.

Phil Richards (24 off 82 balls, one four) and Robert Belvedere (23 off 96 balls, three fours) settled in and batted through the afternoon. Both have set themselves up for bigger innings next week.

In C Grade, the Cobras struggled early but Matt Patten and Troy Shepherson combined for a crucial 54-run partnership for the seventh wicket.

Matt played an excellent 36 off 32 balls (two fours, one six) while Troy provided support with 15* off 22 balls.

Peter Edwards (16), Trevor Allan (16) and Charlie Carew (13 off eight balls) also contributed.

Nerrena got away to a strong start with Darren Scott taking the only wicket as the Red Caps celebrated their 90th anniversary with a big win.

NYORA

A GRADE travelled to the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve to take on Glen Alvie on Saturday.

Nyora won the toss and chose to bowl first on the challenging pitch.

Nyora bowled Glen Alvie out for 95. Jy Hull took 3/18.

Adam White said it was an even team performance across the board.

In reply, Nyora made 5/66 off

batting and made an aggressive 148*.

Mitch Croatto also recorded 64*, which led Nerrena to declare 1/239 off 38 overs.

The single wicket was taken by Hudson Jefferis.

Korumburra opened its innings with Will Croatto taking two wickets for ducks.

Philip Richards and Robert Belvedere were at the crease at stumps with 24* and 23* respectively.

At the Poowong Recreation Reserve, C Grade defeated Korumburra in 25 overs for Chris Marinou's 100th club game.

Tim Salmon took three wickets. He and Jack Donohue put early pressure on Korumburra's batsmen.

Nerrena chased down 10/155 with Ben Croatto making 49 and captain Brian Gannon and Darren Curtis getting the job done with 94* and 13*.

The C Grade team made it back for the 90th anniversary celebration.

President Zack Trease, Dave Trotman and Tim Clark were thanked for driving the weekend's success.

GLEN ALVIE

GLEN Alvie's B Grade side is battling MDU in a low-scoring event.

At the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve, Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to send MDU into bat.

Dylan Zuidema was the pick of the batsmen with 24 runs.

Zack Scholz and Ryan Sinclair took three wickets each as MDU was bowled out for 112.

Glen Alvie faced 31 overs but it was a low-scoring affair with MDU's Scott Browne and Alexander Battersby taking multiple wickets.

Steven Smith opened with 11 but was the only batsman to reach double figures.

Sinclair and Edward Spiteri-Stevens were at the crease at stumps with 7* and 2* respectively.

Glen Alvie will need to dig deep to come away with a win.

LEONGATHA TOWN 80TH ANNIVERSARY

LEONGATHA Town Scorpions celebrated 80 proud years with a special reunion and past players weekend, stretching across two big days at Scorpion Park.

Festivities kicked off on Saturday with A and C Grade senior matches at home, before the women's semi-final took centre stage on Sunday - a fitting showcase of how far the club has grown.

Past players travelled from all corners of Australia to return home to Scorpion Park, reconnecting with old teammates and friends. The weekend was filled with stories shared across generations - poring over old score sheets, reliving great moments and spinning a few yarns (some with a little extra mayo on top).

While the celebrations honoured the club's rich history, the sight of the women's team competing in a finals match was a powerful reminder that the Scorpions' story is still being written. The game has changed, the club has grown, and the future looks every bit as strong as the past.

The community built around the Leongatha Town Cricket Club runs deep, and the weekend showed that whether you paddled up 40 years ago or just this season, Scorpion Park will always feel like home.



Many of the Nerrena Cricket Club's life members attended the 90th anniversary celebrations including, from left, back, Graham Wightman, Dave Trotman, Tim Clark, Ryan Clark, Caine Salmon, Josh Trease, Ron Adkins, Ben Croatto, Jan Salmon, Kevin Clark, Ash Harrison, David Shambrook, Peter Trease, Graham Salmon, front, Tim Wightman, Damien Symmons, Terry Clark, Murray Wightman, Janine Clark, Pearl Christoffersen and Cath Clark. A15_0626

90 years of Nerrena Cricket Club

By Andrew Paloczi

PRIDE and delight were feelings expressed by those celebrating 90 years of Nerrena Cricket Club on Saturday evening.

"I remember when it was 50 years old," Life Member David Shambrook said, remarking on the Red Caps' achievement in staying vibrant and continuing to pull together enough players despite being a small place.

"There's a lot of history there," he said.

His wife Ronda was also there to celebrate the milestone, having kept up the energy level of the players with her tasty treats over a long period.

"I've made a lot of muffins in my time," she said.

Tom Lay ventured from Canberra for the occasion, his fondest memory of his time as a Red Cap being playing in the 1995/96 Under 16 Premiership.

"It's a great club, good culture and very welcoming," he said, Nerrena having clearly left a strong positive impression.

That's no doubt why it continues to attract players, with another Life Member and former President, Peter Trease saying the Red Caps spend very little

money on recruitment and labelling Nerrena "a great family club".

The multiple generations of families playing their part for the Red Caps backs that up, Trease's grandkids now coming through the ranks.

"It's amazing to see the club turn 90," he said, noting its ability to remain a stand-alone entity that has never merged.

Current player Jack Curtis, who has been a Red Cap for a couple of years after moving from Mornington Peninsula said that as someone new to the area, the club's welcoming culture helped him settle in easily.

The Red Caps remain strong onfield, currently topping the A Grade ladder after a stunning away win over Phillip Island last round, the club having a group of core players aged between 18 and 25.

Where numbers are short at junior level, Nerrena has combined with other clubs to ensure those up-and-coming cricketers get opportunities.

President Zack Trease remarked that Nerrena is the

oldest club in the competition, already thinking ahead to the centenary celebrations in a decade and hopeful the Red Caps will still be going strong.

Currently the club is looking forward to new nets, having secured funding through South Gippsland Shire Council, Cricket Victoria and a state government Tiny Towns grant.

Nerrena's Life Members and Premierships were celebrated as were individual and partnership records.

Ronnie Adkins' unbeaten 309 against Wonthaggi Club in a 1999 C Grade clash is the highest individual score in LDCA history for any grade.

Saturday's MC Dave Trotman holds the Association record for B Grade, making 252* against Inverloch in 2003, while Damien Symmons' unbeaten knock of 207 is Nerrena's highest A Grade score.

Noel Clark's 1967 figures of 8/16 against Koonwarra is the best individual bowling performance for the Red Caps in A Grade, Ray Garton's 8/19 against Korumburra the following year the club's best in B Grade.

Tim Clark's 1986 performance, capturing 7/10 against

Koonwarra is the club's best C Grade effort with the ball.

Trotman prepared for Saturday's celebration by reading volumes of Great Southern Star newspapers all the way back to 1934.

He posted printed information in the Dakers Centre venue so that attendees could learn more about Nerrena Cricket Club's rich history.

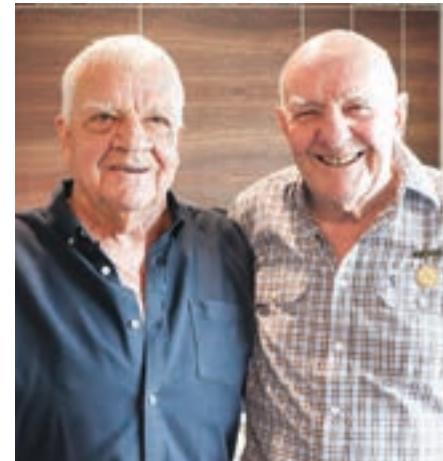
Interestingly, Nerrena's sporting pursuits once extended beyond cricket.

"There's the Nerrena Leongatha South United Football Club playing against Mardan in the Woorayl Football League," Trotman said of one of the historical snippets.

"On this day the summation of the game was that United would have done a lot better had all the players turned up."

It's perhaps not surprising that combined footy entity sat at the bottom of the ladder.

Nerrena Cricket Club was formed at a 1934 meeting, playing its first game in the LDCA the following year when Joseph Lyons was Prime Minister and Victor Richardson captained the Australian cricket team.



Life Members Graham Fixter and Graeme Elliott celebrate Leongatha Town's special milestone. A24_0626

Leongatha Town celebrates 80 years

By Andrew Paloczi

ARCHIE Fixter's score of 75 was the on-field highlight for Leongatha Town as the club celebrated its 80th anniversary on Saturday, the Scorpions posting a total of 169 on the opening day against Phillip Island.

The visitors were greeted with a menacing Scorpion logo on the ground featuring the message "Feel the Sting!"

That image along with a large "80" were created by former player Leigh Fisher, adding to the sense of occasion and making an ideal spot for a special group photo during the evening's celebrations.

There was a great social vibe with past players drawn to the event, speeches about the club's premierships and memorable moments, and partying into the night.

Club identity Michael Warren, known as Pucka, spoke of the success of Saturday's gathering.

"There would have been approximately 100 former players in attendance through the day from as far away as Bunbury Western Australia, and from Queensland," he said.

That demonstrates the ongoing connection to the club and those you played alongside, highlighting the positive Scorpions culture.

Leongatha Town first participated in local cricket in 1944/45, winning an A Grade Premiership in that debut season and backing that up in the following campaign.

While there was a merger with Leongatha High School Cricket Club in 1990/91, Town retained its name and history, just changing colours and home ground.

The Scorpions moniker was added after the merger, the club originally known just as Town or Leongatha Town.

Along with Town's aforementioned early Premierships, other A Grade triumphs in 1984/85 and 1995/96 were fondly recalled on Saturday night.

So was the B Grade flag of 1975/76 and the 1994/95 C Grade Premiership.

Pucka's research has revealed 702 players have represented Leongatha Town, 414 of those since the merger.

Amila Ratnake holds the club's highest A1 score, making 191 against Phillip Island in 2018, Rod Draper's 194 in 1992 against OMK the highest B1 score.

Then Hawthorn footballer Jarryd Roughead's 227 against Wonthaggi Miners in 2007 is Town's highest C1 score.

Jack Roughead's 10/15 against Koortooman in 1947 tops the club's bowling performances at the highest level, Russ Allison's 8/14 against Korumburra in 1974 the Scorpions' best in B1 competition.

Tony Fixter holds that honour at C1 level with 8/35 in 1973 against Imperials.

Kookaburras seal a win over Essendon in thriller

OVER 70s

KOOKABURRA captain Rob Francis conceded that Essendon should bat because half the team was delayed by a city tunnel accident.

Essendon batters Les Quarrell (39*) and skipper Gary Adams (40*) formed the backbone of the team's innings, with others of note being Rob McDonald (28*), and Ken Osborne (22*).

They posted 7/146, only hitting four boundaries in their 40 overs on a slow field and low bouncing wicket.

Nevertheless, the Kooka-

burras had bowled good line and length with Pieter Loos figures of eight overs, one wicket for 35 runs, Geoff Birnie (7/2/18), Brendon Thomas (6/1/19), Neil White (3/1/11) and Peter Little (4/2/8).

After lunch provided by Kookaburra players and friends, the batters lost only four wickets.

Notable run scorers were Neil White (35), Pieter Loos (24*), Geoff Birnie (26*), and Rob Francis (17*).

In the final over, either team could have won.

Needing seven runs to win

off six balls, Geoff Birnie hit five off the first two.

Jim Armstrong kept the spectators advising him at bay by blocking one then hitting and running a short single off the next. Geoff then iced the game with a two and another boundary.

The result was 4/153.

Notable Essendon bowlers were Gary Adams (8/0/17), Neil King (8/1/25), Paul Taylor (5/1/28) and Rob McDonald (2/1/3).

Neil White and Rob McDonald earned the respective opposition captain's best player award.



Kookaburras' Neil White earned the best player award, as selected by opposing captain Gary Adams.



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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

A1: Koby Brann (OMK) 108 ; Aydan Williams (Imperials) 5/69

A2: Jacob Whiteside (Korumburra) 72 ; James Rushton (Koon L/RSL) 4/37

B1: Damien Symmons (Nerrena) 148* ; Kurt Lane (Phillip Island) 3/8

B2: Rowen McLennan (Imperials) 107 ; Andrew Leighton (K-Bass) 8/51

C1: Brian Gannon (Nerrena) 94* ; Hunter Bettles (K-Bass) 4/23

C2: Luke McGuirk (Club) 85* ; Matthew Boswell (Koon L/RSL) 4/11

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Island batsman Drew Fusinato contributed heavily to his team's success, finishing with 21 runs. W08_0626



Peter Francis faces off against the bowling of Edward Magnussen.

Bass show improvement despite Island win

G GRADE, DIVISION 1

PHILLIP Island managed to continue their dominance over Kilcunda Bass over the weekend in a C Grade Division 1 clash just off the Bass Highway, but not without a sterner test than last time they faced off.

Previously meeting in round nine, Phillip Island cruised to victory in dominant fashion, taking less than 14 overs to catch a total that did not include a single double-figure score from a Kilcunda Bass batsman.

This time though, Killy Bass showed a lot of fight, even if the final result ended the same.

Played in warm but breezy conditions, the Island batted first and worked their way up to 8/154 in 35 overs.

Peter Francis anchored the innings by putting up a very solid 48 runs, standing out with the bat in his hands.

He did have support though, mainly in the form of John Manning, who scored 22, and Drew Fusinato, adding 21.

Bass kept themselves in the contest with some slick bowling.

Hunter Bettles led the way with the ball, displaying an excellent 4/23 from seven overs, giving the batsmen plenty of trouble.

Ash Joseph was also impressive, picking up 2/19 from his five overs.

Killy Bass made a far better chase than their efforts earlier in the season, showing clear signs of improvement and no doubt exciting the club.

Though ultimately, they fell short

after being bowled out for 100.

James Cottrell top scored with a respectable 36, while Stephen Oates and James Master supported him heartily with 27 and 23 respectively.

Unfortunately for the home team, support beyond those three was rather difficult to come by, with the next highest score just four runs, as three batsmen were dismissed for ducks.

Phillip Island's bowlers shared the love around, with Deane Mani, Gareth Tanti and Sonny McMillan each taking two wickets.

Brydon Marshall however, took his game to another level, finishing with a remarkable 3/5 from just three overs and seeing personally that the Island wrap up another win, even if it was harder earned this time.

Leongatha and District under 15s are Gippsland Premiers



note and snared the first two wickets in that manner.

All the bowlers followed the plan beautifully with six bowled and two LBW dismissals, Nate Luff also held onto a very good catch to dismiss the dangerous Liam Richards who was striking the ball well.

Toby Nicholas completed a fantastic match, bowling a great spell and ripping through the middle order. Bottom age boys Reggie Read and Oliver Bolge then wrapped up the game with a wicket each in a very well-deserved win for a group of boys that went through the season undefeated.

Congratulations to the players, coach Lucas McMillan, team managers Marty Nicholas and John Richardson.

Toby Nicholas was named man of the match 4/26 and 27 runs, and selected in the All-Gippsland Team.

Skipper Max Johnston named U15 GCL Most Valuable Player, Champion Batsman and also earned All-Gippsland Team Selection.

Thanks to the Korumburra Cricket Club for hosting the game. Glen, Linda and Paul did a fantastic job. And thanks to Wonthaggi Toyota for their continued support of LDCA Junior Representative Cricket.

THE Leongatha and District Cricket Association's Under 15s are your 2025-26 Gippsland Cricket League premiers.

They capped off an undefeated season, where they beat Warragul, Bairnsdale and Sale-Maffra in the qualifying rounds, by coming out in the grand final last Sunday at Korumburra and delivering a consummate team performance.

Final scores, LDCA 194 defeated Bairnsdale 106. Best batting totals included Max Johnston 58, Toby Nicholas 27, Jed Caddy 26, and Blake Ton 18. With fine bowling by Toby Nicholas 4/26 off seven overs, Aedan Parker 2/10 off five, Frazer Livingstone 2/30 off seven, Reggie Read 1/9 and Oliver Bolge 1/2.

LDCA Junior Chairperson Scott Checkley contributed the following report:

The LDCA skipper Max Johnston won the toss and had no hesitation in batting first on the dry and very hard Korumburra pitch. Jed Caddy started the innings well playing some very nice drives and cuts.

A few quick wickets were followed by a fantastic 70-run partnership between Max Johnston and Toby Nicholas.

It was our turn to bowl and coach Lucas McMillan spoke to the boys about the need to bowl stump to stump, looking for LBW and bowled dismissals on the wearing pitch. Aedan Parker took

LADDERS

RD 16

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
C GRADE, Division 1					
Club	126	1.600	Club	126	2.597
OMK	108	1.402	Inverloch	120	1.551
Phillip Island	96	0.932	Koonwarra L/RSL	108	1.486
Nerrena	78	0.996	Glen Alvie	96	0.840
Korumburra	66	0.917	Nyora	60	0.595
MDU	54	0.773	Town	36	0.522
Kilcunda Bass	48	0.731	OMK	30	0.626

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 12 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14 (DAY 2)

A GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

OMK v Imperials	Outram	Ken Scrimshaw
Town v Phillip Island	Scopion Park 1	John Schelling
Inverloch v Club	Inverloch Turf	Shane Moore
Nerrena - BYE		

A Grade, Division 2 - 1PM START

Glen Alvie v Nyora	Wonthaggi Turf	Michael Thomas
Korumburra v MDU	Korumburra	Brad Phillips
Foster v Koon L/RSL	Foster GC	Les White
Kilcunda Bass - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

Club v Inverloch	McMahon	Geoff Birnie
Phillip Island v Town	Cowes	Steve Williamson
Nerrena v Korumburra	Nerrena	Graham Wightman
OMK - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 2 - 1PM START

Glen Alvie v MDU	Glen Alvie	Tyson Tootel
Imperials v K-Bass	East Campus	Ian Salmon
Nyora v Koon L/RSL	Nyora	Geoffrey Parkinson

ROUND 17 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

C GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

Nerrena v K-Bass	Leongatha Vel.	TBA
Phillip Island v OMK	Rhyll	TBA
MDU v Korumburra	Meeniyan	TBA
Club - BYE		

C GRADE, Division 2 - 1PM START

Glen Alvie v Town	Glen Alvie	TBA
Inverloch v Koon L/RSL	Inverloch FG	TBA
OMK v Club	Digger Park	TBA
Nyora - BYE		

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective umpires can contact

Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

OMK 291 v Imperials

OMK Batting: K Brann 108, C Quaife 47, E Lamers 40, J Lamers 30, J Singh 27
Imps Bowling: A Williams 5/69, L Anderson 2/18, J Ginnane 1/24, J Cochrane 1/41

Town 169 v Phillip Island 1/16

Town Batting: A Fixter 75, M Madusanka 33, S Kyle 28, F Livingstone 9
Phillip Island Bowling: J Williams 3/23, T Niven 3/38, D Mock 2/18

Inverloch 0/12 v Club 168

Club Batting: J Thomas 38*, R Thomas 37, A Geyer 21, M Thomas 16, J Brann 15
Inverloch Bowling: R Abeysinghe 4/33, H Butcher 2/38, R Newman 1/21, C Newman 1/42

Nerrena - BYE

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

Glen Alvie 95 v Nyora 5/66

Glen Alvie Batting: M Donohue 36, W Luke 21
Glen Alvie Bowling: M Dakin 2/21, A Luke 2/23
Nyora Batting: D Eswler 18, M Cordeux 18
Nyora Bowling: J Hull 3/18, J Watts 2/2, T Breen 2/24

Korumburra 245 v MDU 1/19

Korumburra Batting: J Whiteside 72, H McNeil 53, T Crocker 22, S Foster 15
MDU Bowling: S Chathura Lakshan 4/58, A Casey 3/59, M Cantwell 2/23

Foster 205 v Koonwarra L/RSL

Foster Batting: M Jones 54, L Rooker 30, Fill-in 26, B East 19, L Moon 18
Koon L/RSL Bowling: J Rushton 4/37, I Darshana 2/24, L Read 2/28, J Kennedy 1/45

Kilcunda Bass - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

Club 8/349 v Inverloch

Club Batting: M McCall 89, G Britt 85, J Williamson 51*, I Hughes 51, K Allison 21
Inverloch Bowling: C O'Flynn 3/29, I Seuren 3/45, J Richardson 1/60

Phillip Island 5/108 v Town 91

Town Batting: E Smith 41, L Hickey 19* D Goss 16
Town Bowling: P Jayasinghe 3/26, L Ashton 2/27
P-Island Batting: K Lane 37, D Holmes 33*
P-Island Bowling: K Lane 3/8, A Williams 3/11

Nerrena 1-d/239 v Korumburra 2/57

Nerrena Batting: D Symmons 148*, M Croatto 64*
Nerrena Bowling: W Croatto 2/16
K'burra Batting: P Richards 24*, R Belvedere 23*
K'burra Bowling: H Jefferis 1/52

OMK - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Glen Alvie 5/48 v MDU 112

MDU Batting: D Zuidema 24, R Henry 20
MDU Bowling: A Battersby 2/10, S Browne 2/14
Glen Alvie Batting: S Smith 11, R Sinclair 7*
Glen Alvie Bowling: Z Scholz 3/13, R Sinclair 3/31

Imperials 9-d/300 v Kilcunda Bass 3/4

Imps Batting: R McLennan 107, G Sauvarin 104
Imps Bowling: J Jeffery 1/0, Z Price 1/2, M McLennan 1/2
K-Bass Bowling: A Leighton 8/51, A McBride 1/55

Nyora 158 v Koonwarra L/RSL 1/49

Nyora Batting: A White 51, M Lynch 16
Nyora Bowling: L Brock 1/12
Koon L/RSL Batting: K Thorne 26*, C McPhee 18
Koon L/RSL Bowling: B Davison 4/39, R Pedlow 3/23

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

Korumburra 155 It Nerrena 1/158

K'burra Batting: M Patten 36, P Edwards 16
K'burra Bowling: D Scott 1/42
Nerrena Batting: B Gannon 94*, B Croatto 49
Nerrena Bowling: T Salmon 3/28, J Donohue 2/22

Kilcunda Bass 100 It Phillip Island 8/154

P-Island Batting: P Francis 48, J Manning 22
P-Island Bowling: B Marshall 3/5, D Mani 2/0
K-Bass Batting: J Cottrell 36, S Oates 27
K-Bass Bowling: H Bettles 4/23, A Joseph 2/19

OMK 5/222 It Club 8/226

OMK Batting: S Handley 66, A Fisher 55*
OMK Bowling: S Loader 2/36, T Walker 1/9
Club Batting: W Speed 71*, M Davey 41
Club Bowling: S Liddle 2/56, C Fraser 1/21

MDU - BYE

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Club 6/187 It Inverloch 6/211

Inv. Batting: D Harris 67* D Cashin 56
Inv. Bowling: D Cashin 2/30, S Douglas 2/37
Club Batting: L McGuirk 85*, B Ton 55, A Dynes 16*
Club Bowling: M Sharp 3/24, B Ton 1/37, J Loris 1/37

Koonwarra L/RSL 8/149 d Glen Alvie 145

Glen Alvie Batting: D Hale 74, O Luff 22, I Thorn 16
Glen Alvie Bowling: P Loos 3/16, O Luff 2/30
Koon L/RSL Batting: G Boxall 67, B Cockedge 21
Koon L/RSL Bowling: M Boswell 4/11, G Boxall 3/18

Town 9/178 It Nyora 4/183

Town Batting: M Craig 46*, A Aeschlimann 38
Town Bowling: N Devassy 3/45, A Aeschlimann 1/35
Nyora Batting: D Blackney 50*, K Maclure 30*
Nyora Bowling: E Le Serve 3/29, T White 1/4

OMK - BYE

Cricket legend in attendance as OMK captain scores ton

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

ANTICIPATION swirled around the Outtrim Recreation Reserve on Saturday, February 7 long before the opening ball was bowled, thanks to a special visit from Australian cricketing great Glenn McGrath on day one of the A Grade Division 1 clash between OMK and Leongatha Imperials.

McGrath was visiting Outtrim for the annual Pink Stumps Day charity event. He tossed the coin before the match, posed for photos and briefly spoke with the players as the Pink Stumps Day festivities were kicking off next door.

Cricket took a back seat to the spectacle for a moment, but players would soon snap back into focus after meeting one of their heroes, turning their attention to the task at hand. They still had a match to win.

OMK unsurprisingly wasted no time settling in, coming into the match as heavy favourites. They batted first on day one of the clash.

The Imps entered the match, still searching for their very first win of the season. Meanwhile, OMK came in with a cosy 5-3 record, sitting



Glenn McGrath tosses the coin before the A Grade Division 1 match between Imperials and OMK, with team captains Jack Ginnane and Koby Brann. W28_0626

comfortably inside the top four.

Things were looking up early for the Imperials when young bowler Isaac Bolge sent Jugraj Singh to the pavilion via lbw in just the fourth over. After that early hope, however, wickets became increasingly hard to come by.

OMK steadied through a very solid partnership between Ethan Lamers and Clayton Quaife, batting very intelligently to not allow another wicket until the 28th over, which saw Lamers caught out after making a valuable 30 runs.

OMK continued to grind

away, as expected from the favourites, however, not many expected what came next.

OMK skipper Koby Brann continuously punished the Imperial bowlers, finishing with a whopping 108 before finally being caught out. He was smacking balls all around the ground, finishing with 18 boundaries. It was a century performance that perhaps drew inspiration from the cricketing legend he met earlier in the day.

Quaife also batted well on the day, narrowly missing a half-century contributing a

handy 47.

OMK ended the day all out for 291 in the 71st over.

Despite now facing some scoreboard pressure, there were certainly some positives for the Leongatha bowlers. Aydan Williams stood out, finishing 5/69 from his 15 overs. Lucas Anderson also impressed with a very tidy 2/18. Bolge, Jake Cochrane and Jack Ginnane each chipped in with a wicket.

The Imperials will get their turn to bat on Saturday, February 14 when the match continues.

Oohs and aahs as Glenn McGrath joins Pink Stumps Day

By Trent Westaway

THE Outtrim Recreation Reserve was painted pink on Saturday as the OMK Cricket Club hosted its biggest Pink Stumps Day since its inception 11 years ago with 280 guests turning out to support fundraising for the McGrath Foundation.

The annual event has been growing consistently each year, steadily forming into what is now one of the region's most successful charity outings raising more than \$360,000 to date.

Organisers are hopeful that this year they will eclipse the \$400,000 mark.

This year's celebration felt unlike any other with a special guest appearance from Australian cricketing legend and McGrath Foundation founder Glenn McGrath.

His presence was felt from the outset as he spent the day signing autographs for junior OMK players, mingling with guests and tossing the coin ahead of an A Grade Division 1 clash between OMK and Imperials.

Keen guests began arriving at 11.30am contributing to a lively atmosphere that saw the marquee filled to capacity.

Event organiser Andrea Curtis said Pink Stumps Day was about raising funds for the McGrath Foundation.

"Essentially Pink Stumps Day is about raising funds for the McGrath Foundation and the role of the foundation is to get cancer nurses out to all Australians in need for free," she said.

"So far 20 years in they've achieved that with breast cancer and now they're extending it to all cancers."



Attendees fully bought into the spirit of pink. From back left, Jeanette Draper, Karen Murchie, Helen Arnold, Barbara Baskerville, Jenny Fraser, Lyn Shaw and Natalie Shaw. W13_0626

"What we do here today at Outtrim makes a difference to Australians everywhere including locally because we do have local nurses as well."

Ms Curtis said the event has grown a lot in 11 years.

"It started in the hall with about 80 guests and we maxed that out," she said.

"We moved to a marquee for 200 then last year we pushed it to 250 and now we're at 280 which is the absolute capacity for this site."

"We simply can't fit a bigger marquee."

The day featured many fundraising activities including raffles, live music, auctions and a panel of guest speakers who have personally been affected by cancer.

A Thermomix raffle ran early in the day alongside a general prize raffle and a major auction saw 50 items sold.

One of the more interesting attractions was the pink pig raffle where guests were given an opportunity to choose one of several piggy banks after purchasing their ticket.

Each piggy bank contained a mystery amount of cash ranging from a few dollars to potentially hundreds of dollars.

Marty Box helped set the atmosphere with some live music and the panel of speakers opened up to share personal stories of cancer survival, grounding the event and reminding everyone of why they were there.

Ms Curtis said the idea for OMK to host a Pink Stumps Day first started more than a decade ago when her cousin was diagnosed with breast cancer.

"At the time her son Jake was playing cricket for OMK and he suggested the club hold a Pink Stumps Day," she said.

"Amy White took on the

challenge and ran the event for eight years helping build it into what it is today."

Glenn McGrath also addressed the crowd, speaking about his upbringing in New South Wales and the role sport plays in bringing people together.

He spoke about his late wife Jane and her breast cancer diagnosis, emphasising that early detection and specialist care are life-saving.

"You realise what's important in life," he said.

"All the rubbish we worry about on a daily basis you realise it's not important."

"But what is important are the people in our lives, our friends and our family."

"And in that respect I feel I've been very fortunate."

Glenn ended the day by bowling a few balls to some of the guests.

Email your reports to news@sgst.com.au



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Woolamai Cup winner Qubella's connections celebrate, Greg Price and Tom Gibson of sponsors Alex Scott and Staff present jockey Maddison Morris and trainer Barry Goodwin with their trophies.

Qubella takes Woolamai Cup

QUBELLA managed to steal the show at the Woolamai Racecourse on Saturday, February 7, powering ahead of the pack to claim the 2026 Alex Scott and Staff Woolamai Cup.

Trained by Barry Goodwin and ridden beautifully by Maddison Morris, the seven-year-old bay mare was too strong for the competition in the fifth race of the day, winning comfortably and continuing what's becoming a nice purple patch.

Qubella stopped the clock just a shade under one minute and 49 seconds over the 1708 metres, with Downtown Man taking second place, Eight Shouts third and Little Richie Turf finishing fourth.

The win rounded out an immensely successful day for the Goodwin stable, taking three

By Trent Westaway

wins from four runners on the day. Qubella was also backing up a victory at Healesville just a week earlier. She now boasts seven wins, two seconds and two thirds from 32 starts, and a total of \$91,610 in career prize money.

Despite the clinical performance, jockey Maddison Morris was quick to stay humble and deflect praise in the post-race interview, heaping praise on trainer Barry Goodwin instead.

"The credit goes to Barry, she's so easy to ride," Morris said. "I'm just really spoiled to be able to ride her."

"It's exciting to win any of the cups. I haven't won a Woolamai one before, but to do it for Baz is super special. Barry just fills me

with so much confidence."

Morris' success on the day wasn't just confined to race five either. She also claimed victory in the opening two races of the day, riding seven-year-old bay gelding Master Polanski to victory in the Open Trophy Race Handicap and four-year-old chestnut mare Magnardo to a win in the Green Valley Grains Trophy Race.

Though Morris was clearly keen to remain humble through all of her success, part owner Reece Goodwin wasn't having it, using his speech to give Maddison her flowers.

"Maddison, she's given the horse an absolute ten out of ten there," he said. "She probably needed it first time of the trip, and she was given every hope. She was too strong."

He also made a statement emphasising the commitment of long-time sponsors Alex Scott and Staff, as their company turns 140 this year. They've sponsored the race for 30 of those years.

"Alex Scott 140 years and been a sponsor here for 30 years. It's incredible. These races can't be run without sponsorship."

Beyond the racing, there was plenty of entertainment for the packed Woolamai crowd to enjoy. Gazebos lined the course and bookies worked nonstop throughout the afternoon, with families making the most of the BYO afternoon.

As usual, Fashions on the Field drew a big crowd, with 40 participants this year across five different categories, including the much-anticipated debut of the novelty category. The

crowd heavily embraced the new category, with Matt Caia taking out first place with his bull costume.

Fashions on the Field coordinator and judge Jess Odgers said the new novelty section provided great entertainment between the races.

"The novelty group gets the crowd behind it every time," she said. "It brings something extra to race day and gives people something else to watch between races."

Another highlight on the track was the Wonthaggi Motorcycles and Power Equipment Maiden Plate, which saw three-year-old bay gelding Dig For Victory break through for his first ever career win, ridden by Jack Virgona and trained by Seymour-based Melissa Page.

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