



## 'It's the wild west out there'

### - Emotions run high after Campbell Street tragedy

A 68-year-old Wonthaggi woman, walking her neighbour's dog last Sunday afternoon, has been struck and killed on Campbell Street Wonthaggi by a car driven by a 47-year-old Narre Warren man who has subsequently been charged with culpable driving and drink-drive offences.

According to police, the incident happened at about 3.45pm with the critically injured woman transferred by ambulance but ultimately dying in hospital.

The alleged offender, who police have accused of driving off after the collision, before returning sometime later, was due to appear in the Latrobe Valley Magistrates Court on Monday this week.

The incident has saddened, shocked and angered local residents who tragically say they saw it coming.

Less than two weeks earlier, one of their number, Josh Kilgour, renewed his six-year campaign to get the 100km/h speed limit lowered on the residential-fringe street with a further letter to the Bass Coast Shire Council, on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

Here in part is what he asked:

"I am writing to ask you to review the speed zone along Campbell Street in Wonthaggi. Is it possible to at least have a discussion with the responsible officer for speed signs.

"I have written to Council on the matter in 2019 and 2020 and 2022, to which we have had standard brush off responses. We have been told that the limit complies with current standards (I'm positive it cannot).

"We hope somebody at Council has the authority to review and act on a dangerous public issue. The last

response indicated a review would be completed by the end of 2024. We understand things take time, but this is dangerous."

Mr Kilgour said he got the standard response, five days later, with the shire saying it would be "logged... on our list of potential improvement projects" addressed on a priority basis depending on funding availability.

But, in response to one of his letters in December 2022, the shire said this: "Campbell Street has already been added to the speed limit change list for further investigation and review. The investigation will inform what treatment options would be appropriate given the concerns you have raised."

They also went on to say that changing speed signs was no panacea.

**Continued page 5**

The scene of last Sunday's tragedy where a 68-year-old woman, walking a neighbour's dog, has been struck and killed by an allegedly culpable driver.

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In 2025, eligible pregnant women will be able to receive the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for free under the National Immunisation Program (NIP).

The RSV vaccine is recommended for women at 28 to 36 weeks of pregnancy and it protects their newborn from RSV.

RSV is a serious disease for newborn babies and it infects their nose, throat, and lungs. It is a leading cause of children going to hospital. Getting a vaccine in pregnancy reduces the risk of severe RSV disease in infants less than 6 months of age by about 70%.



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# Campaign cash: How Deb Leonard has already changed Monash

CAPE Woolamai's Deb Leonard and her supporters are serious about taking Monash at the next Federal Election, to be called any day within the next few weeks.

And if political pundits are correct, it would put Ms Leonard in a position to have a disproportionate impact on what is expected to be a 'hung parliament', with neither Labor nor the Liberal-National coalition set to win enough seats on their own.

Ms Leonard has disclosed on her website that she has already received almost \$700,000 in donations from more than 400 contributors, which according to veteran Monash MP Russell Broadbent would be seven to 10-times more than any local candidate has ever had at their disposal.

"The most I've ever spent personally was \$60,000. The Liberals might spend \$100,000 here this year, Labor will spend nothing, same with the Greens beyond their how to vote cards which cost about \$1500 to print," said Mr Broadbent.

It's a record, and counting, that's unlikely to ever be beaten following sweeping changes to election campaign funding which will come into force next time.

But to put the figure into perspective nationally, fellow 'Teal' candidates including Allegra Spender, the Member for Wentworth, representing Sydney's wealthiest suburbs including Point Piper and Vaucluse, outlaid \$2,124,058 on her 2022 campaign, Monique Ryan (Kooyong) not far behind on \$2,122,231 and Goldstein's Zoe Daniel \$1.6 million.

It's all the result of the level of support coming out of Climate 200, "a community crowd-funded initiative" convened by climate philanthropist Simon Holmes a Court, son of Australia's first billionaire Robert Holmes à Court, which is committed to a science-based response to climate change and restoring integrity to politics.

However, while independents and other individual candidates collectively spent about \$21 million at the 2022 federal election, the major parties spent a whopping \$418 million, only where that comes from and how it is spent is a lot less clear.

Speaking to the Sentinel-Times this week, Ms Leonard



Monash independent has built up a war chest of election funding the likes of which this electorate has never experienced but will it be enough to swing the result in the upcoming election.

said she had received \$364,340 from Climate 200, which in no way impacted her status as a genuine independent.

"They must think I can win it," said Ms Leonard.

"There is no quid pro quo. They have not asked anything of me. Climate 200 is a crowd-funding organisation that has received donations from over 12,000 individuals. They choose to support candidates that align with their values.

"All my policies are formed directly from feedback from the community, and you can view the feedback on my website," she said.

As well as the Climate 200 funding, Ms Leonard has attracted a big groundswell of local support with generous donations from named locals and other funds coming from the sale of merchandise.

It's already been a campaign the likes of which we have not seen in the local Federal electorate, with extensive polling of voting patterns and views, 'Deb Leonard' signs and offices going up around the region and an already exhaustive schedule of public meetings... and the election hasn't even been called yet.

But Ms Leonard's success in attracting campaign funds, and in attracting public support has

also attracted the attention of high-placed opponents.

Liberal Senator for Victoria, the Hon Jane Hume, the Shadow Special Minister of State issued a media release last Friday, February 28 headed 'Teal hypocrisy on integrity and transparency' in which she names Deb Leonard, along with three other candidates, accusing them of trying to avoid transparency and "potentially breaking the law".

"The Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) has confirmed that it is investigating at least four companies linked to Teal independent candidates after it was revealed that they were not properly registered as election vehicles," claimed Senator Hume.

"The four candidates attached to these entities are Erchana Murray-Bartlett candidate for McPherson, Deb Leonard candidate for Monash, Alex Dyson candidate for Wannon, and Susan Chapman candidate for Forrest."

Senator Hume uses a question-and-answer exchange with AEC Acting Commissioner Jeff Pope, at a Senate Estimate hearing last week, to support her case.

"The lack of integrity that these candidates have shown is

seriously concerning. There are serious questions to answer for these Teal holding companies that are avoiding transparency and potentially breaking the law," said Senator Hume.

"It is the height of hypocrisy to claim to stand for integrity and transparency yet then deliberately avoid the law on electoral integrity and transparency."

See the full transcript of the "Teal hypocrisy on integrity and transparency" issued by Senator Hume on the Sentinel-Times' website

Ms Leonard has responded saying all of the donations she has received are being disclosed progressively on her website.

"All my donations are disclosed on my website. In relation to the comments of Jane Hume, I find these incredibly hypocritical. I am disclosing all my donations up front, while the Liberals, Nationals and Labor parties will not disclose any of their donations until well after the election, and even then, will only disclose those over the threshold of \$16,900," Ms Leonard told the Sentinel-Times.

You can view a list of Ms Leonard's donors on her website at [https://www.debleonard-4monash.com.au/past\\_donors](https://www.debleonard-4monash.com.au/past_donors)

## Senator's hypocrisy claims cut both ways, says Leonard

SENATOR, the Hon Jane Hume, Shadow Special Minister of State and Liberal Senator for Victoria has taken aim what she calls "Teal hypocrisy on integrity and transparency".

In her lengthy statement on Friday, Senator Hume goes on to say "the four candidates attached to these entities are Erchana Murray-Bartlett candidate for McPherson, Deb Leonard candidate for Monash, Alex Dyson candidate for Wannon, and Susan Chapman candidate for Forrest".

In Senate Estimates on Monday night, Senator Jane Hume put questions to AEC Acting Commissioner Mr Jeff Pope about the arrangements of these entities.

Senator Hume: "It would be correct that, on the face of it, these entities are established - I'm using the phrase very specifically here - wholly or to a significant extent for the benefit of one or more disclosure entities, and the benefit relates to one or more electoral activities, which would then define them as an associated entity. Is that correct?"

Mr Pope: "On the face of it, it would seem that that's a reasonable starting proposition."

Senator Hume: "Well, it's not as if they've been set up to benefit anyone else other than the candidate that has declared. It's in their names, yeah?"

Mr Pope: "Yes, that's right".

Senator Hume: "Can I confirm that you have commenced looking into the arrangements for these entities?"

Mr Pope: "Senator, we've started to look into those. I appreciate you bringing those to our attention. We had already initiated some inquiries with respect to a few of those, but I'll be able to come back to you with a bit more once we've completed our inquiries."

Senator Hume goes on to say the following in her media release:

"Despite the fact that the legislation requires entities to immediately cease accepting donations or recurring electoral expenditure until they've been added to the transparency register, it was revealed that each of those four candidates have continued to spend significant money on social media advertising.

"Not only has the AEC said that these candidates may be subject to significant fines if they are found to be in contravention of the Act, but donors may also be subject to penalties."

Senator Hume: "Where do you think it's going to leave people that have donated to these entities should the entities not register? What happens?"

Mr Pope: "Well, as in they've donated money believing that it's for a particular candidate."

Senator Hume: But then that organisation hasn't registered.

Mr Pope: Well, I imagine they're going to be reasonably disappointed, particularly as we get more deeply involved.



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CONTACT

|                      |                                                                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| WONTHAGGI OFFICE:    | 47 McBride, Avenue, Wonthaggi, VIC, 3995                                           |
| HOURS:               | Monday-Friday 9am-5pm                                                              |
| PHONE:               | (03) 5672 1888                                                                     |
| LEONGATHA OFFICE:    | 36 McCartin Street, Leongatha, VIC, 3953                                           |
| EMAIL:               | EDITORIAL & LETTERS news@sgst.com.au                                               |
|                      | ADVERTISING ads@sgst.com.au                                                        |
|                      | ACCOUNTS accounts@sgst.com.au                                                      |
| MANAGING DIRECTOR:   | Michael Giles michael@sgst.com.au                                                  |
| OPERATIONS MANAGER:  | Jim Akers jim@sgst.com.au                                                          |
| ADVERTISING MANAGER: | Holly McMaster holly@sgst.com.au                                                   |
| EDITOR:              | Chloe Kent                                                                         |
| JOURNALISTS:         | Andrew Paloczi<br>Bruce Wardley<br>Courtney O'Brien<br>Nicole May<br>Tayla Kershaw |

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| CLASSIFIEDS:                                                 | Advertising closes at 12.30pm on Mondays |
| The South Gippsland Sentinel-Times is published on Tuesdays. |                                          |
| *Please note changes occur as a result of public holidays.   |                                          |

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DEADLINE CHANGES

Due to the Labour Day long weekend the deadlines for the next issue of the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times, to be printed Wednesday, March 12 will be as follows:

DISPLAY ADVERTISING  
Deadline: 3pm • Friday, March 7  
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING  
Deadline: 12 noon • Tuesday, March 11  
Please note our offices are closed on Monday, March 10

6 Day Weather Forecast

SOUTH GIPPSLAND

|                                           |                                                    |                                              |                                              |                                                    |                                         |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
|                                           |                                                    |                                              |                                              |                                                    |                                         |
| TUE   Mar 4                               | WED   Mar 5                                        | THUR   Mar 6                                 | FRI   Mar 7                                  | SAT   Mar 8                                        | SUN   Mar 9                             |
| Sunny.                                    | Sunny.                                             | Cloudy.                                      | Sunny.                                       | Sunny.                                             | Possible shower.                        |
| Wind AM: Light<br>Wind PM: E-NE 25-35km/h | Wind AM: E-NE 15-20km/h<br>Wind PM: S-SW 15-20km/h | Wind AM: S 15-20km/h<br>Wind PM: E 25-30km/h | Wind AM: E 20-30km/h<br>Wind PM: E 20-30km/h | Wind AM: E-NE 15-25km/h<br>Wind PM: E-SE 15-20km/h | Wind AM: Light<br>Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h |
| 13° 29°                                   | 15° 30°                                            | 16° 25°                                      | 16° 28°                                      | 16° 29°                                            | 16° 28°                                 |

IN BRIEF

Coastal geology walk and book

PROM Coast Ecolink are very excited to announce a Walkerville Coastal Geology Beach Walk, on Sunday, March 9 from 1 - 4pm.

Join the group for a captivating beach walk in memory of the late Fish Creek local and geologist Gary Wallis, as they journey through millions of years of geological history and explore an incredible array of rocks and landscape formations.

Tickets are \$15.00 and include a guided tour with palaeontologist Mike Cleeland, afternoon sweets, and a copy of Gary's booklet "Walker-ville Coastal Geology - A Walk from Walkerville North to Bird Rocks".

Meet at Walkerville North Beach, Bayside Dr, Walkerville North on Sunday, March 9 at 1pm.

For more information, to subscribe to the newsletter and to register for the walk go to [www.promcoastecolink.org](http://www.promcoastecolink.org).

Bass Coast Leisure Facilities Contract Awarded

BASS Coast Shire Council has appointed Aligned Leisure to manage the Phillip Island Leisure Centre and Bass Coast Aquatic Centre from 1 July 2025, following a competitive tender process.

Aligned Leisure will deliver inclusive, and high-quality programs both within the facilities and out in the community, enhancing member experiences and supporting the physical, social, and mental wellbeing of residents and visitors.

CEO Greg Box said Aligned Leisure is a highly capable, community-focused organisation with a strong track record in facility management and working in community. "We're excited to

partner with Aligned Leisure, leaders in the aquatics and leisure industry, currently operating 46 facilities across Australia," Mr Box said.

Mr Box thanked YMCA Victoria for their years of dedicated service to the Bass Coast community. "Our priority is to ensure a smooth transition, working closely with both YMCA Victoria and Aligned Leisure to maintain seamless access to our facilities."

Staff employed at the centres have been advised and plans are in place to support them through the transition process.

All members and stakeholders will be contacted in the coming weeks with details about the transition.

World Day of Prayer

WORLD Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christians of all traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday of March each year, to which all people are welcome.

This year the service will be held at St Pauls Anglican Church Korumburra, on February 7 March at 7:30pm.

The Cook Islands is the focus this year with the service having been prepared by the WDP Committee from that country.

Each church in Korumburra will be participating in the program and there will be music and a speaker. Supper will be provided. Everyone is welcome to join.

Contact Marg on 0409 552 131 for more information.

Too fast, or too slow? You be the judge

A SPEED limit of 10km/h will be introduced on The Esplanade in the Cowes CBD, between Bass Avenue and Warley Avenue, to create a shared zone for cars and

pedestrians.

And the whole length of Settlement Road, from Coghlan Road to Thompson Avenue, past the golf course and the Cowes Primary School, will be reduced to 40km/h.

It's all part of a speed and parking review right across the Bass Coast Shire which has so far looked at Agar Road North at Corinella, Mill Road Archies Creek, Berrys Beach Road on Phillip Island, roads in the Wonthaggi CBD and also at Grantville and Woolamai.

The shire has now turned its attention to Archies Creek Road (comment due by March 3), Cowes East (comment due by March 3) and Back Beach Road San Remo (comment by March 31).

The Cowes street speed restrictions got an airing on social media over the week-end with differing views on whether the changes are needed or not.

Local commentator Peter McMahon doesn't believe the community has been given enough time to absorb the proposed changes.

"There are proposals to reduce speeds to 40km/h in a lot of areas, and down to 20km/h along The Esplanade. How does it all tie in with the new speed humps and raised crossings ('Wombat' crossings) the TAC has funded in Church Street and Chapel Street?" Mr McMahon said.

"I don't think it has been well explained what they are proposing to do, why and how much it is going to cost."

He's also concerned about the loss of car parking spaces in the Cowes CBD.

The changes have attracted plenty of comment:

\* Slow limits maybe appropriate in small residential streets, but to make Settlement Road only 40kmh from Coghlan Road to Thompson Avenue is crazy. By all

means, slow past the school as it is now, but the rest of the road needs to remain at 60kmph. It is the alternate route into Cowes, carries traffic to and from the industrial estate. Even Thompson Ave is mostly faster until near Coles to the Esplanade.

More offshore wind dates

GIPPSLAND'S offshore wind project developers have got together to host several more information sessions in March.

Across four days and locations they'll be talking with locals about offshore wind, sharing project information and listening to ideas and feedback. Drop in anytime for a BBQ and chat at any of the following locations:

- Port Albert – Wednesday 12 March, 4 pm – 6 pm, Mechanics Institute
- Golden Beach – Thursday 13 March, 4 pm - 6 pm, Community Centre
- Sale – Saturday 22 March, 10 am – 2 pm, Nakunbalook Sale Botanic Garden
- Leongatha – Thursday 27 March, 4 pm – 6 pm, Memorial Hall.

Among those in attendance will be Aurora Green, Blue Mackerel, Gippsland Dawn, Gippsland Skies, Great Eastern Offshore Wind, High Sea Wind, Kent Offshore Wind, Navigator North and Orsted (Gippsland 01 and Gippsland 02).

Government agencies VicGrid and Offshore Wind Energy Victoria will also be there to answer questions about Victoria's transmission and energy plans.

Can't make it? Contact Southerly Ten, the developer of two proposed wind projects including Star of the South and Kut-Wut Brataualung, anytime on 1800 340 340, [info@southerlyten.com.au](mailto:info@southerlyten.com.au) or by visiting their Gippsland office (Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9 am-5 pm or by appointment).

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# Eviction from Tarwin Fuel Supplies leaves locals and owner fuming

VENUS Bay and Tarwin locals were left stranded and angry when they were unable to get fuel last Friday morning at Tarwin Fuel Supplies as the property landlord evicted the tenant and business owner.

Owner of Tarwin Fuel Supplies, Yubaraj Khadka took over the business five months ago, moving from Darwin to the town with his pregnant wife, as they fell in love with the area.

Venus Bay local Tracey Kershaw states that the business is the best it has been in the thirty years she's lived there, stating the new owners have cleaned up the shop, stocked it with food, dropped the price of petrol and have been delivering gas.

However, on Friday morning Mr Khadka was shocked at finding the landlord on his business and home premises.

"I was sitting in the shop and when the locksmith and property manager, they popped in, and then they started locking me out, and they started locking the bowsers, everything. They're changing the locks and everything," explained Mr. Khadka.

"This is totally illegal, and I do have all the evidence."

Mr Khadka explains that he hadn't paid rent due to a number of issues and tried to negotiate with the landlord who was not open to this.

The branding was then taken down as he stopped buying fuel off Shell Viva, looking for local fuel suppliers – and needed a Tank Integrity Test Report, for



Owner of Tarwin Fuel Supplies, Yubaraj Khadka was illegally locked out of his business last Friday morning, leaving some locals stranded.

these suppliers, as there had been an issue with water inside one of the tanks.

The tanks have not been changed in some time and according to Mr Khadka, providing a report falls under the responsibility of the landlord.

"The underground thing is the landlord responsibility, and when I requested that one he stopped responding to my emails, and then I stopped paying rent, because I wasn't getting any secure fuel supply," Mr Khadka said.

"After a month period, they sent me a breach of notice, which I replied to that notice too. And I have also a case with

the Victorian Small Business Commission (VSBC) about the same matter."

"That's the first step to go, I think, for us, before we go to any court matter or something like that. And while the case is pending with VSBC, they are not legally entitled to evict me or lock me out," explained Mr Khadka.

The landlord, Mr Gaurav Shegal, sent Mr. Khadka a Notice of Breach about a week ago but no notice of eviction was given.

"The minimum of the legal paperwork he should have is a VCAT order. And also there is a process again, to evict me. I mean, if I do not follow the

VSBC order, then the case goes to the Sheriff, and the Sheriff can only forcefully evict me."

The Sentinel-Times contacted the landlord of Tarwin Fuel Supplies, Mr. Shegal who was not willing to speak about the situation and said, "I think the lawyers would be happy to give you the whole story."

Mr Shegal did not provide further details of his lawyers.

Mr Khadka also lives on the premises, which they are now locked out of.

"My wife is pregnant and we live in this property. It's not only the business. We do live in there, and it has affected me. Now I'm not sure where I'm going to go."

'It's the wild west out there'

From page 1

"Based on past experience with bad driver behaviour, we would expect that some users will disregard any type of warning device. Police enforcement is the most effective way to resolve any bad behaviour."

The shire said it was presently focused on bringing safer speeds to Phillip Island but indicated the Campbell Street investigation would follow.

According to the Engage Bass Coast website, the following reviews are currently in progress:

- Back Beach Road San Remo (comments until March 31, 2025)
- Cowes East (March 3, 2025)
- Archies Creek Road (March 3, 2025)
- Berrys Beach Road (January 31, 2025)
- Grantville-Glen Alvie Road (Aug 31, 2024)
- Settlement Road, Cowes (Aug 31, 2024)
- West Area Road Wonthaggi (Aug 31, 2024)
- Graham St & South Dudley Road (April 1, 2024)

It is estimated that the speed limit changes on these roads will be variously completed by March and June this year but nowhere is Campbell Street, Wonthaggi included for either review or change.

The shire has been asked for comment.

"I drive up and down that road every day and see people walking their dogs and kids riding to school. There were kids there riding to school this morning. And I'm driving past dogs, and people and kids thinking, when are they going to do that review they said they were going to do two years ago," said Mr Kilgour.

"We said it a few years ago that it was going to take a tragedy before someone would come down and take a look at where that 100km/h sign is."

"You come out of the built-up area and then, boom, it's 100km/h and it's like the wild west out there. I mean with the sun in your eyes, the narrow road and the fact that people are always out there walking their dogs or riding, you know not to drive at 100km/h but it's legal to do it, right?"

Mr Kilgour said Campbell Street also connected with a number of popular walking trails, in the Wonthaggi Bushland Reserve, to the Baxter's bird hide and other locations.

"There's been a strong case for lowering the speed limit on Campbell Street for years and it's just tragic that it might have taken something like this to finally get some action."

## More events and more visitors in South Gippsland

MEMBER for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh visited Korumburra last week to tell Friends of Coal Creek volunteers about \$30,000 in funding for the Southern Lights Festival at Korumburra, which will be held in June this year.

"The Southern Lights Festival has been a wonderful event when it's been held previously, selling out in 2023, and this support will allow it to go ahead again this year in June," said Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh.

"Local businesses will also benefit from the increased tourism for these events."

Mr McIntosh also announced \$175,000 for South Gippsland Shire's new three day Eat, Drink, Play Gippsland event

scheduled for October, 2025.

Eat, Drink, Play Gippsland will showcase local food and drink offerings, with local producers holding a feature event on the Saturday of the event.

The Eat, Drink day event will centre around locals and tourists tasting and sampling local products, while engaging directly with the makers.

High profile music acts will play at the same festival site as part of the Play night event.

The Southern Lights Festival will have its third event, after starting in Korumburra in 2019 – with a First Nations Stories of Place interactive installation taking centre stage for one day only.

Live music and children's activities will also be running at

the same time.

The site will be open every night, so locals and visitors can view the art experience, with immersive light and sound installations.

"We're extremely excited to have received the funding, it will ensure we can continue to go ahead and hold our 2025 event," said Southern Lights Festival Event Organiser Shirley Arestia.

"We're looking forward to holding the event and welcoming visitors from all across Victoria."

**RIGHT: Korumburra's Southern Lights Festival will be held again this year with some new funding made available.**



### Melina BATH MP

THE NATIONALS MEMBER FOR EASTERN VICTORIA REGION

2/181 Franklin St, Traralgon VIC 3844  
melina.bath@parliament.vic.gov.au  
5174 7066  
MelinaBathMLC

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## Shire Council awards Youth Services contract

BASS Coast Shire Council has appointed Anglicare Victoria to manage and deliver Youth Services from 1 July 2025.

Anglicare Victoria will deliver services both at the YES Youth Hub and throughout Bass Coast, enhancing the health, wellbeing and social connection for young people across a broad range of programming.

CEO Greg Box said Anglicare Victoria is a highly respected provider, with a strong presence in our community and vision for the future of Youth Services and expressed his gratitude to the YMCA Victoria for their years of dedicated service.

"We're excited to partner with Anglicare Victoria, who are recognised leaders in the sector." Programming and services will continue throughout the transition period, with the YES Youth Hub and all programs operating as normal.



IT is with great sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Neville Goodwin OAM, a true champion of our community. Neville's unwavering dedication, tireless advocacy, and incredible ability to bring people together have left a lasting impact on Bass Coast.

I had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the influence Neville had on our region. His leadership helped shape the Bass Coast we know today—whether as a Commissioner during council amalgamations, a Councillor for both the Shire of Bass and Bass Coast Shire Council, or as Mayor, his commitment never wavered. He worked relentlessly to ensure our community had the support, infrastructure, and services it needed to thrive.

Beyond local government, Neville gave so much of his time and energy to countless community organisations. His involvement with Bass Coast Health, the Rotary Club of Wonthaggi, the Grantville Hall Committee, and the National Vietnam Veterans Museum, to name just a few, made a real difference in the lives of so many. He had a way of making things happen—if there was a need, Neville was the person to call.

His passing leaves a significant void, and I know many of us are left asking, who do we call now? Neville was simply one of a kind—respected across all levels of government and the community for his ability to connect, advocate, and deliver real outcomes.

My heart goes out to his beloved wife, Lyn, who was always by his side, as well as to Shelly, Wayne, and Daniel. Neville's legacy will live on through the countless lives he touched and the community he helped build.

Vale Neville Goodwin OAM—thank you for everything

# King tides and big trouble headed Silverleaves' way

UNLESS you're a fisherman, a surfer or a keen boatie; you're unlikely to be aware that some king tides, well over the 3.0 metre mark, are headed this way around Easter or just after.

Under normal circumstances, most local residents wouldn't even notice.

There is, however, a group of homeowners along Woodland Avenue at Silverleaves on Phillip Island who are dreading these events, on the afternoon of Friday, April 18, and also April 29, April 30 and May 1, praying that weather conditions don't conspire to make matters worse.

Of course, they shouldn't have to worry.

Officers of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), in consultation with the local community, have already developed a plan for dealing with the threat in the short to medium term.

They've acknowledged that a highly impacted terminal scour area has developed at the end of the rock revetment, made worse by an extension of the rock wall to the west.

"They've already designed and costed what they want to do, putting in 300 metres of geotextile bags (in the area between Coghlan Road and Sanders Road) to protect the foreshore while they come up with a more permanent plan," said affected resident Natalie Gray.

"They told the community



Silverleaves' resident Natalie Gray is counting the days until Easter but not in a good way.

what they wanted to do back in October, which would have given them enough time to put it in place by Easter.

"But it has just sat on the Minister's desk.

"Now we've run out of time," she said.

It's going to be an agonising waiting game, over the next month or so, to see if their worst fears are realised.

"Extending the rock wall has altered the pattern of movement and the water swirls more now and when it gets to the end of the rock wall, it's eroding the coastline more," said Mrs Gray.

"In some parts of the foreshore, it's less than a metre to the top of the dune."

Ms Gray said the cost of the geotextile wall is \$500,000 but she says it will cost a lot more

if the work isn't done.

"It's too late to get it done before Easter, but the government has simply got to move on this as a matter of urgency."

In October 2024, DECCA advised the community as follows (Silverleaves Coastal Adaptation Project #2): "Following our community information session at Cowes in August, DEECA representatives met with FSC Range to discuss options for short-term works to protect the highly impacted terminal scour area at the end of the rock revetment. FSC Range have now developed designs and costings for these works while we continue with the adaptation planning. Andrew from FSC has put together a video presentation to explain this process and the preferred

option, a geotextile revetment that can be modified, relocated or removed in the future to align with final adaptation options. Check out the video here for full details. We are continuing to seek funding for the revetment through grants and budget bids and we will keep the community updated as things progress."

In the absence of any movement from the government, Eastern Victoria MLC Melina Bath sponsored a petition signed by 4370 which got the issue on to the parliamentary business paper.

Ms Bath continues to work for the community, calling on Minister for the Environment, Hon Steve Dimopoulos, to meet with residents and respond to them about the geotextile bag project.

She's greatly concerned about what might be headed Silverleaves' way at Easter, or in the near future.

She said the Allan Government has let down the Silverleaves' community.

"The Silverleaves' foreshore has been eroding at an alarming rate, and there is every possibility homes will be lost in the absence of state funding for mitigation," said Ms Bath.

"Residents are acutely aware of the imminent threat to their properties; many lay in fear at night wondering if their homes will fall victim to the sea - they deserve to hear how the government will protect their estate."

## Bass Coast Health and Gippsland Southern Health Service to join merger

COMMUNITIES in South Gippsland and Bass Coast will have improved access to specialised care as Bass Coast Health (BCH) and Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) merge into the new Bayside Health (working title).

Recognising the benefits of closer collaboration and streamlined care pathways, the boards of GSHS and BCH have made the decision to join the merger between Alfred Health, Kooweerup Regional Health Service and Peninsula Health.

Effective January 1, 2026, all five health services will come under the banner of Bayside Health, with the names of local hospitals and

healthcare sites to all remain unchanged.

GSHS CEO Louise Sparkes and Interim BCH CEO Professor Simone Alexander said the new health service will improve healthcare access across south-east metropolitan Melbourne, the Mornington Peninsula, South Gippsland and the Bass Coast.

Ms Sparkes said, "This merger strengthens our partnerships as part of the broader health reform, improving access to specialised care for South Gippsland residents and ensuring a seamless patient experience."

"As the new service evolves, we will continue optimising Leongatha Memorial and

Korumburra Hospitals to enhance care delivery.

"This is a process that will take time, and we are committed to working closely with our staff and consumers to ensure that services meet our community's needs."

Ms Alexander reiterated that, "This merger means patients will have easier access to more complex care, and they'll have more specialist options available to them."

"Benefits for staff also include greater career development opportunities, like working with a range of experienced clinicians and practitioners, if they choose to do so."

"Our staff and community will be engaged throughout

the process, as we build even stronger relationships across Bayside Health."

The change also aligns with the recommendations from the recently released Health Services Plan.

GSHS and BCH already work closely with their health service partners to support patients across Victoria. This merger is the next step in strengthening these partnerships, making healthcare more accessible and efficient, while ensuring better patient outcomes.

Further updates will be provided as planning progresses, ensuring transparency and engagement with staff, patients and the community.

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**Danny O'BRIEN<sup>MP</sup>**  
State Member for Gippsland South

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**THE NATIONALS** for Regional Victoria



# Paterson military swag heads to Canberra

By Andrew Paloczi

THE MILITARY collection of Lt Col Alexander (Alex) Paterson DSO MC is heading to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, a team from the AWM assembling at Korumburra RSL last week to assess and record items and prepare them for the journey to the National Capital.

As previously reported, items cover the pre and post WWI periods as well as the involvement of Alex's 39th Battalion in the Great War.

Sentinel-Times has been keenly following the collection since members of the Paterson family presented it to Korumburra RSL, where representatives of Anzac House in Melbourne determined it was too substantial for them to accommodate.

The items returned to Korumburra RSL to be viewed by a couple of members of the AWM team who were impressed by what they saw, the family having since committed to hand over the collection to the AWM for safekeeping and display.

The AWM team meticulously assessed the haul, photographing and documenting everything, sorting objects into categories and packing them in standardised archival boxes that were supported within crates to ensure nothing could be damaged during the truck journey to the ACT.

Acquisitions conservator Michelle Newton-Evans explained that it's not a simple matter of taking everything straight to the AWM, with the need to ensure nothing harm-

ful is introduced.

The AWM's preventive conservation program involves the use of a freezer or anoxic treatment of objects to safeguard against any insect activity, the processes to be carried out at the War Memorial's facility in Mitchell, ACT.

Generally, items in the Paterson collection are in a good and stable condition, something that is particularly impressive given they are all over 100 years old, the AWM team ensuring anything requiring extra support was managed appropriately.

Further assessment of individual objects will occur after the treatment process.

"We're looking at material evidence of what's happened to the object over its life," Michelle said, noting all information determined will be recorded into the AWM's collection management system, ensuring it is known down the track exactly what condition everything was in upon arrival.

When it comes to determining what will occur in terms of displaying items, each one will be considered individually.

"When we're dealing with textiles, because of the type of material it is, there's a limited amount of time it can be on physical display," the AWM's Amanda New, who specialises in military heraldry and technology, said.

The AWM takes a versatile approach to ensure opportunities to display items.

"Because we have limited gallery space at the Memorial in Canberra, we have other methods we use to make the collection available; we loan material to other institutions, and we develop travelling exhibitions, which is beneficial for people who can't come to Canberra," Amanda said.

The AWM's collections database is linked to its website, meaning an electronic record will be available of each item in the Paterson collection, including a physical description and a contextual one detailing Alex's relationship with that item.

Amanda reflected on the importance of the Paterson donation to the AWM.

"It's rare to have a collection of this size still intact so far removed from WWI," she said.

She noted there would have been a number of such sizeable collections in the immediate aftermath of the war but the level of detail and wide range of object types gathered by Paterson is very unusual after the passing of so much time.

Those at the AWM are greatly indebted to the Paterson family for keeping the items together, noting it contains objects that weren't previously in the national collection, such as an ostrich feather bonnet from Alex's time in the Victorian Scottish Regiment to which he belonged prior to and after the Great War.

Sentinel-Times looks forward to reporting any developing news in relation to the Paterson collection and its future display.



Michelle Newton-Edwards and Jason d'Arx of the Australian War Memorial are impressed with the diversity of the Paterson collection which the AWM team sorted and packed for safe transportation to the ACT. A04\_0925



Amanda New from the Australian War Memorial inspects the contents of one of Lt Col Alexander Paterson's WWI trunks. A01\_0925

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# **Intrusive questions, intimidation, suggestive jokes...**

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** WorkSafe Gendered Violence**



**Reducing workplace harm.**





# Vietnam War refugees remembered and celebrated

FIFTY years after the end of the Vietnam War Bass Coast has joined with former Governor General Sir Peter John Cosgrove to acknowledge the history of Australia's Vietnam War refugees.

The Australian Vietnamese Women's Association in partnership with veterans held a commemorative event at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island attended by members of parliament including the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Veterans, Vietnamese refugees, the Mayor of Bass Coast and the Hoa Lu Glenroy Scout Group.

Recognising and honouring the enduring legacy, courage and resilience of Vietnamese refugee communities and veterans who served in the Vietnam War the event was supported by the State Government's Regional Multicultural Festival and Events Fund.

General Sir Peter John Cosgrove who served as the 26th Governor General of Australia from 2014 to 2019 and fought in the Vietnam War paid tribute to those who had been forced to flee Vietnam.

"I may have officially retired but it doesn't feel like it," said Sir Peter John Cosgrove.

Describing the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island as a place of pilgrimage Sir Peter said he was thrilled to be there.

"It is a project of love.

"It has been made into a special place to pay tribute to the people of two nations."

"I am blown away by the support and fabulous work of the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association," said General Cosgrove.

"We fought side by side and we fought each other.

"We accept the horror of war but



**Mary Dortmans from the Leongatha Rotary Club with General Sir Peter Cosgrove former Governor General of Australia and Chief of Defence Force. B81\_0925**

seek to repair and rebuild the relationship."

General Cosgrove said Australia needs its places of history.

"We seek to be friends with everyone we can."

Having fought in Vietnam as an Infantry Officer General Sir Peter John Cosgrove said he had vast admiration for the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association and those attending the event at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

Kingsley Munday Chairman of the Board of the National Vietnam Veterans Museum said the event acknowledged the end of the Vietnam War 50 years ago and the start of boat people fleeing Vietnam as refugees.

"Fifty years later the Vietnamese are celebrating being Australian and part of our community.

"Today we're looking at the impact Vietnamese people have made on our country.

"This is the way forward," said Mr Munday.

The 250 guests gathered inside

the museum were shown a series of short films followed by a moving presentation from the Hoa Lu Glenroy Scout Group.

Members and family of the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association spoke of the challenge of arriving in Australia without being able to speak English.

"When I escaped I was 32," said Thanh-Kham Tran-Dang from the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association.

"I had three children, a boy and two girls aged 8, 9 and 13."

Cecelia Tran-Dang described her journey to Australia as quite dramatic.

"We tried to escape four times and the last time we were successful.

"We spoke very little English.

"Everything was different."

Chris and Vivian Nguyen were just 11 and 12 years old when they arrived in Australia.

"It was a culture shock but exciting as a child," said Ms Nguyen.

"I came with my three brothers.



**Nam and Owen from the Hoa Lu Glenroy Scout Group celebrating 50 years of Vietnamese Australian refugees. B69\_0925**

"My mother and sister came over six years later."

Lay Hoa was seven years old when he arrived in Australia in 1978.

Kim Thien Truong arrived by herself as an 18 y/o refugee.

"I was an only child."

"My uncles and relatives are all Vietnam veterans."

Nga Nguyen was 17 y/o when she arrived in Australia.

"We were a big family with three boys and six girls."

Brothers John Wake and Laurie Jones served together with the navy in Vietnam.

"I did four tours of duty, and my brother did two," said Laurie.

Sixty thousand Australians served in the Vietnam War including 3,000 who were wounded and 521 who lost their lives.

Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt and Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman said the Vietnam War had shaped the lives of many Victorians, both those who served, and the Vietnamese families

who sought refuge in Australia.

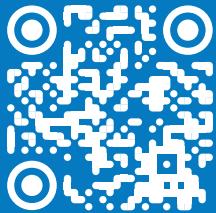
"Victoria's Vietnamese community makes countless ongoing contributions to the rich social, economic and cultural fabric of the state, which is a testament to their strength and resilience.

"This event not only commemorates a significant chapter in our history, but also strengthens the bonds between veterans, our Victorian Vietnamese community and indeed, all Victorians," said the Minister for Multicultural Affairs Ingrid Stitt.

"On the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, we honour not only the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam veterans, but the remarkable resilience of Victoria's Vietnamese community who are an integral part of our state," said Minister for Veterans Natalie Suleyman.

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum is a unique collection of artifacts and memorabilia from the Vietnam war era and can be found at 25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven.

## GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA



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# South Gippsland Shire Council News

## Come along to the South Gippsland Jobs Expo!

Are you looking for work or a career change?

Don't miss the South Gippsland Jobs Expo for 2025.

With a wide range of job opportunities available from diverse industries, the Expo is your chance to connect with local employers face-to-face and explore the exciting career paths on offer in South Gippsland.

The Jobs Expo is the perfect opportunity for people in all stages of their career journey to come along and find their dream job. Simply bring your up-to-date resume and a smile.

**Are you looking for staff?**

The South Gippsland Jobs Expo is a great way for businesses to connect with people who are looking for their

next (or first) job. From ongoing to casual, there is no vacancy too big or too small.

Add your current and near future vacancies to the Jobs Board and book your stand at the Expo. You won't be disappointed!

**The Details**

- Thursday 20 March 2025.
- 9.30am to 1.30pm.
- Memorial Hall, Leongatha.
- Free sausage sizzle and coffee voucher available.

For more information, visit:  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/JobsExpo](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/JobsExpo)

*Shaping South Gippsland*



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Shaping South Gippsland engagement.

Because of you, we heard from more than 500 people across our region.

All of this feedback will now be considered as we work to develop a suite of draft documents. These will be available for further feedback in April.

Don't forget you can find all of our engagement opportunities on Your Say South Gippsland:  
<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

### COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 March 2025 at 2.00pm.

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

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

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Looking for a new job? We might have the perfect position for you! Check out our current vacant positions here:  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/vacantpositions)

### IMPOUNDED VEHICLE

South Gippsland Shire Council impounded the following vehicle in accordance with Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*:

2007 Silver Holden Station Wagon  
Impounded on: 29 January 2025.  
Impounded from: Commercial Street, Korumburra.  
Registration Number: UYV307

Unless the vehicle is collected and relevant fees paid within 14 days of this notice, the vehicle will be offered for sale to the public. For enquiries, please contact the Community Safety team on 5662 9200 during office hours (8.30am to 5.00pm).

### COMMUNITY GRANTS

South Gippsland Shire Council's second round of Community Grants close at the end of March.

Funding of up to \$10,000 is available.

For more information and to apply, please visit:  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants)

**CONTACT US**

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



# Broadbent encourages Korumburra senior citizens to move forward

By Andrew Palocz

KORUMBURRA Senior Citizens Club members have been urged to work with South Gippsland Shire Council to find a solution to their quest for a home base, Member for Monash Russell Broadbent highlighting the opportunity for the parties to meet and put the past behind them. He did so on Thursday at the Korumburra Middle Hotel with over 30 people, mostly senior citizens, present for a meeting with the Federal Member, the gathering chaired by local identity David Amor.

Mr Broadbent acknowledged there has been angst on both sides of the issue but expressed confidence that bad blood doesn't have to remain.

However, with council having received a legal writ, there seems little prospect for negotiation unless legal action is withdrawn, councillors having been advised not to discuss the Senior Citizens Centre issue due to the legal proceedings. Councillors did not attend Thursday's meeting other than a brief visit from Cr John Kennedy who explained he was required at his shop.

While the matter is currently going down the legal path, Mr Broadbent stressed the importance of removing lawyers from the equation due to the costly nature of such proceedings.

The Senior Citizens Club has previously stated it owns the Radovick Street building that long served as its home, but is now focused on other issues, arguing Korumburra Shire was made a trustee for the building in 1984 and that council can't profit from its sale.

That and other legal claims are matters for lawyers to hammer out should legal action continue. Mr Broadbent said he will continue to advocate for the matter to be sorted out between council and the Senior Citizens Club.

"I don't want division in my community, I want resolution," he declared.

"There's got to be give and take on both sides."

The Member for Monash encouraged the seniors to be flexible and not to rule out the prospect of an alternative home if it proves impossible to return to the Senior Citizens Centre.

Kris Crichton of the Senior Citizens Club agreed with Mr Broadbent that continuing legal action is less than ideal.

"This needs a political fix; we need to get the lawyers out of it," he said.

Member of the Senior Citizens Club Beryl Jarrett acknowledged Mr Broadbent's advice, expressing hope his advocacy can help facilitate a discussion between the seniors and council to iron out the issues. While sympathetic to the concerns of the seniors about past events, Mr Broadbent remained steadfast in the importance of moving forward.



Member for Monash Russell Broadbent encourages members of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Club to work with council. A05\_0925



Avis Tilley has lost none of her passion as she approaches her 100th birthday, declaring "We just want it back" when speaking about the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre, with Korumburra Senior Citizens Club president Janne Grenon and secretary Kris Crichton. A06\_0925



Attendees listen to facilitator David Amor. A07\_0925

## Expo offers job seekers a gateway to new careers

ON Thursday, 20 March 2025, the South Gippsland Jobs Expo will return to the Leongatha Memorial Hall, offering job seekers, career changers, and students a prime opportunity to connect with employers, industry experts, and training providers.

With approximately 40 exhibitors expected to participate, this free event is designed to be an essential hub for those looking to advance their careers.

The expo is hosted by the South Gippsland Shire Council in collaboration with Workforce Australia – Local Jobs Program, with the goal of directly linking job seekers to employment opportunities.

Attendees will have the chance to explore diverse career options across industries such as hospitality, transport and logistics, trades, healthcare, agriculture, and manufacturing. Additionally, emerging fields like digital marketing, along with professional services including law, accounting,

and real estate, will be represented.

Darren Beggs, Gippsland's employment facilitator for the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, emphasised the unique opportunity presented by the expo.

"If anyone is looking for a job, or a change of career, there are a multitude of different employers attending."

Beyond job listings, the expo is also geared towards improving employability. The TAFE Gippsland Skills and Jobs Centre will provide free resume reviews and application assistance, ensuring candidates present themselves in the best possible light.

Engagement coordinator for the Skills and Jobs Centre at TAFE Gippsland, Andrea McNamara sees the event as a "fantastic opportunity for employers and those seeking employment to connect and to explore opportunities that are beneficial for both parties."

Furthermore, industry professionals

will be available to share insights on educational pathways through TAFE and university programs.

To make the most of the event, job seekers are encouraged to bring multiple copies of their resumes, valid ID for potential job applications, and dress professionally, as some businesses may hold on-the-spot interviews. Taking notes and collecting employer details will also be useful for follow-ups.

Feedback from past expos suggests that many attendees have secured interviews and apprenticeships through their participation.

For those eager to take their careers to the next level, the South Gippsland Jobs Expo could be the perfect stepping stone.

Running from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Leongatha Memorial Hall, this expo is open to anyone seeking new employment opportunities, career growth, or further training.

## Mayor's Message



South Gippsland  
Shire Council



Cr John Schelling

IT'S great to be back with you all after my trip to Queanbeyan, New South Wales last week for the South East Australian Transport Strategy meeting.

These opportunities to connect with people who are passionate about transport and their area are invaluable, allowing us to network and share our priorities. Local government can feel lonely at times, but these networking opportunities remind us that we aren't alone, and our challenges are shared.

### Shaping South Gippsland Engagement

The Shaping South Gippsland engagement finished up over the weekend. Over 500 people participated across the region at either an in-person event and the online survey.

Councillors and Council staff attended 22 events as part of the engagement, made up of nine events, nine pop-ups and three stakeholder events held across the Shire to hear from our community about their hopes for the future. These opportunities are extremely important to help us understand the expectations of the community and balance that with what we can do.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Shaping South Gippsland engagement over the last three weeks.

In particular, I would like to shout-out to young Oscar McGrath from Foster.

Oscar is 11 years-old and spent time with me chatting about what he wants to see in South Gippsland. He even waited patiently for his opportunity when I was talking to another community member. Oscar's passion for South Gippsland was palpable and really refreshing from someone so young. I really enjoyed my chat with him, and I would like to say just how much that chat meant to me. Thank you, Oscar, for being such a champ – and to your parents who brought you along to see me.

Without people like Oscar who are willing to talk openly and respectfully with Council, we can't possibly know everything and represent this fabulous community. So, if you didn't stand up this time and share your thoughts, be like Oscar next time there is an opportunity on any topic.

Tell us your thoughts respectfully and help us make decisions that truly reflect the opinion of our entire community.

If there are no opportunities coming up, but you have something you would like to share, you can contact any Councillor. Our contact details are on Council's website.

### Community Training and Grants

Developing and supporting our community to do great things is an extremely important role of Council.

Round Two of the Community Grants Program closes at the end of March. I love these programs that provide our hard-working community and volunteer groups with the financial support they need to do great things for South Gippsland. You can find out more about the Community Grants Program at [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/grants)

If you would like to discover new skills, enhance your knowledge and network with other community-focused people, the Community Training Program is a great thing to take advantage of.

With a mix of training opportunities available, you'll be sure to find something for you.

To check out the upcoming sessions, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/communitytraining)

### Business Corner

Businesses are the lifeblood of our community, employing local people and providing high quality products and service to us all.

At Council, we believe in supporting both new and established businesses to achieve great things. To do this, the Economic Development team are here for you.

They will be popping around the region to introduce themselves and let you know how Council can help, so keep an eye out for them and make sure you say g'day.

The team are also in charge of delivering the South Gippsland Jobs Expo – a free event where prospective employees can meet with employers looking for new talent. The Expo is taking place on Thursday, March 20, 2025 from 9.30am to 1.30pm at Memorial Hall, Leongatha.

For more information on the Expo, please visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/jobsexpo](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/jobsexpo)



# RBA's Rate Cut

- Implications and Reactions

By David Caporale,  
Chief Investment Officer of RELcapital

In a move anticipated by many, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) has reduced the cash rate by 25 basis points, bringing it down to 4.10%. This decision marks the first rate cut in over four years and signals a pivotal shift in Australia's monetary policy. The implications of this adjustment are multifaceted, affecting borrowers, savers, and the broader economy.

### Impact on Mortgages and Loans

For homeowners and prospective buyers, the rate cut offers a glimmer of relief. The big four banks have announced corresponding reductions in their home loan variable interest rates by 0.25% per annum, effective from February 28, 2025. This reduction translates to tangible, albeit small, savings for borrowers. For instance, on a \$600,000 mortgage, monthly repayments could decrease by approximately \$92.

However, the benefits extend beyond the offerings of the major banks. Research indicates that Australian homeowners could save nearly \$40,000 over a 30-year mortgage on a 5.59% variable interest rate which is currently being offered by some non-bank lenders. This competitive environment empowers borrowers to shop around for more favourable terms, potentially easing the financial burden amid rising living costs.

### Returns on Savings

While borrowers may rejoice, savers face a different reality. Interest rate cuts typically lead to reduced returns on savings accounts and term deposits. Financial institutions may adjust their deposit rates in response to the RBA's decision, meaning individuals relying on interest income might see diminished returns.

### Economic Outlook and Future Rate Cuts

The RBA's decision is rooted in its assessment of the current economic climate. Deputy Governor Andrew Hauser emphasised the need for additional positive news on inflation before considering further interest rate cuts. While policymakers are optimistic about receiving favourable inflation reports, they require concrete evidence of this improvement

before easing monetary policy further. Economists, including Dr. Shane Oliver, Head of Investment Strategy and Chief Economist at AMP have weighed in on the potential trajectory of interest rates. Dr. Oliver suggests that the RBA may continue its easing cycle, with the cash rate potentially falling to 3.6% by the end of the year. This projection is contingent upon various economic indicators, including inflation trends, employment figures, and global economic conditions.

It's important to note that while rate cuts can stimulate economic activity by encouraging borrowing and spending, they are not without risks. Prolonged low-interest environments can lead to asset bubbles and may not address structural issues within the economy. Therefore, the RBA is likely to approach future cuts with caution, ensuring that each move aligns with the broader goal of sustainable economic growth.

### Broader Economic Implications

Beyond the immediate effects on loans and savings, the rate cut reflects the RBA's commitment to steering the economy towards its inflation target of 2-3%. The decision comes in the context of easing inflationary pressures, with underlying inflation recorded at 3.2% in the December quarter, indicating a faster-than-expected decline.

This monetary policy adjustment aims to support economic growth, particularly in sectors sensitive to interest rates, such as housing and consumer spending. However, the effectiveness of this strategy will depend on various factors, including consumer confidence, global economic trends, and fiscal policy measures.

### Conclusion

The RBA's recent cash rate cut signifies a strategic response to current economic indicators, aiming to balance the needs of borrowers and savers while steering the economy towards sustainable growth. As the year progresses, all eyes will be on the RBA's subsequent moves and the unfolding economic landscape, with stakeholders across the spectrum adjusting their strategies in response to these developments

\*[www.amp.com.au](http://www.amp.com.au)

*The information above does not constitute financial or other professional advice and is general in nature. It does not take into account your specific circumstances and should not be acted on without a full understanding of your current situation and future goals and objectives by a fully qualified financial advisor. Before you make any decision about whether to acquire a certain financial product, you should obtain and read the relevant product disclosure statement.*

# Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese collects more awards

BERRYS Creek Gourmet Cheese has cemented its reputation as one of Australia's leading cheese producers, winning multiple awards at the 2025 Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show.

The business, led by Barry Charlton and his partner Cheryl, has been a standout at the event, with its Oak Blue taking home the Champion Specialty Cheese award for the second consecutive year, and also being selected for the Australian Cheeseboard Perpetual Trophy, which is awarded to the five gold medal-winning cheeses selected by the Chair of Judges.

This latest recognition adds to an impressive list of achievements that Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese has accumulated over the years.

Barry, who has nearly 50 years of experience in the cheese industry, expressed his pride in the results, which reflect the dedication and skill of his team.

"It's got a lot to do with our employees," Barry said. "The attention to detail from our cheesemakers is unbelievable. They do an absolutely magnificent job, and they take a lot of pride in their work."

The success at the 2025 Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show is just the latest in a long line of accolades for the business. Over the years, Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese has consistently impressed judges at national and international cheese competitions.

In 2024 alone, the company won numerous awards, including the Champion Specialty Cheese at the Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Show, as well as several gold medals and Champion awards at the Australian Grand Dairy Awards and the DIAA Awards of Excellence. The company's Riverine Blue and Oak Blue have become particularly renowned, with these cheeses frequently winning top prizes.



Cheryl and Barry Charlton with their award from the 2025 Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show.

What sets Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese apart, according to Barry, is not just the quality of the product, but the collaborative effort that goes into its creation. The company sources its cow's milk from the nearby local farm of Graham and Jill Nichols and buffalo milk from Sunrise Plains, operated by Bryan Jans. Barry believes that working with local producers who share his commitment to quality has played a key role in the company's success.

The business has also benefited from Barry's extensive experience in the industry. Starting his career at the Drouin Cooperative Butter Factory in 1975, Barry later worked for 17 years at Jindi Cheese before launching Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese with Cheryl in 2007. Since then, the company has gone from strength to strength, building a reputation for its artisan approach to cheese-making.

The success at the Sydney Royal Cheese & Dairy Produce Show is a testament to the dedication and passion of the team behind Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese. Barry credits the show as an essential part

of maintaining morale and ensuring that their products continue to meet the highest standards.

"Entering these shows with the goal of making the best possible product is great for morale," Barry said. "It's also a great indication of the quality of our product, being provided with scores and such."

Looking ahead, Barry remains optimistic about the future of the company. He has noticed an increasing number of smaller, artisan cheese makers entering the market, which he believes will benefit the industry as a whole. "It's good for the country," he said, "and it's great for the industry."

For now, Berrys Creek Gourmet Cheese continues to set the bar for excellence in Australian cheese production, with its award-winning products available at local IGA stores and through various wholesalers.

Barry and Cheryl's commitment to quality and their community has not only shaped the business's success but has also helped put South Gippsland on the map as a centre for world-class cheese production.

## Clubs Australia and brewers welcome excise freeze

CLUBS Australia and the Brewers Association of Australia have warmly welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that in August 2025 it will freeze excise on draught beer for at least the next two years.

The excise cut only applies to beers poured in licensed venues, providing a much-needed boost for community clubs across the country.

"In the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, this is great news for the hospitality industry and the millions of Australians who enjoy a few refreshing beers at their local club," said Clubs Australia Executive Director Rebecca Riant.

"The fact that the excise

freeze only applies to draught beer poured in venues is a great incentive for people to get out and enjoy time with friends and family in the comfortable surrounds of a registered club."

Ms Riant praised Prime Minister Anthony Albanese for the excise freeze.

"Excise has increased no fewer than 83 times since it was introduced in 1983, making the price of a schooner increasingly hard to swallow."

"Prime Minister Anthony Albanese should be commended for this move. We'd call on the Federal Opposition to adopt the same stance on excise, to provide certainty for industry and beer lovers across the country."

While John Preston, Chief Executive Officer of the Brewers Association of Australia also welcomed the announcement.

"Importantly, the measure takes effect from August this year, helping Australia's brewing and hospitality sectors at a time when it's acutely needed," Mr Preston said.

"After more than 40 years of twice-yearly beer tax increases, which has given Australians the third highest taxed beer in the world, we welcome the Prime Minister's decision to step in. Whilst this is a moderate change it will certainly make a difference for brewers and everyone who enjoys visiting their local for a beer."



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# One Gippsland welcomes Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation

ONE GIPPSLAND has welcomed a commitment by the Federal Government to provide basic universal outdoor mobile coverage, a move that will help to eliminate blackspots and be an invaluable lifeline during emergencies across Gippsland.

The Federal Government has announced this week that, if re-elected, legislation will be introduced into parliament in late 2025 to expand the universal service framework to include mobile coverage.

Universal Outdoor Mobile Obligation (UOMO) will require mobile carriers to provide access to mobile voice and SMS almost everywhere across Australia.

One Gippsland Chair Cr Nathan Hersey said the announcement had come off the back of sustained advocacy by One Gippsland and Gippsland councils over the past two years and, notably, just two weeks after a delegation travelled to Canberra to meet with the office of Minister Rowlands, Federal Minister for Communications. The delegation, co-led by One Gippsland Deputy Chair Cr Rochelle Halstead, raised concerns on behalf of local councils across Gippsland.

“During our advocacy meeting, we made it clear that strong, reliable mobile coverage has the power to save lives during disasters and crisis situations. This is particularly true in Gippsland, which has endured more than 40 disasters over the past decade,” Cr Hersey said.

“Our region has almost 500 registered black spots and our residents and business operators



South Gippsland Shire Council acting CEO Allison Jones; One Gippsland Chair Cr Nathan Hersey from South Gippsland Shire Council; Bass Coast Shire Council CEO Greg Box (back); One Gippsland Deputy Chair and Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead; Executive Director, Government Relations and Public Policy at Federation University Jaime De Ano Jr; and Terry Robinson, CEO at Destination Gippsland.

need reliable connectivity, including during times of sustained power outages,” Cr Hersey said.

“Telecommunications and digital connectivity are now a key element of disaster management and help our communities to be disaster-ready.”

“Poor mobile coverage puts lives at risk and makes the job of our first responders and recovery teams much more difficult.”

“The availability of mobile service is not just a concern during emergencies, but it impacts Gippslanders every day, particularly those who live in black spots

or are often frustrated to find themselves in a black or grey spot.”

“Communications should be seen as an essential service, something that people rely on for every element of their daily lives.”

“Improving both mobile and internet connectivity, particularly in an emergency, will ensure Gippsland’s residents, visitors, farmers and business can thrive.”

One Gippsland has provided six submissions to government processes and five pre-budget submissions since 2020 highlighting the need to improve digital connectivity throughout the region.

## Learn to Live Lightly workshop

ARE YOU interested in growing veggies? Do you want to learn about solar panels and home batteries? Are you trying to live a more sustainable life? Then the Bass Coast Shire Council has got something for you.

Bass Coast Shire Council is excited to launch Living Lightly Bass Coast - a series of workshops to help you learn new skills to live more sustainably.

The workshops come under four different themes: Energy Evolution, Future Foods, Garden Gems and Circular Solutions and build on the success of last year’s Garden Gems program and Sustainable Living Series.

Workshops will be presented by experts that will focus on making homes and communities more affordable, sustainable and resilient.

BCSC are pleased to be partnering with Bass Coast Adult Learning (BCAL) South Gippsland Shire Council, Renew, South Gippsland Beekeepers, Wonthaggi Library, Inverloch Community House, Wonthaggi Men’s Shed and the eight community gardens across Bass Coast to bring these workshops to life.

Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead was excited at the variety of topics covered and opportunities offered by the series.

“There’s 40 workshops spread throughout the year with so many different and worthwhile subjects covered, there’s something for everyone.”



Participants at last year’s Garden Gems Compost Workshop were shown how to get their hands dirty, learning from permaculture expert Rick Coleman.

“I’m looking forward to getting my hands dirty at one of the gardening workshops later in the year,” Cr Halstead said.

“I encourage everyone to take advantage of these free workshops and learn something to help you live greener and lighten the load on our planet.”

Building on the success of Garden Gems and the Sustainable Living Series, Living Lightly Bass Coast launches with an expanded new lineup of workshops covering Energy Evolution, Future Foods, Garden Gems, and Circular Solutions.

All the workshops are free (except for Sustainable House Day) and a mix of in-person and online.

Bookings are essential. Visit [www.thecap.com.au/living-lightly-bass-coast](http://www.thecap.com.au/living-lightly-bass-coast) to check out the full schedule and secure your place.

### AS REAL AS IT GETS

## SUN 9 MARCH LADBROKES STONY CREEK CUP



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General admission from  
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ME0318



## Living Lightly Bass Coast

### March Events | Practical Workshops Across Bass Coast

#### Energy Evolution

##### Home Battery Storage

Tuesday, 4 March – 6pm  
Online

| Free

#### Future Foods

##### Fermenting and Preserving

Saturday, 15 March – 10am  
Wonthaggi Community Garden

| Free

#### Garden Gems

##### Healthy Soils

Sunday, 23 March – 10am  
PICAL Community Garden Cowes

| Free

#### Circular Solutions

##### Circular Economy at Home

Saturday, 29 March – 10am  
PICAL Community Garden Cowes

| Free



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\*Dates and locations may be subject to change.  
Visit [thecap.com.au](http://thecap.com.au) for the most up-to-date information.



Prison fellowship speaker in Leongatha

PRISON Fellowship Australia State Manager and former Baptist Care General Manager South Australia will be a guest speaker at the Uniting Church, Peart Street, Leongatha on Sunday, March 9 at 1pm.

Ian Whitehill, who has worked in prisons for many years can help people to understand the significant issues around imprisonment, and the programs Prison Fellowship has created and adopted to address these issues.

Mr Whitehill has travelled extensively throughout Victoria to speak about this work, answering questions and providing an insight into the world behind the prison walls.

A spokesperson for the Leongatha Uniting Church said it was privilege to have Mr Whitehill speaking to the Leongatha community.

“Ian is able to alert us to the needs of prisoners and their families, and how we, as a local community can readily respond through a variety of compassionate ways.”

One of those ways is by supporting the work of SLAM (Sport Lights a Message), a program which sends Prison Fellowship volunteers into prisons as soccer or basketball teams to play with inmates. Through sport, volunteers build relationships and share the Gospel.

“Come and hear this good news and Ian Whitehill’s inspiring story.

As a former administrator of the Whyalla Baptist Church, between 1996 and 2002, he might be able to provide an insight into the government’s offer of a \$2.4 billion financial support package for Whyalla steel-works.

When: Sunday, March 9 1pm (afternoon tea provided. Where: Uniting Church Hall, Peart Street, Leongatha. Who: Contact A. Trease for further details on 0458 442 750.

Scrubs café is a welcome addition at Leongatha Hospital

A TASTY bite to eat, good coffee and a friendly vibe await those visiting and working at Leongatha Hospital, with Scrubs café now established and operating Monday to Friday between 8am and 3pm.

The new venture is run by Veronica and Darren Eastwood, owners of the town’s popular Gippsland Coffee Emporium, with Scrubs offering similar tasty choices.

“We’re using the model of the Emporium with slices, the majority of which we make in house, fresh sandwiches, wraps, toasted focaccias and sandwiches,” Veronica said.

While the menu has much in common with the Emporium, Scrubs will have a stronger emphasis on dietary requirements given its hospital setting.

That includes options such as salads and fruit salad, a wider range for those with celiac disease, and jelly beans for diabetics.

Dietary options continue to evolve, with Darren and Veronica finding ways to achieve that despite limited cooking facilities at the small café.

Many people stop in for a treat after various procedures.

“Once people have had their blood tests, they like to be able to have a coffee and a scone or banana bread instead of having to go up the street and find a parking spot,” Veronica said.



Veronica Eastwood serves Mary Roberts. A08\_0925

Staff and visitors have embraced Scrubs being open five days a week.

“It’s critical for our sanity,” the hospital’s Community Services Manager Mary Roberts said.

“We’re really busy in our roles and it’s great to have an option where we don’t have to drive into town.”

She described both the food and coffee as “amazing”, almond lattes her go-to beverage choice.

Veronica is delighted with the

support Scrubs has been given by those in charge.

“Hospital management has been great in helping spread the word that we’re here,” she said.

The new café has some items available to buy such as teas stocked at the Emporium, with the intention to sell giftware soon.

Some of the loyal Emporium customers based near Leongatha Hospital have taken to visiting Scrubs.

“If they live up this side of town, they come up here for

their morning coffee, which is really nice,” Veronica observed.

She summed up the predominant customer sentiment at Scrubs.

“The overwhelming response has been how friendly the staff is and how nice it is that there’s something here; it gives the hospital a more welcoming feel as you walk in the front door, and people are just happy they can get a good coffee and something to eat,” Veronica said.



OVER 50s LIVING

Our Clubhouse is Now Open!

We’re excited to announce that the stunning Lifestyle Phillip Island Clubhouse is officially open. Featuring multi-million dollar amenities, including a state-of-the-art 25-metre pool, a fully-equipped Pilates studio, and a private cinema, it’s the perfect place to relax, unwind, and enjoy.

lifestyle phillip island

Come visit us at 498 Settlement Road, Cowes, and take a tour of the beautiful new Clubhouse as well as our state-of-the-art stunning display homes designed with downsizers in mind.

Discover why so many are choosing to make the move. For more information, call us at 1300 50 55 60.

We can’t wait to show you around!





# Local residents invited to learn about offshore wind future

LOCAL residents will have the chance to learn more about Gippsland's offshore wind future at an upcoming information session, as plans progress for the ambitious Star of the South project, alongside many others.

The session, set for Thursday 27 March from 4pm to 6pm, will give the community a unique opportunity to ask questions and gain insights into one of Victoria's most significant renewable energy projects.

Star of the South, led by specialist offshore wind energy developer Southerly Ten and backed by Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP), is proposed to be located at least 10 kilometres off the Gippsland coast.

If approved, the project could generate up to 2.2 gigawatts of electricity, enough to power around 1.2 million homes and supply up to 20 per cent of Victoria's energy needs.

The project has been in development since 2019 and was granted a feasibility licence in May 2024, allowing further environmental and planning assessments.

With its strong Bass Strait winds, suitable sea depths and seabed conditions, the site has been identified as an ideal location for offshore wind energy. If all approvals are secured, construction could begin later this decade, helping Victoria achieve its goal of generating 2GW of offshore wind energy by 2032.

The Leongatha information session is part of a series of Gippsland Offshore Wind Days,



**A Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners project off Germany.**  
*Photo: Southerly Ten*

designed to keep the public informed and engaged as the project moves forward.

Attendees will have access to maps, materials, and direct discussions with industry representatives, ensuring they can voice concerns and ask questions to gain a better understanding of the benefits and impacts of offshore wind development.

Senior Manager of Regional Engagement at Southerly Ten, Paul Johnson, highlighted the importance of community involvement in shaping the future of renewable

energy in the region. "We're excited to continue the conversation with South Gippslanders about Star of the South, while introducing our newer project Kut-Wut Brataulung. This event is a great opportunity for locals to be involved from the very beginning in shaping a project that benefits the region," he said.

The event will also include representatives from VicGrid and Offshore Wind Energy Victoria, who will be available to answer questions about Victoria's broader transmission and

energy plans.

Developers from several other offshore wind projects will also be in attendance, including developers from the following projects: Gippsland Skies, Great Eastern Offshore Wind, Orsted's Gippsland 01 and Gippsland 02, Kent Offshore Wind and Blue Mackerel.

Star of the South is still in the feasibility and approvals phase, with ongoing environmental studies and assessments being conducted.

The project is subject to a rigorous approval process under both Commonwealth and Victorian regulations, ensuring that environmental, social, and economic impacts are carefully considered.

If approved, the development could bring an estimated \$8 billion investment into the economy and create up to 800 Gippsland jobs, including 200 long-term positions over 30 years.

The offshore wind industry represents a significant shift for Gippsland, which has a long history of powering Victoria through coal and other traditional energy sources.

The upcoming information session in Leongatha presents chance for locals to stay informed and have their say on the future of offshore wind in Gippsland.

With all projects still in the feasibility stage, there is still plenty of time for community input.

Residents interested in learning more are encouraged to attend and ask questions about the project.

Wind in the sails of Australian steel in offshore wind announcement

GIPPSLAND project Star of the South will partner with Bluescope to explore using Australian made steel in their offshore wind project.

The news comes just days after Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced \$500 million to make sure new wind power projects use steel manufactured in Australia.

"Using Australian made steel in offshore wind is a great step forward for the country and shows the huge opportunity in this industry" said Wendy Farmer, President of Voices of the Valley and Gippsland organiser with Friends of the Earth.

The partnership will specifically look at using Australian steel to manufacture boat landings and platforms for the turbine foundations for Star of the South.

Another Gippsland project Blue Mackerel North also progressed to the next stage in the announcement after being awarded the first management plan.

"This shows how building renewables is good for manufacturing jobs in the regions and is building a stronger future for our young people," said Farmer.



## Prep & Kinder Kids... Join us in Drouin!

Introducing St Paul's Anglican Grammar School, Drouin, a new Kindergarten and Primary school at our vibrant and welcoming new campus.

Discover a place to explore new skills where students engage in specialist programs including Physical Education, Library, Performing Arts, Visual Arts, STEM and Christian Studies. Our purpose-built classrooms are surrounded by outdoor play spaces, integrating with the beautiful natural environment and encouraging outdoor exploration in all seasons.

Would you like to find out more about our growing St Paul's community? Come along and meet our teachers, discover best-practice approaches to learning and stroll with your child through our beautiful classrooms and nature play areas.

### Kinder & Prep Discovery Morning Tuesday 18 March

Kindergarten session 9.15am, Prep session 10.30am

Please visit [stpaulsags.vic.edu.au](http://stpaulsags.vic.edu.au) to register or contact our Enrolments Office now on 5644 1233.

**Enrol now for 2026. Limited places available for 2025.**

Pre-Kinder to Year 3 in 2025, expanding annually to Year 6.

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Helicopter flies for stage 2 of Forrest Caves project

AS PART of Phillip Island Nature Parks' long-term vision for upgrading and maintaining the ageing infrastructure at local beaches it was helicopter lifting day at Forrest Caves last Thursday, February 27.

From early morning, a helicopter was flying overhead, above the Northern Stairway at the Forrest Caves carpark, as part of stage two of its improved access works.

Contractors were demolishing the old stairway and getting set to install a new structure, to continue the work completed prior to the busy summer period.

A spokesperson for PINP said use of a helicopter for the construction and demolition lifts wasn't only the most cost-effective method but also resulted in the minimum of impact on the dunes.

Access has been temporarily closed while stage 2 work is going on, expected to be completed before Easter.

Completion of the whole project is expected by August 2025.

This project has involved consultation with key stakeholders to avoid or minimise impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage, flora, and fauna. Impacts to Aboriginal cultural heritage and Flora and fauna are being managed through designs to utilise existing footings and a reconfiguration of stairs and landings to avoid excavation.

The project is jointly funded by the Nature Parks and the State Government through a Coastal and Public Access Risk grant.

The bus is back at the FLOW campus

VILLAGE High School has teamed up with Bass Coast College's FLOW Campus to reinstate FLOW's bus service.

Previously, the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club provided a bus for FLOW to use to ensure students could get to and from school during the flexible learning hours.

The service became unavailable during 2024, but Village High School reached out to trial using one of its six buses late in year.

Since the beginning of the 2025 school year, the service has been thriving with students along the Phillip Island route regularly catching the bus to get to school.

"Our program supports disengaged kids from all over Bass Coast, and a lot of them can't access bus services to FLOW in the middle of the day because the school buses aren't running, and the public bus service isn't frequent enough or kids have issues getting on those buses because they feel a bit anxious," FLOW Campus principal Paul Fawcett said.

"The Village High School very kindly reached out to us and asked if we wanted to use their bus from 11am to 1pm when they aren't using them."

The Village High School has its own fleet of buses, as the school day starts later than other mainstream schools and it has a campus in Ryanston.

"All the main school buses are headed in the opposite direction in the mornings and afternoons, so we do need our own bus service, but that means we have all these buses sitting



Village High School principal Fiona McKenzie, Bass Coast College's FLOW campus students Lucy Potter, Cindy Archer and Millie Frazer, and FLOW campus principal Paul Fawcett are pleased with the partnership that has allowed the bus service to be reinstated at the FLOW campus in Wonthaggi. Tk01\_0925

around during the day," Village High School principal Fiona McKenzie said.

"This is an example of different people in the community working together for the betterment of local students."

Mr Fawcett said the addition of a bus service has been fantastic, as students have been able to easily access their education, and it has eased concerns for parents who have been on the fence about enrolling their children in FLOW.

"For us, when we do talk about students connecting with FLOW from Phillip Island, one of the issues is parents and carers are worried about how they are going to get their kids to go. Having a volunteer bus removes that as a barrier for parents and carers to enrol their

kids because they can access the program in the middle of the day. Sometimes there can be a bit of reluctance due to distance," he said.

It has been particularly important this year, as FLOW has started the first school term with the most students its ever had and now includes a Year 11 program.

FLOW uses one bus from the Village High School, which travels between Wonthaggi and Phillip Island.

Waterline students can access the bus service from Anderson.

The FLOW campus is interested in hearing from people from the community who could donate time to be a volunteer bus driver.

Volunteer bus drivers require a Working with Children check, and an understanding that they

will be working with vulnerable children.

"We are looking for people who have extra time on their hands between 11am and 1pm on Thursdays and Fridays," Mr Fawcett said.

"We always drive with two staff members onboard – a pilot and co-pilot. Members of the community can volunteer for either role."

The FLOW campus currently has volunteers manning the bus service from Monday to Wednesday but are currently using its own staff on Thursdays and Fridays, which can take away from time in the classroom.

Those interested in becoming a volunteer bus driver are encouraged to contact Paul Fawcett on 0419 362 779.



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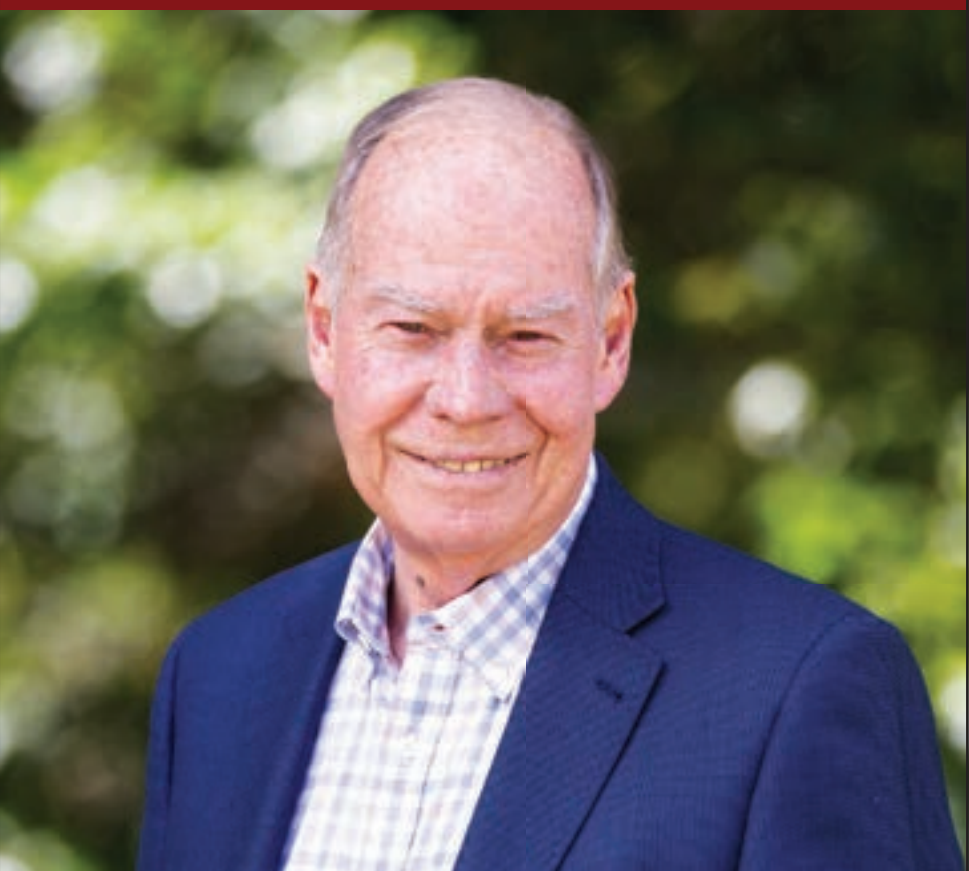
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Middle School student leaders Isabella Stead and Amelia Baxter teamed up to guide groups around campus in 2024.



Senior student Felix Fothergill leads a family around campus on a guided tour on Open Day 2024.

# Newhaven College Open Day: Saturday 15 March

NEWHAVEN College is excited to invite all future and prospective students and their families to explore the College campus at this year's Open Day, Saturday 15 March 9am-1pm. Current families and friends are also welcome to come along to experience the daily life of the children in their lives.

College staff and student leaders will offer visitors guided tours of the stunning college grounds and facilities. Activities will be held throughout the day in Junior, Middle and Specialty Wing. Students and teachers will also perform demonstrations in the Specialty Wing science labs, music performances in the Performing Arts Wing, art displays and hands-on demonstrations in the Trade Centre.

**What makes Newhaven College special?**

Newhaven College is the leading independent co-educational school in the Bass Coast region, catering to Prep-Year 12. Their educational approach is values-driven and evidence-based. Alongside excellence in teaching and learning, they provide high-quality pastoral care, with wellbeing support through the House system. Consistency across year levels fosters a strong sense of belonging.

Beyond academics, an incredible range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are on offer - with camps and outdoor education for all year levels. Opportunities in visual arts, performing arts, sports and out-

door activities. The College also offers specialised academies for tennis, surfing, equestrian and mountain biking as each student is encouraged to explore their interests. Visit the College website to see everything on offer.

**Every child finds their place**

The College campus is made up of three sub-schools: Junior School, Middle School and Senior School, plus the highly popular Year 9 Environmental Centre. Each sub-school creates a strong sense of community. As students' progress, they gain opportunities to build confidence through leadership programs. Year 9 students take part in a unique year-long experience that

encourages them to care for our environment.

The size of the College allows for each student to be known, seen and heard. By knowing each student as an individual, students are helped to discover their strengths. This personalised approach inspires young people to engage with their world with a sense of purpose.

**Let your child surprise you**

When you enrol in Newhaven College, your child will grow in ways you can't yet imagine, with the holistic approach bringing out the best in students. Newhaven parents often comment how delighted they are to see their children develop in directions they had never imagined.

Newhaven College students

and staff look forward to welcoming you on Open Day. If you are unable to attend and would like to arrange a private tour, please contact our Admissions Officer Bec Anderson on 5956 7505 or [admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au](mailto:admissions@newhavencol.vic.edu.au).

**Alumni Reunions**

Newhaven student who graduated in 1985, 1995, 2005 and 2015. We warmly invite you to attend your Alumni Reunion from 10am-12pm on Saturday 15 March. The event will start with a complementary morning tea, followed by a guided tour around campus with Director of Learning, Karen Milkins-Hendry. Book through the College website [www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au](http://www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au).



## Skin Cancer Checks

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If you have a history of sunburn, multiple spots, previous skin cancer, or a family history of melanoma, you are at risk of skin cancer.

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**NEWHAVEN COLLEGE**

# Open Day

**Saturday 15 March**  
**9am - 1pm**

1770 Phillip Island Road,  
Phillip Island, Victoria

[newhavencol.vic.edu.au](http://newhavencol.vic.edu.au)

Scan the code to RSVP or simply drop by!



# Where do they go?

## - Soft plastics

Soft plastics are any plastic bag or plastic packaging that can easily scrunch in your hand. This can include plastic shopping bags, frozen vegetable bags, external packaging of sweet biscuits, salad kit bags and more.

Because of how easily they can be crunched, they can't be placed in your recycle bin. They can jam machinery at sorting facilities which can stop other items from being recycled, and can even cause fires.

In South Gippsland, more than four per cent of materials in the kerbside recycling bin are soft plastics. Meaning that any recyclable materials in plastic bags are sent to landfill and loose plastic bags are either separated to go to landfill, or potentially block the sorting machine.

To find out more about what can go in your **Recycle (yellow-lidded) Bin**, please visit:

[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling) or scan the QR code.



### Top Tip

Soft plastics should go in your **Rubbish (red-lidded) Bin**.





# Small acts make a big impact.

These items cannot be put in your mixed recycling bin: glass crockery and window glass, shredded paper, tissues and paper towels, recycling in plastic bags and soft plastics.

These items can make it harder to sort the recyclable material and turn them into new things.

**Find out more: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/recycling)**





# Regional Victorians miss out again

THE LATEST infrastructure funding announcement between the State and Federal Governments fails to address the real needs of regional Victorians, despite the Prime Minister's claim that "this money is ready, right now, to fix roads in need of repair".

While Melbourne's suburbs receive much-needed road upgrades, both levels of government has again turned its back on regional Victoria, where crumbling roads, dangerous intersections, and failing infrastructure continue to cost Victorian motorists and put lives at risk.

Shadow Minister for Roads and Road Safety, Danny O'Brien, said that despite the State Government boasting about its spending, regional roads remain in a shocking state, with countless communities left waiting for critical upgrades.

"The State Government's so-called 'record investment' clearly isn't reaching the places that need it most. Regional Victorians deserve safe roads just as much as those in Melbourne's suburbs, yet they continue to be treated as second-class citizens by this government," Mr O'Brien said.

"The Victorian Government's neglect of our regional road network has resulted in potholes, deteriorating road surfaces, and unsafe conditions for motorists. The latest funding announcement once again ignores the pressing need to fix regional roads that are lifelines for communities, agriculture, and tourism.

Mr O'Brien also questioned where the billions of dollars allocated to road maintenance had actually gone.

"Melissa Horne claims that 'record investment' is being spent, yet motorists across the state are asking the same question – where? Instead of spin, the State Government must be transparent about where these funds are being directed and why regional Victorians continue to be ignored," said Mr O'Brien.

"Fixing regional roads isn't just about maintenance – it's about road safety, productivity, and ensuring communities aren't left behind."



For anyone looking at buying a home, investment property, or refinancing, Jackson McCarthy and his team at Mortgage Brokers Co. offer a free, no-obligation consultation.

## How one young entrepreneur is redefining regional lending

IN THE fast-paced world of finance, having a mortgage broker who understands both local and national markets is invaluable. Mortgage Brokers Co. is a dynamic, boutique, non-franchised firm that's making a big splash in the industry, proving that a personal, community-focused approach to finance leads to outstanding results.

At the helm is Jackson McCarthy, the Director, Founder, and Principal, who has spent years fine-tuning a business model that offers full-service, versatile solutions with a client-first mindset. With a passion for both his craft and his community, Jackson has created a brokerage that's redefining what it means to provide exceptional financial services in a regional town.

Mortgage Brokers Co. has quickly built a reputation for its hands-on, community-driven approach. Unlike big, impersonal corporations, Jackson and his team are deeply embedded in the local community. They proudly sponsor local clubs—football, tennis, and gun clubs—not just as a business strategy,

but to give back to the place they call home. Their commitment goes beyond business; it's about helping the region grow and thrive.

And it's working. Mortgage Brokers Co. is already making waves in the industry, earning recognition as a finalist in two prestigious categories at the Better Business Awards 2025: Best Regional Mortgage Broking Office and Best Boutique Non-Franchised Office. With over 1,100 submissions and only ten finalists per category, this distinction speaks volumes about the firm's dedication to excellence.

While deeply rooted in the region, Mortgage Brokers Co. is also plugged into the latest industry trends. Jackson stays connected by regularly visiting their Hawthorn office to meet with top bank BDMs (Business Development Managers), ensuring the local clients have access to the latest financial opportunities, just like those in metropolitan areas.

What sets Mortgage Brokers Co. apart? It's their extensive network—over 60 lenders, non-

bank lenders and non-conforming lending solutions. Whether it's a reverse mortgage, aged care loan, tractor financing, or regional homebuyer grants, Jackson and his team tailor financial solutions to meet the diverse needs of their clients. They've got the expertise and the flexibility to find the right fit—even in tough circumstances.

Jackson's career began at the Bank of Melbourne, later advancing to senior roles at NAB and a Melbourne-based finance firm. His passion for regional communities led him to establish Mortgage Brokers Co., blending his deep industry knowledge with a true understanding of the local needs. Alongside him is Sean Main, a seasoned mortgage broker and long-time local who's been with the company since day one.

In just five years, Mortgage Brokers Co. has made a lasting impact in the region, now operating from their new office at 123 Graham Street. Despite shifts in the property market, Jackson is confident about the region's future, particularly the surge in new builds and

commercial development. "We're expecting some exciting growth in the next five to ten years," he says. "This area is heading in the right direction, and we're excited to be a part of it."

For anyone looking at buying a home, investment property, or refinancing, Jackson and his team offer a free, no-obligation consultation. "A home loan health check doesn't hurt," Jackson advises. "99 times out of 100, there's a better deal out there. When it comes to Home Lending it is entirely fee-free to our clients. So, it makes sense to call and see if we can find you a better deal."

With their commitment to clients, strong ties to both regional and metropolitan markets, and industry recognition, Mortgage Brokers Co. is redefining what it means to be a mortgage brokerage. Whether you're a first-time homebuyer, seasoned investor, or looking to refinance, their expert team is here to help you find the best financial solution. Come experience the future of mortgage broking with Mortgage Brokers Co.—where innovation meets community.

# Mortgage Brokers Co.

Your Home. Your Community. Your Families Mortgage Broker.

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# Amy Stork new Principal of Chairo Christian School

STUDENTS, parents and staff at Chairo Christian School in Leongatha have welcomed Amy Stork as the new Principal.

Amy is excited to have the opportunity to return to Chairo, having taught at the school's Drouin campuses for a decade from 2009.

Her parents come from Leon-gatha and she has a great ap-preciation for the local commu-nity, delighted to be working in South Gippsland.

"The school encompasses what I value about learning, fostering a supportive and in-clusive environment where stu-dents can grow in their capabil-ity, character and commitment to their faith," Amy said.

"In just a short time, I have already experienced the strong spirit of community here at our Leongatha campus."

For the past five years, Amy has been the Assistant Di-rector at Scripture Union's Camp Coolamatong in East Gippsland.

In addition to her teaching, leadership and camping back-ground, she has experience in church ministry and at a school governance level.

Executive Principal, Pete Wells, described Amy as a



New principal Amy Stork and Chairo Christian School students have fun on the new play equipment at the Leongatha Campus.

wonderful addition to the team at Chairo Leongatha, noting her love of the outdoors, cre-ative skills, musical ability and outstanding education and leadership credentials.

"She is passionate about helping to further establish the campus as a community where

students excel academically as they grow in the character of Christ," Pete said.

Amy replaces Christine Hib-ma, who has taken up a posi-tion as Principal at Marrara Christian College in the North-ern Territory after many years as a Chairo student, parent,

teacher and leader.

Chairo provides education from a Christian worldview perspective for boys and girls from kindergarten through to Year 12.

Amy is happy to chat to inter-ested families and escort them on a tour of the campus.



Marg Thomas is the new Chair of the Board for the Mirboo North and District Community Bank.

## Community Bank announces new Chair

THE MIRBOO North and Dis-trict Community Bank is pleased to announce Marg Thomas as the new Chair of the Board. Marg fol-lows in the footsteps of the for-mer Chair, Jan Head.

"I'm honoured to be entrusted with this position and aim to lead the Board with the same skill and dedication as Jan. Having served on the Board since 2017, I find our team of Directors highly col-laborative and committed to the growth of the business and the improvement of their respective communities. A great bunch to work with!

The Community Bank model has been fundamental to the success of our business and the Board. I am privileged to con-tinue in a role that supports a business providing excellent banking services while also hav-ing community interest at heart. This is evidenced by the Com-munity Bank contributing well over \$2M back to our district since our inception, and after the February 2024 super-storm, we quickly provided over \$100,000 in recovery relief, helping many storm affected families, com-munity groups and individuals," Marg said

For the past three years, Marg has chaired the Business Devel-opment & Community Invest-ment Committee. This committee is responsible for enhancing the Community Bank's profile and engaging with community organ-isations who seek financial sup-port for their projects.

Marg has a background in the hairdressing industry and a pas-sion for environmental advocacy. In 2017, she was awarded the Mirboo North Citizen of the Year for her efforts to protect the local environment.

The Board of Strzelecki Ranges Community Enterprises looks forward to the next few years un-der Marg's leadership and is con-fident they are in capable hands to steer the business into the fu-ture.

## Christine Hibma embracing new challenges and opportunities in Darwin

FORMER principal of Leon-gatha's Chairo Christian School, Christine Hibma, has settled into that role at Darwin's Mar-rara Christian College, which belongs to the same network of schools.

It wasn't an easy decision to leave her hometown and the school with which she's long been associated as a student, parent and teacher but her time as a relief teacher at Mar-rara during a 2013 family trip around Australia left her with the desire to return.

"It took a piece of my heart," Christine said of the Darwin school.

She has a passion for indige-nous communities, admitting "I have a lot to learn in this space." Marrara Christian College has indigenous students in its ranks, including boarders from across the Northern Territory.

"We've got students who have come from communities where English is their second language and their learning

opportunities are much more limited, but they're a joyous group of kids; their faces light up, they smile, they're person-able," Christine said.

Those were the attributes that grabbed her heart during her relief teaching stint in Darwin.

The school runs a well-es-tablished program maximising educational opportunities for those facing challenges that in-clude English being their sec-ond language.

"There is that gap that's of-ten talked about and here was a place that was willing to work with families to give kids an op-portunity," Christine said.

Marrara's boarding experi-ence is designed to create a family-like environment, kids being in small groups with staff oversight, the kids learning life skills.

"They're having to pack their own lunches and help with din-ner, do the washing," Christine said, adding there are classes tailored to foundational literacy

and maths skills.

An outside organisation visits the school, running workshops focused on health and nutrition-al training and other life skills, with hopes the indigenous stu-dents will share that knowledge with their communities.

At a welcome barbecue to begin the school year, the new Marrara Principal was delighted to discover some of the parents of indigenous students attended the school themselves.

"They were adamant this was the best school, it was a great opportunity, so that was a won-derful thing to hear that we've got a second generation coming back to us," Christine said.

She loves Darwin's multicul-tural nature, noting nearly ev-eryone is from somewhere else.

Despite the differences, Mar-rara has much in common with Chairo, both operating under a similar structure with overarch-ing guidance through Christian Education National.

"We're a Christian school, so

everything comes through a lens of our faith," she said, ex-plainning that remains constant whether teaching maths or out-lining disciplinary expectations, that approach applying equally to Chairo and Marrara.

However, the lush tropical gardens at Christine's Darwin school contrast greatly with South Gippsland's cool setting.

The prospect of shared camp experiences or student ex-change opportunities between the schools is being considered.

Now in their twenties, Chris-tine's kids elected to remain in Victoria, her husband Tim enjoying the move to Darwin where he works for another school in the same network.

During their South Gippsland days, Tim and Christine were dairy farmers before shifting to beef cattle.

Christine follows proceedings at Chairo Christian School, de-lighted her ambition to estab-lish Year 12 there has been re-alised.



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## Autumn Reflections at Welshpool

THE WELSHPOOL & District Horticultural Society is excited to be able to hold its 64th Autumn Show on Friday March 7 and Saturday March 8, 2025.

All are looking forward to seeing the range of interpretations the show theme of 'Autumn Reflections' will conjure up! So please come along and help to make this show the biggest and best and happiest show ever!

The show will be held at the Welshpool Memorial Hall, South Gippsland Highway Welshpool, on Friday March 7 from 1:30 to 5pm and Saturday March 8 from 10 am to 4pm.

The show will be officially opened at 2pm on Friday 7 by Ian Rasmussen from Leongatha who is South Gippsland Shire Citizen of the Year. Ian is involved in numerous community organisations and has been the Treasurer of the Leongatha Horticultural Society.

Admission to the Show will be \$5 per adult and no charge for children. Come and enjoy the wonderful country style refreshments and purchase some very reasonably priced plants from the extensive variety in the onsite club nursery at the rear of the hall. Eftpos facilities will be available.

The show schedule/ program clearly explains the various definitions to help entrants with their entries and club members and section stewards will be readily available to answer queries from entrants and visitors.

Don't miss enjoying and voting for your favourite entry in the popular 'Public Choice' section of the schedule. The topic this show is 'Autumn Reflections' which should encourage some fantastic entries.

Entries are welcomed from adults, children, novices and first timers. Come and



**'Autumn Reflections' is the theme of this years Welshpool & District Horticultural Society Inc. 64th Autumn Show.**

have a go... just bring your flowers etc. to the hall before 10 am on show day, Friday March 7 and members will help stage and display them. Vases are available if needed.

First timers don't need to ring beforehand to lodge their entries, but all other entrants must notify the Assistant Show Secretary, Prue Fleming by 6pm on Wednesday March 5. There is no entry fee for exhibitors.

Show schedules/programs printed copies are available from the Show Secretary Frances Grylls on 0481 385 122 and Prue Fleming, Assistant Show Secretary on 0418 775 717. Digital copies of the show schedule are available from Helen Baud on 0427 880 014.

## Successful gardening with a minimum of space

By Bruce Wardley and Burnsie the Rhyll Gardener

A POCKET sized garden patch in Rhyll is living proof that from very small things, lots of big things can grow.

Burnsie the Rhyll Gardener has achieved a small miracle producing basket loads of fresh produce from a shared communal garden.

"My garden although complex is not by any means a market garden," explained Burnsie.

"It is small and built around the front lawn."

"I guess the lesson is that you don't need a lot of space to achieve remarkable results."

This cottage style garden certainly is remarkable.

Burnsie takes great pride in his vegetable garden particularly his chillies and peppers.

His glistening red and green cayenne peppers look fantastic.

Each week Burnsie takes a basket load of fresh vegetables to share with staff and members of the Phillip Island RSL.

"Chillies are always popular at the RSL."

"White Ghost is a super-hot chilli that will blow your mind."

Burnsie describes himself as basically a tomato grower.

"I grow all varieties of tomatoes including many exotic and unusual varieties."

Each tomato tipping the scales at up to 500g Burnsie's crop of tomatoes this year is nothing compared to the one kilogram giants of previous years.

"This season I thought I might have a go at cucumbers."

Crystal Apple, Lebanese and Russian Giant cucumbers have all been grown from seed.

"I never expected to achieve a lot, so the results have been quite surprising."

"All three varieties have taken off like a rocket."

Russian Giant cucumbers are dark green with yellow stripes turning more yellow



**Rhyll gardener 'Burnsie' with his micro sized veggie patch. B02\_0925**

low when fully mature with leaves almost as big as a small pumpkin.

Burnsie's Russian Giant cucumbers measure 20 to 23cm long and 7 to 8cm wide.

"The Russian cucumbers decided to cross pollinate with the Crystal Apples," said Burnsie.

"Instead of nice tennis ball sized cucumbers I've ended up with pale skinned giants the shape of a football."

Ring tailed possums have forced Burnsie to double bag his cucumbers to stop the pesky critters chewing through to the fruit.

"The Russians grew so heavy they needed additional support."

Burnsie has also grown rosemary and parsley, butternut and golden nugget pumpkins, green capsciums, two varieties of rhubarb, passionfruit and dragon fruit.

"Every day I'm in the garden watering the plants and feeding our wild birds and magpies," said Burnsie.

"The magpies are part of the family."

"Without watering the garden would dry out in a matter of days."

Burnsie plants his seeds in May.

"I use heat mats and LED lights to mimic daylight."

Around June or July, the seedlings are transferred outside to the green house.

Everything is grown from seed, no gifted or store bought seedlings for this garden.

Plant hygiene is very important to Burnsie.

"I don't use fertiliser or chemical sprays."

Before planting Burnsie puts turmeric in the soil along with egg shells, garlic powder, potato starch and horse manure.

"I dig in 120kg of horse manure in April," Burnsie revealed.

Turmeric and garlic are anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agents.

No liquid fertiliser is used other than Burnsie's own banana skin home brew.

"Chop up banana skins, cover with cold water and allow banana skins to ferment in a bucket for three to four days until the water turns brown."

"It provides a rich source of potassium and phosphorus," said Burnsie.

Another suggestion from Burnsie is to use raw oats soaked in water or water drained and cooled from cooking pasta.

Burnsie is happy to share his gardening tips and tricks.

Each year on Cup Day weekend Burnsie sells chilli, pumpkin and tomato seedlings at a garage sale at the Phillip Island Senior Citizens Club.

Welshpool & District  
Horticultural Society Inc.  
64th AUTUMN SHOW - 2025



Friday, March 7 • 1:30pm - 5pm  
Official Opening at 2pm

Saturday, March 8 • 10am - 4pm

Welshpool Memorial Hall, South Gippsland Hwy, Victoria  
Admission \$5, Children free, Cash Only  
Plants for sale from onsite Club Nursery

Show Secretary - Frances Grylls 0481 385 122  
Assistant Show Secretary - Prue Fleming 0418 775 717  
Email: pruefleming@bigpond.com  
Entries Notified to Prue by 6pm Wednesday, March 5

## Bass Coast Landcare river garden growing strong

THE BASS Coast Landcare Network River Garden has been taking shape next to the Bass River bridge as you drive down the Bass highway, just in the paddock below the Landcare office.

The River Garden community site is a space for the community to gather, learn and grow healthy food using regenerative growing techniques.

This space has been conceived as a co-creation with the local community and everyone is invited to participate.

To date a 'water-wise'

orchard on a gentle slope in the north-west corner of the site has been planted, as well as a series of swale beds on the slope, including a kitchen garden demonstration and espaliered heritage fruit trees, a nut-tree to the southwest, and a berry trellis.

A range of different raised garden beds and wicking beds for annual vegetables have also been installed.

As the summer kicks on and with temperatures ramping up again across the weekend, the summer veggies in the River Garden are growing strong

and plants left for seed collection are slowly drying, ready to be collected in the coming months.

BCLN are also planning to bring back the monthly River Garden blitz sessions this year, with speakers on all sorts of interesting and seasonally relevant topics, with help from funding following the successful Public Fund Landcare art show last year.

For more information or if you'd like to learn about any part of the River Garden contact Lisa at lisa.wangman@basscoastlandcare.org.au.



# SJD Homes throws support behind police youth initiatives

A STRONG ongoing relationship has been formed over the last six months between Wonthaggi's Proactive Policing Unit (PPU) and SJD Homes, the building company throwing its support behind police programs for youth.

That is consistent with SJD's emphasis on supporting the communities in which it builds, that philosophy being important to the organisation's Principal Simon Dunstan.

The connection between the PPU and SJD sprang up through the friendship of Leading Senior Constable Nick Carlson and SJD's Construction Manager Kim O'Connor.

With the current focus on youth crime, Nick outlined what the PPU does to encourage young people to become involved in positive interests.

"We refer people to different support services or get them engaging in community activities; it might be sports teams or any activity to divert their attention away from what they're getting up to," he said.

"We need a lot of resourcing and help in that area to get kids into these activities and away from the streets and the crime and poor behaviour that we're all going through with young people."

The PPU does a lot of presentations at local schools on issues such as social media, knife crime, road trauma, sexing and consent.

Nick noted SJD has been



Senior Constable Megan Krause and Leading Senior Constable Nick Carlson of the Bass Coast Proactive Policing Unit with members of the community and charity committee of SJD Homes.

happy to come on board and help provide required resourcing.

"We figured we could align ourselves with proactive policing," SJD's Kim said, explaining those in charge of the business continue to chat with representatives of the PPU to establish what they need to run their programs and activities.

Young people in need of support are brought to the attention of those at the PPU through various organisations, including child protection services and often schools.

New ideas continue to arise in the PPU for youth-focused activities.

"We've been looking at social activities, adventure therapy activities, where we need funding, resourcing and equipment," Nick said.

SJD is keen to help in various ways, whether financial or otherwise.

Its support so far has included funding for educational material such as 'drink driving glasses' that give young people an understanding of how being impaired by alcohol affects their abilities.

The partnership has also provided promotional material to help the PPU run its programs.

A recent visit by members of the PPU to SJD's base in

Officer was productive, with the police discussing initiatives they are keen to introduce.

"It's an ongoing relationship and one we're excited to be part of and are looking forward to being further involved into the future," Kim said.

SJD has four display homes in Wonthaggi and others elsewhere, the business having been voted the HIA number one major builder in Victoria for 2024, something that has propelled it to greater success.

Those at the PPU are appreciative that success is aiding its youth programs, those programs certain to benefit youth in need and the region's broader communities.

## Urgent call for recruitment to end police staffing crisis

THE Nationals' Melina Bath has called on the State Government to urgently fund a recruitment drive to address the drain of police officers away from the force.

Ms Bath called for action in state parliament, citing Victoria's alarming attrition rate of 5.5 per cent, which is significantly higher than the 3 per cent deemed acceptable by The Police Association.

"In our 18,000 strong force, there are 1100 vacancies and 700 members on long term sick leave.

"Under the State Government there is a negative flow of uniform officers, more are leaving the force than graduating from the academy.

"A workload imbalance and the protracted EBA pay dispute has caused severe staffing shortages, impacting the ability of police to tackle the spiralling crime rate.

"Regional police officers are regularly called upon to backfill staff shortages in metropolitan Melbourne, further stretching resources in country Victoria."

Over the past decade crime rates in eastern Victoria have surged - assault is up 23.5 per cent, residential aggravated burglary up 210 per cent, motor vehicle theft up 108 per cent, justice procedures up 72 per cent, and family violence and harassment up 51 per cent.

Ms Bath said there must be a focus on retaining and recruiting police members who are willing to serve in regional communities where their presence is desperately needed.

"Despite the ongoing challenges Victoria Police members continue to perform incredible work at significant personal risk, their dedication and bravery deserves our gratitude and support.

"In addition to solving the pay dispute, the State Government must invest in the recruitment of police officers to bolster the workforce in the regions."

"Our safety and security depends on a well-resourced and adequately staffed police force."



## Saturday, March 8

9am - 6pm

### Korumburra Showgrounds

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\* Family : 2 adults, 2 children (3-16)

www.southgippslandgarlicfestival.au





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## Monash AI speeds up Microplastics detection

MONASH researchers have developed a ground-breaking artificial intelligence (AI) program to assist scientists in the global fight against the scourge of environmental microplastics.

Despite making headlines in recent years, a lot of scientists and policy-makers still don't know about the scale of the issue, including exactly what kind of microplastics are out there and where they are ending up.

The program developed by Monash uses sophisticated machine learning algorithms to analyse thousands of samples in fractions of a second – a process that can take months for humans – to gain a crucial understanding of where and how we need to act.

It's not as simple as putting the sample under a microscope, because appearance alone can be misleading.

For example, natural materials like tiny pieces of seashells can often look like microplastics.

The new algorithm instead uses the chemical components that make up those materials to identify characteristic 'signatures' (complex numerical figures, many thousands of characters long) that can accurately identify known microplastic types, using data from a process called Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR).

Crucially, the program is the first in the world capable of analysing a library of microplastics 'signatures', something desperately needed by researchers grappling with the mammoth task of addressing the issue.

The breakthrough was pioneered by lead researcher Frithjof Herb, a Monash University PhD candidate, and supervisor Dr Khay Fong, Senior Lecturer in the Monash School of Chemistry.

"This is a very important first step in finding ways that we can clean up these damaging microplastics and find ways to prevent them from entering environmental waterways in the first place."

## Affordable energy now, not in decades

POLICYMAKERS must back the most affordable energy options after the Clean Energy Council survey revealed nearly 70 per cent of Australians support the development of new renewable energy projects.

There is a strong public demand for affordable and sustainable energy solutions, with this new research confirming what Australians for Affordable Energy (AFAE) has maintained: Australians want affordable, reliable and clean energy.

AFAE spokesperson Jo Dodds said: "It's no surprise to anyone paying bills or buying groceries that this research again shows the majority of Australians view the cost of living as their top priority. Energy prices are one of their top three concerns. The good news is, from everything we've seen, renewables are the cheapest option, and we have them today.

"Every dollar we invest in renewables today is a dollar that helps bring down power bills and protect households from bill shock tomorrow. We've looked closely at this and it's clear - the other clean option, nuclear, will cost more and will take decades to deliver. Which means it's not really an option for Australia at all.

"Australians can't afford to waste time and money on a fuzzy promise of nuclear energy. Every year we delay the renewable transition is another year of higher bills and greater emissions. Why pay more for power when renewables can deliver cheaper energy today?

"We must put affordability first. Any energy policy that doesn't prioritise affordability today is out of touch with what voters actually want."

Australians for Affordable Energy is urging policymakers to focus on practical, cost-effective energy solutions that can deliver cleaner, more affordable power right now—not in decades.



Members of the crew that turned up at the Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club on Sunday collecting 15 bags of beach and carpark rubbish on Clean Up Australia Day.

# Keeping our beaches cleaner

THE good news is that our beaches continued to look better than they have in the past ahead of Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, March 3.

The bad news is that the clean-up crew which walked the beaches and carparks at Venus Bay on the day still managed to collect 15 bags of rubbish.

"The weather was against us,

but we still had 12 people out there cleaning up today," said active Venus Bay Surf Lifesaving Club member, Scott Cameron who co-ordinated the event.

"Two of them walked all the way through from Number 5 Beach to Number 1 Beach picking up rubbish.

"Each year the beaches keep getting better, which is great,

but we still picked up 15 bags of rubbish, a lot of it in an around the carparks.

"One of the main things we see are baby wipes and hand wipes, but also lolly and ice cream wrappers and food rubbish.

"But since we started in 2012, the beaches have continued to get better and that's a good thing to see."

Ironically, the rain was on and off most of the morning, only clearing up when the work was done.

"We all got wet through. We'll go and get changed and have a coffee but it's satisfying to have had a good result," said Scott.

Eastern Victoria MLC Melina Bath was one of the people who turned out to support the day.

## Researchers track Cape Barren Geese with GPS

HALFWAY through a five-year wildlife plan for Phillip Island (Mollw) critical changes have been discovered to wildlife populations such as Cape Barren Geese.

A survey in November last year counted 3120 geese on Phillip Island and 990 geese on French Island.

PhD researchers from the University of Melbourne connected 100 GPS loggers to Cape Barren Geese in order to better understand the dispersal patterns and movements of the geese.

Another 200 numbered plastic collars will be attached this year. Cape Barren Geese have been shown to have a preference for specific paddocks to graze, often returning to the same locations on multiple occasions.

Geese flocks from the Summerland Peninsula and Fishers Wetland have been shown to have dispersed and moved to paddocks off Phillip Island highlighting significant dispersal of geese during the non-breeding season.

Further investigations over the next two years into the



Cape Barren Geese on Phillip Island are being fitted with numbered plastic collars. B05\_0925

migratory and territorial behaviour of Cape Barren Geese will help clarify their seasonal use of breeding and feeding grounds.

If uncontrolled the Cape Barren Geese population is predicted to continue to increase.

Surveys of swamp wallabies conducted on the Summerland Peninsula revealed an increase in numbers from 749 recorded in the last census ten years ago,

to currently 1,227 with densities increasing from two to three individuals per hectare.

Surveys of common brushtail possums on the Summerland Peninsula in June last year revealed a density of 2.3 possums per hectare indicating that possums are highly abundant even in open habitats.

Several sites on Phillip Island have been exposed to high levels

of browsing pressure leading to degradation of seabird habitat including erosion and collapse of burrows.

Preliminary results of trials to evaluate commercially available deterrents and exclusion strategies to reduce browsing pressure on native vegetation have indicated current deterrents are ineffective at reducing the impact of browsing from Cape Barren Geese and wallabies.

Exclusion fencing to protect six hectares of eucalypt plantations on Phillip Island has proven extremely effective at safeguarding koala browse against the impacts of possums and wallabies.

While extremely effective at protecting vegetation the high cost of fence construction may exclude this type of fencing from broader application.

DEECA, Nature Parks and BLCAC are currently in discussion over trials of egg management for Cape Barren Geese.

The Phillip Island (Mollw) Wildlife Plan can be found at [vic.gov.au/our-wildlife/phillip-island-mollw-wildlife-plan](http://vic.gov.au/our-wildlife/phillip-island-mollw-wildlife-plan)

## Gippsland firewood collection areas opened on March 1

VICTORIANS will be able to collect free firewood for personal use from designated state forest firewood collection areas from March 1, 2025.

This autumn, there are 72 firewood collection areas available across the Gippsland region.

Most collection areas in Gippsland provide only low quantities of firewood from natural fall, so early collection is recommended.

The autumn firewood season ends on June 30, 2025.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

(DEECA) Director Forest and Fire Operations Gippsland, Sam Quigley, urged collectors to play it safe and check local weather conditions as well as their planned route before heading into the forest.

"When collecting, please drive only on formed roads, be aware of the environment around you and the safety of yourself and others as trees may fall or drop limbs without warning," he said.

People can collect up to two cubic metres per person per day with a maximum of 16 cubic metres per household per financial year.

Mr Quigley encouraged people who rely on firewood for heating and cooking to plan for their needs early.

Within designated collection areas, collectors can collect and cut wood that is on the ground due to natural fall or forest and fire management works. Heavy penalties apply to anyone who cuts down a tree, living or dead. Vehicles must not leave formed roads or tracks.

Authorised Officers can issue fines of more than \$769 to those caught breaking the firewood collection rules.

More serious offending can result in maximum penalties

of \$9,879 and/or 12 months in prison.

Community members can find out more about collecting firewood and report any suspected illegal firewood collection by calling 136 186.

Financial assistance is available for people on low incomes who need to buy firewood: [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/energy-concession-and-support).

For locations of your local collection area and information about collecting firewood here: [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/firewood/firewood-collection-in-your-region).



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7  
SEATER

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AWAY

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SUV SN: L101294



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double cab SN: L101273



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## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY TURNING COMMITMENTS INTO ACTION

This day and every day we acknowledge, reflect, honour and celebrate the contributions and achievements of women and girls in our family, our community, our society.

It's a day to galvanise our collective efforts to *march on* gender equality.

The Allan Labor government has an unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for women and girls, our Gender Equality Strategy and Australia's first ever Gender Equality Act is about action + outcomes with 110 of them being delivered across government over the next three years as a start.

We continue to invest in programs + services to increase participation, create pathways, opportunities, supports, scholarships, mentoring in e.g STEM, construction, energy, manufacturing, technologies, sport, media, business, leadership, parity on boards and in our courts.

Our *Change our Game* initiative is leveling the playing field for women and girls in sport and recreation, *Making it Equal* is attracting and retaining more women working in manufacturing and investment in public art sees more inspirational women acknowledged, celebrated and visible.

Australia's first ever Women's Pain Inquiry underway, Free pads + tampons in state schools and public places, big systemic reforms like *Best Start – Best Life*, and recently we announced a Virtual Women's Health Clinic opening mid year further to the rollout of twenty women's health clinics across Victoria.

Change is happening - always more to do.

*Thank you to all the amazingly wonderful, kind, generous, spirited and supportive people walking this journey with us.*

### WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Joanna O'Reilly Stubbs, Alisha Hill Melanie Wright and Emily Scott (pic) are amongst the many inspiring, exceptional and talented women volunteering in leadership roles in our local community.

We have a suite of programs supporting women of all ages and backgrounds on their pathway to success. [vic.gov.au/our-womens-leadership-programs](https://vic.gov.au/our-womens-leadership-programs)

Victorian Honour Roll of Women nominations are also open until 16 March. [vic.gov.au/honour-roll-women](https://vic.gov.au/honour-roll-women)

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**jordan  
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T 03 5672 4755 [f](https://www.facebook.com/JordanCrugnaleMP) JordanCrugnaleMP  
9 McBride Avenue Wonthaggi VIC 3995



# International Women's Day

Saturday, March 8, 2025

## International Women's Day a time to celebrate and reflect

WHILE seeing International Women's Day as an opportunity to celebrate women and everything they have achieved, candidate for the Federal Seat of Monash Deb Leonard said it also offers a chance to reflect on areas where gender imbalance is still an issue.

"It's a time to remember that women are still very much the target of gender violence and there are high family violence rates across Gippsland," Deb said.

She noted a pay imbalance still exists, with women also disadvantaged in terms of opportunities for leadership positions.

"They're all things we've made a lot of progress on over the last few decades but there is still more work to be done," Deb stressed.

She looks forward to celebrating International Women's Day a little early at the Bass Coast Shire Council lunch at the Inverloch Resort on Friday March 7, Saturday March 8 being the official day.

Deb will mark the occasion by giving a shout out to all the "women-led businesses and organisations" around the Monash electorate.



**Deb Leonard, pictured with her sister Kate, is looking forward to International Women's Day but feels there is still work to be done.** A02\_4624

She'd love to see a stronger representation of women in politics, believing they bring different perspectives and problem-solving ideas, encouraging those women considering a move into the field to jump right in.

Deb is also an advocate of the importance of women participating in sport and the need to provide appropriate facilities to encourage them to do so.

"There are football netball clubs across the electorate that don't have female changerooms, which

in this day and age is unfathomable," she declared, adding that councils and clubs have been crying out for funding to build female-friendly facilities.

Deb observed that old-fashioned views also impact men, highlighting the lack of baby change facilities in men's public amenities as an example, despite the role many men now play as primary home maker and parent.

But that's a discussion for another day, with women set to occupy the spotlight on March 8.

## Women in South Gippsland Council

**By Deputy Mayor,  
Cr. Sarah Gilligan**

IWD started 119 years ago with the purpose of celebrating and fighting for gender equality. Every day we consciously and unconsciously witness violations of women's rights, discrimination based on gender, and a lack of women's representation in positions of power.

South Gippsland has always had reasonably strong female representation on council (go us!) even so we currently have 33.3% female councillors representing 50.6% of South Gippsland. In 8 councils around Victoria there is a single female councillor, Australia still has a long way to go to achieve true a truly representative democracy.

So why is it important to strive for gender equality?

If the gender employment gap closed? Australia's GDP would increase by 11%. The Australian economy would gain \$8 billion if women transitioned from tertiary education into the workforce at the same rate as men. Family violence, with the overwhelming majority of FV victims being women, costs the Victorian economy more than \$3.4 billion a year and takes up 40% of police work. Women



**Women in South Gippsland Shire Council Cr Bron Beach, Cr Sarah Gilligan and Cr Clare Williams.**

do most of our unpaid care work and the unpaid care economy in Australia is nearly six times larger than the paid economy.

It's so important to have lived experiences of women visible and valued, to ensure their needs, and by default the unpaid care economy, are included in short and long term planning decisions. It's important for EVERYONE, not just young girls, to see women at decision making tables using their voices without fear, standing up as equally valued members of our society.

This IWD I'd like to celebrate the work of one woman in particular, Cr. Clare Williams. Clare is an inspiring busy mother of three and an exceptional councillor driving engagement in the youth space

and advocating for early years support. Over three and half years on council Clare has not only elevated the visibility of women in leadership locally, she is also the President of AL-GWA Victoria and spearheaded the 2025 Mentoring program for new female councillors across Victoria to connect with experienced past and present women.

Happy IWD to all the amazing women in South Gippsland but particularly my female colleagues, former councillors Mohya Davies and Jenni Keerie, Cr. Clare Williams and Cr. Bron Beach, I'm honoured to work with you all.

Go forth and make a woman feel valued today, it'll help the economy! Happy IWD.





# International Women's Day

Saturday, March 8, 2025

## Women of healthcare celebrated at BCH

BASS Coast Health (BCH) is acknowledging the contribution of women to public healthcare on International Women's Day on 8 March 2025.

With the day's theme being around creating a more gender equal world and accelerating action for doing so, four BCH staff talk about why healthcare is a rewarding career for women, their advice for young women in life and their career mentors.

Dr Carmen Brown, Clinical Director Women's Health

"Healthcare is a rewarding career for anyone, regardless of gender, age, race or ethnicity. That's what is so wonderful about taking care of others.

"To young women about to venture out in life, don't fall in the trap of thinking you must do everything to be successful. You will run yourself ragged trying to achieve the unattainable. Realistically, there are only 24 hours in a day. What you can do is prioritise what is important for you. You can be good at a lot of different things but you can choose where to focus your energy.

"I've had several mentors at different stages through my career. My inspiration for becoming an obstetrician/gynaecologist was the woman who delivered me! She literally pulled me out!

"Dr Juel Pate Borders was a dynamic and beautiful professional

who showed me how rewarding a career in Women's Health could be. What made her truly amazing is her activity in our community. Not only was she a great doctor but she was active in the community which inspired me more."

Trina Coxon, Learning and Development Co-Manager

"Healthcare is a rewarding career for women because it offers endless opportunities for career progression, agility and flexibility.

"For young women, I would suggest they actively seek guidance and support and take all opportunities that are offered.

"I have been fortunate to have many mentors throughout my career, the first being the Clinical Nurse Educator in the Emergency Department during my graduate year. I was in awe of the amount of knowledge and expertise they had but mostly they reminded me that we are all learning. We are all beginners at various stages of our careers."

Cat Bunn, Nurse Unit Manager, Emergency Department

"Healthcare is a field where passion meets purpose, offering the opportunity to drive meaningful change. While it can be extremely challenging at times, the rewards are immense. Over time, I've come to learn that with determination and sometimes a great deal of patience, you can achieve the goals you've set for yourself.

"In healthcare, there are countless ways to make an impact, and each individual contributes their unique perspective and innovative ideas. The diversity of roles and approaches makes healthcare an inspiring and fulfilling career for those who are dedicated to making a difference.

"My advice to young women is to empower yourself to advocate for your beliefs and your needs. Life can be unpredictable, filled with challenges and emotional ups and downs, but you have the ability to create the life you envisage.

"The person I am today is deeply influenced by my incredible mother, whose resilience and success have inspired me in ways I can't fully put into words. I've also had the privilege of being mentored by a range of professionals, including strong, dedicated, and passionate CEOs, Operations Directors and Nurse Unit Managers.

"My mentors are inspirational because they show qualities of resilience, dedication and unwavering passion in what they do. They lead by example, teaching me the importance of staying true to one's values while adapting to challenges with confidence and determination."

Indyana Asbury, Executive Assistant

"Healthcare is a rewarding

career for women as it offers women an opportunity to make a positive impact within the community. These opportunities can encourage women to advocate for better patient care, work on public health initiatives or lead movements for more inclusive and equitable healthcare policies. This can also complement personal growth for women within their careers and allows them to continually expand their skills throughout their working life.

"My advice to young women would be to always stand up for yourself and to always advocate for what you deserve – whether it's respect, fair pay or equal opportunity. The more we encourage younger women to stand up for themselves, the more they can pave the way for other women to do it too.

"My career and life mentor is my mum. She's always shown dedication and commitment to her work within the healthcare sector, which means she has always served as a role model for me and showed me the importance of hard work, perseverance and making a difference in others' lives. She has also always been a powerful advocate for better care and have used her previous experiences to lead with empathy and drive positive change."



**Indyana Asbury, Executive Assistant at Bass Coast Health.**



**Cat Bunn, Nurse Unit Manager, Emergency Department at Bass Coast Health.**



**Dr Carmen Brown, Clinical Director Women's Health at Bass Coast Health.**

## Gippsland Southern Health Service highlights how women lead the way

GIPPSLAND Southern Health Service (GSHS) is using International Women's Day on March 8 to put the spotlight on its female staff and to highlight how women help to lead the health service.

With 71 per cent of its leadership positions held by women, GSHS stands ahead of the national average. It is estimated that despite 90 per cent of front-line healthcare workers globally being women, just 25 per cent of leadership roles in health are held by women. In Australia, women make up 75 per cent of the healthcare workforce but take only 25 per cent of leadership positions.

Among the leadership positions, three of GSHS's five-person

executive team are women, CEO Lou Sparkes, Executive Director of Medical Services Angela Williams and Executive Director of Clinical Services, Jenny Dempster.

Ms Sparkes said having women's voices in management discussions was vital to any health service, and she hopes to lead the way for more women to take on leadership roles.

"One of the important opportunities I have as a leader is to support women as they are developing their careers," she said. "Sometimes women need flexibility around how they work and, in my role, I strive to provide opportunities that will help them to become leaders in the future."

Ms Sparkes said GSHS was

fortunate to have the expertise, vision, and dedication of team leaders across the organisation. "Having women in key leadership roles is part of ensuring a holistic, patient-centred approach," she said.

However, Ms Sparkes added that all positions must be merit based and that both men and women bring expertise to leadership roles.

"Women bring a different view which is very valuable, but men also provide a valuable view and we need all different perspectives," Ms Sparkes said.

"We're lucky at GSHS to have a terrific team of leaders dedicated to providing safe care to our community."



**Seventy one per cent of GSHS leadership positions are held by women, including Vicki Riley, Angela Williams, Lou Sparkes and Kate Ginnivan.**

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## March Forward turning promises into progress

At Westernport Water we work hard to turn our commitments into action, driving change to ensure a truly equal future for all women and girls.

**We acknowledge and celebrate all women who work in water.**







# International Women's Day

Saturday, March 8, 2025

## Natalie rises to success in real estate

NATALIE Res has been with Elders Real Estate since 2021 as a Sales Support officer for the Leongatha Branch. Mid last year saw a change in Nat's role within Elders to Property Manager, where her ability to connect and understand others while thriving on a challenge within a great team are the keys to her success.

Natalie began her career in real estate over thirty years ago in Kalgoorlie, WA supporting sales and rentals staff in an administration role. On her return to Perth, she still stayed within the real estate profession until the arrival of her first daughter.

For many years Natalie enjoyed being a stay-at-home mum raising her three girls and being an active member of their school, sporting and social communities. Life was busy.

After a major turn of events Natalie and her daughters moved from Western Australia to South Gippsland to be close to family, while facing challenging times both professionally and personally. While trying to navigate entering back into the workforce Natalie stated that "I think personally the biggest challenge was competing with people much younger than I, it certainly did not help my emotions or confidence"

Having a good support network of family and friends close by and spades of resilience helped move Natalie through the tough times. The commencement of full-time employment while studying a business course and real estate course online saw her begin to thrive once again in the real estate business.

"I have had a fantastic support network while facing incredible challenges



**Natalie Res, Property Manager with Elders Real Estate motto is to challenge yourself and to challenge others around you, in order to make a difference.**

personally and professionally which guided me to where I am today. I have found my little niche."

Being a Property Manager with Elders is a career which Natalie finds she loves, previous life challenges have assisted her to connect with others in a naturally meaningful and engaging way "I am lucky I get to deal with people from all walks of life, and I work closely with rental providers, as well as the renters and farmers to get the best possible outcome for their investments."

"I think empathy and being able to understand what others are dealing with is important to be able to negotiate the best possible outcome for all concerned."

What advice would Natalie give to other women in business?

"My motto is challenge; to challenge yourself and to challenge others around you, in order to make a difference."



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## One hundred women and girls to sing at the Union Theatre

In just a few weeks' time one hundred local women and girls will come together to sing new music written by Australian female composers.

100 Women 100 Stories is coming to the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre as part of the Bass Coast Council's International Women's Day celebration.

The work is a creation of conductor and community alchemist Danielle O'Keefe with her company The House that Dan Built.

During the 2020 lockdowns The House That Dan Built gave 100 women from around Australia an opportunity to reflect on and share their personal stories.

Six female composers were chosen to weave their stories into a 60 minute song cycle 100 Women 100 Stories.

O'Keefe has an obvious passion for bringing women together through music.

She is the founder and CEO of The House that Dan Built a small Sydney arts organisation dedicated to creating professional opportunities for female musicians and composers and teaching girls to play and write music from a young age.

Wonthaggi's Union Theatre will be the third venue to host this heart-warming new work following its development in Deniliquin, NSW.

The music premiered in Sydney in 2023 and travelled to Melbourne just a few weeks ago.

The callout for 100 women to come together to sing at the Union Theatre has generated an amazing response according to Jenny Churchill community liaison for The House that Dan Built in Wonthaggi.



**Danielle O'Keefe Founder and CEO of The House that Dan Built speaking to women preparing to sing at Wonthaggi's Union Theatre. B01\_0925**

"The 100 women on stage will be joined by a girls choir and together they will bring stories and music to life in a beautiful performance that has moved audiences to tears and laughter," said Ms Churchill.

Invited to speak at Myli Wonthaggi Community Library Danielle O'Keefe was enthusiastic about her artistic journey from Deniliquin to the Bass Coast.

"When I started in Deniliquin we only had 40 women and not all of them could sing."

Beginning her career as a performer and vocalist 18 years ago Danielle's work with young female singers has been recognised and awarded internationally.

Consistently confounding contemporary expectations of what young women can sound like Danielle has in recent years honed her leadership skills and established a reputation as one of the country's leading youth arts creators.

A trained conductor, Danielle finished her

studies in 2003 in London returning to Sydney to conduct the Australian Youth Choir (AYC) and held that post until 2012 when she left to adventure the great Australian Outback as the Artistic Director of Outback Theatre for Young People.

Danielle is a sought after artist having worked with companies such as the Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP), Sydney Chamber Opera (SCO), The Australian Institute of Performing Arts (AIPA), Brent Street and PACT to create exciting works for and with young people.

Supported by Bass Coast Council, Westernport Water, Phillip Island Nature Parks and Bass Coast-Health 100 Women 100 Stories will be performed at the Union Theatre in Wonthaggi on Sunday March 16.

For bookings go to [basscoast.vic.gov.au/100-women-100-stories-wonthaggi](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au/100-women-100-stories-wonthaggi)

More information on The House that Dan Built can be found at [thehousethatdanbuilt.com](http://thehousethatdanbuilt.com)



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# International Women's Day

Saturday, March 8, 2025

## Professional health care for the whole family at Balance Health

BALANCE Health is Phillip Island's leading and award-winning allied healthcare group providing friendly, professional care for the whole family.

Balance Health was established in 2020 and has grown to employ 18 staff.

Kara Cassells the owner of Balance Health celebrates this International Women's Day highlighting the incredible women who make Balance Health Phillip Island a trusted place for health and wellness.

"At Balance Health we are committed to empowering women by offering a comprehensive range of services within a thriving workplace where we are all supported to prosper and achieve our own goals," said Kara.

The women who work at Balance Health are champions of health, wellness, and community support.

Celebrating the resilience and dedication of these women on International Women's Day Kara Cassells would like to shine a light on the incredible impact they make in the lives of those they care for within the community.

"Women experience unique health challenges at various stages of life.

"Balance Health offers tailored services such as prenatal and



Kara Cassells, Lyn Janssen, Casey Cleeland, Debbie Norris, Jo Furniss, Kristine Miles, Lisa Prendergast and Maddy Thorpe from Balance Health Phillip Island. B17\_0925

postnatal care, pelvic health support, and menopause management to ensure every woman is supported on her wellness journey."

Casey Cleeland and Kristine Miles, senior physiotherapists both have further training in pelvic health and lactation support.

They specialise in pelvic floor disorders such as prolapse,

pregnancy related conditions, pelvic pain, endometriosis, and the treatment of mastitis.

Casey is passionate about supporting mums to return to sport and exercise and Kristine is an accredited lactation consultant.

Christina Laws is another senior physiotherapist, and her talent lies in treating conditions involving the pelvis and spine

using gentle muscle energy techniques, soft tissue releases, dry needling, targeted exercise, and addressing abnormal lower limb biomechanics.

Senior osteopath Maddy Thorpe loves working in the neurological rehabilitation field, bringing a wealth of knowledge and empathy and fun to her sessions.

Maddy believes rehabilitation

should be a source of joy and empowerment where clients gain strength, mobility, and confidence in their abilities.

"Our myotherapy and massage therapists Nicole Murphy, Helen Tavakkoli, Kim Parsons and Beck Gooderham have extensive remedial massage and myotherapy experience treating a range of conditions such as post-injury dysfunction, headaches and migraines, lower back pain, soft tissue injuries and stress induced tension.

"They also provide pregnancy massage and support for pregnant women through all trimesters, each treatment being carefully tailored to offer pregnant mothers optimal comfort and safety.

"Alongside these wonderful women practitioners we have a wonderful administrative team and a bunch of supportive and knowledgeable male clinicians, Kevin James (advanced sports osteopath), George Leonardos, Tim Tracey and Sandeep Soni.

"Let's come together this International Women's Day to celebrate the strength empowerment, and health of women."

Visit Balance Health Phillip Island to find out more about our services and how we are helping women live their best lives every day.



*We strive for a diverse, equitable and inclusive workforce where difference is valued and celebrated.*

**Together, we can forge women's equality and #AccelerateAction this International Women's Day.**

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# International Women's Day

Saturday, March 8, 2025



**Christie Nelson property expert and keen advocate for women in business.**

## Finding the right balance between work and family

JUGGLING the demands of a blended family of six children and a thriving real estate business Christie Nelson from Christie Nelson Real Estate@reality knows how to get the balance right.

"I first began in the real estate business in the year 2000," said Ms Nelson.

After graduating from secondary school in Leongatha Christie turned to real estate armed with a good education, big heart, friendly smile, determination and a strong, professional work ethic.

Using her broad local knowledge of Gippsland Christie's property portfolio covers Leongatha, Koonwarra, Meeniyan, Korumburra and everywhere in between.

Christie appreciates the lifestyle and variety of landscapes that South Gippsland has to offer and can't imagine bringing up children anywhere else.

An enthusiastic supporter of the Southern Business Women's Network Christie is committed to providing connections and opportunities for aspiring and established business owners and industry professionals in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland regions.

The Southern Business Women's Network is a membership-based women's

network, run by women for women.

"We pride ourselves on being a welcoming, fun and diverse group of business women from a wide variety of professions and ages."

Balancing work, family, friends, and community commitments this committed group of women come together for events, workshops and training sessions and stay in touch using social media channels.

Christie prides herself on her professionalism, effective, regular communication with all clients, up-to-date technology platforms, innovative marketing campaigns, effective use of social media and a long-burning enthusiasm for the real estate industry.

Currently Vice President of the Leongatha Business Association, Past President of the Southern Business Women's Network, volunteer and participant of Koonwarra Parkrun and an alumni of the South Gippsland Shire Community Leadership Program, Christie Nelson has a busy schedule.

Christie Nelson Real Estate can be found at 52A Bair Street, Leongatha, Facebook and Instagram, or go to [christienelsonrealestate.com.au](http://christienelsonrealestate.com.au)

## New services set to expand women's healthcare options

DR. JESSICA Holden and Dr. Carmen Brown are making significant strides in expanding access to specialised gynaecological and obstetrics care by working as independent practitioners in Cowes and Wonthaggi. While both continue their important work at Bass Coast Health (BCH) hospital, they are venturing into the private sector to offer a wider array of services that are not always readily available in the regional public healthcare system.

As independent practitioners working with Create Fertility, Dr. Holden and Dr. Brown will provide a comprehensive range of gynaecological services, with Dr. Holden particularly focused on in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), infertility treatments and menstrual disorders. These services, often crucial for couples facing fertility challenges, will now be available closer to home, saving patients from needing to travel to metropolitan Melbourne.

Dr. Holden, who will be consulting at Wonthaggi Medical Group and Grandview Medical Centre in Cowes, shared her passion for the new venture. "I'm excited to be able to offer IVF and other fertility services locally. Our goal is to make these



**Obstetrician and Gynaecologist Dr. Jessica Holden, providing expert care and services in Bass Coast.**

essential services more accessible, so people don't have to travel long distances for the care they need."

The introduction of these private services is particularly crucial as IVF treatments aren't available in the public healthcare system locally. "Access to IVF has been an ongoing challenge for many in regional areas, and having a local option will make a world of difference," said Dr. Holden. "It's not just about convenience, but about offering patients a personal, supportive experience

through their treatment journey.

"It's also important to understand that roughly a third of cases are of male factor; there may be sperm abnormalities, and or medical health issues that can be involved, so it's important in a fertility consultation that the male attends too, because there could be multiple factors involved."

Dr Holden and Dr. Brown will also work with BCH to provide patients with a shared care model for those women with moderate to high risk factors in pregnancy. This collaborative approach between the independent practitioners and the public system will ensure that women receive personalised care and support throughout their pregnancy.

"Women with complex conditions often face continuous travel for appointments, but this shared care can ensure they are supported locally in a timelier and coordinated way. It's about empowering women to have control over their health, and we are proud to offer this in a way that works in tandem with the public system," said Dr. Holden.

"Through an independent practitioner, women will be provided with that indefinite continuity of care."

## Speaker Kerry Vaughan to present at Meeniyan



**Kerry Vaughan an international speaker and author, facilitator, and podcast host who typically presents on courage, stepping up, embracing failure, creating a better world and standing in your truth, will be at Meeniyan this week.**

MARCHING forward in life often requires a lot of courage and resilience, especially for women. But when we find that thing that drives us, we are unstoppable.

What if we took a moment to reflect on the steps we can take, and the incredible potential waiting ahead when we dare to keep marching forward? This is both a celebration of progress made, and an invitation to imagine how far we can go when we march boldly into the future.

The Southern Womens Business Network with event sponsor South Gippsland Shire Council is hosting Kerry Vaughan an international speaker and author, facilitator, and podcast host. Kerry's award winning book 'Magnificent Kids!' was the catalyst to her founding the global organisation One Planet Classrooms,

which facilitates projects such as clean water solutions and student sponsorship program, to schools and communities in Africa.

In 2018 Kerry launched Girls With Hammers which is aimed at empowering and connecting women, and in 2019 Kerry released her second book 'Get Off The Bench!' and a podcast was formed to help people bring their ideas to life, after a number of false starts and a stint of despair.

Kerry typically talks about courage, stepping up, embracing failure, and standing in truth.

On March 6, 2025, 6:30 - 9:00pm at Trulli's, 82 Whitelaw St, Meeniyan. Women and men are welcome. Enjoy a delicious spread of lamb, fish and Italian desserts.

Tickets - \$55 Members, \$70 Non-Members or event + membership \$115



Christie Nelson  
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On Election Day, we're all voting for

# DebLeonard

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As a true Independent, Deb doesn't answer to a political party, she represents our community. That means her policies come directly from us! **You can subscribe to her newsletter, sign up to help volunteer or donate at [debleonard.com.au](https://debleonard.com.au).**

Authorised by Deb Leonard, 40B&C Bair St, Leongatha 3953

Deb **Vote 1**  
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INDEPENDENT



# Gippsland PHN has published the Health Needs Assessment 2025-2028

GIPPSLAND Primary Health Network (PHN) has published the Gippsland PHN Health Needs Assessment 2025-2028.

The Health Needs Assessment (HNA) is an important resource that helps guide Gippsland PHN's work in funding services, strengthening the health system, and improving co-ordination.

By gathering the latest data and insights, it identifies key priorities in Gippsland's health system and supports planning for the future.

These priorities shape Gippsland PHN's work to enhance access, communication, and support for primary care services, ensuring resources are directed where they are needed most.

Data has been gathered from community members, health professionals, and those who use health services across the region through surveys, interviews, and workshops.

Individuals and organisations with diverse perspectives were engaged, including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities, people experiencing disadvantage, those in rural and remote areas, individuals with a disability, people from multicultural backgrounds, and LGB-TIQA+ individuals.

This ensured the process was inclusive and reflected the broad needs of the entire population.

This extensive community engagement helped identify 10 key priority areas that reflect the most pressing needs and challenges of the region:

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing, healthy ageing (people aged 65+), alcohol and other drugs, mental health and wellbeing, including suicide prevention, health workforce, connected care, growing up healthy (0-25 years), chronic conditions, family violence and access to primary health-care for marginalised communities.

The key priority areas have been condensed into concise chapter summaries, offering a clear snapshot of the information from the comprehensive full document. Some key insights from the summaries include:

- Approximately 20% of people in Gippsland report a current mental health condition; the highest prevalence was 39% for 16–24-year-olds.
- 65% of people with an alcohol and other drug diagnosis also had a mental health diagnosis in GP data.
- Childhood vaccination in Gippsland has decreased between 2018-19 and 2023-24.
- In the year ending March 2024, East Gippsland had the highest rate of family violence incidents in Victoria, followed by Latrobe with the second highest rate in the state.
- Diabetes is the leading cause of preventable hospital admissions for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people
- The rate of death from accidental falls in Gippsland is significantly higher than the Australian average (15.34 versus 8.3 per 100,00 population)
- All of Gippsland has a need for additional health workforce
- Four out of six Gippsland Local Government Areas have high rates of people categorised as overweight and/or obese compared to the Australian average
- Rates of use of Gippsland specialist homelessness services is more than double the national average

To access the full HNA document and the supporting chapter summaries for key priority areas, visit: <https://gphn.org.au/what-we-do/health-planning-research-and-evaluation/health-needs-assessment-2/>



Bass Coast College students interested in a future in sport visited Richmond Institute during the Year 12 tertiary camp.



Deakin was the first university on the itinerary for Bass Coast College recently.

## Camp offers insight into futures

BASS Coast College's Year 12 students hit the ground running at the start of 2025 with the annual Year 12 tertiary camp.

The camp gave the students the opportunity to explore their university options in Melbourne and immerse themselves in city life.

A cohort of 122 students visited more than 15 universities over the course of four days.

All the major universities were visited including Deakin, Monash, Melbourne Uni, RMIT, Vic Uni and ACU, and the students were also given the chance to split into interest groups to ensure the camp was properly tailored to all individuals.

Educational opportunities outside of universities were also in the itinerary, including Elly Lukas and William Angliss.

"It was really good to see some of the unis step up their

game in terms of what they were able to present to the kids because the students don't know what they don't know," student engagement principal Ross Bramley said.

"It was also wonderful to chat with the students about their futures. Quite a few of their ideas changed as the camp went on."

ACU proved to be a standout for many of the students.

The university had flown under the radar in terms of its promotion, but the students were impressed by what was offered during their visit.

During the nights, the students were given the chance to independently explore the city.

For some, this meant learning how to navigate public transport.

Students enjoyed hotspots including Lygon Street and Melbourne Central, and some chose to join in the local park-run in the morning.

They stayed in student accommodation at University College – another insight into what life might be like next year.

The camp helped the students feel more confident about their choices after high school.

"A lot of the universities talked about the support they offer, especially because we are rural. We are feeling more optimistic about the logistics and the help we will have when we move," Year 12 student Sarah Seuren said.

Moving forward, students will be looking out for scholarship applications for residential colleges, which are set to open in July.

Representatives of the colleges will visit the school later in the year, and the students have plans to attend open days in September and October.

"Some of our students have organised to go back to the

universities off their own their own bat, which is excellent to see," Mr Bramley said.

"Some students were offered university placements while we were on the camp."

Throughout the year, their focus will be on finishing their high school education while maintaining a good life balance and saving money.

The students thanked pathways coordinator Michael Owen for organising the camp.

"It is a major logistical project to get off the ground. Michael Owen did all the planning work and did an amazing job. I know how thankful the Year 12 cohort was for the work he put in. He basically spends 12 months planning it," Mr Bramley.

"He has already booked for next year – the planning has already started, just so we know our Year 12s are going to get the best possible experience."

## Start a new chapter with these tips to get you reading more

AUSTRALIANS want to read more in 2025, with around one in two readers and non-readers alike reporting aspirations to do it more often.

New research from Monash University and book industry initiative Australia Reads aims to help the 49.8 per cent of non-readers, and 54.9 per cent of those who have read in the past year, who want to read more.

Behavioural scientists at Monash's BehaviourWorks Australia have determined the best ways to overcome the barriers keeping people from reading.

Examining the attitudes, motivation and capability of readers, the research identified six types of readers, ranging from people who read voraciously to those who rarely or never read,

who each face distinct challenges.

Lead researcher Dr Breanna Wright, Monash BehaviourWorks Senior Research Fellow, said the decision to pick up a book and read might sound simple, but is the result of a complex sequence of behaviours.

"Many people lack time or struggle with distractions, but strategies such as setting reading goals, keeping books in visible places, and seeking out shorter books can help," Dr Wright said.

"For people who don't read frequently but want to read more, engaging with eBooks and audiobooks can make reading easier and create more opportunities to read.

"For those readers, we recommend using platforms and tools like book subscription services and social media or asking librarians or booksellers for personalised recommendations."

The research is based on a survey of 1622 Australians aged over 16 years.

It found only half of respondents regularly participate in reading as a recreational activity, compared with more than 80 per cent who watch movies and TV.

Of those who do read, only 17 per cent list it as the hobby they dedicate the most time to.

Head of Australia Reads Anna Burkey said recreational reading rates are in decline in Australia, with more people

finding it hard to find time to read for recreation.

"Despite the significant benefits that reading brings us personally and as a society, reading rates in Australia lag behind international standards," she said.

"This new research has valuable insights into how we can support more Australians to read more books more often and make reading a daily part of their busy lives.

"It also supports the many dedicated educators, librarians, publishers, booksellers and authors who champion reading for pleasure every day."

Australia Reads is a not-for-profit initiative of the Australian book industry to get more people reading.





Monash medical students - Kevin Nimalraj, Isla Shepherd, Margot Bettles, Stephanie O'May, Adam Holland, Sharon Nguyen.

# Monash students get a taste of GP life in South Gippsland

Six Monash University medical students are getting a taste of life as rural general practitioners in South Gippsland this semester. The students, supported by Monash Rural Health, complete 18-week general practice placements under the supervision of local GPs from Leongatha, Foster, Korumburra and Wonthaggi.

For student Margot Bettles, her placement at Foster Medical Centre provides the opportunity for a homecoming.

"I'm so excited to be back in my hometown, where I lived with my family around 10 years ago. I've already seen a lot of familiar faces and it's great to reconnect with the community.

The medical team at FMC is always happy to teach me new things and give me opportunities to practice my clinical skills and see patients!

I love my morning drive to Foster with a coffee in hand and looking out over the stunning hills of Wilson's Prom. It's such a beautiful part of the country."

During her placement, Margot will be exposed to different careers in general practice, including shadowing a GP Obstetrician at local hospitals. She looks forward to scrubbing into the theatre and seeing some gynaecological cases during placement, enabling her to test-drive her future

career aspirations.

"I'm hoping to return to South Gippsland one day as a GP with a special interest in obstetrics and gynaecology! I've always been passionate about improving women's healthcare, particularly in a regional setting."

The students will participate in wave or parallel consulting in their allocated General Practice - so patients may see medical students like Margot for part of their GP appointment, and then the supervising GP checks in to sign off on the consultation. Associate Professor Cathy Haigh, Director of Monash Rural Health Gippsland, explains this

practice is critical to their development as doctors.

"Parallel consulting allows our students to practice the core skills required to be a great GP - being empathetic listeners, building strong rapport and taking thorough histories from patients in a safe and supportive learning environment."

Cathy encourages locals to help welcome the students over the coming months.

"Please say hello and share your local knowledge if you meet our students at a GP clinic, or out in the community. We can truly showcase what's on offer here in South Gippsland, and inspire students to return in the future."

KORUMBURRA Round Table's (KRT) previous meeting was held on Thursday February 20, with Council representative Sophie Dixon and Councillor Bron Beach in attendance.

The issues discussed were:

- IGA new supermarket. Noted recent Facebook comments from IGA.
- Railway Station and progress regarding possible tenants.
- Sophie advised that the toilet block and rotunda behind Kelly's Bakery should be completed by early March and the skatepark works will shortly be going to tender. Also, Council has no plans for CCTV in the main street.
- The shelter in the carpark at Coal Creek that was severely damaged by storms will be rebuilt over the next few months as pending permits are approved.

Following transport and safety issues raised by acting Korumburra Secondary College Principal Naomi Coleman during drop-off and pick-up of students, Nigel Hutchinson Brookes has worked with Naomi to submit suggested speed restrictions around the school to the Department of Transport and Council.

Terry Waycott (President KRT) and Noelene Cosson recently met with Council's Mary Sullivan to discuss art works that have been approved for Korumburra following grant allocations. Included are a mural on the flower shop wall opposite the Melanie Caple mural and a mural in the arcade proposed on the site of the former Newsagency. Additionally, two sculptures are planned for the rail trail precinct.

Councillor Bron Beach spoke about the terrific public response to the 'Shaping South Gippsland' initiative that was a Shire wide engagement campaign with community pop-ups manned by Councillors and Council staff and online surveys.

Great to see the Circus in town for recent shows. Also on Saturday March 1 was the Korumburra Staying Strong group who launched their community focused resilience plan.

A huge event at the Korumburra Showgrounds on Saturday March 8 is the South Gippsland Garlic Festival with around 6,000 visitors expected.

Also Council will be having an official opening of the Korumburra Bena Football Netball Club change rooms facilities upgrades on Saturday March 22 commencing at 11am. Costs for these projects amounted to over \$2m.

Terry Waycott recently submitted a letter of support to the Korumburra Tennis Club as they embark on their quest to receive Council support (\$475k) and State Government support (\$1m) for the development of female friendly facilities in line with modern expectations. The proposed project would involve removing the existing club rooms and building new single storey compliant rooms.

Don't forget that Southern Lights is back this year on Saturday June 7 at Coal Creek. Save the date.

Terry wishes to also acknowledge the Men's Shed and Ladies Shed groups that provide a great outlet for their community members.

## More free kinder places set kids up for a lifetime of learning

VICTORIAN families are set to benefit from more Free Kinder places, thanks to the Victorian government's new Building Blocks partnership with Cardinia Shire Council.

On February 27 the Minister for Children Lizzie Blandthorn and Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale visited Lang Lang pre-school to announce the first project to be delivered under the partnership, which will deliver 64 more places for local families.

The \$3 million investment will build a brand new two-room kindergarten at Oxford Street, replacing the outdated facility on Whitstable Street. The new kindergarten will include an outdoor space and off-street parking.

The existing single-room kinder is an aged building that is at end of useful life. The service and provider will be relocated to this new facility, along with the Maternal Child Health service that currently leases a space elsewhere.

"Labor's focus on education is about more than just delivering the great spaces we know families want for their children - we're also easing cost of living pressure for families," said Minister Lizze Blandthorn.

Victorian families can save up to \$2,600 per child per year thanks to the Victorian government's investment in Free Kinder, with three-year-olds now able to enjoy at least



Bass MP Jordan Crugnale with Minister for Children, Lizzie Blandthorn MP and children Mykah, Arti, Harlow and Archie.

five hours of free kinder per week, increasing to 15 hours by 2029.

From 2025 to 2036, four-year-old kindergarten will transition to 'Pre-Prep' - doubling play-based learning for every four-year-old child in Victoria to 30 hours a week.

Through our nation-leading \$14 billion Best Start, Best Life reforms, the Victorian government is transforming early childhood education to help children thrive, save families money, and support parents and carers to return to work or study if they choose.

The Victorian government are also giving a free Kinder Kit to every child starting three-year-old kindergarten. "The free kinder kits are filled with toys, craft materials and gorgeous stories by Australian authors and illustrators. What's great is that this ensures all these kinder kids across Victoria go home with backpack, ready to spark their imaginations and love for learning."

The Kinder Kits also ensure that every child, no matter their background, has access to fun, engaging, and educational tools that support their

development.

Since 2022, the Victorian government has given 227,000 families Kinder Kits, with engaging activities that set them up for a lifetime of learning.

They can be used anywhere whether it's at home, the park or brought along to visits with friends and family.

With the cost of living rising, many parents are forced to make tough choices about where their money goes. Families have enough to worry about, and the cost of early learning materials shouldn't be one of them.



## Sentinel-Times COMMENT

### Surely, this offset credits scheme is a rort?

IN A COMMENT piece in the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times in December last year, just after the dangerous Gurdies Bushfire incident, we highlighted the fact that the Bass Coast Shire Council was being paid \$1.1 million annually to offset vegetation lost and emissions created on three VicRoads projects.

We asked if the Bass Coast Shire Council should be in the land management business, in relation to its Gurdies bush reserve, if it wasn't managing the area properly.

Apparently, they are managing the land and undertaking the required maintenance on firebreaks and the like.

Effectively, however, it was one government department paying another government department \$1.1 million annually for bushland that was already there, and unlikely to be cleared, to stay there in perpetuity.

That's \$1.1 million for just 52.2 hectares of land, every year since 2019, so what's that? More than \$6 million by now for a block of land the government could have purchased outright for little more than one year's payment. A rort surely!

The issue was also raised during question time at last month's council meeting by regular correspondent Gina Rosamilia, with CEO Greg Box notifying the community that the scheme had actually commenced in 2014. The offset credits funding, he said, created an obligation on Council to deliver works in accordance with set conditions. Whatever is left over after goes into the shire's general revenue. A "nice little earner", as they say.

But how many of these carbon credit purchase schemes is the cash-strapped state government paying for "in perpetuity" to offset vegetation lost and emissions created on roads and other projects while saddling the state treasury with permanent debt?

The problem being that while this adds to the level of so-called non-discretionary spending, necessities like fisheries enforcement officers, coastal erosion response and even basic things like new speed restriction signs are crowded out of the state budget.

Surely, a review of how much the state government is spending on offset credits is in order, Minister Symes?

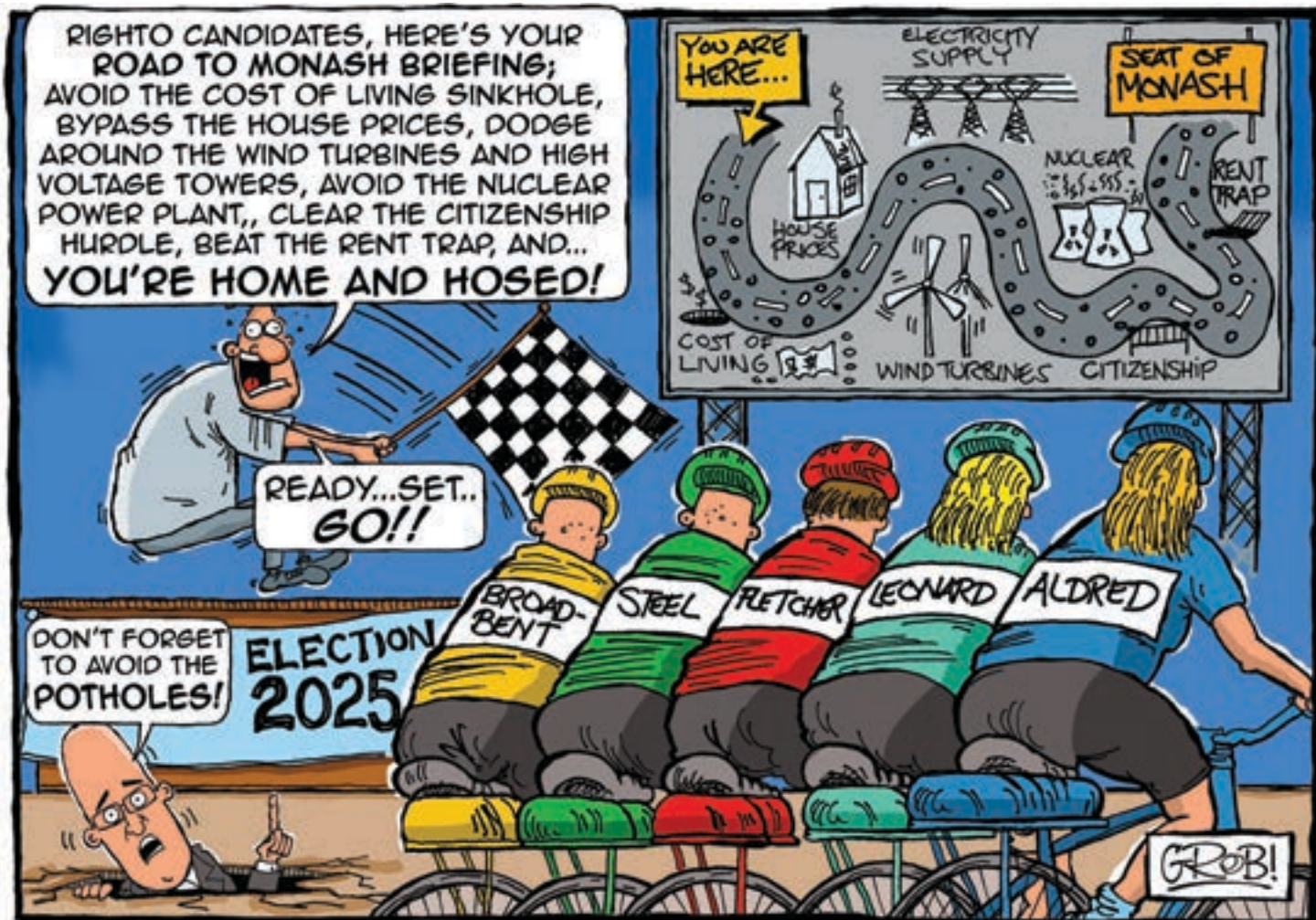
Not that I'm advocating for an effective cut to Bass Coast revenue. It's high time both the state and federal government reformed funding for local government, especially reviewing the unfair hit to the owners of homes and other property in regional areas. Haven't heard anything about that from the candidates yet.

### Here for dementia

In 2025, there are an estimated 110,600 people living with dementia in Victoria and without a significant intervention, this is expected to increase to an estimated 216,400 by 2054.

That's why Dementia Australia is leading a call for a national conversation on dementia and brain health to raise community awareness of dementia, combined with more targeted and effective supports for people impacted by dementia.

Taking this dual approach will ensure we are working towards reducing the impact of all forms of dementia.



Cartoon by Glenn 'Grob' Robinson.

### Choice between Trump and Deb Leonard

I know many local people who can no longer watch television news and have stopped reading the daily papers due to the distress caused by an inevitable story about Donald Trump. The president will lie, he attempts to rewrite history, seeks to close down scientific research, deport people who rightfully call US home, withdraw from the Paris agreement and more.

In the coming federal election, we have the chance to demonstrate that Australia does not need a style of politics characterised by lies, denial of science and social division.

The major parties are both beholden to lobbyists for whom financial gain is the goal. (Why else would we be subsidising fossil fuel production to the tune of \$28,000-a-minute and allowing the gambling industry to proliferate?).

The independent candidates seek to represent the will of the people and through this, we can avoid the extremes of populism. Australia does not need to emulate USA.

In our electorate of Monash, we have the opportunity to vote for Deb Leonard, our local independent candidate. Genuine local representation, evidence-based decision making and integrity in politics form the basis of her platform. Now, more than ever we need this.

**Deborah O'Connor, Berrys Creek.**

### A Tribute to Neville Goodwin OAM

I HAD the privilege of meeting Neville Goodwin when I first joined Rotary in Wonthaggi in 2019. Even then, as his health was ailing, Neville's spirit and dedication to the community shone brightly. It is with a heavy heart that I share the news of his recent passing on the morning of Tuesday February 18.

Before our paths crossed, I knew of Neville through the stories and praises of those who had worked alongside him. He was described as a pillar of the community, a man who always put others first. His commitment to service above self and his integrity made him a person who could be relied upon—a man of his word and a man of action.

Neville's influence extended far beyond

the immediate circles in which he operated. He mentored many, including myself, leaving an indelible mark on all who had the fortune of knowing him. His legacy is not just in the tangible achievements and contributions he made, but in the spirit of service and dedication he instilled in others. There are many like me who carry forward the lessons and values Neville imparted, serving as a living testament to his mentorship and impact.

Though he is no longer with us, Neville's spirit continues to live on within us. His legacy of community service, leadership, and compassion will forever be remembered and cherished.

Rest in peace, Neville Goodwin OAM. You will be greatly missed but never forgotten.

**Nicky Chung, Immediate Past President, Rotary Club of Wonthaggi.**

### Simply comply with the speed signs

Please explain? Something very odd is occurring with the language of civic street signage in the region (images supplied). Street signs, I believe, fall into two categories: directions and legal speeds (safety). However, we have signs that inform road users of emotional states (traffic calming devices), signs for up-coming sign posted roads (road ahead) and lavishly informed of a speed change/intersection (side road activated).

Nothing has been activated, aside from some flashing lights. The side road is always open for use. I believe the 'side road activated' intersections cost many \$100k's of ratepayer money. A dangerous intersection sign and a permanent speed change sign (70) would be clear and have saved tonnes of dollars.

There's probably a team of people that come up with these poorly messaged and often unnecessary signs. Perhaps, close that department, and move them to the permit approval department to speed up that much needed area of council processes.

The safety issue on our roads is simply that many people don't follow the speed limit signs – even the signs that make sense.

**Tom Murray-White, South Dudley.**



## Vox Pop

### What do you think about our local hospitals being under the control of the Alfred and Peninsula Health?



**Hayley Wonthaggi**  
"I use the health system and I'm happy to have a better health system."



**Josephine Wonthaggi**  
"I think that it is a wonderful thing."



**David Wonthaggi**  
"Go for it for sure."



**Belle Corinella**  
"Wonderful, it will be great to have new services."

### What better use for Berninnet?

At the council's February meeting in question time the following question was asked by Linda Marston, topic Berninnet Art Exhibit. "As part of the 'Kids as Catalysts' program some Newhaven primary students created posters promoting awareness of Wildlife on Phillip Island. They were unable to exhibit these at Berninnet for free. As BCSC is partnered with this program, shouldn't Council promote such projects as examples of young leadership?"

The response by the CEO Greg Box was that Council does provide support and access for Kids as Catalyst program, however, not every request is able to be accommodated. The group was advised that the best option was to hire a community space in the building. Staff also spent some time with the group advising how best to promote their work and provided key contacts within media.

I have great difficulty understanding the BCSC's CEO reply, "not every request is able to be accommodated" but best option was to hire a community space within the building.

Councillors should note, Berninnet is a community centre for the community's use and should be managed by a Committee of Management in conjunction with council. Mr Box would you please explain to the children of Newhaven primary school, how they raise the necessary money required to exhibit their posters in our community centre.

Councillors, please note the children of Phillip Island and Bass Coast are our future, the Bass Coast CEO/Council and councillors should encourage our children.

My harsh comments are shame on you, the ball is in your court Mr Box (and Councillors) to give the children the opportunity to display their artwork which displays the Wildlife on Phillip in our community centre for free.

In fact, this is just the thin edge of the wedge, where is the memorabilia the community was promised would be rehung in the building once completed?

**John Trigt, Surf beach.**

### How does Stanley Road decision help us?

Councillors' decisions should always prioritise the community's well-being. However, the decision regarding Planning Permit 220231 for the Stanley Road widening fell short of this expectation. The alternate motion raised by Jon Temby and seconded by Tim O'Brien was nothing short of a disgrace.

The application for the widening and sealing of the road, along with the installation of a footpath to the Adams Estate, was submitted by Ricardo Energy, Environment and Planning on behalf of Hanson. Ricardo is a renowned provider of environmental advice to both Australian and international clients. Their extensive expertise encompasses environmental approvals, planning approvals, engineering, and infrastructure advisory services for the quarrying industry. I think they know what they are talking about.

These professionals have thoroughly reviewed the application and have approved all relevant clauses, including Clause 52.7 and 12.01-2S, which were submitted in its application by Hanson, and approved by

Bass Coast Council, and DEECA.

Jon Temby's motion, which sought to dispute these approved clauses, was therefore wrong and invalid.

The original plan proposed by Hanson involved widening and sealing the road, as well as constructing a footpath to the Adams Estate. This decision was made in 1996 when the State Government granted permission to Hanson to use the sand mine, subject to the widening and sealing of the road. However, Councillors led by Cr Temby and Cr O'Brien have now refused to approve this decision, claiming that an alternative was necessary.

It is important to note that there is no viable alternative to the original proposal. The Councillors' refusal to consider the approved clauses and their insistence on going to VCAT demonstrate a lack of understanding and disregard for the community's interests.

Hanson had offered to cover the entire cost, including road sealing, (at a cost estimated around \$2 million), a footpath to Adams Estate, and tree replanting, as an offset to those taken down. However, this offer might be lost if Hanson takes the matter to VCAT, and the Council has to pay. How does this benefit the community in Bass Coast?

**Rob Parsons, The Gurdies.**

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.

## LIFE Moments



**Tahli Lillian Jones** was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on 14 February 2025, weighing 3.87kg. Tahli is a daughter for Lachlan and Elise Jones of North Wonthaggi, and a sister for Fletcher, two.



**Xena Van Swol** was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on 14 February 2025, weighing 3.16kg. Xena is a daughter, and the first child, for Steve and Cassandra Van Swol of Wonthaggi.



**Tyge Thomas Suckling** was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on 14 February 2025, weighing 3.16kg. Tyge is a son for Brenton Suckling and Krystal Chivers of Venus Bay, and the youngest of five children.

Send your birthday, anniversary or baby photos to [news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)



### Equity for all at Newhaven

Newhaven College celebrates International Women's Day—and 'Accelerate Action' every day. Teachers and students champion equity, inspire change and empower one another to discover more. Together, they are creating a future where women and girls can continue to lead, innovate and thrive. L-R Isaac Savona, Georgia Kesterton, Director of Learning Karen Milkins-Hendry, Hazel Werner and Principal Tony Corr.



Help end period poverty with Share the Dignity

SHARE the Dignity has been working to end period poverty in Australia for a decade, but Australia's need for support continues to grow. This March, Share the Dignity is celebrating 10 years of working to end period poverty in Australia. Through well-known yearly campaigns, the collection of period products, advocacy work to improve education and legal frameworks and an incredible system of stakeholders, volunteers and supporters, Share the Dignity are doing their part to support those who menstruate.

Share the Dignity has no intention to slow down, especially when the demand for period products and basic essentials continue to rise at an alarming rate. The Bloody Big Survey, conducted by Share the Dignity in 2024 found 64% of respondents have had difficulty purchasing period products due to cost. "Our mission has always been to ensure that no one has to go without period products, but the reality is that demand is growing faster than we can meet it," Rochelle Courtenay, Founder and Director said. Share the Dignity is collecting period products and incontinence aids this March, which can be donated in the pink collection boxes at all Woolworths Supermarkets Australia-wide.

• FAITH FACTOR

Hospitality

By Pastor Sandro Schietroma  
Wonthaggi Baptist Church

WHEN discussing culture and hospitality, we must approach the topic with discernment. Certain aspects of our Christian culture are distinct from those found in broader Australian or Anglo-Saxon traditions. At the same time, some elements of Australian culture can align harmoniously with a Christian way of life. For instance, enjoying a meat pie, passionately supporting your favourite football team, or engaging in other cultural pastimes are neutral in relation to faith—they are part of the social fabric but do not inherently define one's Christianity. However, when aspects of a nation's culture conflict with the values of God's Kingdom, we must be cautious not to justify them by simply saying, "This is just the culture we live in." Our allegiance is ultimately to God's Kingdom, which transcends all earthly cultures. Hospitality is a prime example of a value that surpasses cultural boundaries. While certain cultures may excel in the practice of hospitality, Scripture makes it clear that hospitality is not merely a cultural trait—it is a divine command for the Church. Regardless of the cultural context in which we were raised, we are called to extend hospitality as an expression of God's love.

The two greatest commandments given by God are to love Him and to love others. Jesus reinforces this in Matthew 25:40, saying, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Similarly, Galatians 6:10 instructs us: "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." 1 Peter 4:8-10 further emphasises this principle: "Above all things, have fervent love for one another, for 'love will cover a multitude of sins.' Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." In essence, Christian hospitality is not optional—it is a reflection of God's love and a vital expression of our faith. It is a calling that goes beyond cultural norms, inviting us to live out the grace and generosity of God in every aspect of our lives.

~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~



MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

MILPARA Community House is your go-to place for free information sessions, designed to improve your skills and enhance your enjoyment of life, all in a supportive atmosphere with friendly faces. Last Tuesday, February 25, Julie Damon & Chloe Townley from Carinya Lodge shared their invaluable insights on Navigating the Path to Aged Care. They covered administrative requirements and important details to consider when moving to aged care. Topics discussed included:

- Eligibility: Registering with MyAgedCare.gov.au for assessment and obtaining a referral code.
- Consent: Setting up a Power of Attorney in case you lose decision-making capacity.
- Creating a Short List: Finding the best fit among aged

care providers and arranging tours of the homes.

- Respite: Exploring short stay options in aged care to try the services.
- Payments: Understanding bonds, asset and income assessments, financial hardship assistance, and fully supported options for low-income residents.

Attendees found the talk incredibly helpful, as it improved their understanding of what can be a daunting process. Next Tuesday, March 11 at 11am, Funeral Director Gary from Handley Funeral Services will be at the Korumburra Community Hub to give a free information session on "What to Do Next - Following the Death of a Loved One." The format of this session will be Question & Answer. We

encourage you to come along, get more informed, and satisfy your curiosity. On Thursday, March 13 at 11am, our NBN Specialist will be back with another Free Tech Talk, discussing "What is the Cloud? & How to Use It." Devansh will guide you through the cloud, providing tips on understanding and using it to your advantage. To learn more and register, please visit the Milpara Community House Office at the lower level of the Korumburra Community Hub, 15 Little Commercial St, Korumburra, or call us at 5655 2524. You can also find the Milpara Term Program online at milparacommunityhouse.org.au. Milpara's regular Classes and Activities are running through-out the week. Our

Term Program is available online at milparacommunityhouse.org.au or you can pick one up at the Milpara Community House Office at the Lower Level of the Korumburra Community Hub, 15 Little Commercial St, Korumburra, or give us a call on 5655 2524. The Emergency Food Bank is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am to 1pm or by appointment. Please bring your own bags. Our Services Australia agent is at the house Mondays and Thursdays 10am to 1pm, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.30am to 2pm.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au

WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

TERM 1 is whipping along and we are already into the sixth week. Mitchell house is humming with plenty of groups and activities doing what they do best, bringing people together to follow their interests and enjoy what we have to offer. As the term is underway, so are our Free Supported Play Groups. The little people get together on Mondays and Fridays 10am to 11.30am. There's lots to do and is specifically available to families with a Health Care Card (or equivalent) And you can enrol via Bass Coast Health. Just call Janine on 0457 834 960 to enrol for either group. When one is struggling with addiction and it is

making life's journey a real challenge then perhaps going to a supportive group to share one's experiences so to gain strength and hope with others that they and you may solve your common problems and help each other to achieve a better outcome or attain sobriety. There is the Narcotics Anonymous group on Monday 7 to 8pm. Contact Peter for more information on 0456 000 844. Also, there are two AA meetings; one is on Wednesday 7 to 8pm, contact Sean on 0425 707 480 and the other is on Sunday from 6.30pm, Contact Sid on 0406 628 992 Some people are terribly interested in saving the world, while others are quite taken with developing their craft

and needlework. We have two groups that top and tail our working week. Mondays is the Monday Needle Working Group (formally The 'How to make a Quilt' group). It's here that you benefit from your fellow crafters' knowledge and skills as well as having the opportunity to view some lovely examples from the group more broadly. Improve your skills on the art embroidery, cross stitch, patch working etc. The group meets Mondays 10am to 12.20pm. The other group is the Craft & Cuppa Group which meet on Fridays 10am to 12noon. This circle of friends will give you a warm greeting and share with you their ideas and skills. So just turn up with your current project and be

ready for a chat! We have lots going on at the WNC during term time so consider becoming a member of the WNC and get discounts to many of our activities and receive our quarterly newsletter Connections plus The Grapevine program which lists groups, dates, days and times for the term. Both can be delivered online or by post, your choice. Call Mitchell House or visit us on Facebook: Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre at Mitchell House. Or go to our website: https://www.wonthaggi-neighbourhoodcentre.com



6 Murray St, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3731 www.wonthaggi-neighbourhoodcentre.com

BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

The Care Economy is one of the fastest growing industries in the region. It's an industry which includes jobs in aged care, child care, disability support, and further health services support such as administration, food services, and cleaning. There are also allied health assistants including support for physiotherapists, occupational therapy, and rehabilitation among many others. There is a huge number of non-clinical job opportunities in the Care Economy, and BCAL helps people to get a foot in the door. There are three ways to get involved. For those just

entering or re-entering the job market, there is Employable Me. This helps people to apply for jobs, get their resumes in order and prepare for interviews. Then there are more specific pathway courses in particular sectors of the industry. Courses in all aspects of health support are running all year round. For those already enrolled in a more advanced course, BCAL offers study support for people doing distance and online learning. All these activities have a rolling intake and you can join at any time. For more information on all BCAL's courses and services,

please visit www.bcal.vic.edu.au or call 5672 3115 to learn more. ■ WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS The Woodies have lots of regular groups; turning, carving, furniture making, and many others. But there is always something new to learn and members are often on the lookout for new techniques. Recently, one of the members has begun experimenting with bent wood. Three pieces of 3mm ply were steamed and bent separately before being glued together for strength and stability. It will become a side table with a magazine

rack – for those who remember what magazines are! Another two members have recently returned from Tasmania where they attended workshops on Japanese joining. This joining technique uses precision cuts to achieve a strong solid join without glue, nails or screws – just the wood itself. For more information, visit www.wonthaggi-woodcrafters.com.au or pop in to the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 www.bcal.vic.edu.au





Current VIEW Committee members: Joy, Helen, Clare, Heather, Di, Kaye, Rosa, Willie, Tricia and Vicky.

## VIEW Club begins another successful year

LAST week at their AGM the ladies of Inverloch VIEW Club elected their committee for 2025. All on the Committee are keen to continue what have been very successful years, with lunches, outings, fundraising activities, developing friendships and a lot of fun.

All these activities make it a friendly and active club and, most importantly,

enable the club to continue their main purpose, which is supporting needy students throughout their school years, both primary and secondary, through the auspices of The Smith Family Learning for Life program. VIEW club is proud to be sponsoring eight students, and they enjoy hearing from the students and receiving progress

reports on them from The Smith Family.

V.I.E.W. stands for Voice, Interests and Education for Women. Members come from all walks of life and agree that they have made new friendships and learned new things through their membership. The club meet at the Inlet Hotel on the fourth Tuesday of the month and

the meetings include a two-course lunch and an interesting guest speaker. It doesn't cost a lot to be a member and everyone is more than welcome to attend as a guest to see what the club is about. To book to attend a meeting, please contact the club via Facebook page or email address: [inverloch.view-club3996@gmail.com](mailto:inverloch.view-club3996@gmail.com)

## Archies Creek lights up for rock legend James Reyne

THE hottest ticket in Bass Coast over the weekend was a ticket to hear Aussie rock legend James Reyne outside at the Archies Creek Hotel for two sold out shows on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 and 2, 2.30pm to 6pm.

"I just feel that I'm getting better," said Reyne in his PR ahead of the visit to Bass Coast.

And local audiences agreed enthusiastically describing the performance as "fantastic", "as good as ever, maybe

better" and "unreal".

They sang along with many of his best-known hits including 'The Boys Light Up' and 'Reckless', music that has left an indelible mark on a generation of Australians, now being discovered by new fans.

**RIGHT: The James Reyne Duo put on two sellout shows at the Archies Creek Hotel last weekend to a very appreciative crowd at both shows.**



## Show cars shine at Fish Creek

THE threat of inclement weather didn't deter vehicle owners from turning out in droves for the Community Bank Toora and Foster Bendigo Bank Car Show in Fish Creek on February 23.

Around 90 cars and motorbikes were lined up around Terrill Park for the Show 'n' Shine event staged by the Fish Creek Football Netball Club, with vehicles coming from as far afield as the Mornington Peninsula, Latrobe Valley and East Gippsland.

Club president Travis Manne thanked the South Gippsland branch of the Gippsland Historical Car Club for their support in organising the event along with major sponsor Bendigo Bank, sponsors Evans Petroleum, Foster Service Centre and Leongatha Repco, and Marg

Grumley who donated a hand-made quilt for a raffle prize.

"You have to really admire the array of vehicles we had on show and appreciate the work that has gone into restoring and maintaining them," Travis said.

Judge Tony Moon from the car club said it was pleasing to see so many different vehicles at this year's event, offering great variety for spectators and car enthusiasts.

Trophies were awarded in the following categories: Best Restored Original, 1957 Ford Fairlane 500 retractable; Best Modified Custom, XM Ford Futura; Best motorbike, 2016 Harley-Davidson Heritage Deluxe; Best Hot Rod, 1925 Ford sedan; Best Truck, Ford pickup; People's Choice Award, 1974 LH Torana L34.



Runner Up Best Modified Custom was an XA Ford Coupe, owned by Phil Wade, Inverloch, pictured with FCFNC president Travis Manne.

## Korumburra building greater strength for emergencies

By Noelene Cosson

AROUND 300 people attended Saturday's Korumburra Staying Strong (KSS) event in the surrounds of the Community Hub, celebrating the launch of the town's draft Community Resilience Plan.

The day was filled with conversation, fun and valuable insights, while involving and thanking Korumburra's community groups and volunteers who assist in connection and resilience building locally.

The weather was perfect, with clear skies and a gentle breeze creating an ideal atmosphere for the gathering, everyone being well fed with free snags, donuts, sandwiches and fruit served up by the friendly crews of the Korumburra Lions and Korumburra Men's Shed.

The draft Community Resilience Plan outlines practical steps for residents to take before, during, and after storm and emergency events, empowering locals to play an active role in their community's preparedness.

The KSS team encouraged attendees to share their thoughts and feedback on the plan, which they enthusiastically did.

"We are excited to present the draft plan because it's not just about what the emergency services can do, it's about how we, as a community, can come together to support one another in times of need," president of the Korumburra Community Development Association (KCDA), Noelene Cosson said.

She labelled the feedback received on Saturday as "invaluable".

Several emergency services were present to offer advice and discuss how the community can contribute during emergencies.

Representatives from the CFA, Red Cross, SES, Victoria Police, South Gippsland Shire Council, Salvation Army, AusNet Services, and Ambulance Victoria participated in the event.

Scott Hardy from AusNet Services said it was great to connect with other agencies and services and chat to community members about how the power network operates.

Along with the practical discussions, there was plenty of entertainment for the whole family, kids having a blast getting their faces painted and exploring fire trucks and ambulances while learning about the emergency services.

One of the key takeaways from the event was the shared sentiment among emergency services and agencies about the importance of continuing these conversations, with all parties involved interested in making this an annual event.

"This event really gave us the chance to talk directly to the community and hear their concerns and ideas and we need more of these conversations," James Bremner of South Gippsland Shire Council said.

The KSS event was a collaborative effort, bringing together not only the KSS group but also community members from KCDA, Milpara, the Korumburra Community Hub, and the South Gippsland Shire Council.

This unified approach allowed for a comprehensive, inclusive event that successfully reached people across all parts of the community.

The Korumburra Resilience Plan once finalised in the near future, will be a living document and will be found on the [korumburra3950.com.au](http://korumburra3950.com.au) website and at the Community Hub.

For more information on the Korumburra Staying Strong initiative or to get involved, visit the community website at [korumburra3950.com.au](http://korumburra3950.com.au), email [korumburra3950@gmail.com](mailto:korumburra3950@gmail.com) or reach out to the Korumburra Community Hub.



### David Dower Quartet

THE INVERLOCH Jazz Club are excited to present the David Dower Quartet on Sunday March 2, at the Inverloch RSL from 2pm - 4.30pm.

David is an amazing keyboard player and the most popular entertainer at the club. Originally from Foster he has travelled extensively overseas and now teaches in Melbourne. He has an enthusiastic approach to leading his band and has the mischievous fun of getting the best out of the band by some impromptu playing.

Canadian drummer, James Osborne, is always ready to pick up the pace and join in the fun. The bass player is David Galea, a well-known local musician is from Dumbalk. He has played with several groups at the Inverloch jazz festival. To complete the quartet is the vocalist Gabriel Lynch, also an international performer. He has made a name for himself in Asia and has written music for advertising and is a natural born story teller.

The Inverloch RSL welcome all to go along and be part of the audience.

Cost to visitors \$18, cash only. For more information call Marg on 0438 420 770.

### Bass Coast Shorts Film Fest is back and bigger

Now in its third year, the Bass Coast Shorts film festival is spreading its wings, screening over the Anzac Weekend. Venues include the historic Archies Creek Hotel and the Berninnet Cinema in Cowes.

Bass Coast Shire Council and Australian Short Film Festivals have once again come together to support this initiative, spearheaded by festival director John Frohlich. He has also launched the Archies Creek Hotel Thursday night short film nights in the lead-up to the film festival, a community collaboration with the Archies Creek Arts Collective.

"The objectives of the Thursday night film nights are simple," said Frohlich. "To foster a love of short films, to create an interest in the forthcoming Bass Coast Shorts festival and ultimately to develop opportunities and skills for local film makers, both aspiring and emerging."

Bass Coast Shorts is a competition-based festival with submissions coming in throughout the year and awards in three categories: schools (under 18), local (South Gippsland), and open (everywhere else).

"The judges have been impressed by the quality of the entries so far," says Frohlich. "Local film makers like Steve



A long snouted boar fish at Twin Reefs featured in Steve Dunns underwater film 'Bunurong Coast,' shown at a previous Bass Coast Shorts Film Festival.

Dunn – an Inverloch-based diver and expert in marine flora and fauna – and Jess McGuirk – an award-winning Wonthaggi student – have produced thought-provoking documentaries of particular interest to the Bass Coast community."

The program will feature award-winning national and international films and animations. As part of the festival there will also be forums and Q & As with filmmakers and screen industry guests, some screenings at Archies Creek Hotel and a 2-day workshop for emerging filmmakers in the lead-up to the festival.

#### Screening times:

- Thursday April 24, 7-9pm (Sneak peek) – Archies Creek Hotel
- Friday April 25, 6-9pm (Opening night screening) – Berninnet
- Saturday April 26, 2-4pm (Screening) – Berninnet
- Saturday April 26, 4.30-5.30pm (Free festival forum) – Berninnet
- Saturday April 26, 6.30pm - 9.30pm (Screening and awards) – Berninnet
- Sunday April 27, 3pm – 5pm (Closing screening) – Archies Creek Hotel

Each screening is a different program of short films

showcasing selected entries.

Tickets are \$20 per session (\$14 concession) online from the Bass Coast Shire website or Trybooking or from the box office (Berninnet sessions) or at the door (Archies Creek Hotel sessions).

For more information email basscoastshorts@gmail.com or phone 0428 138 382.

This is an exciting opportunity for established and emerging filmmakers both local, national and international, and a chance for local audiences to experience the best of contemporary short form filmmaking.

### Zucchini tart

with Swiss and almonds

By Meg Viney

THIS is a gorgeous dish, with the zucchini capable of absorbing flavours so well. Harissa is usually very hot, but this version is aromatic and subtle.

#### Ingredients

- 1 quantity of pastry
- 1 onion, sliced
- 2 small zucchinis sliced in to 5 cm slices
- 3 tablesp butter
- 3 sprigs fresh basil, torn
- Salt and white pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup blanched slivered almonds
- 2 eggs, beaten with a dash of tabasco sauce (or a pinch of chilli)
- 1/3 cup grated Swiss cheese (Maasdam), grated
- Pinch freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/4 cup cream

#### Method

Toss the zucchini in some olive oil and grill until lightly browned. No need to turn. Remove to platter.

Place almonds on oven tray and brown lightly in a 180 oven.

Slice onion and cook in a tables butter with a pinch of salt, over allow heat, lid on until golden and aromatic.

In a food processor - place eggs, tabasco nutmeg and cream and beat until frothy. Add zucchini, almonds, basil and cheese.

Pour into prepared pastry case and cook in a preheated 180 oven for half an hour. Serve warm.

### Matt Scullion brings an iconic Aussie tale to Foster

THE remarkable story of Lenny Gwyther and his beloved horse, Ginger Mick, is a cherished piece of South Gippsland's history. In 1932, during the depths of the Great Depression, nine-year-old Lenny was rewarded for his dedication to running the family farm with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity—to ride solo from Leongatha to Sydney to witness the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Award-winning singer-songwriter Matt Scullion, known for his deep love of Australian history and storytelling, has immortalised Lenny's journey in his song Lenny, You're a Legend.

Captivated by authentic Aussie tales, Matt is bringing his musical tribute to Foster on Friday, 14 March 2025.

Supporting Matt on the night will be popular local duo No Promises. Known for their dynamic mix of country, pop, rock, and blues, Eric and Janine will set the stage with their signature sound, creating an electric atmosphere for all attendees.

Organised by the Yanakie Progress Association, spokesperson Dave Johnson shared his excitement for the event, saying, "Matt will have you enthralled all evening with his stories and songs. Gather your mates

and book your tickets—this is a night not to be missed!"

The cabaret-style event is BYO food and drinks, making for a relaxed and enjoyable evening. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for kids and can be purchased at trybooking.com/CYPAB.

Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate an extraordinary true-blue Aussie legend through the power of music and storytelling.

#### Event Details:

Friday, 14 March 2025 at the Foster War Memorial  
Tickets: \$40 adults, \$20 kids. BYO food and drinks  
Bookings: trybooking.com/CYPAB



Award-winning singer-songwriter Matt Scullion, known for his deep love of Australian history and storytelling, has immortalised Lenny's journey in his song Lenny, You're a Legend.

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

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

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★

### Summer Impressions

Open Tuesday 11 March to Sunday 27 April

The official Opening

Sunday 16 March 1-3pm

All Welcome Free Entry

The Leongatha Painters Group:

Irene McConville, Ann Todd-Foulds, Colleen Touzel, Elenor Davis, Florence Crighton, Helen Broad, Maree Blore, Peg Elliott, and Robyn Henn.



Elegant Protea Maree Blore watercolour

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Poowong locals Zac Follett, Amanda Follett and Amy Follett Scanlan donned their wildest hats for Mad Hatters on Saturday night.



Rae Gray and Veronica Foote were enjoying the music at Poowong Mad Hatters.



Noel Tonkin, Daryl Le Serve and Ben Hall in their best hats for Mad Hatters in Poowong.



Huy Luu (AVWA) and Laurie Jones (Vietnam Veteran) celebrating 50 years of Vietnamese Australian refugees B67\_0925



Maia, Kate and Mathilda at the Woolamai picnic races B107\_0925



Kerry Rees and Sally Manson at the Woolamai picnic races B112\_0925



Daisy and Kelly McQuestin at the Woolamai Phillip Island Health Hub charity race day B113\_0925



Stuart with sons Digby and Hugo at the Woolamai picnic races B117\_0925



Janet and Robert enjoying race day at Woolamai B118\_0925

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum celebrating 50 years of Vietnamese Australian refugees, Woolamai picnic races and the Mad Hatters in Poowong.



Cecelia Tran-Dang, Cam Nguyen, Thanh-Kham Tran-Dang and Hong Nguyen from the Australian Vietnamese Women's Association B74\_0925



Tim Phan Vietnamese Vietnam Veterans Assoc.(Navy) and Cam Nguyen President AVWA at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum B71\_0925



Cr Kim Thien Truong (Brimbank) and Lynette Arnold (Cape Woolamai) celebrating 50 years of Vietnamese Australian refugees B78\_0925



Nga Nguyen (AVWA) celebrating 50 years of Vietnamese Australian refugees at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum on Phillip Island B80\_0925



Harry Harris enjoying the Woolamai picnic races B129\_0925



Brigitte Bownds at the Phillip Island Health Hub charity race day at Woolamai B121\_0925



Fiona Harris from Wonthaggi enjoying the picnic races at Woolamai B122\_0925



Jess with Octavia and Eowyn pretty in pink at the Woolamai charity race day B128\_0925

Sentinel-Times

>>> ORDER THESE AND OTHER PHOTOS 5672 1888



## Positive signs in new home construction nationally

IN THE first three months of the National Housing Accord, Australia commenced construction on 43,247 new homes according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

This is 4.6 per cent higher than the June 2024 quarter and 13.9 per cent higher than the same quarter in 2023.

The strongest growth was in new detached house starts, rocketing 20.5 per cent since June 2024 and up 5.3 per cent over the year to September 2024.

Over the year to September 2024, the number of new homes commencing construction reached 165,048, well below the 200,000 required.

If building activity continues at this pace, Australia will commence construction on just over 825,000 new homes over the next five years.

This is around 350,000 new homes short of the Housing Accord target.

## Thousands to benefit from life-changing housing fund

COMMUNITY Housing Industry Association (CHIA) Victoria said the Housing Australia Future Fund is a crucial long-term investment that the state is counting on to help ease the housing crisis.

The HAFF has funded more than 4,100 social and affordable homes across 35 projects in Victoria so far. Victoria has been the biggest beneficiary of the HAFF to date, receiving the largest share of funded homes out of all states and territories.

CHIA Vic chief executive Sarah Toohey said the HAFF represents a key component in solving the housing crisis puzzle.

“The homes built with HAFF funding will be life-changing not only for the Victorians who move in imminently, but also for future individuals and families who will build their lives there,” Ms Toohey said.

“We need both the state and federal governments investing in this critical social infrastructure for decades to come, if we’re going to turn the current housing crisis around.”

## Fall in sales of new homes in Victoria

WHILE growth in home construction overall is good in Australia, we have yet to see this trend in Victoria.

“Victoria started the year disappointingly with an 8.7 per cent fall in new home sales in the month of January 2025,” stated HIA Executive Director Victoria, Keith Ryan.

The HIA New Home Sales report is a monthly survey of the largest volume home builders in the five largest states and is a leading indicator of future detached home construction.

“Victoria was the only one of the five largest states to have seen a fall in new home sales in the month, which left the three months to January 2025 down by 6.6 per cent compared to the previous quarterly period,” added Mr Ryan.

“When compared to the previous year, new home sales in Victoria have remained virtually unchanged, falling by 0.5 per cent. This makes Victoria the only one of the five largest states to have not seen an improvement in sales from this cycle’s trough. The market should be doing much better than this with a growing population and high employment rates.”



3 1 2 706m<sup>2</sup>

53 Gordon Street, **Nth Wonthaggi**  
**Auction** Sat, March 8 at 12 noon  
**Price Guide** \$420,000 to \$460,000  
**Agent** Alex Scott & Staff  
Phil Hanley 0417 140 508  
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

## Charming corner block in North Wonthaggi

Under instructions from the executors of the Estate.

WELCOME to this delightful brick rendered home nestled on a generous 706m2 corner block in the heart of North Wonthaggi. This property features three spacious bedrooms, perfect for families or those

seeking extra room for guests or a home office. The open living area is designed for comfort and functionality, creating a warm atmosphere for gatherings or peaceful evenings in.

Step outside to discover the north-facing outdoor undercover area, ideal for enjoying your

morning coffee or entertaining friends and family. The drive-through garage and additional carport provide ample parking space, ensuring convenience for your vehicles and guests. With public transport right at your doorstep, commuting is a breeze, making this location

incredibly desirable.

Situated close to local cafes and Bunnings, this property offers the perfect blend of lifestyle and convenience. Don't miss your chance to bid at the auction on March 8 2025 at 12pm and secure your future in this popular North Wonthaggi location

## Plan for Victoria won't change Bass Coast settlement boundaries

WHERE homes go matters and regional growth boundaries will be developed for regional areas to manage outward sprawl and encourage more homes in the centre of town.

Premier Jacinta Allan and the Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny last week committed to developing regional boundaries in partnership with regional councils with a new 'Plan for Victoria'.

The Victorian Government stated the Plan is a 30-year blueprint to support a growing population while protecting and improving regional and metro areas.

While the Plan replaces all existing regional growth plans, it has been stated that areas with existing protected settlement boundaries, such as the Bass Coast won't be changed under the Plan.

It was only late last year when it was announced that Cape Paterson's town boundary would not be allowed to expand to the north by upwards of 900 new dwellings, due to the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) process, and this ruling also won't change under the new Plan.

“Regional boundaries will make sure growing areas can keep growing in a sustainable way. Regional councils know



**The new 'Plan for Victoria' won't change existing protected settlement boundaries such as that of Cape Paterson, however it does replace existing regional growth plans.**

their community best – that's why we'll be working with them,” said Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny.

Plan for Victoria sets out 22 concrete actions, including:

- Implementing housing targets for every Victorian local government area
- Implementing new controls to streamline planning in activity centres
- Incentivising more social and affordable homes across the

state

- Designing and building better quality homes and apartments
- Protecting tree canopies and introducing minimum open space requirements in planning

The Plan has five pillars: housing for all Victorians, accessible jobs and services, great places, sustainable environments, and self-determination and caring for Country.

One of the 22 key actions in Plan for Victoria is a commitment to “carefully manage the outward sprawl of regional cities and towns.”

As part of the Plan, regional boundaries will be developed in partnership with councils, and they will “only expand outward if this is consistent with the vision for these places and if and when councils and other authorities can provide the necessary infrastructure (such as water and sewerage) for more people.”

Regional boundaries are all about making sure growing areas can keep growing in a sustainable way – by preserving agricultural land, parks, forests, and natural resources.

Regional boundaries will also direct more homes where they're needed – close to jobs, transport, shops, schools, healthcare, and services – and produce more affordable housing options for the next generation of young people who want to stay and buy in the city where they grew up.

The new guidelines and settings that Government will develop with councils for establishing and amending regional city boundaries will also be available for other regional cities and towns.





12 GRIFFIN ROAD, LEONGATHA



9 BLAIR CRESCENT, LEONGATHA



3 HEWETT STREET, LEONGATHA



1 OLYMPIC COURT, LEONGATHA



1 NOEL COURT, LEONGATHA



8 DOUGLAS COURT, LEONGATHA



6 LOUISE SIMON COURT, LEONGATHA



143 WHITELAW STREET, MEENIYAN



11 MAIN STREET, BUFFALO



22 FARMERS ROAD, DUMBALK



1A GEALE STREET, MEENIYAN



125 STEWARTS ROAD, WOODLEIGH



85 RATHJENS ROAD, TOORA



565 MEENIYAN-MIRBOO ROAD, DUMBALK



26 HIGG STREET, LEONGATHA



3 FINKE PLACE, LEONGATHA



1 DOUGLAS COURT, LEONGATHA



2 WELSFORD STREET, MEENIYAN



**Barry Redmond**  
Director / Estate Agent  
0477 622 292



**Kellie Thomas**  
Licensed Estate Agent  
0438 647 449



**Monique Wightman**  
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CROSSWORD

No. 66 - by 'Johnno2' of Cape Paterson

CRYPTIC CLUES

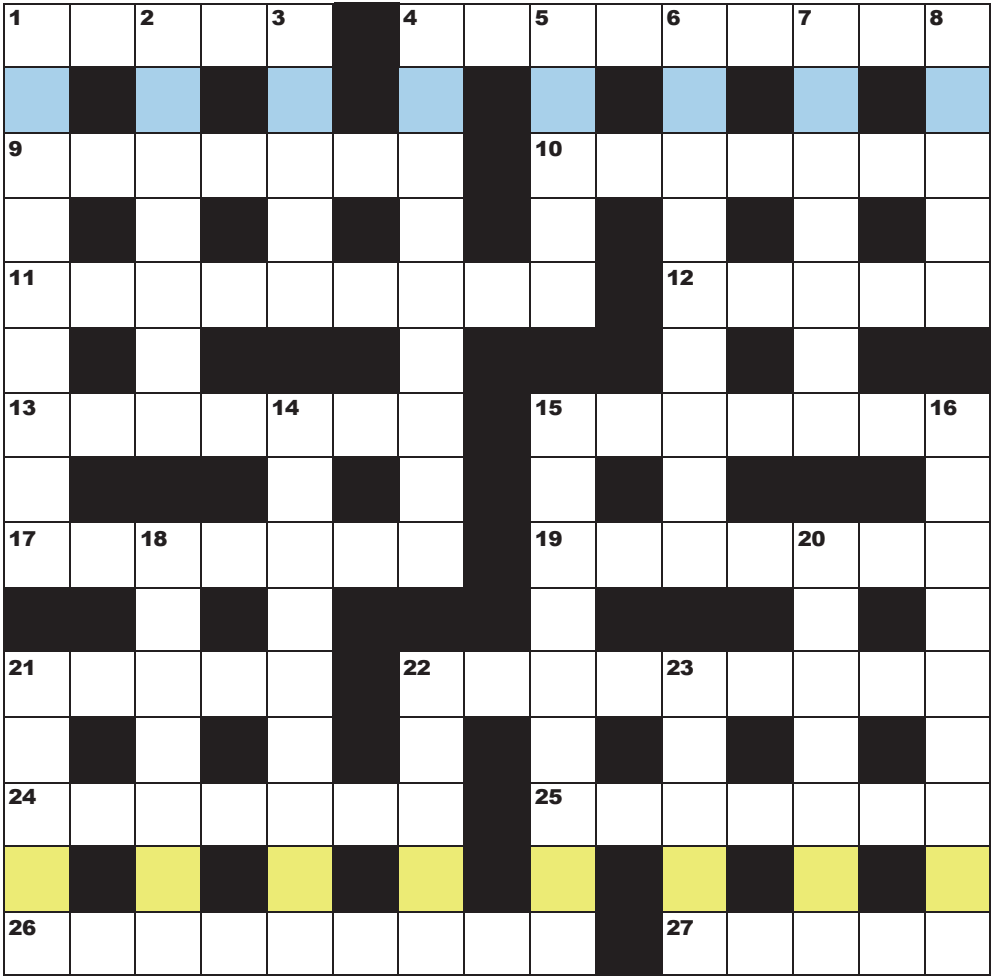
THIS! (4,4) - if and when you've THIS! (8)

ACROSS

- 1 Maps collected, almost finally (5)  
4 Cheese round, as regular as beer, in simple French café (9)  
9 Given X mark (7)  
10 Do leg bones represent a palaeontologist's goal here? (7)  
11 US presidents lose vote with Republican revolt (9)  
12 Runs reds? (5)  
13 For upset stomach: CH<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>? (7)  
15 That woman! Gone to the bar unlicensed! (7)  
17 Reds in first drop in coloured precipitate (7)  
19 Son of David excites mob, alas (7)  
21 Japanese meal: sashimi entrée and rotating seconds (of rice, shiitake mushrooms and asari) (5)  
22 Drops around rock-solid agendas (2-2,5)  
24 On the other hand, agrees to trials (7)  
25 Names on list - ninety-nine thousand - for romp (7)  
26 Guides a good man into wicked 24-across (9)  
27 Hears M or S in 'MOANS' (5)

DOWN

- 1 Impact of eMatics? (9)  
2 'Oils' tune mix, without lead singer, for Rugby restart (7)  
3 Bird's hoot (5)  
4 Arrogant, going after 'Best Instrumental' Grammy debuts (3-6)  
5 Boon regularly bats as Test second opener (5)  
6 Undressed? Lazy! (9)  
7 Spooner calls last colourful horse from unsafe area (3,4)



- 8 Cryptically, grandad in 'Greater Auckland' (5)  
14 Outlaws credit; I'm in a losing streak initially (9)  
15 Flagging models? (9)  
16 Sean makes waves, sporting matching styles (9)  
18 Lived in Rome, or Recife, or Roanoke, or Roskilde, say? (7)  
20 Inclined entry (7)  
21 Special 8-down hug, lower and lower (5)  
22 Car maker, spinning tales... (5)  
23 ...Let's start one, on model's last big floats! (5)

STRAIGHT CLUES

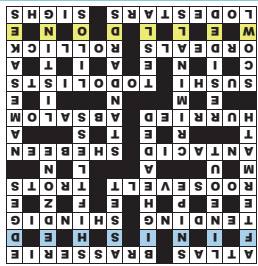
ACROSS

- 1 Collection of maps (5)  
4 Simple French café (9)  
9 Given, inclined (7)  
10 Do, party (7)  
11 Surname of two US presidents (9)  
12 'Runs' (diarrhoea); also, Reds ('Commies') (5)  
13 (Treatment) for upset stomach (7)  
15 Unlicensed bar, e.g. in Eire (7)  
17 Precipitate, rushed (7)  
19 Third son of King David (7)  
21 Japanese meal item (5)  
22 Agendas (2-2,5)  
24 Trials, difficulties (7)  
25 Romp, frolic (7)  
26 Guides, inspirations (9)  
27 Moans, breathes out dramatically (5)

DOWN

- 1 Impact, follow-up (9)  
2 A restart set-up in rugby (7)  
3 A game-bird species; also, hoot or dig at (5)  
4 Arrogant, boasting (3-6)  
5 Boon, resource (5)  
6 Lazy, unambitious (9)  
7 Unsafe area (3,4)  
8 Perimeters, sides (5)  
14 Outlaws, felons (9)  
15 Models; also, flags (9)  
16 Having matching nomenclatures, styles (9)  
18 Lived, had one's home (7)  
20 Inclined, tipping; also, entry, as in an estate agent's books (7)  
21 Lower, frown (5)  
22 A car maker (5)  
23 Inflatable beds and floats (5)

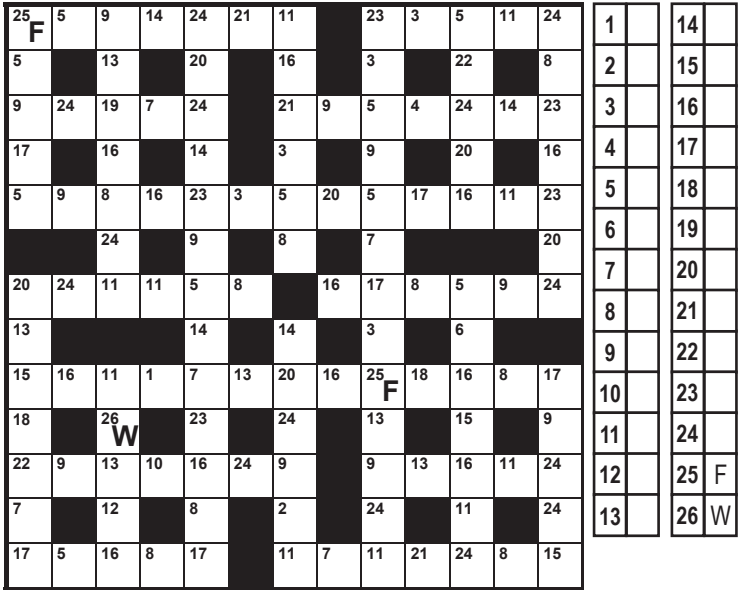
SOLUTION



CODEWORD

No. 260

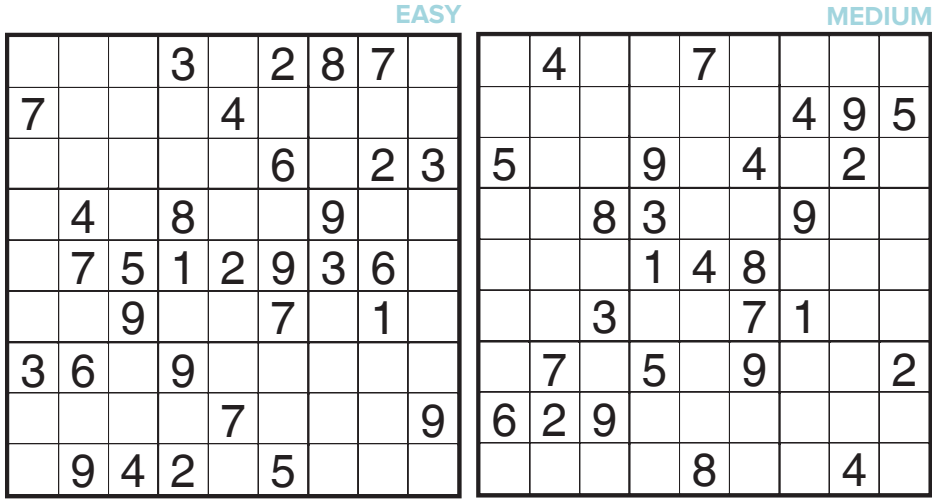
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



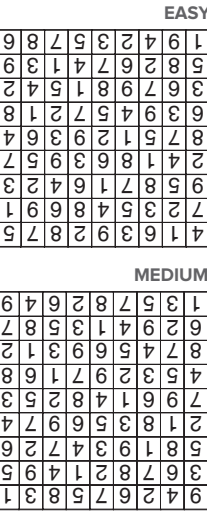
SUDOKU

No. 269

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 'Arabian Nights' are there in the Middle Eastern folk tales?  
2. Which singer-songwriter wrote and recorded the theme song for the hit series *Orange is the New Black*?  
3. What ingredient makes a latte into a mocha?  
4. True or false: spruce trees are evergreen?  
5. Papillon is a breed of what type of animal?  
6. In which country are the Cliffs of Moher located?  
7. Australian athlete Eddie Ockenden competes in what sport?  
8. Annie Lennox (pictured) partnered with Dave Stewart to form which '80s British pop duo?  
9. Name the narrator of Herman Melville's 1851 novel *Moby-Dick*.  
10. What device helps musicians keep a steady tempo?



WORD SEARCH

No. 180

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



- ALMOND GRAPEFRUIT PECAN  
APRICOT KUMQUAT PERSIMMON  
AVOCADO LIME PRUNE  
BANANA MANGO QUINCE  
CHESTNUT MELON RAISIN  
CITRUS NUTMEG RHUBARB  
COCONUT OLIVE STONE FRUIT  
CRAB-APPLE ORANGE WALNUT  
DATE PAPAYA  
DESSERT PAWPAW  
DRIED FRUIT PEACH  
DURIAN PEANUT  
FIG PEAR

SECRET MESSAGE: An apple a day keeps the

toothaches away





## Bowman Genetics 2025 Autumn bull sale

BOWMAN Genetics will present an outstanding draft of bulls at their upcoming Autumn Bull sale, with the depth, performance and phenotype of this year's draft being their best to date.

By concentrating on sires with moderate to lower birth weights and high growth (curve benders), they have assembled a draft whereby fifty out of the eighty-three lots are suitable for heifers/cows; giving breeders greater diversity when selecting genetics for their own herds.

According to the DNA profiles analysed through Neogen, progeny from these animals will be born easily, with rapid growth. A strong focus on carcass performance will also assist breeders in attaining first-class MSA grading and lucrative price premiums.

Whilst never losing sight of genuine cattlemanship, Bowman Genetics believe genomic testing is the greatest way forward into the future. By sampling calves at birth, they can accelerate breeding proficiency and utilise this data to enhance decisions, in making greater on-farm profits.

As cattlemen, Bowman Genetics find one of the most important and fundamental elements to a successful breeding programme is the sires' lineage to matriarch females. Prominent elite matrons, with inherent doing



**Bowman Genetics will present an outstanding draft of bulls at their upcoming Autumn Bull sale.**

ability and generations of production history gain this title. They are the backbone of many of the great herds and show up repeatedly in pedigrees.

They also mention how specific trait selection, (such as selecting for positive fats to assist fertility rates in drier times) can help breeders to increase on farm profitability, and can be used as a guide to assist in specific sire selection for herds.

On the market front, opportunity abounds both

internationally and domestically. According to the latest MLA outlook, confidence is strong, with stable prices boosting optimism. The national herd is expected to increase by 6%, with a larger retention of heifers and the purchase of more steers.

With the USA at near record lows, a global stock shortage, and the national herd entering the rebuild phase, Bowman Genetics believe exciting times are ahead and that the industry locally is one big rain event from taking off to a new

level.

Those who maintain stringent breeding programmes and select sires from modern performance orientated herds, will gain the most, they add.

By embracing technology and utilising EBV data, a producer can gain up to \$50 per calf produced, creating a significant advantage in bull selection.

One of the most rewarding elements of seedstock breeding for Bowman Genetics, is witnessing the extraordinary success it is having on the industry.

The team have enjoyed getting around to sales, on property visits or speaking directly with clients as to how well their sires are performing. From viewing sale topping steers, to receiving videos of magnificent future breeding females, Bowman Genetics aim is to have the most profitable producers.

Also being one of the true grass-fed operations in the country, the feedback on how well the bulls grow out is exceptional. Bowman Genetics pride themselves on having the best after sales service and up to date breeding advice, with many clients being with them since inception.

Bowman Genetics look forward to presenting their magnificent draft on sale day, on Thursday March 13 from 1pm.

## Junior Landcare grants available

MINISTER for Environment, Steve Dimopoulos, has announced the opening of Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants totalling \$450,000 to get young people out in nature to care for and learn about Victoria's environment.

Last year two projects were successful in attracting funding in South Gippsland, one for the Mirboo North Secondary College to help restore the storm-damaged environment around Mirboo North and another for the Karmai Community Children's Centre to be involved in a project with the Cranbourne Botanical Gardens.

No Bass Coast Shire projects received funding last but the new round is now open.

Victorian primary and secondary schools, Scouts and Girl Guides, childcare centres, youth groups and Junior Landcare groups can apply for grants of up to \$5000.

Projects can focus on one of two areas, education activities to involve and engage young people and on the ground projects that focus on creating and restoring native habitats.

Last year, the government provided grants to 103 recipients including planting native gardens, building habitat to attract native insects and birds and excursions to wildlife sanctuaries.

Mirboo North received the maximum grant of \$5000.

"We're supporting this next generation of Victorians to work together and protect our state's great outdoors," said Minister for Environment Steve Dimopoulos.

## VFF Stock Sense fencing workshop

Join the Victorian Farmers Federation for a practical, on-farm workshop with two skilled fencing contractors sharing their knowledge. Learn how to install new fencing and maintain and repair existing ones.

Key topics will be:

- How to create an end assembly
- Installing new plain wires and attaching to star picket and wooden posts
- Key knots for fencing
- Repairing existing fencing
- How to attach a gate
- Basic knowledge for electric fencing.

The Stock Sense team will also lead a discussion on the importance of biosecurity and the critical role fencing plays in it.

When: Friday, March 14

Where: Korumburra – 610 Korumburra-Warragul Road, Ranceby

Time: 9 am to 3:30 pm.

Enjoy complementary morning tea and lunch.

Limited to 20 spots – register to secure your spot today. <http://bit.ly/3F8J33x>

## Use a netting fence to protect from dam pollution

CONSTRUCTING a netting fence above your dam can reduce the amount of organic material entering during and after a storm.

Agriculture Victoria Land Management Extension Officer Clem Sturmfels said while thunderstorms can produce needed runoff, they can also result in large amounts of dry grass, manure, soil and other material being swept into your dam.

"If left unattended, these materials will sink to the bottom and decompose, impacting water quality.

"Netting fence sediment traps are quick and easy to erect and can be made using

second-hand materials.

"Netting fences slow the speed of water and trap large organic materials. As the water slows, heavier sediments drop to the bottom while the organic materials trapped on the fence act as a filter for finer materials," he said.

"To be most effective, the netting fence needs to be well supported with steel posts and follow the contour of the land.

"By making the base of the fence follow a level path, the water can spread out in both directions along the fence. The longer the fence, the more material that will get trapped. The ends of the fence need to

be turned uphill to increase capture of materials.

"Commercial geo-fabric silt fences are great for trapping finer materials however, they transmit water very slowly and are not recommended for concentrated flows of water.

"Clean straw bales placed tightly together and pegged down with steel posts can also be used to create an effective sediment trap.

"Alternatives include synthetic silt fences, sediment ponds or a simple diversion bank with drop boards to manage flows into your dam.

"Regardless of design, all sediment traps should be regularly inspected, maintained

and emptied following major storm events."

Mr Sturmfels said sediment traps can only do so much to prevent dam pollution, and the best strategy is to ensure you maintain good ground cover and fence out all larger dams.

"Stock access to water can be maintained using a hardened access ramp or by pumping to a tank and trough arrangement."

For more information, visit the Agriculture Victoria website. For more information about drought and dry seasonal conditions support visit [agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons) or call 136 186.



**By Cattlemen For Cattlemen**

**2025 Autumn Bull Sale**

**Thursday 13th March, 1pm**

**83 HBR ANGUS BULLS**

**Free Delivery Across Victoria**



**3/4 Brother to the \$280,000 Millah Murrah Rocket Man R38**

**Lot 31 - Bowman Paratrooper U10, Top 8% Angus Breeding Index**

Glenn Bowman 0437 172 748  
'Crystal Brook' Neerim South, Victoria

[bowmangenetics.com](http://bowmangenetics.com)

**FOCUS** - Leading MSA + Breedplan Performance  
**BREEDING** - Internationally sourced genetics  
**SCIENCE** - Entire herd genomic tested







Fire services levy hike to hurt farmers

THE VICTORIAN Farmers Federation (VFF) says proposed hikes to the proposed Fire Services Levy could see some farmers forced to pay up to 400% on top of the current levy.

VFF President Brett Hosking said the levy flagged by the Victorian Government would place an enormous and unfair financial burden on those already struggling and farmers who are facing volatile prices, ever-decreasing profit margins and increasing extreme weather events.

“This tax hike is just another cost farm businesses will be forced to pay and it’s time to go back to the drawing board and find a better solution.”

“A one-size-fits-all approach clearly doesn’t work when you’ve got some farmers facing a hike of up to 400 per cent. There’s no way a rise of that much can be justified and for some, it could be the nail in the coffin for their farm businesses,” Mr Hosking said.

Mr Hosking added that while levy’s which fund our fire services are critical, the current broad-based tax is unfit for use and the Victorian Government must urgently consider an alternative.

“Instead of placing a blanket levy on all property owners, the government should consider a more targeted approach that ensures the funds are distributed where they’re needed most.”

“Rural Victorians are already bearing the brunt of many challenges, from droughts to fires. This levy will add insult to injury, making it even harder for farmers to recover and thrive.”

“The current approach certainly isn’t a solution that supports the needs of country Victorians and we’re urging the government to reassess its approach and explore more equitable solutions,” Mr Hosking said.

US trade surplus helping avoid tariff ‘wheel of misfortune’

THE US’s trade surplus with Australia has so far helped keep Australian food and agri exports off the ‘wheel of misfortune’ when it comes to the new wave of US tariffs, Rabo-bank says in a newly-released global report.

And this may hold Australia in good stead when it comes to any future US tariff announcements.

In the report – The impact of US tariffs on global food and agribusiness – the bank’s RaboResearch division identifies Australia as one of the United States’ trade partners likely to be at the lowest risk of future direct tariffs, due to the balance of trade between the two countries being in the US’s favour.

The report – which explores the new series of trade policies and tariffs from the newly re-elected President Trump and their potential global impacts on food and agriculture – identifies nine waves of economic and geopolitical measures that have been imposed, are underway or likely under the new US administration.

Their effects are already starting to be felt on “foreign shores”, according to report coauthor, RaboResearch general manager Australia & New Zealand Stefan Vogel, and their potential impacts on global food and agribusiness range from minor ripple effects to heavy disruptions.

“It has been a stormy start to the year with many waves and more to be expected later in 2025,” Mr Vogel said.



“It has been a stormy start to the year with many waves and more to be expected later in 2025,” RaboResearch general manager Australia & New Zealand Stefan Vogel said of US tariffs on global food and agribusiness.

Australia is in a favourable position in terms of its overall balance of trade with the United States when it comes to potential tariff risks, as the US is a significant market for some Australian agricultural exports, including beef, lamb and wine, the report says.

“Australia’s beef sector has seen the US emerge as its largest buyer in recent months,” Mr Vogel said. “US tariffs would hurt this trade flow, which accounted for approximately 30 per cent of all Australian beef exports in 2024 – the equivalent of 23 per cent of Australia’s beef production – while 23 per cent of US beef imports were supplied by Australia. This made Australia, together

with Canada the largest beef exporters to the US, well ahead of Mexico, Brazil and New Zealand.”

Besides beef, Mr Vogel said, almost 25 per cent of Australian sheepmeat exports in 2024 went to the US, making it Australia’s largest sheepmeat trade partner, ahead of China. While the US is also an important destination for Australian wine exports.

The report says current US policy is using tools of “statecraft”, such as tariffs, to achieve wider political goals and, in doing so, creating “waves that are hitting shores abroad”. Food and agribusiness sectors will likely see wide-ranging impacts across the globe and along the entire supply chain, it says.

MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...  
CLAAS Harvest Centre

Good result for stores

By SGSAA

Agents yarded a smaller offering of 1700 head at Thursdays VLE Leongatha store sale in another good yarding with a few annual drafts on offer

A smaller crowd and buying group attended but those in attendance were keen and operated in a strong market continuing on from last weeks improved prices.

There were less heavy and mid weight feeder cattle on offer than the previous week but results were very good with the better end of the steers making \$3.90 to \$4.30.

The heifers remained steady with the tops out to \$3.69 with most in the \$2.90 to \$3.35 bracket. There was limited x-breds and dairy types or cows and calves but what was there sold at similar rates.

Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, Feb. 27, 2025

|                                 |       |        |        |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| <b>Steers</b>                   |       |        |        |
| Sam Smith Media 11 Angus        | 630kg | \$3.85 | \$2430 |
| Turfa 13 Angus                  | 594kg | \$3.80 | \$2260 |
| Beavis 14 Angus                 | 545kg | \$3.88 | \$2120 |
| Prada 13 Hereford               | 515kg | \$3.65 | \$1880 |
| Beavis 12 Angus                 | 507kg | \$3.70 | \$1880 |
| Wildwood 18 Angus               | 495kg | \$3.91 | \$1940 |
| G&K Leeton 19 Angus             | 436kg | \$3.87 | \$1690 |
| M & M Cattle 11 Angus           | 424kg | \$3.98 | \$1690 |
| M & J Chatfield, 16 Hereford    | 420kg | \$3.92 | \$1650 |
| <b>Heifers</b>                  |       |        |        |
| S Bentley, Bluegum Angus        |       |        |        |
| 21 Angus                        | 414kg | \$4.08 | \$1690 |
| D & M Trigg, 15 Angus           | 412kg | \$4.05 | \$1670 |
| B Hinson 12 Angus               | 409kg | \$3.59 | \$1470 |
| Faulkner Lees, 20 Angus         | 401kg | \$4.05 | \$1630 |
| AW&CM Omara 22 Angus            | 397kg | \$4.32 | \$1720 |
| Hopkins 10 Angus                | 392kg | \$3.62 | \$1420 |
| R & K Telling, 41 Angus         | 389kg | \$4.08 | \$1587 |
| DA & PM Conn, 100 Angus         | 381kg | \$3.87 | \$1474 |
| P, N, D, & M Moore, 84 Angus    | 374kg | \$3.97 | \$1488 |
| F Colachiello 20 Angus          | 370kg | \$4.18 | \$1550 |
| Polyplas P/L, 69 Angus          | 363kg | \$4.07 | \$1478 |
| Stuart Investments, 45 Hereford | 362kg | \$4.16 | \$1508 |
| AW&CM Omara 15 Angus            | 356kg | \$4.12 | \$1470 |
| Rosslawson 18 Angus             | 347kg | \$4.11 | \$1430 |
| D & K Belcher, 47 Hereford      | 345kg | \$4.09 | \$1414 |
| Satra 20 Angus                  | 342kg | \$4.03 | \$1380 |
| N&R Lee 18 Angus                | 339kg | \$4.21 | \$1430 |
| HR& JA Bland 11 Angus           | 323kg | \$4.04 | \$1310 |
| <b>Heifers</b>                  |       |        |        |
| G&J Cope 10 Angus               | 457kg | \$3.51 | \$1610 |
| J&S Kelly 20 Angus              | 436kg | \$3.69 | \$1610 |
| BJ Oloughlin 18 Angus           | 439kg | \$3.66 | \$1610 |
| B Hinson 10 Angus               | 418kg | \$3.32 | \$1390 |
| Landy 23 Angus                  | 385kg | \$3.37 | \$1300 |
| RA Jones 10 Angus               | 332kg | \$2.80 | \$930  |
| Polyplas P/L, 65 Angus          | 330kg | \$3.45 | \$1141 |
| M Gordon 17 Angus               | 328kg | \$3.04 | \$1000 |
| Clancy 16 Angus                 | 326kg | \$3.31 | \$1080 |
| D & K Belcher, 19 Hereford      | 324kg | \$3.08 | \$1000 |



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|                                  |              | Brian Vuillermin                  | 0429 436 040 |
| <b>LEONGATHA</b>                 |              | <b>WONTHAGGI</b>                  |              |
| Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager | 0408 176 063 | Rob Ould - Livestock Manager      | 0408 595 183 |
| Jack Curtis                      | 0427 762 670 | David Holden                      | 0428 749 390 |
|                                  |              | Alan Bolding                      | 0419 723 255 |
| <b>WARRAGUL</b>                  |              | Dale Atherton                     | 0428 888 300 |
| Neil Darby - Livestock Manager   | 0418 595 265 | <b>PAKENHAM</b>                   |              |
| Terry Ahearn                     | 0438 562 816 | David Setches - Livestock Manager | 0409 443 473 |
| Jordan Sim                       | 0448 058 435 | Glenn Barwick                     | 0408 975 476 |
| Mark Malacarne                   | 0418 654 590 | Morgan Croucher                   | 0457 001 877 |
| Georgie Snell                    | 0417 100 657 | Tim Gibson                        | 0420 306 599 |
|                                  |              | Imogen Price                      | 0417 225 498 |

Real Estate Sales

|                   |              |                  |              |                       |              |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <b>KORUMBURRA</b> |              | <b>LEONGATHA</b> |              | <b>MELBOURNE LAND</b> |              |
| Scott McKenzie    | 0427 552 898 | Andrew Newton    | 0402 940 320 | Matt Koster           | 0474 781 711 |
| <b>WONTHAGGI</b>  |              | Peter Dwyer      | 0428 855 244 | <b>COWES</b>          |              |
| Phillip Hanley    | 0417 140 508 | Emily Hillberg   | 0422 622 299 | Greg Price            | 0419 337 441 |
| Cal Nation        | 0439 334 163 | Tony Giles       | 0407 528 192 | Maree Malloy          | 0408 316 715 |
| Mick Chambers     | 0418 349 783 | Dan Huther       | 0418 334 801 | Chase Watters         | 0423 272 819 |
| <b>GRANTVILLE</b> |              | <b>WARRAGUL</b>  |              | <b>VENUS BAY</b>      |              |
| Brian Silver      | 0407 347 509 | Alan Steenholdt  | 0409 423 822 | Daniel Lawrie         | 0417 631 252 |
| Angus Hall        | 0466 326 487 | <b>PAKENHAM</b>  |              | Sue Lawrie            | 0419 885 489 |
| <b>INVERLOCH</b>  |              | Tom Gibson       | 0438 574 472 |                       |              |
| Marni Lee Redmond | 0403 525 413 |                  |              |                       |              |
| <b>BERWICK</b>    |              | <b>LANG LANG</b> |              | <b>KOO WEE RUP</b>    |              |
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Leongatha VLE managing director Brian Paynter, pictured at an earlier sale, was pleased with the outcome of Thursday's Store Sale. A12\_0925

Moderate cattle numbers but good prices at Store Sale

WHILE cattle numbers at Thursday's Store Sale fell a little shy of 1,800, there were some strong prices. Phelan & Henderson & Co had its annual weaner sale, Simon Henderson noting the market had picked up from the previous week when the odd pen of steers made over \$4, observing prices were consistently going over that mark on Thursday. Simon attributed that to "increased demand and a high-quality penning of annual drafts of weaner calves". A highlight of the Phelan & Henderson & Co weaner sale was a pen of 305 kilo Hereford steers that fetched \$1,390 per head at an excellent \$4.55 a kilo, those cattle coming from Stuart Investments in Yarram. "Most of the cattle were purchased by local graziers and feedlotters, and there wasn't anyone there from a long way away," he said of Thursday's overall action. Simon stressed that the smaller Store Sale yardings in Leongatha recently mean "there's less of a pie to share between the buyers, so that's helping prices increase." "We're riding a wave of confidence at the moment even though it's quite dry locally; people are expecting prices to rise once we start getting a bit of an Autumn break," he said, adding that a lot of grass has germinated and started to grow from the bit of rainfall so far, although more rain is needed soon.

Leongatha VLE managing director Brian Paynter declared Thursday's sale went really well with good prices and competition, conceding the cattle numbers are a little lower than anticipated at the moment. "There was a variety of weaners and heavier cattle and they were all fetching pretty good prices, so that indicates there were the restockers, the feedlots and the general buying community," Brian said of the competition on the day. He commented on the healthy cattle numbers at Tuesday's Prime Sales, the one on February 25 drawing over 3,000 head, contrasting that with Thursday numbers. "I think people might be waiting for the rain, so the Thursdays haven't been as big," Brian said. He commented that expectations for a Store Sale at this time of year would be above 2,000 head. "We think people have got rid of what they needed to and now they're just waiting for a little bit of rain," Brian said. Simon discussed the reason Prime Sale numbers are currently so good. "If you've got prime cattle, now is the time to sell them because if you've got dry feed and the nights start getting colder, they lose weight, so it's time to move fat cattle on," he said, adding it is an attractive period to trade with prime prices having lifted. Overall, hopes are for further rain locally and in the many drier parts of Victoria.

**Lardner Park Calf Market Report**  
**Monday, February 24, 2025**  
Jersey & Jersey x .....\$34 to \$50  
Friesian Bulls .....\$38 to \$102  
Friesian Heifers .....\$34 to \$46  
Beef Bulls .....\$32 to \$240  
Beef Heifers .....\$34 to \$100  
Number of Calves: **126**  
Number purchased to rear: **43**

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- POUNDER Q252

VLE - LEONGATHA

STORE SALE  
1750 CATTLE 1750

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

- A/c C Beretta, Ferndale (ALEX SCOTT)  
39 Hereford steers, Rising 2 yo, 1 mark, Bayrook Past Co. bred
- A/c "Ho Ho Ho Farms", Shoreham (ALEX SCOTT)  
30 Angus steers, Rising 2 yo, By stud Angus bulls
- A/c KDB Holdings, Flinders (ESB)  
30 Angus steers, 15-16 mths, Pure Table Top breeding
- A/c PJ & BJ Stammers, Neerim Nth (ALEX SCOTT)  
21 Angus steers, 20 mths, by Barwidgee & Harris Angus bulls
- A/c Walker Family Trust, Glen Alvie (ELDERS)  
21 Angus steers, 18 mths, GF & ABF
- A/c R & J Demby, Toolangi (ELDERS)  
20 Angus steers, 2 yo, GF & ABF
- A/c L&L McCrorey, Trafalgar (ELDERS)  
20 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, East Gippsland bred
- A/c Szabo Beef, Foster (ELDERS)  
15 Angus steers, 2 yo, very quiet, GF & ABF
- A/c M Gibson, Koo Wee Rup (ALEX SCOTT)  
15 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, Vet mec drenched and B12 inj, East Gippsland bred
- A/c P Chandler, Red Hill (ESB)  
12 Angus steers, 20-22 mths
- A/c Tamar Prossor, Flinders (ESB)  
12 Angus steers, 24 mths
- A/c M & D Harms, Outtrim (ELDERS)  
11 Angus steers, 15 mths, Merelwood blood, VB, GF & ABF
- A/c Yellow Tail Ridge, Strzelecki (ALEX SCOTT)  
10 Angus & BB Steers, 18 mths
- A/c J Howard, Nar Nar Goon (ALEX SCOTT)  
10 Angus steers, 18-20 mths, By stud Absolute Angus bulls, Ex "Te Mania" bred cows
- A/c T&C Burgi, Gruyere (ESB)  
10 Angus steers, 18 mths

GROWN HEIFERS

- A/c PJ & BJ Stammers, Neerim Nth (ALEX SCOTT)  
21 Angus heifers, 20 mths, by Barwidgee & Harris Angus bulls
- A/c Yellow Tail Ridge, Strzelecki (ALEX SCOTT)  
10 Angus & BB heifers, 18 mths

WEANERS

- A/c Powlett River Pastoral (ELDERS)  
90 Angus mixed sex weaners, 11-12 mths, Alpine blood, NE Accred

- A/c Pepperhill Trading Co, Willow Grove (ALEX SCOTT)  
15 Angus steers  
10 Hereford steers  
8 Angus/Hereford steers  
12 Angus heifers  
6 Angus/Hereford heifers  
7-10 mths, By stud Angus, "Fernleigh" & "Wattlewood" bulls, 2 x 5 in 1, 2 x Multimin, weaned 10 weeks, VB
- A/c Clouds Creek Rural, Hallston (ELDERS)  
40 Angus mixed sex weaners, 11 mths, weaned, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred
- A/c Boondilla Park, Woodend (ALEX SCOTT)  
40 Angus steers & heifers, 9-11 mths, weaned, By stud Angus bulls
- A/c G & J Mathers, Anderson (ESB)  
20 Angus steers, 12-14 mths  
20 Angus heifers, 12-14 mths  
Table Top bloodlines, yard weaned, VB
- A/c V Zappulla, Neerim (ELDERS)  
30 Angus mixed sex weaners, 9-10 mths
- A/c Corrabora Cattle Farm, Neerim North (ELDERS)  
20 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned, VB, GF & ABF
- A/c B Freeman, Tooradin (ESB)  
20 Angus mixed sex weaners, VB
- A/c Halycyon Ridge, Mirboo North (ELDERS)  
20 Angus & AA/HH X mix sex weaners, weaned
- A/c Dr A Bond, Upwey (ESB)  
20 Poll Hereford mixed sex calves, weaned and quiet, VB
- A/c Steven Heath, Neerim (ELDERS)  
16 Angus steers, 12-14 mths, Lawson blood VB, GF & ABF
- A/c O & S Sinclair, Balmarring (ESB)  
14 Angus x weaners, 12-14 mths
- A/c Mrs J Richards, Chirnside Park (ESB)  
10 Angus & Black Baldy mixed sex weaners, VB
- A/c B Dellar, Shady Creek (ELDERS)  
9 Sim mixed sex weaners, 9 mths

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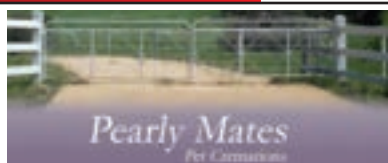


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LB0702

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AC0731

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LB0700

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LB0701

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ME0288

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VV0041

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LB0384



DEATHS



VALE NEVILLE GOODWIN OAM

*In honour of our dear friend and Rotarian, Neville Goodwin OAM*

Neville has been an absolute pillar of our community and had a true unwavering passion for improving the Bass Coast community, he served on many boards, a former Mayor of Bass Coast Shire and an exceptional Rotarian. His contribution was immense and he touched the hearts of so many. He was passionate about getting things done to improve people's lives and make the community a better place.

His legacy will certainly proudly live on. His determination and can-do attitude were incredible, leaving no stone unturned to achieve his projects for the future.

Our thoughts are with Lyn and all of his loved ones during this difficult time, we absolutely no doubts that Neville's memory and impact will continue to inspire all of us for many years to come.

*Vale Neville, you'll be truly missed.*

VJC0786

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JENC5055



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Our experienced and qualified staff provide personal, dignified service to all areas

Pre-need Funeral Plans available

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24 hours - 7 days



Office and Chapel:  
24 Anderson Street, Leongatha  
[info@handleyfs.com.au](mailto:info@handleyfs.com.au)  
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JENC5056

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Office - 102 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

**A.F.D.A.**

JENC5059

DEATHS

MORLEY, Trevor:

17.09.1947 - 28.02.2025.

Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family.

Loved husband of Diana.

Loving father to Kerry, David and Scott.

Adored father-in-law to Paul and Melynda.  
Cherished pop to Abbey, Madison, Ruby and Thomas.

*Forever in our hearts.*

O'BRIEN, Patrick Joseph:

30.05.1927 - 27.02.2025.  
Aged 97.

Previously of Korumburra.

Loving husband of Maureen (dec. 2009).

Father of 9 children.

Grandfather of 26.

Great grandfather of 33.

DEATHS

PETERS, Ian Bruce:

Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on 26.02.2025.

Dearly loved husband of Joan. Adored and loved father of Leanne, Ashley, Rohan and Melissa.

Father-in-law to Shane, Debby, Laura and Brendan.

Loved pa to 9 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

*Rest in peace, a life well lived.*

PETERS, Bruce:

The President, Board and Members of the Korumburra Bowling Club wish to extend their condolences to the family of Bruce Peters.

Bruce was a past President, Club Champion, Life member and much respected friend of all at the club.

Please accept our deepest sympathy.

DEATHS

SIM, Casey:

14.10.2002 - 25.02.2025.

Cherished daughter of Jeff and Michelle.

Sister to Connor and Jack.

Much loved granddaughter of Norma and Noel Sim, Rowena Batchem (NZ) and Peter Batchem (NZ).

Please see [www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au) for funeral details.

TURTON, Arthur (Arch) William:

08.11.1948 - 01.03.2025.

Passed away peacefully.

Loving husband of Jan (dec.).

Much loved father and father-in-law of Andrew and Sharon, Nicole (dec.) and Glen.

Adored pop to Natasha, Aaron, Katie, Kurt, Zoe and Bree.

*Forever in our hearts.*

TURTON, Arthur (Arch) William:

We thank you for the special memories you have left us with, we will all treasure these forever, you will always be with us xx.

A caring and kind man, now reunited with your 2 beautiful girls.

Lots of love, Andrew, Sharon, Tash, Azz and Katie.

WILLIAMS, Maxwell Whyatt:

18.09.1947 - 01.03.2025.

Loved son of Claude and Merle (both dec.).

Brother and brother-in-law of Jan and Peter Funnell.

Uncle to Jeff, Sandra, Tim, Glenn and their families.

*Now at rest.*

WILLIAMS, Maxwell Whyatt:

18.09.1947 - 01.03.2025.

Loved nephew of Don and Glenice, cousin to Karen and Darren and Robert.

Farewell Max, you will stay in our memories forever.

FUNERALS

CALDWELL, (Choco):

Memorial for Choco will be held at Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, Friday, March 7, commencing at 2pm.

MORLEY:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Trevor Morley will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Friday, March 7, 2025, commencing at 2:30pm.

A Private Cremation will follow.



FUNERALS

O'BRIEN:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Patrick Joseph O'Brien will be held at St Anthony's, Buckley St, Noble Park, on Friday, March 14, 2025, commencing 11am.

PETERS:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Ian 'Bruce' Peters will be held at the Korumburra Uniting Church on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, commencing at 3pm.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Korumburra Cemetery.

For livestreaming go to [www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au](http://www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au)



PULHAM:

The funeral service of Mr. David Percy Pulham will be held at the Foster Cemetery commencing at 1PM on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.



TURTON:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Arthur (Arch) William Turton will be held at the Graveside, Wonthaggi Cemetery, on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, commencing at 11am.



WILLIAMS:

The Funeral Service for Mr. Maxwell Whyatt Williams will be held at the Graveside, Leongatha Cemetery, Cnr McCartin St and Begg St, Leongatha, on Saturday, March 8, 2025, commencing at 11am.



IN MEMORIAM

MILNES, John:

19.10.1927 - 27.02.2019.

Always in our memories.

--Judy and family.

FOR SALE

FILING CABINETS

*Brand new with an anti-tilt safety feature*

Available in 2, 3 and 4 drawers. Over 8 colours to choose from. Order now at the Sentinel-Times Wonthaggi office 47 McBride Avenue 5672 1888

HAY:

Small squares, this season, good quality, \$12 per bale, free delivery. Phone 5657 3291.

FOR SALE

MALTESE X POODLE:

5F, 1M, D.O.B 24.12.2024. Vet checked, vaccinated, Microchipped 9560000188, 12552, 25260, 14689, 28313, 28845, 12187. RB 211780 \$1000  
Ph: Kath 0438 453 063

GARAGE SALES

RYANSTON:

1850 Loch Wonthaggi Rd, Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9. 8am-4pm. Property clearance, tools, furniture, garden, household. Everything must go.

USED CARS TRUCKS & TRACTORS

AAAAAAAAAAAAA

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Call Shane 7 days a week 5678 2002 or 0407 599 616

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:

Advertisements offering a used motor car for sale must include in the advertisement:

- (a) The cash price of the motor car; and  
(b) Whichever of the following is applicable...  
• If the motor car is registered, the registration number; or  
• If the motor car is unregistered, the engine number of the vehicle.

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HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE:

Good clean household furniture and other goods.

Ph: Andrew 0410 471 387.  
Abbys Bargain Centre.

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ROOM FOR RENT GRANTVILLE:

Professional person required.

Would suit doctor, nurse or schoolteacher. Bedroom and study, own bathroom and own fridge. Shared kitchen and car space. \$1000 a month, bills included. 0499 378 672.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ISLAND CRAFT MARKET

Thompson Ave. Cowes

Saturday, March 8 9am - 2pm

Stall holders wanted - craft only  
Inquiries: Monica 0412 710 276

Ready to Make Changes?

Jason Crestani, your local Psychologist!

Over 28 years experience  
Local resident. Sees children & adults too NDIS and Medicare ASD, IQ & ADHD Assessments  
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P: 0425 764 733

CORINELLA COMMUNITY MARKET

Community Market, Smythe Street, Harold Hughes Reserve

**Saturday, March 8, 9am-1pm**

All enquiries to 0490 852 753

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](http://www.bccf.org.au)



# Sentinel-Times Classifieds

## PUBLIC NOTICES



### Alumni Reunions

Classes of  
1985, 1995, 2005  
& 2015

are invited to return to Newhaven College to celebrate their 10, 20, 30 & 40 year reunions

**Saturday 15 March**  
10am - 12pm

To book your ticket visit  
[www.trybooking.com/CZMMM](http://www.trybooking.com/CZMMM)



## NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR A PLANNING PERMIT

### Will this planning application affect you?

The land affected by the application is located at:  
**179 Stony Creek-Dollar Road, Stony Creek, VIC, 3957. Being Lot 1 PS147428E**

The application is for a permit to:

Use and Development of the land for a Poultry Farm (Broiler) and a dwelling.

A permit is required under the following clauses of the planning scheme:

35.07 Farming Zone: Use and Development of the land for a Poultry Farm (Broiler) and a dwelling

### APPLICATION DETAILS

Application Number: **2024/200**

Address: **179 Stony Creek-Dollar Road, Stony Creek, VIC, 3957.**

**Being Lot 1 PS147428E**

Applicant name:

**Beveridge Williams & Co Pty Ltd**

### For Further reference contact:

Amy Wagenaar Ph: 5662 9200

Email: [council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

### How can I find out more?

You may look at the application and any documents that support the application at the office of the South Gippsland Shire Council at 9 Smith Street, Leongatha. This can be done during office hours and is free of charge.

You can find more details or make a submission regarding this application by scanning the QR code below or by

visiting the link to view more details:

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

### How can I make a submission?

Any person who may be affected by the granting of the permit may object or make other submissions to comment to the responsible authority. If you object, the responsible authority will tell you its decision. This application has not been decided and you can still make a submission before a decision has been made.

An objection must:

- be made to the responsible authority in writing
- include the reasons for the objection and;
- state how the objector would be affected.

The responsible authority must make a copy of every objection available for any person to inspect free of charge until the end of the period during which an application may be made for review of a decision on the application.

**The responsible authority will not decide on the application before: Thurs, March 20, 2025**



Find out more:  
Scan the QR  
code using your  
mobile phone



South Gippsland  
Shire Council

VV0240

## SITUATIONS VACANT



### PROPERTY MANAGER

Part time

Our Inverloch office wishes to appoint a dynamic experienced Property Manager to become a part time member of our progressive rental department.

You should possess excellent customer service and communication skills, as well as qualifications and experience in Property Tree and all residential and commercial real estate management.

Proficient computer skills, the ability to multi-task and a passion to grow the business are essential.

Excellent package and above award remuneration.

All enquiries strictly confidential.

APPLICATIONS BY EMAIL TO:

**[marniredmond@alexscott.com.au](mailto:marniredmond@alexscott.com.au) or contact Marni Redmond on 0403 525 413 7 a'Beckett Street, Inverloch, 3996**

JAZ2831

## PUBLIC NOTICES

Re: **JOANNE LOUISE O'DRISCOLL**, deceased

Would anyone holding or knowing the whereabouts of any Will of Joanne Louise O'Driscoll, late of Motel on A'Beckett, 24 A'Beckett Street, Inverloch, Victoria, deceased, who died on **25 October 2024** please contact **State Trustees Limited A.C.N. 064 593 148**, 1 McNab Avenue, Footscray VIC 3011 (Ref. No. 6890893-434-MORRIT)

Tel: 03 9667 6444

Email: [probate@stl.com.au](mailto:probate@stl.com.au)



F50068

## 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 2025, 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 LGBTIQ+ 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 [cac@gphn.org.au](mailto:cac@gphn.org.au)

HM12380

**Applications close Sunday, March 16**

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### ADVERTISERS PLEASE NOTE:

Much hardship and difficulty is caused to jobseekers by misleading advertisements placed in the employment columns.

Our Positions Vacant / Situations Vacant columns are reserved for advertisements which carry a specific and genuine offer of employment.

Ads for 'Business Opportunities', 'Commission Only/Sales,' training courses and employment services should be submitted under those headings.

Placing misleading job ads is an offence against the ACL and all advertisements are subject to the publisher's approval. For further advice contact the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission on 1300 302 502 or Consumer Affairs Victoria.



South Gippsland Hospital

### Positions Vacant

#### Health Care Worker - Casual

Grade 2-3 (depending on qualification/experience)

#### Refresher Program - Expression of Interest

Registered Nurse or RN Midwife to gain confidence & competence to re-enter the workplace

For more information

**<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>**

VV0243

## 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 2025, 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 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](mailto:cc@gphn.org.au)

HM12379

**Applications close Sunday, March 16**

## DEADLINES

**Classified single column**

**Mondays 12.00 noon**

**Classified double column**

**Fridays 3.30pm**

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

## TO ADVERTISE



Phone:

**5672 1888**



Email:

**[ads@sgst.com.au](mailto:ads@sgst.com.au)**



In person:

**47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi  
36 McCartin St, Leongatha**



Mail:

**47 McBride Ave, Wonthaggi**

### Office Hours:

**9am-5pm Monday to Friday**

### Payments accepted:



### Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

### The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

**Sentinel-Times**



## School Crossing Supervisors



- Casual and part-time positions available

Are you committed to the safety of children in our community?

We are seeking dedicated individuals to serve as School Crossing Supervisors at various locations across Bass Coast.

Training is provided and you can make a difference by helping ensure safe passage for students to and from school.

Visit [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/careers](http://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/careers) or contact Myka Johnston, Team Leader Roads and Compliance Operations on 0407 781 649 for more information.

Applications close **16 March 2025**

LEONGATHA

## CARPET COURT

### Retail Sales Person

Based in Leongatha  
Full-time, including two  
Saturday mornings per month

We're looking for a positive, customer-focused team member to join us! If you have a passion for interiors and love helping people find the perfect flooring and window furnishings, this role could be for you.

You'll be providing expert advice on design and colour, assisting customers with quotes and orders, and keeping our showroom looking its best. Full training is provided through our Carpet Court Training Academy and supplier network—so while experience is great, a great attitude is even better!

Ready to join a friendly team that supports your growth? Apply today! Drop your resume in person or email to [leongatha@carpetcourt.com.au](mailto:leongatha@carpetcourt.com.au) For any questions about the role contact Gaby - 0432 772 769

VV0236

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

## Co-opted Board Director: TAFE Gippsland

Applications are currently sought from suitably qualified Gippsland residents for the role of Co-opted Director of the Board at TAFE Gippsland.

TAFE Gippsland is one of the leading providers of large-scale vocational education and training in Victoria. It is also the first-choice provider of training and further education for students and industry in Gippsland.

With a proud history of helping Gippsland communities thrive for almost a century, TAFE Gippsland is also at the forefront of modern workplace training initiatives.

Play a part in shaping the future of a skilled and thriving Gippsland.

**Applications close:**  
**11.59pm Monday, March 31, 2025.**

Details at: [www.tafegippsland.edu.au/about/careers](http://www.tafegippsland.edu.au/about/careers)

For specific enquiries relating to this position, please contact Fran Bishop, Board Secretary on 0419 711 586

For assistance with the online application process, please contact Jenna Langley, People and Culture Manager on 0459 023 510.



VV0247



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12

**Newhaven College is seeking applications**

### TEACHER

Newhaven College is seeking a full time VCE Outdoor Education, Physical Education and Middle School Health Teacher to work in our specialised Year 9 Environmental Centre program.

Fixed term contract position commencing on Monday 2 June 2025 until end of Semester 1 2026. Extension beyond this is possible by negotiation.

For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website [www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/discover/work-with-us](http://www.newhavencol.vic.edu.au/discover/work-with-us) or contact Director of Business, Alan Nolan 03 5956 7505.

Applications (cover letter and CV) to be submitted to:

[recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au](mailto:recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au)

**Applications close Monday 17 March 2025 at 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 (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

## Supporting Healing for Families Community Engagement Workers - part time

GLaWAC considers that being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage is a genuine occupational requirement for this position.

We are looking for three passionate community members to join the Supporting Healing for Families (SHFF) Initiative, a program that amplifies community voices in the journey of individual and collective healing.

These roles are auspiced by GLaWAC, meaning GLaWAC will provide salary and IT support, but your day-to-day work will be directed by the Inner Gippsland Healing Model (IGHM) team.

As a Community Engagement Worker, you will design, deliver, and evaluate community engagement training and healing activities as outlined by IGHM. Your focus will be on strengthening connections to culture, supporting community resilience, and promoting healing through education and awareness.

Your role will involve strong community engagement and relationship-building within three Local Government Areas —Latrobe Valley, West Gippsland (Baw Baw), and South Gippsland/Bass Coast — and you will ensure mob-based best practice principles and integrity are upheld while working within locally developed cultural protocols.

**You will have:**

- A strong understanding of the Healing Model.
- Deep respect for confidentiality, integrity, and cultural safety.
- Experience working both independently and as part of a team.
- Strong interpersonal, written, and verbal communication skills.
- Good time management, organisational, and administrative skills.
- Experience working with community-based committees and stakeholders.

**Applications close: Sunday, March 9**

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to Mardi Edwards at [jobs@glawac.com.au](mailto:jobs@glawac.com.au)

JAC2800



## Light Vehicle Mechanic

Foster Service Centre is seeking a Light Vehicle Mechanic to join our modern and growing business. We work on a wide range of vehicles, handling everything from servicing and maintenance to repairs, as well as Ironman 4x4 accessories and upgrades.

**Preferred Experience:**

- Qualified Light Vehicle Mechanic (preferred)
- 3-4 year apprentices are also encouraged to apply
- European vehicle knowledge is a bonus but not required

**What We Offer:**

- Competitive wages above the industry award, negotiable based on experience
- A spacious, state-of-the-art workshop and modern office with all the necessary tools and equipment for efficient workflow
- A friendly, supportive team with a great reputation for quality work

If you're looking to join a thriving business with opportunities for growth, we'd love to hear from you!

**How to Apply:**

Visit us in person at Foster Service Centre, 21 Toora Road, Foster or email your resume to [fosterservicecentre@gmail.com](mailto:fosterservicecentre@gmail.com)

**We look forward to meeting you!**

VV0242



## Positions Vacant

Carinya Lodge Homes Inc. is nestled in the rolling hills of Korumburra. Our aged care facility consists of 60 beds within the lodge and 52 independent living units. Our mission is to provide respectful, innovative, quality service and accommodation for aged people within our local community that will enable them to live with dignity and independence in a caring environment.

We are currently seeking qualified applicants for the following positions:

### People and Culture Manager

The People & Culture Manager plays a crucial role in workforce management, regulatory compliance, and fostering a positive workplace culture. Responsibilities include HR policy development, performance management, training, and OHS oversight. The ideal candidate has relevant qualifications, experience in a similar position, strong communication skills, and a passion for creating a supportive and inclusive work environment that aligns with organisational values.

All applications to be sent to [jstevenson@carinyalodge.com.au](mailto:jstevenson@carinyalodge.com.au) by **Tuesday, March 18**

### Care Manager (9-month Maternity leave cover - starting April)

The Care Manager is responsible for overseeing clinical operations, ensuring high standards of care, and maintaining compliance with relevant regulations and legislations. This role requires strong leadership to foster a culture of quality care, respect, and community connection. Key responsibilities include care coordination, clinical governance, staff management, risk assessments and oversight of infection prevention and control. The ideal candidate is a Registered Nurse with management experience and a commitment to person-centred, trauma-informed care.

All applications to be sent to [kate@carinyalodge.com.au](mailto:kate@carinyalodge.com.au) by **Tuesday, March 18**

In addition to these positions, we are seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified Registered Nurses and Personal Care Workers with experience in an Aged-Care setting. To express interest in these roles, please email [recruit@carinyalodge.com.au](mailto:recruit@carinyalodge.com.au)

To view the position descriptions and current vacancies, please head to the Careers tab on our website [www.carinyalodge.com.au](http://www.carinyalodge.com.au)

VV0246

# Better nurse and to patient ratios

AMENDMENTS to nurse to patient ratios were announced last week with more nurses and midwives to be put on all shifts.

The legislation will see more nurses in the state's busiest metropolitan and regional intensive care units (ICUs), emergency departments (EDs), high dependency and coronary care units, and more midwives in maternity wards.

The new ratios are the result of extensive consultation with nurses and midwives, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) and health services, and will set in stone:

- \* the 'gold standard' 1:1 nurse to occupied bed ratio in ICUs on all shifts for all Level 1 and 2 hospitals – meaning that every occupied ICU bed has a dedicated nurse assigned to it at all times. ICUs will also require a team leader and liaison nurse for the very first time

- \* improved staffing ratios in resuscitation cubicles in EDs on morning shifts – bringing morning shifts in line with afternoon and night shifts

- \* 1:4 midwife to patient ratios in postnatal and antenatal wards on night shifts – down from 1:6

- \* an in-charge nurse on night shifts in standalone High Dependency Units and Coronary Care Units

These changes will improve care across the state's health services, with ICUs benefitting from additional specialist nurses who can expertly manage critically ill patients with multiple and complex needs.

Patients in EDs will also benefit from a dedicated nurse in each resuscitation bay on every shift – recognising that EDs always have critically unwell patients that need care.

These changes will also increase the number of midwives working night shift – delivering the best and highest level of care to families around the clock.

An in-charge nurse on night duty in high dependency and coronary care units will also ensure oversight of these critical areas on all shifts.

Nurse to patient and midwife to patient ratios were first introduced in 2000, and in 2015, Victoria became the first state in Australia to enshrine nurse- and midwife-to-patient ratios in law.

The new ratios build on the State Government's 28.4 per cent pay increase for nurses and midwives – helping to retain and recruit more nurses so more Victorians can get the very best care.

These improved ratios have been backed by a \$101.3 million investment to support health services with hiring or rostering additional nurses and midwives.

## SITUATIONS VACANT



## Machine Operator

We are looking for an experienced Earthmoving machine operator to join our team. Experience across a variety of machines preferred, Excavator, Dozer, Grader etc. HC licence an advantage.

Role has potential to be full time, part time or flexible hours, with seasonal work available.

Competitive rates/package for the right candidates.

Based in Tarwin Lower.

**Contact Dave on 0438 056 987**

LB1151

Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a **FREE** listing in our online and searchable directory at **[www.sgst.com.au](http://www.sgst.com.au)**

Email your job adverts to:

[ads@sgst.com.au](mailto:ads@sgst.com.au)

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm



# Pleas for toilet upgrades in Tarwin

WITH a new year comes a new football and netball season, and the Tarwin Football Netball Club is still battling with its old facilities.

Specifically, the club is calling for an upgraded toilet facility, which would benefit all users of the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve.

The recreation reserve not only plays host to the club's home games from April through to August but is also the home of the local pony club, the annual Tarwin District Community Lifestyle and Automotive Festival, and is frequented by dog walkers.

"We had more than 1800 people attend the festival (in 2024) and we get somewhere between 500 and 700 people at our home games," the club's John Giroud said.

"When we host a final, it can get up to more than 2000 people who are all sharing the one toilet facility."

As it stands, the recreation reserve has one toilet block.

The men's room includes two toilets and one urinal, and the women's has three toilets.

The netballers do not have their own facilities at the netball courts, so need to use the clubrooms to shower or change, which is at quite a distance on a rainy day.

"We built our rooms in 1992 with all local tradies," Mr Giroud said.

"We had something settled with (South Gippsland Shire Council) to upgrade the toilet facilities where we could get \$100,000 from the community, \$100,000 from the shire and \$100,000 from the State Government. However, council wanted to use its own contractors, and the quote came back at \$600,000."

A council spokesperson said the \$600,000 figure was based on a quantity surveyor report on the concept plans.

"In 2017, council worked with club to develop plans for a compliant netball changeroom facility incorporating public toilets," the spokesperson said.

"It is expected that the current cost to deliver this project would be higher than the 2017 estimate.

"The ability for the committee to engage their own contractors or provide 'in-kind' support is dependent on the conditions of any external funding. Given the likely scale of any potential external funding for this project, it is likely council would need to be the applicant for the grant and manage the delivery in line with the grant requirements and council policies."

Mr Giroud said the club feels



**John Giroud outside the lone toilet block at the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve. The Tarwin Football Netball Club wants to see the toilet facilities upgraded.** Tk07\_0925

abandoned by the council and is often annoyed by blame shifted to different organisations, including the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

"It's a joke. We had to hire portables for the festival, which is something we shouldn't have to do. We needed to use portables and open up the footy rooms when we had Unify at the reserve too – that was huge," he said.

"What (council) have to recognise is Venus Bay has just gone 'bang'. Heaps of people are working from home in Venus Bay and are using the recreation reserve. We cannot keep going with this, but we have been trying to get something done for 30 years. These ratepayers are coming here, and this is what they are getting.

"The kids won't go near our current toilet block. I spoke to some of the mums and their kids are too scared to use it. We often get ignored because we aren't on the highway."

The council spokesperson said the Upgrade of South Gippsland Sporting Facilities is a current advocacy priority.

"Council recognises that improvements are needed at a number of local reserves including the Tarwin Recreation Reserve, but external funding is required for this work to occur," the spokesperson said.

For the club and the regular users, the recreation reserve is a place of great pride.

"We built the ground ourselves. I used to work at Barry Beach and when the rig tenders came in, they brought the drill pipes, so I got free drill pipes and that's what we put in for goalposts. When the Collingwood Social Club folded and moved to a new location, Tarwin got their cooking gear," Mr Giroud said.

"We've had to do everything for ourselves. There's no care whatsoever."

In the upcoming season, Tarwin is looking to field teams from U10s to Seniors in the footy, as well as a full complement of juniors and seniors in the netball.

The club has around 300 members to date and is continuing to grow.

"In an ideal world, we would want to upgrade the toilet block and the facilities for the girls. Why should they have to go all the way to the clubrooms?" Mr Giroud said.

"We'd also love to be able to have caravaners stay here, but the toilet block really is a disgrace. We are so frustrated – it's been going on for so long."

Mr Giroud said the club had applied for grants, but these had been knocked back.

The council spokesperson said the project is on too great of a scale for just a council grant, and funding would be required from multiple levels of government.

"Many reserves in South Gippsland are seeking support for building improvements, but there are significant costs involved. Council is proactively advocating for additional support and external funding," the spokesperson said.

"Council is supportive of the upgrade and is advocating to the Victorian Government to plan, fund and deliver the works."

Council noted the Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve is a DEECA asset and is therefore not managed by council.

DEECA confirmed it does not upgrade sporting facilities, and grant opportunities may be available through Sport and Recreation Victoria.

DEECA is currently not aware of any environmental issues at the recreation reserve.

## Lifted above my circumstances

**A poem by Gwen Leahy nee Wintle born 29 May 1934**

*I lived on a dairy farm as a young girl,  
two sisters, one brother our lives to unfurl.*

*My mother and father work hard all day,  
to clear the land then grow the hay.*

*We went along to the school at Mount Best,  
climbing steep hills, no time to rest.*

*We crossed the Creek in a neighbour's place,  
he'd let his bull loose so we would keep up the pace.*

*The magpies were relentless at keeping us clear,  
of the trees where their young resided each year.*

*A pair of eagles attacked us one day,  
with sticks to the ready they flew away.*

*Loaded rabbit traps on the last steep hill,  
to dodge around them was quite a skill.*

*A notorious bush-ranger escaped to our woods,  
sleeping in hollow logs and raiding our food.*

*A glimpse of this man had us in a whirl,  
we threw him our lunches and raced off to school.*

*But our mother retold us what happened that day,  
Seems that her brother was just passed our way.  
(Actually, it was Uncle Walter who just returned from the war).*

*Mount Best was known as a God forsaken place,  
Did farmers know to seek his face?*

*One farmer did he took up the call,  
determined to teach the word to us all.*

*A church was built further on than the school,  
Sunday school in summer was then the rule.*

*Harvest, festivals, concerts and stories to be told,  
the local talent was something to behold.*

*In summer 1940 the mount was timber dry,  
To watch for signs of fire was the farmer's eye.*

*Dad had carted water from the creek to dampen the dirt,  
around the buildings in case of a fire alert.*

*It came, first the smoke (I was 5 years old)*

*Dad had burnt a clearing near the creek,  
we headed downhill our safety to seek.*

*Mum recovering from a blood clot and told to rest,  
me trying to push a pram we did our best.*

*Dad raced toward the approaching fire,  
to save the cattle, he cut the wire.*

*The stampeding cattle escaped to our patch,  
for mum's calm voice they were no match.*

*Their bellowing ceased with help from on high,  
to calm terrified children, I thought I would die.*

*With great courage my mum kept the cows away,  
I watched over the pram where our baby brother lay.*

*Next challenge to dad was at the school,  
Marion had been sent home against the rule.*

*Dad found her in time her life to save,  
her smoke-filled lungs, she was so brave.*

*My younger sister Esme and I,  
thought to paddle in the creek nearby.*

*The water was hot and the company not great,  
full of snakes swimming to their eventual fate.*

*Uncle Lindsay and dad saved the house and cowshed,  
with water stored ready for such an event.*

*Everyone else had fled from the mount,  
they finally decided to do a head count.*

*We were missing, believe dead,  
for more than a week. What dread.*

*Then the smoke cleared*

*Our family, buildings, animals all safe,  
from the 1940 fires that ravaged our place.*

*God had a plan and purpose for our lives,  
no doubt in my heart that is how we survived.*

*Just after the war to Toora hospital I go,  
with doctors and medical supplies very low.*

*Pains in my side for nigh on a week,  
a specialist from Yarram, my mother did seek.*

*He soon discovered that my appendix had burst,  
plus an abscess he feared the worst.*

*The Red Cross bought penicillin in a record speed,  
and the people prayed, they prayed indeed.*

*A plane crashed at Mount Fatigue close by,  
it hit a tall tree and fell out of the sky.*

*The air force travelled past our way,  
to retrieve what they could day after day.*

*Packets of dog biscuit they threw out to us,  
We grabbed them with glee and made quite a fuss.*

*I went by bus to Foster H.E. School,  
completed form four and dux of the school.*

*In form four we all managed to make our debut,  
In calendar events, it was the thing to do.*

*I started work at the Toora bank,  
for accommodation, my relatives I thank.*

*Dad bought a farm at Korumburra South,  
\$100 an acre, a lot of money back then.*

## Australian houses are getting larger and less sustainable

THE FOOTPRINT of the average Australian home is growing but there are fewer people living under one roof.

RMIT researchers attribute this to space creep, where our lifestyle choices demand larger homes. But, for a more sustainable and less lonely future, researchers say we need to embrace smaller living spaces.

Australia builds the largest new homes anywhere in the world. These oversized homes require more resources and energy to build, heat, cool and maintain.

Houses are getting bigger while lots are getting smaller; compromising green space to the detriment of biodiversity, shading

from trees and stormwater runoff.

The number of residents in the average Australian household has decreased about 45 per cent to 2.5 people in 2024. At the same time, the average house size has increased more than twofold since the 1950s, to 236m in 2020.

Studies have found we spend more time in our houses than in the past, but overall time spent in each space in the house is less.

Some families buy or build bigger homes for their separate hobby rooms for crafts or music, or home offices. We also see the kitchen creeping into the garage with old fridges and chest freezers allowing for greater food

storage, but also greater energy consumption.

'Space creep now also occurs even in shrinking, empty nest households. Garages and sheds are increasingly being converted into man-caves or rumpus rooms for tinkering, play and privacy.

Apartment dwellers perceive their homes to be smaller than they were before COVID.

To transition from larger to smaller homes we will need to do more than build smaller houses. It will mean shifting from a culture where we have an abundance of private spaces such as pools, home theatres and hobby rooms in our homes to shared social infrastructure.





# Around the bay

OVER the last few weeks there has been lots written about the recent decision to reduce the fisheries officers, a lot of it true and some not so true, especially from the bean counters at Spring Street who are still saying it's a proposal. Two questions I can't seem to get my head around, if it's a proposal why then have notices and end dates been given and I suppose the one question everyone has is, why? I get that the government has sent us broke through some very stupid business decisions and like all businesses to get out of these situations you need to cut costs and or sell things, anybody who works for themselves will know what I am talking about, we all at some stage in business go through stages that aren't so easy. But if a builder was doing it tough he wouldn't then sell his tools because common sense would tell you that you then can't work and wouldn't help your situation you would look at reducing in some other area. We have a recreational and commercial fishing industry that has had tens and tens of millions spent on it over the last few years, all with the one aim, so the government says, to make fishing sustainable and viable for the future. Now we are going to waste those tens of millions and go back to the start. All of this is based around a figure of 9 or 10 mil saving but one can guarantee it will be costing probably triple that to set up their new idea and once they realise it doesn't work and still haven't paid for the changes will need to spend much more to get back to where we are now.

The spread sheets tell a story, less people doing the wrong thing, better fish stocks than ever before and because those who make decisions have forgotten what common sense is they simply look at the numbers without knowing what the process has been to get to this situation. In fishing our tools to get the job done are the fisheries officers who passionately invest far more time than they get paid for to the fish stocks and now we are selling off those tools and replacing them with rubber hammers and plastic saws called engagement officers. No doubt the plan will be to simply educate us and tell us from an office not to do the wrong thing. Take nothing away from these officers they will probably be some of the same passionate foot soldiers just trying to pay the mortgage but will be told a very different way to do their enforcer. If the powers to be think the status quo will be maintained with a healthy fishery, if they think people will take any notice of extra signage, advertising or do their own policing by phoning the fisheries number then they

By Jims Bait and Tackle

are completely delusional and probably why the state is in the situation it's in. There are petitions online to sign and write to your local member and voice your opinion with them. Over the years I have worked very closely with the guys from Cowes and have seen firsthand their dedication but more their passion to the job and being part of the community and they will be sadly missed. I would also suggest that if you like abalone you use the available days left this season because in a month or so when there are no fisheries officers around the stocks will be depleted very quickly.

Briefly on the fishing front not much has changed except the weather, there are those who say there are no fish, and the other side says there are plenty. We are seeing good catches of all species but that's not to say it's been easy. The wind and the tide have been talking to each other and working together to make sure they are always opposite making it difficult at times to get to your spot. Tuna reports have been far less but same deal the weather hasn't been anything special. The tuna, although plenty around still seem to be so full of food they aren't interested in taking lures, we have started to see some better quality with a couple close to the 40kg mark. Kingfish have been good offshore and it's the best Mako season for some years. We see hundreds of people a week so naturally we get plenty of reports of all species. One common factor over the last month has been, no one is bagging out easily and most in the bay are well below their limits with the quality making up for the lack of numbers. It's not like the fish have simply gone, its more that they have moved around in smaller schools, gone deeper, gone into breeding cycles and probably 100 other factors. No one is finding or catching them easily but those who are patient, persevere, try a few new things, new spots are at least finding a feed.

Entry forms are out for the Good Friday Easter competition and be quick if you want your kids to receive a show bag, there are only 50 and will go to the first 50 paid junior entries.

We are also running a tackle night in March for those who want to get into fishing. It is a night designed for the very beginner or someone who wants to get into fishing and has no idea, if you know what you are doing it won't suit but we will look at another night in the future for you. Information on any of the above check instore or on our socials.

## SPORTS



Leongatha Primary School enjoyed a successful day in the pool during recent District Swimming competition.

# Leongatha Primary School claims District Swimming honours

LEONGATHA Primary School (LPS) came out on top at the recent District Swimming competition, claiming the District Shield.

While pleased with the result, LPS Assistant Principal Peter Slidders praised the school's swimming team for the respect,

resilience and positive approach its members demonstrated, noting their enthusiasm and enjoyment of sport is more important than winning.

"Congratulations to all students who participated," Mr Slidders said.

Leongatha's St Laurence

O'Toole Primary School picked up the Ian Brewster Handicap Shield, while Tully Chapman and Josie Richer were the Murray Wightman Medal winners (Individual Medley) for boys and girls respectively, both representing Inverloch/Kongwak Primary School.

## Old division swimming record falls in Korumburra pool

CONDITIONS were pleasant at Korumburra outdoor pool for Friday's School Sport Victoria swimming action, albeit a challenge arose in the relays when some students had to swim against the breeze, other events being limited to 50 metres.

The Division level event followed the previous week's District action.

Friday's race winners automatically qualified for Region competition in Sale on March 13, with second place getters reliant on times to do so.

Only one record fell, Josie Richer of Inverloch/Kongwak Primary School shaving six one hundredths

of a second off the 2016 girls' breaststroke benchmark for those in the 12 to 13 year age bracket.

Her time of 42:81 eclipsed former Korumburra Primary School student Sophie McKenzie who was present when her record of 42:87 fell, this time working as a lifeguard.

Nadine Newman, Cowes Primary School teacher and Division Coordinator for South Gippsland, was delighted to see six multiclass swimmers taking part, commenting there are usually only one or two.

"Today was awesome because they could swim with each other," she said.



Blue skies welcomed primary school swimmers for Division level competition in Korumburra on Friday.

## Channel Challenge wraps up the Bass Coast Summer Series

HOSTED by the Woolamai Beach Surf Life Saving Club the San Remo Channel Challenge on Saturday was the final event in the Bass Coast Summer Series.

Callum McClusky (11:31) was again first across the line for the 2nd year in a row.

Zoe Adams was the first female competitor to finish (14:28).

The three Bass Coast Summer Series events are the Cape Aquathon, Cowes Classic and the San Remo Channel Challenge.

The 550m channel swim starts from San Remo and crosses the Westernport channel to Newhaven on the Phillip

Island side of the bridge.

After donning running shoes on the grassy transition area in Newhaven the 2km run brings competitors back over the bridge to the finish line in San Remo.

Due to the strong tide flow the swim can only take place on the slack water of the appropriate high tide which lasts approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

A major fundraiser for the Woolamai Beach SLSC all proceeds support volunteer patrols at Woolamai Beach and Smiths Beach and lifesaving activities in the wider Phillip Island community.

The bridge run can take its toll and a spectacular sprint to

the finish line is always guaranteed.

Results 2025 San Remo Channel Challenge

Callum McClusky, 1st Senior Male (11:31) (1st overall)

Hamish McDougall, 2nd Senior Male (13:08) (2nd overall)

Justin Tilley, 1st Masters Male (13:12) 3rd overall)

Zachary Sherar, 1st Junior Male (13:35) 4th overall

Owen Krueger, 2nd Junior Male (14:07) 7th overall

Zoe Adams, 1st Senior Female (14:28) 9th overall

Paul Hardysmith, 1st Super Veteran Male (14:33) 10th overall

Paul Taylor, 1st Veteran Male (14:56) 15th overall

## 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<br>March 4 |
|--------------------|
| 3.52am<br>1.63m    |
| 9.45am<br>0.23m    |
| 4.30pm<br>1.70m    |
| 10.04pm<br>0.46m   |

| WEDNESDAY<br>March 5 |
|----------------------|
| 4.30am<br>1.63m      |
| 10.30am<br>0.15m     |
| 5.17pm<br>1.72m      |
| 10.48pm<br>0.51m     |

| THURSDAY<br>March 6 |
|---------------------|
| 5.06am<br>1.62m     |
| 11.13am<br>0.12m    |
| 6.05pm<br>1.69m     |
| 11.30pm<br>0.57m    |

| FRIDAY<br>March 7 |
|-------------------|
| 5.45am<br>1.58m   |
| 11.56am<br>0.13m  |
| 6.55pm<br>1.62m   |

| SATURDAY<br>March 8 |
|---------------------|
| 12.12am<br>0.63m    |
| 6.25am<br>1.52m     |
| 12.39pm<br>0.19m    |
| 7.47pm<br>1.53m     |

| SUNDAY<br>March 9 |
|-------------------|
| 12.55am<br>0.70m  |
| 7.09am<br>1.44m   |
| 1.25pm<br>0.28m   |
| 8.46pm<br>1.43m   |

| MONDAY<br>March 10 |
|--------------------|
| 1.41am<br>0.77m    |
| 8.01am<br>1.35m    |
| 2.16pm<br>0.37m    |
| 9.52pm<br>1.36m    |

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au





Brian Roffey, Neil Cook and Ray Prain were the best last game winners at Fish Creek's monthly triples.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

IT was another wonderful day of bowling at the Cape. A great afternoon tea was enjoyed by all and some very competitive bowls. The winners on the day were Linda Newman, Sue Rose and Pat Novak. They had a score of +19 – very respectable. There was another great result on Friday. The winners are Peter Grenville, Sue Rose and Gordon Peters with +9. A few of the members went to the Caledonian on Monday for their seniors' dinner –great value. All had a good laugh and a great meal.

FISH CREEK

THE club held its monthly triples at Fish Creek on Thursday. The Exchange Hotel is thanked for its generous support of the club. A special mention also to the volunteers who keep turning up each month to make this event a success, and the players who commit each month – another great day.

Next month will be played on March 27 and the last game for the year will be on April 24. The winners were Peter Hearne, Ross Lomagno and Roger Ballment from Korumburra. Runners up were Rob Poletti, Rob McLaughlin and Bill Symmons. Best last game winners on C/B were Brian Roffey, Neil Cook and Ray Prain. The Pennant season came to an end last Saturday at Phillip Island with Division 2 and 6 playing in the grand final. Unfortunately, the teams were unable to get over the line in either game. Division 2 went down to Tarwin Lower 54/2 to 70/14. The only winning rink was Dave, Tim, Paddy and Coop. Division 6 lost both rinks to lose by 21 shots. It was a great effort by this first year team to reach the grand final. Congratulations to all the victorious sides and to Phillip Island for putting on a great day. Barefoot bowls on Tuesday, February 25, resulted in the winners being Bruce Straw, Heather Byrne and Rick Martin.

Overall winners from the barefoot season were by the consistent Dave Vuillermin, Ash Zuide-ma and Andrew Boyd. This Friday, March 7, is a barbecue salad night at the club to reminisce the season that was with all members and supporters urged to attend.

FOSTER

A BIG congratulations go to Maureen, Nancy and Judy for winning the Strzelecki Ladies State Triples. All three bowled outstandingly –

an awesome achievement, which the club is very proud of. They will now head to Bendigo in April for the Victorian State Champions Week. It was yet another great night at Jack Attack. Winners for the night were, Not Kaboodle, Nicole, Ben and Tania, winning Chamber of Commerce vouchers sponsored anonymously by one of the players. The club is very thankful to all sponsors.

The runners up were the Robblecocks, Ethan, Leigh and Rod, winning the chocolate prizes sponsored by Promontory Kitchens. Also, the usual awesome array of raffle prizes were won all around the room. This week sees the last round in Section A, which will determine our first and second ladder positions and the wooden spoons. Section B will have a playoff as the top two positions are on equal points and shots. All the ladder results are on the Facebook page. Presentation night and a final dress up for St Patrick's Day –a week early – will be on Wednesday, March 12.

On Saturday, the Division 3 Pennant players headed to Phillip Island to play in the grand final against Meeniyian. It was an almost perfect day weatherwise, with a bit of a breeze up on the back green. The game had its ups and downs. Foster closed in on the overall score margin several times but couldn't quite get on top of it. Meeniyian went home victorious that day. Still a great achievement for the club in being there. It will just have to do it all again next year. The club is also advertising and seeking stalls for the Easter Car Boot Sale. Phone Bev for enquiries 0408 369 298.

INVERLOCH

THURSDAY social bowls saw 27 players play in fours and triples. Two teams won both their games. Winners were Chris O'Donnell, Carol Hughes, Ted Lee and Jenny Slater. Runners up were Bill Selby, Karen Orford and Judy Caughey. Please remember that the next members' night is on March 7. The next monthly triples is on March 20. Autumn Ivy Bowls is an eight-week competition of 28 teams of pairs. Held from 7pm to 9pm, the entry fee is \$10 per person. Dates are April 1, 8, 15 and 29, and May 6, 13, 20 and 27. Register quickly or miss out. Contact John Sutcliffe. Celebrate Equinox at Inverloch Bowls Club on March 21. Gates open 7.15pm and games



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's winners were Max Summers (3), Phil Nielson (S) and Marianne Scales (L). Absent: Katherine Bray (2).

are from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The cost is \$12 per game. Sunset is at 7.27pm. It is a fun event for family and friends.

KORUMBURRA

PENNANT is now all done and dusted. Korumburra went to Phillip Island with great hopes and came home with them dashed. Wonthaggi was too good on the day. Kevin Beecroft was the only winning rink getting up 24 shots to 23. Robin Provan went down in a thriller 15 shots to 16 and Charlie Edgarton, after leading early, went down 16 shots to 19 – well, next year looms. During the week, all the club games were completed with Francene Smethurst and Les Davis winning the Mixed Pairs defeating Heather and Jim Garnham. Noelene Cosson and Lena Harfield defeated Vera Sund and Judith Nicholl in the Ladies Pairs and in the men's B Grade final Gary Dorling defeated Mick Manning.

LEONGATHA

MARJ Pearson from Leongatha, and Jenny Roffey and Nancy Parry from Foster made up the Girl Power team who shared success at Leongatha's Monthly Triples. The Girl Power team was the only ladies' trio to compete in the event with 24 teams participating. In the first game, they were down 11 zip after four ends but managed to show grit and determination to win that game convincingly and managed with the assistance of the three Ls –line, length and luck – to romp home beating formidable opposition in the remaining three games. They were very appreciative of the sponsorship provided by Nesci's Transport. The weather was hot and various forms of cooling was evident on both male and female bowlers. The pennant competition has now reached the pinnacle with finals being played at present. Leongatha Bowls Club had a lean season and their nonappearance in a grand final is indicative of their performance. To be competitive, the club will have to recruit personnel with a view to improving its performance or accept the drubbings it has received in the past.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

IT was another great Thursday with temperatures in the mid 20s and players in the mid 50s. The bowlers were made welcome at San Remo for the weekly battle of the champions. As usual, they were signed in by Pauline and John as Peter sweat-ed over the makeup of the teams. Out on the green, they all took their places in the selected teams



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Wednesday winners Roger Lee, Bob Cornelis and Steve Bruyen.

and settled down to fight it out. As always, there was plenty of fun on the green with friendly banter between the wonderful members. Some excellent bowling could be seen across the green. A couple of wrong bias bowls, but these are always welcome as they assist the Royal Children's Hospital each year. A big thank you to Clair for all her work in the kitchen, Mark for all his work in the bar, as well all those who helped set up and clear up the rinks. Also, a big thank you to John for taking centre stage during the lunch break with the raffles each week.

The winners on a score of 33 were Max Summers (3), Phil Nielson (S), Marianne Scales (L) and Katherine Bray (2). Runners up, also on a score of 33, were Michael Dady (S), Lou Capsalis (L) and Raff Merante (3). Best one game winners on a score of 19 were Peter McWilliams (L), John Nicholson (S), Gwen Jeffery (2) and Laurie Bell (3). To all members who are still playing in the pennant finals, the club wishes you all the best and looks forward to seeing you all win this year's trophies.

Next week, the club will be meeting at Loch and District Bowls Club. Please be on site by 10am to allow the organisers time to arrange the teams. Till then, good luck and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT was another good week with finals in full swing. Tuesday saw Division 2 travel to Korumburra to do battle with San Remo on a fine mild day with little or no wind. In the preliminary final, there is no next week. All rinks played well to get a victory and book a place in the grand final next Tuesday. The final scores: Wonthaggi 74, San Remo 47. Wednesday social bowls was played on a hot afternoon with a good number of bowlers on the green. With Triples at two other local clubs, numbers were still good.

The winners were Roger Lee, Bob Cornelis and Steve Bruyen with a score of two wins and 35 points. With the end of Pennant, there will be an increase in the numbers at social bowls with some good weather on the way. Thursday social bowls once again saw good numbers in fine mild weather. Friday night once again was a success with a very good number there for the raffles and the members draw. Allan, Fred and Karen were happy meat tray winners supplied by Wonthaggi Meat Supply. Saturday was grand final day. Division 1 travelled to Phillip

Island to do battle with Korumburra. The two top teams on the ladder played off in the grand final. As you expect, there was nothing between the two teams all day. Every bowl, every shot is so important in these matches. All rinks played well to get a hard-fought victory. The final scores: Wonthaggi 54, Korumburra 51. Division 1 team members: Ben Mattock, Rod Aitken, Wayne Mattock, Trevor Teer, Bryan Donohue, Glen Birt, Fred Kellow, Jan Jeeves, Frank Seaton, Bruce Cameron, Rob Shaw and Michael Raman. Division 4 ventured to Loch to do battle with Port Welshpool. Once again, the two top teams on the ladder were playing in the grand final. All rinks played well all day with good support from club members there to support their team. Once again, such a small margin can be the difference at the end of the day. The final scores: Wonthaggi 51, Port Welshpool 54. Division 5 also at Loch with the weather being a perfect day for bowls. Once again, the two top teams on the ladder played each other in the grand final – Wonthaggi and Phillip Island. In a tight match all day, Wonthaggi were able to get a break and hold onto that margin to take home the flag. The final scores: Wonthaggi 69, Phillip Island 58.

Division 5 team members: Sue Parker, Denise Silver, Rob Westbrook, Frank Tagell, Colin Binch, John Kappler, Ken Webb, Hans Bischofberger, Rod Hogan, Ken Gage, Bill Davidson and John Gilliland. Bowls this week: Tuesday: Midweek Pennant grand final day. Division 1 and Division 2 are playing at Korumburra at 10am. Wednesday: Turkey Triples Day. Thursday: Social bowls at 10am. Friday: Coaching at 10am. Friday night is dinner at the club. Look at the Facebook Page for details. Saturday: Social bowls at 1pm.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THE numbers this week are back to normal with a total of 51 members competing. Tuesday's winners on plus 13 were Mary Spooner, John Rook and Robert McLaren. Runners up on plus nine were Pat Smith, Betty Huitema and Fred Demenech. On Friday, the club had a very competitive day with three teams all winning two games. The winning team on plus 18 were Carol Thorp, Maggie Scapin, John Ferguson and Thelma Kavanagh. Coming second on plus eight were Jean Wyld, Pam Russell and Mary Spooner.





Winners of the 4BBB Stableford Di and John O'Connor Board event Sherrill Winkler and Linda Forrester with runners up Tracey Ryan and Jenny Riseley at the Woorayl Golf Club.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, February 26. Stableford: 36 players. A Grade: Greg Wilson (14) 40 points. B Grade: Jake Fowles (19) 36 points. NTPs: first Blayke Spokes, seventh Guv Fields, 10th Greg Wilson and 13th Steve Duffield. Thursday, February 27: Stableford: 20 players. A Grade: Steve Duffield (11) 42 points. B Grade: Joel Norton (19) 37 points. NTPs: first Barry Kerr, 10th Steve Rose and 13th Mark Galges. Saturday, March 1: Sponsor: Ross Dowell. Monthly Medal: 52 players. Monthly Medal winner: Zach Walker (18) 67 net. A Grade - First: Clint Newcombe (8) 68 net. Second: Tim Fowles (8) 70 net. B Grade - First: Zach Walker (18) 67 net. Second: Greg Wilson (13) 69 net. C Grade - First: Brodie Senior-Gibson (33) 70 net. Second: Don Hislop (28) 73 C/B. NTPs: first Ian Gibson, seventh Jake Cochrane, 10th Jacob Wrigley and 13th Jake Cochrane. Scratch winner: Shayne Harland (2) 75 off the stick.

Ladies

KORUMBURRA'S 'Beginner/Guest Day' was last Wednesday with many new faces willing to give golf a go. A Canadian Foursomes nine-hole game was played, with the guests teaming up with a member. Everyone had fun and enjoyed the day with a lunch together afterwards. The sponsors for the day were Dave and Viv Enbom and the club thanks them for supporting this event annually. Winning the Member/Guest nine-hole competition, the club congratulates Johanna van den Heiligenberg and May Kwa with net 39. R/up went to Trudy Olden and Helen Arestia with net 41.375. The club also had a Member/Member Canadian Foursomes nine-hole competition. The winning pair was Julie Cole and Lyn Leppin with a net 39.87. R/up were Kath Welsh and Lynne Schwennesen net 43.87. Thursday Twilight winners were Deb Wrigley and Johanna VDH with 23 points. Runners up went to Laurie and Sandra Webster with 22 points. NTPs on the 13th green go to Gail Beer and Laurie. On Friday, Korumburra hosted the South Gippsland Golf Inc (SGGI) Bowl and the club thanks everyone for their support and help in making the day run smoothly. Congratulations to the SGGI



Wonthaggi Golf Club's 2025 Scratch Champions were Open Marg Johnson, B Grade Robyn Wilkinson and C Grade Dawn Judkins.

Bowl winners Meeniyen and to Korumburra's very own Lyn Leppin for winning C Grade. Well done to Heather Grist (20) who won the Women's RB Monthly Medal with a nice 71 net on Saturday. Heather was awarded the Luscious Cafe voucher and the club thanks the local cafe for supporting the event each month. R/up with 73 net went to Lyn Leppin (34). Best Scratch score was Merrissa with 83 gross. BDTL went to Diarne Maskell and Merrissa Cosson 75 net. NTPs were first Johanna VDH (Kelly's Bakery), seventh Merrissa Cosson, 10th Kerri Besley and 13th Lyn Leppin. Medal Stroke event with a field of 100 members/guests competing for this event. Overall winner: Gerry Carcour (20) with a high net score of the day of 66. A Grade winner: Mark Wilson (11) with a net score of 68. R/up: Rod MacKenzie (10) with a score of 70 on a countback. B Grade winner: Bruce Christison (14) with a net score of 68. R/up: Renato Monacella (13) with a score of 69 on a countback. C Grade winner: Gerry Carcour (20) with a net score of 66. R/up: David Chugg (21) with a net score of 72. D Grade winner: Michael Delaney (27) with a net score of 73. R/up: Michael Reinhard (25) with a net score of 74. NTP fifth second shot: Stuart Smith at .16m. NTP 14th: David Chugg at 4.70m. NTP 16th: Gerry Carcour at 4.00m.

Ladies

THIRTY-THREE women braved the heat to play in the Invy Espy sponsored Stableford event. The Esplanade Hotel Inverloch provided vouchers to the winners and monogrammed balls to the next six best scores. A relative newcomer to the club Judy Bright (34) finished with 40 points to have the best overall score. Jo McNaughton also scored well, finishing with 35 points on a count back from Di Williams (21). Invy Espy monogrammed balls went to Di Williams, Michelle Roberts, Jill Steer, Jo Miles, Leanne Costello and Neryl Hopcraft. Paula Cross had 18 points to win the nine-hole competition and Colleen Touzel finished second with 16 points.

Meeniyen

Ladies

WEDNESDAY, February 26, had the ladies playing Par, which Rita Wells sponsored. The winner was Susan Straw with +1 on a countback from Faye LePage +1. Down the line balls went to Andrea Thorson square and Gail Browne -2. The ladies had two teams play in the district bowl at Korumburra on Friday, February 28, and were successful in winning the bowl. The team included Andrea Thorson 30 points, Susan Straw 33 points and Irene Holm 37 points. Irene also won A Grade. FORTY-FIVE women from the district competed in the South Gippsland Bowl at Korumburra



Lyn Leppin (C Grade), Heather Sullivan (B Grade) and Irene Holm (A Grade) were the grade winners at the South Gippsland Golf Inc Women's Bowl.

Golf Club last Friday. The weather was perfect, and the grounds staff and club volunteers are to be congratulated on the presentation of their course. As usual Korumburra provided a sumptuous lunch with all the trimmings. Meeniyen Golf Club was the victor of the prestigious and elusive SGGI Bowl amassing 100 points – Irene Holm finished with 37 points, Susan Straw on 33 points and Andrea Thorson 30 points. The A Grade winner was Irene Holm – Irene also picked up a nearest the pin on the seventh. Heather Sullivan (Woorayl) took out B Grade with an amazing 41 points the best score of the day. Woorayl Golf Club fielded three teams in this event –a great effort from a small club. Lyn Leppin (Korumburra) was the C Grade winner with 33 points on a count back from Shirley Cook (Foster).

The remaining nearest the pins were won by Merryn Dear (Wonthaggi) on the first, Diarne Maskell (Korumburra) on the 10th and Jenny Riseley (Woorayl) on the 13th. Down the line balls went to Faye Le Page 39 points (Meeniyen), Merryn Dear 34 points, Shirley Cook 33 points, Linda Forrester (Woorayl) 33 points, Trudi Mantell (Korumburra) 32 points, Kerri Besley (Korumburra) 32 points, and Diarne Maskell, Johanna van den Heiligenberg (Korumburra) and Maree Wittingslow 31 points (Korumburra). The South Gippsland Golf match committee would like to extend thanks to Korumburra's captain and vice-captain, sisters Kerri Besley and Shelley Snooks and all their helpers – their organisation on the day was excellent. The next district event, you will be relieved to know, will be after the completion of the Pennant season. The Singles Championship will be at Meeniyen Golf Club on May 16.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: February 27, SR. 71. Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Roger Kilpatrick 38. R/up: Graeme Crawford 37. Ball sweep: Andrew Hooton-Shandley 37, Ian Hack 36, Graeme Campbell 36 and Bruce Betts 35. Results: February 27, SR. 34.5. Competition: Stableford front nine-hole. Winner: Secondo Tiziani 18. Ball sweep: Andrew Hooton-Shandley 18, Ray Hender 18 and Kevin Bayley 17. Results: March 1, S.R 72. Competition: Monthly Medal Stroke and putting.

Monthly Medal: Eric Van Agtmaal 67. A Grade: Michael Scott 68. B Grade: Gary Bates 69. C Grade: Kevin Bayley 69. BDTL to 71 C/B. Ball sweep: Dean Winning 68, Tony Kiezenberg 69, Martin Jays 70, Bill Fennell 70, Ian Gilmour 71, Messy Chand 71, Mark Nicholson 71. Eagle: Tony Kiezenberg seventh. NTPs: Ben Foon second, Peter Dell fourth, Peter Dell propin eighth, Sam Dennis 13th and Ian Gilmour money hole 17th. Putting: Eric Van Agtmaal 23 putts.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY was the final stroke round of the Ladies Championships 2025. The day started warm and got hotter. Daily winners: A Grade: Merryn Dear 89(18)71 net on c/b Marg Johnson. B Grade and round of the day: Robyn Wilkinson 94(25)69 net. C Grade: Donna Van Veenendaal 116 (45) 71 net. BDL: Marg Johnson 71, Bev Sloan 72, Shaz Patullo 72, Kathy Geyer 72, Marion Walker 73 and Anne Poulton 74. NTP: second Donna Van Veenendaal, eighth Marg Johnson and 17th Bev Sloan. 2025 Champions: Open: Marg Johnson 260 from Merryn Dear 272. A Grade Handicap: Merryn Dear 221 c/b. B Grade Champion: Robyn Wilkinson 304 from Geraldine Prentice 308. B Grade Handicap: Shaz Patullo 217. C Grade Champion: Dawn Judkins 331 from Heather Wintle 333. C Grade Handicap: Heather Wintle 219. Pearl Kewming Award net 54-holes over whole field: Shaz Patullo 217.

WOORAYL

Ladies

FEBRUARY 26 was the 4BBB Stableford Di and John O'Connor Board event, sponsored by Hartley Wells Betta. Fourteen ladies had an early start due to the warm conditions. The winners of the day were Linda Forrester and Sherrill Winkler on a countback 47. The runners up on a countback were Jenny Riseley and Tracey Ryan 47. BDL went to Inge Giliam and Sharyn Rayson 45, and Elly Berryman and Ann Poole 44. NTPs were eighth and 11th Elly Berryman, and 17th Pauline Lancaster.



# Busy times at Wonthaggi Croquet Club

THE Wonthaggi Croquet Club is having a very busy February, starting with six members travelling to Traralgon on the weekend of February 8 and 9 to compete in their level play singles tournament.

Tom Lacey tackled Section 1, where he won five games and finished third.

Mike Butterfield and Virginia Wheeler were seeded in Section 2 with Mike winning three games and Virginia two games.

Neil Warburton was the sole, and successful, entrant in Section 3 coming in the winner with six games.

Kathy Ross and Jo Butterfield completed the contingent competing in Section 4 with both winning four games.

This was equal with the runners up but just missing out on a hoops countback – well done all.

Tuesday, February 11, was the day of our internal Hi-Lo doubles tournament.

Playing partners were drawn out of the hat and this format makes for a fun competition.

This year's winners were Stephen Wilbourne teaming up with associate member Terry Nash.

The following Tuesday the last



Wonthaggi Croquet Club's Memorial Shield participants were Stephen Wilbourne, Sue Baker, Tom Lacey, Philip Bool, Brian Davidson, Bert Orr, Kathy Ross, Neil Warburton, Sam Morale, Gerry Kool and Marj Prendergast. Absent: Sue Priller and Terry Nash.

of the Singles, Section 3, was contested with six players competing and Stephen Wilbourne coming up trumps.

A bit of a theme developing here.

The Memorial Shield is a competition held in honour and remembrance of all those members who have passed away since the inception of the club in May 1993.

This year it was held on Tuesday, February 25.

A long day with seven pairs competing but a great, well fought out competition.

The ultimate winners, winning all of their games, were Marj Prendergast and Neil Warburton, their names now forever engraved on the shield, with Sue Cartwright and Gerry Kool (five wins – one loss) as runners-up.

The days of the internal tournaments were broken up with a barbecue lunch and a thank you to the chefs on each of those days.

Thanks also to the tournament manager Sue Cartwright for keeping everyone on track during these events. Not an easy task.

Left only now is the President/Secretary's challenge to be held shortly.

# Phillip Island Bridge Club

THE PHILLIP Island Bridge Club AGM on Monday February 24, was followed by the Life Members Shield Day. This popular Red Point event was won impressively by Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour with a score of 64.17%. Runners up were Life Member Don Stewart-Uden and his wife Trish (59.44%). Placing third were Diane Coleman and Karen Klym (55.28%). Diane and Karen were both re-elected to the Committee.

Wednesday's Nationwide competition club results were N/S 1st Marnie Myall & Caroline Shaw, E/W 1st Lorrie Read & Judy O'Connell, N/S 2nd Jill Short & Barbara Jacob, E/W 2nd Clare & Jim Murphy. Particular congratulations to Barbara who officially joined the Club on the day and won her first Masterpoints.

**RIGHT Life Members Shield Day winners, Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour, presented by Don Stewart-Uden.**



# Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun

Wow, what a day for a parkrun! A fantastic turnout of 61 obviously had the same idea and enjoyed perfect conditions on the recently upgraded Rail Trail. Of the 61 runners and walkers there were a huge number of first timers - 16, many of them families, and a good number of umpires brought over by Ben Bailey from the Valley.

With so many new runners some were inspired to fast times and a whopping 15 personal bests were recorded, Val Smith taking over a minute off her best, Damien Turner bearing down on the 20-minute barrier (unless footy intervenes ) and Paul Krausz really starting to find his legs with a huge PB. Young Riley Smith

**By Steve Quirk**

didn't have his father to slow him down so he put feet to the floor and showed plenty to spare, I'm starting to panic already when he's in the field, he has so much talent and a real love of running.

Congratulations to Judy Blomeley on reaching the milestone of 25 Parkruns and Libby Belton and myself both reached 100 runs. Well done to all, including the volunteers who made this a morning to remember. Enjoy the great weather while we can and we hope to see you next weekend. Don't forget, the event starts at 8 o'clock, and it's always free.



Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun team of volunteers over the weekend.

# Mikayla competes at Pony Club Victoria State Championships

MIKAYLA Thomas competed at the Pony Club Victoria State Championships on Sunday February 23. Mikayla is a year 10 student at Bass Coast College and a member of Tarwin Lower Pony Club in the West Gippsland Zone. Mikayla had to score above 70% on her dressage tests at three zone qualifiers in August - October last year.

Only three riders from the zone are selected to ride for their zone. The State Championships were held at Tonimbuk Equestrian Centre on the weekend. Mikayla competed against the top 30 Grade 3 riders in the state.

Evermore Despina (Dezzy) a Warmblood mare, Mikayla's horse were the first riders for the event and scored 71.59% for their first test and an incredible 78.33% for their second. Dezzy has only been with Mikayla since July, but a strong bond has formed between them. Mikayla is dedicated to her riding, with regular coaching from Dolly Joyce and Jayden Brown (Australian Olympian).

**RIGHT: Mikayla and Dezzy recently competed at the Pony Club Victoria State Championships.**



# Leonard supports funding to rebuild Fish Creek Football Netball Club.

Deb Leonard has announced she will seek the funding required to rebuild the Fish Creek Football Netball Club rooms as soon as possible, if elected.

Since the clubrooms were burnt down in an arson attack in late 2023, the club has had to make do in less than ideal circumstances.

"The Fish Creek Bowls Club has been very supportive in letting us use their facilities during the season" says secretary Megan Vuillermin. "But it's not a long term solution. We desperately need to rebuild the social rooms and change rooms for our growing club."

The club estimates that the new build could cost up to \$4 million. They have already secured around \$2.6 million from insurance, fundraising and a state government grant, and are seeking \$1.5 million in federal funding to commence the project.

Ms Leonard says this should be a given when you look at what sporting clubs in marginal electorates have been awarded. "It's clear we haven't been getting our fair share of federal funding to support our sports and recreational clubs."

"We've been ignored and our sporting clubs and communities suffer"

"There are still many clubs in the electorate that don't even have female change facilities" says Ms Leonard.

Ms Leonard also points to the lack of funding for the Phillip Island Recreational Reserve and Aquatic centre, for which the Phillip Island community has been advocating for decades. Ms Leonard has also committed to supporting this project.

"Football and Netball clubs are the heart and soul of regional and rural towns" says Ms Leonard.

Ms Leonard says she considers the funding as an investment in the community. "The Fish Creek footy club is such a vibrant club. With over 350 members, it brings together the community and creates long lasting social bonds. It's imperative we protect the community they've built, and ensure they have the facilities for the club to thrive into the future"

"I absolutely commend the FCF-NC committee for all their hard work after the fire, and the incredible fundraising job they've done." Ms Leonard noted.

# South Gippsland Bridge

25 Feb at Wonthaggi RSL - 6 tables competing. Master point winners:

1st John French and Debbie Anglim 64.07 average board score, 2nd Phillip and Nev Chapman 60.00, 3rd Alan Johnston and Lois Dwyer 59.26, 4th Bronwyn Sund and Mike Dooley 55.19, 5th Ken McKenzie and Marie Sands 52.96, 6th Sean Munley and Bruce Higgs 52.22

28 Feb at Inverloch -10 tables competing

North/South Pairs:

1st John French and Debbie Anglim 62.04, 2nd Sean Munley and Tom Kudelka 60.42, 3rd Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 59.95, 4th Phil and Nev Chapman 57.39, 5th Carol Sowden and Mary Brewis 49.77

East/West winners:

1st Ruth Harvey and Sue Edwards 60.42, 2nd Julie and Ian Mcphee 59.03, 3rd Faye Rowlands and John Currier 58.33, 4th Bronwyn Sund and Marie Sands 54.86, 5th Matti Shub and John Quayle 53.70



AM&DTA TENNIS

Section 1 Results  
Inverloch 6.43 defeated Westernport White 2.23, Korumburra 6.40 defeated Leongatha 2.29, Koonwarra 6.44 defeated Westernport Red 2.27.

Ladder: Inverloch 109, Koonwarra 88, Westernport White 78, Korumburra 64, Leongatha 63, Westernport Red 30.

Section 2 Results:  
Korumburra 5.60 defeated Outtrim 4.55, Leongatha 5.60 defeated Baromi 4.56.

Ladder: Outtrim 96, Korumburra 86, Baromi 71, Leongatha 65.

This was the last round of tennis for the season, and what an end it was with some great games in both sections. Sometimes it isn't the final score that reflects the quality of the tennis played.

In Section 1, all matches were 6/2 with games the difference. The Score Secretary was given some inside goss at Koonwarra, and would like to extend a warm congratulations to Glenn Kleeven and Tash Berry for getting engaged over the Christmas period. Commiserations to Leongatha who miss out on finals this year by just one game.

In Section 2, both matches were decided by just a handful of games. This section remains really competitive, even with quite a difference in the ladder. They always have great matches, but I'm sure it would be great to see some extra teams in the section next season.

Next week is no play due to the Labour Day Long Weekend. The first round of finals will be played on Saturday 15 March in Leongatha. Please make sure your team is there at 12.00pm for a 12.30pm start.

The Presentation Night will be held at Space 47 in Leongatha after the Grand Final at 7.00pm. Tickets will be available at the first week of finals to purchase, so please make sure you let someone on the Committee know if you would like to attend. Partners and kids are welcome also. Each team is asked to please contribute an item for the raffle. Have a chat with the Treasurer or Secretary if you have any questions.

RIVERSIDE TENNIS

Section 1/2 Doubles:  
Warragul Blue 5 - 36 def Hallora 4 - 41, Warragul White 8 - 52 def Trafalgar 1 - 23, Moe 4 - 39 def by Neerim District 5 - 41, Poowong 0 - 0 (Forfeit) def by Drouin Maroon 9 - 54, Drouin Gold - Bye.

Ladder: Drouin Maroon 128, Moe 105, Warragul White 99.5, Neerim District 92, Hallora 91, Warragul Blue 71, Drouin Gold 60, Trafalgar 46, Poowong 42.5.

Section 1 Singles: Drouin Gold 0 - 0 - 17 def by Moe White 3 - 6 - 37, Drouin Maroon 1 - 2 - 24 def by Trafalgar 2 - 5 - 33, Drouin White 0 - 0 - 14 def by Moe Red 3 - 6 - 37, Moe Blue - Bye.

Ladder: Moe White 58, Moe Blue 46.5, Moe Red 40.5, Trafalgar 35.5, Drouin Gold 31, Drouin Maroon 27.5, Drouin White 21.

Section 2 Singles:  
Neerim District 5 - 46 def Warragul 1 - 31, Drouin Maroon 3 - 33 def Drouin Gold 3 - 31, Moe 0 - 17 def by Trafalgar 6 - 48.

Ladder: Trafalgar 86, Neerim District 77, Warragul 64.5, Drouin Gold 64.5, Drouin Maroon 43, Moe 23.



Section 2 doubles finalists: Sam, Archer H (runners up) and Jess C, Matthew C (winners)



Section 4 Doubles finalists: Jack M/Ava M (runners up) and Daniel H/Corin P (winners)

# Korrine and District Junior Tennis Association Annual Tournament

It was a fabulous turnout at Ne-  
haven College on Saturday 22nd  
February when 38 junior tennis  
players from the KDJTA repre-  
sented their respective tennis  
clubs in the annual Tournament.

All the juniors are to be com-  
mended on their true sportsman-  
ship and perseverance as the  
mercury rose throughout the day.

A special thank you to all the  
players, parents/guardians and  
committee members for their ef-  
forts and support on the day.

The results are as follows:  
Pennant: Singles winner: Felix  
B, Singles runner-up: Luke A,  
Doubles winner: Ben W/Felix B,  
Doubles runner-up: Eamon A/  
Luke A  
Section 1: Singles winner: Mad-

dison VdB, Singles runner-up:  
Avery H, Doubles winner: Mad-  
dison VdB/Avery H, Doubles run-  
ner-up: Eli B/ Archer H/ Yasmin G

Section 2: Singles winner:  
Jordy M, Singles runner-up: Ar-  
cher H, Doubles winner: Matthew  
C/Jess C, Doubles runner-up:  
Sam/ Archer H

Section 3: Singles winner: Asher  
J, Singles runner-up: Emerson S

Section 4: Singles winner: Dan-  
iel H, Singles runner-up: Corin P  
Doubles winner: Corin P/ Daniel  
H, Doubles runner-up: Jack M/  
Ava M

Section 5: Singles winner: Ava  
M, Singles runner-up: Lilly VdB,  
Doubles winner: Ray J/ Evie F,  
Doubles runner-up: Aiden H/  
Lilly VdB



Section 1 doubles finalists: Maddison VdB, Avery H (winners) and Eli B, Archer H and Yasmin G (runners up)

## Impressive participation at athletics carnival



Macy Peterson, Sophie Carter, Ally Morris and Lara Mullin at Bass Coast College's athletics carnival on Tuesday. Tk08\_0925

BASS Coast College held its  
athletics carnival with a fresh  
spin last Tuesday.

For the first time, the event  
was held at the Leongatha velo-  
drome, supported by the South  
Coast Athletics Club.

With the support of the ath-  
letics club, the carnival ran  
smoothly with everything set  
up upon the students' arrival,  
and they were able to compete  
at a fantastic venue with quality  
equipment.

The athletics club was thanked  
for its assistance in running the  
event.

The format of the event was  
also different this year, with all  
Year 7s and only competitors  
from other year levels required  
to attend.

"We were really pleased with

how many students signed up  
for events across all year levels,"  
San Remo campus principal  
Matt Rose said.

"Taking this number of stu-  
dents added to the culture of  
the day. Everyone was really  
engaged, which was fantastic to  
see."

The Year 7 participation rate  
was exceptionally high, with 30  
Year 7 girls signed up for the  
triple jump alone.

The high participation rate  
meant more heats had to run on  
the day, so not all events were  
completed.

Across the three campuses, the  
800m events will be held locally.

The top performers will be go  
on to represent the school at the  
next stage.

Results to come.

## Wonthaggi Little Aths compete

LAST weekend, several mem-  
bers of the Wonthaggi Little Ath-  
letics Centre (WLAC) travelled  
to Berwick to compete in the  
Regional Carnival. With both  
Saturday and Sunday wet and  
miserable, they competed un-  
der trying conditions, but all of  
them performed admirably,  
competing to their best ability in  
a variety of events.

Special congratulations to  
several athletes who came away  
with place medals, and especial-  
ly to Evie Lee and Rhylee who  
both qualified to progress to the  
State Championships in Casey  
Fields next week.

While those athletes were  
slogging away in the rain in  
Berwick, the rest of the athletes  
were paid a visit by several of  
the members of South Coast  
Athletics, who joined in with  
the 12+ age group to complete  
their events for the day.

It was great for Wonthaggi's  
athletes to see there is more for  
them once they outgrow Little  
Aths. The highlight of the day  
was the final event: a 100-me-  
tre sprint competition featuring  
some of the South Coast athletes,  
and two of Wonthaggi's own "old"  
boys, Brenton and Josh who, de-  
spite almost busting their 'foofer'  
valves, ably demonstrated that  
they could still compete and  
have some fun.

Still on the subject of "old"  
boys who go on to compete in  
other events, WLAC would like  
to congratulate their Commit-  
tee members, Mark and Rejy,  
who competed in the Chan-  
nel Challenge events at San  
Remo yesterday (March 1) after  
the morning's Athletics meet.  
Mark impressed with his finish  
(14th out of 600) in the channel  
swim and bridge run, while Rejy  
and his team won the tug-o-war.



WLAC athlete Evie Lee qualified to progress to the State Championships in Casey Fields next week.



WLAC athlete Rhylee qualified to progress to the State Championships in Casey Fields next week.



# Changing the game of womens sport in Victoria

WOMEN'S sport continues to kick goals in Victoria with a new report released showing more and more people are watching women's sports with media coverage increasing by one third in just a year.

Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence recently released the second The Conversation of Sport report, which examined almost 40,000 sports news stories in Victoria from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

"Now, more than ever, we must celebrate Australian women in sport and elevate their success – they show our future female athletes what is possible and inspire them to ignore the unhelpful and negative voices around them," Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence.

"Through programs like Change Our Game we're making a real difference, breaking down stereotypes and getting more women involved in sport at every level – but the research shows there is more work to be done."

The research found that 20 per cent of sports news coverage last year reported on women's sport – an uplift from 15 per cent in the previous year. While this is an impressive increase there is still more work to be done to get it closer to an even share.

The record-breaking FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 was just the start of the change. During the period of the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, almost one in three sports news stories in Victoria was about women's sport, with one in five dedicated to women's football.

The report also showed that female journalists have contributed a greater portion of news stories over the last year – with 34 per cent of the bylines compared to 27 per cent the year before.

The research demonstrates the importance of initiatives like the Change Our Game Women in Sports Media Program, which is helping women to progress their careers in sports media, and has so far helped more than 100 women since 2020.

"While significant inroads have been made for women and girls in sports participation, from grassroots to the elite, we must see greater visibility of women in sports media to drive a gender equal sport story – and beyond," said the Director of the Office for Women in Sport and Recreation Sarah Styles.

The State Government is working with media outlets to produce profile pieces about local women in sport, highlighting the important role women play in grassroots sport – and getting the conversation started at that level too.

To find out more about The Conversation of Sport report, visit [changeourgame.vic.gov.au](http://changeourgame.vic.gov.au).



Demolition Derby action. Photo Napier Photography – Louise Norman

# Big events and a huge demolition derby this weekend at Nyora Raceway

By Dean Thompson

THIS Saturday Nyora Raceway will roar once again with a huge night of entertainment for motorsport fans, with extra entertainment being provided by the Inspire Change Crew in the form of Freestyle Motorcross and Freestyle BMX performances, and a night ending \$5000 to win Demolition Derby!

All the action begins at 4:30 Saturday with entry gates open from 11:30am, you will want to be at the track reasonably early for the best seats in the house with so much entertainment to keep you on your backside trackside.

Racing during the evening will include a \$5000 to win V8 Dirt Modified feature event that has attracted the current Victorian champion from Queensland in David Clark and the freshly confirmed Australian champion Kevin Britten on the back of his championship win last weekend at Warrnambool.

Brett Clarke from Corinella, Matt and Marcus Reddecliffe, Zac McDonald, Mick Ardley, Brodie Ardley and Phil Roberts from Queensland and Andrew

Pezzutti of New South Wales are other names on the entry list that are all part of the big race. Britten a multiple times national champion is the big ticket in this event, and worth people coming to watch just on his name alone.

Also, up for grabs will be the honour of winning the Robert Bickham Memorial in Sports Sedans. Brothers Brendan and Damien Miller born and raised in Pakenham and Dave Donegan from Healesville are amongst the entrants, with the Miller boys having a firm grasp on winning in this event in honour of a man they respected for his encouragement of their racing as young men growing up. Braidan Webster from Inverloch is strong at Nyora Raceway whilst club members Chris Aarts and Daniel Angus are keen to perform on this big stage in front of a huge crowd.

The Freestyle Motorbike and BMX entertainment will be thrilling and families will really enjoy the amazing skills

from the Inspire Change Crew who perform with social causes at the forefront of their minds such as homelessness. They will have a message in their performance and it is inspiring to see young Australians entertain and educate.

Ladies Standard Saloons will have a great entry list that already includes Vicky Price, Maddison Miles, Lea Judd, and Kath George representing the Nyora club, whilst Junior Standard Saloons now have drivers on track after their recent Victorian title in Rosedale and Catani youngster Nathan Miles is up for their challenge.

Lightning Sprints have just held their Australian title and Jason Alie from Koo Wee Rup will lead the class into battle at Nyora on Saturday night, whilst fans will be thrilled with the night ending Demolition Derby that includes competitors coming from New South Wales.

Kayn and Cody Shmal and Kaylah Johnson are three Victorians that travel around all season to compete in Demolition Derby's from Queensland

and back through Victoria, with \$5000 to win, the drivers will be going all out to destroy each other's cars and be the last man or woman standing to claim the big cash prize.

Spectator gates open from 11am, on track competition starts 4.30pm.

Pre-event online ticket purchase prices are adults at \$25, Pensioners for aged care and disabled at \$10, children of any age up to sixteen at \$5. A family ticket of two adults and two teenagers is \$55.

Do yourself a financial favour and pre buy online and turn up to the gate and with your phone and you will have a few extra dollars in your pocket.

Purchase of tickets at the track gate see's pricing change to adults at \$30, Pensioners for aged care and disabled at \$10, teenagers aged 12 to 16 at \$10 all kids up to the age of eleven \$5 dollars. A family ticket of two adults and two teenagers is \$60-.

Eftpos is available at the track and for enquiries you may contact 0428 847 888.



Car 29 Marcus Reddecliffe. Photo Napier Photography – Louise Norman





Jockey Shaun Cooper riding Persuasive Star in Race 5 at Woolamai B132\_0925



Heading towards the mounting yards for Race 4 at Woolamai. B130\_0925



'Here's to Jane' needing a win in Race 4 at Woolamai to secure Horse of the Year. B133\_0925



Abby Boyle Secretary of the Woolamai Race Club. B105\_0925



Mikaela a surprise entrant in Fashions on the Field at the Woolamai Picnic Races. B106\_0925



Disappointment for the connections of 'Here's to Jane' as Horse of the Year is decided on a countback B134\_0925

# Sacra wins Woolamai Race Club Horse of the Year

CRANBOURNE trainer Jason Evans and jockey Melinda McDonald both had reason to celebrate at Woolamai on Saturday when 7yo bay mare Sacra narrowly won Horse of the Year in a countback from Colac trained Here's to Jane.

Sacra and Here's To Jane have both been multiple winners at Woolamai.

The final points for Horse of the Year depended on Here's To Jane's finish in Race 4.

Ridden by Rowan Cox 'Here's to Jane' needed a win in Race 4 to secure Horse of the Year but was placed 3rd to Bluet De France and Persuasive Star.

Sacra has five race career wins including Race 2 at Woolamai on Saturday the Open Trophy Handicap ridden by Melinda McDonald.

Dylan Dean won Jockey of the Year winning Race 6 at Woolamai on Maid on Stryke.

Trainer of the Year was awarded to Sale based trainer Troy Kilgower who was unlucky to finish unplaced to Sacra in Race 2 at Woolamai on Saturday.

Woolamai Race Club Secretary Abby Boyle was thrilled with the large crowd of over 700 attending the Phillip Island Health Hub Woolamai charity race day in perfect weather for the last race day of the year.

"We hope to raise \$3,000 for the Phillip Island Health Hub," said Ms Boyle.

Fashions on the Field was won by Niki Howells-Schramm of Hawthorn.



Niki Howells-Schramm Fashions on the Field winner at the Phillip Island Health Hub Woolamai Race Day. B115\_0925



Shaun Cooper led onto the track onboard Dream of Ruby for Race 3 at Woolamai. B123\_0925





The 2025 Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup will be held this weekend, on Sunday, March 9.

## A day of racing and entertainment

STONY Creek Racing Club (SCRC) is set to deliver an unforgettable day of racing, entertainment and family fun at the highly anticipated Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup Day on Sunday, March 9.

As one of the standout events on the Victorian racing calendar, Cup Day offers something for everyone, with live music, a variety of food trucks, and family-friendly entertainment, ensuring a fun-filled day both on and off the track.

Tickets are selling fast, with picnic tables already sold out and only a limited number of marquees still available. Racegoers who book general admission tickets early can enjoy a \$10 lunch voucher, courtesy of Country Racing Victoria.

For those looking for an all-inclusive experience, the Furlong Marquee is the place to be. Patrons can enjoy canapés, finger food and drinks all day, as well as entertainment from DJ Phil Napoli and a lively trackside atmosphere.

Kids will be entertained throughout the day with activities such as DS Sports supervised play, Little Riders pony rides, and Airy



The new Stony Creek Cup and two 'King and Queen of the Creek' perpetual trophies have been introduced for the 2025 Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup.

Fairy face painting.

The ever-popular Fashions on the Field will be hosted by Ms Casey Bruce and will have a strong local focus this year, with four exclusive categories for South Gippsland residents: Local Lady of the Day, Local Gentleman of the Day, Best Dressed Local Family, and Best Dressed Local Group.

The competition will be judged by esteemed judges Lynda Gardener, David Welch, and Wendy Bezzina.

Adding to the excitement, SCRC is making history by introducing its

new 'King and Queen of the Creek' titles to recognise both leading male and female jockeys. Winners will also take home \$1,000 in prizes, with their names etched onto the perpetual trophies.

SCRC CEO Jason Benbow thanked the local and racing communities for their overwhelming support.

"We know it's been a challenging season and it's really uplifting to see everyone rally around The Creek. We're excited to host our biggest race day of the season, and we encourage everyone to come and experience the magic of country racing," he added.

Stony Creek Racing Club, located in scenic South Gippsland, is renowned for bringing together the community, racegoers, and holidaymakers alike.

Don't miss out on one of country racing's biggest days. Secure your tickets and find out more at [country.racing.com/stony-creek](http://country.racing.com/stony-creek).

### Event Details:

Gates open: 11:30 am.  
First race: 1 pm.  
Tickets: Adults \$20, Concession \$15, Kids free.  
Transport: Bus services available.

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\*Book early, limited numbers available. See [country.racing.com](http://country.racing.com) for full T&Cs.

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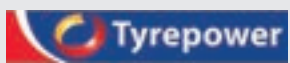
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More good news for Wonthaggi Power ahead of the start to the new football-netball season with \$250,000 in ground improvement funding following on from news the club would be fielding teams in all junior grades this year.

## \$250,000 for Wonthaggi Power ground upgrades

GREAT news, just prior to the start of the football-netball season for the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club.

The club's oval at Wonthaggi has received a \$250,000 grant for various works to be undertaken as part of \$1.4 million round of funding from the Country Football and Netball Program.

"Country"? Makes you wonder how Frankston's Ballam East Oval got \$250,000 as well but anyhow...

Here's what the State Government said in its announcement:

"Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve Oval – home of the Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club – has scored \$250,000 to make ground improvements including new drainage, drought resistant grass and upgraded irrigation, giving the club a quality home-ground.

"Other successful grants include \$99,000 towards resurfacing five netball courts at Rochester Recreation reserve – home of the Rochester Netball Association – so the community can keep playing netball and hosting competitions for years to come."

Here's a full list of the 2024-25 grant recipients:

- Bass Coast Shire Council Wonthaggi Rec 1 Oval Upgrade
- Campaspe Shire Council Rochester Recreation Reserve Netball Courts Refurbishment
- Indigo Shire Council Barnawartha Recreation Reserve Oval Lighting Upgrade
- Moira Shire Council Cobram Scott Reserve Oval Lighting Upgrade
- Wangaratta City Council Milawa Football Netball Club Lighting Project
- Yarriambiack Shire Council Hope-toun Recreation Reserve Netball Sports Lighting Upgrade Project

The Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence made the announcement.

"Nothing brings regional communities together like country footy and netball. Through this program we're supporting hundreds of clubs by giving them facilities the whole community can enjoy and get around," said Minister Spence.

Developed in partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria, the program has invested more than \$40 million and delivered more than 580 projects since 2005.



Riders relax in the Leongatha railway precinct. A11\_0925

## Rail Trail group relishes annual adventure

A KEEN group of cyclists stopped off in Leongatha on Friday during their ride along the 130-kilometre length of the Great Southern Rail Trail, having set out on a four-day adventure from Nyora and finishing in Yarram.

Sentinel-Times chatted to representatives of Rail Trails Australia, Alan Abrahams (administration officer), Robert Zucker (treasurer) and Steven Kaye (vice president), members of that group accompanied on the journey by a large contingent of friends.

Those from Rail Trails Australia will be guest speakers at South Gippsland Shire Council's Rail Trail tourism forum, scheduled for May at Foster's Gurneys Cidery.

The forum is intended to help business operators understand how they can benefit from the rail trail.

South Gippsland Shire Council's Penni Ellicott enjoyed catching up with the group and hearing about their largely positive experiences on the trail, along with suggestions for improvement.

"The surface has been immaculate," Steven said, also praising most of the crossings



Alan Abrahams, Robert Zucker and Steven Kaye of Rail Trails Australia enjoy a break in Leongatha. A10\_0925

the group had encountered on the trail, the exception being the hazardous highway crossing in Leongatha, Penni quick to chime in with the need for a VicRoads' bypass to rectify the issue.

She explained that would turn the relevant section of highway into a local road reducing traffic and removing trucks, allowing for a crossing.

Generally, crossings on the trail were labelled appropriate, with chicanes suited to larger vehicles such as tandem and trailer bikes.

Leongatha's new ramp and bridge was noted by the riders as a positive, offering easy access to town.

Many in the group tackle the Great Southern Rail Trail each February and have enjoyed its continued expansion.

As council's coordinator of Arts, Culture and Visitor Economy, Penni explained people's adventures on the trail will soon be aided by the addition of lots more signage over coming weeks.

"We've got 300 new signs going in along the whole trail,

including directional signage and wayfinding signage," she said, the latter showing people where to access the rail trail and how to get from the trail into town.

The 44 people on this year's ride was the largest group yet on the annual adventure that began years ago with only about 10 people.

Everything now requires more organisation, with advance notification needed to ensure breakfast and lunch stops go smoothly for such a large group, meals being pre-booked and paid for in advance.

Participants are keen to see the addition of more bike-friendly infrastructure such as bike stands in the towns along the Great Southern Rail Trail.

Further support for bike riders at accommodation venues is another aim, with such support including adequate clothes washing facilities, bike storage and charging opportunities for ebikes.

While many ebikes are now seen along the Great Southern Rail Trail, about three quarters of Friday's group were still tackling the journey entirely under their own steam.

## Leongatha trio win a place in the state championships



John Hall, Anthony Collier and Nathan Lovie heading to Bendigo for the State Championships

LEONGATHA lawn bowlers Nathan Lovie, John Hall and skip Anthony Collier (skip) have won a place in the State Champions Carnival in Bendigo from April 3.

Winning through the Southern Region play-offs Lovie, Hall and Collier faced a formidable Northern Region side in the Strzelecki region titles at Tarwin Lower.

Bowling at the Tarwin Lower and District Bowls Club Nathan Lovie (lead) was solid throughout the match with many of his bowls finishing close to the jack.

Bowling calmly and consistently as is his style John Hall (second) landed close bowls when they were needed.

Having enjoyed an armchair ride for most of the match Anthony Collier (skip) was able

to provide the cream on the cake with some telling conversions at critical moments.

The match was played in relatively calm conditions with players enjoying pristine conditions offered up on Tarwin Lower's new synthetic surface.

The men from Leongatha won the day and a ticket to the Bendigo State Championships.

Each of Victoria's 16 regions will be represented at Bowls Victoria State Champions Week which will be held at the East Bendigo Bowls Club from April 3 to 11.

State champions go through to the 2025 Australian Championships at the Devonport Country Club in Tasmania from November 24 to 27.

"We dare to dream," said skip Anthony Collier.





U17 Player of the Match Rhys Newman (Inverloch).



U17 Player of the Match Kade Berryman (Imps/Nerrena)



U15 Player of the Match Archie Moore (Glen Alvie) with Umpire Geoff Parkinson.



U15 Player of the Match Toby Nicholas Korumburra/ Nyora.

# Inverloch impresses in LDCA Junior Semis

THE LDCA Junior Semi Finals were played on Sunday. Some drizzle in the morning saw games delayed, thanks to the umpires and clubs for getting the games played.

In the U17s we saw Inverloch and Imps/ Nerrena put in dominant displays to set up what promises to be a great Grand Final. The U15s saw Glen Alvie continue the form they've shown all season and Korumburra/Nyora coming up with a great win against the higher ranked Foster. Despite Glen Alvie's dominant season Korumburra/ Nyora are

in good form and with plenty of great young talent in both sides the U15 Grand Final will be a great contest.

## U17:

Inverloch 0/8 defeated Glen Alvie 7.  
Riley Harris 5no, Andot Mankhong 3no.  
Bowling: Rhys Newman 4/1, Keely Dennerley 3/4, Cooper Newman 1/1. Player of the Match Rhys Newman  
Imps/ Nerrena 8/121 defeated Phillip Island 54  
Kade Berryman 36, Clayton

Quaife 33, Archie Gannon 21.  
Bowling: Klayton McGrath 4/19, Eamon Berryman 3/10, Noah McLennan 2/0  
Jobe Williams 18, Justin Tran 10, Zack Hughes 10  
Bowling: George McCausland 4/19, Player Of the Match Kade Berryman

## U15

Glen Alvie 0/28 defeated Phillip Island 27.  
Archie Moore 15no, Archie Donohue 11no.  
Bowling: Archie Luke 2/2, Nate Luff 2/2, Jackson Glenn 2/0

Player of the Match Archie Moore  
Korumburra/ Nyora 4/90 defeated Foster 89  
Toby Nicholas 36no, Tyler Dole 30, Cohen Harrison 36, Raidyn Harrison 20  
Player of the Match Toby Nicholas

## Grand Finals Sunday March 9

• U17: Inverloch v Imperials/ Nerrena at Scorpion Park Leongatha  
• U15: Glen Alvie v Korumburra/ Nyora at Outtrim



Mel Chapman Budge Shield 2025

## Trap shooter Mel Chapman wins 2025 Budge Shield

THE prestigious Budge Shield for trap shooting has been won by Mel Chapman after a thrilling day's shooting at the Wonthaggi Gun Club.

With ground work about to start on a new clubhouse and a new shooting range ahead of the Victorian State Ball Trap finals in September the club could not be in better shape.

Wonthaggi Gun Club President Stuart Allen said a land extension of ten hectares has been welcomed by the club.

"The club received a grant of \$235,000 back in 2022 but will still be relying on the generosity of sponsors and building suppliers to meet the total estimated cost of \$400,000 for the new clubhouse," said Mr Allen.

The State Ball Trap Championships will be held at the Wonthaggi Gun Club on the first Saturday in September and the club hopes to have much of the new clubhouse and shooting range well underway.

"The engineering specifications are now complete," said Mr Allen.

"Working drawings for the new building should be finished by the end of the month."

The club is now waiting on approval of permits from VicRoads to re-surface the entrance to the shooting range at the club's cost.

"The club has over 100 members," said Mr Allen.

"We are adding more disciplines of clay target shooting including Skeet, ISSF Skeet, and FITASC Sporting regarded as the toughest and most popular of the sporting clay disciplines.

"Our dream is to add Trench or Universal Trench Layout too."

"We welcome corporate days at the club and the RSL is very active."

You can find the Wonthaggi Gun Club on Facebook or go to [wonthaggiGUNclub.com](http://wonthaggiGUNclub.com)

## Budge Shield Wonthaggi Gun Club 2025

1. Mel Chapman Wonthaggi 27/28
2. Rob Williams Frankston CTC 26/28
3. Mikayla Szucs Bairnsdale 25/28

## Gippsland Goannas enjoy cricketing day out in Western Victoria

THE GIPPSLAND Goannas 'bye weekend' saw 12 Goannas trek to Western Victoria to play against a combined Hamilton and Mt Gambier Veterans cricket team. The game was played at the beautiful Byaduk cricket ground, which is about 20 km south of Hamilton, on the Port Fairy Road.

The local club did a wonderful job of preparing the wicket and the ground for the 'hastily arranged' match, which had been mainly put together by the Hamilton Vets secretary, Mark Ross. The weather was cool with a persistent breeze as Chris Hutchins won the toss and asked the Goannas to bowl. Hutch had returned only hours before from playing a cricket tournament, on ice, in Switzerland.

The first five bats were all good hitters, and the Goannas were relieved that they were retiring after facing 25 balls! The first 20 overs saw 118 runs scored, for just the one wicket, when Murray Moore bowled the opening bat, for 20 runs off 20 balls. The others made 22, 31, 26 and 30 from their 25 balls!

Gordon Cowling, Kel Bond, Moore, Peter Anton, Chris de Vent and Fred Debono had all bowled during those first 20 overs. Rob Taylor entered the attack a few overs after drinks and took the next two wickets to have the admirable figures of 2/9 from three overs. The rest of the batting was not quite as aggressive as Andy Slevin, Derek Morris, Phill Higgins and Bob Duljas all bowled two or three overs.

The umpire, Lynden Oakley from Portland, bowled the final over for the Goannas as the local side finished at 4 for 205 from 40 overs. The final wicket was a runout, when the score was 200.

After a lovely lunch supplied by the Hamilton team Taylor and Debono opened the innings for the Goannas, but Fred top edged the final delivery of the second over and was caught for 1. Goannas 1 for 9.

Taylor decided that aggression was needed and retired for 38 from his 25 balls. De Vent, 32x, Anton, 21, Ian Gibson, 23, all retired, helped the score to 125 after 20 overs. The Goannas had lost their second wicket in the 20th over as Morris was well caught on the boundary by Dr Robey Joyce. Higgins, 12 and Cowling, 32, also retired as the score mounted. Moore retired hurt for 16, Bond and Slevin were dismissed cheaply, Duljas was 12x and de Vent returned to hit the winning run, from the 37th over, which was also bowled by umpire Oakley! After group photographs and a bbq, put on by the Goannas, Rob Taylor was awarded Player of the match for the Goannas and Mark Ross for Hamilton, as the game would not have gone ahead without his efforts, even though he could not be there on the day!

The match came about as Cowling had driven past the ground several times over the last few years, and had dreamed of playing on the picturesque ground.

The Hamilton team had come from many western towns, including Hopetoun, Ararat, Ballarat, Coleraine, with 3 players from Mt Gambier. Everyone thanked the local club, Mark Ross, the ladies of the local team for preparing lunch, the Goannas ladies for preparing the bbq, the umpires, especially Lynden Oakley, and Rochelle de Vent for scoring for 80 overs. As many said on leaving the event: cricket was the winner today!



Goanna Andy Slevin shows footwork.



Gippsland's player-of-the-match Rob Taylor from Toongabbie drives.



C GRADE DIVISION 1

**Club 6/161 d OMK 9/158**  
OMK – 1st INNINGS: R White 5, O Fitzpatrick 29, J Greenwood 30, B Hayes 27, M Nicholas 18, P Harper 23, J Myors 5, L Bourke 0, R Foster 14\*, M Greenwood 0, H Greenwood 0\*  
Bowling: L Borne 1/18, M Sharp 0/38, A Babu 1/28, J Licis 4/27, S Liddle 2/42  
**Club – 1ST INNINGS:** W Speed 17, J Caddy 25, T Dudas-Jacobs 43, J Licis 5, M Chisholm 27, Fill-In 18\*, L Borne 4, B Ton 0\*  
Bowling: R White 0/40, O Fitzpatrick 1/28, R Foster 1/18, J Greenwood 3/35, J Myors 1/23

**Nerrena 6/240 d P-Island 8/160**  
Nerrena – 1ST INNINGS: B Gannon 38, B Torotman 47, B Stein 15, J Donohue 7, J Brown 21, E Berryman 24, S Murphy 68\*, W Croatto 12\*  
Bowling: S McMillan 0/66, S Sirirathnage 0/23, S Williams 1/41, S Di Falco 2/22, T Hornsby 1/40, N Hornsby Ramage 1/25, R Hughes 1/19  
**Phillip Island – 1ST INNINGS:** J Manning 2, S Niven 1, T Hornsby 33, S Sirirathnage 1, Z Hughes 11, J Parry 40, S Di Falco 31\* S McMillan 23, S Williams 3  
Bowling: W Croatto 3/17, B Salmon 1/53, E Berryman 1/9, C Marinou 1/23, J Donohue 2/28, J Brown 0/21

**Kilcunda-Bass 3/190 d Town 3/187**  
Town – 1ST INNINGS: P Carter 20, M Carter 84\*, H Livingstone 1, T Strybosch 42, D Wilson 15\*  
Bowling: S Tapscott 1/32, H Bettles 1/32, V K Gapal 0/41, N Miller 0/26, C Bettles 1/19, M Gold 0/5, G Miller 0/25  
**Kilcunda-Bass – 1ST INNINGS:** G Miller 50, P Miller 81\*, V K Gopal 13, J Hockett 25, C Bettles 13\*  
Bowling: T Strybosch 0/13, C Dowling 0/46, P Carter 0/40, R Shields 2/23, M Carter 1/26, C Smith 0/12, L Carter 0/16, D Wilson 0/9

Korumburra – BYE

C GRADE DIVISION 2

**Glen Alvie 5/174 d MDU 2/173**  
MDU – 1st INNINGS: D Thomas 66, T Cocksedge 14, G Cocksedge 31, C Hooper 39\*, S McRae 7\*  
Bowling: J Hynes 1/35, G Luff 0/16, P Loos 0/7, T Bolding 0/15, O Luff 1/27, L Ton 0/11, W Bridle 0/17, C Anderson 0/23, K Andersen 0/15  
**Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS:** D McGuirk 4, O Luff 14, I Thorn 76, C Andersen 0, L Ton 65\*, W Bridle 6, T Bolding 1\*  
Bowling: K Brown 3/14, L Webb 0/11, K Sinclair 0/21, S Mcrae 1/28, S Riley 0/58, T Cocksedge 0/21, C Hooper 0/17

**Phillip Island 3/181 d Koonwarra L/RSL 8/179**  
Koonwarra L/RSL – 1st INNINGS: A Stanley 25, D Hanily 14, M Caruana 6, G Matthies 18, S Paterson 1, J Hawkins 21, D Isgro 17, A Piksons 34\*  
D Van Puyenbroek 4, T Lund 12\*  
Bowling: J Allan 1/33, M Cleary 0/14, D Ivey 4/35, B Marshall 2/40, Fill-In 1/31, L Cleary 0/12, M Carville 0/7  
**Phillip Island – 1st INNINGS:** W Paterson 26, D Marshall 10, D Ivey 51, D Mani 57\*, M Cleary 22\*  
Bowling: S Paterson 1/30, J Hawkins 1/30, T Lund 0/24, M Caruana 0/24, A Piksons 0/30, D Van Puyenbroek 1/27, D Isgro 0/9

**OMK 8/164 d Nyora 142**  
OMK – 1st INNINGS: R Waytt 6, Michael Whiteside 0, G Lomagno 21, D Elford 34, Matt Whiteside 29, M Wightman 24, P Jobling 2, S Matthews 15, Private player 4\*, Angus Halliwell 5\*  
Bowling: K Maclure 1/28, W Dixon 2/37, T Cavanagh 1/28, R Mozon 1/24, J Waixel 3/26, G Alsem 0/14, W Dourley 0/2  
**Nyora – 1st INNINGS:** J Waixel 19, G Alsem 23, C Chandler 19, T White 0, R Moxon 14, M Higgins 5, W Dourley 27\*  
W Dixon 3, A White 6, K Maclure 17, T Cavanagh 1  
Bowling: P Jobling 2/32, A Halliwell 1/24, M Whiteside 2/16, D Wylie 0/10, S Matthews 1/26, D Elford 4/32

Inverloch – BYE

The Millers combine to ensure Sharks victory

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

KILCUNDA-BASS made it over the line to secure a win against Leongatha Town.

Playing at the Bass Recreation Reserve, Town won the toss and chose to bat first.

The opening partnership of Paul and Max Carter worked well together, amassing 20 and 84 runs respectively.

Max Carter was not out at the end of the innings.

Travis Strybosch contributed a further 42 runs to the tally.

Kilcunda-Bass’ wicket takers were Shaun Tapscott, Hunter Bettles and Cruz Bettles.

At the end of its 35 overs, Town had reached 3/187.

Kilcunda-Bass responded to Town’s innings with the opening partnership of Gregory and Peter Miller making 50 and 81 runs respectively.

Peter Miller was not out at the end of the innings.

Joel Hockett ensured Kilcunda-Bass earned the points with 25 runs.

Rob Shields for Leongatha Town had the best bowling figures with 2/23.

A single wicket was taken by Max Carter.

Kilcunda-Bass won with a total of 3/190.

Licis claims four

WONTHAGGI Club reigned supreme over OMK on Saturday.

Club travelled to Digger Park, and was sent out to field once the home side had won the toss.

OMK played a steady innings with the top score going to Justin Greenwood.

Greenwood made 30 runs before he was caught by Blake Ton off the bowling of Justin Licis.

Owen Fitzpatrick, Brad Hayes and Paul Harper contributed 29, 27 and 23 runs respectively.

Licis was Club’s most successful bowler, claiming 4/27.

Two wickets were taken by Sam Liddle.

After its allotted overs, OMK had reached 9/158.

William Speed and Jed Caddy opened for Club.

Speed was dismissed LBW by Fitzpatrick and third bat Trae Dudas-Jacobs entered the match.

Caddy made 25 runs and Dudas-Jacobs top scored with 43 runs.

Matrix Chisholm added 27 runs to the tally.

Greenwood continued his solid performance for OMK, taking 3/35.

Single wickets were taken by Fitzpatrick, Reuben Foster and Jordan Myors.

Club had won the game by the 27th overs with a score of 6/161.

Red Caps in a canter

NERRENA secured a convincing win against Phillip Island.

The Red Caps won the toss and sent in captain Brian Gannon and Billy Trotman, who combined well to make 38 and 47 runs respectively.

Jhett Brown and Eamon Berryman contributed 21 and 24 runs respectively, but it was Shem Murphy who set the Red Caps apart with 68 not out.

For Phillip Island, Sebastian Di Falco was the top bowler, taking 2/22.

The rest of the wickets were



Paul Carter opening the batting against Kilcunda-Bass. B88\_0925



Kilcunda-Bass spin bowler Hunter Bettles showing great form against Leongatha Town. B91\_0925

claimed by Sonny Williams, Tony Hornsby, Nash Hornsby Ramage and Ryan Hughes.

Phillip Island was left to chase 6/240.

The Sharks stumbled early, losing John Manning for two runs and Steven Niven for one run.

Third bat Hornsby improved the situation with 33 runs.

Phillip Island gained momentum later in the innings with Jon Parry, Di Falco and Sonny McMillan making 40, 31 and 23 runs.

Di Falco was not out at the end of the innings.

Phillip Island conceded the points to Nerrena with a score of 8/160.

Korumburra had the round 12 bye.

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Glen Alvie steal the win

GLEN Alvie dug deep and got itself across the line in its battle with MDU on Saturday.

Hosting MDU at the Glen Alvie Recreation Reserve, the home team won the toss and sent MDU into bat first.

Dale Thomas opened the

account and accumulated 66 runs before he retired not out.

This was MDU’s top score, with Glen Cocksedge adding 31 runs and Craig Hooper making 39 runs.

Hooper was not out at the end of MDU’s 35 overs.

Glen Alvie’s wicket takers were Jarvis Hynes and Owen Luff.

Glen Alvie then went into bat, ready to chase 2/173.

MDU bowler Keiran Brown forced some low scores from Glen Alvie, but the efforts of captain Ian Thorn and Lucas Ton won the game.

Thorn made 76 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Simon McRae and Ton was not out when the game was won.

Glen Alvie’s winning tally was 5/174, narrowly passing MDU before it’d played out its 35 overs.

Island prove too strong

PHILLIP Island cruised to a win over Koonwarra/LRSL.

Held at the Rhyll Cricket Ground, Koonwarra/LRSL won the toss and chose to bat.

Alexander Stanley made 25 runs before he was LBW to Brydon Marshall.

This was looking to be the top score, with Jack Hawkins adding 21 runs.

However, tailender Alvis Piksons upped the score with 34 not out.

David Ivey was Phillip Island’s top performer, claiming 4/35.

Two wickets were taken by Marshall.

Koonwarra/LRSL finished its 35 over with 8/179.

Phillip Island only lost three wickets and won the day in the 25th over.

Wade Peterson and Marshall opened, with Marshall caught by Hawkins off the bowling of Shane Paterson.

David Ivey stepped in and made 51 runs.

Peterson’s wicket was taken by Hawkins and Ivey’s by Dylan Van Puyenbroek.

Deane Mani top scored with 57 not out and captain Michael Cleary was 22 not out.

Phillip Island’s score was 3/181.

Elford’s allround efforts

OMK outplayed Nyora at the Poowong Recreation Reserve.

Nyora won the toss and sent OMK into bat first.

Fourth bat Danny Elford top scored for OMK with 34 runs before he was bowled by William Dixon.

George Lomagno, Matt Whiteside and Mark Wightman added 21, 29 and 24 runs respectively.

For Nyora, Jaylen Waixel was the top bowler, taking 3/26.

Dixon claimed two wickets.

OMK won the game by defending 8/164.

Nyora started well with Waixel making 19 runs and Gareth Alsem making 23 runs.

Another 19 runs was added by third bat Coby Chandler.

Midway through the batting order, William Dourley entered the game and went on to make the top score of 27 not out.

However, OMK bowler Danny Elford went on a spree, significantly slowing the run rate at the bottom of the batting order.

Elford claimed 4/32.

Patrick Jobling and captain Michael Whiteside took two wickets each.

Nyora was bowled out with a final score of 10/142.

Inverloch had the round 12 bye.





Glen Moore opened the batting for Glen Alvie against Kilcunda-Bass at the Bass Recreation Reserve. B101\_0925

# Taberner dismisses eight Cobras

## B GRADE, DIVISION 1

BOWLER Walter Taberner ensured Inverloch was unmatched in its clash against Korumburra, taking eight Cobra wickets in the first innings. Inverloch had already left Korumburra shellshocked when it recorded 6/347 the previous week at the Korumburra Recreation Reserve. The Cobras went into bat and started well with Caleb Turton making 22 runs before he was bowled by Dean Cashin.

Third bat Zachary Barrett added 25 runs, but it was Aaron Damon who made the top score of 54 runs.

Taberner claimed both Barrett and Damon's wickets, then went on a spree that saw Korumburra bowled out 10/145 in the 48th over.

Korumburra was sent in again for a second innings. This time, the innings was opened by Noah Belvedere, who made 23 runs before he fell victim to Taberner.

Jacob Wrigley made 14 runs, Tyler Dole 13 runs and George Edward four not out, while Jonah Foster was dismissed for a duck.

Taberner continued his run, taking three more wickets, and captain Brett Debono claimed one.

Korumburra had made 4/65 at stumps.

### OMK fall just short

NERRENA managed to defend its score of 8/303 against a mighty effort from OMK.

Playing at the Nerrena Recreation Reserve, OMK went into bat, sending in captain Adam Busana and Mitchell Sawyers.

Nerrena bowlers Darcy Berryman and Tyson Harris dismissed Sawyers, Paul Fermanis and Robert Quaife, which saw Dylan McMeekin step in. Busana and McMeekin kept

OMK well and truly in the game, with Busana making 62 runs before he was caught by Ryan Clark off the bowling of Harris.

Damien Symmons claimed McMeekin's wicket, but not before he had amassed 97 runs.

Mathew Walker made 51 runs, but Berryman and Symmons swiftly worked their way through the bottom half of the batting order.

By the end of the innings, Berryman and Symmons had taken four wickets each.

OMK ended the day with a score of 10/288.

### Club cruise to victory

WONTHAGGI Club had a target in its sights, having bowled Phillip Island out 10/120 the previous week.

David Britt and Harry West combined well to put 51 and 42 runs on the board respectively.

Britt was bowled by David Womersley.

Womersley also claimed West's wicket off a catch by Jobe Williams.

Jason O'Reilly and Mohamed Ashik Mohamed Nizar added 18 runs each, and one run was contributed by captain Sean Roche.

O'Reilly and Roche were not out when Club opted to declare, its score sitting at 3/146.

Tarryn Allan was Phillip Island's only other wicket taker.

Phillip Island was sent back into bat.

Max Arceo and Heath Womersley were the first at the crease, with Arceo scoring 21 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Heath Dobbie.

Heath Womersley and Thomas Blackwell were not out at stumps, making 45 and 23 runs respectively.

Phillip Island's second innings score was 1/90 off 25 overs.

### MDU had the round 13 bye.

## B GRADE, DIVISION 2

### Town sets itself apart at the top

LEONGATHA Town enjoyed a decisive win on Saturday, putting it a game ahead of second-placed Koonwarra/LRSL on the ladder with one round of the season to go.

Town resumed play for the second day of the two-day match against the Cougars at Scorpion Park.

The home team had already secured a first innings win the previous week – having made 2/122 against Koonwarra/LRSLs 10/114.

Regardless, Town continued its innings on Saturday with opening batsman Mark Hardy and Colin Bruce at the crease.

Hardy recorded 66 runs before he was dismissed by Louis Read and Bruce made 44 runs before he was dismissed LBW by Matthew Boswell.

Pandukabhaya Jayasinghe, Davern Goss and Frazer Livingstone added to Town's success with 32, 34 and 31 runs respectively.

Livingstone was not out when Town decided to declare with a score of 9/260, sending the Cougars back in.

It was a tough start for Koonwarra/LRSL with Ashley Boxall dismissed for duck by Lachlan Gill and Glenn Boxall out for six runs at the hands of Livingstone.

Nick Arnup and captain Brad Anderson worked well together and put 65 and 20 runs on the board respectively.

Nearing the end, Anderson was bowled LBW by Livingstone.

Read joined Arnup at the crease and both were not out at stumps.

Koonwarra/LRSLs second innings score was 3/105.

The loss pushed Koonwarra/LRSL down to third place, while Foster rose to second after Saturday's results.

### Imps steamrolled

FOSTER had a commanding win over the Imperials at Leongatha's East Campus.

The Imperials were chasing 10/207 but were unable to gain enough momentum to challenge the away side.

Gary Sauvarin opened for the Imperials, but his wicket fell to Paul Jervies for one run.

Clint Honeysett formed a partnership with Kristian Gray, and they went on to make 30 and 21 runs respectively.

Unfortunately for the Imperials, this was as good as it was going to get, with Jervies demolishing the batting order.

Jervies claimed 7/27. Two more wickets were taken by Shaun Chaseling.

The Imperials conceded defeat with a final tally of 10/78.

### Hale's knock crucial

A STRONG innings for Glen Alvie saw it secure the points against Kilcunda-Bass.

Glenn Moore and Jack Brown were sent back in to bat for Glen Alvie, chasing Kilcunda-Bass' score of 10/150.

Moore made 16 runs and Brown made 19 with their wickets eventually falling to Alister McBride and Chris Peckett.

Co-captain Jay Tiziani – batting third – made 22 runs and was not out at the end of the game.

Fourth bat Andrew Brown made 31 runs and was caught by James Matser off the bowling of Zac Crow.

His dismissal sent in fellow co-captain Darcy Hale, who saw out the innings with Tiziani.

Hale top scored with 57 runs.

Glen Alvie's winning score was 3/153.

### Nyora had the round 13 bye.



Rohan Duff bowling for the Sharks against Glen Alvie. B104\_0925

## B GRADE

## DIVISION 1

### Inverloch 6/347 d

#### Korumburra 10/145 & 4/65

Korumburra – 1st INNINGS: C Turton 22, J Wrigley 7, Z Barrett 25, A Damon 54, N Belvedere 18\*, P Richards 1, J Douglas 0, T Dole 9, G Edwards 0, J Foster 1, J Jorgensen 0  
Bowling: J Richardson 1/22, I Seuren 0/9, K Rothier 1/26, D Cashin 1/18, W Chapman 0/41, W Taberner 8/16, B Debono 0/6  
Korumburra – 2nd INNINGS: N Belvedere 23, J Wrigley 14, T Dole 13, G Edwards 4\*, J Foster 0  
Bowling: I Seuren 0/6, W Taberner 3/23, K Rothier 0/21, B Debono 1/5

### Nerrena 8/303 d OMK 288

OMK – 1st INNINGS: A Busana 62, M Sawyers 17, P Fermanis 9, R Quaife 19, D McMeekin 97, M Walker 51, D Jeffries 0, M Andrew 8, B Maguire 5, T Nicholas 2\*, D Wylie 0  
Bowling: R Clark 0/55, J Checkley 0/38, D Berryman 4/62, T Harris 2/52, C Dougherty 0/25, C Baudinette 0/7, D Symmons 4/37

### Club 3/146 d Phillip Island 120 & 1/90

Club – 1st INNINGS: D Britt 51, H West 42, J O'Reilly 18\*, M A Mohamed Nizar 18, S Roche 1  
Bowling: J Williams 0/34, H Arceo 0/24, H Womersley 0/35, T Allan 1/26, D Womersley 2/17  
Phillip Island – 2nd INNINGS: M Arceo 21, H Womersley 45\*, T Blackwell 23\*  
Bowling: J Williamson 0/11, S Roche 0/21, S Tessari 0/6, H Dobbie 1/23, M A Mohamed Nizar 0/7, B Evans 0/21, H West 0/0

### MDU - BYE

## B GRADE

## DIVISION 2

### Glen Alvie 3/153 d Kilcunda Bass 150

Glen Alvie – 1st INNINGS: G Moore 16, J Brown 19, J Tiziani 22\*, A Brown 31, D Hale 57\*  
Bowling: R Duff 0/11, C Peckett 1/28, A Bedford 0/23, A McBride 1/20, Z Crow 1/27, J Papworth 0/15, B Joseph 0/16, J Matser 0/1, C Henderson 0/12

### Foster 207 d Imperials 78

Imperials – 1st INNINGS: G Sauvarin 1, K Gray 30, C Honeysett 21, A Meyer 1, F Botha 0, L Anderson 6, C Rickard 2, C Bruce 1, M Reidy 8\*, N McLennan 3, J Jeffery 1  
Bowling: P Jervies 7/27, N Henry 0/24, S Chaseling 2/25

### Town 9/260 d

#### Koonwarra L/RSL 114 & 3/105

Town – 1st INNINGS: M Hardy 66, T McRae 1, L Bowman 27, C Bruce 44, P Jayasinghe 32, L Ashton 1, L Hickey 0, D Goss 34, F Livingstone 31\*, L Gill 6  
Bowling: L Read 2/45, C Riseley 0/14, G Boxall 1/46, M Boswell 2/50, N Arnup 2/28, B Thomas 0/20, S Chadwick 1/28, S Anderson 0/14  
Koonwarra L/RSL – 2nd INNINGS: A Boxall 0, G Boxall 6, N Arnup 65\*, B Anderson 20, L Read 0\*  
Bowling: L Gill 1/20, L Hickey 0/10, F Livingstone 2/44, P Jayasinghe 0/0, T McRae 0/18, L Ashton 0/2, C Bruce 0/3

### Nyora – BYE









Ash Larcombe batting for Kilcunda-Bass at Inverloch Turf during his innings of 42 not out. B138\_0925

| A GRADE                                                                                                                                       | DIVISION 1 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Phillip Island 192 d Imperials 136</b>                                                                                                     |            |
| Imperials – 1st INNINGS                                                                                                                       |            |
| Jack Ginnane lbw: G McCausland.....                                                                                                           | 2          |
| Kane Maskell b: G McCausland .....                                                                                                            | 6          |
| Klayton McGrath c&b: T Niven .....                                                                                                            | 3          |
| Isaac Bolge b: G McCausland.....                                                                                                              | 0          |
| Aydan Williams c: G McCausland b: T Niven .....                                                                                               | 6          |
| Campbell Reid c: L Cleeland b: Z Brown .....                                                                                                  | 18         |
| Timothy Sauvarin lbw: Z Brown .....                                                                                                           | 7          |
| Rowen McLennan c: ? b: Z Brown .....                                                                                                          | 33         |
| Nick Eddy c: Z Brown b: M Royal .....                                                                                                         | 38         |
| Lachie Wright not out .....                                                                                                                   | 6*         |
| Luke Rogers b: K Lane .....                                                                                                                   | 13         |
| Extras (1w, 2nb, 1lb) .....                                                                                                                   | 4          |
| <b>Total 10 / 136 (61.1 Overs)</b>                                                                                                            |            |
| Bowling: G McCausland 15-4-25-3 (1nb), T Niven 9-4-10-2 (1nb), M Royal 11-3-15-1, Z Brown 17-4-50-3 (1w), T Niven 5-1-20-0, K Lane 4-1-0-15-1 |            |
| <b>Club 3/282 d Korumburra 9/186</b>                                                                                                          |            |
| Korumburra – 1st INNINGS                                                                                                                      |            |
| Andy Millar c: M Thomas b: R Thomas .....                                                                                                     | 9          |
| Mustafa Nader b: J Brann.....                                                                                                                 | 91         |
| Tom Crocker c: M Thomas b: M McCall .....                                                                                                     | 10         |
| Ben Spicer retired not out .....                                                                                                              | 1          |
| Rumesh Rangana lbw: J Thomas .....                                                                                                            | 16         |
| Shane Dole c: J Sheerin b: J Brann .....                                                                                                      | 16         |
| Jason Richards c: J Brann b: F West .....                                                                                                     | 5          |
| Mitch Young run out: M Thomas .....                                                                                                           | 9          |
| Harry McNeil c: M Thomas b: F West.....                                                                                                       | 4          |
| James Dunn not out .....                                                                                                                      | 15*        |
| Liam Dole b: M McCall .....                                                                                                                   | 4          |
| Extras (1w, 3lb, 2b) .....                                                                                                                    | 6          |
| <b>Total 9 / 186 (55.4 Overs)</b>                                                                                                             |            |
| Bowling: J Brann 18-7-40-2, F West 12-4-40-2, R Thomas 8-1-22-1, M McCall 9-4-0-39-2, S Beaumont 3-0-30-0, J Thomas 5-1-10-1 (1w)             |            |
| <b>Nerrena 8/350 d OMK 306</b>                                                                                                                |            |
| OMK – 1st INNINGS                                                                                                                             |            |
| Ryan Williams lbw: A Gannon .....                                                                                                             | 45         |
| Zavier Lamers c: M Croatto b: J Hoy .....                                                                                                     | 4          |
| Ethan Lamers c: T Wightman b: A Gannon .....                                                                                                  | 118        |
| Koby Brann c: ? b: T Wightman .....                                                                                                           | 29         |
| Kris Kerr b: J Hoy .....                                                                                                                      | 4          |
| Jacob Lamers lbw: T Wightman .....                                                                                                            | 4          |
| Thomas Wyatt b: A Gannon .....                                                                                                                | 60         |
| Noel Creed c: J Hoy b: A Gannon .....                                                                                                         | 14         |
| Clayton Quaife not out .....                                                                                                                  | 10*        |
| Nick Wylie c: H Funnell b: A Gannon.....                                                                                                      | 5          |
| Nicholas Auddino b: A Gannon .....                                                                                                            | 1          |
| Extras (1nb, 11lb) .....                                                                                                                      | 12         |
| <b>Total 10 / 306 (72.4 Overs)</b>                                                                                                            |            |
| Bowling: J Trease 14-4-44-0, J Hoy 15-2-58-2, T Wightman 26-1-117-2, A Gannon 13-4-2-47-6, J Curtis 3-0-21-0 (1nb), M Croatto 1-0-8-0         |            |
| <b>Town 4/218 d Koonwarra L/RSL 149</b>                                                                                                       |            |
| Town – 1st INNINGS                                                                                                                            |            |
| Ron Abeyasinghe b: J Thomas .....                                                                                                             | 4          |
| Jesse Giardina b: J Kennedy .....                                                                                                             | 16         |
| Jack Hume not out .....                                                                                                                       | 100*       |
| DLMP Gallage lbw: J Kennedy .....                                                                                                             | 5          |
| Madura Madusanka b: J Rushton .....                                                                                                           | 80         |
| Buwaneka Wakishta not out .....                                                                                                               | 5*         |
| Extras (1w, 3nb, 1lb, 3b) .....                                                                                                               | 8          |
| <b>Total 4 / 218 (63.5 Overs)</b>                                                                                                             |            |
| Bowling: J Thomas 22-3-81-1 (3nb), B Smith 6-3-5-0, J Kennedy 16-6-35-2, J Rushton 14-0-64-1, C Buckland 5.5-0-29-0 (1w)                      |            |

## Dugard helps Stingrays storm home

### A GRADE, DIVISION 2

INVERLOCH enjoyed a comfortable win over Kilcunda-Bass on Saturday. Playing at Inverloch's Thompson Reserve, Kilcunda-Bass was chasing 5/317. Cameron Davidson was dismissed for four runs after he was caught by Ty Debono off the bowling of Jesse Dugard. Robert Wallace and Brad Wright had a decent stint at the crease, with Wallace top scoring with 60 runs and Wright making 29 runs. Wright was dismissed at 2/77 and Matthew Grayson was bowled by Jacob Strickland for a duck at 3/77. Ash Larcombe stepped up to bat and remained at the crease for the rest of the innings, making 42 not out. However, Inverloch quickly demolished the bottom of the batting order. Dugard was Inverloch's

star bowler, taking 6/25, and Strickland took 3/40. Kilcunda-Bass was bowled out after 61 overs with a score of 10/167.

### Nyora's team effort denies MDU traction

At the Nyora Recreation Reserve, MDU was chasing 9/312. Ultimately, Nyora was able to successfully defend its score. MDU started well with Paul Le Page and vice-captain Mitch McGrath making 38 and 47 runs respectively. Midway through the innings, Wayne Prosser added 28 runs. However, the rest of the batting order fell to the mercy of Nyora's bowlers. Mitch Rowe took the most wickets, claiming 4/31. Vice-captain Aidan Simmons took three wickets and two wickets were taken by Reece Cordeux. In the 66th over, MDU was bowled out with a score of 10/177.

### Skipper snags five

Glen Alvie held onto its lead and bowled out Foster to claim the win on Saturday. Foster went into bat to chase down 10/242. However, it was off to a tough start as Mitchell Jones went out for a duck and Mitchell Allott was dismissed for four runs. Ollie Rook and Josh Toner were sent in after Jones and Allott and put Foster back on track. Rook made 41 runs before his wicket fell to Glen Alvie captain Ben McRae. Tex Dyson was in next, and he and Toner made 60 and 52 runs respectively before they were both dismissed by McRae. McRae had Glen Alvie's best bowling figures, taking 5/66. Three wickets were taken by Archie Luke. Luke and McRae quickly worked their way through the bottom of the batting order, which resulted in Foster finishing off its innings with a score of 10/205.



Inverloch's Jacob Strickland bowling against Kilcunda-Bass. B137\_0925

| A GRADE                                                                                                                                                                            | DIVISION 2 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Nyora 9/312 d MDU 177</b>                                                                                                                                                       |            |
| MDU – 1st INNINGS                                                                                                                                                                  |            |
| Paul Le Page c: A Kaddatz b: R Cordeux .....                                                                                                                                       | 38         |
| Mitch McGrath b: A Simmons .....                                                                                                                                                   | 47         |
| SC Lakshan c: B Henderson b: R Cordeux .....                                                                                                                                       | 7          |
| Joel Sinclair c&b: A Simmons .....                                                                                                                                                 | 7          |
| Wayne Prosser c: A Kaddatz b: M Rowe .....                                                                                                                                         | 28         |
| Tharindu Nuwan b: A Simmons .....                                                                                                                                                  | 0          |
| Steve Arnup c: J Henry b: A Kaddatz .....                                                                                                                                          | 12         |
| Scott Browne c: B Henderson b: M Rowe.....                                                                                                                                         | 4          |
| Sam Bright b: M Rowe.....                                                                                                                                                          | 6          |
| Zak Bright lbw: M Rowe .....                                                                                                                                                       | 2          |
| Mark Cantwell not out .....                                                                                                                                                        | 1*         |
| Extras (9w, 3nb, 8lb, 5b) .....                                                                                                                                                    | 25         |
| <b>Total 10 / 177 (65.5 Overs)</b>                                                                                                                                                 |            |
| Bowling: A Kaddatz 9-2-14-1 (1nb), R Cordeux 19-8-35-2, A Simmons 23-5-62-3 (3w), H Dolphin 4-0-21-0 (1nb), M Rowe 9.5-2-31-4 (6w, 1nb), J Henry 1-0-1-0                           |            |
| <b>Inverloch 5/317 d Kilcunda-Bass 167</b>                                                                                                                                         |            |
| Kilcunda-Bass – 1st INNINGS                                                                                                                                                        |            |
| Cameron Davidson c: T Debono b: J Dugard .....                                                                                                                                     | 4          |
| Robert Wallace c: R Harris b: J Strickland .....                                                                                                                                   | 60         |
| Brad Wright c: L Rankin b: J Strickland .....                                                                                                                                      | 29         |
| Matthew Grayson b: J Strickland .....                                                                                                                                              | 0          |
| Ash Larcombe not out .....                                                                                                                                                         | 42*        |
| Jaydan Tregear b: J Dugard .....                                                                                                                                                   | 13         |
| Aaron Conron b: J Dugard .....                                                                                                                                                     | 0          |
| Todd Smith c: C Newman b: J Dugard .....                                                                                                                                           | 2          |
| Shaun Lucas c: D Clark b: C Newman .....                                                                                                                                           | 2          |
| Ben Rookes b: J Dugard .....                                                                                                                                                       | 3          |
| Ryan Brown b: J Dugard.....                                                                                                                                                        | 1          |
| Extras (2w, 6nb, 3lb) .....                                                                                                                                                        | 11         |
| <b>Total 10 / 167 (61 Overs)</b>                                                                                                                                                   |            |
| Bowling: L Rankin 14-3-31-0 (1nb), J Dugard 11-1-25-6, T Debono 5-1-16-0 (1w), R Newman 7-0-18-0 (4nb), C Newman 11-1-34-1 (1nb), J Strickland 12-1-40-3 (1w), J Dennerley 1-1-0-0 |            |
| <b>Glen Alvie 242 d Foster 205</b>                                                                                                                                                 |            |
| Foster – 1st INNINGS                                                                                                                                                               |            |
| Mitchell Jones c: M Donohue b: M Dakin .....                                                                                                                                       | 0          |
| Mitchell Allott c: A Dakin b: A Luke .....                                                                                                                                         | 4          |
| Ollie Rook c: M Donohue b: B McRae .....                                                                                                                                           | 41         |
| Josh Toner st: A Dakin b: B McRae .....                                                                                                                                            | 60         |
| Tex Dyson c: M Donohue b: B McRae .....                                                                                                                                            | 52         |
| Jack Gay st: A Dakin b: B McRae .....                                                                                                                                              | 5          |
| Jake Pilkington lbw: W Luke .....                                                                                                                                                  | 4          |
| Eddie Smith b: A Luke .....                                                                                                                                                        | 12         |
| Private player b: A Luke .....                                                                                                                                                     | 18         |
| Max Johnston c: A Luke b: B McRae .....                                                                                                                                            | 0          |
| Lance Moon not out .....                                                                                                                                                           | 0*         |
| Extras (3nb, 2lb, 4b) .....                                                                                                                                                        | 9          |
| <b>Total 10 / 205 (41.1 Overs)</b>                                                                                                                                                 |            |
| Bowling: M Dakin 6-1-23-1, A Luke 10-4-38-3 (3nb), W Luke 12-0-72-1, B McRae 13.1-2-66-5                                                                                           |            |



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## Amy Hodson swims for a cause

12-year-old Amy Hodson swam 55.9 kilometres in the pool over the course of February, raising over \$9,000.

AT just 12 years old, Amy Hodson has achieved something truly remarkable – swimming a staggering 55.9 kilometres over the course of February for the third consecutive year, all to raise money and awareness for the Starlight Children's Foundation. This year, Amy raised an impressive \$9,030, bringing her three-year total to over \$26,000.

Dylan Muir, head coach at South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club (SGB), praised Amy's unwavering dedication, saying, "I think it's amazing to see someone at such a young age have such a strong drive to help others and bring awareness to the Starlight Children's Foundation. I hope this is the third year of many more for Amy."

Her parents Robyn and Brad Hodson share that sentiment, together they've expressed their pride in Amy's selflessness. "Amy is always putting others before herself, and this fundraiser is a

testament to that," they said.

Amy's inspiration to help others is not limited to her swimming efforts. "She has a genuine care for helping others," said Robyn. In January, Amy had the opportunity to see Anh Do live at the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre. "Amy has always been so moved by his compassion for helping others."

As a result, Amy surprisingly received a signed copy of his book, which Robyn said would inspire her to keep swimming to achieve her February goal.

When asked to share her thoughts on her efforts, Amy humbly replied, "I don't know... I just do it because I was one of those sick kids, and I love swimming, so it makes sense."

Amy's fundraising journey has touched the hearts of many, with the support of her community playing a significant role. "We have our whole community to thank for that," said Robyn,

"Family, friends, businesses, community groups, and even strangers from all over have given words of support, made donations, and shared her story. They say it takes a village, and she has a pretty good one supporting her. It is with their support that Amy can make a real difference in the lives of those sick kids in hospitals."

Amy's motivation for the challenge came from her time in and out of hospital as a young child. Amy has no vision in her right eye, she was born with a rare cataract on the right side and underwent surgery at only eight weeks old. Since then, she spent many years at the Royal Children's Hospital for appointments and further surgeries due to her cataract.

Donations to Amy's cause can still be made until March 7. To contribute to Amy's Starlight Children's Foundation Super Swim Challenge, visit Amy Hodson • Super Swim 2025



Dylan Muir, head coach at South Gippsland Bass Swimming Club (SGB) praised Amy Hodson for her unwavering dedication to helping others.



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