

Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

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MOTOGP GONE

ADELAIDE will host the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix on a city street circuit from 2027 after MotoGP confirmed a six-year deal with the South Australian Government on Thursday, ending Phillip Island's nearly 30-year run as home of the race.

The inaugural Adelaide event will be held across three days in November 2027, with the deal running until 2032.

The circuit will be 4.195 km long with 18 corners winding through Adelaide's city streets, with riders expected to

By Rick Koenig

reach speeds of more than 340 km/h in what will be the first MotoGP Grand Prix held in a city centre location anywhere in the world.

The track design follows the blueprint of the famous Adelaide street circuit that hosted Formula 1 between 1985 and 1995, the same layout Jeff Kennett famously poached for Albert Park in 1993.

South Australian Premier Peter Malinauskas said the deal was a major

coup for his state.

"We are now competing with the rest of the nation for the world's best events and winning," Mr Malinauskas said.

The writing had been on the wall for months.

Liberty Media completed its acquisition of Dorna in July 2025 and brought with it a commercial model built around street circuits in major cities, and the new owners wanted the Australian race moved to Albert Park in Melbourne.

Continued page 3

Coastal Grandeur



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'We prefer the Superbikes anyway'

BRAD Connolly of Yass and Ryan Hill of Canberra missed all the controversy around the Phillip Island MotoGP last week, while they took the scenic route between Canberra and Phillip Island, along fire tracks and over remote mountain passes on their offroad-capable machines ahead of last weekend's racing.

'Really? It's gone? The island still had the GP before we left,' they said.

But all's not lost, according to Brad.

'We prefer the superbikes anyway,' he said during a fuel stop at Leongatha last Thursday.

'It's a lot less hyped, more low-key.'

'You've got all the internationals that arrive with the GP event, which is fine, but there's a lot more everyday people involved in superbike racing.'

'Both are fine, don't get me wrong, but it's a lot less crowded and you can ride up to the track.'

'It's my third time at the superbikes. We've both been to the GP, but we just prefer the superbike weekend,' said Brad.

'We left Canberra at the weekend and did a bit of fishing and camping along the way. It's been great,' said Ryan.

But they both have their thoughts about why Phillip Island has lost the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix.

'Yeah, shocked on the one hand because it's been at the



Brad Connolly of Yass and Ryan Hill of Canberra on their way to the World Superbikes at Phillip Island the weekend. They're disappointed to see such an iconic event leave the famous Phillip Island GP Circuit but they can't say they're all that surprised.

Island so long and it's one of the most iconic tracks in the world, with the layout and also coastal views.

'I think if you asked the riders, they'd be really disappointed not to be racing at Phillip Island. It's been a real feature of the sport.'

'But honestly, they should have been making a lot more effort to keep it.'

'It's supposed to be a major international event, but you never got the impression that they were putting that sort of effort into it.'

'They needed to be building

up the facilities at the track and developing a lot more entertainment and interest around the weekend, like it was a major world event, making it a real festival of motorsport but you didn't get that feeling.'

'But yeah, ridiculous. I can't see how they are going to make a street circuit in Adelaide safe. I think it's crazy that you'd be trying to adapt city streets to motorbike racing.'

The loss of the MotoGP was confirmed on Wednesday, February 18, with this year's

race in October the last at Phillip Island after nearly 30 years.

Adelaide was announced as the new home the following day, with MotoGP Sports Entertainment Group confirming a six-year deal with the South Australian Government to race on a 4.195 km street circuit through the city centre from November 2027.

The Victorian Government said it had met every request from the race's owners bar one, the demand to move the event from Phillip Island to Albert Park.

'Its departure will be felt deeply'

By Rick Koenig

THE loss of the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix has drawn swift condemnation from local leaders and politicians who say Phillip Island and Bass Coast will bear the brunt of a decision made by foreign owners chasing city lights.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead is seeking an urgent meeting with Premier Jacinta Allan and Major Events Minister Steve Dimopoulos to discuss economic support for the region.

'This event has been part of our region's identity for decades. Its departure will be felt across our accommodation sector, hospitality industry and wider visitor economy,' Cr Halstead said.

Destination Phillip Island chief executive Kim Storey warned the loss would materially impact accommodation, hospitality, retail and local employment.

Ms Storey said the World Superbikes contract also expires at the end of 2027.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale said she had moved quickly to arrange a meeting between Mr Dimopoulos, Bass Coast Shire Council and local businesses.

'We are devastated the owners of the race wanted to move it from our stunning region and spectacular coastline to a street-based city race,' Ms Crugnale said.

Nationals member for Eastern Victoria Melina Bath used the Legislative Council's adjournment debate on Thursday to demand an urgent meeting between the Premier and Bass Coast stakeholders.

'You promised the Commonwealth Games, and you cancelled that too. This is a track record of diabolical proportions,' Ms Bath said.

'It beggars belief that an event drawing record-breaking crowds and injecting more than \$50 million into Bass Coast's visitor economy was allowed to be poached.'

Monash MP Mary Aldred said the GP had survived just about everything in its nearly 30 years except the Victorian Labor Government.

'Labor's track record of ignoring major events in our regions has now claimed our MotoGP,' Ms Aldred said.

Mr Dimopoulos said the government had met every request from Dorna Sports bar one, the demand to move the race to Albert Park.

'The private foreign owners of the MotoGP demanded we move the event to the city, and we said no,' Mr Dimopoulos said.

It was announced on Thursday that Adelaide will host the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix on a city street circuit from 2027 under a six-year deal, ending Phillip Island's nearly 30-year run as home of the race.

This year's event in October will be the last.

MotoGP gone: How Phillip Island lost the MotoGP to Adelaide

From page 1

Major Events Minister Steve Dimopoulos told ABC Gippsland on Wednesday morning he was not confident the race would stay.

'We've met every term that Dorna Sports had requested of us. We've even increased the offer in terms of growing the event,' Mr Dimopoulos said.

'The only thing we're not willing to meet is the request to bring it to Albert Park.'

'If you ask me if I'm

confident, I'm not confident. And the problem is we're not willing to sell out Phillip Island, and that's effectively what they're asking us to do.'

Less than eight hours later Adelaide had rolled out its street circuit plans before national media and the race was gone.

The loss also raises fears for the World Superbike Championship, with the Superbikes contract expiring at the end of 2027 and reports emerging that The Bend

Motorsport Park near Adelaide is being assessed as an alternative venue for 2028.

Calls for improved facilities at the Phillip Island Grand Prix Circuit had been an issue for years, with a proposal for onsite hotel accommodation and a golf course knocked back by VCAT in 2008.

Phillip Island first hosted the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix in 1989 when Wayne Gardner won in front of more than 90,000 fans before the race moved to

Eastern Creek in Sydney from 1991 and returned permanently in 1997.

A 2023 Ernst and Young study found the MotoGP generated \$54.6 million in economic benefit for the state including \$29.4 million in direct local spend within Bass Coast and supported about 284 full-time equivalent jobs.

Last year's event attracted 93,000 fans, the highest attendance since 2012.

This year's race in October will be the last.

MARY ALDRED
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MONASH

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CONTENTS

Entertainment	32-33
Real Estate	34-39
Puzzles	40
Farming	41-43
Trades & Services	44-45
Classifieds	46-47

FEATURES

World Hearing Day	26
Foster Show	26-29

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WED | Feb 25
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Wind AM: S 15-25km/h
Wind PM: E 15-20km/h
13° **20°**



THUR | Feb 26
Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: E 25-35km/h
Wind PM: E 25-35km/h
12° **23°**



FRI | Feb 27
Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: E 20-30km/h
Wind PM: E 20-30km/h
13° **25°**



SAT | Feb 28
Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: E 15-25km/h
Wind PM: E 15-25km/h
14° **26°**



SUN | Feb 29
Possible shower.
Wind AM: E 15-25km/h
Wind PM: E 15-25km/h
15° **28°**

IN BRIEF

Phillip Island Nature Parks seeks new board members

PHILLIP Island Nature Parks is looking for new board members to help shape the future of one of Victoria's most significant conservation and ecotourism organisations.

The board oversees the Penguin Parade, Koala Conservation Reserve, Churchill Island and approximately 1980 hectares of Crown land across Phillip Island (Milawul) including coastal reserves, wetlands and woodlands.

The role involves providing strategic direction across conservation, research, education and sustainable tourism for the island's world-famous wildlife attractions which draw visitors from across the globe.

Board members help guide long-term decisions about how the parks are managed, how they balance tourism with conservation and how they engage with the broader community.

The organisation manages some of the most significant breeding and habitat areas for penguins and koalas in Victoria.

Expressions of interest are open now.

Visit the Public Boards Victoria vacancies website to apply.

Inverloch woman blows more than double the limit

A 66-year-old Inverloch woman will face the Korumburra Magistrates' Court after allegedly returning a breath test of 0.227 when stopped by police on the Bass Highway at Inverloch on February 11.

Her vehicle was impounded for 30 days at a cost of \$1275 and she received an immediate driving ban.

On February 15 a 46-year-old Venus Bay man stopped on Inverloch-Venus Bay Road shortly before midnight allegedly returned 0.143.

His licence was cancelled and disqualified for 14 months and he received an \$865 fine.

Local police said they remain committed to removing impaired drivers from Bass Coast and South Gippsland roads.

"Please think before you drive as you will be intercepted," police said.

"You'll blow it all if you drink drive."

Wonthaggi RSL AGM

THE Wonthaggi RSL Sub-Branch will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday, March 1 at 2pm at the RSL hall, 60 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. All members are encouraged to attend as the sub-branch looks to elect its leadership team and set priorities for the year ahead. The AGM will include reports on the sub-branch's activities

over the past 12 months and outline plans for its continued role in veteran welfare and commemoration services across the Bass Coast region. Members are asked to ensure nomination forms are completed before the meeting. Positions on the committee are vital to the ongoing operation of the sub-branch and members with an interest in contributing are urged to put their names forward. The Wonthaggi RSL Sub-Branch has a long history of supporting veterans and their families through advocacy, social connection and remembrance events including Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services. For more information members can contact the sub-branch directly.

Poowong teens cautioned after defacing school murals

TWO teenage boys have been cautioned by police after breaking into a shed at an educational facility in Poowong and using stolen paint to deface murals created by former students.

The 15-year-old from South Gippsland and the 16-year-old from Baw Baw carried out the criminal damage on September 23, 2025.

Police said the pair broke into the shed, stole paint from inside and used it to write obscene words and phrases over murals that former students had worked hard to create.

The artwork held significant value to the school community.

Police noted the spelling and grammar of the vandalism suggested the pair may have benefited from more time spent inside the facility learning.

Anyone with information on local criminal activity can contact Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000.

Police warn of February motorcycle danger

FEBRUARY is one of the highest-risk months of the year for motorcycle crashes, local police have warned, urging all road users to take extra care.

Police are asking motorists to slow down, avoid distractions and stay alert to motorcycles that can be hard to spot in traffic.

Riders are encouraged to take regular breaks on longer trips to avoid fatigue and to be fully aware of conditions before heading out.

Police noted that other road users should make sure their vision is unobscured, keep a safe distance and stay fully focused when driving.

The warning comes as summer riding conditions draw more motorcyclists onto regional roads across Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

Free vehicle safety night for learner drivers in Wonthaggi

LEARNER drivers can get under a car on a hoist and speak with local police at a free safety night in Wonthaggi next month.

The Bass Coast TAC L2P Safety Night runs from 5pm to 7pm on Wednesday March 25 at Autopro Wonthaggi, 4 Murray Street.

Mechanics will cover vehicle safety features and maintenance and Bass Coast Highway Patrol officers will be on hand to answer questions.

The L2P program helps young people on low incomes access supervised driving hours so they can obtain a licence.

Everyone is welcome at the Wonthaggi event.

RSVP by Monday March 23 to Melanie at 0467 590 679 or basscoastl2p@wonthaggi-neighborhoodcentre.com.

Redesigned Fingerboards mine to face fresh environment assessment

A REDESIGNED mineral sands mining project in East Gippsland will undergo a new Environment Effects Statement after the state planning minister ruled it is materially different from the proposal assessed in 2021.

Gippsland Critical Minerals has overhauled the Fingerboards Project significantly since its original proposal following extensive community feedback and an iterative design process.

Key changes include a 1.5-kilometre exclusion zone protecting the Lindenow Valley horticultural area, removal of mining from three gullies, a 40 per cent cut in mining rate from 1500 tonnes per hour to 900 tonnes per hour and a rail-first freight strategy to reduce heavy vehicle movements on local roads.

Mined areas would be progressively rehabilitated within 12 months and a new water storage dam is proposed to become a community asset after the mine closes.

The project is expected to create more than 300 ongoing jobs if approved.

GCM Community and Stakeholder Lead Mick Harrington said the EES process would give the community a formal way to have their voices heard.

Early engagement including public information sessions and Community Reference Group meetings will continue throughout.

Parliament orders release of CFMEU corruption documents

THE Victorian Liberals and Nationals have passed a motion in state parliament ordering the government to hand over secret documents related to what the opposition has called Labor's \$15 billion

CFMEU corruption scandal.

The documents must be produced within three weeks by government leader in the upper house Jaclyn Symes.

They include written warnings and ministerial briefs between the Department of Transport and Planning and former transport infrastructure minister Jacinta Allan relating to CFMEU corruption.

Liberal MP David Davis said the scandal was the largest corruption scandal and cover-up in Victoria's history.

"The community is entitled to know what warnings and advice was provided to Jacinta Allan and when," Mr Davis said.

The opposition has pledged a Royal Commission into CFMEU misconduct if elected as well as strengthened powers for IBAC.

More than one in 10 cafes and restaurants closed in a year

MORE than one in 10 Australian cafes and restaurants shut their doors in the past 12 months, double the national business failure rate, new data shows.

The Business Risk Index from CreditorWatch found 10.4 per cent of food service businesses closed in that period compared with around 8 per cent for pubs, clubs and bars which benefit from stronger balance sheets and higher-margin beverage sales.

Nine brigades take part in bushfire battle

BASS Coast Highway Patrol officers assisted more than nine CFA brigades with a bushfire burning near Allans Road at Koorooman on Thursday afternoon.

The fire broke out about 3.15pm and was burning hard when volunteers from Leongatha, Ruby, Nerrena, Mirboo North, Milford, Meenyan-Stony Creek, Koonwarra, Dumbalk and Leongatha South fire brigades responded.

A helicopter waterbomber with the callsign Helitack 366 was called in to assist and the fire was brought under control after more than an hour.

The fire is believed to have been caused by late-season hay baling.

Police said if there had been wind on Thursday half of the surrounding hills could have been burnt.

Police reminded residents that conditions remain very dry and grass fires can spread quickly. Machinery should not be used in extreme heat and all equipment should be properly maintained.

The fire danger period remains in place across the region for several months and residents should check the CFA website at cfa.vic.gov.au for information on current fire restrictions in their area.



The prominently located home on the corner of Bena Road and Jumbunna Road Korumburra was well alight in the early hours of Saturday February 8 by the time firefighters arrived.

Korumburra man charged with arson

A 24-YEAR-OLD Korumburra man has been charged with arson after a house fire caused an estimated \$380,000 in damage on the corner of Bena Road and Jumbunna Road Korumburra on Saturday, February 8.

Matthew Martin Allen faced Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court on Monday on nine charges including intentionally destroying property by fire, burglary, theft and criminal damage.

Bass Coast Crime Investigation Unit detectives allege Mr Allen was dropped off at his residential property after at-

By Michael Giles

tending the pub and walked approximately 500 metres to the home at 1 Bena Road Korumburra in the early hours of the morning.

Police allege he forced entry to the home when no one was inside, entered the master bedroom and poured fuel before setting the room alight with fireworks.

It is further alleged a chainsaw valued at \$300 was stolen from the property and Mr Allen damaged the victim's Toyota Hilux parked out the front, causing an estimated \$800 in

damage to the vehicle.

He was seen walking away from the property at about 2.15am.

Neighbours called 000 at 2.26am when the home was engulfed in flames.

Three brigades attended the blaze. Korumburra Fire Brigade was joined by Ruby Fire Brigade and a crew member from Loch CFA Fire and Rescue Unit who responded to what was described as a fully involved house fire.

No one was home at the time and no injuries were reported.

Firefighters worked for some time to bring the fire under

control, protect neighbouring properties and extinguish remaining hot spots.

The victim is now homeless as a result of the fire.

Detective Senior Constable Paul Burns of Bass Coast CIU arrested Mr Allen on Thursday, February 20 after executing a search warrant at his home.

Mr Allen's mobile phone was seized and photographs of his clothing were taken as evidence to be compared with CCTV footage obtained during the investigation.

Mr Allen has no prior criminal history.

Beef industry eyes refund pool after Supreme Court strikes down Trump tariffs

By Rick Koenig

THE United States Supreme Court has struck down President Trump's sweeping trade war tariffs in a landmark 6-3 decision, confirming the entire legal basis for duties that slugged Australian beef producers with hundreds of millions of dollars in extra costs was invalid from the start.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the majority that the International Emergency Economic Powers Act "does not authorize the President to impose tariffs".

Australian beef copped a 10 per cent tariff from April 2 to November 13 last year, with an estimated US\$200-250 million in tariffs paid during that seven-month window—roughly A\$320-400 million.

Mr Trump removed the beef tariff on November 14 after acknowledging it "is not grown or produced in sufficient quantities in the United States", with refunds directed through US Customs and Border Protection.

The Supreme Court decision confirms the tariffs were unlawful from the start, with Penn Wharton Budget Model estimates the total refund pool across all goods could reach US\$175 billion.

Mr Trump called the decision "deeply disappointing" and labelled the majority "fools and lapdogs", taking aim at his own appointees Justices Gorsuch and Barrett.

Within hours he signed a new executive order imposing a 10 per cent global tariff under Section 122 of the Trade Act, which he raised to 15 per cent the following day.

The Section 122 tariffs expire after 150 days without congressional approval and no president has previously used the provision.

Beef has been listed among the agricultural products exempt from the new tariff, meaning Australian beef effectively faces no US import tariff for the first time since the trade war began—though the 150-day window means the reprieve may be temporary.

Mr Trump suggested refunds for the unlawful tariffs would be tied up in court for years.

South Gippsland livestock agent Simon Henderson told the Sentinel-Times in January the tariffs created uncertainty for local producers, with processors unsure whether to purchase feeder steers for 150-day programs.

"They sprung it on us in early January and took everyone by surprise, just when prices were ticking along really well and everyone was upbeat about the weaner sales," Mr Henderson said.

Despite the hit, Australia exported a record 453,292 tonnes of beef to the US in 2025 according to Meat and Livestock Australia.

The separate challenge from China's safeguard tariffs remains unresolved, with Australia allocated a quota of just 205,000 tonnes for 2026—well below last year's exports of more than 272,000 tonnes—with a punishing 55 per cent tariff applying once the quota is exceeded.

Accused set to face trial for Wonthaggi pedestrian death

THE man accused of striking and killing a Wonthaggi pedestrian and her neighbour's dog will face trial in the County Court on March 12.

Narre Warren North resident Sampath Jayasundara, 47, appeared at Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Friday, February 20, for a committal hearing where the court found sufficient evidence to proceed to trial.

Mr Jayasundara's bail was extended.

The court heard that at 2.22pm on March 2, 2025, the pedestrian and her neighbour's dog were struck by Mr Jayasundara's vehicle on Campbell Street in the western area of Wonthaggi before he fled the scene.

The committal hearing centred not on what happened but on what Mr Jayasundara knew at the time, with the

defence arguing he was either asleep or unconscious behind the wheel.

Evidence presented showed Mr Jayasundara was allegedly highly intoxicated with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.268, and the lack of steering input supports the possibility he may have been asleep.

The prosecution argued Mr Jayasundara made deliberate conscious movements to get

back on the road after the impact, which threw the dog 16 metres and caused substantial damage to the vehicle.

Mr Jayasundara was then capable of controlling the car to drive home before returning to the collision scene.

He faces charges of culpable driving causing death, failing to immediately stop at the scene where a person was injured, and failing to render assistance.

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Mayor's Message

BASS COAST

Cr Rochelle Halstead



LIKE many across our community, I was deeply disappointed to learn that the MotoGP will be leaving Phillip Island for Adelaide. For more than three decades, this event has been part of the fabric of Bass Coast. It has shaped our identity, energised our visitor economy, and placed Phillip Island firmly on the global stage.

Our community has every reason to feel proud. For 30 years, local businesses, volunteers, community groups and residents have welcomed riders, teams and spectators to our shores with warmth and professionalism. From the vibrancy of Thompson Avenue and the Event Precinct organised by Council, our region has always embraced the MotoGP with open arms.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary effort of our local traders and tourism operators, many of whom relied on this event each year. I also extend my sincere thanks to Council staff, event staff and traffic management teams who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the event ran safely and smoothly. This loss will be felt by them as well.

It is impossible to speak about the future of major events without also reflecting on infrastructure. When the opportunity to retain an international event of this scale is on the table, investment in enabling infrastructure must be part of the conversation. Upgrades to Phillip Island Road have been a long-standing priority, not just for Bass Coast but for the broader Gippsland region. In my nearly seven years on Council, this project has remained at the top of our advocacy list, supported by One Gippsland and regional partners. Progress on this critical corridor should have been advanced years ago.

I am also disappointed that Council did not have a seat at the table during negotiations regarding the future of the largest regional event in Victoria, held here in Bass Coast. Our community deserved representation in those discussions.

While this decision is a significant blow, we must look forward. Council is already turning its attention to the future. We have begun discussions with the Victorian Government and working closely with our partners at Destination Phillip Island, Destination Gippsland and regional tourism bodies to explore new opportunities that can help fill the economic gap left behind.

We need to take the time to plan what is next, ensuring that it is aligned to our values and sustainable for years to come.

Bass Coast is resilient and we have so much to offer, not just penguins! Phillip Island remains one of Australia's most iconic destinations, and our community has proven time and again its capacity to host world-class events.

Our priority is to ensure our region remains a vibrant, thriving destination for visitors, business and our community.

Bath seeks Newhaven Jetty timeline for locals

EASTERN Victoria Nationals MP Melina Bath has called on the State Government to provide a clear timeline for the Newhaven Jetty rebuild and commit to genuine consultation with the Bass Coast community on its design and construction.

The State Government announced a \$5.5 million commitment to refurbish and reopen the jetty on October 10 last year but Ms Bath said locals had received little information since then about what the project would involve or when work would begin.

The jetty, which sits at the entrance to Western Port Bay, has been a fixture of community life on Bass Coast for generations, drawing recreational fishers, families and tourists to the foreshore.

Its closure came without

notice or consultation with residents, drawing widespread criticism and prompting sustained community campaigning for its restoration.

That campaign ultimately secured the \$5.5 million funding commitment, a result Ms Bath described as a testament to the determination of locals who refused to let the issue drop.

"Since receiving a commitment of \$5.5 million to refurbish and reopen the jetty, communication with locals has been virtually non-existent," Ms Bath said.

"Residents are justifiably concerned that since the October 10 announcement last year, the Allan Government has provided almost no detail."

Newhaven Jetty has been closed for nearly two years.

For decades it was a hub for

accessible land-based recreational fishing and a significant drawcard for the region's visitor economy.

Ms Bath said the Bass Coast community's anticipation for its return was well founded.

"Newhaven Jetty has been closed for nearly two years," she said.

"Given the significant impact its closure has had on the community, repairs must now be treated as an urgent priority."

Ms Bath said any rebuild must centre on community input, with residents given a genuine say in the structure's design and a clear picture of when construction would get underway.

She said locals who had fought hard to secure the funding commitment deserved to be kept informed at every step.

Ms Bath praised the

community for its persistence.

"I commend the local community's determination and advocacy," she said.

"For decades Newhaven Jetty supported accessible land-based recreational fishing and was a vital contributor to the visitor economy - the community's anticipation is justified."

She said residents deserved full transparency on what came next.

"The Bass Coast community deserve a jetty that is safe, accessible and properly maintained; and I am committed to holding the government to account," Ms Bath said.

"Newhaven Jetty should never have been closed without notice or consultation and The Nationals are calling on Labor to release a clear timeline and engage transparently with locals."

Search called off for entangled humpback off the Prom

AERIAL searchers have failed to locate a juvenile humpback whale spotted entangled in thick rope off Wilsons Promontory, with worsening weather conditions now hampering any chance of a rescue.

The whale was first sighted last Saturday afternoon near Refuge Cove and again on Sunday morning, further south near the lighthouse.

It had a thick green rope wrapped around it and was moving very slowly.

Wildlife authorities believe it is likely the same whale first reported entangled in Jervis Bay, New South Wales, on February 5.

Since Sunday, a fixed-wing

aircraft with trained air observers has scoured the sea from Corner Inlet to Cape Lip-trap without success.

A DEECA disentanglement crew was standing by to respond if the whale was located.

After three days of aerial surveillance, the search has been suspended due to deteriorating conditions.

Higher seas and increasing winds have made it unsafe for the specialised crew to operate in open water.

DEECA said the movement of entangled whales could be unpredictable and asked people across a wide coastal area to keep watch.

Humpback whales are the largest species commonly seen

in Victorian coastal waters.

Adults can reach up to 16 metres in length and weigh up to 30 tonnes.

Entanglement in fishing gear and ropes is one of the leading causes of injury and death for humpbacks globally.

When a whale becomes entangled, the rope can restrict movement, cause wounds that become infected, and in severe cases prevent the animal from feeding or surfacing properly.

Long-distance movements by entangled whales are common, as the animals continue their migration despite the rope.

DEECA said the whale's journey from Jervis Bay to Wilsons Promontory - a

distance of more than 650 kilometres, was consistent with the southward migration pattern of humpbacks returning to Antarctic waters.

Anyone who spots the whale or any entangled marine animal is asked to call the DEECA Whale and Dolphin Emergency Hotline on 1300 136 017.

People in boats must stay at least 200 metres away from whales at all times and must not attempt to disentangle the animal.

Only trained and authorised crews should attempt disentanglement, as poorly executed attempts can tighten ropes further and cause additional injury.

Study finds 700 Strzelecki koalas in South Gippsland forests

A FIVE-YEAR survey of two South Gippsland state forests has found a population of about 700 Strzelecki koalas—a figure researchers say could represent a quarter of the entire subspecies.

Friends of the Earth surveyed Mullungdung and Won Wron State Forests in southeast South Gippsland using koala scats, locating 489 animals at Mullungdung and 181 at Won Wron.

"The study of Mullungdung and Won Wron State Forests has revealed a population of about 700 koalas," Friends of the Earth Land Use Researcher Anthony Amis said.

"This could amount to a quarter of the entire Strzelecki koala population.

"It is imperative that the State Government increase the reserve status of these forests to about 15,000 to 20,000 hectares and acknowledge the significance of this population."

Strzelecki koalas are the only genetically diverse koalas in Victoria and South Australia, unaffected by Victoria's translocation program.

More than 5400 trees were surveyed across both forests, with researchers identifying 50 koala hotspots and 12 eucalypt species used by

the animals.

Mountain Grey Gum, Swamp Gum and Yellow Stringybark were the most heavily used food trees.

Koalas showed a strong preference for older trees, with scat evidence concentrated on Mountain Grey Gums averaging 945 millimetres in diameter—typically more than 80 years old.

Creepline Herb Rich Woodland and Riparian Scrub accounted for 50 per cent of all scats at Mullungdung, while Won Wron scats were more common in plains woodlands.

Friends of the Earth is calling on the State Government

to release a genetics report on Victorian koalas shelved since July 2025.

Formal recognition of the Strzelecki koala's genetic significance could support listing the animal under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Friends of the Earth is also pushing the State Government to gazette a second 2500-hectare tract of land to complete the Brataualung Forest Park in the Strzelecki Ranges.

The State Government purchased the land almost 20 years ago but has only gazetted one-third of the promised reserve.

Danny O'BRIEN_{MP}
State Member for Gippsland South

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Room for improvement with South Gipps planning decision timeframes

By Andrew Paloczi

WHILE the number of planning application decisions in South Gippsland Shire decided within the required timeframes is comfortably exceeding council's current target, there is plenty of room for improvement with the figure sitting at 58 per cent.

That is revealed in council's latest Organisational Performance Report covering the period from July 1 to December 31, 2025, which notes the target figure for timely planning decisions is 42 per cent.

The latest planning decision figures are nearly identical to those outlined in the Organisational Performance Report presented to council in March last year and detailing the period from July to December 2024.

For that period, 56 per cent of planning decisions were made within the required timeframes, with the target having been set at 42 per cent for the 2024/25 financial year.

Interestingly, that target rose from just 32 per cent in the 2023/24 financial year but did not increase again after being comfortably exceeded.

A council spokesperson explained to the Sentinel-Times how the target is determined.

"Council sets its target based on available resourcing, the projected number of applications, and what is considered at the time the budget is developed," she said.

It is noted that while council surpassed its target last year and is on track to do so this year, in earlier years the target was not as readily exceeded.



South Gippsland Shire Council is pleased with its progress in relation to planning application decisions. A07_0826

"For that reason, the current target is considered realistic and appropriately set," the spokesperson said.

The Organisational Performance Report provides an update on how council is tracking against its Annual Budget and the progress of the Annual Actions outlined in the 2025-2029 Council Plan.

Council states that all 30 Annual Actions for 2025/26 are on track to be completed by the end of this financial year as planned.

As the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre dispute continues and council argues it cannot maintain such a substantial building portfolio, the Organisational Performance Report notes a review of that building portfolio is now three quarters of the way to completion.

That review is to assess the financial sustainability and community

benefit of the various buildings council owns.

On a positive note, council continues to support a wide range of community organisations and volunteers.

The Organisational Performance Report states that in addition to the recently announced Round 1 Community Grant recipients that shared \$719,000 worth of funding, five applicants to council's Small Grants Program were successful, as were four applicants for the Emergency Grants Program.

Round 2 of the Community Grants Program is now open.

Council continues to advance in development of its Youth Strategy and to deliver the Live4Life program providing Teen Mental Health First Aid Training to local school students and Youth Mental Health First Aid Training for adults.

Check your reference number or risk payment going missing

SOUTH Gippsland Water customers who pay by BPAY, online, by phone or through Australia Post are being urged to check they are using their new account reference number, or risk their payment failing to reach their account.

South Gippsland Water introduced a new billing system in July 2025, and all customers have since been issued a new 11-digit account reference number.

Payments made using old reference numbers from bills issued before July 2025 will no longer be processed against current accounts.

SGW Managing Director Robert Murphy said the organisation understood the change had required adjustment.

"We understand that changing account reference numbers can be frustrating, particularly for customers who have established automatic or recurring payment arrangements," Mr Murphy said.

"However, updating to the new reference number is essential to ensure payments are received and allocated correctly under our upgraded billing system."

The new 11-digit reference number appears on the back page of every water bill under the 'How

to Pay' section.

Customers affected include those who pay by BPAY, credit or debit card through the SGW website or telephone payment line, Centrepay automatic payments through Centrelink, and Australia Post payment cards.

Customers with Australia Post payment cards showing an old reference number should contact South Gippsland Water to arrange a replacement card.

In September 2025, approximately 1,300 customers were affected when the utility's e-billing provider accidentally sent bills to email addresses linked to previous property owners. South Gippsland Water suspended e-billing while the issue was investigated and has been issuing bills by post since.

The new system also moved customers to quarterly billing, meaning accounts are now issued in August, November, February and May each year.

Mr Murphy said support was available for anyone experiencing difficulties with the transition.

Customers can visit sgwater.com.au or call SGW Customer Service on 1300 851 636 for assistance.

Absence from work certificates



Does your medication need to be injected? We can administer that for you.



Our Pharmacists can issue absence from work certificates for personal leave and carers leave.

Service fees apply. Subject to Pharmacist's scope of practice, professional judgement and discretion. Patients may be referred to a medical practitioner. Ask your employer if they accept leave certificates from a pharmacist. TM21435



Ask our Pharmacist today for more info, or scan QR code to book now for a consultation

If your doctor has prescribed you a medication which must be injected, ask your trained Pharmacist about:

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Available at TerryWhiteChemmart Leongatha, Inverloch and Korumburra. Conditions apply. See online or call in store for details. TerryWhite Chemmart reserve the right to correct printed errors.

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

Aldred named co-chair of illegal tobacco taskforce

By Rick Koenig

FEDERAL Member for Monash Mary Aldred has been appointed Deputy Opposition Whip and co-chair of the Coalition's new Illegal Tobacco Taskforce, weeks after telling parliament an illegal vape store in Inverloch was still selling to children despite a federal raid.

Newly appointed Opposition Leader Angus Taylor announced the appointments on Wednesday, February 18, days after defeating Sussan Ley 34-17 in a Liberal Party leadership spill.

Ms Aldred will co-chair the taskforce alongside Senator Richard Colbeck.

She said she was delighted to take up both roles, with the taskforce position building directly on her work over recent months.

The role formalises months of advocacy that began after a ram-raid on a grocery store in her electorate first drew her attention to the illicit tobacco trade.

"Since the ram-raid of a local grocery store in my electorate of Monash, I've taken up the issue of illegal tobacco and the impact it is having on communities across Australia," Ms Aldred said.

"From Inverloch to Longwarry, local people have been raising with me their concern about the impact on children being sold vapes, retail staff being



Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred.

assaulted and the increase in people being driven to the black market to buy illegal cigarettes because of the excessively high tobacco excise tax."

The Sentinel-Times reported earlier this month that TGA officers and Victoria Police raided a pop-up vape store in Inverloch in late January, seizing hundreds of vapes over allegations it was selling illicit products to minors.

Despite the raid the store remained open, prompting Ms Aldred to raise the matter in parliament.

"While the TGA continues to consider what to do next, the outlet remains open for business," Ms Aldred told parliament at the time.

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

More than 200 tobacco shops have been firebombed since 2023 and the retail industry estimates it has lost \$2billion 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 \$1billion in evaded excise that would have gone towards funding roads, schools and hospitals," Ms Aldred said.

Ms Aldred said the proceeds of the illicit trade were also funding organised crime and suspected terrorist activities, compounding the risk to community safety.

She said enforcement was failing to keep pace with the problem, pointing to a new Victorian licensing scheme that put just 14 inspectors in charge of the entire state.

"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.

Ms Aldred said both state and federal governments had failed to act on the crisis.

"State and federal Labor governments have their head in the sand on this issue and I'm pleased to have been asked to take on this role to help develop the Coalition's policy response," she said.

The Inverloch vape store remains under investigation by the TGA.

Waterline women planning International Women's Day

A CORINELLA and Grantville duo are bringing International Women's Day to the Waterline area with an event celebrating local women who do exceptional work but fly under the radar.

Rowanne Grinsted from Corinella and long-time community advocate Helen Zervopoulos from Grantville will host the celebration at The Gurdies Winery on Friday March 6 from 3pm to 6pm.

"We are planning to host International Women's Day in 2026 to celebrate the lives and achievements of our local women," Ms Grinsted said.

"The bigger vision is to bring more interesting and varied events to the Waterline area, to promote what is on offer here and to showcase what a vibrant and happening place the Waterline area can be."

The event will focus on women whose contributions often go unrecognised because they are not looking for accolades.

Finger food will be provided and drinks can be purchased at the bar.

"We have the venue, we have the skills and we have the passion to make our first event a success," Ms Grinsted said.

Tickets are available at trybooking.com.






Construction starts on Marinus Link this year

Locals are now invited to join community focus groups:

- ◆ Share local views, concerns, and ideas
- ◆ Provide feedback on project plans as they develop
- ◆ Receive updates from the Marinus Link team and contractors
- ◆ Help improve communication between the project and the community.



Scan the QR code to learn more and express interest in becoming a voice for your community

marinuslink.com.au




SATURDAY JUNIOR NETBALL IS BACK!

Our Winter season commences

Saturday, March 28 | 8am – 12noon
Wonthaggi Netball Courts, Korumburra Road

11 and under – mixed • 13 and under – mixed
15 and under – female • 18 and under – expressions of interest

Visit www.wdnawonthaggi.org for more information

PAID POSITION AVAILABLE

GAME DAY CO-ORDINATOR

We have an exciting paid opportunity to co-ordinate our Saturday Junior match days.

Key responsibilities

- Ensuring smooth, safe and well-organised match days
- Supporting our junior umpires and club volunteers
- Strengthening the overall experience for players and families

Requirements

- Current Working with Children Check (WWCC)
- Experience in netball (player, coach, umpire or admin)
- Strong organisational and time management skills
- To be physically on your feet three – five hours on game days

For more information head to our Facebook page or to apply email CV and letter to juniors@wdnawonthaggi.org



South Gippsland
Shire Council

South Gippsland Shire Council News

Organisational Performance Report Adopted

At its 18 February Meeting, Council adopted the Organisational Performance Report for 1 July to 31 December 2025, outlining strong financial and operational performance. The Report outlines Council's progress against the 2025/26 Annual Budget and tracks delivery of key actions in the 2025 - 2029 Council Plan.

Council remains in a sound financial position. The adjusted underlying result for the 2025/26 budget is forecast to be a 3.4 per cent surplus, exceeding the 0 per cent target. Council's Indebtedness Ratio of 22.38 per cent sits well below the 40 per cent benchmark, showing that debt is being managed carefully while investment in the community continues.

A detailed midyear budget review also revealed a \$12 million improvement to the financial reserves, enabling repayment of funds used to respond to major storm events over recent years.

Council's Capital Works program is tracking well. Expenditure to the end of December

is largely on track, with projects running on time with minimal delays.

KEY COUNCIL PLAN ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Early community consultation for the 2026/27 Budget.
- Community feedback provided for the Draft Community Engagement Policy and Strategy.
- Adoption of the Domestic Animal Management Plan 2026–2029.
- Progress on the Economic Development Strategy.
- Commencing our Heritage Review Project.
- The Live4Life Program annual review.
- Excellent performance in planning and road-maintenance.
- Dogs have been welcomed into Coal Creek for the first time.

For more information and to read the full report, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/yourcouncil

Connect with Councillors



Drop in and have a chat with Councillors next week:

When: Wednesday 4 March, 1.00pm - 2.00pm.

Where: Venus Bay Community Centre.

No booking required - just come along on the day.

Two more sessions will be held later in the year:

- Wednesday 3 June - Loch
- Wednesday 2 September - Port Welshpool

Opportunities are also available to 'Meet the Mayor' on the second Tuesday of each month.

To learn more or apply for one of the 30-minute sessions, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/meetthemayor

COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 March 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

JOBS EXPO 2026

Explore different industries, chat with employers and businesses who are currently hiring, and learn about training opportunities.

Where: Memorial Hall, Leongatha.

When: Thursday 19 March, 10.00am to 2.00pm.

For more information, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/jobsexpo

COMMUNITY GRANTS DROP-IN SESSIONS

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

To assist with applications, Council has been hosting drop-in sessions across South Gippsland with Community Development Staff. The final session of this Round is listed below.

Venus Bay Community Centre

Wednesday 25 Feb - 12.30pm to 4.00pm.

For more information, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants

IMMUNISATION SESSION

Where: Leongatha Early Learning Centre.

When: Thursday 26 February, 9.30am - 11.30am.

For more information and to book your session, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation

REQUEST FOR TENDER

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

RFT/449 Construction of Nyora Public Toilet Facility

Tenders close at 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 10 March 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



Owners of long lots in Korumburra's Bena Road are pleased to have longer to convey their concerns to councillors, with Richard Collyer, Leo and Michelle Lacanaria, Anna Stuckey and Sue Hinton among those who attended Wednesday's council meeting. A09_0826

Long lot owners continue campaign

OWNERS of the unusually shaped blocks of land in Bena Road, Korumburra, known as long lots were interested onlookers at Wednesday's South Gippsland Shire Council meeting, at which they were granted an extension of time to persuade councillors not to impose a Development Plan Overlay on their properties.

They argue that should the overlay idea proceed, it will create an unworkable expectation of close to 20 long lot owners jointly preparing a development plan, something that even in the improbable event of all being in agreement would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The recommendation before councillors was to request a Planning Scheme amendment through the Minister for Planning to apply a Development Plan Overlay to properties between 8A and 62 Bena Road.

However, Cr John Schelling

By Andrew Paloczi

moved an alternate motion to delay the decision until a future council meeting, enabling councillors to make a more informed vote, with that motion supported unanimously.

Mayor Nathan Hersey excluded himself, declaring a conflict of interest because he partly owns land in the area that may be affected by significant development.

Sue Hinton is one of the concerned long lot owners, having provided council with a petition on behalf of those opposing the imposition of a Development Plan Overlay on their properties.

She told the Sentinel-Times that 38 of the 50 signatures are from landowners bounding the area concerned, all bar two of whom would be directly affected should the overlay proposal be implemented.

"I don't think landowners understand how much it would cost to subdivide based on council's plans,"

Ms Hinton said, adding that individual landowners needed to be presented with the costs they would face.

The Sentinel-Times asked about the types of expenses being referred to.

"A lot of reports have to be done up front and then you've got to put in roads; it's not council putting in roads, it's the landowner," Ms Hinton said, noting services and drainage are other requirements.

"Half our land is earmarked for public open space and we can't get clarity about how we'll be compensated," she said of her situation should the overlay be applied to the long lots.

"My property would be an access road, so if I don't agree to it, the whole plan is virtually defunct," Ms Hinton remarked.

Another owner, Richard Collyer, spoke of the reaction to council's proposal for the long lots.

"I think people feel it's a totally unnecessary imposition

on them; they want the land to stay as it is," he said, albeit there is currently a planning application submitted by an owner of a couple of the long lots for a 23-lot development.

Mr Collyer's sentiments were shared by Cr Sarah Gilligan when she spoke during the meeting on her willingness to defer the overlay decision.

"I know that if I had one of those long lots I would have planted it out and I would be fighting like hell," she said.

Cr Gilligan also touched on the complexity of the legacy planning issue at stake and the need to strike a balance between preventing piecemeal subdivision of the unusually shaped lots and infringing on owners' rights.

It's certain long lot owners will be going all out to ensure councillors have a thorough understanding of their concerns before the Planning Overlay matter comes up for decision.

Opaque transparency questioned as details remain limited

SOUTH Gippsland Shire councillors continue to point to the publication of a Summary of Strategic Briefings in council meeting agendas as evidence of transparency, but for several reasons those summaries remain light on details.

The latest Summary of Strategic Briefings covers the period from November 13 last year to January 12 this year, with the stated purposes of the report being to provide a summary of the information presented to councillors and to support transparency around council decisions and actions.

A council spokesperson responded to the Sentinel-

By Andrew Paloczi

Times' question about the lack of detail on discussions taking place during the noted councillor briefing sessions.

"A greater level of detail is not always possible as some items may be at an early stage, may not proceed further, or may involve commercially or financially sensitive information," she said.

During the February council meeting, Mayor Nathan Hersey spoke of the importance of the Summary of Strategic Briefings.

"This is part of our transparency and the way we're operating as a council in

making sure that our community understands and has oversight of what it is that council is being briefed on and what it is that we're discussing," Cr Hersey said.

"There are no surprises in here," he added, listing topics discussed in various council briefing sessions including property discussions, financial performance reports, grants, Coal Creek, youth strategy discussions and planning briefings.

One example noted is that of December 10 last year when councillors discussed what is described in the Summary of Strategic Briefings as "Leongatha

Library Options".

That entry tells you that eight of nine South Gippsland Shire councillors participated, with Cr Bron Beach an apology, and that there were no conflicts of interest.

The Sentinel-Times requested further information as to what options were discussed for Leongatha Library but that proved to be an instance in which a greater level of detail is not possible due to reasons outlined earlier in this article.

Still, you cannot say you have not been told South Gippsland Shire councillors discussed Leongatha Library.

Mayor's Message



South Gippsland
Shire Council



Cr Nathan Hersey

The first Council Meeting for 2026 was held last week. From the Meeting, I particularly want to comment on Council's Performance Report.

Council is tracking strongly, both financially and in terms of our performance against our targets, including delivery of projects.

Council delivers more than 80 services to our community, which is in addition to the initiatives outlined in our Council Plan each year. I am proud of what has been achieved so far and understand it is important to continue to deliver for the benefit of our community. I understand the role of Council is to deliver for our people.

This Council has committed to providing improved transparency about what we are doing and why, ensuring our community have input and can see the progress.

Connect with Councillors

The first Connect with Councillors session will be held on Wednesday, March 4 from 1pm to 2pm at the Venus Bay Community Centre. We're happy to chat about opportunities, challenges and what you or your group are up to. All are welcome to attend.

These opportunities will be taking place every few months, so if this one doesn't work for you, feel free to come along to the next one. You can also contact Councillors via the details on Council's website or attend a Meet the Mayor session held on the first Tuesday of each month.

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/councillors

One Gippsland

For the past 12 months, I have proudly been serving as the Chair of One Gippsland. With our six Gippsland local governments, One Gippsland also brings together key regional partners who share a united commitment to strong advocacy for Gippsland and the long-term benefits it delivers for our region. Our key One Gippsland partners include Destination Gippsland, Federation University, Food and Fibre Gippsland, Gunai-kurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, and TAFE Gippsland.

One Gippsland has had some good success in advocating for

Gippsland and has proven that working together as a region on advocacy priorities beyond our individual borders is beneficial to us all.

I am honoured to announce that I have been re-elected as Chair of One Gippsland for the year ahead and I'm looking forward to working with members on our shared goals, making a positive difference in Gippsland.

Rural Councils Victoria event

In preparation for the Victorian state election in November, I attended the Rural Councils Victoria State Election Platform event along with Cr Scott Rae and our CEO Allison Jones.

It is important that clear advocacy priorities with our rural communities in mind are brought to the attention of decision makers in our Victorian Parliament. It was great to see Danny O'Brien MP at the event.

At South Gippsland Shire Council, we review our advocacy priorities every year to ensure they are still reflective of the work we are doing for our community. You can find the advocacy priorities on Council's website. www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Leongatha Rotary Club

Thank you to the Leongatha Rotary Club for the invitation to present at the recent meeting.

I appreciate the opportunity to talk directly to groups and community members, to hear the opportunities and challenges they are experiencing, and communicate what's happening at Council.

If you would like a Councillor to come along to your next event, you can send through a request via email.

Music at Mossvale

If you're looking for a musical afternoon fit for the entire family, Music at Mossvale on Sunday, March 1 from 2pm is sure to be a great event!

With a range of music for all, performed by outstanding local artists, I encourage you to come along. Bring a rug, chair and/or picnic and enjoy!

To find out more about Music at Mossvale and other events happening in South Gippsland, please visit: www.visit-southgippsland.com.au/events

Public notice of intention to declare a special charge for the purpose of constructing and improving roads and drainage along The Esplanade (Sunderland Bay Road to Zephyr Court), Sunderland Bay



In accordance with a resolution of Bass Coast Shire Council (Council) made at the 18 February 2026 Council Meeting, notice is given that at the 15 July 2026 Council Meeting, Council proposes to declare a Special Charge (Special Charge) under section 163(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act), and otherwise according to law, for the purpose of defraying costs and expenses incurred and/or to be incurred by Council in relation to the construction and improvement of roads and drainage along The Esplanade (Sunderland Bay Road to Zephyr Court), Sunderland Bay situated within the municipal district of the Council (Street), such works involving the full upgrade of roads and drainage, including the provision of road pavement and sealing works, the provision of underground surface and storm water drainage in the Street, the provision of kerb and channelling, nature strip works, road narrowings for local traffic management and other ancillary works necessary to complete the construction of the project known as the 'The Esplanade (Sunderland Bay Road to Zephyr Court) Special Charge Scheme' otherwise in accordance with the concept plans approved by Council at the 18 February 2026 Council Meeting (Scheme). So far as can be reasonably ascertained from available records of the Council and can reasonably be concluded, Council has ascertained that the roads or any component of the roads for which it is proposed the Special Charge will be declared have not previously been constructed by way of a special rate or charge.

The criteria which form the basis of the Special Charge are the ownership of rateable land in the Scheme area based on equally sharing the costs of some portions, front or side boundaries of the properties in the Scheme (modified where appropriate) for some portions and the area of the properties in the scheme (discounted where appropriate) for some portions which about the roads to be constructed or upgraded and which rateable land is situated within the geographical area of the proposed declaration are included.

Council considers that each rateable property included in the Scheme area that is liable to pay the Special Charge will receive a special benefit through the provision of proper, safe and suitable roads, drainage and property services and there will be a special benefit to the persons liable to pay the Special Charge because there will be a benefit over and above, or greater than, the benefit to persons who are not subject to the Special Charge and, directly and indirectly, the works to be provided will enhance or maintain the value and the use, occupation and enjoyment of the properties included in the Scheme, through the provision of proper, safe and suitable roads and drainage and property services.

In proposing the declaration of the Special Charge, Council is performing functions and exercising powers in relation to the peace, order and good government of the municipal district of the Council, in particular the provision of proper, safe and suitable roads, drainage and property services in the area for which it is proposed the Special Charge will be declared. The total cost of the performance of the functions and the exercise of the powers referable to the Scheme (and the amount which the Council intends to declare and levy) is an amount of \$1,741,550 being the estimated cost of the Scheme works to be undertaken) with Council intending to declare and levy by way of the Special Charge an amount of \$524,033, but excluding other related costs (which will be borne solely by Council) totalling \$108,000 for the contribution towards downstream drainage works.

The Special Charge will commence on and from the making of any Council decision to declare the Special Charge and will remain in force until such time as the Special Charge has been paid in full.

The Special Charge will be declared and assessed in accordance with the amounts which have been calculated and appear alongside each property in the Schedule attached to and forming a part of this proposed declaration of Special Charge (being Schedule 2), such amounts having been calculated based on both a road component cost and a drainage component cost as referable to a combined method of sharing some costs equally and to the length of the frontage and/or sideage of each property included in the Scheme (for the road component) and the area of each property included in the Scheme (for the drainage component).

The Special Charge will be levied by the Council sending a notice of levy to the persons who are liable to pay the Special Charge. Incentives will be given for payment before the due date for payment as set out below. The levy notice to be sent will include four options for payment which are as follows –

(a) Payment Option 1: Lump Sum Payment – upfront payment of the Special Charge in full within 30 days of the date of issue of an invoice, with a 5% discount and no interest.

(b) Payment Option 2: Lump Sum Payment – upfront payment of the Special Charge in full within 90 days of issue of an invoice, with no discount and no interest.

(c) Payment Option 3: Instalment Payment Plan – payment of the Special Charge in 40 quarterly instalments over 10 years, with interest. Interest will be charged on the reducing balance of the principal each quarter at the rate of 1% above the estimated borrowing costs of the Council. If a ratepayer is late with payment of an instalment, penalty interest will be charged on the balance of principal due each quarter.

(d) Payment Option 4: Hardship Payment Plan - a payment plan, extended beyond 10 years to a maximum of 20 years, tailored to the individual needs of the ratepayer upon receipt of a completed Financial Hardship Application Form. Interest will be charged on the reducing balance of the principal each quarter up to the maximum rate of 1% above the estimated borrowing costs of the Council. This option is subject to the Council assessing the property owner as experiencing financial hardship, in accordance with the Council's Hardship and Financial Hardship Policy.

Ratepayers who elect to pay by instalments will receive subsequent quarterly instalment notices.

Because the performance of the functions and exercise of the powers in respect of which the Special Charge is to be declared and levied relates substantially to capital works, the Special Charge will be levied on the basis of an instalment plan being available to ratepayers (being the 'Payment Option 3: Instalment Payment Plan' or the 'Payment Option 4: Hardship Payment Plan'). Quarterly instalments will include a component for reasonable interest costs, which will be charged at the rate of 1% above the estimated borrowing costs of Council in respect of the construction of the roads and the provision of the drainage works.

For the purposes of having determined the total amount of the Special Charge to be levied under the Scheme, the Council considers and formally determines for the purposes of sections 163(2)(a), (2A) and (2B) of the Act (and in accordance with the Benefit Ratio Statement adopted by Council) that the estimated proportion of the total benefits of the Scheme to which the performance of the functions and exercise of powers relate (including all special benefits and community benefits) that will accrue as special benefits to all of the persons who are liable to pay the Special Charge is in a ratio of 0.3009 or 30.09%.

Any declaration of the Special Charge will expire if the Special Charge is not levied to each person liable to pay it within 12 months after the day on which the declaration which relates to the Special Charge is made. Copies of the proposed declaration of Special Charge, a detailed plan of the Scheme area, a list of the rateable properties included in the Scheme and the amount of the Special Charge payable by each property included in the Scheme are available for inspection at the offices of Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi during normal business hours and on the internet website of Council until 5pm on 15 April 2026.

Any person may make a submission about the proposed declaration to the Council under sections 163A and 223 of the Act. In addition, any person who will be required to pay the Special Charge to be imposed by the proposed declaration has a right to object to the proposed declaration under section 163B of the Act. Submissions and/or objections must be received by the Council by 5pm on 15 April 2026. Submissions and/or objections must be in writing and addressed and sent by mail to the Chief Executive Officer, Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995. In accordance with sections 163A, 163B and 223 of the Act, the Council will consider all written submissions and take into account all objections that are received by the closing date.

Any person who has made a submission under section 223 of the Act may request to be heard in support of their written submission. If such a request is made, the person is entitled to appear in person or to be represented by a person specified in the submission before a Committee appointed by the Council to hear submissions under section 223 of the Act. The day, time and place of the Committee hearing will be advised in writing.

Council will treat all submissions and objections received (and any personal information contained therein) in accordance with its Privacy Policy and with applicable legislation, including the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

Any person requiring further information about the proposed declaration of Special Charge should contact Council's Sustainable Transport and Movement Team on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or email roadupgrades@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Greg Box
Chief Executive officer

Dune rebuild to start in April as sandbag works near completion

By Bruce Wardley

DUNE reconstruction on the Inverloch surf beach is set to start in April just weeks after sandbag reinstatement works are completed, DEECA has confirmed.

Sections of the beach will be closed during the construction period with fencing and barriers installed to prevent public access.

Effective noise barriers will be put in place and monitored by the EPA.

DEECA said the works have been designed and engineered by independent coastal engineers to protect the dunes from further coastal erosion while also increasing the beach area.

A cutter suction dredge will recover sand from within Anderson Inlet and pump it along the surf beach to designated nourishment locations.

Anderson Inlet was selected as the sand source for the dune reconstruction after an extensive study of offshore and land-based sand options.

The inlet's sand bars were found to contain coarser sand better able to hold the designed dune shape and resist storm erosion.

All equipment including the pipeline carrying the sand will be removed once the project is complete.

DEECA said the pipeline is needed for use in other locations.



Work has resumed on reinstating and extending the geotextile sandbag wall surrounding the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club. B14_0826

The dune reconstruction and sand nourishment works are designed to provide an effective short to medium-term buffer against erosion and storm impacts and adjust naturally to ongoing wave and tidal conditions, gradually reducing over time.

In most instances dredging work will continue through storm events.

When there are wave height limitations on the vessel where it may be unsafe to operate, work may pause for a short time and beach plant and machinery temporarily removed.

The width of the renourishment will typically vary between 20 metres and 40 metres although it may be wider at the western end where the

existing dune is set back further.

The dune will be narrower on the eastern side of the Surf Life Saving Club.

DEECA said it has been collaborating with Bass Coast Shire Council to plan the dune revegetation which will occur once the dune renourishment has had time to settle.

Dune revegetation will include local species with the aim of stabilising the renourished dune and enhancing biodiversity.

DEECA and Bass Coast Shire Council have been working with the South Gippsland Conservation Society and local nurseries to plan the revegetation.

Plant species are likely to be

planted in late spring in holes with water crystals to provide a source of moisture to assist them in establishing when the rainfall is higher and before the summer heat.

Both branches of Wreck Creek have been considered during the nourishment design to mitigate coastal flood risks.

Wreck Creek will be monitored to reduce flood risk during and after the beach works.

DEECA said structures like groynes, seawalls or rock bags can slow sand movement but also significantly change how a beach looks, functions and can be used.

Even short groynes buried under the sand would eventually become exposed as the beach erodes, altering beach access, safety and recreation.

"Community engagement has consistently told us that keeping Inverloch beach as natural and usable as possible is a high priority," a DEECA spokesperson said.

The Cape to Cape Resilience Plan assessed a range of engineering options including groynes, seawalls and rock bag structures alongside nature-based approaches.

Large-scale beach renourishment, dune rebuilding and vegetation restoration were selected as the preferred actions because they maintain the natural character of the beach while improving its resilience to erosion and storms.

Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre land set for rezoning

By Andrew Paloczi

AS ANTICIPATED, the Minister for Planning will be asked to approve the rezoning of the land on which the vacant Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre sits, from Public Use Zone (PUZ) to Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z), with councillors adopting a Planning Scheme Amendment to that effect at their February meeting.

Strzelecki Ward's Cr John Kennedy was the only councillor to vote against the Amendment.

"It's going to be slow to sell," he said of the land, noting there are 13 or 14 empty shops in town.

Cr Kennedy remains unconvinced of the viability of continuing to spend money on the site to try to sell it.

"I've always said from day one it should be given back to the Senior Citizens," he said, arguing that is what many in the community want and that public money was put into constructing the building.

Contrastingly, Cr John Schelling described the decision before councillors on Wednesday as "procedural", elaborating, "We've been down the pathways of listening to everyone, involving everyone, taking it all on board and the decision's been made for us and I look forward to moving ahead."

That followed a Planning Panel recommendation to rezone the land on the basis that PUZ is not a suitable classification.

While the idea of rezoning the land previously caused considerable local angst, the Planning Panel's report stressed that a change from PUZ to C1Z won't preclude community use of the land.

Thus, the rezoning has not dampened the efforts of those in the Korumburra Senior Citizens Club to reclaim what they regard as a second home.



Augmented reality visualisation

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SEC is delivering Victoria's first publicly owned, utility-scale wind generation project – right here in Gippsland.

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Community sessions

Information on jobs and construction

Monday 2 March

10am – 2pm & 3pm – 7pm
Yinnar & District Memorial Hall
Yinnar

Tuesday 3 March

3.30pm – 7pm
Boolarra Memorial Hall
Boolarra

Wednesday 4 March

11am – 3pm
SEC Morwell hub 248 Commercial Rd
Morwell

Drop-ins welcome

Industry briefings

Information for businesses and suppliers

Wednesday 4 March

5pm – 7pm
SEC Morwell hub 248 Commercial Rd
Morwell

Thursday 5 March

5pm – 7pm
Leongatha Memorial Hall
Leongatha



Register to attend an industry briefing

Cape Liptrap abalone poacher sentenced after year-long case

A FATHER who took more than three times the legal limit of abalone from Cape Liptrap Coastal Park has been found guilty and sentenced to 18 months of community corrections, following a case that has wound its way through the Wonthaggi Magistrates Court for more than 10 months.

The man, who was part of a family group from Hoppers Crossing apprehended by fisheries officers near Cape Liptrap in April 2025, was ordered to complete 150 hours of community service, pay costs to the Victorian Fisheries Authority of more than \$2500 and is prohibited for 12 months from fishing for or possessing abalone or being aboard a vessel of less than 20 metres in Victorian waters.

The father and his teenage son were observed by VFA officers conducting covert surveillance before being stopped in the Cape Liptrap carpark wearing camouflaged wetsuits.

The family group was found in possession of 32 black-lip abalone, well above the legal limit of five per person per day.

The son's matter was dealt with separately in the Children's Court, where he pleaded guilty to taking more than twice the catch limit and received a good behaviour bond for six months.

A central argument in the father's case was that the teenager had collected the majority of the abalone, accepting responsibility for 27 of the 32 shellfish.

However, VFA prosecutors argued the father met the legal definition of being in possession of the catch regardless of who physically collected the abalone.

Cape Liptrap is among the most closely watched marine areas in the region, as it borders Cape Liptrap Coastal Park, a state-protected area where take limits and intertidal collection rules are strictly enforced.

The VFA noted that the daily bag limit applies per person actively involved in diving or fishing and cannot be shared among family members or bystanders.

New ancient turtle species revealed on the Bass Coast

By Bruce Wardley

IN a world first the fossilised remains of a new genus and species of a 125 million-year-old Lower Cretaceous turtle have been discovered near Inverloch on the Bass Coast.

This ancient river turtle once lived alongside the region's dinosaurs on the banks of what was known as Big River, a fossil locality that has yielded the most complete specimens of these turtles ever found.

The Dinosaur Dreaming dig at Inverloch has just entered its third and final week.

Crew members have been climbing down to the beach at Twin Reefs looking for the remains of the creatures that lived there 126 million years ago.

So far this year they have found many bones and a beautiful shiny tooth from an Australian ornithopod dinosaur.

The ornithopods were wally-sized plant eaters with a small beak for crushing the very hard vegetation that was plentiful during the Cretaceous period.

Dinosaur Dreaming volunteers have also collected excellent impressions of 126-million-year-old plants such as gingkoes and conifer cones.

Gingkoes were not only dinosaur food but also tell us a lot about what the environment was like long



Alan Tait collecting fossils with Jack Eli Fletcher Biggs and Lisa Nink at the Dinosaur Dreaming dig at Twin Reefs. B32_0826 INSERT: A fossilised fish jaw found at Twin Reefs during this year's Dinosaur Dreaming dig.

ago.

There was no beach at Twin Reefs 120 million years ago but a riverbank with a lush forest that stretched from Mallacoota to the South Australian coast.

The Dinosaur Dreaming crew has also found bones of turtles and fish but have yet to find anything that they can positively identify as a big meat-eating dinosaur.

"We know that they were here because of bones from previous field seasons," volunteer Wendy White said.

Dr Jake Kotevski of Monash University estimated the meat-eating dinosaurs were up to seven metres long and could have weighed in excess of half a tonne.

The bones and teeth of fossilised animals can be very small so when the tide forces the volunteers off the beach they carry the remaining big chunks of rock up the steep cliffs so it can be broken down in the back yard of the dig house until it is sugar-cubed size.

Thousands of fossil foot-

prints that belonged to a big meat-eater were found along the Otway coast this year and near Twin Reefs by volunteer Tim Wagstaff.

"That dinosaur could still be lurking in the rocks somewhere," Ms White said.

Early sea turtles and semi-aquatic species of the Lower Cretaceous period were often armoured reptiles that thrived alongside the dinosaurs.

The Dinosaur Dreaming crew is convinced that they could find more bones of these ancient animals at any time.

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Wonthaggi LSC fed up with car park anarchy

By Trent Westaway

WONTHAGGI Life Saving Club president Mark Scott says the car parking situation at Bay Beach in Cape Paterson has reached a breaking point.

He says on busy days the chaos can affect everyone from volunteers and staff to beach users and emergency access vehicles.

The lack of structured parking has been an issue for more than a decade according to Mr Scott, but it continues to worsen as visitor numbers increase and parking space becomes even more limited.

He describes the situation on busy summer days as pure "anarchy."

"There is no actual proper parking," he said.

"People park nose in, parallel, back in. There's no structure to it at all; it's just an open gravel area."

The problem is only getting worse over time as parking space continues to shrink due to vegetation gradually encroaching into the car park.

Mr Scott noted that there was a master plan completed in 2014 and a design produced in 2016 that identified the need for improvements to the car park, which included various changes to road alignment and drainage, although not much progress has been made since.

Over summer the consequences can be quite serious.

Mr Scott said there had been multiple vehicle collisions recorded in the car park, often damaging poles and fire hydrants.

In addition to damage it becomes increasingly difficult for emergency vehicles to access the site.

The frustrations of beachgoers have even escalated into physical altercations in the past.

"We can't get ambulances in half the time because people park in front of gates," he said.

"On hot days, when there's nowhere to park, tempers flare. We've had push and shoves and even a couple of punch-ups."

As parking becomes impossible near the beach during busy periods, visitors often resort to parking along Surf Beach Road, which has led to numerous mass fining sprees from council officers.

"People go, 'I can't get in here,' so they park along the main road, and then they get fined," he said.

"It just discourages people from coming down at all."

A Bass Coast Shire Council spokesperson said they prioritise patrols during the busy periods due to community requests.

"Council enforces parking restrictions across Bass Coast, including at beach access parking. During the summer season this is a priority both for community and Council, and Council has prioritised patrols in response to increased utilisation and community requests," they said.

The impact is also being felt by the club's travelling volunteers, which in turn affects the club.

"We've got members coming from Ballarat through to the Latrobe Valley," Mr Scott said.

"They arrive, can't get a park, and ring us asking where they're meant to put their car. Sometimes the answer is that there's nowhere."

Service vehicles also struggle to access the site as the tight car park design makes it difficult for larger vehicles to navigate.

Most recently a fire hydrant was struck during an attempted tight manoeuvre from a garbage truck.

The issue has moved beyond simple convenience-related concerns, with Mr Scott pointing out accessibility issues for elderly and disabled beach users.

"This is one of the only low-level, easily accessible beaches between Inverloch and San Remo," he said.

"There's no disability parking at all, despite this being identified in both the master plan and the beach accessibility plan."

According to Mr Scott the club has raised these concerns with Bass Coast Shire Council on numerous occasions.

He says their reply usually dismisses the issue as seasonal and that funding for parking upgrades is not a priority.

"Yes, it's quieter in winter," he said.

"But on hot days the car park is full again. The pressure doesn't just disappear."

The club is calling for solutions including

road widening and a renewed discussion around the current status of the existing Bay Beach Master Plan.

"This can't just keep going," Mr Scott said. "We're getting more visitors every year, and the infrastructure hasn't kept up."

Bass Coast Shire Council informed the Sentinel-Times it is currently working with the Community Safety Building Authority to finalise a location that would allow them to relocate the clubhouse and all amenities as part of the Cape Paterson Bay Beach Activity Area Master Plan.

The Council also said that car park upgrades would be included in future plans once the location is finalised and construction begins.

"Once the location is finalised and construction of the new facilities begins, Council will be able to plan for complementary car park upgrades to support the new building and improve access for the community."



A packed car park at Bay Beach during a recent hot day, where limited space has become a growing concern for the Wonthaggi Life Saving Club.

You now need to be 16 or over to have an account on social media.



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Accessing your medical information and seeing a new GP with confidence

There are established processes and national digital systems in place to help you access your records, understand what information is available, and continue your care safely and confidently anywhere in Gippsland.

Seeing a new GP or clinic

Many people see a new GP at different times in their lives. This is a routine and well-established process.

When booking your first appointment:

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- Bring your Medicare card and photo ID
- Bring any concession or health care cards
- Prepare a list of your current medications and dosages
- Note any allergies, past surgeries or chronic conditions
- Write down your key concerns to discuss during your appointment
- You may be asked to arrive 10–15 minutes early to complete a new patient registration form

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If you have previously seen another GP, your new clinic can request your records on your behalf. You will be asked to sign a release form authorising the transfer of your medical information (an associated fee may apply). Patients have the right to request access to their medical records and have them transferred to another provider. Under Australian privacy law, organisations must respond to access requests without unreasonable delay. In most cases, there is a maximum of 45 days to respond.

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Digital services such as My Health Record and the 1800MEDICARE app support safe, informed and continuous care across Gippsland and Australia.

If you are unsure where to start, speak with your GP clinic and visit:

www.bit.ly/AccessRecords to read our detailed guide.

More information?

Visit www.bit.ly/AccessRecords for detailed information and guidance on:

- Accessing and transferring your medical records
- What to expect when visiting a new GP or clinic
- Your rights as a patient
- Digital services
- Links to additional resources

The role of My Health Record

My Health Record is a secure, national digital summary of key health information. It can include:

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If you have an active My Health Record, your new GP can access a summary of your key health information immediately while full records are being transferred. If you previously chose not to have a My Health Record, you may wish to consider setting one up.

Manage your record

You can update your settings at any time and decide what information is stored and who can access it.

Through your My Health Record profile, you can:

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The 1800MEDICARE app makes it easier to access important health and Medicare information in one place.

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- attend the Leongatha Hospital Urgent Care Centre (66 Koonwarra Road, Leongatha)

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For more information, including how to access care, visit:
<https://gphn.org.au/accessing-care-update>

Controversial Nyora toilet project to proceed

By Andrew Paloczi

FOLLOWING community backlash over the intended location of new public toilets in Nyora, businesses are now called upon to tender for construction of the facility, South Gippsland Shire Council having last month announced the location of the toilet block.

The building will face the playground, with 81 of the 165 respondents to council's survey on the matter opting for that location, which will see the building situated on Crown land.

Reasons given by survey respondents included the fact that site allows parents to more easily monitor children's safety, is closer to existing facilities and is located away from houses.

The ageing public toilets in RSL park are being replaced, with council making the decision to put the new amenities in a more accessible part of the park, the current location deemed not to meet crime prevention or access and mobility requirements.

Council's preferred new toilet site facing Mitchell Street prompted locals to campaign through the media, including the Sentinel-Times and A Current Affair.

"Unsanitary modern toilets, a lack of safe parking, and proximity to a busy road are just a few reasons Mitchell Street residents are up in arms about the relocation of public toilets in Nyora," this paper reported last September.

While council preferred the Mitchell Street site because it is council-owned land, rather than Crown land, choosing that option would have placed the new toilet block directly across the road from homes, a prospect residents labelled "unacceptable".

Just 24 survey respondents, a lowly 14.5 per cent, favoured the Mitchell Street location, with council putting forward only two options in its survey and respondents having to choose 'other' to suggest alternative sites.

Feedback from the 60 people who selected 'other' was mixed, with 25 saying they would prefer the toilets to remain at their current location, 17 favouring a site near the bus stop, 14 opting for a location behind the skatepark and four suggesting an entirely different site.

Tender submissions for the Nyora public toilet construction close at 2pm on Tuesday March 10.

Disability advocate to headline Bass Coast IWD lunch

WRITER and disability advocate Hannah Diviney will headline Bass Coast Shire Council's annual International Women's Day lunch at Phillip Island Winery on Friday March 6.

Ms Diviney is a writer, actress, screenwriter and author whose advocacy has gained international recognition including a viral campaign calling on Disney to create a disabled princess.

Her debut book I'll Let Myself In explores what it means to come of age in a world not built for you.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead said Ms Diviney's voice and lived experience would make this year's event especially powerful.

"We're thrilled to welcome Hannah Diviney to Bass Coast," Cr Halstead said.

"Her advocacy, courage and storytelling are truly inspiring."

The event is delivered in partnership with Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bayside Health.

This year's International Women's Day theme is Balance the Scales which highlights the importance of ensuring every woman and girl is safe, respected and free to shape her own future.

The lunch runs from noon to 3pm and tickets are available through Eventbrite. Tickets cost \$75 per person and include a two-course lunch with local wine. Bookings close on Monday March 3.

Family's fairway farewell at local favourite golf course

By Trent Westaway

THE much-loved local nine-hole golf course Melaleuca Links, also known as Devil's Dams, has been listed for sale for the first time in 30 years.

Locals and golf enthusiasts would already know of the 20-acre property off the Bass Highway, complete with a par 3 nine-hole golf course, a licensed café, a garden maze and two self-contained cottages. But what they may not know is the family story behind it all, beginning with an abandoned market garden and a genius greenskeeper with a vision.

Owners Lisa and Stephen Sorrell say golf has always been a part of their lives.

"Stephen has always been a greenskeeper, and he used to work at the Leongatha South Golf Course. All our kids grew up out there," Lisa said.

When a former market garden was put up for sale in 1996, Stephen saw past rows of vegetables and empty paddocks. What he saw instead was greens, tees, and... dams. Lots of dams.

"He saw this that was up for sale. It was only like 10 acres, and he said, let's do it. I can see a golf course out here," Lisa said.

Stephen designed the holes, brought in the excavators and shaped the land. The four years of building that followed weren't easy.

"We bought it in 1996, and we



Lisa and Stephen Sorrell on the fairways of Melaleuca Links, the Inverloch course they built from scratch nearly three decades ago and are now preparing to pass on to new owners. W01_0826

opened the golf course in 2000, so it really kind of took us four years," Lisa said. "It was very in its infancy, very basic. And then it grew."

The work was tiring, but with four kids, their youngest three and their oldest 12 at the time, it soon became a family affair.

"They all wanted to help," said Lisa. "That was our life. It was a great bonding experience."

Over time, the business expanded. In 2008, the Sorrells purchased an adjoining 10-acre property and extended the golf

course even further. The café then followed a few years after that.

"The cafe area was originally an old house. So Stephen gutted it, and we built the café, which we opened in 2011," Lisa said.

The unique course built its strong reputation not only from its charm, but also its challenge. For a par 3 course, Devil's Dams asks a fair bit from its golfers, largely because of, as its name suggests, the dams, as Stephen's love for water

originally helped shape the course.

"There were two dams originally, and we added another four or five," Stephen said.

"Stephen loves playing over water, near water, everywhere water. He loves it. He thinks it's calming. It's challenging for all ranges of golf ages," added Lisa.

Hole 5 in particular has earned somewhat of a reputation, asking its golfers to carry a ball over approximately 70 metres of water. Stephen did not sound apologetic about it.

"Water looks good. There's nothing better than watching a ball plop into the dam," he said with a smile.

After decades of hard work, the Sorrells have now decided it's time to sell, with plans to retire.

There has been strong interest in the property, though Lisa said the turf side of the operation certainly takes some know-how.

"The hospitality side is relatively easy to take over, but the turf side of it is a little bit trickier. It takes a lot of knowledge," she said.

Lisa and Stephen now look towards retirement with pride, having built something truly unique and deeply loved by the community.

"The biggest challenge when we first started was the unknown if it was going to succeed... but surely it has," said Lisa.

ExxonMobil Australia Decommissioning February update:



This month, we're shining a spotlight on one of the people helping drive Esso Australia's multiyear decommissioning program: Tim Rawson, Offshore Construction Manager and Facility Preparation Lead for the Campaign 1 Decommissioning Project.



Tim joined Esso Australia in February 2013 and is approaching 14 years with the company. Over that time, he has built a broad career—working across project, business, technical, and commercial roles. Before joining Esso, Tim was a high school teacher specialising in senior Maths and Physics – experience that has proven surprisingly useful when navigating the day-to-day problemsolving required offshore.

Today, Tim leads the team responsible for preparing the 12 offshore platforms scheduled for removal by the Allseas Pioneering Spirit vessel in 2027—one of the most complex engineering feats being undertaken by Australia's offshore energy sector. His team's work is essential to ensuring these structures are ready for safe and efficient removal.

A major focus of this preparation is installing lift points the Pioneering Spirit will connect to when it removes each platform. These lift points are all unique and range in size from one to four tonnes, requiring meticulous planning, precision engineering, and careful installation. UGL, Esso's primary contractor for this scope, has already installed lift points on several facilities, with each installation providing valuable learnings that inform the next. Continuous

improvement is central to the team's approach.

Another critical component of Tim's role is overseeing the cleaning and preparation of the extensive pipeline network that runs between the platforms. Many of these pipelines flow up, over, and through neighbouring facilities, creating a tightly interconnected system that requires carefully sequenced work. Ensuring every pipeline is cleaned to the required level is essential to protecting the surrounding environment and enable safe removal of the structures.

"No two days are the same," Tim says. "These platforms were installed in the late 1960s and early 1970s, so there's always a new challenge just around the corner. But I'm fortunate to work with an incredibly talented team who take real pride in what they do."

That team spirit is a defining feature of the project. As each platform reaches the milestone of being "ready for removal," confidence grows that the collective experience and preparation will ensure safe and successful removal when the Pioneering Spirit arrives in 2027.

Esso Australia's Bass Strait decommissioning program is the largest of its kind in the country, and is being driven by people like Tim — who combine deep technical expertise, curiosity, and an unwavering commitment to doing the job safely and responsibly.

If you have any questions or would like more information about our ongoing decommissioning activities, please reach out via consultation@exxonmobil.com.



Coronet Bay Community Garden Room official opening with Greg Noakes, Diana Lutz, treasurer Josette Dorey, president Margaret Deslandes, secretary Georgie Hawkins, Bass MP Jordan Crugnale and Bass Labor candidate Chris Buckingham.

Official unveiling of the Coronet Bay Community Garden Room

THE Coronet Bay Community Garden officially opened its new Garden Room to the community recently, revealing the project developed with the support of the State Government's Tiny Towns Fund.

Bass MP Jordan Crugnale attended the official opening, cutting the ribbon for the launch of the Garden Room and acknowledging CBCG president Margaret Deslandes and secretary Georgie Hawkins.

Ms Crugnale affirmed that none of it happens without people rolling up their sleeves.

"I want to say a big thank you to the volunteers, organisers and supporters who made this possible," Ms Crugnale said.

"Your time, energy and commitment

have created something lasting for Coronet Bay, and that's something to be proud of.

"This new garden palace is a fantastic achievement, a place where people can gather, share ideas, learn from one another and enjoy each other's company.

"It's somewhere to meet, to celebrate, and sometimes just to sit down with a cuppa and a good chat.

"Every great community needs spaces like this.

"This garden clearly means a lot to the people who care for it, and now this Garden Room gives you even more ways to enjoy it together."

Bass Coast Shire Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead also attended the official opening, addressing the achievement of the volunteers and acknowledging

the establishment of the garden and the community it has assembled.

The Tiny Towns Fund is a program for townships under 5000 people to beautify, tell a story and bring people to regional townships.

The new structure includes a porch and an enclosed area with glass sliding doors, allowing volunteers to meet and work regardless of the weather.

The grant from Tiny Towns totalled \$30,784 with the project meeting the program's required local contribution, including \$5000 donated by Coastal Estates Pty Ltd and \$2696 from Greg Noakes Photography Pty Ltd as co-contributors.

The Coronet Bay Community Garden is located at 39a Gellibrand Street, Coronet Bay.

Korumburra long lot saga deferred by council decision

WHILE the spectre of a Development Plan Overlay (DPO) still hangs over owners of the Bena Road Korumburra properties known as 'long lots' the group that attended Wednesday's council meeting heard councillors speak and vote in support of deferring the matter until an unspecified future meeting.

Cr John Schelling issued the call for deferral in response to landowner concerns.

"I'd like to move that council defer consideration for the Bena Road long lots planning scheme and amendment authorisation request to a future council meeting to enable further councillor review and consideration of the broader strategic planning and community implications associated with requesting the amendment process," he said.

The Sentinel-Times reported in its February 17 edition that the creation

By Andrew Paloczi

of 20 unusually long allotments 100 years ago is behind council's efforts to avoid a piecemeal approach to development and resultant poor planning outcomes.

As mentioned in that article Inverloch's Rohan White has submitted a 23-lot subdivision application for land he owns in Bena Road Korumburra.

Mr White is continuing with the application process planning to respond to a request for further information.

"If my application doesn't get up, I believe I've got a worthless piece of land," he said elaborating on the basis on which he bought it approximately a year ago the land zoned Residential 1 without the DPO.

"I've submitted an application based on that," he said believing that while his application fits within the current

planning scheme it likely prompted council's consideration of imposing a DPO on the long lots.

While agreeing there is merit in what council is trying to do he declared that if the overlay idea comes to fruition it will completely stop development of the long lot land.

He stressed that getting approval for a development plan prepared by all affected landowners jointly would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to obtain the necessary reports and that would be at the expense of the owners.

Mr White highlighted the impracticality of getting so many owners to agree to an array of requirements.

"The Department of Transport and Planning has got guidelines that you should not impose a DPO on multiple blocks," he said hopeful councillors' decision to defer the matter will allow such matters to be taken into account.

Wilson's Prom sanctuary project to start after delay

SPEAKING in Parliament, Nationals Member for Gippsland South Danny O'Brien called for work to begin on the Wilson's Promontory revitalisation project that was announced more than five years ago.

Despite the project stating on the Parks Victoria website that the tender to design and build the Prom Sanctuary Fence closed on July 23 last year with an expectation to appoint the contractor shortly and construction due to begin in early 2026, Mr O'Brien addressed the issue to push the project along without further delay.

"The revitalisation of Wilson's Prom, including the proposed 10-kilometre fence across the Yanakie Isthmus, was announced in November 2020," Mr O'Brien said.

"Here we are in 2026 and construction has not even begun. That is simply not good enough."

In November 2020 the Victorian Government announced a \$23 million investment into the Wilson's Prom Revitalisation program, including the construction of a 10-kilometre predator-proof fence at the entrance to Wilson's Promontory National Park, but six years later Mr O'Brien is addressing the delay.

Mr O'Brien said the Nationals and Liberals committed to the project well before Labor adopted it and local communities had every right to expect action.

"This project has been talked about for years."

The Wilson's Promontory project aims to create a protected biosphere by fencing the narrow Yanakie Isthmus, allowing for the long-term removal of pest animals and better protection of native wildlife and vegetation across the Prom's 50,000 hectares.

The fence is a critical initiative to exclude invasive species such as foxes, feral cats and

deer. By preventing these threats from entering the park, the fence will strengthen biodiversity protection efforts and support the reintroduction of native species to the area.

Mr O'Brien acknowledged some community scepticism but said the core issue was the government's inability to get projects moving.

"Whether people support or question this project, what they cannot accept is a government that repeatedly fails to manage and deliver what it promises.

"I am calling on the Minister to stop delaying and start work on the Wilson's Prom sanctuary immediately, as well as ensure it is completed without further delays."

Labor Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh responded, confirming that given the location of the fence at the park's entrance, careful consideration has been given to the project with regard to the fence's alignment, construction methodology and long-term operational and maintenance requirements.

Parks Victoria has also engaged with adjacent landowners and environmental groups.

Parks Victoria has recently concluded a competitive tender process and appointed a suitably qualified civil and infrastructure contractor to deliver the fence.

Mr McIntosh's office confirmed that the contractor will work closely with the Odonata Foundation, bringing vital sanctuary and wildlife-protection expertise to the project.

"Parks Victoria is now finalising logistics, construction staging and detailed environmental measures in consultation with the contractor and construction of the predator-proof fence is expected to commence in the coming weeks."



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This initiative is supported by the Australian Government.

Sunderland Bay road scheme is back on track

BASS Coast Shire Council has restarted a long-awaited push to seal and drain a stretch of The Esplanade in Sunderland Bay, voting on Wednesday to formally begin the process again and adopt a preferred design.

The scheme covers The Esplanade between Sunderland Bay Road and Zephyr Court and was triggered by a petition from property owners at the March 2025 council meeting.

The process stalled in November last year when council voted not to proceed after a change within the scheme area altered the number of benefiting properties and how costs would be shared, making the scheme non-compliant with strict state legislation.

Under the Local Government Act 1989, councils can recover the cost of significant road and drainage upgrades from property owners who benefit most from the works.

Any change to a scheme area requires the process to start from scratch.

Council has reassessed the costings and is now moving forward with a fresh intent to declare.

Property owners will be contacted directly and given the opportunity to make a submission.

Wednesday's vote is the latest development in a years-long effort to upgrade roads and drainage across Sunderland Bay and neighbouring Surf Beach, areas that have long battled dust, flooding and poor infrastructure.

A larger scheme covering both estates collapsed in December 2023 after a majority of property owners lodged objections.

Council then adopted a section-by-section approach, targeting streets where strong local support existed.

Property owners can contact Bass Coast Shire Council on 1300 226 278 or email roadupgrades@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Free events to connect community at Myli libraries

MYLI - My Community Library is one of the region's most accessible community resources, offering a wide range of free events, workshops and programs to residents of Bass Coast, South Gippsland, Baw Baw and Cardinia shires.

In the coming months, the library service is rolling out an expanded schedule of activities designed to build confidence, share knowledge and bring people together.

From sustainable living workshops to digital literacy sessions, author talks to after-school programs, there is something on for every age group at branches across the region.

Sustainable living is in focus on Saturday, March 7, when Anna Matilda - known as The Urban Nanna and author of *Everyday Permaculture: Sustainable Living for Every Space* - will visit Mirboo North for two sessions.

Ms Matilda will explore urban foraging and simple ways to preserve seasonal produce, sharing practical ideas to help households reduce waste and make better use of local food.

Her visit offers an opportunity to learn everyday skills that can be put into practice straight away, whether working with a backyard garden, a balcony planter or a kitchen windowsill.

Building digital confidence is also at the heart of Myli's Stay Smart Online sessions running in February and March at



Anna Matilda, known as The Urban Nanna, will visit Mirboo North on March 7 to share practical sustainable living skills through Myli - My Community Library.

Korumburra, Leongatha, San Remo and Foster libraries.

These free workshops take a practical look at misinformation, exploring how misleading content spreads online and how to verify sources before sharing with others.

Participants will gain clear, practical strategies for navigating news, social media and online information with greater confidence in everyday life.

At Inverloch Library, local author Jacinta Hudson will visit for a morning chat about her poetry and writing process,

giving readers a chance to meet a writer from their own community.

The CFA will also visit Inverloch to offer a fire safety chat, covering practical household advice for the season ahead.

Story Time and Rhyme Time sessions have returned for 2026 and continue to welcome young families each week across Myli branches, giving children an early connection to books, language and learning.

For adults, regular writing groups, book chats, movie sessions and produce swaps

create regular opportunities to connect at multiple locations throughout the region.

After-school programs including STEAM activities, craft and clay making provide hands-on learning for primary-age children, offering a creative outlet and a chance to socialise outside the classroom.

These are only some of the many free events happening across Myli branches throughout the year.

To discover what is on at your local branch visit myli.au/events or speak with the library team.

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Affordable and dedicated care at Korumburra Medical Centre

THE introduction of bulk billing and four Registrars joining the team are a couple of exciting recent developments at Korumburra Medical Centre, along with stepping in to help patients whose Leongatha clinic closed.

The switch to bulk billing occurred in November, with Practice Manager Lissa Bain saying almost all patients are bulk billed, the only exceptions being for certain procedures that aren't covered for that.

She explained the billing decision was driven by the cost-of-living challenges people are facing.

"We are happy to do that; it helps our community including the elderly," Ms Bain said.

For the billing change to be introduced, all the Centre's doctors had to agree.

While some other clinics in the area haven't had space to take on displaced Leongatha patients, Korumburra Medical Centre was in a surprisingly good position to do so.

"I must have had my crystal ball, because I employed more doctors than I normally do," Ms Bain said of a decision made well before the Leongatha closure.

A 'duty doctor' is available most days, starting a shift without any appointments to be available for urgent bookings for people such as those without scripts or anyone who has woken up feeling unwell.



Dr Edward Watkins, Dr Diane Reino and Dr Nishama Gamage have recently joined Korumburra Medical Centre as Registrars, as has Dr Akbar Jamal who isn't pictured. A03_0826

When Sentinel-Times visited on Thursday, nine patients new to the clinic were booked in for the following day, demonstrating the Medical Centre's ability to welcome new clients, something it achieves while continuing to care for its existing patients.

Korumburra Medical Centre had approximately 5,500 active patients prior to the Leongatha closure, that number having since risen to around 6,000.

"I'm so happy we've been able to help out," Ms Bain said.

Korumburra Medical Centre's four new Registrars have come onboard this year.

Dr Edward 'Eddy' Watkins has been working as an ICU Fellow, with extensive knowledge of medicine, and is now following his dream of becoming

a GP, keen on getting to know his patients.

He has a keen interest in emergency medicine and a Master of Medicine in Critical Care.

Dr Akbar Jamal has emergency and critical care experience through his work at The Alfred Hospital.

He has worked at Monash Clayton Hospital in ICU and in Queensland hospitals as a Resident Medical Officer.

Dr Jamal is dedicated to being a country GP and getting to know his patients, with that commitment arising from his wide clinical experience and wanting to build long term therapeutic relationships with his patients.

Dr Diane Reino has worked in Tasmania as a Resident training officer and for the

past 12 months as a Registrar at Foster Medical Centre.

She has worked in Psychiatry at the Kingston Centre and in Gastroenterology and Endocrinology at Dandenong Hospital and also spending time in ICU at Monash Medical Centre.

Dr Reino is dedicated to her patients and is looking forward to getting to know them.

Dr Nishama Gamage is a passionate practitioner with over six years of clinical experience across general practice, emergency medicine, orthopaedics, paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology.

She is experienced in hospital and rural general practice and is committed to ongoing care for her patients.

In addition to its strong team of doctors and nurses, Korumburra Medical Centre offers a wide range of Allied Health services.

Those include a physiotherapist who is onsite two days a week, also running gentle exercise classes for those over 50 next door to the clinic and making home visits.

A psychologist sees patients aged 18 and over once a week.

Podiatry is present three days a week, with that set to increase to five days a week soon.

HearCare and sleep analysis are other available services, along with injury management provided by MP Sports Physicians.



Chicken pie and sandwich

By Meg Viney



Ingredients

- Chicken meat
- 1 onion
- Leftover gravy and some stock if needed
- Some pastry of your choice

Method

Cut the meat from the chicken into bitesize pieces.

Cook an onion, chopped, in butter with a pinch of salt, lid on, over a low heat for 10 minutes.

Mix the chicken, onion and gravy together and check for seasoning.

Often a sprinkle of white pepper helps.

Into a small dish or ramekin place an eggcup turned upside down, tip in the mixture then top with the pastry.

Press the pastry edges down to the dish and bake on 190 for 20 minutes.

I like to serve with buttered green beans.

Chicken sandwich:

Hopefully you will have left some breast. Chop quite finely and mix with a small amount of gravy and a good mayonnaise.

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Don't take any chances digging

A LEONGATHA tradesman using a post digger ruptured a pipe connecting one of the town's houses to the gas supply prompting a warning from the local fire brigade.

Leongatha Fire Brigade Captain Phil McIlwaine said the incident was a reminder to check for underground services before any excavation work.

"Dial before you dig because it is a lot cheaper than the alternative and a lot safer," Mr McIlwaine said.

He explained there is a copper wire running above gas pipes to enable detection of their location before digging begins.

Tape warning of a hazard was not spotted by the machinery operator.

"Old mate did not see the tape and kept digging," Mr McIlwaine said.

"They will be up for reconnection to the house," he said adding that will entail digging up and replacing the affected section of pipe with the property owner likely to have no gas for a fair while.

Mr McIlwaine outlined how safety was ensured after the gas pipe was ruptured.

"We filled the hole in with dirt to lessen the exposure of the gas and we had water on standby to disperse the gas," he said adding that a brigade member who used to work in the gas industry said the breeze at the time would disperse the gas naturally.

Before You Dig Australia (BYDA) is a not-for-profit organisation formerly known as Dial Before You Dig that offers a free utility plan request service providing a single point of contact where those intending to dig can obtain information about underground networks at the intended project site.

The service covers underground infrastructure including gas electricity water and telecommunications and is available to anyone from homeowners to commercial operators.

Once an enquiry is lodged online the details are sent to all infrastructure owners with registered underground assets in the vicinity of the proposed project site who then provide plans and safety information directly.

BYDA also offers the option to find and engage a certified locator to physically mark out underground assets on site.

Mr McIlwaine explained that locators use metal detectors to locate the copper wire above the pipes.

Striking underground gas or electrical infrastructure can result in serious injury or death and damage to assets can lead to service interruptions affecting nearby homes and businesses.

While there is a fee for the locator service it is far less than paying for costly repairs and Mr McIlwaine urged anyone planning to dig at any depth to use the free service first.

Visit byda.com.au or call 1100.

Petition for new all abilities link to Rifle Range Reserve

By Bruce Wardley

WONTHAGGI residents have called on Bass Coast Shire Council to create a new gateway to the recently created Yallock Bullock Marine and Coastal Park.

A petition containing 454 signatures was delivered to Bass Coast Shire Council last week calling for an all abilities access path and a picturesque circuit walk through the northern part of Wonthaggi's Rifle Range Reserve.

Local resident Christopher Catterall said the new reserve would contribute to council's vision to have 40 per cent canopy cover in urban areas and help offset green space loss due to a newly made road in the area and adjacent housing development.

"It would welcome visitors to the Yallock Bullock Marine and Coastal Park as it's Wonthaggi's closest access point," said Mr Catterall.

Presenting the petition to council Mr Catterall said it was overwhelmingly supported by locals in Wonthaggi as well as more broadly across the shire.

"We recorded 531 petition entries and 453 signatures," said Mr Catterall.

The idea of a pedestrian cycle link to the Rifle Range Reserve has been talked about for 15 to 20 years according to Mr Catterall.

"Almost since the reserve came into being in 2005," he said.

"In 2020, 15 to 20 local residents met with council officers from the Recreation and Transport Department to flesh out



Wonthaggi resident Christopher Catterall wants all abilities access and a picturesque circuit walk to the northern part of the Rifle Range Reserve. B06_0826

ideas for a Rifle Range link, but it failed to progress."

Mr Catterall said he was notified in 2024 the request was being revisited.

In September 2025 council approved a housing development known as 158 Reed Crescent with the requirement of a five per cent public open space levy.

"The five per cent levy could kickstart the creation of a new reserve in the unused Broome Crescent road reserve adjacent to the new housing blocks," said Mr Catterall.

"The corner of Brown Street and Broome Crescent has a public transport bus stop facilitating visitors from around Wonthaggi. The reserve could also provide

an off-street cycle connection via the Campbell Street bushland to the rail trail at South Dudley."

The petitioner asked for an upgraded storm water treatment plant for the new reserve.

"We note the five per cent developer contribution to public open space could be in the order of \$35,000 to \$40,000. We request the five per cent contribution be allocated solely for the creation of a new public recreation reserve adjacent to the new development, and storm water drainage west of the new section of Broome Crescent processed as close as possible to its source prior to entering the Rifle Range wetlands.

"The drainage line could be de-

signed as a meandering stream-line, passing through a series of amoeba shaped swales, functioning as additional retarding basins and planted out with native wetland vegetation to filter fertiliser nutrients and other contaminants."

Residents claim the overburden or extracted material from creating the wetlands would be used to create levee banks, to provide flood mitigation for neighbouring properties, higher ground for trees, shrubs, grasses and herbs and room for a pathway, raised above the flood plain for the public to explore and use to connect to the Rifle Range Reserve.

"The wetlands could create habitat for water birds, frogs and a multitude of pond life."

According to Mr Catterall a north-south link would be in line with council's 2025-2045 Integrated Transport Strategy to provide the public with a much safer access route than the current access via Reed Crescent, which is a narrow carriageway with no footpaths and steep sided drains which are prone to flooding.

"Walkers, cyclists, families, school groups and out of town visitors would all have the safety of footpath/off-road access via newly upgraded Broome Crescent West and a new public reserve leading directly into the north end of Rifle Range Reserve."

Bass Coast Shire Council received the petition and undertook to advise the head petitioner of council's decision no later than the council meeting on April 15, 2026.

Bring the Cowes market back to the Esplanade

By Bruce Wardley

TWO thousand Phillip Island residents ratepayers and holiday-makers have urged Bass Coast Shire Council to bring the Cowes Foreshore market back to The Esplanade.

Presenting a petition to council last week small business owner Fiona Blandford said moving the market over summer to the carnival site on the corner of Thompson Road and Cowes-Rhyll Road had caused a major disruption for local traders.

"We saw a 50 per cent loss to some of these small businesses from this site."

Ms Blandford told council that

during hard economic times traders felt distressed that council decisions had put their livelihoods at risk.

The signatures were collected over four days during the summer markets in January.

Ms Blandford said the market typically gathers on the foreshore in Cowes on Saturday nights during the Christmas holidays and long weekends.

This year due to Stage 1 works completed before Christmas the market was moved twice.

"The carnival site was unsafe

due to uneven ground and truck tyres. It's a paddock that was dusty and hot with no running water, except for a very long hose from the carnival which was in use by them. We request a safer site next year," said Ms Blandford.

Council heard that normally visitors would come and go three or four times in a day but this year they never came back after the first market at the carnival site. Ms Blandford estimated the market brings \$10 million to the Island each year.

"Noting that council has current plans for a review this year

we ask for clarity and that traders be involved in any community consultation," Ms Blandford said. The petitioners requested a safer site with better accessibility and proximity to the Cowes township and foreshore.

"The Esplanade summer site in January is a Bass Coast Phillip Island and Cowes experience highly valued by visitors and locals alike for more than 10 years."

Council voted to accept the petition and receive a report no later than September 2026 detailing outcomes of a review of all markets across Bass Coast.

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2018 Toyota Corolla Hybrid

27,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2025 Kia K4 Sport

32,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



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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4X4 OF THE WEEK

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OH WHAT A FEELING

Fish Creek Community Farm strengthens food resilience

BUCKLEY Park Community Farm in Fish Creek is proud to be one of three successful recipients of last year's South Gippsland Water Community Resilience Grant. The funding has resulted in the completion of several key infrastructure upgrades to strengthen food production capacity and environmental sustainability.

A routine water sample detected potential bacterial contamination within the Fish Creek system earlier last year, and a Boil Water Advisory was issued as a safety measure to ensure drinking water remained safe.

As part of South Gippsland Water's commitment to customers and service standards, the lifting of the Boil Water Advisory triggered the \$10,000 Community Resilience Grant, recognising the community's cooperation during that time.

Thanks to the financial support, Buckley Park Community Farm has completed upgrading and expanding its drip irrigation systems. The grant enabled the farm to undertake its annual water filter replacement and upgrade ageing fittings across its established drip-line irrigation system.

Funding also supported the installation of drip irrigation in newly established garden beds, ensuring a consistent and crop-specific water supply during peak growing periods.

A new filtration system has also been installed to remove chlorine from town water before it reaches the garden beds. This allows beneficial soil microbes to thrive, enhancing soil fertility and increasing water-holding capacity.

The grant also supported the installation of a dedicated spray watering system in the farm's new hothouse. This system is essential for maintaining seedlings and potted plants in higher temperature conditions. The hothouse will enable the farm to grow seedlings on site and expand into fruit and vegetable varieties suited to warmer climates.

Managing Director of South Gippsland Water, Robert Murphy, said the grants are about giving back to communities following service disruptions.

"We know boil water advisories can be disruptive for communities, and we sincerely appreciate the patience shown by residents and businesses," Mr Murphy said. "The Community Resilience Grants are one way we can say thank you, and it's fantastic to see Buckley Park Community Farm using the funding to improve water efficiency and local food production for the benefit of the whole community."

Secretary of Buckley Park Community Farm, Wing Yi Chan, said the support has made a meaningful difference.

"As a not-for-profit community farm, every dollar counts. This grant has allowed us to improve our irrigation systems, invest in soil health and fully equip our new hothouse," Ms Chan said.

"Our farm has grown over the past 10 years into a space where people come together to grow food, share skills and support one another. South Gippsland Water's generous support helps us continue providing affordable fresh produce while caring for our soil."

New Wonthaggi pool shire's number one priority

YOU can swim in the ocean, for sure, but with a population of 43,557 in 2025, projected to rise to 47,408 by 2036, there's a lot of Bass Coast kids who need to learn to swim first and they deserve something better than the old Wonthaggi Pool.

Built in 1976, and honestly it looks like it, the pool has been repaired and tarted up dozens of times but it's had it. The reports to council acknowledge that.

And at last week's council meeting the shire put the call for a new Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre in Wonthaggi at the top of a wish list of five projects for which the shire needs government funding.

Although, as pointed out by Cr Ron Bauer, always keen to see Phillip Island projects getting the prominence they need, all five have equal priority. The list is as follows:

1. Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Project cost \$45 million (government grants of at least \$30 million).
2. Protecting the Western Port Woodlands. Identify potential biolinks \$250,000 and implement appropriate planning controls \$250,000.
3. New recreation precinct for Phillip Island. Project cost \$63 million.
4. Revitalising the former Wonthaggi Secondary College Site. Council seeks to partner State Government.
5. Calls for state-wide Coastal Inundation and Erosion Controls in the form of an overlay similar to the Bushfire



It's not in the top five, but the funding call to upgrade busy intersections at San Remo, two of them with traffic lights, is high on the advocacy list ahead of the next state election.

Management Overlay, plus urgent funding to respond.

The purpose of the Advocacy Priorities List 2026-2028 is to guide Council's advocacy in the 2026 State Election and 2027 and 2028 State and Federal Budgets.

The council had also stressed the need, at its 1pm meeting last Wednesday, to continue with its campaign to retain the Australian round of the World MotoGP but by 4pm that afternoon, news broke that Victoria had lost the race.

"The first I knew about it was when I got a call for comment from the Herald Sun," said Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead last Wednesday afternoon. You'd hope they have better

luck with their priority list.

Cr Brett Tessari endorsed the advocacy strategy.

"This is great work by our advocacy team and when you go to parliament to knock on doors, it just puts you so far in front of the rest to have a document like this in front of Ministers and department heads," he said.

But Cr Jon Temby made a pitch for environmental projects to get a higher priority from council, claiming a plan to spend \$108 million on a sport precinct at Cowes and an aquatic centre at Wonthaggi, was way out of proportion with what they were seeking for the Western Port Woodlands, which he said were unique in the world.

Cr Jan Thompson said if ever

there was a year that the council might have some success in getting politicians to promise funding, it was 2026, in the run up to the next state election.

Other projects needing to be funded but not in the top five included:

- Intersection upgrades along the Bass Highway and Phillip Island Roads, seeking two sets of traffic lights in San Remo (cost \$26 million and \$30 million).
- Wonthaggi Alternate Freight Route (\$1 million).
- Accelerate urban roads program (\$20 million over four years through Roads to Recovery funding).
- Review of public transport service levels in Bass Coast.
- Reduce the Wildlife Road Toll (\$100,000 per annum for seven years).
- Funding to cover the cost of implementing a fourth glass bin in a regional area.
- Funding and support for evidence-based control of weeds, pest animals, and over-abundant wildlife.
- Urgent and prioritised investment in affordable Bass Coast housing.
- Increased investment in early years support, kindergarten infrastructure and maternal and child healthcare services.
- Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre Upgrade (\$1.8 million).
- Cultural arts program funding following a more than \$30 million council investment in new Performing Arts Centres.
- Bass Coast Dinosaur Trail.

Killer blow for Phillip Island claims the leader of the pack

By Bruce Wardley

IT was 1997 and at the front of a massive pack of motorcyclists riding from Elizabeth Street in Melbourne to Phillip Island for the return of the MotoGP was Transport Minister and former Wonthaggi mayor Alan Brown.

The former Victorian Liberal Party leader last week slammed the State Government over the loss of the Phillip Island Motorcycle Grand Prix to South Australia.

A motorcyclist himself with his own road bike which he sold some years ago, Mr Brown played a central role in bringing back the MotoGP to Phillip Island and was the lead rider of thousands of motorcycle riders who rode from Melbourne to Phillip Island three days before the 1997 Island MotoGP.

"Our Government announced that an entire city block in Elizabeth Street in Melbourne would be cleared for motorcyclists to assemble for a police escorted ride to the Phillip Island racetrack and I was invited to be the lead rider," Mr Brown said.

"It was an unforgettable experience," he said.

"We expected between 3000 to 4000 cyclists to turn up but that number was exceeded two hours before the commencement of the ride and police moved swiftly to clear another entire city block to cater for the thousands of bike riders



Former transport minister and Wonthaggi mayor Alan Brown led an estimated 5000 motorcyclists riding from Elizabeth Street to Phillip Island for the return of the MotoGP in 1997.

who turned up.

"The ride was a stunning success and a great prelude to the highly successful launch of the Phillip Island MotoGP almost 30 years ago."

Mr Brown has challenged the estimated \$60 million economic loss to the Bass Coast.

"I recall estimates of \$40 million economic benefit to Phillip Island and our region 30

years ago when we brought the MotoGP to Phillip Island.

"I have absolutely no doubt that the loss to our community will be far in excess of \$80 million annually and possibly closer to \$100 million and it is not only Phillip Island which will suffer," Mr Brown said.

"On top of that there is a trickle-down effect when the money circulates locally a

number of times.

"Locals buy new cars, business people renovate their shops and homes and hundreds of trades people benefit."

The 1997 Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix was the last round of the 1997 Grand Prix motorcycle racing season and took place on October 5 at the Phillip Island GP circuit.

An estimated 100,000 visitors were expected to visit Phillip Island and even local farmers were being called on to help erect fencing to hold back the big crowds.

"It was the Australian Grand Prix that South Gippslanders took under their wings, nourished and owned," reported the Sentinel-Times.

While Phillip Islanders stood to benefit most, traders and the general community as far away as Mirboo North and Foster moved in to add their stamp to the great race.

Mr Brown has predicted some businesses will close on Phillip Island next year.

"It is not just a three day event, it is not only Phillip Island which will suffer, preliminary work to set up the annual event commences weeks before the race weekend and post-race work continues for some weeks after.

"The size of the work force over this period is enormous and hundreds of locals had their first job working during this period and that will all be lost."

A tribute to Robert Heywood Freene

23 September 1938 - 30 January 2026

FAMILY and friends gathered on Saturday, February 14 to celebrate the long and richly lived life of Robert Heywood Freene, who passed away at age 87 on January 30, 2026.

Born September 23, 1938, Rob was the third child of Olive and Albert Freene.

His early years were marked by profound change.

After the tragic death of his father at just 34 years of age, Rob spent much of his childhood living with his aunt and uncle while his mother managed the family farm at Korumburra.

These formative experiences fostered in him the resilience, independence and strength of character that would define his life. Rob was, first and foremost, a gentleman.

His courtesy, integrity and quiet moral compass reflected both his upbringing and his innate regard for others.

He was a gifted storyteller, known for recounting events in meticulous detail and with unwavering commitment to delivering the final line.

Many of his good friends from the Korumburra Golf Club will attest to his prowess in this regard.

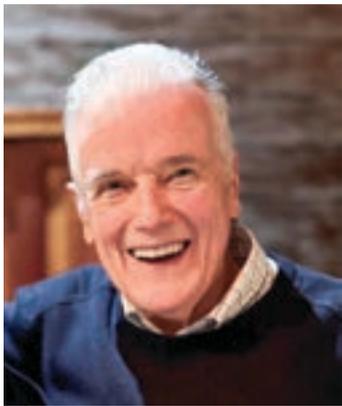
In 1966, Rob married Diane Leiper, a life partnership that would span nearly six decades.

By his own account, marrying Diane was the smartest decision of his life.

Their marriage was one of deep affection, mutual pride and unwavering devotion.

Rob possessed a keen intellect and an enduring curiosity about the world.

An avid reader and



Robert Heywood Freene, September 23, 1938 - January 30, 2026.

enthusiastic student of geography, technology and current affairs, he was rarely without a newspaper or a reference book close at hand.

Even in his final weeks, he remained engaged in discussions about emerging technologies and global events.

Including the physicist Albert Einstein, whose words he admired, Rob believed in the power of passionate curiosity.

Throughout his life, Rob demonstrated courage and adventure.

He was an Australian Sidecar Champion in the early 1960s, a testament to both his skill and fearlessness.

In the 1970s, he expanded his horizons further by co-purchasing a Piper Cherokee aircraft with friends and earning his pilot's licence, even flying across Bass Strait to Tasmania and back on several occasions to ferry the editor of the local Korumburra newspaper.

Professionally, Rob ran the family plumbing business,



Robert Heywood Freene, Bena Football and Netball Club President in 1982 and 1983.

which he founded, where he became a respected mentor to apprentices and colleagues alike.

Later, in his role with the Victorian Office of Corrections, he guided and supervised young offenders, earning the gratitude of families who recognised his steady influence and genuine care.

Through this role, he contributed enormously to the local community and served to maintain and develop areas including the Korumburra Botanic Tourist Park.

Rob's inspiring leadership extended into many areas of community life.

He worked tirelessly in the Bena Football and Netball Club, serving as its President in 1982 and 1983.

Rob was also Master of the Korumburra and Outtrim Freemasons Lodge, a role he undertook with quiet pride and deep commitment to community service.

Perhaps Rob's most enduring community contribution

was as a Foundation Board Member and Life Governor of Newhaven College.

Instrumental to the school's opening in 1980, he volunteered tirelessly to help construct its first classrooms, form part of the very first Board and appoint the school's foundation Principal.

All three of Robert's children were educated at Newhaven College, and today the school educates close to 1,000 students from Foundation to Year 12, a legacy of vision and dedication to which Rob made a lasting contribution.

Rob's loyalty was unwavering, to his wife, his family, his mates, his community and to his beloved Collingwood Football Club.

He took great delight in their successes and maintained a lifelong passion for the game.

Rob was immensely proud of his children and their achievements, celebrating milestones large and small with equal enthusiasm.

His pride extended to his six grandchildren, who brought him immeasurable joy.

Above all else, Rob was devoted to his wife Diane, to his children Craig, Guy and Sara, to his grandchildren and his extended family and to his many friends.

He lived a life characterised by integrity, courage, curiosity and service to others.

Robert Heywood Freene was deeply loved and widely respected.

He will be profoundly missed and warmly remembered as a man whose 87 years were lived fully, generously and with boundless enthusiasm.

Vale Andrew Marston

AN unwavering advocate for progress on Phillip Island and something of a thorn in the side of council the late Andrew Marston warranted the honour of a tribute at last week's council meeting.

Andrew Robert Marston was born on February 2 1954 and died on February 3 2026. He was an engineer and active member of Bass Coast Ratepayers Association Island Voice PIMHAG and the Phillip Island Bass Coast Dog Owners Association.

Andy embraced life on the road travelling around Australia with his wife Linda and their beloved dogs.

Andy faced the onset of Motor Neurone Disease in early 2025 with remarkable dignity continuing to look for the good in each day.

When he could no longer cope he exercised his right to leave this world through voluntary assisted dying surrounded by his family.

His tissue samples are being used in 14 research projects and the two recipients of his kidneys are doing well.

Andy leaves behind his wife of 50 years Linda son Chris and daughter-in-law Bianca and grandchildren Kade and Miander.

Vale Andrew Marston.

• FAITH FACTOR

Jesus, myth or Messiah?

Pr Karen Thorp, Grace Chapel, Archies Creek.

WHEN I was a teen I thought Jesus was mythical.

When people talked about Him I said "OK" and kept going because I was troubled by the inconsistencies in this world.

Knowing I did not deserve the trouble around me I carried a question: "How does this so-called fair person, namely Jesus, keep allowing bad things to happen to good people?"

I was told Jesus died on a cross, that He did so because I was doomed to death for telling a lie one time, dishonouring my parents a few times and for taking something.

Then I thought about what I had done and compared it to much more serious things others had done.

Next I was told all of us will be judged the same way because every type of sin separates us from God forever.

But then I was told there is one way back to God.

At that stage I remained hesitant about the whole story of Jesus coming to die for all of mankind because it happened way before my time and it still did not answer the question: "Why does Jesus allow bad things to happen to good people?"

After that I was shown in the Bible what His own brother wrote about Jesus, that His life was sinless.

Many more wrote about what they saw, that Jesus died and rose to life again.

The Bible says that Jesus carried our punishment to spare us the judgement.

I said "OK then."

I was finally asked if I wanted to receive Jesus as my Saviour.

I was still a bit annoyed but I said yes.

Then I felt something inside me shift and some weight lift off.

I started to pray and read the Bible.

Four decades on God has blessed me in ways I could never have imagined.

He healed me from past hurts and illness.

He has been in battle for me when things got tough and He has shown me what direction to take when it was not obvious.

Bad things still happen to good people but I realise God turns bad situations around for those who ask Jesus to be their Saviour and are called according to His purpose.

Is He calling you too?

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me." Revelation 3:20

Vale Kilcunda's 'Frosty' Miller

IT'S not everyone who earns the honour of having their obituary read into the Bass Coast Shire Council's minutes but for his contribution to the Kilcunda and district community as follows:

Terence James Miller, known to most as "Frosty", was a proud local, dedicated farmer and well-respected community man deeply connected to his community and the land he called home.

Born on May 7, 1949, Frosty built a life grounded in hard work, resilience and practical skill.

His involvement with the Kilcunda Bass Football Netball Club began at 11 years of age in the thirds, going on to play reserves through to the late 1970s. Frosty served as president in 1984, 1985 and 1992 and was awarded life membership.

He was a familiar figure at the Kilcunda Lobster Festival from its inception in 1985, providing his truck for the stage and hay bales for seating. Whatever was needed Frosty was willing to lend a hand.

Frosty served with the

Kilcunda CFA from 1975 to 1994 protecting local families, farms and properties.

His generosity extended to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal where each year he would purchase young steers, raise them on his farm and donate the proceeds from their sale.

Frosty was above all a family man and proud father of Chelsea, Brooke, Todd, Ryan and Bree.

Frosty Miller passed away peacefully on January 6, 2026 at home surrounded by his loving family and Boris.



Terry 'Frosty' Miller passed away peacefully on January 6, 2026 at home surrounded by his loving family and Boris.

Teacher, sportswoman, storyteller remembered

THE Bass Coast Shire Council marked the passing of Gill Heal at its council meeting last week in a eulogy read by Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead.

Gill loved people, listening to them, learning from them and ensuring their stories were never lost. Born in Swan Hill, her early career as a PE teacher and representing Australia in basketball spoke to her energy and natural ability to bring people together. But it was through storytelling that she truly left her mark.

Gill fell in love with the Loch

community and became one of its great champions. She believed understanding local history could strengthen connection and belonging.

Many will know Gill through her work with the Wonthaggi Theatre Group, particularly authoring the 50-year anecdotal history We Can Do That. Through interviews with more than 50 members she captured personal memories and wove them into a rich narrative of community spirit.

Her passion extended beyond the page. Gill was the creative force behind many

local productions and historical reenactments from Loch Primary School children walking the streets in period costume to the memorable End of War commemorations.

She contributed to council's Creatively Connecting Community program and through her writing for the Bass Coast Post continued to honour local people and document histories that may otherwise have remained untold.

Thank you Gill for the stories, the laughter, the history and the heart you gave so freely.



In a labour of love for the Wonthaggi Theatrical Group, the late Gill Heal authored the 50-year anecdotal history of the group.

WORLD HEARING DAY

Don't ignore the early signs of hearing loss

MOST people who walk through the door at About Bass Coast Hearing in Wonthaggi have one thing in common.

"Generally, people come in because they're not hearing properly," audiologist Braden Betley said.

"They're missing out, saying the wrong thing, or getting embarrassed because they've misheard."

It is a gradual process, which is part of what makes hearing loss so easy to overlook.

Loud noise is one of the most common culprits, whether from music, machinery or years on a work-site.

"Any loud noise, it does not matter what the sound is, will damage hearing and often it is just a little bit, you will not notice it at the exact time, but regularly, it will do damage," Mr Betley said.

"Over time it is detrimental to your ability to communicate."

Tradies are particularly at risk.

"If they do not wear hearing protection, we see a lot of middle-aged tradies come in because they are struggling to hear," he said.

Mr Betley said there were three clear warning signs that should prompt anyone to book a hearing test.

"If someone has tinnitus,



Audiologists Grant Hill and Braden Betley from About Bass Coast Hearing in Wonthaggi. z02_0923

dizziness and any noticeable hearing loss, those three things combined, you should get a hearing test as soon as possible," he said.

Tinnitus, a persistent ringing or buzzing in the ears, is often one of the first indicators that hearing damage has occurred.

The good news is that hearing aid technology has advanced significantly in recent years, with machine learning now driving major improvements in how devices adapt to the world around their wearer.

"The main thing is what is called machine learning, which is similar to artificial intelligence," Mr Betley said.

"Hearing aids are now much better on automatic. They used to have to set different settings for different environments, but they

are now much better at adjusting automatically."

The technology has been refined over more than a decade of real-world data collection.

"They have been collecting data over 10 years to make them more accurate adjusting to new environments," he said.

About Bass Coast Hearing, also known as ABC Hearing, offers a full range of hearing services including assessments, hearing aid fitting and repairs, tinnitus management, ear wax removal and home visits.

The clinic is located at Shop 5 Plaza Walk Arcade, 23-29 Murray Street, Wonthaggi, and also visits Cowes, Inverloch and Frankston.

To make an appointment, call (03) 5672 5598 or visit abcear.com.au.

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* Conditions apply to clients under the Commonwealth Hearing Services Program

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HM13338

FOSTER SHOW

THIS SATURDAY



A new record as Andrew Bradley and Twix take 1st place in the high jump at the Foster Show. B72_0825

Crowd favourites

By Bruce Wardley

CAN your dog jump, can you race a ferret, or have you tried shouting at your spouse?

This year's Foster Show on Saturday, February 28 welcomes back the Best Mullet, Phillipson's Dog High Jump, Gumbboot Toss and Ferret Racing Cup along with the Spouse Shout which is now in its third year.

The Foster Show has been a celebration of local agriculture for more than 100 years showcasing the very best of South Gippsland farm produce and rural living.

The people of Foster love their show set around the Foster Showgrounds with striking views of the surrounding hills and Wilsons Promontory not too far away.

Among the highlights are the woodchop, exhibit shed, dog high jump, working dog trial, sheep exhibition, horses, giant pumpkins, cat show, fashion stage, magnificent mullet competition, calf classic, ferret racing, vintage tractors, sheaf tossing, the avenue of agriculture,

photography and more.

The Phillipson's Dog High Jump is shaping up as one of the most anticipated events on show day after young Kelpie Twix and owner Andrew Bradley set a new record last year clearing 2.65 metres in front of the Geoff McCraw Stand.

The event is open to small dogs under 60 centimetres in height and large dogs over 60 centimetres with action kicking off at 12.30pm. Winners from each class may be eligible to compete at the state finals in Ballarat later in the year.

The event is sponsored by Phillipsons Accounting and Financial Planning which has offices in Sale, Traralgon and Foster.

Chapman Machinery Service from Leongatha will have tractors on display and giveaways on the day including a Quick Spray demonstration unit. The new Fendt 600 tractor may also be on show if it has not sold before Saturday.



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ME0900

FOSTER SHOW

THIS SATURDAY



Tilly and Ella riding Freckles and Bella both winners at the Foster Show. B65_0825



Mark Smith from Cranbourne riding D.P. Felix at the Foster Show. B88_0825

return for the Foster Show

Get your family, friends or business together to buy one of 25 racing ferrets set to shine on show day at \$50 each. If your ferret wins its race you get your \$50 back and if it goes on to win the SG Off Road Ferret Racing Cup you will go home with \$500.

The 30th annual International Back to Back Wool Challenge will also be a feature of this year's show in the sheep marquee. Two teams will battle each other and the clock as they each spin wool straight from the sheep's back and knit a completed jumper all in one sitting.

Leongatha-based Koorooman Sapphire Ewes will take on an outfit from Box Hill with both teams raising funds for Rare Cancers Australia. The Ewes defended their title last year at Tarndwarncourt near Colac finishing in 11 hours, 42 minutes and 12 seconds and placing third in the world as the fastest Australian team. Team leader Linda Howie said competing closer to home at Foster would be a

welcome change.

Cheviot sheep from the Foster area will be used on the day and the Ewes have been practising on the breed's fleece in the lead up.

"We've worked on our strategy to increase our efficiency in spinning the wool and knitting," Ms Howie said.

Shearing starts at 8am with hopes the winning team will complete its jumper before 8pm. Attendees can support the cause through buying knitted items, making donations or purchasing raffle tickets.

There is plenty of free entertainment once you walk in the gate including 300 free showbags as part of the Beeline Trail for kids, dancing displays, roving entertainment and magic, whip cracking demonstrations and workshops, a wildlife display and animal nursery, facepainting and crafting with MyLi Library.

Paws and Ponies Leongatha are on board to deliver another great Pet

Paw-rade with the chance to win fantastic prizes in one of the many categories including Best Fancy Dressed Pet.

Fashions on the Field is also back for 2026. It does not have to be a pretty dress as your best or favourite farm-wear is ideal or maybe you have made your own fashion garment, purchased a sustainable product or supported a local business when choosing your outfit.

The Gumboot Toss is back bigger than ever. Each class has its own Golden Boot voucher up for grabs thanks to Bata Industries.

Nominations for most categories close on Wednesday, February 25. Entry forms can be emailed to fostershow@gmail.com or submitted online via showday.online/show/foster

The 118th Foster and District Agricultural Show will be held on Saturday, February 28.

Gates open at 8.30am at the Foster Showgrounds.

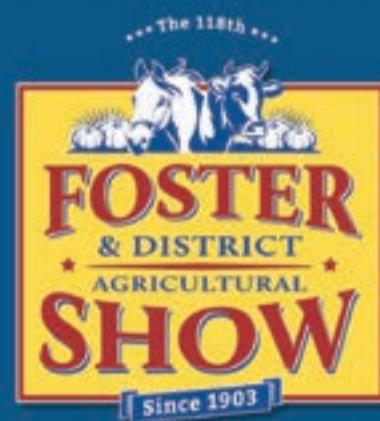


Alana and Liam Sage winners of the John Davies Memorial Trophy and Best Pumpkin Exhibit at the 2025 Foster Show.

Phillipsons are proud sponsors of the Foster Agricultural Show Dog High Jump



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FOSTER SHOW

THIS SATURDAY



A competitor takes on the sheaf tossing at last year's Foster Show.

Foster keeps dying art of sheaf tossing alive

ONE of only three shows in Victoria still running sheaf tossing will throw open its arena earlier than ever this year for the centuries-old rural tradition.

Sheaf tossing sees competitors use a pitchfork to hurl a weighted hessian bag over a horizontal bar that is raised after each round, similar to high jump. The sport dates back more than 300 years to when farmhands used pitchforks to throw sheaves onto haystacks.

The 118th Foster and District Agricultural Show on Saturday, February 28 will feature four classes with the women's competition from 10.30am

and men's events from noon.

Sheaf tossing steward John Sagasser said Foster, Ballarat and Warracknabeal were the only three shows in Victoria still running the event.

"We used to go to about 20 different shows a few years ago, but now it's down to three," Mr Sagasser said.

A life member of the Foster Show and the association, Mr Sagasser has been running the event for decades.

Association president Andrew Peterkin will attend and organisers are hoping his son, the current Australian champion, will also compete.

The novice class is open to anyone and Mr Sagasser said newcomers

were welcome.

"The more the merrier," he said.

"If you can swing a golf club, just reverse your swing."

Experienced competitors travel from across the state and the big tossers can reach 14 to 15 metres.

This year's sheaf tossing is sponsored by Foster Cars and Off Road, the family-owned workshop run by Hannah and Clint Bordonaro on the main street. Hannah grew up in Foster attending the show and said sponsoring the sheaf toss was their way of giving back to the community.

The Foster Show runs from 8.30am to 4.30pm at the Foster Showgrounds.



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FOSTER Show

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FOSTER SHOW

THIS SATURDAY

'Is It Cake?' display comes to Foster Show

A NEW edible art display at this year's Foster Show will showcase everyday items made entirely from edible materials.

Inspired by the popular Netflix series *Is It Cake?* the display has been added to the Home Produce section in the exhibit shed at the 118th Foster and District Agricultural Show on Saturday, February 28.

Show secretary Denia Gilheany said the idea came from Fish Creek artist Sarah Parkes who has a background in decorated cakes at the

Melbourne Show.

Ms Parkes is also a member of a Melbourne group called Possum Street Ladies who create projects entirely from edible materials.

"Sarah suggested why don't we add that in and I thought why not," Ms Gilheany said.

"Hopefully we get a few entries and then that kicks off people getting excited about it."

Ms Gilheany said the new addition sat alongside the existing decorated cakes competition as a display this year with

hopes of growing it into a full competition.

"Obviously if we get lots of interest in it then maybe next year we'll turn it into something a bit bigger," she said.

Ms Parkes will also run a cake decorating workshop for children on show day.

The Foster Show runs from 8.30am to 4.30pm at the Foster Showgrounds.

RIGHT: A gumboot is cut open to reveal it is made entirely from cake.



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Sentinel-Times COMMENT

The real problem with Phillip Island

MICK Flower, writing on social media during the week about the GP problems is right, so is Aussie legend Mick Doohan.

Unlike the Melbourne Cup or the Australian Open Tennis, as world-class sporting events go, the Australian round of the MotoGP World Championship at Phillip Island had more in common with the picnic races at Woolamai than it did the festival that surrounds either of those other events.

And when you think about the hundreds of millions of dollars it generates for the economy, there needed to be a lot more effort to engage and build the audience.

The lack of spectator and team facilities at the track is one thing but people coming to these major events expect an all-round experience these days, on and off the track; big-name bands, food trucks, indoor and outdoor social facilities, retail, celebrity spotting and more, plenty to see and do outside the racing itself.

Only a massive success each year at the world-famous Phillip Island GP Circuit was going to stop Liberty Media from looking to move their race to a street circuit in a major city location.

But there were a lot of other things working against Phillip Island as a venue.

Poor weather in October for an outdoor event, the lack of access on and off the Island, poor facilities and poor presentation of a beautiful island.

If there's one thing that the loss of the GP should prove to the authorities, including local, state and federal governments, it's that major visitor destinations need to be supported by government with infrastructure, maintenance, promotion and event funding.

And you can't just walk away from the local shire and expect a veritable handful of ratepayers to pick up the pieces and pay to maintain the necessary infrastructure on their own.

Working people, stuck in suburban Melbourne all year, deserve to be able to escape a few times a year to enjoy their recreation and whether it's Phillip Island, Bright or the Great Ocean Road; there needs to be a state government plan and a permanent budget to support and maintain these major visitor destinations year after year.

Because, the reality is, the numbers of visitors Phillip Island receives every week of the year now is a far cry from what the situation was in 1997 when the big race returned from its last sojourn at Eastern Creek.

The band-aid job the government is proposing for the San Remo Bridge, the dangerous intersections along Phillip Island Road, from Punch Bowl Road through to Cowes, the lack of an aquatic and sports centre for the masses to enjoy when the weather's not right, and the overall shabby appearance of the island...

These and many more visitor-generated problems need to be attended to, which is why wasting billions and billions of dollars on bloated big build projects is such a scandal.

Vox Pop

Are supermarket prices going up?



Carol Hoffman

Phillip Island

"Yes, but I'm a farmer's daughter and they're not getting the value. I wouldn't mind paying more for dairy products and fruit and vegies if farmers got a fair price."



Christine Orchard

Wonthaggi

"Definitely going up, food and meat. I've noticed quite a lot of people are complaining."



Glen Dobbie

Morwell

"Yes I think they are, chocolate at Easter is ridiculous. We just buy our grandkids books and pyjamas, Humpty Dumpty eggs are now \$11.50, Aldi prices aren't that expensive."



Geoff Bull

North Wonthaggi

"Yes, in small increments but all the time. Cereal that has been \$5.40 is now \$6. Some good specials but they're few and far between. To get a discount you have to buy two."

Ratepayers deserve answers on house prices

I AND many other ratepayers in the Parklands Estate in Wonthaggi are furious.

A council member in 2024 "accidentally" pushed the wrong button, which deemed the soil in our estate contaminated.

Our house prices plummeted.

Since the ruling was overturned our house prices have not recovered.

Melbourne house prices are rising at a rapid rate but Wonthaggi is not.

Our four-bedroom, two-bathroom, two-car garage with two living areas and a cinema room is now priced at \$650,000.

When we built in 2024 we were advised our house would sell for \$850,000.

We are the last unrecognised beach haven where families every holiday flock to spend their money in our little town and enjoy our many beaches.

Who can we hold accountable for this blunder as we have to carry the burden?

We even have a Super Bunnings, which was erected knowing our town would boom. Since said council bungle, we are at a stalemate.

Please explain.

Jayne Wilson, Wonthaggi

Phillip Island must reinvent itself to win back MotoGP

THE loss of the MotoGP is devastating but the writing has been on the wall for some time now.

We can point the finger at Liberty Media, the new owners of the race, or the State Government but that does not change anything.

But there is a silver lining to this catastrophe.

The layout of the street circuit in South Australia does not hold a patch on the beauty of the iconic Phillip Island track.

The riders, commentators and spectators love the location of our iconic track.

The US owners Liberty Media wanted a street circuit.

I think that this is an experimental move fraught with danger.

Taking away the MotoGP from Phillip Island is like taking the F1 away from Monaco for the reason it is too hard to pass on the streets of Monte Carlo.

Monaco and Phillip Island are both icons of motor sport.

Our iconic track is the ace up our sleeve.

A parallel is the loss of the Australian Open Tennis from Kooyong to the Tennis Centre.

Kooyong's facilities were substandard and Australia was in danger of falling out of the Grand Slam.

So it moved, reinvented itself and became the amazing tennis event that it is today.

We lost the MotoGP because of the infrastructure, transport and accompanying activities that support such an event.

At present Phillip Island is substandard for modern motor sport.

Phillip Island must do what Australian Tennis did and reinvent itself.

We need to look at a long-term plan to rescue the MotoGP back to the island.

If the State Government of whatever persuasion after November budgets over the next six years to redevelop the facilities on Phillip Island to world-class standard we can then confidently tender for the MotoGP to return after the SA contract runs out in eight years.

Even if the monies were secured today from whatever source the race at Phillip Island would have been compromised next year and possibly the year after.

I have no doubt the SA government will spend whatever it takes in 2027 to showcase the race but I feel that after five years the gloss will have worn off the street circuit concept in South Australia and the motorcycle world will yearningly look back to Phillip Island.

Remember, Phillip Island lost the race in 1993 to Eastern Creek, NSW for six years before coming home.

If this redevelopment plan is put in place from next year the end result will again return the MotoGP to its rightful place and again be the global iconic event that everyone wants to attend and watch.

A short-term pain for a long-term gain.

Ronnie Bauer, Cowes

MotoGP loss no surprise

WELL, I guess despite Bass Coast Council's best efforts, the latest news that Phillip Island has lost the MotoGP will probably not come as a surprise to those in the know.

Many in the local community and MotoGP fans across Australia and overseas will be saying things like: they knew, they were told that if the stakeholders did not act, the outcome would be goodbye MotoGP.

One wonders how far the knock-on impacts of losing the event will spread and last.

Aged care village image, penguins and seals score one point; technology, sport, adrenalin rush and local economy score zero.

How will Bass Coast Council respond to this loss with pity, new exciting initiatives or a shrug?

All the stakeholders knew what had to be done and changed, but did they drag their feet and take too long to act?

Bureaucracy and business as usual does not cut it in the 21st century, if it ever did.

Marketing and promotion is an ever-evolving field and authorities have much to learn in keeping on top of such things,

including for sporting events.

The stakeholders' creativity, imagination and initiative did not cut it.

It was not visible, audible or evident, and if it was happening behind the scenes, it did not work.

Will Bass Coast Council inform the local community in real time of the full story of why the outcome went the way it did, or is this classified information?

We, the public, only saw posters inviting locals to add their names to a petition to keep MotoGP on Phillip Island.

Really?

We heard Albert Park was not going to be an option for MotoGP, and heard statements like "we are not willing to sell down or sell off Phillip Island in MotoGP location terms."

The outcome: not only did Phillip Island lose the MotoGP event, but Victoria also lost the event.

A case of lose-lose.

Now how does that work?

Hopefully Bass Coast Council will advise the local community on how it intends to capitalise on, adjust to and ameliorate the MotoGP-associated economic losses into new opportunities.

Some suggestions include turning Phillip Island into a giant nature park, or a giant aged care retirement village, with minimalist climate change impacts.

By reducing anything racing, technology and associated environmental impacts to an absolute minimum, the island could create a "sleepy hollow" type atmosphere, like thousands of years ago.

The various museums on Phillip Island could be given extra resources to help them establish new MotoGP exhibits with banners like "Once Upon a Time MotoGP PI" and indulge in the nostalgia of yesteryear's MotoGP racing highlights in static and audio-visual exhibit format.

Alternatively, Bass Coast Council could consider enhancing its climate change credentials by citing the MotoGP's departure as a positive and support this with evidence of how local fauna and land, air and sea creatures have benefited from fewer motorbike exhaust and noise emissions.

However, for those locals who are technology addicts and love racing action, drama and excitement, there is always pay TV to watch events such as MotoGP every year.

Greg Jarosch, Cowes

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



Dinosaur Dreaming volunteers Wendy White and Marg Williams nearing the end of their search this year for ancient fossils at Twin Reefs. B29_0826



Joerg Kluth and Eve Eidelson searching for dinosaur fossils at Twin Reefs between Inverloch and Cape Paterson. B30_0826



Newhaven College's Parent Welcome Evening brings together current and new parents from across the school. L-R Dario and Claudia Federici, Daniel Hatch and Kasey Burrell Hatch.



Newhaven College Head of Middle School, Ralph Arceo, welcomes new parents Sierra Dunton and Andrew Stewart.



Dr Corrie Williams has had a fossil mammal Corriebaatar named in her honour. B31_0826



Shannon Tregidga, Marcus Toomey, John Kilsby and Stuart Kilsby at the Inverloch SLSC out of season nippers program. B20_0826



Scott Fitzgerald, Trish Jelbart and Alby Fitzgerald watching the out of season nippers program on the Inverloch surf beach. B21_0826



Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club members Marek Rainczuk and Phoenix Gilbert are ready to help ensure the safety of swimmers during the San Remo Channel Challenge. A18_0826



Emma Le-Mar and Russell Ogden look forward to taking on the San Remo Channel Challenge. A19_0826



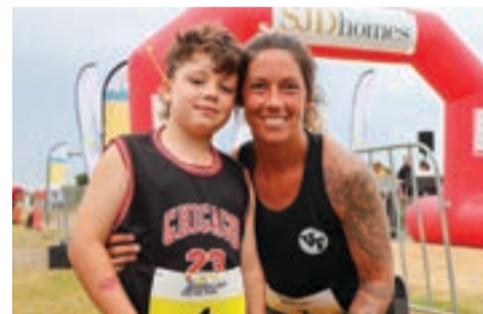
Alex Farquharson and Jarrod Magann are ready for the San Remo Channel Challenge, an event in which Jarrod has previously competed 13 or 14 times. A20_0826



Laura Parsons is ready for her third San Remo Channel Challenge with support from her dog Momo and mum Beverly Ross. A21_0826



Newhaven College PA to the Principal, Katrina Lawrence, and Parents and Friends Association (PFA) members, Kay Kondarios and Angel Chambers, welcomed parents with drinks and canapes.



Leo and Alyssa Hughes of Wonthaggi are ready to tackle the 2km distance in the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids, ED nurse Alyssa having known MICA paramedic Deb through work. A34_0826



Korumburra's Colleen Clark and Jenny 'Duracell' Merrick of Phillip Island are ready for the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids. A35_0826



Wonthaggi's Greg, Skylah and Shirley Dell are ready to go 5km in the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids. A36_0826

Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Dinosaur Dreaming at Twin Reefs, Newhaven College Parent Welcome Evening, Inverloch SLSC out of season nippers program, San Remo Channel Challenge, Deb Rielly Run for the Kids and the San Remo Channel Challenge.



Aaron Platkowski, Liz Skirving, Hannah McGrath and Chris Hindle enjoying the Inverloch out of season nippers program at Inverloch. B22_0826

Sentinel-Times

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Women's winner Olivia Holmes from San Remo, with second-placed Miah Roberts of Inverloch, and Korumburra's Sophie McKenzie who came third. A11_0826



Exhibition judge John Adam with winning artist Ellen Hubble for her 2D work, *Ironic*.



Laurel Billington impressed John Adam with her 3D work, *Garden Lady*.

Celebrating the human form in many forms

MORE than 100 artists, patrons and friends attended the official opening of the prize-winning exhibition *Celebrating The Human Form* on Sunday, February 15 at ArtSpace Gallery Wonthaggi.

With more than 75 entries of exceptionally high standard, renowned artist and judge John Adam revealed he had an arduous and daunting task.

Emerging artist, best 3D and best 2D were the three prize-winning categories he was facing.

"I'm awestruck by highly skilled, expressive artworks but within such a diversity of styles, how can I possibly choose only three winners?" Mr Adam said.

Spending more than two hours studying each entry as it silently revealed its artist's intentions, Mr Adam confessed that he had to leave the exhibition for further contemplation and let the winning pieces come to mind.

"It then became clear which were the winning pieces when I stepped back into the exhibition," he explained.

Leading up to his final decisions, he made special mention of Ursula Theinert, Phil Henshall, Susan Hall and Tessa Hubble as artists of note who in their own individual styles and excellence in artistic skills captured not just the physical essence of the human form but depth, mood, emotion and mystery.

The finalists, Mr Adam described, expressed the same qualities and predominantly captured his attention each time he walked past.

He described emerging artist Susan Walstab's *The Holding* as having beautiful, gentle and graceful strength.

Laurel Billington's *Garden Lady* in the 3D category was rich with colours embedded in its exquisite earthiness and he confessed he wanted to take it home.

Ellen Hubble's *Ironic* in the 2D category was an intense piece with depth and many layers hidden in ironic metaphors.

The winners are Susan Walstab (emerging artist, *The Holding*), Laurel Billington (3D, *Garden Lady*) and Ellen Hubble (2D, *Ironic*).

The exhibition is open to the public every day from 11am to 3pm until March 22 at ArtSpace Gallery, 1 Bent Street, Wonthaggi.

Visit artspacewonthaggi.com.au or phone 03 5672 5767.

Pyke revisits "Feeding the Wolves" with a regional tour reaching Berninnet

DOUBLE J presents Josh Pyke on the *Feeding the Wolves* Regional Tour set to hit Berninnet on Friday April 18 at 7.30pm for an intimate solo storytelling performance commemorating his first mini album recorded 20 years ago.

The album released in November 2005 on Ivy League Records marked the transition of music into Pyke's full-time career with breakout single *Middle of the Hill* reaching number 19 in Triple J's Hottest 100 that year.

In revisiting songs recorded in begged and borrowed studios around Sydney Pyke will perform stripped-back versions using vocals guitar a loop pedal and a stomp box.

"The nature of this show is an opportunity to tell stories about the songs and talk about that tumultuous, exciting and beautiful time in my life," he said.

"20 years ago, I was an independent musician who'd just signed to Ivy League Records and was on a path to being a full-time musician."

Pyke celebrated the album's 20th anniversary last year with a performance alongside the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra before taking the show to regional venues.

Pyke's love of music began at a young age joining his first band at 12 and starting guitar lessons at 15.

He moved from small garage punk bands in his teens to becoming a solo artist with four ARIA awards and seven studio albums.

"My writing and skills as a producer have evolved over the years," he said.

"I've produced or co-produced all of my albums to date, and I'll be releasing a new album this year, one that is a little different. I took the demos to a studio in Byron, to Chris Collins, who's worked with Matt Corby and Royal Otis, and he's put his fingerprints all over it, and I think that's the important thing about creativity, shake it up and keep the art fresh and moving."

For tickets visit basscoastculturalvenues.com.



Josh Pyke. Photo: Michelle Pitiris.

UK folk and Blue Soul Rock in a triple bill headline at Archies Creek

KAREN Lee Andrews a Blue Soul Rock musician will bring a magnetic presence to the triple bill headline sharing the stage with UK folk musicians Robbie Cavanagh and Blair Dunlop at Archies Creek Hotel on Saturday February 28 with doors open at 3pm.

The show promises the rare magic of small venue performances.

"There's something beautiful about sharing that very intimate space and a small audience," Karen said.

This is a feeling Karen has come to cherish particularly during solo sets after playing large venues with a band.

Although new to playing with Robbie and Blair, Karen said the common thread that binds the three musicians is integrity.

"We're all unique and different musicians, but we share a commonality, which is that we're all very genuine when we're on stage, we wear our



Karen Lee Andrews is set for a triple bill at Archies Creek Hotel on Saturday, February 28.

hearts on our sleeves and in regional venues, those who turn out are often music lovers who love connecting with artists and getting to know them as people," she said.

"Small communities all have their own take on music appreciation, so I love regional

shows; they're all very generous in how they welcome us into their towns."

Karen toured internationally last year travelling Europe for a month before performing in Canada and is touring her latest album *Survival*.

Her musical roots run deep

raised in a Polynesian Tongan household and steeped in church music she has been performing since childhood before becoming a musical director in her twenties.

"I'd say I was a latecomer to the music industry," Karen said.

As an independent artist who had a brief stint signed with Universal Karen said she gets to do whatever she wants but all the risk is hers.

Beyond the Archies Creek Hotel gig Karen is amid ambitious creative work reimagining songs of advocacy with a full band and a choir.

"We're going to re-work songs of advocacy by Bob Dylan and John Lennon," Karen said.

"A costly but wholesome project; one that's deeply important to turbulent times."

A re-working of John Lennon's *Imagine* has already been recorded.

Visit www.archiescreekhotel.com.au for tickets.

Send us your photos

If you're having a 21st, club function, wedding, or other social event, take some photos, name the people in the snaps and email to news@sgst.com.au

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Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour kicks off in Foster

WOODFORDIA'S Festival of Small Halls has announced that Irish/Canadian powerhouse Irish Mythen and Australian folk troubadour Kurna Cronin will roll into Foster on February 27 for the Festival of Small Halls tour as part of their visit to 13 regional Victorian towns.

The 48th edition of the not-for-profit music tour is meandering from Foster through to Thule (NSW). Country halls have huge histories, and these spaces - still central to community life - are set to come alive with live music pulsing the hall walls.

Famous for their larger-than-life folk festivals over the last two decades, Woodfordia are honoured to collaborate with community producers to present a more intimate, but no less exciting lineup with Irish Mythen and Kurna Cronin.

Irish Mythen is no stranger to Australian audiences. They've played multiple Byron Bay Blues Festivals and just about every major folk festival in the country. Their latest release, *Little Bones*, gained them recognition around the globe, including a 2020 JUNO nomination for Contemporary Roots Album of the Year, seven Music PEI 2020 nominations and two wins - Touring Artist of the Year and Roots Contemporary Recording of the Year, and a Canadian Folk Music win for Solo Artist of the Year.



Irish/Canadian powerhouse, Irish Mythen, is on the road again for the Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour, kicking off in Foster.

Irish's live performances are a thing of raw power, emotion and a connection with their audience that just has to be seen to be believed.

Kurna Cronin is an Australian folk-rock wanderer whose songs hold a mirror to the human condition. Raised in a beat-up van by a clown and a textile artist, he learned early that the world is messy, magical and full of stories worth singing.

Now, after 15 years of roaming festivals, theatres and backroad stages across Europe and Australia, Cronin has released *Jester In A Mess* - an album steeped in poetic warmth, fatherhood, memory and the strange, beautiful chaos of creative life.

A previous recipient of Folk Alliance Australia's Artist of the Year and a two-time Australian Folk Music Awards nominee, Kurna writes with cinematic charm and a playful, observant eye. His music is steeped in curiosity for the human condition, and his love for song lies in the way it reaches people when and where they need it most.

Kurna said he's looking forward to being back on the road in Australia. "I grew up traversing the country in my parents' beat-up yellow Toyota Hiace van, so I'm excited to be out on those roads again, and sharing songs with the Small Halls tour."

Irish's first Australian shows were with the Festival



Australian folk troubadour, Kurna Cronin, will play live at the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre for the opening of the Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2026.

of Small Halls in 2015, when she toured Queensland with Starboard Cannons. "This will be my 10th anniversary of Small Halls Australia, and I cannot put into words just how bloody stoked I am to be back. This magical country, these incredible audiences - they just give me life, and every single day is an adventure. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to head back out on the road! Bring it on!"

Festival of Small Halls Autumn Tour 2026 starts on February 27 at the Foster War Memorial Arts Centre before continuing on to 12 communities across Victoria, finishing in New South Wales at Thule's Caldwell Hall on March 22.

Harry Manx returns to Archies Creek

CANADIAN-INDIAN music fusion artist Harry Manx is heading back to Australia with a brand new album, stopping at Archies Creek Hotel on Sunday, March 1.

Manx has spent years fusing eastern musical traditions with the blues, switching effortlessly between conventional guitars, harmonica, banjo and the Mohan veena, a 20-stringed instrument invented by his Indian mentor, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt.

Often referred to as the "Mysticssippi" Blues Man, he blends Indian folk melodies, slide guitar blues, gospel and compelling grooves to create a sound that keeps audiences coming back for more.

The New York Times called him "deliciously addictive" and said listeners were hearing "an original."

Billboard Magazine named Manx Canada's most expressive blues player, while Downbeat Magazine said his "real talent lies in creating a place where blues and Indian classical are a seamless fit."

Manx is a seven-time Maple Blues Award winner, a Folk Artist of the Year, a Songwriter of the Year and the recipient of six Juno nominations.

His biggest endorsement may have come from Bruce Springsteen, who said after watching Manx perform "I'm On Fire" at the International Guitar Festival in New York: "Watching Harry play tonight I feel like I learned something new."

Doors open at 2.30pm, with the show starting at 3pm on the outside stage.

Premium reserved seats are \$57 plus booking fee, reserved seating \$52 plus booking fee and general admission \$45 plus booking fee.

Door sales will be \$50 if tickets remain available on the day.

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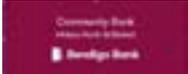
Bring a rug, bring a chair, bring a picnic.
A coffee van will be on site as well as a food van.

Entry \$20 adults | \$15 concession | Children under 16 Free

Tickets at the gate and online at
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The ARCHIES CREEK HOTEL PROUDLY PRESENTS

Month	Date	Artist
February	FRI 27/2	FRIDAY KNOCK OFFS w/ PATERSON'S CURSE
	SAT 28/2	KAREN LEE ANDREWS, ROBBIE CAVANAH (UK) & BLAIR DUNLOP (UK)
March	SUN 1/3	HARRY MANX (CAN)
	SAT 7/3	ROSS WILSON & THE PEACENIKS
	WED 11/3	MARY COUGHLAN + MICK THOMAS TRIO
	FRI 13/3	HUSSY HICKS
	SUN 18/3	THE SILVER SOUND w/ AMARILLO
	SAT 23/3	LIZ STRINGER & BAND
	SUN 22/3	BONDI CIGARS
	FRI 27/3	EMILY LUBITZ & BAND
April	SAT 28/3	PLAYLUNCH
	SUN 29/3	GRACE PETRIE (UK) & THE MAES
	FRI 10/4	FRANK YAMMA
May	SAT 18/4	KEVIN BORICH EXPRESS
	SUN 19/4	ERIC BIBB & BAND
	FRI 1/5	BEN LEE
	SAT 2/5	HENRY WAGONS
	FRI 8/5	NOT DROWNING WAVING
	SUN 10/5	TEENY TINY STEVIES
	SUN 17/5	FOR THE SAKE OF THE SONG - SARA STORER, SHANE HOWARD & SHANE NICHOLSON

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Room to grow at the top end of town

PERFECTLY positioned at the top end of Mine Road, Korumburra on a flat 1012 square metres allotment, this classic brick veneer home with a spacious backyard, carport, double garage and workshop provides plenty of room for families and retirees who want space to grow and tinker.

The home offers a blend of charm and modern functionality, with an open plan kitchen and meals area extending to a front-of-house living room, with the addition of a separate home office/study.

The kitchen is well equipped with a Miele electric oven, electric cooktop, dishwasher and generous pantry and storage throughout.

Two reverse cycle air conditioners and ceiling fans in the living areas and master bedroom, plus external shutters, keep the home comfortable all year round.

The three bedrooms all have built-in robes.

The bathroom has been updated in recent years with a walk-in shower, vanity and separate toilet.

The laundry has good shelving and storage with convenient external access.

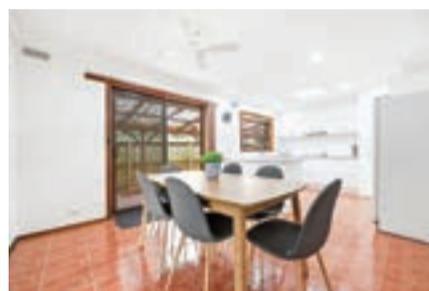
On the west side of the home, a fernery and garden space is ideal for pot plants and can be enjoyed from the kitchen and meals area.

The garden has citrus trees, is low-maintenance and includes a small water tank ideal for home garden use.

Shedding is excellent with a side carport at the entry to the home, gated direct access into the rear yard, and a fully concreted double garage with power.

A workshop, garden shed and storage shed with power complete the package.

Contact agents in conjunction - SEJ Real Estate and Nutrien Harcourts - for further information and to arrange a personal inspection.



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 LEONGATHA
 Ph 5662 4033



SANDY POINT



- Approx. 608m² vacant block
- Warm northerly aspect
- Est. trees for shade and shelter
- Views over rear farmland to hills
- 5-minute stroll to the sand

\$450,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

SANDY POINT



- Freehold café and restaurant in prime position opposite the Main Beach
- Set on approx. 492m², township zoning allowing for multiple uses
- Fully equipped commercial kitchen, bar and beer garden, liquor licence
- Sit down dining area with wood heater, café, and takeaway with pizza oven
- Rest rooms, cold room, storeroom, office (or convert to accommodation)
- Outdoor sitting area, side access for easy deliveries

\$1.295m +GST

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

TOORA NORTH



- 44 acres / 18 ha undulating grazing
- River frontage & water licence
- Option to agist cattle for income
- Run your own cattle. 4 sheds
- Privacy just 10 mins from town

\$550,000

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

DUMBALK



- Traditional Bluegum Grazing
- Undulating to steep
- Affordable entry farming
- 85 ha / 210 acres (approx.)
- Ideal cattle and sheep

\$1,580,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

MARDAN



- Picturesque and productive Mardan, a place to call home
- Gently undulating grazing property comprising 38.5acres / 15ha
- Ideal for cattle, sheep, horses, or agistment/lease options
- Classic neat 1960's 3 bed, 1 bath, B/V Home in est garden
- Quiet location, yet just 12min to Mirboo North and 15min to Leongatha
- Opportunity to secure a productive lifestyle property and add your touch

\$990,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

MARDAN



- 115ha / 286 acres grazing
- Exc. stock yards, sheep and cattle
- 2 bed cottage and sheds
- Natural springs and troughs
- Red and grey soil profiles

\$2,820,000

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632



'Kotuku' - A private rural sanctuary on 18 acres

TUCKED away at the end of a quiet no-through road, 'Kotuku' is a peaceful lifestyle property featuring undulating, productive country, a spacious family home and excellent infrastructure.

Framed by established gardens, a tree-lined driveway and the tranquil Tarwin West Branch bordering the property, it offers a rare opportunity to enjoy space, privacy and true country living while remaining close to nearby towns.

The welcoming four-to-five-bedroom family home is designed for comfortable living, featuring two bathrooms including a master with ensuite.

The blackwood timber kitchen is equipped with a gas cooktop, electric wall oven and dishwasher, while a light-filled open-plan dining area flows seamlessly into a separate lounge warmed by a wood heater.

A wide verandah wraps around the home, providing an ideal space for year-round outdoor living and enjoying the peaceful surroundings.

Practical additions include a two-car carport, lock-up shed, storage shed, garden shed and wood shed, complemented by solar panels and an inverter to help reduce energy costs.

Water needs are well catered for with tank water servicing the home and two dams, one with a pump, supplying the gardens and stock troughs.

The land comprises four well-fenced paddocks, timber cattle yards and established gardens with lawn areas, fruit trees and berry plantings.

Additional land is available via river and road leases further enhancing the property's usability.

Whether you're interested in horses, cattle, hobby farming or vegetable growing, this property provides the space, water and infrastructure to support your lifestyle needs.

Ideally positioned just minutes from Koonwarra village, seven minutes to Leongatha, eight minutes to Meeniyan, 18 minutes to Inverloch and around one hour 50 minutes to Melbourne CBD, the location offers both convenience and seclusion.

For further information or to arrange an inspection contact Sharon Turton on 0447 604 796 or Katrina Griggs on 0428 571 083.



5 2 4 18 Acres*

105 Stockdales Road, **Koonwarra**
For Sale \$1.3 million
Agent Elders
 Sharon Turton 0447 604 796
 Katrina Griggs 0428 571 083
 *Approximately



Real Estate

In any market rely on Elders

eldersrealestate.com.au



new listing

Allambee 9 Acres

Private Escape Above the Rolling Hills
 • 3-bedroom home in great condition
 • Steel stockyards & loading race, hayshed
 • Established trees, large dam

Web ID: 300P192267 **\$780,000 - \$800,000**



new listing

Outtrim 62 Acres

Exceptional Lifestyle
 • Ideal land for cattle, cropping, horticulture
 • Well-established stockyards
 • Planning permit currently pending

Web ID: 300P192763 **\$950,000**



new price

Korumburra 8091m²

Convenience, Dual Living on 2 Acres
 • Renovated 3-bed home
 • 1-bed unit for dual living
 • Shedding inc. stables & horse boxes

Web ID: 300P185342 **\$850,000**



Loch 5.18 Acres

Versatile Lifestyle Opportunity
 • 3-bed home & 2-bed second home
 • Wood, machinery shed & disused dairy
 • Solar on both homes

Web ID: 300P189872 **\$975,000**



Elders Korumburra
 11 Commercial Street
 Ph 5658 1894

BEN TOWNSEND
 Licensed Estate Agent
 0400 594 487

SHARON TURTON
 Sales Consultant
 0447 604 796

KATRINA GRIGGS
 Sales Consultant
 0428 571 083

HELEN ARESTIA
 Sales Support
 03 5662 3523

NATALIE RES
 Property Manager
 0439 383 091

Elders Leongatha
 37 Bair Street
 Ph 5662 3523



Freehold hotel opportunity in the heart of Bass Coast



Freehold 3,935m²
 Lot 1, 24-32 Hade Avenue, Bass
Auction Saturday March 14 at 1pm
 (unless sold prior)
Price: \$770,000 - \$840,000
Agent Andersen Property Specialists
 Scott Andersen on 0409 785 846

THE George Bass Hotel is an exceptional chance to acquire a landmark freehold pub complete with fit-out and ready for a re-launch.

Offering solid foundations, strong local recognition and a high-profile position, this property is primed for new owners to restore and elevate its former popularity and reputation.

Positioned just off the Bass Highway in the township of Bass, the hotel captures constant traffic flow between Melbourne, Phillip Island and the spectacular Bass Coast coastline.

Its accessibility makes it a natural stop for holidaymakers, weekend explorers and the many locals travelling between Grantville, Woolamai, Corinella, Coronet Bay, San Remo and Wonthaggi, as well as a hub for Bass locals to gather.

The George Bass Hotel is generously fitted out and designed to operate seamlessly across several customer segments.

The venue features a welcoming sports bar with ample seating, a comfortable bistro lounge ideal for family dining, multiple indoor and outdoor sitting areas, a convenient drive-through bottle shop and a spacious three-bedroom owner's or manager's residence.

Well-maintained back-of-house facilities, storage areas and upgraded amenities complete the package.

With its broad layout and infrastructure the property offers considerable scope for repositioning, whether as a revitalised

local pub, dining destination, live music venue or mixed-use hospitality hub.

Set on a substantial 3,935sqm township-zoned allotment, the hotel boasts an impressive 90-metre frontage enhancing visibility and future development flexibility.

The property is offered with vacant possession inclusive of all existing furniture, fittings, chattels, plant and equipment on a where-is, as-is basis, excluding the billiard tables and children's arcade games.

This provides incoming operators with a near turn-key platform for reopening.

The Bass Coast is one of Victoria's most dynamic coastal regions renowned for its thriving tourism economy and strong year-round visitor numbers.

With Phillip Island a renowned national and international tourist destination, unspoiled coastlines, surf beaches and nature reserves, growing residential communities and significant investment in local infrastructure, hospitality venues along this corridor are well positioned for growth.

A flourishing food, wine and hospitality scene attracting both locals and travellers adds to the appeal.

With continued population growth and increasing travel to the region, the George Bass Hotel represents a rare opportunity to secure a freehold hotel in a prime Bass Coast location.

Contact Scott Andersen on 0409 785 846 for further information or to arrange an inspection.



AUCTION: SATURDAY MARCH 14 at 1pm IF NOT SOLD PRIOR

THE GEORGE BASS HOTEL

A landmark hospitality opportunity.

The George Bass Hotel is going under the hammer. This is your chance to secure a landmark hospitality venue positioned in the heart of Bass and rich in history. The George Bass Hotel is a cornerstone of the community ready to be brought back to life. Whether you're an experienced operator, savvy investor, or hospitality visionary this is a rare opportunity to own an iconic piece of Bass Coast heritage. Opportunities like this don't come around often. Be there. Bid strong.

\$770,000 to \$840,000

Contact Scott Andersen on 0409 785 846 to arrange a pre-auction inspection.



DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

**Lot A 24-32 Hade Avenue Bass
 4 Lot Subdivision with conditional Town Planning approval**

An opportunity to secure a rare 6,18 m² development parcel in the picturesque township of Bass situated adjacent to the George Bass Hotel, at the gateway to San Remo and Phillip Island and just 15 minutes from the regional hub of Wonthaggi. This site comes with conditional town-planning approval to subdivide into 4 large residential lots, positioning you to capitalise on the Bass Coast's growing population and booming visitor economy.

\$550,000 to \$580,000

Scott Andersen 0409 785 846
 Aminah Hart 0415 256 678



Country living with panoramic views to Western Port

ESCAPE the hustle and bustle to the absolute serenity of Woolamai Park, a magnificent seven-bedroom dual-occupancy residence set high on the hill in Woolamai.

From its commanding position the property offers uninterrupted panoramic views over Woolamai Racecourse, the Bass Flats and across the shimmering waters of Western Port.

This exceptional rural retreat combines space, versatility and comfort, making it the perfect choice for large or extended families, multi-generational living, entertainers or those seeking a home that offers income potential through dual accommodation.

Designed to take full advantage of its remarkable setting, the home provides expansive living zones, seven generous bedrooms including a master with ensuite, three bathrooms, three toilets and multiple outdoor areas ideal for entertaining or quiet contemplation of the stunning natural surrounds.

As you move through the residence you will discover an effortless flow between living spaces and wide verandahs where you can relax and take in the ever-changing moods of the landscape.

The design allows family and friends to gather together with ease while offering privacy in its accommodation.

Whether hosting a large celebration or enjoying a peaceful morning coffee, every moment at Woolamai Park feels like a retreat from the pace of everyday life.

Set amidst rolling hills and open skies, this is a property that truly captures the essence of country living while being within easy reach of everything the beautiful Bass Coast has to offer.

Explore local weekend markets, scenic bike and walking trails and the vibrant coastal communities and beaches of San Remo and Phillip Island, all just a short drive away.

Woolamai Park is more than a home.

It is a lifestyle destination where families can come together along with friends to enjoy a gentler pace.

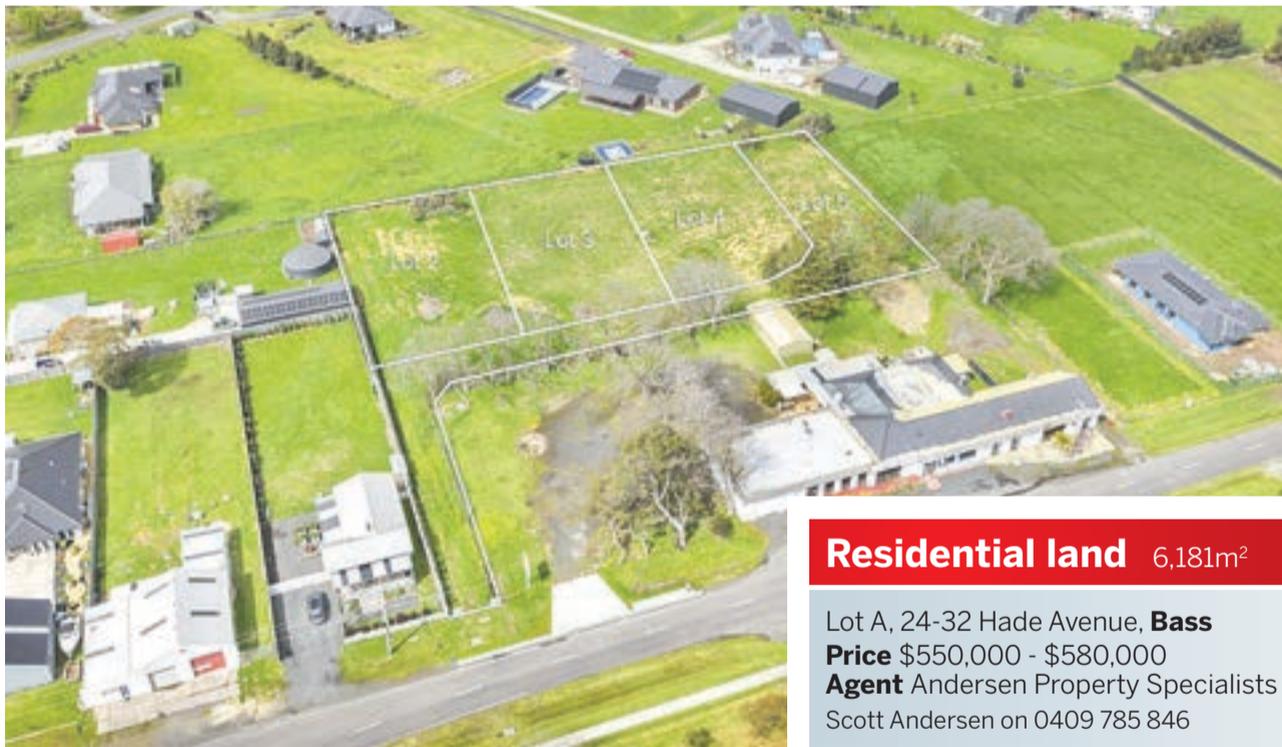
With its breathtaking outlooks, versatile design and inviting sense of calm, this remarkable residence offers a rare opportunity to secure your own slice of rural paradise.

Contact Scott Andersen on 0409 785 846 for further information or to arrange an inspection.



7 | **3** | 2.02ha

125 Trew Road, **Woolamai**
Price \$1,550,000 - \$1,650,000
Agent Andersen Property Specialists
 Scott Andersen on 0409 785 846



Residential land 6,181m²

Lot A, 24-32 Hade Avenue, **Bass**
Price \$550,000 - \$580,000
Agent Andersen Property Specialists
 Scott Andersen on 0409 785 846

Development opportunity with four-lot subdivision approval

AN opportunity to secure a rare 6,181sqm development parcel in the picturesque township of Bass at the gateway to San Remo and Phillip Island and just 15 minutes from the regional hub of Wonthaggi.

The township-zoned land is located at the rear of the George Bass Hotel site and comes with conditional town planning approval to subdivide into four large residential lots.

Subject to title registration, the approval positions buyers to capitalise on the Bass Coast's growing population and booming visitor economy.

The Bass Coast property market shows solid fundamentals for investors with

median house prices and rental yields in the shire providing a healthy backdrop for new supply.

The location is minutes to San Remo's larger town amenities and the bridge to Phillip Island with easy access from Melbourne making it perfect for country lifestyle lots.

With Phillip Island attractions drawing large numbers of visitors annually and the Bass Coast showing healthy population growth, this represents a rare chance to deliver new residential lots in a robust regional market.

Contact Scott Andersen on 0409 785 846 for further information or to arrange an inspection.

"WOOLAMAI PARK"

\$1,550,000 to \$1,650,000

Impressive Dual-Occupancy Country Living on 5 Acres with Spectacular Panoramic Views to Western Port

Experience the absolute serenity of Woolamai Park – a magnificent 7-bedroom, dual-occupancy residence set high on the hill in Woolamai. From its commanding position the property offers uninterrupted panoramic views over Woolamai Racecourse, the Bass Flats, and across the shimmering waters of Western Port.



Call Scott Andersen on 0409 785 846 to arrange your private inspection.





Cashdale Park

ONE of South Gippsland's premier dairy farms has hit the market in the tightly held Korumburra South region.

Cashdale Park comprises more than 1100 acres of improved hump and hollowed pastures across prime dairy country.

The property features a 50-unit rotary dairy with auto cup removers, auto feed system and large silo capacity, along with 46,000-litre vat capacity.

At peak the farm has produced more than 10 million litres of milk and has consistently produced an average of 700kg of milk solids per cow for more than 20 years.

Infrastructure includes a 1000-cow barn for shelter and all-weather feeding, a 500-calf rearing shed with automatic calf feeders, a calving-down shed plus sheds for machinery and hay.

Accommodation comprises two homes, a manager's residence, workers' accommodation and a bungalow.

Water supply is excellent with connections to troughs across the farm and bore water to top up dam storage.

The flat to gently undulating land has approximately 2.6km of road frontage with easy access and exceptional lane-ways.

Solar power and a full backup generator to power the whole dairy complete the package.

The property would suit a large family, corporate operation or share farmer, with up to 500 cows plus replacements and young stock available to purchase.

Cashdale Park is 10 minutes' drive to both Leongatha and Korumburra.

For a full information memorandum or to arrange a private inspection contact Andrew Newton on 0402 940 320 or conjunctional agent Chris Fitzgerald of Fitzbest Real Estate Korumburra on 0427 598 218.

Land

1,103 Acres

695 & 765 Korumburra South Road, Korumburra South

For Sale \$20 million

Agent Alex Scott & Staff

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320

Conjunctional agent:

Fitzbest Real Estate Korumburra

Chris Fitzgerald 0427 598 218

Private oasis with views of Bass Strait

DISCOVER your own private oasis just under two kilometres from Kilcunda at 182 Kilcunda Ridge Road, Woolamai.

This stunning rural lifestyle property features three bedrooms and one bathroom with two toilets, making it the perfect retreat for families or those seeking a tranquil escape.

With a double garage and plenty of space, you can enjoy the best of both comfort and convenience.

The study adds space and flexibility with the opportunity of transforming it into a fourth bedroom.

Nestled in the undulating hills behind Kilcunda, this home boasts a creek running through the property creating a serene atmosphere.

An abundance of fruit trees and an established veggie garden cater to a self-sufficient lifestyle.

Solar power and water tanks ensure sustainability while you relish the peaceful surroundings.

Two large sheds on the property provide plenty of storage for machinery or a workshop and extra smaller sheds are located on the property for convenience.

Built by a reputable local builder, the house has been constructed with efficiency in mind to take full advantage of a cross breeze during summer and double brick to keep the heat in over winter.

A solid fuel fireplace and double-glazed windows add to an already efficient home.

Just a short drive to Phillip Island and only five minutes from pristine beaches, this property offers the ideal balance of rural living and coastal convenience.

For more information or to arrange an inspection contact Mick Chambers on 0418 349 783 or mickchambers@alexscott.com.au



3 | **1** | **2** | 6.07ha

182 Kilcunda Ridge Road, Woolamai

For Sale \$1,650,000

Agent Alex Scott & Staff

Mick Chambers on 0418 349 783

<p>LEONGATHA</p>  <p>24 Gray Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2443m² flat block in great location • Walking distance to CBD • Big enough for house and shed and more <p>\$440,000 Contact: Leongatha Office</p>	<p>KORUMBURRA</p>  <p>28 Romano Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 bedroom plus study • 12x6x3 Workshop • 961m² block - left and right side access <p>\$885,000 Contact: Korumburra Office</p>	<p>CORINELLA</p>  <p>113-115 Jamieson Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elevated retreat with panoramic views on nearly 1 acre • 3 bed, 1 bath, wrap around balcony <p>\$1,175,000 Contact: Grantville Office</p>	<p>WONTHAGGI</p>  <p>147A Reed Crescent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom • ½ acre of land • Great shedding <p>SOLD Contact: Wonthaggi Office</p>
<p>LEONGATHA</p>  <p>97 Parr Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 3 living • 2 car garage + shed and parking • Great family home close to schools <p>\$850,000 Contact: Leongatha Office</p>	<p>NYORA</p>  <p>57 Walters Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bedroom brick on 2 acres • 4 car lock-up garage • Horse paddocks <p>\$980,000 Contact: Korumburra Office</p>	<p>BASS</p>  <p>2-6 Hade Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity knocks in Bass township • 2 bedroom, 1 bathroom, generous block <p>\$680,000-\$740,000 Contact: Grantville Office</p>	<p>WONTHAGGI</p>  <p>3 Miners Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large 839m² allotment • 4 Bedrooms, 3 bathrooms • Close to town and schools <p>SOLD Contact: Wonthaggi Office</p>
<p>KROWERA</p>  <p>730 Sheepways Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Edrom' – A private country sanctuary • 4 bedroom homestead on 4 acres • Studio, cottage and shedding <p>\$1.4mil - \$1.5mil Contact: Leongatha Office</p>	<p>KORUMBURRA</p>  <p>31 Mine Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail/Commercial Freehold • Highway frontage • Rear Access <p>\$350,000 Contact: Korumburra Office</p>	<p>CORONET BAY</p>  <p>15 Bowline Court</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pristine presentation • A short stroll to the beach • 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, double garage <p>\$690,000 - \$710,000 Contact: Grantville Office</p>	<p>DALYSTON</p>  <p>2 Charlton Rise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great corner location • 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom • Double carport <p>SOLD Contact: Wonthaggi Office</p>
<p>LEONGATHA</p>  <p>6 Norview Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 square family home, 5 bedroom • 2 living plus 2 studies plus home office • Large shed, inground pool and more <p>\$997,000 Contact: Leongatha Office</p>	<p>KORUMBURRA</p>  <p>2 Massimo Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom • Elevated corner block • Ready to move into <p>\$645,000 Contact: Korumburra Office</p>	<p>CORONET BAY</p>  <p>1/2/3/37 Champ Elysees Esp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freeholds for sale • Investment opportunity • 2 x freeholds and 1 apartment for sale <p>Contact Agent Contact: Grantville Office</p>	<p>WONTHAGGI</p>  <p>68 Hagelthorn Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awesome ¼ acre block • Rear lane access • Close to town centre <p>SOLD Contact: Wonthaggi Office</p>

LEONGATHA

5662 0922
41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320
Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299
Tony Giles 0407 528 192
Dan Huther 0418 334 801

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

GRANTVILLE

5678 8433

1505 Bass Highway

Angus Hall 0466 326 487

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

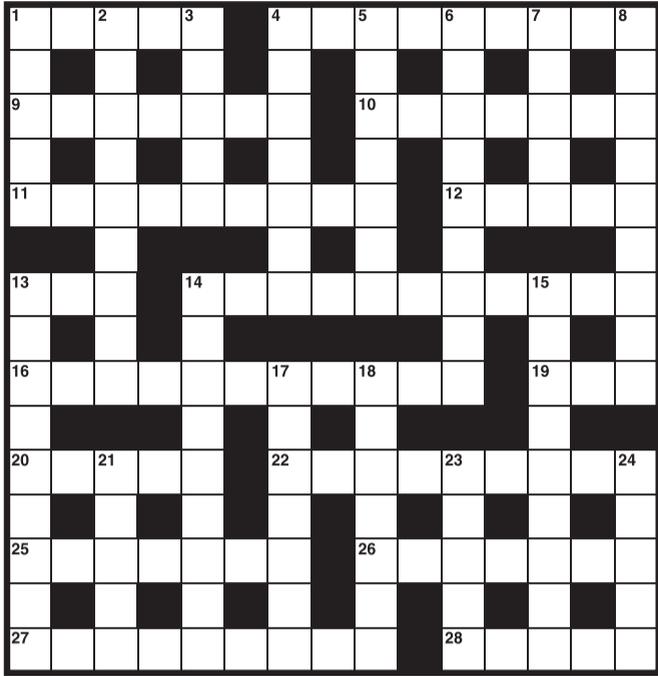
Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783
Phil Hanley 0417 140 508



CROSSWORD

No. 320



- ACROSS**
- 1 Fertile spot (5)
 - 4 Religious devotion (9)
 - 9 Affliction (7)
 - 10 Discussion group (7)
 - 11 Set of stairs (9)
 - 12 Expand (5)
 - 13 French for 'me' (3)
 - 14 Large African antelopes (11)
 - 16 Limitations (11)
 - 19 United Arab Republic (1.1.1)
 - 20 US actor Willem - (5)

- 22 Spices used to add flavour (9)
- 25 Funk (7)
- 26 Foes (7)
- 27 Those appointed to act on behalf of another (9)
- 28 With cunning (5)

- DOWN**
- 1 Gems (5)
 - 2 Deliverance from harm (9)
 - 3 Show contempt (5)
 - 4 Snare (7)
 - 5 Bawdy (7)
 - 6 University divisions (9)
 - 7 Muppet partner of Bert (5)
 - 8 A person who takes defeat poorly (4,5)
 - 13 Round nut (9)
 - 14 Shrivelling (9)
 - 15 Lack of intelligence (9)
 - 17 Harsh in manner (7)
 - 18 Tidies (7)
 - 21 Photographic items (5)
 - 23 Starts (5)
 - 24 Windy (5)

SOLUTION

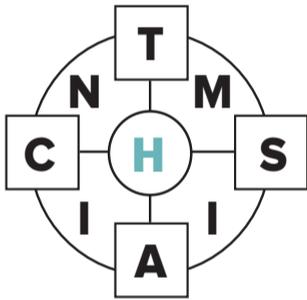


9-LETTER

No. 320

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:**
- 17 words: **Good**
 - 26 words: **Very good**
 - 34 words: **Excellent**

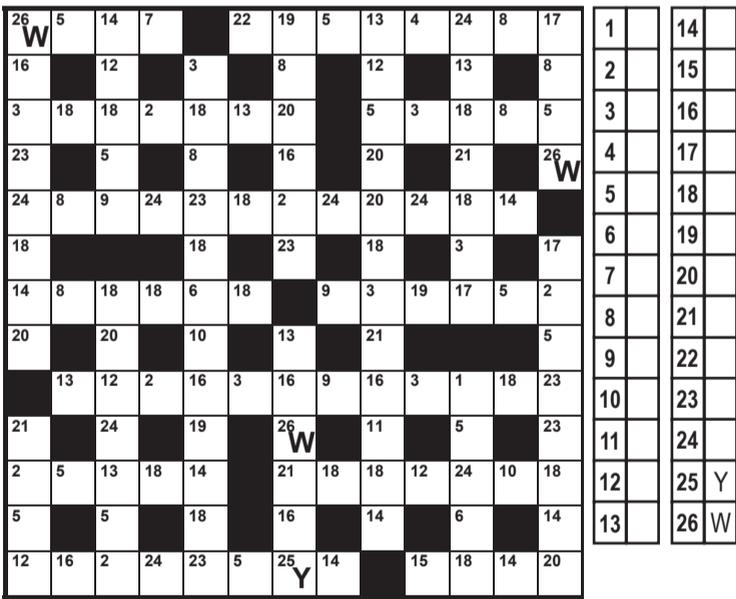


- cash, chain, chains, chant, chants, chasm, chat, chats, chin, china, chit, chitin, hint, hints, hits, inch, isthmian, itch, MACHINIST, mash, match, math, sham, shim, shin, smith, snatch, snitch, stanch, than, thamin, thin, thins, this

CODEWORD

No. 310

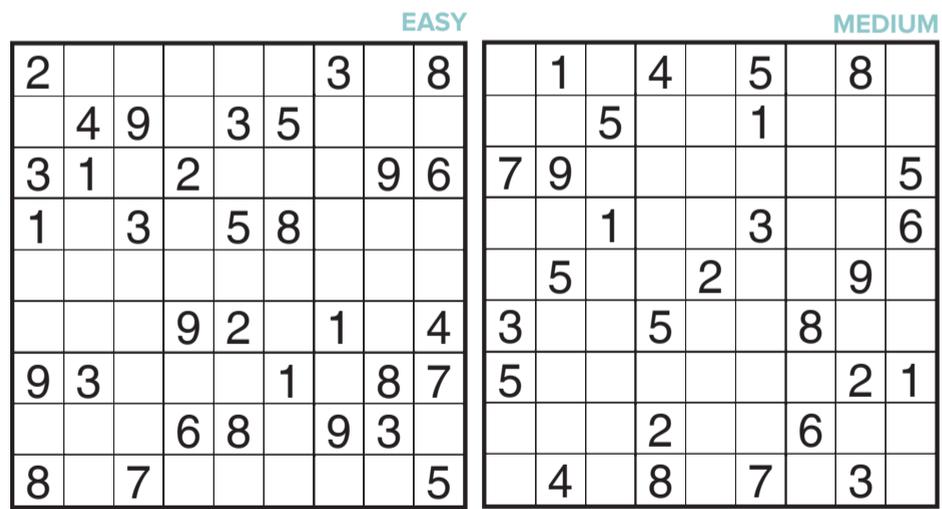
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



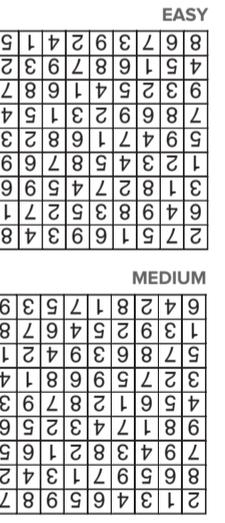
SUDOKU

No. 319

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



SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. How many legs does a butterfly have?
2. Which European country's major cities include Brest, Grodno and Mogilev?
3. Hurricane Katrina occurred in what year?
4. Harper Lee won the Pulitzer Prize for which novel, and in what year?
5. Who was the first president of Türkiye, from 1923?
6. What does the term *Terra Australis Incognita* mean?
7. Name the Australian comedian who wrote and starred in *Shane Warne: The Musical*.
8. What abnormality do the words 'fly', 'myth' and 'rhythm' have in common?
9. Swimmer Ian Thorpe (pictured) has won how many Olympic gold medals?
10. Which singer collaborated with Gotye on the hit song *Somebody That I Used to Know*?



ANSWERS: 1. Six 2. Belarus 3. 2005 4. *To Kill a Mockingbird*, 1961 5. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk 6. Unknown land of the South 7. Eddie Perfect 8. They have no vowels 9. Five 10. Kimbra

WORD SEARCH

No. 230

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



- ALGA
- ALVEOLI
- AMINO ACIDS
- ANTIGENS
- AORTA
- APPENDIX
- BASES
- BILE
- BIRD
- BLOOD
- CELL
- CHOREA
- DNA
- EGGS
- EYE
- FIBRE
- FISH
- FORM
- GENE
- IN VIVO
- LIVER
- MALE
- MAMMALS
- NATURAL
- NERVE
- ORDER
- OVULE
- OVUM
- OZONE
- PEAS
- PH
- PLANT
- PLASMA
- MEMBRANE
- PULSE
- PUPATE
- RNA
- SALIVA
- SKIN
- SPECIES
- STOMA
- TESTES
- UV
- VEIN
- VIRUS
- WATER
- XX
- XY
- YEAST

SECRET MESSAGE: We are part of the animal kingdom



Loch farmer, Kate Kirk, tells her Tale from the Paddock

KATE Kirk admits she was a total novice when she was introduced to dairy farming.

At the time, Kate was working in a Leongatha supermarket in South Gippsland. Her partner, share farmer Jason Kirk, whose family had two farms at Loch, needed to find a new worker when his sister moved on to run the other farm.

"I didn't know anything about farming, but was happy to give it a go," said Kate. "What's the worst that could happen?" Jason learnt that Kate was a quick learner and she'd efficiently adapted to farming life.

Part of her success was the mentorship of Jason and his family, and the deluge of Dairy Australia courses she completed to learn about industry standards.

Kate has never forgotten the importance of that support and continues to pay it forward.

On March 17 to 18, Kate will present 'From Frankston to Gippsland: A Journey in Farming and Mentorship' at the GA 2026 Today, Tomorrow and Beyond conference hosted by Genetics Australia in Geelong.

Kate was raised in Frankston and had no intentions of becoming a farmer, but with her own personal experience, she now wants to help young people find their way in the industry.

Joining the farm as a 19-year-old, Jason and his father taught Kate all they needed her to



Loch farmer, Kate Kirk, is a guest speaker at the GA 2026 Today, Tomorrow and Beyond conference hosted by Genetics Australia in Geelong on March 17 to 18.

learn, and the Dairy Australia courses covered Cups On-Cups Off, calf rearing and Fert Smart. "I think I've covered every single course they've run over the past 20 years," said Kate. "I've always been a go-getter, and if I'm going to do something, I'm going to do the best I can."

Throughout her learning journey, Kate became confident and experienced enough to instigate on-farm changes based on data.

While continuing to lease in Loch, in 2016 Kate and Jason bought their own farm at Dumbalk, adding to it over the years to build up to a milking

herd of more than 500 on 364 hectares.

Together, they have four staff members and more than 1100 animals, including young stock. Kate and Jason also manage their own hay and silage conservation.

In recent years, Kate

completed her Diploma of Agriculture qualification online, along with a training and assessors' course at TAFE to become qualified in food safety and lead auditing. Along with working as a verified dairy food safety auditor with Dairy Food Safe Victoria auditing farms for their milk licences, Kate is keen to help young people to navigate their way into the industry, including their own staff.

"We support people to take time off for training because I know how important that was when I was a novice," Kate said. "There are not a lot of younger people in agriculture, and it's way harder for them to get into it than it used to be, but we need them, and the industry needs more employees, from managers to farm hands, and those people need a chance to skill up."

They need on-farm training as well as formal training so they know what industry best practice is. It is difficult to get in, but it's possible if you're patient."

Kate and Jason also host on-farm tour groups, including visitors from Zimbabwe, organised by Genetics Australia. Kate will be part of an online seminar for Zimbabwean women in agriculture in March.

Kate will be a part of Session 5, Tales from the Paddock. Visit www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1511339 for tickets.

Mirboo North farmers adopt virtual fencing

By Trent Westaway

A MIRBOO North couple will be among the first in Victoria to trial virtual livestock collars on their farm, as new state legislation now permits the technology.

Sarah Prime and Will Lawrey run a small beef operation across two properties while also working full time. The virtual collars will allow them to manage cattle remotely and reshape paddocks without installing a single post.

The couple have one 40-acre farm in Mirboo North and recently purchased another in Mount Eccles, running about 40 cows and selling roughly 20 beef packs a year through their direct-to-market business.

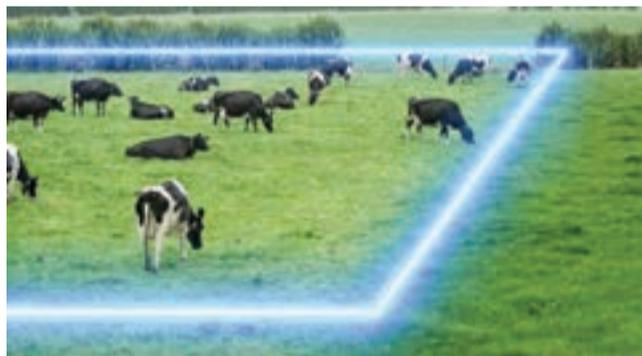
After purchasing the Mount Eccles farm, the pair noticed the fencing needed work.

"The fencing was pretty deteriorated, and also not where I'd like to have them," Will said.

"There's a few gullies and sort of wet seeps in winter, but really good pasture in summer."

When weighing up travel costs and replacing fencing against virtual collars, the added flexibility made it a "no-brainer" according to Will.

The eShepherd collars, provided by Gallagher, use GPS technology to create virtual fence lines.



Virtual fencing technology uses GPS-enabled collars to contain livestock within boundaries invisible to the human eye.

When cattle approach the boundary, the collar first emits an audio cue. If the animal continues forward, it delivers a mild pulse.

"You set up one virtual fence that they can interact with and have three hard fences on each side, and you slowly increase or decrease that fence line to train them," Will said.

Over time, most cattle respond to the sound cue alone, with farmers encouraged to aim for 80 per cent compliance from audio alone.

The collars also track movement and rumination, sending alerts if an animal stops moving for too long or shows signs of distress.

"It's the difference between going 'I need to go to Mount Eccles because I haven't been there for a couple of days', versus 'everyone looks happy. I can probably go tomorrow'," Sarah said.

The rollout was only recently made possible in Victoria due to regulatory changes approving the technology for cattle.

"My understanding was that it was legislation that was in place because of previous legislation around puppy farms. These collars didn't exist when those types of laws were written, so inadvertently they'd been caught up in that," Sarah said.

Sarah said farmers had been lobbying for the changes, especially in Gippsland, where steep terrain can be hazardous and expensive to fence.

"It really opens up opportunities to optimise grazing and make those properties more cost-efficient," she said.

The couple signed with Gallagher on December 1 last year and were just the second in Victoria to take up the technology. Collars are recommended for cattle more than 200kg.

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www.wattlewoodangus.com.au





Strong run of steers with weight in Leongatha

WITH overall cattle numbers around 2890, Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale was labelled by MLA market analyst Brendan Fletcher as offering very good quality in the steer run while he described heifer supply as limited.

Elders Delaney Livestock and Property kept busy, selling about 1100 steers and 400 heifers.

Anthony Delaney auctioned a good selection of steers with weight on them, many comfortably more than 500 kilos, having started with a pen averaging 688 kilos from a variety of vendors.

"It's just getting to that point in the season where you either commit to keeping your steers right through to fatten, through autumn, winter into spring, or you take the money as a heavy feeder now," Mr Delaney said.

"Even though the season's hanging in there okay, it's still on a knife's edge a little bit, so a bird in the hand is better than two in the bush probably."

There was a mixture of buyers in action, described by Mr Delaney as "a good positive spread in the buying gallery," resulting in a fully firm market.

"It was good to see O'Connor operating again; Campbell Ross wasn't present but he did operate through other entities; Westside operates every Store Sale and is a good supporter of the market," he said.

The pen of eight 688 kilo Angus cattle described by Mr Delaney as "magnificent steers" featuring Te Mania blood went for \$2830 a head

By Andrew Paloczi

at \$4.11 a kilo.

A pen of 16 black cattle from T. Ross in Walpa went for \$2690 each to AMG, averaging 554 kilos, a return of \$4.85 per kilo.

Available calves sold to good local competition, including a pen of 16 Angus steers from Perry Pastoral in Yallourn North with Landfall blood that averaged 366 kilos, achieving \$5.05 a kilo at \$1850 per head and being knocked down to ESB in Koo Wee Rup.

Twenty-two Angus steers from the Estate of KP Trotman in Buffalo matched that per kilo price, weighed at 358 kilos and going for \$1810 each to Alex Scott in Korumburra.

The Sentinel-Times also saw Neil Darby of Alex Scott and Staff in action, achieving strong steer prices, a pen of 20 Angus cattle from Edington Holdings in Jeetho going for \$2370 a head, weighing 453 kilos on average, equating to \$5.23 a kilo.

Those cattle were by Banquet, Fernleigh and Welcome Swallow bulls.

While heifers were in more limited supply, results were positive.

"The heifer run was dominated by processor competition in Westside, with a couple of local orders," Mr Delaney said, prices still holding up well.

"There weren't a lot of weaner type heifers; there was a good run of older heifers," he noted.



Anthony Delaney of Elders Delaney Livestock and Property engages with those in the buying gallery. A04_0826



Neil Darby of Alex Scott and Staff auctions while Dane Perczyk watches for bidders. A05_0826

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre **CLAAS**

Strong demand at EVLX

By Elders, Alex Scott & Staff, Baw Baw L/Stock

AGENTS yarded just under 3000 head at this weeks EVLX Leongatha store sale in a good quality offering with a good size field of buyers and most of the regular orders in attendance and operating.

The market was very solid with some sales a little dearer on the heavy Angus feeder steers with feedlot orders securing a fair percentage of these and generally firm for most other categories from the weaners through to the Xbred & secondary types.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026

Steers	Weight	Price/kg	Total
J Virgona 16 Angus	593kg	\$4.64	\$2760
F & L Dalpozzo 23 Angus	585kg	\$4.74	\$2780
W & V Pisciotta 10 Angus	568kg	\$4.77	\$2710
Tarro Lodge 15 Angus	566kg	\$4.52	\$2560
Jeetho Farms P/L 14 Angus	561kg	\$4.79	\$2690
T Ross 16 Angus	554kg	\$4.85	\$2690
F & Z Suste 12 Angus	546kg	\$4.86	\$2660
Pw Rollason 19 Angus	542kg	\$4.92	\$2670
J Gibson 12 Angus	537kg	\$4.53	\$2440
M Lettier 12 Angus	534kg	\$4.91	\$2630
P Miller 13 Angus	502kg	\$4.56	\$2290
Boundary Road Invest. 19 Ang	480kg	\$4.47	\$2150
N Zenelovski 11 Angus	467kg	\$4.62	\$2160
JD & AN Keating 14 Angus	456kg	\$4.82	\$2200
TJ Keylock 10 Angus	454kg	\$4.71	\$2140
Eddington Holdings 20	453kg	\$5.23	\$2370
Glensheil Past. 23 Angus	450kg	\$4.90	\$2210
Grazing Developments 11 Ang	431kg	\$4.52	\$1950
SN Kemp 20 Hereford & BB	427kg	\$4.58	\$1960
Pukenui P/L 11 Angus	424kg	\$4.81	\$2040
CW & JJ Dowel 11 Angus	415kg	\$4.55	\$1890
Boundary Rd Invest. 11 Hfd X	413kg	\$4.66	\$1930
V & DI Vickers 11 Angus	413kg	\$4.57	\$1890
Bremont P/L 14 Hereford	410kg	\$4.39	\$1800
RW Powell P/L 21 Angus	409kg	\$4.75	\$1950
Blackwood Pastoral Co 15 Ang	400kg	\$4.82	\$1930
G Danks 16 Angus	398kg	\$4.59	\$1830
Perry Pastoral Hold. 11 Ang/BB	393kg	\$4.57	\$1800
P & M Batters 22 Angus	389kg	\$4.90	\$1910
Willow Earthmoving 12 Char	388kg	\$4.83	\$1880
Conargo Ridge 17 Angus	382kg	\$4.93	\$1890
Melton Park 11 Angus	380kg	\$4.49	\$1710
Wiltshaw Farming 15 Angus	376kg	\$4.92	\$1850
C Fasso 15 Angus	369kg	\$4.68	\$1730
C Gregory 17 Red Angus	365kg	\$4.43	\$1620
D Rieniets 11 Hereford	363kg	\$4.49	\$1630
JW & MJ Davies 19 Angus	361kg	\$4.56	\$1650
R Wight & Sons 20 Angus	360kg	\$5.27	\$1900

Heifers	Weight	Price/kg	Total
P Miller 16 Char	420kg	\$4.11	\$1730
Netherwood Pastoral 14 Angus	411kg	\$3.84	\$1580
A & M Hoban 15 Angus	404kg	\$4.32	\$1750
G Danks 10 Angus	389kg	\$4.19	\$1630
JT & ME Reid 13 Angus & BB	387kg	\$4.26	\$1650
De McGrath 22 Angus	386kg	\$4.22	\$1630
D Rieniets 16 Hereford	385kg	\$4.10	\$1580
Cardley P/L 14 Angus	382kg	\$4.24	\$1620
Willow Earthmoving 15 Char	375kg	\$4.39	\$1650
L Vuillerman 22 Angus	371kg	\$4.36	\$1620
D Rieniets 13 Angus & BB	367kg	\$4.31	\$1580
KR Pastoral 15 Sp	366kg	\$4.22	\$1550
Est Kp Trotman 16 Angus	356kg	\$4.26	\$1520
D Hollonds 11 Angus	350kg	\$4.45	\$1560
MS & SL Reedy 12 Angus	336kg	\$3.86	\$1300
France Walker 17 Angus	332kg	\$4.20	\$1400
C Fasso 14 Angus	332kg	\$4.06	\$1350
Deep Creek Farm 14 Hereford	327kg	\$3.81	\$1250
Black Magic Munro 25 Angus	298kg	\$4.53	\$1350

Xbred Steers
B & V Aston 12 Angus/Ff X 472kg 4.02\$1900

Cows & Calves
B Parovic 6x6 Angus \$3000

Lardner Park Calf Market Report Monday, February 16, 2026

Jersey & Jersey x.....\$10 to \$24
Friesian Bulls\$28 to \$65
Beef Bulls\$34 to \$210
Beef Heifers\$45 to \$120
Friesian Heifers\$34
Number of Calves: **105**
Number purchased to rear: **59**

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA	LEONGATHA	WARRAGUL	FOSTER	WONTHAGGI	PAKENHAM
David Ryan 0408 311 895	Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager 0408 176 063	Neil Darby - Livestock Manager 0418 595 265	Dick Faulkner 0408 595 174	Brian Vuillermin 0429 436 040	David Setches - Livestock Manager 0409 443 473
	Jack Curtis 0427 762 670	Terry Ahearn 0438 562 816	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager 0408 595 183	David Holden 0428 749 390	Glenn Barwick 0408 975 476
		Jordan Sim 0448 058 435	Alan Bolding 0419 723 255	Alan Bolding 0419 723 255	Morgan Croucher 0457 001 877
		Mark Malacarne 0418 654 590	Imogen Price 0417 225 498		Tim Gibson 0420 306 599
		Georgie Snell 0417 100 657			

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA	LEONGATHA	MELBOURNE LAND
Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898	Andrew Newton 0402 940 320	Matt Koster 0474 781 711
	Peter Dwyer 0428 855 244	COWES
	Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299	Greg Price 0419 337 441
	Tony Giles 0407 528 192	Brian Silver 0407 347 509
	Dan Huther 0418 334 801	George Grigg 0458 478 308
	WARRAGUL	
	Alan Steenholdt 0409 423 822	VENUS BAY
		Daniel Lawrie 0417 631 252
	PAKENHAM	Sue Lawrie 0419 885 489
	Tom Gibson 0438 574 472	
	LANG LANG	KOO WEE RUP
	Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898	Jason Ross 0408 285 678

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Robbing ratepayers or helping farmers?

BASS Coast Shire Councillor Mat Morgan characterised council's decision to drop the farm rate at last Wednesday's council meeting as a "Robin Hood" initiative.

He denied it was "robbing Peter to pay Paul" but it certainly looked like it.

Presumably he meant taking from the rich vacant landowners and giving to the poor farmers after council voted to up the vacant land rate to 200 per cent of the general rate, while reducing the farm rate to 65 per cent.

Bass Coast's farm rate is now on a par with its neighbours South Gippsland.

The move will see vacant landowners slugged almost \$1.5 million more in rates next year, while farmers get a \$787,000 reprieve.

Several councillors pitched the hike as an incentive for people to build much-needed houses and as a disincentive for investors to land bank vacant sites.

The difference between the two becomes a benefit for general ratepayers; including homeowners, commercial and industrial ratepayers who will receive a \$892,000 reduction, at present values, across those categories.

The council rate take of \$61.6 million this year is not allowed to increase beyond the legislated rate cap of 2.75 per cent for the 2026-27 year, although there is always a dividend for councils when ratepayers build or otherwise improve their properties.

Councillor Jan Thompson made an impassioned plea at the council meeting, to give farmers a better deal on their rates, moving an alternate motion which proposed to lower their rates from a recommended 70 per cent to 65 per cent of the general rate, increasing the proposed benefit to farmers from a \$556,000 reduction to an estimated \$787,000 reduction, based on current values.

"Farmers are still doing it tough. We all know they went through a tough time last year, but it's not getting any better. They don't earn a regular salary, like most of us do. They rely on sales of their product, such as stock and crops," said Cr Thompson.

"This morning, I drove down Agar Road in Coronet Bay and looked at the land. It was yellow. The dam was a bog, and the cattle were trying to graze on ribbons of yellow straw and dirt. I wondered about the stress that farmer was experiencing," she said.

Cr Thompson went on to say the climate was working against many of the district's farmers, their hours were long and the pressures enormous, while rising land values in a peri-urban setting like Bass Coast meant they faced increasing rates without a corresponding increase in income.

Councillor Tim O'Brien seconded the alternate motion, recognising the importance of the family farm "to the character, community, and economy of this wonderful region".

"This alternate motion is an equitable way of lightening the load just a little and signalling to our farmers that we hear them and we're with them," he said.

"This strategy also addresses, by way of fair disincentive, the matter of land lying vacant within town boundaries and across the region that in a housing crisis would be better used for housing.

"This change will have a negligible impact on other ratepayers, and, in fact, delivers a small positive outcome for them," said Cr O'Brien.

Councillor Brett Tessari highlighted that council was exempting first-home buyers from the vacant land hike for two years

Councillor Jon Temby wasn't keen on discounting rates at all, saying there were hardship arrangements that should be extended to anyone who needed them.

Councillor Meg Edwards spoke next saying the 65 per cent differential was in line with neighbouring councils, informed by consultation with the shire's Rural Engagement Group.

But Cr Edwards stressed the "amazing flagship program" of the Rural Land

Management Rebate needed to be retained.

Cr Morgan was also on board with relief for farmers and a modest dividend for homeowners ratepayers, but he signalled the end of the Rural Land Management Rebate.

"The other side of this debate, though, is the land management rebate. Now, this program has been positive for our environment. Has it been efficient though? Probably not," said Cr Morgan.

"The administrative burden has shown that the program has been an ineffective way of providing environmental wins. That being said, every cent of this program should be retained in environmental initiatives.

"I will be fighting tooth and nail to ensure that Bass Coast uses the money saved from ending the land management rebate on new, better local environmental initiatives."

The council report also seems to support putting the \$675,000 previously available to farmers for tree planting, erosion abatement, weed spraying and pest eradication back into general revenue to help fund established environmental initiatives, including sand renourishment (\$404,000 spent year-to-date), climate change actions (\$400,000) and fleet transition.

But the bottom line is that while council will be getting \$787,000 less from farmers in rates, they could be taking away \$675,000 in on-farm projects.

President of the Bass Coast branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation Peter Miller welcomed the shift in the rate differential from 80 per cent down to 65 per cent but he is disappointed to see the Rural Land Management Rebate at risk.

"I see that council is going to decide what to do with the rebate money during their budget process, but I'd hope we might be able to meet with them before that.

"Personally, I'd like to see the land management rebate staying exactly the way it is now. I just don't think they are giving it the value it deserves in terms of what it is achieving on the ground," he said.

Phillip Island farmer Bill Cleeland is asking that the rebate remain as an on-farm environmental initiative, even if it needs to be reworked into a different program.

"Based on last year's values, I'll actually be \$1200 worse off personally if they do away with the land management rebate.

"The smaller scale farmers will see a benefit, and I don't know what the cut off level is in terms of farm size, but your bigger commercial farmers, the ones who have used the rebate in the past, will be worse off," said Mr Cleeland.

He holds out hope that the farmers might yet retain access to an environmental land management incentive from the council.

But the prospect of weekend rain was exercising Mr Cleeland's mind at the time.

Phillip Island real estate agent, Greg Price of Alex Scott and Staff, is not so sure the significant increase in vacant land rates will deliver more houses.

"It's good that they've given the kids trying to save money for a house some relief from this, but people build when they can afford it, not in response to a tax, and I include the state government's Vacant Residential Land Tax (VRLT) in that," said Mr Price.

"Working people who've bought a block, planning to build down by the coast for their retirement, will also be caught by this," he said.

South Gippsland Shire Council previously had its vacant land rate at 200 per cent of the general rate but dropped it back to 150 per cent in response to the introduction of the government's VRLT.

Bass Coast's definition of 'Vacant Land', as per the adopted Revenue and Rating Plan, is any land which does not have the characteristics of Farmland or Developed Land.



Phillip Island farmer Bill Cleeland says a lot of farmers with larger commercial holdings will actually be worse off if the Bass Coast Council does away with the Rural Land Management Rebate.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 - Starting at 9am

GROWN STEERS

Kevin Opray, Hedley (PHC)

40 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, forward condition, all by Top Leawood, Mawarra & Bowman Stud Angus Bulls

Bluegum Angus, Poowong (PHC)

25 Angus steers, 14 mths, By Millah Murrah Rembrandt ex Banquet & Rennylea blood cows

Fella Group, Moyarra (SEJ)

24 Hereford steers, 18-20 mths

Mills & Sopenlehto, Ranceby (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus & Black Baldy steers, 2 yo

LH & L McKenzie, Tarra Valley (PHC)

10 Hereford steers, 20-22 mths, forward condition

12 Hereford/Friesian x steers, 16 mths, bucket reared

M & J Chatfield, Toora (PHC)

18 Poll Hereford Steers, 15-16mths, Pure "Tarwin" blood

JW Moore & KLN McRae, Leongatha (SEJ)

17 Angus steers, 2 yo

Mooney View, Ruby (SEJ)

15 Angus steers, 18-20 mths

P & T Bailey, Mirboo North (NUTRIEN)

15 Angus steers, 18 mths

Pure Merlewood blood, very quiet

GROWN HEIFERS

P Boddy, Woodside (SEJ)

55 Angus heifers, 14-15 mths, by Pure Dunoon Bulls, drenched & vacc, VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred, very quiet

Doonagatha, Sandy Point (SEJ)

45 Angus heifers, 15 mths, Harris Farms & Mordallup blood, VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred

RE Kuch, Perry Bridge (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus Heifers, 16-17 mths, Kunuma & Alpine blood, NE Accred

Kevin Opray, Hedley (PHC)

30 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths, forward condition, all by Top Leawood, Mawarra & Bowman Stud Angus bulls

J & C Bowman, Wild Dog Valley (SEJ)

20 Hereford heifers, 15 mths

Mawarra blood, VB, GF, ABF & NE Accred

Bluegum Angus, Poowong (PHC)

12 Angus heifers, 14 mths

By Millah Murrah Rembrandt ex Banquet & Rennylea blood cows

P & T Bailey, Mirboo Nth (NUTRIEN)

10 Angus heifers, 2 yo

Merlewood blood, unjoined, ideal breeders, very quiet

WEANERS

P & N & D & M Moore, Yarram (PHC)

80 Angus steers, 9-11 mths, weaned, drenched

Dectomax, Vacc 5in1 & Arrest January, by Lawson & Bowman, Leawood Stud Angus Bulls, top calves

G & L Simmons, Woodside (PHC)

50 Hereford steers, 8-11mths

30 Hereford heifers, 8-10mths

Dehorned, weaned Jan, drenched & vacc 5in1, B12 & Cobalt, Cydectin, by Karoonda Bulls

Kevin Opray, Hedley (PHC)

60 Angus steers, 10-12 mths

Weaned, drenched & vacc, all by Top Leawood, Mawarra & Bowman Stud Angus bulls

D & K Belcher "Wonga Park", Woodside (PHC)

40 Hereford steers, 9-11 mths

20 Hereford heifers, 9-11 mths

Dehorned, weaned January, drenched & vacc 5in1, by Karoonda & Mawarra bulls, very quiet

Stuart Investments, Stacey's Bridge (PHC)

40 Hereford steers, 7-11 mths

20 Hereford heifers, 7-11 mths

Dehorned, drenched, 5in1 vacc, weaned January, EU Accred, by Karoonda bulls

M & M Standfield, Fish Creek (SEJ)

50 Angus steers, 10-12 mths

VB, AF, NE Accred & weaned, by Stud Dunoon bulls

NK Epp, Strzelecki (NUTRIEN)

50 Angus steers, 12-14 mths

Monaro Dist. Bred, Extremely quiet and well handled

MJ Jeffrey, Morwell (NUTRIEN)

40 Angus mixed sex weaners, 12 mths, Leawood blood, weaned

RF, VM & RJ Dowell, Leongatha South (SEJ)

40 Hereford steers, weaned 2/1/2026, Dectomax, Cobalife B12, 5:1, Karoonda, Warrensville, Newcombe bulls

Camlee, Foster (SEJ)

35 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10 mths, yard weaned, GF & ABF

D & S Kimmins, Cape Paterson (SEJ)

30 Angus steers, 12 mths, Leawood & Pinora blood, GF & ABF

M & R Lane, Hiamdale (NUTRIEN)

30 Angus m/s weaners, Leawood blood

G & K Belcher, Woodside (SEJ)

26 Angus steers, 10-12mths, VB, AF & weaned, by Stud Banquet bulls

M Lee, Stratford (NUTRIEN)

25 Angus mixed sex weaners, 9-10mths, Innesdale & Kunuma blood

N & R Lee, 'Loyola' Stratford (NUTRIEN)

20 Angus steers, 11-12 mths

Innesdale & Kunuma blood, Piliuard & drenched

Levanta Farms, Dollar (SEJ)

20 Angus heifers, 12 mths, Harris Farms blood

Falling Roads, Fish Creek (SEJ)

20 Angus mixed sex, 12 mths, Harris Farms blood

D & M Trigg, Woodleigh (PHC)

20 Angus steers, 10-11 mths, Langi Kal Kal blood, weaned

Greigs Creek Angus Mack's Creek (PHC)

20 Angus steers, 8-9 mths, Leawood blood, weaned

M & C Russell, Glen Forbes (SEJ)

20 Hereford heifers, 12-14 mths, weaned, VB, GF & ABF, Ponderosa blood

Annual Draft of Local Yarram Breeders, weaners held especially for this Annual Sale (PHC)



5662 4033 5662 2291 0429 050 349 5997 1555

SOUTH GIPPSLAND ASSOCIATED AGENTS

Welding insights to inspire at South Gippsland Hospital



JEN Belsar will be helping women find their way around power tools as part of an International Women's Day event to be hosted by the South Gippsland Hospital.

On March 12, Jen will be talking about her experience setting up Women's Sheds and giving women the confidence to learn new skills.

These skills benefit women who require practical skills to do their own household repairs, and women who have an artistic flair and an interest in metal sculpting.

"Weld Like A Girl is a workshop designed to help women who have no experience working with power tools. These are such valued skills for women, especially if they happen to be on their own and have repairs around the home," Jen said.

Jen is an artist and her work

developing Women's Sheds began in 2016 after she met a sculptor who taught her how to weld.

"I became enamoured with it and it's exciting to see people welding for the first time. I have a real passion for it," Jen said.

Jen was living in Alphington when she asked the local Men's Shed if there were days the facility was open to women, which later prompted the establishment of the Women in the Shed program.

The program was recognised in 2021 when it received the Fiona Richardson Gender Equity Award.

Jen has since settled in Korumburra, where she continues to teach these important life skills.

The Korumburra Women's Shed is located in the Goods Shed and is open from 10am to 1pm

on Mondays.

Jen also established the Weld Like A Girl workshops in Garfield, inspiring people to fix household issues independently, learn about safety around power tools and create masterpieces for their gardens.

The Weld Like A Girl program will be held on Thursday, March 12, at the South Gippsland Hospital's Community Health Centre.

This event will run from 5pm to 6.30pm with a light dinner included.

Bookings are essential by March 5, so ensure your seat by calling 5683 9777.

LEFT: Jen Belsar is the guest speaker for the Weld Like A Girl workshop to be hosted by the South Gippsland Hospital on March 12.

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DEATHS

BEILBY (née Presgrave), Heather Alison:

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of Heather on Friday, February 20, 2026.

Out in the sunshine with her loving family by her side.

Much loved wife of Robert for 55 years.

Adored Mum to Vaughan and Caroline, Danica and Tim.

Beautiful Nina to Fletcher, Mack, and Elliott.

All in red, forever in our hearts

"Held Ball"

Thank you for the kindness and support shown by the Koorooman House staff for the last three years.

PRESTON, Andrena Joan:

Passed away peacefully on February 14, 2026 with Frank by her side.

Loved wife of Frank.

Loving Mum and mother-in-law of Mel and Craig, Marissa and Chris, Danielle and David.

Adored Granny to Isla, Zelda, and Hamish.

Loved sister to Pamela and Linda.

Gone too soon, forever in our hearts.

FUNERALS

BEILBY:

A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mrs. Heather Beilby will be held at the Leongatha Football Netball Club Rooms, Roughton St, Leongatha on Friday, March 13, 2026, commencing at 2pm.

Privately Cremated

No flowers by request, donations to Dementia would be appreciated, link on H and A website.

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FUNERALS

MACKIN:

A Graveside Service for Mr. Heath Mackin will be held at the Korumburra Cemetery, Kardella Rd, Korumburra, VIC 3950 on Friday, February 27, 2026, commencing at 11am.

PRESTON:

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Andrena Joan Preston will be held at the Korumburra Showgrounds Amenities Complex, tomorrow, Wednesday, February 25, 2026, commencing at 11am.

A private cremation will follow.

Andrena's service will be live-streamed, go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au.

Handley & Anderson FUNERAL DIRECTORS
Wonthaggi 5672 1074
Funerals Australia

SCHORER:

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Mr. Jonathan Schorer will be held at the Loch Hall, Smith Street, Loch on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, commencing at 1:30pm.

A private burial will precede the above service.

IN MEMORIAM

MILNES, John:
1927 - 2019

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Love, Judy.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.

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Sentinel-Times

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Applications to be submitted to: recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

Applications close Monday 9 March - 5pm

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.



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- Client liaison and relationship management
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- 3+ years' experience in public practice (preferred)
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- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively
- Interest in long-term professional growth

The Opportunity:

- Join a young and steadily expanding regional practice
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- Genuine long-term career prospects, including potential future partnership
- Flexible working arrangements (minimum four days per week considered)
- Salary negotiable, with a full-time equivalent range of \$70,000 – \$95,000+ plus super, depending on experience and qualifications. Pro rata for part-time arrangements.

This position is ideally full-time; however, applications from candidates seeking a minimum of four days per week will be considered.

Please submit your cover letter and resume via email to shannyn@ashwoodaccounting.com.au.

All applications will be treated in strict confidence.

JAC2781

Students glimpse into their future at university

NINETY-TWO Year 12 students from Bass Coast College attended the annual tertiary camp to experience university life first-hand.

Groups visited Monash University, Swinburne, Melbourne University, La Trobe, Elly Lukas, Richmond FC Institute, Victoria University, Carlton FC Institute, Deakin, ACU and RMIT.

Student Alexandra Jaskula said the experience opened her eyes to new possibilities.

"Being regional we don't have many opportunities to go into Melbourne and have a look at universities," she said.

"It gave us a vision and a goal to aim towards and will motivate us through Year 12."

Ms Jaskula is set on a Bachelor of Arts majoring in history.



Monash University was visited by Bass Coast College's Year 12 students during the tertiary camp.

For Madeleine Hosking the camp changed her post-school pathway entirely.

"I was set on Swinburne and I thought I was going to do teaching. Then I saw La Trobe and I'm going to do a different course," she said.

"The course I've decided to do has a higher ATAR so

now I'm more motivated to do the best I can."

Careers coordinator Michael Owen said the camp offers an invaluable introduction.

"We recognise it can be difficult to get to open days so this is a good introduction," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Expression of Interest



An Australian Government Initiative

Community Advisory Committee Members

Gippsland Primary Health Network (PHN) is part of a national network of 31 PHNs across Australia. PHNs are funded to address the health needs of the most vulnerable people in the community or those at greatest risk of poor health outcomes.

Gippsland PHN works closely with the community and the primary health sector to identify opportunities for improving health outcomes in Gippsland. This is achieved through better coordination and support of existing health services, as well as commissioning new services to address identified health needs.

Gippsland PHN is seeking expressions of interest for **Community Advisory Committee members** to commence 1 July 2026, for a three year term. We are looking for individuals who would like to provide input and advice to help enhance health care services for consumers in Gippsland.

Gippsland PHN is seeking Committee members from a range of backgrounds, with different perspectives of the health sector.

- Are you a consumer, carer and/or patient of the primary health care system?
- Do you have lived experience of disability or care for someone with disability?
- Are you Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?
- Do you identify with the LGBTQIA+ community?
- Do you have a multicultural background?

If you are interested, we would love to hear from you.

How to apply

Review the information online and complete the Expression of Interest form available at <https://gphn.org.au/about-us/community-advisory-committee/>.

For more information, please email cc@gphn.org.au

Applications close Sunday 15 March 2026

PUBLIC NOTICES

Expression of Interest



An Australian Government Initiative

Clinical Council Members

Gippsland Primary Health Network (PHN) is part of a national network of 31 PHNs across Australia. PHNs are funded to address the health needs of the most vulnerable people in the community or those at greatest risk of poor health outcomes.

Gippsland PHN works closely with the community and the primary health sector to identify opportunities for improving health outcomes in Gippsland. This is achieved through better coordination and support of existing health services, as well as commissioning new services to address identified health needs.

Gippsland PHN is seeking expressions of interest for **Clinical Council members** to commence on 1 July 2026, for a three year term. We are looking for individuals who would like to provide input and advice to help enhance healthcare services in Gippsland.

Gippsland PHN is seeking clinical council members from a range of backgrounds, with different perspectives of the health system.

- Are you a General Practitioner, clinician, allied health professional, or other health champion of the primary health care system?
- Do you have experience working with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander individuals?
- Do you have particular interest in mental health?

If you are interested, we would love to hear from you.

How to apply

Review the information online and complete the Expression of Interest form available at <https://gphn.org.au/about-us/clinical-council/>.

For more information, please email cc@gphn.org.au

Applications close Sunday 15 March 2026



Notice of intention to formalise permanent one-way traffic flow on Surf Parade, Inverloch

Bass Coast Shire Council (Council) in accordance with section 207 and schedule 11, clause 9 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (The Act), proposes to restrict the passage of vehicles to flow in a one-way direction along Surf Parade in Inverloch, from east to west between Ozone Street to Goroke Street.

A person may make a written submission on this proposal in accordance with section 223 of the Act and must be received by Council by 1 April 2026. Submissions must be addressed to Chief Executive Officer and can be posted to Bass Coast Shire Council, PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995; or emailed directly to traffic@basscoast.vic.gov.au.

Written submissions that meet the requirements of this notice will be considered in accordance with section 223 of the Act. Any person requesting to be heard in support of their submission is entitled to be heard before Council or be represented by a person acting on their behalf and will be notified of the time and date of the hearing.

Following consideration of submissions, Council may resolve to 1. Proceed with a formalising the permanent change to one-way traffic along Surf Parade; or 2. Surf Parade remains as a two-way street.

For further information contact Council's Sustainable Transport and Movement Team, on 1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211.

Greg Box, Chief Executive Officer

Bass Coast Shire Council, 76 McBride Avenue, Wonthaggi | PO Box 118, Wonthaggi VIC 3995
1300 BCOAST (226 278) or (03) 5671 2211 or via the National Relay Service on basscoast@basscoast.vic.gov.au | www.basscoast.vic.gov.au

PUBLIC NOTICES



Making a real difference in the lives of people across Bass Coast.

If you can give, please give where you live.

www.bccf.org.au

Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling

LEAGUE results:

2's Company - week two: first place Palms on five points; second place on five points; third place Tinabe on four points.

ABL - week two: first place Dreamers on 30 points; second place Strikers on 23.5 points; third place Pinguins on 20.5 points.

Business early - week two: first place Old Timers on six points; second place Balls Deep on five points; third place No Idea on three points; fourth place Woolly Balls on three points.

Business late - week two: first place Mis-Splits on five points; second place The Ex Men on four points; third place Gym Rats on four points; fourth place Team 7 on three points.

Top scores for this week across each league:

Men: Pete Wolf 193, Peter Macinnes 192 and Stevo Clarke 192.

Women: Mary Dardha 188, Bec Bertram 168 and Jenny-Anne Sciore 158.

Probus Clubs of Bass Coast - results from Wednesday, February 18:

Final scores: Phillip Island 897 defeated Corinella 723.

Top individual scores: Men: Frank 270, Ladies: Erica 217.

Grants to back local clubs

COMMUNITY Assistance Grants are now available locally.

Bass Coast and South Gippsland shire councils are supporting not-for-profit and community organisations to deliver projects that build participation, inclusion, partnerships and social connection.

These grants encourage initiatives such as community events, facility improvements, equipment purchases, and programs that increase engagement, helping strengthen local capacity and connection across the region.

In Bass Coast, funding of \$2001 to \$5000 is available for eligible groups, with one major project per round eligible for up to \$10,000. Quick Response Grants of up to \$2000 are also available monthly, except in June.

Applications for the current round in Bass Coast close on March 6.

In South Gippsland, funding is available from \$1000 to \$10,000 depending on the project type, including Minor Projects, Festivals and Events, and Major Projects.

Applications for the current round in South Gippsland close on March 31.

Community organisations are encouraged to review the guidelines before applying.

Strong performances from Gippsland United

GIPPSLAND United Football Club produced dominant performances across all age groups against Boroondara Eagles in round two of the Boys Youth State League on Sunday.

The U13s won 8-0 with Archer Riess scoring a hat-trick and goals to Billy Breheny, Hugh Mawer, Jack Hynd, Cruz Pavich and Gianni Hortis.

The U14s won 4-1 through Romeo Vitale, Ryder McGregor, Kingston Vella and Jayden Ryan.

Khaleed Mohamed scored twice in the U15s' 4-0 win with Belieu Belieu and Dino Grbic also finding the net.

Cooper Claridge scored both goals in the U16s' 2-0 victory.

The U18s won 5-2 with goals to Goy Ruey, Thon Ruach, Declan Ryan, Wilton Groom and Tesloach Ruach.

All teams play Nunawading City on Sunday, March 1.

Dallas Loughridge crowned WNBL Breakout Player of the Year

By Trent Westaway

BENA local Dallas Loughridge has put the WNBL on notice, winning the 2026 Betty Watson Breakout Player of the Year Award and announcing her arrival as one of the league's brightest young stars.

For the 22-year-old, the award is a result of her hard work.

"It was extremely special," she said. "I put a lot of work in outside of what everyone can see. I just worked really hard, so it was really cool to see that what I'm doing on my own is paying off."

"I worked really hard in the off-season to make sure I was prepared for my move to Adelaide. It was just nice to have a bit of recognition."

The award is designed to celebrate emerging talent and is given to the player who made the most significant leap in their on-court performance. And after three seasons with the Southside Melbourne Flyers, not only did Dallas make a leap in her first season for Adelaide but also stamped her name alongside the most productive players in the league.

Handed the keys as the Lightning's main point guard, Loughridge averaged a massive 16.35 points per game and 3.96 assists per game, finishing 7th in scoring and 10th in assists



Bena's Dallas Loughridge enjoyed a breakout season in the WNBL.

league wide.

"Obviously it was a bigger opportunity in Adelaide, and that's why I ended up making the move somewhere where I could be the main point guard," she said.

"I was extremely lucky to have an amazing team and coaches who believed in me. I was just able to go out and play my game and play with confidence. That's really all I did. I went out and played my game."

The numbers are certainly impressive, but Dallas says her biggest improvement this season was her personal growth as a leader.

"Being a point guard, you nat-

urally have to have leadership because you're the coach on the court. But stepping into that main starting role, that was something I needed to work on, being that vocal leader for the team. I think I definitely improved on that throughout the season."

While Adelaide had an overall challenging year, finishing 6-17, Loughridge's emergence was a clear positive, giving them something to build from.

"As a team, we'd like to win a few more games," she said. "The team will look a little bit different next season, so it's about adapting to my role again and just growing from this season

with my leadership, and just honestly growing as a player and helping the team get more wins on the board."

Loughridge began her junior basketball career playing for Poowong, before playing for Dandenong and Warragul later.

Her off-season won't be quiet either, as Dallas prepares to suit up for the Casey Cavaliers in the upcoming WNBL1 South competition.

"My off-season is huge as preparation for the WNBL," she said. "WNBL1 South is a strong competition, so it's great preparation to go out and try things I've been working on in training."

Holwerda honoured by table tennis ranking

TABLE Tennis Victoria recently released its 2025 Top 10 Rankings, revealing Leongatha Table Tennis Association's club president Dirk Holwerda was number 10 in the Over 70 Men's Singles.

Mr Holwerda is also a life member of Albury/Wodonga Table Tennis, having served as president for nine years, and as vice president of ACT Table Tennis for three years, demonstrating his long involvement in the governance and administration of the sport.

Mr Holwerda told the Sentinel-Times it was a great honour to be named in the top 10.

"It's great to be able to play in the veterans' table tennis competition in the over-70 age group. There aren't many sports that you can actually play at that sort of age. The rankings are made up of tournament results, and there are probably eight to 10 tournaments across the state each year," he said.

"From that ranking, you end up representing Victoria in the Australian Table Tennis Veterans Tournament in October each year."

In each tournament, such as the recent Geelong competition, Mr Holwerda said up to 160 players participated, ranging in age from 30 to more than 85.

Within the over-70s, there are about 15 to 20 regular players.

Table Tennis Victoria runs many tournaments throughout the year, such as Country Week over the King's Birthday weekend, in which country clubs send in teams to play against each other.



Leongatha Table Tennis Association's club president Dirk Holwerda was recently named number 10 in Table Tennis Victoria's 2025 Top 10 Rankings.

Associations that play in Country Week include Leongatha, Wonthaggi, Traralgon, Bairnsdale, Sunbury, Yarrowonga/Mulwala, Wangaratta, Geelong, Ballarat, Albury Wodonga, Melton, Shepparton, Deniliquin, and Mornington Peninsula/Frankston.

Mr Holwerda has been playing veteran competition for more than 30 years and said the competition benefits players not only physically but socially.

"I very much enjoy veterans' table tennis," he said.

"You certainly meet a lot of good people, make a lot of friends, and it then qualifies you to represent the state at a national level, which, coming from a small country associa-

tion, is fairly unique."

Mr Holwerda began playing at 18, when he started working at the old Shire of Woorayl in Leongatha, which had a table tennis table in the lunchroom.

Enjoying the game, colleagues invited him to join the local competition, where he started in C Grade and quickly moved up.

Now Mr Holwerda plays table tennis up to four times a week, whether for hit-ups, training, or the local competition, which he said he wouldn't trade for anything.

"I have played a lot of other sports in my time, but table tennis has always been a premier sport," he said.

In the table tennis community, the name Holw-

erda is found not just in Leongatha but across Australia.

"My son is actually the vice president of Western Australia Table Tennis, Dan Holwerda. Table tennis runs through families quite easily and for Leongatha, it is certainly a large part of that," Mr Holwerda said.

Mr Holwerda said table tennis is regaining popularity, helped in part by its appeal as an all-year-round indoor sport and a growing trend across Australia and the world.

"There's certainly a growing trend across the country and certainly the world for table tennis," he said.

"Table tennis is a growing sport again, thanks to the influence of Asian immigration to Australia, enriching the table tennis field considerably. There has been a movie now called Marty Supreme that has come out quite recently that is about table tennis back in the 1950s to 60s, which is a good sign that there is some interest in table tennis these days."

In 2025, Mr Holwerda also won the Andrew Wilson Memorial Award, named after the late Andrew Wilson, a country player who exemplified team spirit and gentlemanly conduct. The award is presented to someone who displays those same characteristics.

To new, young and experienced players, Mr Holwerda advised they should enjoy the game and try to watch how the better players play various shots and move, then copy them and develop their skills.

Off-peak nippers program underway at Inverloch SLSC

By Bruce Wardley

ANOTHER program of off-peak nippers is underway at the Inverloch SLSC attracting more than 50 local participants for a series of mid-week training sessions.

According to Club President Glenn Arnold the off-peak nippers program is perfect for local families looking to stay active and connected outside the summer season.

"It's our third off-peak nippers season," said Mr Arnold.

"It's designed to give children a fun and engaging introduction to lifesaving outside of the busy summer period. Unlike our traditional summer nippers program, which runs over the Christmas/New year break and includes a larger number of participants, off-peak nippers is a smaller, mid-week program that focuses on building surf safety awareness, confidence in the water, and teamwork in a relaxed environment."

With smaller group sizes and paired age groups, children benefit from more personal attention and a supportive atmosphere. Each session finishes with a family BBQ to encourage community connection and friendships both on and off the beach.



Stuart Kilsty with a group of off-peak nippers sprinting along the Inverloch surf beach. B19_0826

Club Captain Holly Foster said it was a great opportunity for families who may be unavailable during summer or who simply want an extra opportunity for their children to experience all that nippers has to offer.

"We have a large community of locals who can't participate in summer," Ms Foster said.

Children are placed into groups based on their age ranging from five to 12.

Parent and guardian involvement is an essential part of the off-peak nippers program.

For safety reasons all parents are required to remain on the beach during the sessions and are encouraged to get involved with helping with roles such as water safety and activities or the BBQ roster.

"You don't need to have a background in lifesaving to contribute," said Ms Foster.

"Every extra set of hands

helps create a safe, fun, and welcoming environment for the children. Parent involvement not only ensures smooth running of the program but also helps build the strong, supportive community that Inverloch SLSC is known for."

For more information go to islsc.org.au/lifesaving/education/off-peak-nippers-program/ or look for the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club community page on Facebook.

Venus Bay surfers take Shield and medals in back-to-back triumphs

VENUS Bay Surf Life Saving Club capped two outstanding weekends of competition in late January and early February, claiming the Championship Shield at the Bass Inter-Regional Championships and returning from the Masters State Titles with 13 medals.

The second annual Bass Inter-Regional Championships was held on Saturday, January 31 at Cape Paterson Surf Life Saving Club, bringing together 50 competitors from Inverloch, Wonthaggi, Cape Paterson and Venus Bay surf lifesaving clubs.

Events included the 1km Beach Run, Beach Sprint, Beach Relay, Beach Flags, Board Race, Swim Race and the Bass Taplin -- a combined run, swim and board event.

At the end of the day, Venus Bay claimed the Championship Shield with the highest overall point score, taking the title from Waratah Beach SLSC, winners of the inaugural 2025 event.

Venus Bay SLSC President Kimberley Gee said the carnival had shown what Bass Coast clubs could achieve when they worked together.

"The carnival was a wonderful example of Bass Coast surf



Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club's Masters team at the State Titles at Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club, where the club returned home with 13 medals and an outstanding tenth place overall finish.

clubs working together at their very best," Ms Gee said.

"The camaraderie, professionalism and efficiency of the day created an outstanding experience for competitors, volunteers and spectators alike."

The success of the event was driven in large part by the efforts of Venus Bay members Ellie Glasson and Graeme Overall, whose vision and determination were credited with establishing the Bass carnival concept in 2025 and growing it in 2026.

The Championships were supported by the LSV Gippsland Sporting Hub

through the Victorian Government's Strengthening Regional Community Sport Program.

The following weekend, attention shifted to the Masters State Titles at Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club.

Riding the momentum from the regional carnival, Venus Bay SLSC delivered an outstanding performance, securing 13 medals across beach and water events.

The club also finished tenth overall in the state scoring -- a significant result against strong metropolitan and regional competition.

The results reflect the growing

depth and confidence of Masters competitors within the Bass region.

With more local competition opportunities available, club members are increasingly stepping up to state-level events.

"Surf lifesaving on the Bass Coast is thriving," the club said in a statement.

"Through strong leadership, volunteer dedication and a commitment to participation at all levels, local clubs continue to build pathways that encourage members -- from youth to Masters -- to get involved, challenge themselves and proudly represent their communities."

SAILFISH RULE THE WAVES AT INVERLOCH

A SAILFISH skippered by Bentley Conn won three of four races staged over two days in the South Gippsland Yacht Club Classic Wooden Dinghy Regatta at Inverloch.

Celebrating the 70th Anniversary Sail of the Australian Sailfish Conn won both races on the first day of racing with Dan Bentley sailing his Flying Ant into first place on the second day followed by another win by Conn in the last race of the weekend.

Attracting 39 entries across two days the Inverloch Classic Wooden Dinghy Regatta is an annual showcase of vintage timber dinghies built and raced between the 1940s and 1980s.

2026 Inverloch Classic Wooden Dinghy Regatta:

Race 1, 1st Place, Bentley Conn, Sailfish, Race 2, 1st Place, Bentley Conn, Sailfish, Race 3, 1st Place, Dan Bentley, Flying Ant, Race 4, 1st Place, Bentley Conn, Sailfish

Ginn Cup: (Overall placings, best of 3), 1st Bentley Conn, Sailfish, 2nd Steve Floyd, Sailfish, 3rd Craig Ginnivan, Finn

Jack Carrol Memorial Trophy for Sailfish: Bentley Conn.

Gwen Cup: Andrew Chapman and Polly Parise

Junior Trophy Community Bank Inverloch: Merjie Simmett and Rowan Fairlie

Best in Show: Dinghy Lions, Aquarius: Andrew Chapman, Best Presented: Sailfish, Westerley: John Dowzard, Best Presented: Moth, Hot to Trot: Christian Knott, People's Choice: Mickey Finn Craig Ginnivan

SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

MONDAY night bridge was cancelled this week due to exhaustion, as many members had played 102 boards during the preceding weekend in the Eastern Region competition.

Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston led the Nationwides on Tuesday (59.26) followed by Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles (56.95), Neville and Philip Chapman (55.56), Ruth Harver and Su Edwards (55.09), and Deb Anglim and John French (52.31).

Deb Anglim and John French dominated with 69.10 on Friday playing N/S.

They were followed by Moya Crowley and Mike Dooley (59.32), Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs (57.18), and Alan Johnston and Clive Hope (55.07).

Playing E/W, Faye Rowlands and Bron Sund (55.01), Denise Allitt and Tom Kudelka (54.81), and Julie Perriam and Anne Gibson (54.37).

Bridge-curious members of the general public are urged to speak to John French on 0417 568 753 about the beginner's series of lessons, which started on February 16 but newcomers can still catch up.

These lessons are from 12.30pm to 2.15pm in Inverloch on Mondays.

PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE

SIX and a half tables were in play on Monday.

The North/South pairing of Neville Chapman and Lorrie Read delivered a stand-out performance, winning with 60.71 per cent.

Meanwhile, for the East/West faction, Bronwyn Sund and Ann Gibson topped the board with an impressive 65 per cent.

There were four and a half tables at the Wednesday session.

Janusz Wolnik and Caroline Shaw finished with a remarkable 65.97 per cent, the highest score of the week.

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 February 24	WEDNESDAY February 25	THURSDAY February 26	FRIDAY February 27	SATURDAY February 28	SUNDAY March 1	MONDAY March 2
▲ 5:17am 1.58m	▲ 5:52am 1.55m	▼ 12:20am 0.66m	▼ 1:03am 0.73m	▼ 1:51am 0.80m	▼ 2:52am 0.86m	▼ 4:20am 0.86m
▼ 11:22am 0.19m	▼ 12:02pm 0.18m	▲ 6:30am 1.50m	▲ 7:14am 1.44m	▲ 8:07am 1.37m	▲ 9:18am 1.30m	▲ 10:50am 1.26m
▲ 6:09pm 1.62m	▲ 6:57pm 1.57m	▼ 12:45pm 0.20m	▼ 1:30pm 0.25m	▼ 2:25pm 0.32m	▼ 3:36pm 0.40m	▼ 5:05pm 0.44m
▼ 11:40pm 0.59m		▲ 7:50pm 1.49m	▲ 8:53pm 1.42m	▲ 10:05pm 1.37m	▲ 11:18pm 1.36m	

Email us your fishing photos
news@sgst.com.au



The Breakaway Bowls winners on Monday were Glenda Binch, Rhonda Rattenbury, Peter Novak and Jan Murphy.



David Chugg, Nathan Castle and Ross Egerton were the winners of the emergency services' barefoot bowls night at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



The winners of the Leongatha Optometrists Triples held at Fish Creek Rod Jackson, Marj Pearson and Gary Van Sideren modelled their prize.



Margaret Hoy (3), Helen Blake (2), Bob Shores (L) and Louis Magri (S) were the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group winners this week.



Judy Prain, Marj Pearson (skip) and Jenny Roffey were the February Triples winners at the Inverloch Bowling Club.



Tuesday's winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were Robert McLaren, Ed Henry and Theo Scholey.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

WHAT a way to start the week. The club had two birthdays this week and one last week.

Last week was Ken Webb who turned 90 - what a milestone that was.

This week was Glenda Binch and Pat Novak.

Don't ask anything about their ages.

Congratulations to you all many happy returns of the day.

Now back to bowling.

On Monday, the winners were Glenda Binch, Rhonda Rattenbury, Peter Novak and Jan Murphy.

They won with + 15.

The club is having a fun time at the moment with new chairs, tables and other renovations being carried out.

It's a bit of a squeeze at the moment, but shouldn't be long until its back to normal.

FISH CREEK

THE Leongatha Optometrists sponsored Triples event was held at Fish Creek recently.

Leongatha Optometrists were thanked for the ongoing support of the club.

Once again, the prizes of sunglasses proved very popular.

It was a great day, with bowlers enjoying the great weather.

The club thanks all those that come each year, for without you there is no game.

Thanks also to the volunteers who make this day happen.

Winners: Rod Jackson, Marj Pearson and Gary Van Sideren.

Runners-up: Phil Stimson, and Anne and Andy Plowman.

Best last game: Matt Gallagher, and Dino and Lucy Vignocchi.

Getting to the business end of the season saw Division 2 bounce back in style against Wonthaggi at Leongatha last Saturday. All three rinks won with final scores being 64/16 to 46/0.

The club now takes on Meenyan again in the grand final, so best of luck Fishy.

Unfortunately, Division 6 went down to Korumburra 29/0 to 46/10 after leading for three parts of the day.

Nevertheless, it was a great year by the Division 6 side.

Last Tuesday's Pennant recorded a terrific win over Wonthaggi in the first semi-final 60/12 to 57/4.

Don Cripps' rink had a good with the other two narrowly going down.

Fish Creek plays San Remo at Tarwin today (Tuesday, February 24) in the preliminary final.

Barefoot bowls continues to be full of fun with last week's winners being Sam Murray, Sharon Karge and Laurie Horkins.

Don't forget the Monthly Turkey Triples this Thursday, February 26, and the McLaughlin Family sponsored event on Sunday, March 15. Contact Bill Symmons for entries.

FOSTER

IT was awesome night last Wednesday night for Jack Attack.

Great fun was had by all.

Taking out the winner's prize was Crackerjack, with Ros, Scott and Lyndon.

The night's sponsor was Foster Post Office. Many thanks for their continued support.

Runners-up were the Chipolatas, with Terry, Craig and Jake.

They won the chocolate prizes sponsored by Promontory

Kitchens.

Check out the competition ladder on the Facebook page.

The 70's dress up theme was a big hit.

Everyone gathered for a group photo, all receiving a prize.

Lots of fun was had once again with the raffles.

The prize wins were shared around the room.

Thanks to the regular prize sponsors, Cellarbrations at Foster, Prom Meats and the club.

There are only two weeks left of competition, then the all-important presentation night.

The club is also putting out an early reminder for the annual Easter Sunday Car Boot Sale.

The club would love to fill the carpark with stalls.

Phone Bev 0408 369 298 for more information.

INVERLOCH

THE local emergency services held a barefoot bowl night at the Inverloch Bowling Club on Monday, February 16. Representatives from the first responders included CFA, SES and Ambulance Victoria were organised into teams for competitive games against the different services.

It was Rob and Gay Higgins, both emergency service personnel and Inverloch Bowling Club members, who had the initial idea of involving the club acknowledging and celebrating the emergency services with a fun night of barefoot bowls, food and drink.

Free barefoot bowling was a small gesture from the club to commend the role that emergency services play in everyone's lives.

It was a great night to say, "thank you, emergency services for the work you do."

Training Lieutenant David Chugg reminded everyone that CFA and SES volunteers play a vital role in community safety and development through various firefighting and non-firefighting activities.

CFA and SES are both committed volunteer organisations with their community at heart.

They are always looking for new recruits.

You can find out more by visiting cfa.vic.gov.au or ses.vic.gov.au.

Thursday social bowls saw 30 players roll up to test their skills in two games of 10 ends.

The conditions challenged all bowlers with jackets on then off then on again.

Light rain, sunshine and a slight breeze made for interesting bowling.

Teams were given bird names for the day but there were no drongs.

Results were determined on games won, shots up, ends and then percentage.

The hard luck story of the day was the Gang Gang team of Nic Van Grunsven (skip), Joyce Arnold, Jill Edwards and Lance Lancaster.

They just pipped out the team behind them by ends.

Team Galahs finished with two wins and four shots up.

This team was skipped by Phil Price, with Paul Davis, Rob Higgins and Arthur Moule making up the rest of the team.

Team Budgies were the eventual winners on the day with two wins and 13 shots up.

This team consisted of Jenny Haydon (skip), Katherine Heine-mann, Judy Parker and Maree

Wittingslow.

Wednesday saw the monthly Triples at Inverloch Bowling Club.

18 teams battled it out for the day's honours.

The winners with four wins and 30 shots up were Marj Pearson (skip), Jenny Roffey and Judy Prain.

Runners-up with two wins and 20 shots up were Ron Burge (skip), Peter Shaw and Keith Cousins.

Best first game went to the team led by M. Taylor.

Best second game went to Jimmy Kirk's team.

Best third game went to Maureen Taylor's team.

Best fourth game went to Jeff Gilbert's team. Our March Triples will be held on March 18.

Wednesday also saw the second last Community Bowls Night, which was well attended.

KORUMBURRA

WITH only one team left in the finals, the Division 6 side travelled to Leongatha to take on Fish Creek.

Lena Harfield had a very good win getting up 26 shots to 13 and, although down early, Mick Manning fought back winning eight of the last nine ends to go down narrowly 16 shots to 20.

Well done to both teams.

Best of luck for the grand final to be held at Phillip Island on Saturday.

Members are reminded to complete their knockout games in both B Grade and Mixed Pairs.

LEONGATHA

THAT'S it for another year.

The end has arrived and the last Pennant hopes were dashed on Tuesday.

Division 4 lost to Mirboo North 47 to 32.

It wasn't the result the club was hoping for, but a lot of learning came out of it, especially for the new bowlers.

A big thank you to the few who drove down on a hot morning to support the teams

Also, thanks Allan who spent his time managing everyone all day with your positive attitude and kept everything under control, it was very appreciated.

Good luck to Mirboo North for next week in the preliminary final.

The tradies' night once again went off without a hitch in a steamy hot afternoon.

Winners were Beers with 77 shots defeating PJ s 23.

Runners-up were Amber Fluid with 68 shots defeating BJ Earthmovers with 32 shots.

Last game next week - who will take out the honours this year?

Sponsors on the night were BJ Bearings -a big thanks to you.

Wednesday social bowls was a mixed bag affair.

Ryan and Colin, two of the newest bowlers, had a great afternoon.

There were no winners or losers, just lots of fun.

Tuesday pennant teams will be having lunch at the RSL just to get together and reflect on the season that was on Tuesday, February 24.

Everyone is welcome.

The fundraising night at the RSL was a terrific success.

A lot of laughter was had.

There were plenty of raffle winners and most importantly raised money for the club.

Continued page 51



Leongatha's Marg and Jo holding the cheque from the RSL club on Friday at the fundraising night.



Winners of Jack Attack at the Foster Bowls Club was the team Crackerjack, Ros, Scott and Lyndon.



Danny Crellin (right) and Michael Scott on the practice green at the halfway break of their 36-hole Match Play Championship grand final at Wonthaggi Golf Club on Sunday. rk51_0826

Crellin wins fifth Wonthaggi golf crown

DANNY Crellin claimed his fifth Wonthaggi Golf Club Match Play Championship on Sunday with a 4/3 win over best mate Michael Scott.

The 36-hole grand final went to the break locked at all square after both men shot 72 and 73 off the stick.

"We've both played consistently so we'll see how we go for the second half," Crellin said.

Club golf correspondent Bob Cornelis called them "the two best golfers in Wonthaggi."

"We're best mates," Scott said. "We play together three nights a week during daylight saving for a beer and a bit of fun."

"It makes it hard when you're playing against your best mate but you like to win and you hate to lose."

Crellin broke the deadlock on the 25th hole.

"I birdied seven which was our 25th hole," he said.

"After that I parred every hole in. I put a lot of pressure on and that was it."

Scott conceded his mate was too good.

"He played very well in the afternoon," he said.

"Hurts to say but he was just too good on the day."

The title was Crellin's fifth since 2014 in a golden stretch for three players.

"From 2014 to 2026 Michael Scott has won four, Ian Baker has won four and I've won five," Crellin said.

More than 60 supporters packed the clubhouse for the afternoon session.

"Michael is my best friend and we put a lot of work in," Crellin said.

"The sport was good, all the supporters were out and it was great."

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, February 17. Stableford: 44 players.

A Grade winner: Ross Besley (14) 37 points.

B Grade winner: Brian Brown (37) 39 points.

NTPs: first Shayne Harland, seventh Steve Rose, 10th Peter Hislop and 13th Greg Marsh.

Thursday, February 19: Stableford: 22 players.

A Grade winner: Jaarl Enbom (12) 38 points.

B Grade winner: Peter McMaster (16) 37 c/b.

NTPs: first Roy Fleming, seventh Steve Rose, 10th Tim Morgan and 13th Jaarl Enbom.

Saturday, February 21: Sponsor: Doc Dixon and David Sorrell.

Third round of Club Championships: 67 players.

A Grade winner: Shane Sartori (6) 68 net.

B Grade winner: Bill Watson (30) 68 net.

NTPs first Shayne Harland, seventh Nick Besley, 10th Mick Beldere and 13th Roy Fleming.

Third round of Club Championships:

A Grade: Steve Bromby 73 67 68 208; Mat Wrigley 77 73 73 223; Billy Wrigley 73 77 78 228; Shayne Harland 75 82 76 233.

B Grade: Paul Hopkins 83 82 80 245; Robert Litchfield 82 88 82 252; Jake Cochrane 81 92 86 259; Iain Riddell 87 84 89 260.

C Grade: David Enbom 82 88 92 262; Michael Grabham 90 88 85 263; Darryl Brain 83 95 88

266; Zach Walker 90 93 88 271.

D Grade: Blake Walker 95 88 95 278; Tim Morgan 89 93 96 278; Chris Clements 95 93 91 279; Steve McNamara 98 94 93 285.

Ladies

THE women played in the second round of the Singles Championships on Wednesday, February 18.

The club was thankful for the much-needed rain overnight to freshen up the course, and this certainly changed golfing conditions.

The leaderboard has changed with a solid game from Merrissa who came in with a score of 83 widening the gap with a seven-shot lead to Kerri.

In B Grade, it is tied at the top between Gail Beer and Trudi Mantell, and in C Grade, Lyn Leppin has a handy lead by 17 shots to Viv Enbom.

The daily competition was kindly sponsored by WEF Accounting and the club thanks them for their ongoing support each year.

The winner in A Grade was Merrissa Cosson (11) with a 72 net. Runner up was Heather Grist (21) with 73 net c/b.

The winner in B Grade was Trudi Mantell (25) with a lovely 69 net, and the runner up was Barb Twite (25) 75 net.

C Grade's winner was Lyn Leppin (34) with 72 net and Kath Welsh (34) was runner up with 77 net c/b.

Continued page 52

From page 50

Thanks Marg and Jo for organising this event.

Things will slow down a bit from now on after the finals but there still will be some bowling around.

The Monthly Triples is on Wednesday, February 25.

Get your names down early.

The club hosted the preliminary finals.

Four lots of teams arrived on a beautiful warm day.

This was a big day for the club. Thanks to everyone who helped.

A few of the club games are being played.

The men's club pairs winners were Nathan and Anthony.

Runners-up were Ray and Allan.

The 2026 ladies handicap pairs winners were Jenny and Nat.

Runners-up were Lyn and Jannette.

It was the battle of mother Jannette and daughter Nat.

Mum lost, but you can get her next year.

Congratulations to everyone.

That's all folks, cheers.

SW GIPPSLAND MIDWEEK BOWLS

WHAT a day.

Autumn came a bit early as the bowlers turned up at San Remo this week.

64 players were signed in by John and Bev, as Vern worked hard to arrange the teams.

Unfortunately, the club had to turn away a few bowlers as it is limited to 64 players, so a few late arrivals missed out.

The club apologises profusely to these bowlers.

It is never a good feeling turning anyone away.

It certainly was a bit cool this morning with a few bowlers looking around for their coats and jumpers to stay a bit warm.

Once they started playing, it became evident that the wind was a factor for the day as they had a headwind in one direction and a tailwind in the other.

This doesn't seem to bother some bowlers, but it certainly does make it a hard day for many.

There was lots of laughter across the green, but this did not distract from the quality of the bowls although a few of the charitable bowlers were happy to assist the Children's Hospital with some wrong bias bowls.

The winners on 35 points were Margaret Hoy (3), Helen Blake (2), Bob Shores (L) and Louis Magri (S).

Runners-up on a score of 34 were Lance Wearne (2), Lou Capsalis (L), Claudio Miotto (3)

and Phil Nielsen (S).

Best one game winners on 20 points were Beb Hyslop (L), Wayne Stevens (3), Aggie Gratton (2) and Lindsay Stevenson (S).

Next week, the club will be meeting at Koo Wee Rup Bowls Club to once again fight it out for team of the week.

Please be on site by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams.

Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching capacity, the club will have to be strict on a 10am cut off time.

Meanwhile till then, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT was a different week with the feeling of finals in the air.

Tuesday saw Division 1 play host to Phillip Island at Wonthaggi, looking for a place in the grand final.

Things didn't go according to plan, with the opposition also chasing the same goal.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 51, Phillip Island 68.

Division 2 travelled to Fish Creek looking for a win to stay alive in the finals.

On a hot day, all rinks played well against a good team that was also looking for a win.

The match was close all day.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 57, Fish Creek 60.

Division 3 went to Port Welshpool looking for a win and a place in the grand final.

At the end of 21 ends, the scores were tied, requiring extra ends to decide the winner.

After one extra end, Wonthaggi was able to come home with a good win and a place in the grand final.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 75, Port Welshpool 72.

Thursday morning 9.30am social bowls went off well, with good numbers on a fine, warm morning.

Thursday social bowls at 1pm saw 28 bowlers enjoy a fine day with a slight breeze.

After two games of 10 ends, only one team was able to win both games.

That team was Steve Bruynen, Steve Griffiths and Chris Graham, with two wins and 33 points.

Friday night was a success, with a very good number of members enjoying the evening and seeing Joy Phillips collect the members draw of \$50.

Roger was a happy winner of the meat tray, while Matilda took home the chicken tray.

Raye and Paul each took home a breakfast pack.

Other winners were Deidre, Sylvia, Joy and Teresa.

Next week the members draw

will be \$50.

Saturday saw Division 1, 2, 4 (3) and 4 (4) all venture to Leongatha looking for a win and a place in the grand final.

Division 1 played Inverloch in a close match, with Inverloch also up for a scrap.

As the match went on, Inverloch was able to get a break and take the points.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 52, Inverloch 65.

Division 2 was up against a good team in Fish Creek on a warm to hot day.

As the match went on, Fish Creek showed why they finished on top of the ladder to record a win.

The final scores were Wonthaggi 46, Fish Creek 64.

Division 4 (3) played Division 4 (4), with a place in the grand final waiting for the winners.

After a tight match all day, (4) was able to record a very good win and a place in the grand final next week.

The final scores were Wonthaggi (3) 55, Wonthaggi (4) 70.

Bowls this week:

Tuesday: Pennant Division 1 playing at Meeniyan.

Thursday: Social bowls at 9.30 and at 1pm.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Pennant grand finals, with Division 4 (4) and Division 6 playing at Phillip Island.

Don't forget the Pennant wind-up at 6pm next Saturday after the grand final.

Well done to Jan Jeeves and Caroline Donohue for winning the Ladies Pairs during the week.

On Friday night, the club has its members draw at \$50, plus meat trays and other prizes to win.

Another date to remember is the Basket Cabaret on Saturday, April 11.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

IT was another great week of bowling where the club welcomed four new members.

This gave a total of 53 players this week.

Tuesday's winners on plus 13 were Robert McLaren, Ed Henry, Theo Scholey and John Postlethwaite.

Runners-up on plus six were Mac Sweetnam, Lino Cuman and new member Meg Withington. Both teams won two games.

Friday's winners on plus 11 were Helen Rook, Sylvia Mattock and Judy Sweetnam.

Runners-up on plus 12 winning one game only were Pam Russell, Jeannie Slocombe and Theo Scholey.



Winners of the Beginners Day 12-hole Ambrose at the Leongatha Golf Club were Trish Owen, Jenny Brown, Julie Weir and Robin Smith.



Wonthaggi Golf Club's grade winners on Wednesday were Geraldine Prentice, Yvonne Everitt and Karen Sheerin.



Woorayl Golf Club's A Grade winner Pauline Lancaster (left) and B Grade winner Tracey Ryan (right) pictured with sponsor Renee McLennen (centre).



Wonthaggi Golf Club's 2026 Men's Champions are Peter Magnussen (D Grade), Lachlan McLeod (C Grade), Glen Turner (Senior), Danny Crellin (Open), Glen Hewlett (B Grade) and Blake Cornelis (A Minor).



Korumburra's Wednesday winners were Merrissa Cosson, Heather Grist, Trudi Mantell, Barb Twite, Lyn Leppin and Kath Welsh.

From page 51

BDTL went to Shelley Snooks 73 net, and Julie Hillberg, Jenny Blackmore and Kerri Besley, all 76 net.

NTPs on the first were Merrissa (Kelly's Bakery), 10th green Pam Eyers and closest on the 13th was Barb.

The Thursday twilight winners were Trudi Mantell and Warren Burgess with 29 points for nine-holes.

NTPs on the 13th green went to Aliesha Wrigley and Simon Perks.

On Saturday, 11 women played in the third Championship Split Round and it was a day for the 'little' sisters.

Kerri Besley (14) took home the win with a lovely 71 net.

Runner up was Shelley Snooks (13) on 72 net and Julie Hillberg (20) was third with 74 net.

NTPs on the first was Deb Wrigley (Kelly's Bakery), seventh Lyn McIvor, and 10th and 13th greens was Shelley.

Good hitting to all this week, playing their final Championship round on Wednesday.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, February 17:

Competition: Ambrose.

Winners: Dean Kellett, Craig Hams, Barry Attwood and Russell Williams 54.375; Michael O'Rafferty, Chad Clasby, Jeremy de Silva and Alan Starkey 57.

Thursday, February 19:

Competition Stableford: 78.

Winner: Colin Bear (17) 39 points.

A Grade: Barry Attwood (13) 37 points; Russell Williams (8) 36c/b, B Grade: Colin Bear (17) 39 points; Bruce Christison (15) 37 points, C Grade: Will Norden (22) 38 points; Joe Lowell (22) 36 points c/b.

Nearest the pin: fifth Christopher Buckland 108cm second shot; 14th Neil Gray 390cm; 16th Jeremy de Silva 348cm.

Saturday, February 21:

Competition: Stableford.

Entrants: 84.

Winner: John Ryan (10) 38 points c/b.

A Grade: John Ryan (10) 38 points c/b; Jeremy de Silva (6) 36 points,

B Grade: Peter Jaspers (17) 37 points c/b; Ian Debenham (18) 37 points.

C Grade: Dianne Williams (21) 38 points c/b; Bradley Hines (23) 38 points.

D Grade: Jenny Fraser (35) 37 points c/b; Jenny Teasdale (26) 37 points.

Nearest the pin: fifth Dianne Williams 68cm; 14th John Ryan 120cm; 16th Peter Brownlie 115cm.

Ladies

SIXTY-THREE women competed in the Beginners Day last week organised by Chris Lay.

Chris managed to encourage 15 new players to join in this special 12-hole Ambrose event.

The results were very close but the winning team, consisting of two beginners and two very skilled golfers were Robin Smith, Julie Brown, Julie Weir and Trish Owen with a score of 33.625.

The runners up, also with two new players were, Deb Miller, Marianne Leaver, Melissa Pardoe and Louise Dickson with a score of 33.875.

The down the line teams were Debra Skerys, Gail Robinson, Chris Lay and Libby Seebeck; Rosemary Perry, Jenny Fraser, Carolyn Copeland and Karen Castledine-Briggs; Janette

Arrow-Watt, Nan Meagher, Maryanne Gartner and Jorita de Vries.

The nearest the pin winners were Carolyn Copeland on the 16th and Trish Owen on the 14th.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, February 17: Stableford.

A Grade: T. Bradshaw (8) 42.

B Grade: S. Hill-Smith (16) 37.

DTL: P. Woodall 40, S. Woodall 39, N. Baker and G. Shandley 37 c/b.

NTP: fourth M. Woodall, sixth W. Edwards, 13th T. Whitelaw and 16th M. Heiberg.

Eagles: M. Heiberg 12th.

Birdies: sixth N. Whichello and 13th T. Whitelaw.

Saturday, February 21: Par.

A Grade: T. Baker (6) +5.

B Grade: J. McFarlane (16) +2.

DTL: M. Woodall, N. Bickerton, P. Woodall and P. Cummaudo +2, and M. Heiberg +1 c/b.

NTP: fourth N. Bickerton, sixth D. Woodall, 13th M. Heiberg and 16th A. Liebe.

Birdies: fourth J. McFarlane, P. Woodall and N. Whichello, sixth P. Woodall, D. Woodall and A. Liebe, 13th M. Heiberg, and 16th M. Woodall and T. Whitelaw.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: February 12.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Overall winner: Ian Johnson 34, A Grade winner: Ian Johnson 34, A Grade runner up: Stephen Kane 34, B Grade winner: Larry Copeland 34, B Grade runner up: Martin Cox 34.

Placegetters: Neil Beer 33; Graeme Crawford 33; Simon O'Halloran 32; Gary Youlten 32; Ian Hack 32; Rod McBride 32; Frank Huber 31; Tony Schipano 31.

NTPs: Martin Cox eight; Andrew Hooton-Shandley 13th; Frank Huber 17th.

Results: February 12.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.

Winner: Bob Cornelis 19.

Place getters: Willy Williams 17; Bill Howard 16; John Davis 15.

NTP: Bill Howard eighth.

Results: February 15, S.R 72.

Competition: second round Championships Stroke.

Overall winner: John Radford 62, A Grade winner: Jarvis Kilgour 68, A Grade runner up: Jaye Foon 69, B Grade winner: Ian Johnson 69, B Grade runner up: Glen Turner 69, C Grade winner: Max Ahearne 63, C Grade runner up: Steve Terrill 69, D Grade winner: John Radford 62, D Grade runner up: Graeme McLeod 72.

Placegetters: Brad Andrew 70; Lochlan McLean 70; Paul Fawcett 70; Scott Rayson 70; Darcy O'Halloran 70; Geoff Huther 70; Phillip Dynes 70; Ben Clark 70; Peter Liddle 71; Gerald Mitchell 71; Kevin Jamieson 71; Ben Wilson 71; Blake Cornelis 71.

Eagle: Kevin Jamieson first.

NTPs: Ricky Brown second; Leigh Clifford fourth; Paul Fawcett propin eighth; John Radford 13th; Simon O'Halloran money hole 17th.

Results: February 19.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Overall winner: Larry Copeland 40.

Winner A Grade: David Bannerman 38.

Runner up: Ian McNish 37.

Winner B Grade: Larry Copeland 40.

Runner up: Ben Clark 36.

Placegetters: Ian Baker 37; Gino Hennequin 36; Glen Turner 36; Martin Cox 36; Andrew Seccull 35; Geoff Bell 35; John Haag 35.

NTPs: Andrew Hooton-Shandley second; Glen Turner fourth; Geoff Bell eighth; Ian Baker 13th; Larry Copeland 17th.

Results: February 19, SR. 36. Competition: Stableford nine-hole 10 to 18.

Winner: Graham Ryan 19. Place getter: Norm Burne 19. NTP: Secondo Tiziani 17th.

Results: February 21. Competition: Stableford.

Overall winner: Jarvis Kilgour 43, A Grade winner: Jarvis Kilgour 43, A Grade runner up: Michael Scott 41, B Grade winner: Craig Harvey 41, B Grade runner up: Norm Burne 39, C Grade winner: Alex Wilson 39, C Grade runner up: Ben Clark 39.

Placegetters: Ian Baker 40; Phillip Dynes 38; David Hynes 38; Jonathon Clayton 37; Andrew Hooton-Shandley 37; Leigh Clifford 37; Mark Nicholson 37; Allan McLean 37; Kevin Bayley 37; Joshua Kilgour 37; Phillip Studham 36; Darcy O'Halloran 36; Frank Huber 36; Garry O'Connor 36; Mick Bourke 36.

Eagle: Stephen Judd first.

NTPs: Michael Scott second; Glen Rielly fourth; Andrew Hooton-Shandley propin eighth; Scott Williams 13th; Mark Nicholson money hole 17th.

Sunday saw the finals of the match play component to decide the 2026 Champions at Wonthaggi Golf Club.

Open: Danny Crellin defeated Michael Scott 4/3 after 33 holes.

A Minor: Blake Cornelis defeated Joel Brann 19th hole.

B Grade: Glen Hewlett defeated Jim Jordan 4/2 on the 16th.

C Grade: Lachlan McLean defeated Norm Burne 19th hole.

D Grade: Peter Magnussen defeated Cooper Lindsay 4/3 on the 15th.

Other award winners were K. Hollee trophy Danny Crellin and Senior Champion Glen Turner.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was the second round of the 2026 Ladies Championships playing Stroke with 28 players.

The overnight rain cooled the course and settled the dust, making pleasant conditions.

The Grade winners were A Grade Yvonne Everitt 95(20)75, B Grade Geraldine Prentice 96(24)72, and C Grade and round of day Karen Sheerin 102(33)69.

Placegetters were Kathy Duncombe 70, Chris Hamilton 71, Anne Poulton 73, Anne Tschiderer 73 and Donna Brosnan 74.

NTP on second was Marg Johnson, fourth Merryn Dear, eighth Jan Beaumont and 17th Jenny McRae.

WOORAYL

THE second round of the Tony McLeod Stableford board event was sponsored by MTA Travel, Renee McLennen, with thanks.

Seventeen ladies played in the wind, rain and sunshine.

The A Grade winner was Pauline Lancaster 35 points.

The B Grade winner was Tracey Ryan 39 points.

BDL: Tricia Berryman 35 points, Elly Berryman 35 points and Ann Poole 34 points.

NTPs: eighth and 17th Min Dwyer, and 11th Bev Bridge.

The winner of the Tony McLeod Stableford Board Event was Anne Grist.

Idaho State next stop for basketball prodigy

By Trent Westaway

LOCAL basketballer Krystal Arnason is heading to the United States in 2026 after being offered a scholarship by a prestigious Division 1 program, Idaho State University.

Between committing to Idaho State and recently representing Victoria at the Under 20 Women's National Championships, the 18-year-old Leongatha native hasn't had much time to pause and take it all in.

The offer came after Idaho State's coaching staff recognised Arnason's potential.

"The coaching staff reached out over the phone and offered me a scholarship after watching a few of my games I played whilst in America on a tour," Arnason said.

"It was a really exciting moment. I could finally see my hard work paying off."

The phone call itself may have been quick but the journey wasn't always smooth sailing, as Arnason reported some unique challenges from an Australian perspective.

"The recruiting process was hard coming from Australia. I got one tournament in the USA to showcase myself and make a statement in front of coaches, whilst those in the USA get multiple per year," she said.

"Calls with schools were sometimes in the middle of the night because of the time differences, which was challenging as I was still completing high school."

Despite the hurdles, Idaho State felt like the right option for Arnason.

"I chose Idaho State for their amazing culture and coaching staff. They make me feel at home, as well as their style of play, which I can really see myself fitting into well," she said.



Krystal Arnason will take her talents to Idaho State University in 2026 after securing a Division 1 NCAA scholarship.

Playing for a Division 1 college carries a lot of weight and for Arnason it represents the culmination of work from those who have supported her on her journey.

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity given to me by the coaching staff at Idaho State to play at a Division 1 level, as it highlights the sacrifices and effort that not only I've put in, but also my family, coaches and teammates have put into me," she said.

"Playing at a D1 level also means I'll be getting a great education, which will help me in the future."

Those who have watched Arnason develop through playing for Korumburra, Melbourne, Kilsyth and state pathways would be familiar with the vast skillset she has acquired.

"I'd describe myself as a fast-paced and unselfish player who is more defensively driven," she said.

As for what she is looking forward to the most in America?

"The college experience, experiencing white Christmases and going back to Raising Cane's of course," she said.

Her college commitment follows yet another campaign representing Victoria, even if it didn't necessarily end the way she wanted.

Arnason recently returned from competing in the Under 20 National Championships after also representing her state in U16 and U18.

This year, Arnason and her Victorian teammates fell just short of third place, going down to New South Wales in a four-point nailbiter.

"It was a disappointing end to my journey representing Victoria, as we just fell short of a bronze medal," she said.

"But I loved every moment of representing Victoria, as it brought girls from across the state together and created teams which put the team before ourselves."

"That's why we don't have our names on the backs of our jerseys. We're not playing for our name, but rather for each other."

College basketball is a big step in Arnason's basketball journey but it is far from where her ambitions end.

"My future goals after college are to play in professional leagues such as the WNBL in Australia or head over to Europe and play there," she said.

Maths teacher turns author with debut footy novel

By Trent Westaway

MATHS teacher of 25 years Glenn Sullivan has just finished writing his debut fiction novel titled Kicking Goals.

Having spent time as a well-respected junior football coach himself, Sullivan has channelled this expertise into his story centred around a 16-year-old football prodigy whose dream career is derailed by one life-changing mistake.

Writing fiction was not just a sudden pivot for Sullivan, as his passion for writing has been building for decades.

"I've always been interested in writing," he said.

"I did work experience at the Sentinel-Times back in 1982 when I was in year 10."

The son of legendary South Gippsland golfer Ian "Slugger" Sullivan, Glenn grew up around local sport.

He began playing football at just 11 years old for the Wonthaggi Blues and later played reserves football before retiring when the club merged to form Wonthaggi Power.

He then explored the coaching side of football when a year 10 class he was teaching at the time convinced him to coach the school team.

After that experience he went on to coach premierships junior



Bass Coast College maths teacher Glenn Sullivan has swapped equations for fiction with the release of his first fiction novel, Kicking Goals. W02_0826

sides at both Wonthaggi and Leongatha.

He also guided Alberton inter-league teams to multiple carnival victories.

Though his first fiction book, this is far from Sullivan's first writing project, having written multiple non-fiction books in the past on the Wonthaggi Technical School, the Wonthaggi Golf Club and the history of the Wonthaggi Football Club.

But through all those projects, one character lingered in

Sullivan's mind.

"Ossie Wheeler's been around for years," Sullivan said of the protagonist of his novel.

"He's probably inspired by the little boy kicking a football in the front yard in the 1970s, dreaming he's Gary Ablett or Wayne Carey."

In Kicking Goals, Ossie Wheeler is among the best young footballers in the country, dominating competitions and seemingly destined for the AFL draft.

But one major setback causes four crucial years of football to be taken away from him.

"I had this dilemma," Sullivan explained.

"If he's that good at 16, normally he goes straight through Gippsland Power and gets drafted.

"So I had to find a way that didn't happen."

The story has many thematic focuses including responsibility, loss and resilience.

Unlike many novels, Sullivan's style is raw and direct.

"It's just telling a story," he said.

"There's not a great deal of dialogue.

"It's not fancy.

"It's just what happened, step by step."

Sullivan has dedicated the book to his grandsons Jack and Charlie.

He hopes they, along with other young readers, will discover the pleasure of reading.

"This is a hobby," he said.

"If it sells copies, great.

"If it doesn't, I'm not fussed."

Fans of the story will not have to wait long for more either, as Sullivan is already 80 per cent through the sequel and has a full trilogy mapped out.

The book will be available for purchase on Amazon from Monday, March 2.



Newly elected vice president Allan Stray won the coveted San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle at darts last week.

Darts returns for 2026

THE Phillip Island and Districts Darts League has launched into 2026 following its annual general meeting.

New president Vince Palladino leads the committee with vice president Allan Stray, treasurer Jamie Martin and secretary Chris Chivers.

Members paid tribute to outgoing president Scott Lethbridge and treasurer Meredith Parker for their work over the past three years.

A round robin play-off saw David Healey emerge victorious from a field of 27 players. Three maximum 180s were thrown on the night by Grummo, Scott and Healey.

The Owen Walton Drawn Doubles kicks off the season next week.



John and Dave enjoyed success at darts as the Phillip Island and District Darts League kicked off its first competition for 2026.

RIVERSIDE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

RESULTS: round 14.

Section 1 Doubles: Moe 5 - 47 defeated Neerim District 4 - 34; Drouin Maroon 8 - 52 defeated Drouin Gold 1 - 29; Warragul bye.

Ladder: Moe 95; Neerim District 88.5; Drouin Maroon 76; Drouin Gold 64.5; Warragul 61.

Section 1/2 Singles: Drouin Gold 0 - 9 defeated by Trafalgar Red 6 - 48; Moe White 5 - 47 defeated Warragul 1 - 24; Trafalgar White 4 - 36 defeated Moe Blue 2 - 34; Drouin Maroon bye.

Ladder: Moe White 81; Trafalgar Red 77; Trafalgar White 67; Warragul 60; Drouin Maroon 42; Moe Blue 34; Drouin Gold 31.

Section 2 Doubles: Hallora 9 - 57 defeated Poowong 0 - 25; Neerim District 4 - 42 defeated Trafalgar 5 - 37; Warragul 9 - 54 defeated Drouin 0 - 11.

Ladder: Warragul 98; Hallora 96.5; Neerim District 83; Drouin 73.5; Trafalgar 64.5; Poowong 46.5.

Deb Rielly Run for the Kids continues to thrive

By Andrew Paloczi

COMMITTED runners and family groups hit the trails of Kilcunda for the annual 'Deb Rielly Run for the Kids' on Sunday, with about 210 participants raising funds for Dalyston Football Netball Club's junior program and other causes.

Highly regarded community member Deb established the event, originally known as 'Keeping Kids on Track', with the Magpies honouring her wish to keep it running after her 2019 passing and naming it after her.

"The event's about helping to keep our club going, encouraging juniors to be involved with sport and to be active, and to keep Deb Rielly's legacy alive," Magpies committee member Frank Angarane said.

Dalyston's junior program is thriving, having sides in junior girls, youth girls and all grades.

"In my days of playing, there were three grades of footy and now there are 10," Frank said.

Noting that keeping the club alive is a massive undertaking and you've got to find ways to earn money, Frank stressed that Deb's run plays a key role in that effort.

He summed up what drove Deb to establish the run.

"She loved helping the community and particularly encouraging kids to be involved with sport and be active, so we're following that tradition using it to further our junior programs," he said.

Along with supporting the club, funds raised also go to other causes close to Deb's heart that are determined by her family, with whom the club remains highly engaged.

Frank gave the example of a scholarship or helping a kid or family.

While catering to half marathoners and other serious runners with official timing operating on the day, there remains a strong family focus.

"The number of kids today in the two and five



Entrants in the 10km run get underway. A28_0826



Dalyston Football Netball Club's Molly Horsfield, Hayley Verboon, Oona Shepherd, Una Curtin and Emily Nicoll are ready for the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids. A29_0826

kilometre events was fantastic," Frank said.

It wasn't only the kids illustrating the event's family importance.

Hank Gerbes proudly took on the walking section of the event with family, following a stroke that left doctors predicting he wouldn't walk again.

Like so many great community initiatives, the Deb Rielly Run for the Kids wouldn't proceed without its volunteers, those coming from the footy netball club and elsewhere.

Grant funding from Bass Coast Shire Council, and

the support of SJD Homes and Voyage Fitness are crucial, with the desire to keep down entry prices to encourage family participation and the need to meet the costs of official timing.

Bill Barry was first across the line in this year's half marathon, Anna Cardillo the women's winner.

The fitness of footy umpire Rylan Bell came to the fore as he claimed the honours in the 10km run, with Ruby Brosnan taking out the women's event and Louise McCall the first Senior across the line.

Steven Scott was first

man home in the 5km run, Jacqueline Mellett the winning woman.

Flynn Jury was the fastest junior male over that distance, with Skylah Taylor the quickest of the female juniors.

Marlo Jury was the junior male winner in the 2km event, Savannah Staley taking out the junior female victory over that distance.

In the teams section, Voyage Fitness was the best represented outfit with 17 members, closely followed by Team Heenan with 15 and the Bass Coast Breakers with 13.



Nicolo Bulega salutes a jubilant crowd on his victory in race one.

Bulega dominates Phillip Island World Superbikes

ITALIAN rider Nicolo Bulega dominated the opening round of the World Superbike Championship at Phillip Island, winning all four races across the weekend on his Ducati Panigale V4R.

More than 47,500 spectators packed the Island across the weekend with Saturday's program staged in perfect conditions and temperatures in the mid-20s.

In the World Supersport class Australian Oli Bayliss qualified second on the Triumph 675 and secured a career-first podium with third in race one, holding off a quartet of riders vying for the position.

Race two saw confusion reign as riders were caught between wet and dry tyre choices. Bayliss chose wets and went backwards before changing mid-race to slicks and posting the fastest lap of the entire race. Albert Arenas won to lead the championship on 38 points.

Bulega's dominance in the World Superbike races was total. He won race one by five seconds with fellow Ducati riders Yari Montella and Lorenzo Baldassarri filling the podium in an Italian manufacturer trifecta.

Sunday's sprint saw Montella jump to the lead before Bulega cleared out by lap four to win by 2.7 seconds.

Rain arrived for the final race and Bulega took to the wet track like a duck to water, romping home by 11.33 seconds. Montella and Sam Lowes both crashed, Lowes later diagnosed with a fractured left wrist.

Australia's Remy Gardner fought through injury to finish 13th on home soil after retiring from race one with a technical issue on his GRT Yamaha.

Bulega leads the championship on 62 points from Axel Bassani on 42.



Australian Oli Bayliss on the Triumph 675 grimly holds on to third place during race one of the World Supersport Championship at Phillip Island.



Night netball returns in Wonthaggi

WONTHAGGI and District Netball Association launched its Tuesday Night Open Female Indoor Competition on February 17.

The competition has attracted 11 teams this season, highlighting the continued growth and enthusiasm for women's netball in the region.

Tuesday night saw fantastic energy courtside, with both new and returning teams bringing plenty of spirit and competitiveness.

The competition provides an important opportunity

for women of all ages and abilities to stay active, connect socially and compete locally in a supportive environment.

The full list of teams includes Netspressos, Spice Goals, Scrambled Legs, Sapphires, Net Chicks, Jaguars, Hot Shots, High Flyers, Opals, Bench Warmers and Power Passes.

LEFT: The Hot Shots are a newly formed side already showing great chemistry and excitement for their debut season.



Achievements by South Gippsland Bass swimmers were celebrated at the Channel Challenge.

SGB swimmers star at GSI and Channel Challenge

THE sun shone brightly on the outdoor pool at Moe for GSI 13, the final GSI of the summer season.

105 swimmers relished the chance to swim outside and get in more practice with school swimming events and the Gippsland Championships coming up.

The meet was a great chance for many of the youngsters in the region to gain more confidence in their racing.

The attending swimmers made up club relays, who raced for bragging rights

part way through the meet, with East Gippsland Water dragons taking out first place, with hosts Moe in second and Traralgon third.

It was a great chance for practice before the Gippsland Championship relays.

For those not competing at Moe, there was the excitement of the Channel Challenge, with 20 swimmers from the club competing, with a number of them taking home prizes for the fastest female in

the swim, second fastest female overall, second junior female Miah Roberts, fastest local junior male Billy Fisher, second fastest senior female Sophie Mackenzie, second local male Dylan Muir, third junior male Zac Sherar, and women's relays third Bec and Emma Barclay, and fourth Hannah Lucas.

The club had 10 swimmers finish in the top 20 in the males and females section, including the three fastest female times in the swim component.



Dylan Clark from the Inverloch-Kongwak Football Club representing Inverloch's Esplanade Hotel taking the lead in the Stony Creek Publicans Day Footy Club Sprint. B67_0726

Stony Creek Cup all set for Labour Day weekend

By Bruce Wardley

AHEAD of the 2026 Stony Creek Cup on March 8 Inverloch Sea Eagles forward Dylan Clark impressed racegoers at Publicans Day winning the inaugural Footy Club Sprint.

Showing the opposition a clean pair of heels Dylan sprinted to the line well ahead of his nearest rival claiming the coveted Footy Club Sprint for Inverloch's Esplanade Hotel.

Breathless after his 100m run down the home straight at Stony Creek Dylan was quick to acknowledge the strong field of runners in the field including Phillip Island mid-fielder Ben McDonald representing the San Remo Hotel, Korumburra-Bena's

forward pocket Jordan Grabham running for the Korumburra Top Pub, with Giants' back flanker Zach Barrett participating for the Middle Pub, and Foster forward Jack Weston representing the Foster Pub.

The inaugural 100m sprint now promises to be a highlight of Publicans Day at Stony Creek. The Stony Creek Cup is back on Sunday March 8 as part of the Labour Day long weekend celebrations. For more information on Cup Day or to book a race-day package go to country.racing.com/stony-creek/calendar/stony-creek-cup

Country racing at its best for Stony Creek Cup Day

GET ready for the event of the season as Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup Day returns on Sunday, March 8 over the Labour Day long weekend.

A highlight of the Victorian country racing calendar, Cup Day combines thrilling thoroughbred racing with live music, a variety of food trucks and a relaxed family-friendly atmosphere ensuring a fun-filled day both on and off the track.

Pack a picnic and settle in on the lawns or choose from a range of packages available including reserved picnic tables with umbrellas, beanbags and private marquees.

For an all-inclusive option, the SEN Track Marquee offers food, drinks and a vibrant trackside atmosphere making it one of the most popular ways to enjoy the day.

There is plenty to keep the kids entertained all day too with a range of supervised activities including DS Sports, Little Ryders pony rides, face painting and the popular JockeyCam VR experience.

The much-loved Fashions on the Field competition also returns with a strong local focus and local-only categories celebrating style, creativity and flair.

On the track, Stony Creek Racing Club chief executive Jason Benbow said the club has enjoyed a fantastic season so far with the racing surface receiving praise from across the industry.

"We've had a great season so far and industry participants including trainers, jockeys and owners have been unanimous in their praise of the current track conditions," Mr Benbow said.

"The surface has provided every horse with an equal opportunity, with winners emerging from all parts of the track."

"It's incredibly pleasing and a real credit to the work that goes into preparing the track."

Following a successful launch last year, the King and Queen of the Creek title will again recognise the leading male and female jockeys of the season, building on what is set to become a lasting Cup Day tradition at Stony Creek.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 concession and children are free.

A range of packages and bus services are available to make getting to and from the track easy.

Gates open at 11.30am. Visit stonycreek.com.au for tickets and more information.

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OMK

OMK made a good start against Leongatha Town in A1 on Saturday.

Playing at the Outtrim Recreation Reserve, OMK bowled Town out for 141.

The star of the show was Jacob Lamers, who delivered an outstanding performance by taking a whopping 8/47, including a hat-trick.

The remaining two wickets were claimed by Adam Trotto.

After batting 33 overs, OMK needs 40 runs to win the match.

Captain Koby Brann and Lamers were still in overnight, having made 20* and 11*.

At this point, OMK is only four down and feeling confident about going day two of this match.

In B1, OMK made 277 against Leongatha Town, putting itself in a good position to defend.

OMK won the toss and sent in the opening partnership of vice captain Adam Busana and Luke Jones.

Jones retired not out just shy of a century with 98 runs due to injury.

Alex Rose gave a good performance with 62 runs, and Toby Nicholas and captain Justin Greenwood added 41 and 49 respectively.

C1 played Nerrena with a depleted team due to injuries and unavailability.

Among those on the unavailable list was regular wicket-keeper Paul Harper.

Regardless, the Diggers came out on top after successfully defending its score of 196.

Opening batsman Mathew Walker batted through the innings, making 104*.

Adam Fisher backed him up nicely with 51 runs.

Without a wicketkeeper, Walker stepped up and took the gloves.

Joel Cuman was the standout with the ball, taking three wickets through the middle order, which slowed Nerrena's run rate.

Russ White claimed two wickets, and individual wickets were taken by captain Jordan Myers, Steven Loader and Luke Walker.

The young C2 side had a challenging day against Koonwarra/LRSL.

Andrew Sorensen made 23 runs and 20 runs were added by Michael Whiteside.

With the ball, two wickets were taken by Noah Overlunde.

"Our C2 side includes many of our cricketers who are in the junior program. Playing up in C2 has been great for their development," Myers said.

"As a club, everyone is performing well as we head into the last couple of weeks before finals. We are seeing a lot of cricketers coming into form and delivering big scores with the bat."

LEONGATHA TOWN

TOWN was bowled out for 141 in A1, but with OMK down five wickets, the Scorpions could make a comeback on day two.

Town won the toss and chose to bat.

A slow start brought fourth and fifth order batsmen Madura Madusanka and captain Jesse Giardina to the crease.

Madusanka made 39 runs and Giardina made 51 runs.

A hat-trick by OMK bowler Jacob Lamers had the



Rueben, Jonah and Simeon Foster played together in Korumburra's A2 match against Foster on Saturday. Jonah made his A Grade debut.

Scorpions on the ropes again, but Town managed to put together a score of 141.

Town bowler Jack Hume dismissed OMK opener Clayton Quaife LBW for one run, but Pawan Thind and Ethan Lamers put OMK in a good position with 36 and 21 runs respectively.

Lachlan Gill was the stand-out with the ball, taking three wickets.

OMK was 4/102 at stumps.

In B1, Town is chasing 277 against OMK.

Ethan Smith was the best bowler on the day, taking 4/94.

Individual wickets were taken by Hugh Livingstone and Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe.

Town will go into bat this Saturday.

Town lost to Inverloch in C2.

Playing at Scorpion Park, Town won the toss and chose to bat.

A rocky start which saw two batsmen dismissed for duck was saved by Matt Craig, who put 75 runs on the board.

Nigel Hodges contributed 47*.

Jake Dennerley and Brett Poll were the pick of Inverloch's bowlers with two wickets each.

Poll continued his form with 89* for the Stingrays.

Jack Aeschlimann stood out with the ball for Town, taking two wickets.

The final score was Town 8/190 to Inverloch 4/193.

"C Grade will be back to play another one day match next week, and hopefully A and B Grade can do what they need to do to get the win," president Cameron Dowling said.

KORUMBURRA

CONGRATULATIONS to Jonah Foster, who made his well-deserved A Grade debut.

The club was proud to present Jonah with his Two Day Cap as he reaches this exciting milestone.

An outstanding young wicketkeeper, Jonah has worked his way through the club's junior program over the past five years. His dedication, development, and commitment to the club have been first class, and it's fantastic to see that hard work rewarded.

A special moment as well, with Jonah making his debut alongside brothers Simeon and Rueben - a proud day for the Foster family and the club.

Well done, Jonah.

Batting first, Foster got off to a strong start before young

quick Jayden Douglas was handed the ball and produced an inspired spell to break the opening partnership.

Jayden struck with the prized first wicket and then followed up with two outstanding caught-and-bowled dismissals to suddenly have himself on the verge of a hat-trick.

Foster showed great resilience through the middle and lower order, making wickets hard to come by as they battled to build a competitive total.

However, it was Mitch Young who stepped up late with some crafty spin bowling to wrap up the innings.

Mitch finished with an impressive 4/26 off 13.2 overs, well supported by Jayden Douglas with 3/24 off 9 overs, while Jacob Whiteside claimed 2/47 off 16 overs.

With 19 overs to bat, the Cobras were looking to lay a solid platform heading into next week. Unfortunately, they let the opportunity slip, losing a cluster of wickets - including one outstanding catch in the field to dismiss the in-form Jacob Whiteside.

At stumps, the Cobras sit 5/48, with plenty of work to do to fight their way back into the contest next week.

It was youth versus experience at the Inverloch turf, with the home side producing a strong batting display.

The Cobras' bowling attack was led by Noah Belvedere, who battled hard to finish with 3/75 off 10.3 overs, while Aaron Damon provided valuable support with 2/71 off 17 overs.

Despite their efforts, the Cobras struggled to contain the scoring as Inverloch built a solid total.

In reply, the Cobras had an early setback, losing Rhys Butler for a duck.

However, Phil Richards 10* and Aaron Damon 9* showed composure late in the day, batting through to stumps to steady the innings.

The Cobras will look to build on that platform when play resumes.

THE IMPERIALS

IT was a rough day for the Imperials as they took on Phillip Island in A1 at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve.

The Imperials won the toss and chose to bat first.

Unfortunately, the Imps struggled to gain momentum and were bowled out for 74.

Captain Jack Ginnane made 31 runs for the side, with Timothy Sauvarin and Gary Sauvarin contributing 11 runs each.

"It was a disappointing day, but we have Phillip Island five down so you never know what could happen in the second innings," Ginnane said.

Phillip Island batted 30 overs and made 5/83.

Phillip Island captain Daniel Mock led the charge with 42*.

With the ball, Imps bowlers Jake Cochrane and Klayton McGrath performed well, taking two wickets each.

FOSTER

FOSTER is tasked with defending 188 against Korumburra this weekend.

Playing at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve, Foster won the toss and chose to bat.

Foster started strong with Mitchell Jones and Luke Rooker adding 48 and 28 runs respectively to the scoreboard.

Rooker was dismissed LBW by Jayden Douglas, which saw Josh Toner step up to the crease.

Toner went onto make 32 runs and another 32 runs were later recorded by a fill-in player.

Korumburra batted 19 overs and suffered a slow start, with wickets taken by Rooker, Max Johnston, Noah McMillan and Toner.

Rumesh Rangana and captain Harry McNeil were still in overnight, with the Cobras sitting on 5/48 at stumps.

KILCUNDA BASS

KILCUNDA Bass' A2 side took on Glen Alvie at Wonthaggi's Butch West Oval on Saturday.

Glen Alvie won the toss and chose to bat.

The Sharks managed to bowl Glen Alvie out for 93.

Todd Smith had a good day out for Kilcunda Bass, bowling 17 straight overs and claiming 5/20.

Ryan Brown took three wickets, and the remaining two wickets were taken by Cameron Davidson and Ben Rookes.

Kilcunda Bass had 31 overs left to play.

Jayden Tregear made 39 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Ben McRae.

Davidson and Benjamin Lucas were still in overnight with 32* and 5*.

Kilcunda Bass' current score is 1/78.

"We'll continue to bat next week and get the 15 runs we need, and then we'll see what we do from there," club president Ash Larcombe said.

MDU

MDU went up against Koonwarra/LRSL in A2 on Saturday.

Playing at the Meeniyar Recreation Reserve, MDU won the toss and chose to bat.

The home side managed to put up 250 for Koonwarra/LRSL to chase next Saturday.

Tharindu Nuwan made 65 off 84, Mitch McGrath made 37 off 103 and Callum McCaughan made 24 off 28.

MDU's batting side showed consistency and delivered a team effort throughout the order.

Koonwarra/LRSL's bowling honours were shared between Jason Kennedy, Louis Read and James Rushton, who took two wickets each.

Individual wickets were taken by Tanuj Namalge, Cambell Riseley and William Cashin.

Koonwarra/LRSL will have its turn to bat this Saturday.

NYORA

NYORA has set itself up well for a win after making 276 against MDU in B Grade.

The exceptional innings began with Colin and Jordan Knox combining well to deliver a 91-run opening stand.

Colin had the top score with 64 runs, followed by Daniel Blackney with 62 runs.

Blackney and Lachie Row had a solid middle order partnership, which contributed to the score well.

Sitting in a good position heading into the second day this weekend, Nyora will be focusing on its bowling skills this week.

C Grade endured a difficult day against Glen Alvie.

Individual wickets went to Keith Maclure, David Simpkin, Kaiden Ward and Jessica Lynch.

Simpkin also had the top score with 43 runs.

"Glen Alvie had a lot of really good, young bowlers and it wasn't our day. However, it was a learning experience for our C Grade boys," Nyora's Adam White said.

Nyora also revealed its fundraising tally from its recent Pink Stumps Day and will be donating more than \$10,500 to the McGrath Foundation.

The club thanks everyone who contributed to the successful day.

KOONWARRA L/RSL

KOONWARRA/LRSL's C Grade side triumphed over OMK on Saturday.

Playing at the Koonwarra Recreation Reserve, the Cougars won the toss and chose to bowl.

OMK was bowled out for 78, with Andrew Sorensen making the top score of 23.

The bowling honours went to Melissa Gheller and Brad Cocksedge, who took three wickets each.

Gheller claimed the first three wickets of the day.

Koonwarra/LRSL quickly chased down OMK's score.

Alexander Stanley opened and was steady at the crease, making 27*.

16 runs were added by Glenn Matthies.

For OMK, Noah Overlunde claimed two wickets.

Koonwarra/LRSL's winning score was 3/79.

GLEN ALVIE

GLEN Alvie's C Grade side proved to be too strong against Nyora on Saturday.

Nyora won the toss and chose to bowl first at the Poowong Recreation Reserve.

Daniel McGuirk was the star of the show, making 96*.

Nate Luff contributed 58 runs. At the end of its allotted overs, Glen Alvie was on 5/181.

Luff continued to dominate with the ball, decimating Nyora's top order and taking 4/13.

Pieter Loos claimed two wickets, and individual wickets were taken by Grace Luff, Cooper Stewart and Charlie Andersen.

For Nyora, David Simpkin was the best with the bat, making 43 runs.

Nyora was bowled out for 84.



Inverloch's Premiership team poses proudly with medals after losing just one game for the season. Back row (left-right): Nicole Creaser, Kylie Strickland, Karin Sluiter, Jackie Newman, Amy McRobert, Katrina Slidders. From row (left-right): Charley Donohue, Holly Williams, Keely Dennerley (C), Mackenzie Slidders, Georgia Slidders, Lola Denver.

Shock finish to women's Grand Final

WHILE women's cricket has brought many positives to the Leongatha & District Cricket Association, as evidenced by a strong crowd at Sunday's Grand Final in Koonwarra, the season's showpiece game won by Inverloch ended in disappointing fashion.

Asked to make 110, its original target from 20 overs, in just five overs following a lengthy and arguably unnecessary rain delay, Leongatha Town elected to forfeit the match rather than pursue an astronomical 22 runs an over.

While the Duckworth Lewis method of calculating revised targets based on the number of overs lost is available at State and International level, it is not currently in the rules of the LDCA.

After choosing to bat, the Stingettes made 4/109 with opener Jackie Newman setting the tempo with 22 runs off 14 balls.

Karin Sluiter was Inverloch's next best with the willow, making 21 runs, while Extras top scored with 24, including a whopping 19 no balls.

Still, Leongatha Town delivered some impressive work, bowling a couple of Stingettes, catching one and effecting a run out with a deadeye ick throw from Kathryn Stewart.

Nat Challis led the way with

By Andrew Paloczi

the ball for the Scorpions, snaffling a wicket and conceding just eight runs off her four overs.

Olivia Marinou performed well with 1/5 off two overs and Gen Anderson was Leongatha Town's other wicket-taking bowler with 1/14 from two overs.

The Scorpions were to start their chase on 12 runs courtesy of having taken four wickets.

Under modified rules for the LDCA women's competition to encourage participation, each batting pair faces four overs, with wickets adding three runs to the bowling side's batting score rather than the batter being 'out' in the traditional sense.

Unfortunately, light rain prevented the players returning to the field for Leongatha Town's innings, one of the umpires confirming that while play would have continued in the light drizzle, the rules didn't allow a resumption of action until the rain stopped.

Having topped the ladder, the Stingettes were intent on impressing on the umpires the risk of bowlers slipping on the artificial pitch, knowing a washout would hand them the Premiership.

While the pitch was certainly wet, it wasn't showing any signs of surface water at that point, one of the umpires taking to it with a broom to dry it as much as possible.

Eventually, a call to get on with it was heard from the Leongatha Town section of the crowd as the delay stretched on and supporters of the Scorpions expressed frustration to the Sentinel-Times about the situation.

A spectator remarked that the pitch was wetter earlier in the day.

"It's been the rules for years, in the men's too, that once you're off the ground you can't come back on until it stops raining," LDCA President and umpire John Schelling said.

He stressed that consideration of the slipperiness of the pitch is a player safety issue and a matter for the umpires to determine.

While the prospect of a reserve day was enquired about, that isn't the LDCA's rules.

"We don't have a spare day anyway," Schelling remarked, adding that even had there been one it wouldn't have come into effect given the game had started.

Sentinel-Times enquired whether the LDCA is likely to consider any changes given the way the women's Grand Final panned out.

"We've got a President's meeting tomorrow night, so it'll come up in discussion and if someone's got a (proposed) change to the bylaws we'll take that to the annual meeting," Schelling responded.

The usual procedure is to gauge whether there is sufficient consensus for a particular idea to put it forward at the general meeting.

Schelling was delighted a good crowd turned out for the women's Grand Final and stressed that "Female cricket's made a huge difference to the clubs that have embraced it," noting it has fostered a family environment.

LDCA's intention is for the women's competition rules to evolve over time, moving towards the traditional, with a major focus on bringing younger female players through by creating as many junior opportunities as possible.

Some of the LDCA female players are already exposed to more traditional rules when competing in the Gippsland Cricket League.

A number are also taking it up to the blokes in C Grade competition.

Sunday's win left Inverloch with just one loss in an excellent season, that defeat coming at the hands of Grand Final adversary and second-placed Leongatha Town in Round 4.

Goannas endure loss at Gormandale

VETERANS CRICKET

IT was a very warm day as the Mornington/Canterbury over-70 cricket team arrived at Stoddart Oval in Traralgon on Tuesday.

It was decided to play the game in four stages of 20 overs, with the Goannas over-70s batting first.

Donald Cameron and guest Warren Dummett, from the South Gippsland Kookaburras, opened the innings and took the score to 22 in the seventh over when Dummett was bowled by Charles Morris for 12.

Murray Moore, 21, and Neil Meredith, 24 both retired, with Bob Penrose on 7 after 20 overs and the Goannas were 1/82.

A quick changeover saw Gordon Cowling and Meredith open the bowling, with Mero taking a return catch from the first ball he bowled.

After 10 overs the score was 2/30, after Penrose had affected a run out in almost comical circumstances.

His lob back to the bowler 'accidentally' hit the stumps to affect the run out.

Penrose and Barrie Nunn each bowled four overs, then new player Les Pollard and Derek Morris each bowled an over for the Mornington/Canterbury (M/C) side to be 2/79 at the lunch break.

Honours were even at the half-way point.

The Combine players all commented on what a good spread had been put on by the Goannas, and thanked the wives and the Gormandale Cricket Club players who had helped prepare it.

After the lunch break Penrose was joined by Chris Bowen, both retiring, for 23 and 19 respectively, Derek Morris was bowled, by Charles Morris, for 18 in the 37th over, Pollard was caught for 13, and Cowling, Garry Rose and Andy Slevin all fell to Morris, in the last over.

The Goannas' final score was 6/170.

Morris ended with commendable figures of 5/26 from his eight overs.

Phill Higgins was left on five not out.

Pollard and Slevin resumed bowling for the Goannas, and the M/C middle order showed a lot more attacking shots than the Goannas had managed.

Stancombe and Angwin both retired, with 30 and 31 runs, Derek Morris took a wicket in the 26th over, captain John Kent retired on 25 and Player of the Match Morris was 11 not out as the Goannas' score was passed in the 38th over, with only three wickets taken.

Bowen and Higgins had also bowled, and all Goannas bowlers toiled hard but, in the end, the superior batting depth of the visiting team prevailed.

Meredith with his 24 retired and 1/28 was awarded the Goannas best player.

At after match presentations, Gormandale Cricket Club was again thanked for preparing the ground and helping look after the players in the hot conditions, preparing the cordial bucket for a drinks break every 10 overs and cooking the snags for the after match feed.

The Goannas over-60s travel to Melbourne to take on the ACS team on Sunday, while the over-70s will travel to Warrandyte for the washed out round 6 clash, on Tuesday next.

Kookaburras bounce back after a strong batting display

VETERANS CRICKET

THE South Gippy Kookas were at "headquarters" at Outtrim Reserve last Sunday.

Thanks to Australian Test representative Peter Dell, who has the ground looking a picture.

Skipper Ol Grayza Wighty won the toss and elected to bat.

Teflon Tony Lathan with a sublime 20no and Ian "Son of a Lej" Thorn with an assured 36no, got the Kookas sizzling.

Young Phil Richards 24no and Ol Grayza Wighty 25 continued the grilling.

Micky Whiteside then demolished the hapless Hillbillys with a brutal 38 off a lazy 30 balls.

With President Neil White 21no and Waza Hayes 12no, the Kookas reached an imposing 3/210 off their allotted 40 overs. With another sumptuous lunch prepared by Leanne Petrou, the Kookas were ready to rock, AC/DC style.

Micky Whiteside got the ball rolling with a fierce 2/19.

The bowlers then kept it tight and menacing, containing the Hillbillys to 7/148 off their 40 overs, before the welcome rain

came down.

Best of the trundlers were Peter "Water" Falls, 2/21, Neil White 2/6 and Rick Tangles Murphy 1/34.

Man of the match was Neil White.

As expected, the Kookas rebounded. With Echuca Country Week approaching, the young fellas will continue to enjoy themselves and mostly come out on top, and will be happy playing the game they love.

RIGHT: Mark McInnes congratulates Kookaburra's man of the match Neil White.





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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

- A1: Dylan Clark (Inverloch) **88** ; Jacob Lamers (OMK) **8/47**
- A2: Tharindu Nuwan (MDU) **65** ; Todd Smith (K-Bass) **5/20**
- B1: Walter Taberner (Inverloch) **163** ; Ethan Smith (Town) **4/94**
- B2: Edward Spiteri-Stevens (Glen Alvie) **84** ; Francois Botha (Imperials) **4/33**
- C1: Mathew Walker (OMK) **104*** ; Joel Cuman (OMK) **3/27**
- C2: Daniel McGuirk (Glen Alvie) **96*** ; Nate Luff (Glen Alvie) **4/13**

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Wonthaggi Club celebrated the swift dismissal of Phillip Island's Peter Francis. Tk02_0826



Mohamed Ashik Mohamed Nizard in action for Wonthaggi Club on Saturday. Tk05_0826

LADDERS			RD 18		
Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
C GRADE, Division 1			C GRADE, Division 2		
OMK	132	1.596	Inverloch	144	1.570
Club	126	1.600	Club	138	2.365
Phillip Island	96	0.861	Koonwarra L/RSL	120	1.464
Nerrena	90	0.899	Glen Alvie	120	0.977
Korumburra	78	1.104	Nyora	60	0.538
Kilcunda Bass	60	0.823	Town	36	0.517
MDU	54	0.614	OMK	30	0.616

NEXT WEEKEND'S GAMES & UMPIRE APPOINTMENTS

ROUND 13 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28 (DAY 2)

A GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

OMK v Town	Outtrim	Ashleigh Stride
Nerrena v Inverloch	Nerrena	John Schelling
Imperials v P-Island	Leongatha Turf	Ken Scrimshaw
Club - BYE		

A Grade, Division 2 - 1PM START

Glen Alvie v K-Bass	Wonthaggi Turf	Shane Moore
MDU v Koon L/RSL	Meeniyana	Ian Salmon
Korumburra v Foster	Korumburra	Michael Thomas
Nyora - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

Club v Nerrena	McMahon	Les White
Town v OMK	Scorpion Pk 1	Geoff Birnie
Inverloch v K'burra	Inverloch Turf	Geoffrey Parkinson
Phillip Island - BYE		

B GRADE, Division 2 - 1PM START

Nyora v MDU	Nyora	TBA
K-Bass v Koon L/RSL	Bass 1	Graham Wightman
Imperials v Glen Alvie	East Campus	Tyson Tootell

ROUND 19 - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

C GRADE, Division 1 - 1PM START

Nerrena v Club	Leongatha Vel.	TBA
MDU v OMK	Dumbalk	TBA
Korumburra v K-Bass	Poowong	TBA
Phillip Island - BYE		

C GRADE, Division 2 - 1PM START

Inverloch v Nyora	Inverloch FG	TBA
OMK v Town	Digger Park	TBA
Club v Koon/LRSL	Wonthaggi SC	TBA
Glen Alvie - BYE		

Subject to Confirmation.

Any prospective umpires can contact

Ash Stride 0432 350 944 or Ken Scrimshaw 0433 297 421

Sharks overpower Wonthaggi Club

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

IT was second versus third in C1 as Wonthaggi Club took on Phillip Island at Bass Coast College's Dudley Campus on Saturday.

Although Club was a step above on the ladder, Phillip Island proved to be too strong on the day.

Club's opening bowlers were in fine form with Angus Benetti and Mohamed Ashik Mohamed Nizar taking three early wickets between them.

Dale Robinson and captain Michael Cleary steadied the ship for Phillip Island, each putting 45 runs on the scoreboard.

Sam Liddle and Ryan McGuirk put the pressure on the visiting side, taking two wickets each.

However, Phillip Island's tailenders managed to get the job done with Drew Fusinato, Sonny McMillan and Zack Hughes making 20, 26 and 20* respectively.

Club was challenged with chasing 204.

For Club, Mitchell Davey opened and managed to hit 31 runs.

However, Phillip Island's bowlers stepped up and restricted the run rate, which saw Club all out for 130.

Club president Luke McGuirk said despite Saturday's loss, the C1 side was having a solid season, much of it spent on top of the ladder.

Phillip Island's A1 captain Daniel Mock said the C1 side has played a consistent season and is shaping up well for the upcoming finals series.

For Club, A1 and C2 had the bye this week.

Over at McMahon Reserve, Club's B1 eleven was taking on Nerrena and posted a good score of 323.

The standout was Kai Allison, who had a patient innings to make 84 runs before he was run out.

Some excellent low order hitting also pushed the score up.

Club will be defending its score this Saturday.

Club is also excited for the U15s semi-final coming up this weekend.

The young side has had an excellent season, remaining undefeated.

"We're hoping the club can come along and get behind them," McGuirk said.

For Phillip Island, the A1 side took on the Imperials at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve.

The Imps won the toss and chose to bat.

A couple of early wickets from Tim and Thomas Niven had Phillip Island in a great position early, with Tom bowling his best game for the season.

Tom ended up taking four wickets for the day.

The Imps were bowled out for 74 and Phillip Island went into bat for 30 overs.

Phillip Island lost a few wickets early, but Mock and Tom Niven will be at the crease going into this weekend.

Mock has made 42*.

Having made the runs required, Phillip Island will be looking to go for an outright win this Saturday.



Wonthaggi Club bowler Angus Benetti sends one down to Phillip Island's John Manning in C1. Tk01_0826

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

OMK 4/102 v Town 141
 Town Batting: J Giardina 51, M Madusanka 39
 Town Bowling: L Gill 3/7, J Hume 1/21
 OMK Batting: P Thind 36, E Lamers 21, K Brann 20*
 OMK Bowling: J Lamers 8/47, A Trotto 2/25
Nerrena 0/10 v Inverloch 222
 Inverloch Batting: D Clark 88, T Debono 30, R Abeysinghe 23, H Butcher 17
 Nerrena Bowling: T Wightman 6/79, W Croatto 2/40, S Murphy 1/9, M Clark 1/27
Imperials 74 v Phillip Island 5/83
 Imp. Batting: J Ginnane 31, T Sauvarin 11
 Imp. Bowling: J Cochrane 2/15, K McGrath 2/19
 P-Island Batting: D Mock 42*, T Cameron 13
 P-Island Bowling: T Niven 4/22, D Mock 2/1
Club - BYE

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

Glen Alvie 93 v Kilcunda Bass 1/78
 Glen Alvie Batting: H Smith 24*, M Donohue 23
 Glen Alvie Bowling: B McRae 1/17
 K-Bass Batting: J Tregear 39, C Davidson 32*
 K-Bass Bowling: T Smith 5/20, R Brown 3/23
MDU 250 v Koonwarra L/RSL
 MDU Batting: T Nuwan 65, M McGrath 37, C McCaughan 24, S Chathura Lakshan 23
 Koon-LRSL Bowling: J Kennedy 2/40, J Rushton 2/41, L Read 2/52, W Cashin 1/9
Korumburra 5/48 v Foster 188
 Foster Batting: M Jones 48, J Toner 32, Fill-in 32
 Foster Bowling: L Rooker 1/5, J Toner 1/6
 K'burra Batting: R Rangana 21*, J Whiteside 10
 K'burra Bowling: M Young 4/26, J Douglas 3/24
Nyora - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

Club 8/323 v Nerrena
 Club Batting: K Allison 84, W Speed 56, M McCall 50, D Britt 41, D Herbert 39
 Nerrena Bowling: T Harris 3/83, J Donohue 2/35, C Baudinette 1/35
Town v OMK 6/277
 OMK Batting: L Jones 98*, A Rose 62, J Greenwood 49, T Nicholas 41
 Town Bowling: E Smith 4/94, H Livingstone 1/27, P Jayasinghe 1/40
Inverloch d-6/357 Korumburra 1/22
 Inverloch Batting: W Taberner 163, W Rankin 102*, B Debono 23, J Dugard 19
 Korumburra Bowling: N Belvedere 3/75, A Damon 2/17
Phillip Island - BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Nyora 276 v MDU
 Nyora Batting: C Knox 64, D Blackney 62, L Row 61, J Knox 27
 MDU Bowling: K Sinclair 3/17, S Browne 2/53, D Feild 1/32, A Richardson 1/33, T Zukovskis 1/39
Kilcunda Bass 3/42 v Koonwarra L/RSL 98
 Koon L/RSL Batting: J Thomas 40, A Dury 17
 Koon Bowling: R Read 1/7, S Kaneshathasan 1/8
 K-Bass Batting: R Gardiner 18*
 K-Bass Bowling: R Duff 4/43, A McBride 3/1
Imperials 6/42 v Glen Alvie 6/203
 G-Alvie Batting: E Spiteri-Stevens 84, R Sinclair 70
 G-Alvie Bowling: L Scholz 2/4, L McRae 1/2
 Imp. Batting: J Eddy 15, J Jeffery 9
 Imp. Bowling: F Botha 4/33, H McLennan 1/15

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

Kilcunda Bass 3/192 d MDU 5/113
 K-Bass Batting: B Wallace 92*, C Bettles 36*
 K-Bass Bowling: N Miller 2/6, A Joseph 1/12
 MDU Batting: C Hooper 59, R Prosser 12
 MDU Bowling: J Allen 2/20, L Webb 1/33
OMK 3/196 d Nerrena 174
 OMK Batting: M Walker 104*, A Fisher 51
 OMK Bowling: J Cuman 3/27, R White 2/15
 Nerrena Batting: D Curtis 52, W Cocksedge 35
 Nerrena Bowling: T Salmon 1/34, C Marinou 1/42
Club 10/130 lt Phillip Island 8/204
 P-Island Batting: D Robinson 45, M Cleary 45
 P-Island Bowling: P Francis 1/5, D Robinson 1/16
 Club Batting: M Davey 31, J O'Reilly 11
 Club Bowling: R McGuirk 2/23, A Benetti 2/46
Korumburra - BYE

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Koonwarra L/RSL 3/79 d OMK 78
 OMK Batting: A Sorensen 23, M Whiteside 20
 OMK Bowling: N Overlunde 2/24, L Sorensen 1/16
 K-LRSL Batting: A Stanley 27*, T Lund 11*
 K-L/RSL Bowling: B Cocksedge 3/0, M Gheller 3/18
Town 8/190 lt Inverloch 4/193
 Town Batting: M Craig 75, N Hodges 47*
 Town Bowling: J Aeschlimann 2/51, PJ Kallookkaran 1/10
 Inverloch Batting: B Poll 89*, D Tessari 23*
 Inverloch Bowling: B Poll 2/11, J Dennerley 2/22
Nyora 84 lt Glen Alvie 5/181
 G-Alvie Batting: D McGuirk 96*, N Luff 58
 G-Alvie Bowling: N Luff 4/13, P Loos 2/2
 Nyora Batting: D Simpkin 43, T White 5*
 Nyora Bowling: K Maclure 1/10, J Lynch 1/18
Club - BYE



Ron Abeysinghe hits into the offside during his knock of 23 for Inverloch on the opening day of its A1 clash with Nerrena. A37_0826

Nerrena in charge on opening day in high-profile A1 clash

WITH glorious sunshine bathing the picturesque Nerrena ground, the hosts had the best of the opening day against Inverloch in a clash of A1 heavyweights and title contenders.

Dylan Clark's resistance batting at number six enabled the Stingrays to set a respectable total of 222, his score of 88 featuring eight fours and a six and taking just 105 balls.

Clark was eventually bowled by Tim Wightman who proved the star Redcap with the ball taking 6/79 off 26.2 overs, including top, middle and bottom order batsmen.

His leg spin again had opponents transfixed after his recent heroics in Nerrena's stunning away win over Phillip Island.

While Wightman's teammate Will Croatto was more expensive, conceding 40 runs off his nine overs, his pace bowling also had a decisive impact, knocking over both Inverloch openers cheaply.

The other Nerrena bowlers kept things tidy.

By Andrew Paloczi

Ty Debono's 30 made him Inverloch's best performer with the bat behind Clark, while Ron Abeysinghe was looking promising at number three but fell for 23.

Nerrena made a cautious start to its innings, the Inverloch bowlers keeping things tight to restrict the Redcaps to 0/10 off seven overs to close the opening day, with James Kelly resuming next weekend on seven runs and Eamon Berryman returning on one.

Abeysinghe sent down two overs for the Stingrays, both maidens, with Lewis Rankin, Harry Butcher and Rhys Newman all having a bowl late in the day as Inverloch searched for a breakthrough.

It should be an intriguing second day as top of the ladder Nerrena looks to increase its scoring rate and third-placed Inverloch strives to maintain a disciplined line and length to defend a decent but far from insurmountable total.



Jack Butcher eyes off a drive for Inverloch during his innings of 10, facing 30 balls against Nerrena. A39_0826



Josh Trease gets set to deliver for Nerrena against Inverloch, taking 0/40 off 13 overs. A40_0826



Will Croatto's pace accounted for both Inverloch openers, getting Nerrena off to a strong start in the A1 match. A38_0826



Channel Challenge brings big crowd



Lachie, Chris and Brian Dallinger enjoy the moment after participating in the San Remo Channel Challenge, Brian being the only person to have tackled all 40. A10_0826

TRISTAN Price backed up his recent Cowes Classic win, taking out Saturday's 40th San Remo Channel Challenge, and a trio of locals made up the overall female places with 16-year-old Olivia Holmes of San Remo the winner.

Brian Dallinger was fighting fit after completing his 40th Channel Challenge, the only person not to have missed any, quickly casting doubt on suggestions this was his last, saying he is considering continuing the tradition.

"I've got several grandchildren coming up I want to do it with," he said, suggesting that might happen in a team format.

Brian's son Chris and grandson Lachie were part of Saturday's

By Andrew Paloczi

field, the three generations of Dallingers clearly having a ball participating together.

Brian believes there were only 59 competitors in the first Channel Challenge.

"That's my only claim to fame, I was the third local," he said of his first go, but completing 40 Challenges is surely another.

Asked what he enjoys most about the event, grandson Lachie didn't miss a beat, responding, "me being here with him".

While his grandchildren are clearly a driving factor now in keeping him returning, there are various other reasons, including

the motivation to stay fit.

"It's a great event to be part of," Brian said, explaining that in an area famous for its natural attractions, swimming the channel gives him a sense of connection with the environment.

"So, you feel part of the area," he said.

His best time over the years is 16 minutes flat.

In the women's section, Holmes finished in a time of 0:14:31.5 ahead of Inverloch's Miah Roberts (0:14:48.1) and Sophie McKenzie of Korumburra (0:15:15.3).

Holmes was a competitive swimmer for five years, now focused on football as a midfielder for Phillip Island and Gippsland

Power and spends a lot of time in the gym building strength and fitness, with footy providing a good base for running.

Justin Tilley of Smiths Beach was the first local man home, finishing in a time of 0:12:58.0, less than a second behind the overall third-placed Rhys Mainstone (0:12:57.3).

Price's winning time was 0:12:13.3, second placed Gab Incani finishing in 0:12:54.4.

A tremendous crowd turned out for the event, lining the pier for the swim to Phillip Island and the bridge for the run back to San Remo, along with other vantage points.

While the action was delayed

slightly, awaiting the slack tide to get the swim underway, nobody minded in the glorious sunny conditions.

The field was chock-a-block with a record 850 competitors.

A sizeable contingent of Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club volunteers ensured the safety of participants, with all proceeds from the event supporting volunteer lifesaving for Phillip Island and region.

So, with such a worthy cause and plenty of fun to be had, there's sure to be another bumper field next year and you wouldn't bet against Brian Dallinger adding to his illustrious record.

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