

Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST

Tuesday, October 28, 2025 | \$2.00



SPLASHDOWN: KILCUNDA FLOODWATERS EASED

The 'water over road' signs went up again over the weekend at a familiar place on the Bass Highway at Kilcunda as flood waters from Bourne Creek covered the road. But authorities plan to open the creek to the ocean today (Tuesday).

STRUGGLE STREET

– How our neighbourhood houses are being squeezed

WHAT would you do if your neighbourhood house closed its doors?

Maybe it's where you share a community lunch. Maybe it's your recovery group, your playgroup, or a lifeline for food relief and connection. Across Victoria, more than 185,000 people rely on these humble hubs every week – and now, they're under threat.

Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria are taking a stand, calling on the State Government to urgently increase their annual funding, or risk the closure of up to 200 community houses statewide.

Rising costs and stagnant funding are forcing many to cut back essential services. In Bass Coast, Wonthaggi Neighbourhood

By Chloe Kent

Centre at Mitchell House (WNC) has already had to close its once-busy food pantry, a service it simply can't afford to resource.

Thanks to community generosity, frozen meals and weekly lunches still continue, but it's a far cry from the containers on the porch once filled with groceries and fresh food.

Fortunately for those in Wonthaggi, five other organisations can assist, but even those face challenging times ahead, as cost-of-living pressures bite deeper than ever and a significant increase in individuals and families walk through their doors.

And there is no stereotype – it's pensioners, it's families, it's individuals, those who have never asked for anything in their life, who are finding themselves unable to afford a roof over their head, and food on the table.

The figures reveal just how far every dollar stretches. In 2024, Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre had an income of just \$286,039 – less than the Bass Coast Shire CEO's salary – yet delivered \$957,878 in community value.

That's \$3.35 returned for every \$1 of income, or \$9.71 for every \$1 of state funding (Neighbourhood House Coordination Program).

Continued page 3

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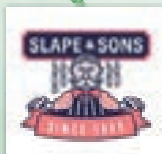
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How our neighbourhood houses are being squeezed

From page 1

In Foster, Manna Gum are working with the community to help build food resilience, and as centre manager, Rebecca Matthews explained last Thursday when discussing the new Bass Coast – South Gippsland Food Systems Alliance, it's hoped this will be another avenue of support for the community.

"[In three years] we hope there is less food insecurity and healthier, fresher food available for those in our community," Rebecca said. "At present, we assist 100 households, and that number is growing. It's important that we keep the pressure on government at all levels around housing, as housing is a major contributing factor to rising costs that, in turn, is increasing food insecurity and the need for food relief."

Manna Gum is taking a firm stand, also calling on the State Government to boost funding.

"Our State funding hasn't kept pace with rising wages and operating costs," Rebecca stated.

"We are doing, and being asked to do, a lot more with the funding – it's unsustainable."

Last year, Manna Gum turned \$355,316 of income into \$1,357,320 in value. A staggering \$13.76 for every \$1 of Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding.

And whilst some can argue that there are additional grants available to Neighbourhood Houses to apply for, as WNC centre manager Leslie Adams highlighted in conversation with the Sentinel-Times, it's not as simple as quickly ticking boxes; each application takes significant time, and takes managers and coordinators away from other important work.

"Across the Gippsland region, our Neighbourhood Houses have been struggling financially for a number of years – but it's now reaching a critical point where I am advising Centres to reduce what they are providing. In some cases, this means shorter opening hours or fewer community programs," Antonia Halloran-Lavelle, network manager, Neighbourhood Houses Gippsland, said on Monday.

"It's simply unsustainable to expect Neighbourhood Houses to deliver the same level of service year after year with less funding in real terms. Rising costs, higher demand and stagnant indexation mean that even maintaining safe staffing levels is becoming increasingly difficult."

Neighbourhood Houses have

the support of Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, who has thrown her support behind the campaign for increased funding.

"[Neighbourhood Houses] do extraordinary work across so many programs, services and are always there to best support community members in need, whether it's through emergency relief, meals, activities, events, assistance in applying for energy discounts, IT, Centrelink and the list goes on and on," Ms Crugnale said.

"I have offered to collect all the postcards to hand-deliver in person to Minister Spence."

Whether you are a regular or pop in on occasion, locals are being urged to visit their Neighbourhood House and sign a postcard calling for increased funding by the State Government in next year's budget.

"We know that 94 per cent of neighbourhood house visitors experience improved physical wellbeing and 96 per cent report improved emotional wellbeing as a result of participating [at neighbourhood houses]," Neighbourhood Houses CEO Keir Paterson stated. "We calculate the overall benefits to the Victorian community at \$922 million per year."

According to Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, the Neighbourhood House Coordination Program funding (NHCP) was designed to cover staff wages and operational costs, but due to inadequate indexation over many years, the NHCP doesn't even meet the costs of employing a manager, a fact WNC can attest to.

"All of the funding from the state government is used to support staff salaries, amounting to 24 hours per week. The House programs and community support offered in various ways are funded through membership fees, room rental, donations, and specific grants from sources such as Bass Coast Shire Council," WNC Committee of Management member, Grant Watson explained.

The financial pressures could see the house shift to a four-day week in the future.

Back inside Mitchell House, 35 postcards have been signed within a week.

"Most speak of the inclusive environment and how they feel like part of the community. A place to be welcomed," Leslie explained.

Grant acknowledged the local community support and thanked Bass Coast Shire for their ongoing grants.

Full story at sgst.com.au



Shannon Gee and Rebecca Matthews (manager) of Manna Gum Community House are urging the community to speak up and show their support for their local community houses. C02_4325



Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre at Mitchell House, centre manager Leslie Adams and committee of management member Grant Watson. C34_4325



Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale shows her support for increased funding for Neighbourhood Houses with Kerryn Ladell, assistant centre manager of PICAL (Phillip Island).

Splashdown: CMA acts on Bass Highway flooding

THE West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has just approved an artificial opening of Bourne Creek estuary at Kilcunda after flooding of the Bass Highway in recent days.

Blocked by the highway, creek waters have lapped at the edge of the road reserve for weeks, but a couple of heavy showers of rain on Sunday, which amounted to about 27mm, was enough to see it pouring out over the road by Sunday afternoon into Monday.

Cars, trucks and vehicles towing caravans were seen creating huge plumes of water as they travelled through the running water, even at relatively slow speeds.

The good news is that the West Gippsland CMA was monitoring the situation and, after an inspection on Monday morning, October 27, they advised their partners, Transport Victoria and Parks Victoria, that they were authorising the opening of the creek.

According to West Gippsland CMA monitoring officer Callum Edwards, Bourne Creek estuary entrance closed naturally to the ocean some weeks ago, and the CMA has been monitoring its progress since.

"We're responsible for the monitoring and DTP (Department of Transport and Planning) is responsible for engaging the contractors," said Mr Edwards.

"They'll have contractors onsite on Tuesday morning. Our partners, Parks Victoria, have also been notified," he said.

In September last year, when the estuary was artificially opened, West Gippsland CMA CEO Martin Fuller said it was "a careful balance".

"Estuary closures are natural events that provide many environmental benefits for birds, fish and the surrounding saltmarsh and wetlands. However, they also pose risks to surrounding assets by inundating farmland, cultural assets, roads and recreational infrastructure," said Mr Fuller.

"Artificial openings are only used in conditions where it is unlikely that the estuary will naturally open to the ocean before flooding occurs, as is the current situation at Bourne Creek."

"The CMA is responsible for monitoring the closure conditions, carrying out the risk assessment and making the decision to artificially open the estuary."

The decision has been informed through extensive monitoring, a thorough risk and feasibility assessment and in consultation with Parks Victoria and Department of Transport and Planning.

The opening involves a small digger removing sand at the estuary opening at a carefully selected time to allow water to flow into the ocean. The CMA will continue to work with landholders and partners to enable the natural opening and closing of estuaries with minimal impact to roads and other important assets.

"Ultimately, we are committed to supporting the environmental benefits of natural water cycles and improving the condition of West Gippsland's valuable river and estuaries in the long term," said Mr Fuller.

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6 Day
Weather
Forecast

SOUTH
GIPPSLAND



TUE | Oct 28
Sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: SE 15-20km/h
4° 18°



WED | Oct 29
Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light
6° 18°



THUR | Oct 30
Mostly sunny.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: E 15-20km/h
9° 20°



FRI | Oct 31
Shower or two.
Wind AM: N-NE 15-20km/h
Wind PM: NW-SW 15-20km/h
11° 22°



SAT | Nov 1
Partly cloudy.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: Light
11° 18°



SUN | Nov 2
Shower or two.
Wind AM: Light
Wind PM: N-NW 15-20km/h
10° 26°

IN BRIEF

Tickets on sale now

IT'S the talk of the town, well district and beyond. Korumburra Monster Trucks is back on November 15 from 12 noon.

Don't miss top-of-their-class Monster Trucks, including two Pro International drivers PsychoPAT and Kevin King, in an action-packed afternoon you'll never forget.

Tickets are available now for the main event through ticketek: Monster X Tour: Xtreme Carnage – premier.ticketek.com.au/shows/show.aspx?sh=KORMONX25.

Keen to check out Moonshine before the big event? Head along this Friday, October 31 from 5pm at Korumburra Showgrounds for the spooktacular Halloween Disco and view this SCMT monster truck on display. Tickets are available from Trybooking – trybooking.com/events/landing/1470367.

Telstra mobile station works in Cowes

TELSTRA's upgrading of its mobile base station in Cowes has amended dates with work to take place from Monday, October 27, 2025. There will be some temporary service disruptions or a reduction in mobile coverage.

The network will be fully offline from Monday, October 27, until Thursday, October 30, 2025. Landline services, NBN internet services and mobile coverage from other providers will not be impacted during this time. Telstra mobile customers will be receiving text messages advising them of the upcoming works.

Indigenous artist teams up with Bass Coast to support pensioners and pets in crisis

LOCAL Indigenous artist, Vegas Fitzmaurice, and Bass Coast Shire Council are mounting an exhibition

that will, in part, save the beloved pets of pensioners in crisis.

Among the works on display and for sale, one piece entitled 'Horizon of Hope' will be available to bid on for five weeks, with all auction proceeds donated to Pet Medical Crisis, a registered charity that has helped more than 7500 families access life-saving care for their pets.

"By keeping people and their pets together, we reduce suffering and distress for vulnerable owners, four-legged family members, vets and the community," said Jennifer Hunt OAM, founder and CEO of Pet Medical Crisis.

Millowl: A Mother's Element will run from November 1 to December 6, at Benninait, 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes. For more information about the exhibition, visit Bass Coast Cultural Events.

Beware the careless campfire, warns Conservation Regulator

CAMPERS have been warned a careless campfire could cause serious damage as Victorians venture into the State's forests and parks over the Melbourne Cup weekend.

Victoria's Conservation Regulator, CFA, Parks Victoria, and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVIC) have urged campers to learn about campfire safety before they go.

Even though the nights remain cool at this time of the year, days can be warm and often windy. Just one unattended or poorly managed campfire could cause serious environmental damage and put lives and property at risk.

It's important that Victorians take a moment to check the weather forecast, especially projected wind speeds before heading out. People need to make sure that their

campfire is put out correctly by extinguishing it completely with water, not soil.

Fires that haven't been properly extinguished can smoulder under soil for days and reignite in warm and windy conditions. The CFA has advised that before you light a fire always check local fire restrictions, including whether a Total Fire Ban is in place.

Report unattended campfires to DEECA at 136 186 or call 000 to report a bushfire.

Tools returned thanks to Facebook

URNS out social media is good for something after all.

In the past week, police have credited Facebook users with the return of some valuable tradie tools.

"Thanks to everyone sharing the post about the Paslode nail gun which was found on the side of the road at Middle Tarwin the other day," they said on the Bass Coast Police Eyewatch page.

"It was returned to the owner yesterday! Without the efforts of you all, we couldn't achieve the good result we do. Thanks."

Nice, keep up the good work!

Free green waste period to prepare for Summer

BASS Coast Shire residents and ratepayers should prepare for the fire season through council's fee-free green waste disposal period, enabling them to clear excess vegetation from their properties, with that period running from November 1 until November 23 inclusive.

During this time, they can dispose of green waste free of charge at council's waste facilities in Grantville, Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Cowes.

While the Melbourne Cup weekend opening of the free green waste period is likely to mean those facilities are

busy, there is no longer a requirement to register a timeslot for the Cowes site, as there was last year, and you can just turn up during operating hours as at other sites.

Weed species and plants that can't be mulched, such as palm fronds, are not accepted as green waste at any of the sites but can go in your kerbside organics bin.

Details of the South Gippsland Shire free green waste period will be published when confirmed by council.

Seventh for local cobber

LOCAL Wonthaggi farmer, Jess, and her dog, Bundaberg, have come seventh in the 2025 Cobber Challenge – the annual national competition to find Australia's hardest working dog.

Jess and Bundaberg put up a tough battle across the 21-day challenge, competing amongst Australia's hardest working dogs from up and down the country on speed, distance and duration.

The Cobber Challenge is an annual showdown which celebrates the unsung heroes of Australia's \$90 billion agriculture industry: the working dog.

Mrs Sippy heads to Inverloch

THE Inverloch Jazz Club have invited the Mrs Sippy Jazz Band to perform on November 2 at the RSL, Inverloch from 2pm to 4.30pm.

This six-piece band comprises their leader, Graham Michel, drums, Reg Packer, banjo, Peter McIntyre, soursaphone, Eileen Carter-McIntyre, piano, Graeme Pender, clarinet and Ken Collins, trumpet and vocals.

This group will be presenting a selection of classic, traditional and Dixieland tunes. Visitors are most welcome.

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Sentinel-Times

COVERING SOUTH GIPPSLAND AND BASS COAST



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Wonthaggi
Men's Shed
makes some
changes

The Wonthaggi Men's Shed Inc. has made the executive decision to shut down the garden group operating within the grounds of the men's shed precinct.

This decision was reached due to unreconcilable differences negatively affecting the Wonthaggi men's shed purpose and vision.

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Sue Moore with koala mother Jan and baby Chloe. A22_4325 INSET: Sue Moore's wildlife skills include handling birds of prey in need of care, such as this wedge-tailed eagle.

Wildlife carer Sue Moore's local hero status acknowledged

SUE Moore's nomination as a 'Local Hero for Victoria' in the Australian of the Year Awards undoubtedly reflects community sentiment in Tarwin Lower and surrounds, the wildlife rescuer and carer responsible for saving the lives of thousands of native animals.

While finding the honour a little overwhelming, she is delighted by the recognition of wildlife carers, having clocked up 20 years' service in the field.

Running the Bass Coast and South Gippsland Wildlife Rescue and Shelter, Sue is always busy tending to the feeding and care needs of a diverse range of animals and is often the first person contacted when someone finds injured or ill wildlife.

She is supported by others who help with animal transport and other tasks.

As well as koalas, she looks after echidnas, lizards, turtles, bats, pygmy possums and even birds of prey, having recently released a brown eagle that was able to be nursed back to health after being hit by a car.

While she also cares for

By Andrew Palocz

kangaroos, wombats and wallabies, they are usually passed on to other wildlife experts due to the impracticality of managing their feed needs alongside those of the other animals she houses.

Sue detailed the effort that goes into feeding koalas.

"When you pick gum leaves for koalas, you've got to have three different varieties because if you pick one variety, they might not like it that day," she said, explaining that it's important to feed the koalas promptly because the nutritional value of the leaves begins to diminish within four hours and there's not much left after 24 hours.

Learning to catch birds of prey is one of the many skills Sue has acquired.

"If they grab hold of you, they will not let go," she said.

The remedy requires calling an ambulance, getting it to stop in at a vet so the bird can be sedated and detached, then heading to hospital for treatment before returning to collect the bird.

It's no wonder she learned the

correct technique.

Sue's enclosures are tailored to the animals they contain, through measures such as specialist netting to ensure bats don't become entangled, and shade cloth instead of wire prevent birds of prey from injuring themselves.

The aim is always to return animals to the wild, with Sue working closely with local vets and those of Wildlife Victoria who assess each creature closely to ensure that is possible.

Animals are released in the areas where they were found, with Sue obtaining details from those who discovered them and inviting those people to be part of the release.

Despite her years of service, putting healed animals back into the wild is still a thrill.

While Sue was busy bottle feeding a couple of baby koalas during the Sentinel-Times' visit to her home and animal shelter, she explained that once they are old enough, they will be progressively conditioned to becoming used to no human contact.

Despite their present closeness to her as they cling to her

koala-like dressing gown, instinct will eventually kick in, making them suitable for release.

In the lead-up to that moment, they will be fed leaves from a 'home tree' at which they will be released, initially using that tree as a base and slowly radiating further out to feed.

Sue's had 85 koalas in her care in the last 12 months, and 300 animals during that period.

Her wildlife journey began with a single wombat, Wilbur, when she lived in Walkerville, with no local carers then available.

"It was cool," she said when asked whether that experience was daunting, putting her calm state of mind down to her lifelong association with domestic animals and time on a hobby farm.

In the write-up detailing her nomination, Sue is described as "a shining example of the positive role that voluntary service plays in rural communities, delivering hope and healing in the face of pain and suffering".

Sentinel-Times will provide an update regarding the progress of Sue's nomination when available.

IN BRIEF

Power pole fire in Wonthaggi

MONDAY'S rain is likely to have sparked a power pole fire on Wonthaggi's South Dudley Road opposite Bass Coast College, the local brigade soon declaring the incident under control after being called into action at 10am.

The Hazmat truck departed, while the tanker and crew remained on scene, monitoring the situation while waiting for power company representatives to arrive.

Lieutenant Jamie Moresco expected that to take up to an hour, saying water probably caused an electrical short, with fuses catching fire.

Car rolls in wet at Fish Creek

THE driver and passenger in a silver Triton ute escaped injury when their car skidded out of control on the Meeniyan Promontory Road at Fish Creek on Sunday night, October 26 shortly before 9pm.

According to police, the car was travelling at about 65km/h when the driver skidded in the wet and hit an embankment while trying to correct the slide, ultimately rolling the car on its side, and coming to rest in the middle of the road.

The car was travelling south, near the intersection with Waratah Road, in a 100km/h zone, in what was described as "very wet" conditions.

Foster Police, CFA and Ambulance Victoria attended the scene, and the road was closed for an hour while CFA washed down the road.

Safe Plate event unites emergency services and locals

ON SATURDAY, October 25, a SAFEPLATE event was held by at the Wonthaggi Bunnings. The event organised was by Bunnings, and supported by Wonthaggi State Emergency Service, Wonthaggi Country Fire Authority, Bass Coast Police and Ambulance Victoria.

According to Bass Coast Police it was a fantastic morning with emergency service displays, face painting and sausages in support of Wonthaggi North Primary School.

Seventy-five vehicles had anti-theft screws attached, and though there were plenty of negative comments on Facebook about police defecting vehicles, they have confirmed that no defects were issued.

MARY

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Council adopts plan to improve Cape Paterson road safety

BASS Coast Shire Council has adopted the new Cape Paterson Local Area Traffic Management Plan.

The plan was developed with significant input from the Cape Paterson community who, through a petition to council, had expressed concerns for safety improvements needed in the Cape Paterson township, which kick-started the development of the plan.

The Cape Paterson local area consists of many unsealed roads with development initially occurring before planning control lifted the standard of infrastructure required.

Streets have been developed in isolation and with township growth, there is a need for an area-wide consideration of traffic management, according to Council.

Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead praised the Cape Paterson community for its drive and participation in the process to get to the final plan.

“During the first round of consultation in mid-2024, we had 392 responses to our survey highlighting pedestrian and cyclist safety and vehicle speeds within the township were the main concerns reported,” she said.

“Once the draft plan was developed, we then had a further 193 submissions received and 66 people attending an in-person session with people clearly in support of the road safety improvements proposed.

“For a small town, this is a really great result. It shows the care that Cape Paterson residents have for the safety of their neighbours, their neighbourhoods and the community spirit that lives there.”

This strategic approach to traffic management and pedestrian safety is consistent with key actions with council’s Integrated Transport Strategy.

The final plan recommends a range of treatments, including reducing speed limits, installing traffic calming devices along streets, modifying intersections to slow vehicle speeds, and installing better pedestrian and cyclist connectivity.

All recommendations in this plan are subject to external funding, but this plan will be used to support applications for state and federal road safety funding programs.

To read the plan, visit bass-coast.vic.gov.au/plans.

Rocky start to Cowes’ streetscape upgrade

IT’S safe to say the Bass Coast Shire Council made a rocky start to its \$8.3 million Stage 1 of the Cowes Streetscape Master Plan Delivery Project.

And there could well be more tears before the initial phase of the works is wrapped up prior to Christmas.

But, according to the operator of the Hotel, on the corner of The Esplanade and Thompson Avenue, Dale Larkin, it’s “all good now” after some miscommunication on the timing of excavations out the front of his premises.

The venue posted its alarm on Facebook early last week when the old footpath was ripped up along The Esplanade frontage, two to three weeks earlier than anticipated.

“We were supposed to lose full access to the front of our venue from the 17th of November... apparently today was a good day to do it instead. No warning. No time for planning. We haven’t loaded up on stock yet like we were intending to do in these two weeks... we’re devastated to say the least.”

As well as patrons not being able to access the main doors, across the fenced-off works area, goods in and out had to go up and down a set of narrow stairs into the building.

However, after an initial period of adjustment, including opening the entrance off Thompson Avenue that hasn’t been opened for years, and staff pitching in to stock up and clear out after a big MotoGP weekend, it was all back on track.

“Just a misunderstanding on



All’s well that ends well. The Hotel operator in Cowes, Dean Larkin, chats with a shire staff member about trading arrangements after a rocky start to the \$8.3 million Stage 1 of the Cowes streetscape upgrade.

the timing. We got a bit of a shock initially. We asked the staff to bear with us while we made the adjustments, and we’d like to extend that to our patrons as well,” said Mr Larkin.

“Honestly, the shire could not have done more to help us through COVID and after. I think the tables we added out the front, with the shire’s blessing, has really added something to the bottom end of Thompson Avenue and The Esplanade and what they have planned will really be great once it’s completed.

“There’ll no doubt be a bit of

pain from time to time, especially on our busy days from Cup Weekend through to Christmas (December 21 finish), but I think we’ve just got to go with it, confident that we’ll come out with something really good once the work has been completed.

“The contractors as well, Fulton Hogan, could not have been more accommodating.

“We’re not going to have wheelchair access inside while the works are going on, with the only entrance down those steps, but we’ve been able to add some dining space on the outside (Thompson

Avenue), which will help.

“We’ve seen the plans and we’re nothing but positive about what it will look like in the end. We just thought we had a bit more time up our sleeve, after the big GP Weekend, to get ready.”

Life’s full of surprises.

So, the \$8.265 million Stage 1 of the Cowes Streetscape project is on its way, with the lion’s share of the funding, \$8 million, coming from the Australian Government’s Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program.

Stage 1 will focus on upgrading essential services and creating the foundations for a safer and more welcoming precinct. This includes renewing water and sewer mains, upgrading stormwater drainage, and reconstructing the road and pavement to better support outdoor dining spaces and a more pedestrian-friendly environment.

The works will also deliver new kerb and channel, upgraded public lighting, and fresh landscaping – helping to create greener, safer and more inviting spaces for families, shoppers and visitors.

There will be a permanent change to one-way eastbound traffic along The Esplanade being introduced to improve safety and create more space for people to walk, cycle and enjoy the fore-shore.

There are expected to be seven stages to the Cowes Streetscape upgrade, six of which are yet to be funded. Master plan details and works progress are available on the Engage Bass Coast website.

A local family that now calls Wonthaggi home



Rakesh, Raina and their children Neil and Nyla, celebrate becoming Australian citizens with grandmother Santha, who travelled from India for the occasion. B72_4325

AMONG the Bass Coast residents awarded Australian Citizenship last week was a family from southern India who are proud to call Wonthaggi home.

Rakesh and Raina first moved from southern India to New Zealand in 2011 so Rakesh could study as a chef in Queenstown. Five years ago, the growing family moved to Wonthaggi so Rakesh could take up a position at the Wonthaggi Club.

“It was the 23rd of December, right at the peak of Christmas,” said Rakesh.

The family has now bought a home in Wonthaggi and Rakesh and Raina both work at the Wonthaggi Hospital, Rakesh as catering manager and Raina in food services.

“The Bass Coast feels like home,” said Rakesh.

“It’s not far from Melbourne, but it still feels like a country town.”

“It’s growing fast and is much busier than when we first moved here,” said Raina.

With grandmother Santha visiting from India, Rakesh, Raina and their children, Neil and Nyla, were delighted to make their oath or affirmation of allegiance to Australia and become Australian citizens.

“Happy birthday,” chimed four-year-old Neil.

A keen photographer, Rakesh enjoys taking photos of local wildlife and the Bass Coast.

“I love Phillip Island and Wilson’s Promontory,” he said.

“We are in one of the best parts of Victoria.”

The rest of us can only agree.

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

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HAN/22/2

Local ‘watchdogs’ win newspaper awards

THE Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser and the South Gippsland Sentinel-Times have both won major awards at a joint presentation night for the Victorian and NSW Country Press Associations at Yarrawonga.

As the winner of the Victorian Country Press Association award for the ‘Best Special Publication’ for its ‘Island’ magazine, the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser went forward for the national award against entries from South Australia, NSW and Queensland and came out on top.

Phillip Island’s newspaper editor, Eleanor McKay, said the Advertiser launched the magazine after COVID to highlight the many positive stories about the Island, its surroundings and its people in a format that had been embraced by locals and visitors alike.

The Sentinel-Times also won the Best Opinion/Editorial section for the Victorian Country Press Association, an open entry competition available to all eligible newspapers in country and regional Victoria, for an article written by the newspaper’s publisher Michael Giles.

Here’s what judge of the opinion section, Patrick Elligett, Editor of The Age, said about the entries:

“Only a few points separated the top dozen entrants in this year’s opinion/editorial category, which attracted a notably high calibre of submissions.

“The ferocious advocacy peppered throughout these entries should give comfort to the

communities these publications serve that their watchdogs are on duty.

“This year’s standout submissions avoided dry, bureaucratic exploration of worthy issues and instead used clever editorial devices to connect with readers on a deeper level.

“Winner Michael Giles South Gippsland Sentinel Times, ‘Another Bass Coast fiasco looms’.

“Comments: The best thing about this thundering editorial is its implicit message for decision-makers: take the people of the district for a ride at your peril. Written with a classic editorial structure, this article builds the foundations of the story for an uninitiated reader before clearly explaining why ratepayers should care about their money being spent on a local environment fund.

“This issue could easily be considered esoteric in less skilful hands, but the Sentinel-Times’ editor easily establishes the issue as a matter of public interest and fires a warning shot audible from the local council chambers.”

Published in July 2024, after a series of community questions on the subject, not long after tests revealed no contamination had been found in Wonthaggi’s new housing estates, the editorial casts doubt on “a loopy thought bubble of an idea” to spend \$50,000 of scarce ratepayers’ money setting up an external Environment Fund, that wouldn’t directly benefit Bass Coast.

Those questions, including one from the late Jon Trig, prompted a response from

CEO Greg Box that all costs associated with establishing the Environment Fund had been met within the allocated budget of \$50,000 and that “Council has not made any commitment to provide working capital to the fund, once established”.

The fund was to have been a joint venture with independent not-for-profit Biodiversity Legacy (BDL), however, while there is no reference to ‘The Environment Fund’ on the BDL website, there is reference to a joint venture between Bass Coast Shire and BDL called the ‘Nature Recovery Foundation (NRF)’.

Despite assuring the community that no commitment had been made to contribute further funding, the shire’s Annual Report 2024-25, reveals paying \$15,000 to the Nature Recovery Foundation.

According to the BDL website: “The Nature Recovery Foundation (NRF) is a bold initiative committed to reversing biodiversity decline on Victoria’s Bass Coast and protecting the natural environment for future generations”.

It notes that the work of the NRF may extend to neighbouring LGA, South Gippsland, in years to come.

The Sentinel-Times has asked the Bass Coast Shire Council to clarify what’s happened to the \$50,000 paid to establish the Environment Fund and the genesis for a \$15,000 contribution to the NRF, especially given concerns about the lack of funding for local government.



South Gippsland Sentinel-Times publisher Michael Giles receives the VCPA Best Opinion/Editorial Award from Luke Carpenter, representing the sponsors Pongrass with, left, the judge of the section, Patrick Elligett, Editor of The Age.



Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser art director Staffan Hakansson and editor Eleanor McKay with Google News Initiative director David Van Coller after being named winners of a major national newspaper award at the Victorian and NSW Country Press Association awards last Friday night at Yarrawonga in the state’s north.

SEC Morwell hub now open

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New citizens come to the Bass Coast from all over the world

By Bruce Wardley

BASS Coast's newest Australian citizens pledged their allegiance to Australia at the Bass Coast Citizenship Ceremony held last week at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club.

Coming from all over the world to Australia, from Cuba to Canada and Portugal to the Philippines, it was an emotional occasion for the 49 new Australian citizens.

Combined they hailed from Afghanistan, United States, Britain, Philippines, Portugal, Cuba, Canada, Germany, United Kingdom, England, Vietnam, People's Democratic Republic of Laos, New Zealand, Netherlands, South Africa, India, Colombia, Ecuador, Cuba, Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Moldova, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Vietnam, China and the People's Republic of China.

Welcoming the new citizens from across the globe, Federal Member for Monash Mary Aldred MP said they had chosen the best region, in the best country on earth.

"Australian citizenship is a common bond, I'm proud to represent you as your Federal member, and I'm always here to help."

Minister for Immigration and Citizenship Tony Burke MP sent a congratulatory message.



Carolina Irvin and family with Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead at last week's Bass Coast Citizenship Ceremony. B81_4325

"In a few moments' time, Australia becomes an even better nation.

"When you make the citizenship pledge you take on the privileges and responsibilities of Australian citizenship. From that moment, your journey and heritage will become part of our shared Australian story.

"Australia welcomes you as a full member of one of the most diverse nations on earth where our citizenship is a bond which unites us all. Australia welcomes you and everything you bring to Australia. Today your new nation says to you

welcome home."

Ms Aldred presented the citizens with a personal gift, a personalised letter, Australia's constitution booklet, an Australian flag and an Australian native flower mix.

State Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale MP presented certificates, a 2025 citizenship coin and an Australian native plant to each new citizen, including nine children who received their own certificate, coin and a small kangaroo.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the national anthem Advance Australia Fair

was sung with considerable gusto before a light supper was shared giving everyone the chance to meet and celebrate with the other new citizens and their families.

A citizenship ceremony is the final step for most people in becoming an Australian citizens.

Citizenship ceremonies are conducted under the authority of the Australian Government minister responsible for citizenship matters. To find out how to become an Australian Citizen go to the Department of Home Affairs website or phone 13 18 80.

South Gippsland community conditioned for tough decisions

WITH tough decisions ahead on services and assets, South Gippsland Shire Council has moved to reshape local thinking, as revealed in its latest Community Engagement Strategy, the draft version of which is currently open to public feedback until November 21.

Outlining the strategic priorities for 2025-29, it is noted there is a focus on "building a shared community understanding of the financial realities facing council, particularly regarding services and assets".

Council describes that as the most fundamental shift in its approach to community engagement.

"The focus will be on gathering informed community input that helps councillors make necessary and difficult strategic decisions," it states.

That approach follows efforts by council to reduce its building portfolio and encourage community groups to share facilities, as it attempts to reduce maintenance costs to better contend with financial limitations imposed by rate capping and cost shifting from higher levels of government.

The refusal of Korumburra Senior Citizens

Club members to accept a move to the Korumburra Community Hub and the ongoing fight over the group's former home at 14 Radovick Street illustrates the difficulty council has in achieving the economic rationalisation it aims for.

That matter is now the subject of legal action, posing the likelihood of significant costs to both the seniors group and ratepayers.

Efforts to relocate Grow Lightly into a shared facility are also yet to succeed.

An important aim outlined in the draft Community Engagement Strategy document is for council to ensure that all engagement activities conclude with a publicly available report or summary detailing what it heard from the community and explaining, where appropriate, how that input was considered in the final decision-making process.

"Engagements will undergo an evaluation to assess effectiveness and identify lessons for future projects," council states.

Visit yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au to express your views on the Community Engagement Policy and Strategy.





Board Chair Ian Thompson and the Board of Directors request the pleasure of your company to celebrate our people and partners at

Bass Coast Health's AGM and Open Access Meeting

Thursday 27 November 2025, 2pm-3.30pm.
Silverwater Resort,
17 Potters Hill Road, San Remo.
Light refreshments from 1.30pm.

Please contact: publicrelations@basscoasthealth.org.au
to RSVP by 5pm, Friday, 14 November 2025.



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South Gippsland Shire Council News

Australia Day Awards 2026: Nominate Now!

Do you know someone who makes our community a better place to live? The South Gippsland Australia Day awards are a chance to shine a light on the everyday people who go above and beyond.

Nominations close on Wednesday 5 November 2025, so whether it's a quiet achiever, a passionate volunteer, or someone who simply makes life better for those around them, now is the time to recognise their contribution.

This year, there are three categories to nominate for:

- **2026 Citizen of the Year**
This Award recognises individuals who demonstrate outstanding service and make a significant impact through their dedication and passion for the South Gippsland community.
- **2026 Young Citizen of the Year**
This award highlights the achievements of young people (12 – 25 years) who make a positive difference in their

community through their actions, leadership, and/or commitment.

- **2026 Community Event of the Year**
This award celebrates the events that bring the South Gippsland community together, showcase local spirit, and make a significant contribution to our regional identity.

The Nominees will be recognised at an Awards Ceremony held on Wednesday 14 January at 6.30pm at the Meeniyan Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and there will be a light supper provided.

To lodge a nomination, you only need to answer two questions about the nominee's contribution to the South Gippsland community and provide two letters of support.

For more information and to submit a nomination, visit:

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday

Engagement Opportunities



Share your ideas, provide feedback and help shape the future of South Gippsland via the following engagement opportunities:

- Pre-Prep Consultation
- Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan
- Draft Community Engagement Policy and Strategy (2025–2029)
- Draft Governance Rules
- 2026/27 Annual Budget Consultation

For more information and share your feedback, please visit:

yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/

COUNCIL MEETINGS

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

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

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

FIRE DANGER PERIOD BEGINS 27 OCTOBER

The Fire Danger Period is when the CFA restricts the use of fire in the community to help prevent fires from starting. Restrictions will be in place until the fire danger lessens, which could be as late as May 2026.

COMMUNITY IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

Date: Thursday 6 November

Where: Leongatha Early Learning Centre
13 Symmons Street, Leongatha

When: 9.30am to 11.30am

To find a session in October that suits you and to book, please visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation

SUBSCRIBE TO **IN THE KNOW**

Sign up to Council's fortnightly newsletter to stay up to date with the latest news, events, community consultations and grants. To subscribe, visit:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/intheknow

REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

RFT/457 – Sealed Road Rehab Program 25/26

Tenders close 2.00pm AEDT on Tuesday 11 November 2025

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

www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/tenders

CONTACT US

9 Smith Street, Leongatha
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Overhanging tree limbs in Mirboo, a road hazard, residents claim

A LARGE pine tree with overhanging limbs in Walkers Road, Mirboo, has been described by local residents as potentially dangerous.

“It needs to be trimmed,” said Mirboo beef farmer Coral Donat.

“I’ve rung South Gippsland Shire many times, but now I’ve given up,” she said.

“The trees in Walkers Road are close to powerlines, but I’m yet to receive a satisfactory response from South Gippsland Shire.

“The power goes out fairly often.”

The only access to Ms Donat’s farm is through Walkers Road.

“The road is bituminised, but the big pine tree needs to be addressed,” said Coral.

“Locals have to go under the Walkers Road trees to get mail and access services.

“A tree could fall across the road anytime.

“The pine tree in particular is very bad and hangs over the whole road.

“It’s just dangerous.”

Five local residents live on the same road as Coral. Last year’s windstorm created hanging limbs, which



Coral Donat fears overhanging limbs in Walkers Road, Mirboo could be a serious safety hazard unless the trees are trimmed by South Gippsland Shire Council. B11_4325

regularly fall down, according to Ms Donat.

“They just leave the fallen limbs by the side of the road.

“That road is used by a school bus.

“Vehicles come very close to touching low-hanging branches.”

“It’s a council responsibility,” said Coral.

“I’ve complained about it for 18 months.”

Coral said the Shire has also failed to attend to noxious blackberries in the same area.

South Gippsland Shire Council acknowledged that large trees, particularly those with limbs extending over roads, can sometimes appear concerning to residents.

The tree on Walkers Road has been inspected multiple times over the past three



Repeated requests from local residents to trim and clear overhanging limbs in Walkers Road, Mirboo have been ignored by South Gippsland Shire Council.

years by qualified staff, and each assessment has indicated that no additional work is required.

Based on these inspections, South Gippsland Shire said there is no current indication of increased risk, and no action was planned to prune the tree at this time.

AusNet is responsible for clearing vegetation near powerlines.

Precise location of Foster Skatepark to be determined

By Andrew Paloczi

THOSE at Foster & District Agricultural & Pastoral Society remain certain that a planned skatepark in the showgrounds will have a detrimental impact on the town’s annual Show, given space is already tight.

However, the organisation’s secretary, Den Gilheany, concedes that as far as hopes of locating the new facility elsewhere in Foster go, “That ship has sailed.”

That follows the recent South Gippsland Shire Council decision to lock in the showgrounds as the site of the skatepark.

At the October council meeting, councillors voted to endorse Foster Showgrounds and undertake further stakeholder consultation to determine the final site within the grounds.

The local A & P Society must now determine where in the showgrounds the skatepark would be best situated to minimise negative impact on the Show, so that the organisation can advocate to council for that location and additional improvements to the grounds through the new consultation phase.

While the Society put in a formal submission to council expressing concerns about whether previous consultation adequately reflected community views, that hasn’t led to any joy.

Lack of space is already the biggest challenge confronting Show organisers, meaning that planning new entertainment, competitions or other activities for Show Day poses the question, ‘Where are we going to fit that?’

With the loss of space likely to be comparable to two



The Woodchop will be impacted if the current proposed position of the skatepark is adopted, according to members of the Foster & District Agricultural & Pastoral Society, as will the working dogs.



This year’s Foster Show map illustrates how jam-packed the Showgrounds are on Show Day.

netball courts, and the skatepark area not able to be used for other purposes, Den said some of those at the A & P Society are concerned about how the development might affect the Show’s future.

Council’s current preferred skatepark location within the Showgrounds is particularly concerning, Den explained.

“It would impact the woodchop, one of the mainstay attractions of the Show,”

she said, noting the working dogs would also be affected, as would access to the loading ramp used for livestock delivery.

While conceding she understands council’s reasons for choosing the showgrounds, Den said the prospect of locating the skatepark at the Foster train station offered potential long-term benefits despite substantially higher initial cost to put in

amenities and improve access to town.

She argues that developing the station area and linking it to town would provide tourism benefits, encouraging rail trail users to venture into Foster.

“It’s not necessarily a step backwards for Foster to develop another area,” Den said.

The extra cost to place the skatepark in the station precinct has been put at \$500,000, due to the lack of supporting infrastructure.

While council points out the A & P Society is just one of the user groups at Foster Showgrounds and the Show runs on only a single weekend each year, Den stressed the event attracts three and a half thousand people to town and is a significant day for the community.

She also noted the many months of hard work volunteers contribute to make the event happen.

Sentinel-Times will advise when it is determined how and when further consultation will occur.

Mayor’s Message



South Gippsland Shire Council

Cr John Schelling



Funding for Nyora Traffic Study

I’M PLEASED to share that South Gippsland Shire Council has received \$100,000 in funding through the Victorian Government’s Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program to commence a traffic study in Nyora. This is a fantastic step forward in improving transport planning and safety in our region – particularly in our developing areas.

Have Your Say

We’re inviting the community to have their say on several important Council initiatives. Your feedback helps shape the future of South Gippsland, and right now we encourage everyone to have their say on: Pre-Prep, Draft Domestic Animal Management Plan, Draft Community Engagement Policy and Strategy (2025–2029), Draft Governance Rules, and the 2026/27 Annual Budget. You can share your feedback online or attend one of our in-person engagement sessions. We’re hosting pop-ups at the following locations:

- Leongatha: Wednesday, October 29 – Outside Memorial Hall (or Council reception if raining, 12pm–1pm).
- Korumburra: Thursday, October 30 – Pedestrian Link/Laneway (or Korumburra Hub if raining), 12pm–1pm.
- Foster: Thursday, November 6 – Laneway near Foodworks (or Foster Visitor Information Centre if raining), 10am–11am.
- Tarwin Lower: Friday, November 7 – Outside the Mechanics Institute Memorial Hall, 10am–11am.

Fire Danger Period

Please also be aware that the Fire Danger Period has now begun. Fire restrictions are in place, and open-air fires are not permitted without the appropriate permits. Let’s all do our part to keep our community safe.

Seniors Festival

This week marks the final week of the Seniors Festival. I’ll be attending the Foster event on Wednesday and look forward to celebrating with our senior community.

Catching up with our community

I recently had the pleasure of attending the Meeniyah Progress Association meeting with Councillor Finlay. Following, I attended a community lunch in Venus Bay with Councillor Gilligan. It was a wonderful turnout, with great soup and even greater community spirit. Councillor Gilligan has done a fantastic job fostering a strong sense of unity in the area.

Eat Drink Play Gippsland

A couple of weekends ago, Eat Drink Play Gippsland was sensational. A huge shout-out to Penni Ellicott – Coordinator Arts, Culture and Visitor Economy at South Gippsland Shire Council – who put in a mammoth effort to ensure the day ran smoothly, and to all Council staff involved. Hosting this event was a unique opportunity in Victoria, and I’m so proud that our region was showcased so wonderfully.

Storm-ready region

I also want to acknowledge how storm-ready both our community and organisation were last week. While the weather event turned out to be minor in South Gippsland, I was genuinely impressed by our preparedness and commitment to keeping our region and community safe.

Meeting with Agriculture Victoria

Finally, we recently caught up with Bruce Weston and Dougal Purcell from Agriculture Victoria to discuss drought conditions and support for farmers. They were very appreciative of Council’s ongoing work supporting our agricultural sector.

Thank you for staying engaged and informed. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming community engagement sessions.

Jimmy
Hospitality

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Leongatha RSL president Bill Verboon speaks, entertaining Leongatha Southern Health Service CEO Louise Sparkes and Transformation and Community Engagement Lead Kate Ginnivan. A74_4225

Memorial Walk a fitting tribute

By Andrew Palocz

LEONGATHA Memorial Hospital's new Memorial Walk opened last Monday afternoon with a tremendous community turnout for the occasion, the Walk honouring those who served abroad and those who carried the work of care at home.

"It bridges remembrance and healthcare, sacrifice and service, and tells a story that is uniquely South Gippsland's," Louise Sparkes, CEO of Gippsland Southern Health Service, said.

As well as the photos and information honouring those who served, there is a separate display outlining the history of the hospital.

Louise introduced Geoff Dean of the Leongatha Community Foundation whose idea to return the word 'Memorial' to the hospital's name sparked the Memorial Walk project, the hospital's Kate Ginnivan acting as the project officer.

Leongatha RSL president Bill Verboon also spoke, expressing heartfelt thanks to Leongatha Hospital for its support in making the new tribute possible.

Leongatha Historical Society secretary Lyn



People read tributes to those who served, on the newly opened Memorial Walk at Leongatha Memorial Hospital. A72_4225

Skillern remarked on the local community's impressive commitment to honouring the service of veterans over the years.

That commitment included the building of Leongatha Memorial Hall to commemorate those who served in WWI, while the old Leongatha hospital was a tribute to those involved in WWII.

Louise touched on a meeting that took place 77 years ago in the Memorial Hall about building a hospital, but also about "honouring service by serving others, transforming grief into generosity, and remembrance into something living".

The return of Memorial

to the hospital's name has come just in time for the start of a new chapter in its history, as it joins hospitals in the Bayside Health group, Louise assuring attendees the spirit of care passed on from previous generations will continue.

"To everyone who contributed to the Memorial Walk, the RSL, the Historical Society, the Community Foundation, and our own staff who gave their time and stories, thank you; you've created something that will speak to generations to come," Louise said before leading attendees to explore the Memorial Walk and the hospital display.



Leongatha's proud tradition of honouring service continues at the town's hospital. A73_4225

Connection is the key

By Daniel Prior, Partner, Prior Law

I DON'T know how many readers are lovers of the music of John Prine, the American Country Folk singer. COVID was good for not much at all, but those lockdowns brought me the music of John Prine for the first time, so that is good enough for me and I recommend him to you. His last recording "I remember everything" was recorded just before his death, from COVID. The lyrics are a reflection back on his life. "I've been down this road before, I remember every tree, every single blade of grass, holds a special place for me".

I have been becoming increasingly nostalgic about my time at school. I think when I left at the end of 2000, I was cooked and wanted to break free. I went and played footy with a different club, I hung out in different uni circles, got obsessed with 19th century history before meandering into law. I met my future wife, professed my undying love at 19 and swept myself into her orbit. Got married in due course, spent too long at uni, moved to the burbs, had four kids. A lot has happened, but I really can't believe it has been 25 years. All the way along, periods of great friendship but sometimes only chance meetings with many of those I went to school with.

But regardless of how many times I may see someone, I do feel connected, through shared experience and understanding, to those I went to school with all those years ago, but also many others who came before and have come through since.

About three years ago, I played in a Masters footy team. It was a fairly motley football team but a very fine bunch of blokes. One afternoon, one of the gents retired from footy for the last time. He told the team that it would be his last game with the team and thanked everyone for being his teammate and for the fun and comradery that he had enjoyed. He got teary as he told his teammates of how the team helped him through his struggles at a very low point of

his life and had got him through to the other side. When everything was swirling around him, he felt connected. He credited this to being part of the team.

I think about connection a lot. With all the weekday driving, I have a lot of time to ponder.

Connection is not contacts. Contacts are fine, often very useful, and schools around South Gippsland and around the globe provide that circle of contacts.

But connection is more meaningful and less transactional. Connection is knowing that you are part of something bigger and being able to connect or reconnect with someone who knows you, or your experience, and is there to look out for you, or you them.

How we remain connected is up to us.

But connection will be different for different people. Our individual experiences at school and since school will determine how and if we wish to remain connected to our school and those who we attended with.

We can all reflect on those with whom we used to be friends but haven't thought of lately at all. How are they?

Loneliness is a real thing. Loneliness comes to the curmudgeons over time, but loneliness can also visit the kid in your school year who had everything going for them, but for whom things never quite panned out the way they planned. Or they are now knee deep in work and maybe kids, with the horizon out of sight. Do they feel connected, with you, with the school, with the community, with anyone? Give them a call.

Every memory I have of my school days holds a special place for me. The memories aren't tied up the trees, or the now manicured blades of grass, the memories are tied up in the people that gave me and shared with me, an education.

So, to those around South Gippsland who have just finished their schooling and to their families: Find a way to remain connected and look out for one another in the next phase of your life from here. Life happens quickly!

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Funding cuts leave local police stations in the dark

THE State Government has been forced into an embarrassing backflip, reinstating funding for vital maintenance at local police stations.

Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien said that while Labor had restored funding for mowing and general grounds upkeep, it is understood police stations will still go without basic maintenance such as window cleaning and replacing blown lightbulbs.

"Police shouldn't be left to work in the dark or in unclean conditions because the government can't manage money," said Mr O'Brien.

Mr O'Brien said the partial reversal shows how out of touch the Government is with regional communities and the challenges faced by local police.

"Our communities are already suffering the consequences of Labor's failures with crime on the rise right across Gippsland. There are huge numbers of unfilled police vacancies and closed and understaffed stations.

"Now Labor expects police to literally work in the dark."

Nationals' MP Melina Bath added her voice to community concerns

over maintenance of police stations, condemning the State Government for penny pinching and halting building and garden maintenance at local police stations.

"A leaked memo revealed the full extent of the government's cuts," said Ms Bath.

According to the memo, lawn mowing, window and carpet cleaning will only occur if necessary for health and safety reasons or legislative compliance. Lightbulbs will only be replaced if more than half of them are not working. Security systems and plumbing will only be fixed for major failures.

Ms Bath said local police stations are billowing with overgrown grass and weeds.

"It is important that police stations are well maintained for amenity, workplace and public safety, especially as snake season is upon us in regional Victoria.

"It is unacceptable for our local police stations to be neglected because Labor cut \$50 million from the Victoria Police budget."

Ms Bath said hard-working police officers deserve to work in a safe, clean and functional workplace, not battling weeds, broken lighting and possibly snakes.



Les Cruickshank, Cr Bron Beach, Burt Blackburne, Kim Sullivan (AusNet), Tim Ryan, Tim McMillan, Bill Brown, Roger Perrett and Scott Hardy (AusNet) during the turning off of the lights at Kongwak in celebration of the new generator.

When the lights came on in Kongwak

LAST Friday, October 10, the Kongwak community came together for their famed "casserole night" to celebrate the installation of the community's 35KVA standby generator.

Hall Committee vice president Tim Ryan conducted the evening and explained how the hall had received \$94,000 from AusNet to help set up their hall as a resilience centre in case of future emergency situations.

Tim explained how the town had experienced regular power outages, some lasting for many days, in recent times. These outages had adversely impacted residents' access to cooking, water and telecommunications.

"We are working to build resilience within Kongwak, with the support of

South Gippsland Shire, local CFA, Kongwak Market, community groups, Kongwak Primary School and AusNet to have the hall as a disaster hub for residents," Tim explained.

Kim Sullivan from AusNet addressed the gathering, highlighting their major community grants to areas across Victoria and how AusNet is rolling out the program again this year.

Councillor Bron Beach from Strzelecki Ward praised the Kongwak Hall Committee and the community for their efforts in putting together this resilience program.

Within the next few weeks, the hall will be connected to the Starlink satellite to prevent previous problems

with telecommunications outages during an emergency. They are also in the process of installing showers, so locals can have washing facilities during an emergency.

Tim assured people from adjacent areas like Moyarra, Wattlebank, Jumbunna and Outtrim that they would be offered access to these facilities as well. The gathering then adjourned outside, where the mains power was turned off and everything went dark. The crowd clapped and cheered as Kim Sullivan started the generator, and power was restored. Coincidentally, local historians reported that it was just 100 years since mains power was first connected to Kongwak in 1926.

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beachsafe.org.au

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

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



Nutrien Ag Solutions supports community projects

THREE local community projects have received funding from Nutrien Ag Solutions as part of the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) grants program.

The Grantville Recreation Reserve Committee of Management received a grant to upgrade the Grantville Hall kitchen, including a new refrigerator to enhance the organisation's ability to host community activities.

Leongatha Community Pre School Centres received a grant for climbing equipment for kinder growth to upgrade a play space with new climbing structures to create a vibrant area that supports early-year development.

The Poowong Public Hall received funding to install stage lighting to ensure ongoing engagement in live performances and enhanced access to cultural events.

The Nutrien Ag Solutions Community Grants Program provides grants for public spaces and events, equipment and supplies to help address food insecurity and foster connections, technology and equipment upgrades to support volunteers and the

creation of spaces to educate and support young people.

Since launching in 2021, the Nutrien Ag Solutions Community Grants Program has awarded over \$1.25 million in grants to more than 250 organisations working to support the wellbeing and vitality of local communities.

Madeleine Muirhead, corporate affairs advisor at Nutrien Ag Solutions, said the program reflects Nutrien's long-standing commitment to back the people and projects that contribute to the success and wellbeing of rural and regional Australia.

"Our support for country Australia extends beyond the farm, to the communities that support agriculture," Ms Muirhead explained.

"Most of our staff live and work in these regions, so we understand the value and importance of empowering local people to build a safe, successful and sustainable future for their communities."

The Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal is specifically focused on fostering the social and economic strength of Australia's remote, rural and regional communities.



The Tarwin Lower Festival is on November 2 from 9am at the Tarwin Lower Reserve.

Family fun returns at Tarwin Lower Festival this weekend

THE Tarwin Lower Festival is back this Sunday, November 2, promising a full day of family-friendly fun at the Tarwin Lower Reserve from 9am.

Now in its fourth year, the festival has grown into a much-loved community celebration, packed with entertainment for all ages. Visitors can enjoy a tractor pull, horse and cart rides, and a classic auto display featuring cars, motorbikes and trucks.

Children will be spoiled for choice with pony rides, a petting zoo, a magician, face and glitter painting, blow-up ponies, sack races and the classic egg and spoon race.

Two music stages will showcase local performers throughout the day, while more than 40 food and market stalls will keep everyone fed and happy.

Festival committee member Lorraine Kennedy said the event

remains proudly community-run and affordable, with entry just \$10 for adults and free for under-16s.

"This festival is organised entirely by local volunteers – from the Football Club, Bowls Club and Fishing Club," she said.

"It's about bringing the community together for a great day out that everyone can enjoy."

And take it from this scribe, it's always a fun day out!

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Lift houses out of coastal flood zones, say The Greens

IN WHAT could prove to be a costly solution to climate change Greens Senator for Victoria, Steph Hodgins-May and Gippsland Greens candidate Mat Morgan have called on the State Labor Government to look at the cost of lifting coastal homes out of flood zones.

The Greens want urgent action on a resilient home scheme for coastal communities to protect parts of regional Victoria that are at high risk of coastal flooding and inundation.

According to Cr Morgan, a resilient homes scheme would help cover the costs of retrofitting, house lifting, renovations, and in some instances relocations and buybacks as compensation for homes at greater risk of floods.

Senator Hodgins-May said similar schemes were already in place in New South Wales and Queensland with over 250,000 homes or 8.7 per cent of Victorian homes at risk.

In a report released by the Climate Council of Australia, the total dollar value foregone due to flood risk in Victoria has been estimated at in excess of \$5.6 billion.

"The climate crisis is here in regional areas like Inverloch," said Senator Hodgins-May.

"The Labor Party is missing in action by failing to listen to the climate science."

Cr Morgan described Inverloch as the front line.



Greens Senator for Victoria, Steph Hodgins-May and Gippsland Greens candidate Mat Morgan have expressed deep concern about the local impact of climate change. B71_4325

"There's no buyback scheme here for houses," Cr Morgan said.

With climate disasters increasing in frequency and continuing to devastate coastal communities across Victoria, The Greens say the State Government must ensure Victorians aren't continuing to bear the costs of decades of government inaction.

"We're already in a housing crisis, and the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-driven disasters is only going to make this worse, as more and more homes become uninsurable and uninhabitable," said Cr Morgan.

"People should not be footing

the bill when their houses fall into the sea."

Cr Mat Morgan warned sea levels could rise by as much as one metre in his lifetime.

When questioned by The Sentinel Times on the apparent hypocrisy of local councils, including Bass Coast Shire, in approving planning applications in flood inundation zones, Cr Morgan said as a Greens candidate he would take the fight to Spring Street.

"Councils have had their planning powers restricted," he said.

"I have to abide by the Council Planning Scheme."

Cr Morgan called for leadership at a national level but refused to be drawn on the exact

cost of lifting houses as part of The Greens' resilient homes scheme.

"Millions of dollars of infrastructure is at risk," said Cr Morgan.

"We're facing a housing crisis that has been made much worse by the Federal Government's lack of action. The resilient homes program needs to be adopted, but it hasn't been costed."

"The resilient homes scheme doesn't talk about retreat, it's about lifting homes to make sure they're not washed into the sea, lifting houses is part of the program."

Senator Hodgins-May said the cost of taking no action is too great to consider.



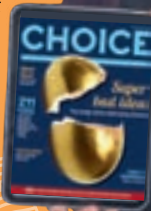
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Relaxation and expertise at Cove

THERE'S a warm and bright vibe at Cove in Korumburra, the salon's friendly and expert team making it the ideal spot to get your hair styled, whether for special events such as weddings, formals and debbs, or to look your best for everyday life.

The team of eight includes master stylists, senior stylists and apprentices, with haircuts, colouring, perms and hair extensions among the available services, and everyone welcome.

While the business is new, its owner, Lauren Holwerda, is Korumburra-born and raised and was already working with all the staff previously.

She retains her original passion for hair-dressing after 20 years in the industry, having always wanted to work in the field.

Lauren continues to love the job and, as a people person, enjoys sharing her knowledge with her staff, whom she refers to as "the girls".

With her kids now at school, it was the ideal time to start her own business.

Cove has begun with a loyal clientele, but Lauren is keen to get the message out to those not yet aware that the business is operating at 5 Commercial Street.

It's on the site of a former picture framing business, the owner of which was, coincidentally, once a hairdresser.

Lauren has achieved her objective of creating a cosy and calm setting for clients.

The business uses De Lorenzo products that are low in ammonia and sulphate-free and come in biodegradable bottles.

Lauren said the range is Australian-made and owned and was chosen "for the earth, for the people, and for our skin".

While walk-ins are welcome at Cove, bookings can be made by calling 0493 335 122 or through the booking link on the salon's Facebook or Instagram page.

Cove's hours are: Monday 9am – 2pm, Tuesday 9am – 7pm, Wednesday 9am – 7pm, Thursday 9am – 5pm, Friday 9am – 2pm and every second Saturday morning.



Cove's friendly team is ready to meet your styling needs, with Toyah Loughridge, Ella Cuman, Jess Koolen, Lauren Holwerda, Alyce Rump, Steph Jordan, Tessa Zuidema and Natasha McNally.

Funding for traffic study in Nyora

SOUTH Gippsland Shire Council have announced that it will be leading the Nyora Transport Infrastructure and Connectivity Study, following a successful \$100,000 grant application.

Council received the funding through the Victorian Government's Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program.

This project is a current action in the Council Plan 2025/26, with \$150,000 of Council's budget also allocated to initiate the process.

Cr John Schelling, Mayor South Gippsland Shire Council, said "Council has continued to advocate for additional road funding, and look forward to enhancing road safety and efficiency in this fast-growing area through necessary planning."

"We are very pleased to have received funding to carry out this crucial traffic study at Nyora. The project aims to improve safety, encourage transport, and support the efficient movement of freight."

The funding received through the Flexible Local Transport Solutions Program – which provides resources for small-scale transport projects and feasibility studies to local governments – will allow Council to undertake planning that will determine what future road and transport upgrades could be considered for funding and delivery.

The study will look at practical improvements to the town's transport network, identifying opportunities for road layouts, intersection upgrades and improved pedestrian links. The study will also help support safe freight routes in the area.



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A day of writers, illustrators and performers all in one place

THE popular Fishy Stories returns to Fish Creek on Saturday, November 14 for a one-day celebration of storytelling magic. This much-loved festival brings together a world of stories and creativity for children and families, featuring acclaimed authors, such as Alison Lester, Ben and Andrew from the Real Pigeons and the always lively Andrea Rowe.

This year's special performance – the only ticketed event – features Dr Hubble, Australia's favourite bubble man. Dr Hubble will amaze and delight audiences with his extraordinary bubble creations. The festival will also include performances of the 2025 Writing Challenge-selected stories, brought to life by the talented team from FAMDA.

Box Wars is back, and festivalgoers can join in the art of creative destruction where imagination meets cardboard mayhem. A schedule of workshops runs all day and will be led by popular creators Jess Racklyeft, Vikki Conley, Jane Godwin and Anna Walker. Myli Libraries' exciting program of activities along with the My Stories tent, are part of the 'drop-in drop-out' sessions

Adding to the fun, we have roaming buskers, the Invy Horn Jam Band. The Fishy Stories Festival is a free, family-friendly event celebrating storytellers of all ages. With something for everyone, it's a day to explore creativity, connection and the power of imagination for toddlers to teens.

You have got to get to this year's festival – the list of activities is huge! For the full program and to plan your day, visit fishystories.org.



There's plenty to celebrate at Rose Lodge Opportunity Shop as its volunteers hand over a special cheque to help fund the new memory support unit known as Rose Cottage, which is part of Wonthaggi's Rose Lodge.

Rose Lodge Opportunity Shop stars in fundraising efforts

THOSE at Wonthaggi's Rose Lodge Opportunity Shop are proud to have raised an incredible \$85,000 towards Rose Cottage, a new memory support unit at the town's Rose Lodge.

The total was all the more impressive given the Op Shop was closed for three months for

refurbishments during the fundraising year.

A morning tea was held to celebrate the achievement and to present the substantial cheque to Rose Lodge Board President John Duscher OAM and the Lodge's CEO Shane Jenkins.

"It was a wonderful opportunity

to celebrate this special achievement with our team of hard-working and dedicated volunteers," Kaye Barr, Community Engagement Co-Ordinator for the Op Shop, said.

She also thanked the store's customers for their generosity, noting, "We wouldn't run without

the support of the community."

While proud of their fundraising efforts for last financial year, the Op Shop team began a new campaign in July, striving to raise as much money as possible towards a new bus for residents, the existing one having been in service for 25 years.

Community voice at the heart of health reform

A COMMUNITY Advisory Committee is ensuring that a community voice remains at the heart of health reform in South Gippsland.

The Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) Community Advisory Committee (CAC) took centre stage at the Bayside Health Community Advisory stream consumer workshop this week, presenting how local community engagement continues to shape healthcare across South Gippsland

Presented by CAC members John Davies and Sue Fleming, the session highlighted how the GSHS CAC ensures local voices remain central as the health service prepares to join the Bayside Health in the January 2026 merger, alongside Bass Coast Health,

Kooweerup Regional Health Service, Peninsula Health and Alfred Health.

The GSHS CAC, formed in May 2023, brings together community representatives from Leongatha, Korumburra and surrounds, alongside GSHS Board and Executive members. The group advises directly to the GSHS Board through the Chair and CEO, providing a formal link between consumers and decision-makers.

Mr Davies said the CAC's role was simple.

"We listen to what matters to our communities and consumers and bring that directly into the room where strategy and service planning happen," he said.

From advocating for the

refurbishment of the faith quiet room and improving hospital gardens, to supporting initiatives like the Blue House Project, the Memorial Walk, and the creation of 'Avatars' that represent the region and highlight GSHS's unique points of difference from metropolitan health services, the CAC's work demonstrates how small, local ideas can drive meaningful change.

Ms Fleming told the workshop that the committee's strength lies in its connection to everyday life.

"We're not outside observers – we're part of the same communities that rely on GSHS," she said.

"We see people in the supermarket, at sport, at Probus meetings or the Men's Shed. That's where

real conversations about health-care happen."

GSHS Chief Executive Officer Louise Sparkes said the presentation reflected the organisation's values of collaboration and community trust.

"Our CAC embodies what person-centred care looks like in practice," she said.

"Their work ensures that as the health system evolves, South Gippsland retains a strong local voice."

The CAC's message was clear: as GSHS moves toward the Bayside Health merger, the community remains not just consulted – but actively involved – in shaping a healthier future for South Gippsland.

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Chris Knight and Emily O'Connor from the Flying Bookworm theatre company entertained a young audience in Meeniyan with the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. B42_4325

A delightful morning of storytelling at Meeniyan

BEWARE the Jabberwock, my son.

Never was an audience more enthralled than the young children gathered at Meeniyan Town Hall to hear three, all-time favourite stories told by the Flying Bookworm theatre company.

The Ugly Duckling, Three Billy Goats Gruff and the Lewis Carroll poem Jabberwocky were each told in a unique style that had the enthusiastic audience begging for more.

An initiative of South Gippsland Shire Council and the Department of Education, the Flying Bookworm educational theatre company had their wide-eyed audience of

mainly pre-school children totally enchanted.

Early years project officer for South Gippsland Shire, Siona Jones, said the performance was part of Children's Week, with an open invitation for children to attend from throughout the district.

"We had about 40 children at the morning session in the Meeniyan Town Hall from babies to eight-year-olds," said Siona.

Performers Chris Knight and Emily O'Connor provided close to an hour of non-stop entertainment, vividly bringing to life the fearsome Jabberwock, the loveable Ugly Duckling and the foolish troll

from Three Billy Goats Gruff.

The Flying Bookworm early years program takes youngsters on a magic journey into the world of books with theatrical presentations from a wide selection of popular stories and poems.

"We invite children to participate in all our performances," said Chris Knight.

This unique approach has been widely praised by teachers across Australia. No-one it seems is too old to hear a much-loved fairytale.

To provide feedback on planned changes to four-year-old kindergarten in South Gippsland the Shire Council has launched an

online survey.

"The State Government is introducing changes to four-year-old kindergarten, with more hours coming in 2027 as it changes to pre-prep," said Siona.

There are 16 different kindergarten services in South Gippsland Shire.

A series of focus group sessions for parents, carers of young children and people planning a family have already been held in Korumburra, Loch, Leongatha and Toora.

To access South Gippsland Shire Council's online survey, go to southgippsland.vic.gov.au/pre-prep.



Graham McCaughan manufactures a range of novelty Christmas trees, snowmen, birdbaths, frogs and other sculptures from horseshoes and recycled scrap metal but he reckons that slow sales of horseshoe Christmas trees might be a sign of the times.

Market economy offers Christmas trading hint

THE ABS tells us that total household spending is up by five per cent across Australia, for the 12 months through to the end of August 2025.

But spending on discretionary items, that is the things we can do without, is down.

Alcohol and tobacco has taken a particular hit, but spending on furniture and household equipment and recreation and culture is also down.

Anecdotally at least, people aren't spending at the moment, according to Gary McCaughan of Stony Creek.

A regular at local markets, Gary makes decorative items from horseshoes and various other interesting pieces of scrap metal, this time last year doing a good trade in horseshoe Christmas trees.

This time last year, he'd sold 33 such items, but in a sign of the economic times, he reckons, he's only sold one Christmas tree this year.

Could be that everyone who wants a horseshoe Christmas tree already has one.

Gary McCaughan turned out at a sodden Inverloch Community Farmers Market last Sunday, despite the rain, but he's got a busy round of engagements worked out for the Melbourne Cup Long Weekend.

"I'll be at Koonwarra on Saturday (November 1), the return of the Prom Market at Foster on Sunday (November 2) and Tarwin Lower on Monday (November 3)," said Gary.

The markets should provide a more accurate indicator of what retailers (and market stallholders) can expect in the run-up to Christmas.

And after all, what's Christmas without a (horseshoe style) Christmas tree?

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SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 | 19

Dirty Three Pinot Noir wins Best Wine of Show



Marcus Satchell accepts the 2025 Westpac Best Wine of Show trophy for the Dirty Three Wines 2024 “Magic Dirt” Pinot Noir from Scott Guerin of Westpac.



Georgia Roberts accepts the 2025 Best Rosé Trophy and Gold medal from Cr John Schelling, Mayor of South Gippsland Shire Council for the Waratah Hills 2025 Pinot Noir Rosé.



Rick Lacey of Purple Hen Winery, Phillip Island, accepts the trophy for Most Successful Exhibitor from Lauren Van Strijp of Bass Coast Shire Council.

IN A big week for the Gippsland wine sector, they celebrated the 2025 Westpac Gippsland Wine Show with a record medal count, and then two days later, 23 winemakers joined other food and drinks producers from across Gippsland for the inaugural Eat Drink Play Gippsland Festival at Leongatha.

Earlier in the week, the annual wine show awards were attended by 130 guests at Narkoojee Winery, Glengarry South. The wine show was judged in early October at Cape Paterson, attracting 114 high-calibre entries, with judges tasting 144 wines, including the multi-vintage Wines of Provenance class.

Rob Lightfoot, Wine Gippsland president, said there were 55 medals, with an unprecedented seven gold trophies in the varietal classes showing the exceptional quality of wines in the region.

A record haul of 18 gold medals, 18 silver and 19 bronze were presented by sponsors at the annual celebration.

The prestigious Westpac Best Wine of Show went to Inverloch-based Marcus Satchell and Lisa Sartori's Dirty Three Wines for the Dirty Three 2024 “Magic Dirt” Pinot Noir. This wine earlier won the coveted Best Pinot Noir Top Gold and trophy in a competitive category that produced a record five gold medals, five silver and four bronze from 24 entries.

Marcus Satchell said that while 2024 had been a heartbreak vintage for some wines, the “Magic Dirt” Pinot Noir presented itself as a beautiful wine from the moment the grapes were picked and needed no intervention.

“I’m so pleased others recognised that beauty. It’s a bit like making music. You do it for yourself first, and then if it resonates with others, that’s awesome.”

The seven gold varietal class trophies included a first for Waratah Hills Vineyard, of Fish Creek, for the Waratah Hills 2024 Pinot Noir Rosé, accepted by viticulturalist Georgia Roberts, from Mayor John Schelling of South Gippsland Shire Council. Waratah Hills also won a gold medal in both the coveted Pinot Noir and Chardonnay classes, for the 2024 Ella and Millie Pinot Noir, and the 2024 South Gippsland Chardonnay.

Carrajung Estate, of Willung South, won a gold medal for the 2024 Chardonnay.

First-time entrants, Wandilla Estate, Leongatha, picked up a silver medal for the 2025 Single Vineyard Riesling. There was also silver for Gippsland Wine Company’s 2025 Single Vineyard Pinot Gris.

Dirty Three Wines, which has vineyards stretching from South Gippsland to the Bass Coast, also won gold medals for the Dirty Three 2024 “All The Dirts” Chardonnay and the Dirty Three 2024 “All The Dirts” Pinot Noir.

The judging panel was experienced in cool-climate wines and was led by chair of judges Julian Grounds, director of

viticulture and winemaking at Stonier, alongside Jane Faulkner, from the Haliday tasting team, and Rohan Smith, Medhurst Wines.

“The Gippsland show is one of the best in regional Australia in terms of the spirit of collaborative competition that focuses on the strengths in the region, allowing producers to benchmark against each other,” Julian said.

Bass River Winery, Glen Forbes, won the Best Sparkling Gold and Trophy for the Bass River 1835 Sparkling Brut 2021, with Frank Butera accepting the award from Kurt Best of Phillipsons Financial Services.

Purple Hen Wines, Phillip Island, claimed the Best Shiraz and the Top Gold Trophy with their 2024 The Rooster Shiraz, and Best Aromatic White Trophy with the Purple Hen 2025 Off Dry Riesling. They also won gold with the Purple Hen 2024 Pinot Noir, won Best Cabernet Sauvignon Varieties and Blends, and won Most Successful Exhibitor, with the award presented by Lauren Van Strijp of Bass Coast Shire Council.

Gold Medal Trophies were also awarded to Blue Gables Vineyard, Tinamba, and Lightfoot Wines of Calulu.

Showcasing three vintages of the same wine, Dirty Three Wines was awarded the Best Red Wine of Provenance and also the Best White Wine of Provenance.

In a special presentation on the night, the Eckersley award, recognising outstanding contribution for the benefit of the Gippsland wine community, was awarded to Alistair and Catherine Hicks of Blue Gables Vineyard. Marcus Satchell, vice president, presenting the award, highlighted Alistair’s leadership and drive, creating a strong and collegiate association with 52 members, 13 associate members and the highest participation rate of any wine association.

“Alistair’s leadership has played a major role in helping elevate Gippsland wine to where it is today. More importantly, he helped build a culture of collaboration, working together to raise Gippsland’s profile. That unity is something many other associations envy.”

Rob Lightfoot thanked all involved in the show judging and awards dinner, including hosts, Harry and Val Friend of Narkoojee Winery, in the first major function in their new marquee.

“The depth of quality on display here tonight is a confirmation that Gippsland is a fine place to grow grapes and to make wine, and we should be confident in the future ahead.

“We are proud of what we do, the community that we are a part of, of the contribution that we as winemakers and grape growers make both to the local economy, and the culture of food and wine, not just in Gippsland, but also much further afield.”

For full details from the awards, see winegippsland.com.



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20 | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

Learn about Koonwarra fossils and contribute to exciting display project

By Andrew Palocz

TYING in with Koonwarra's next market, there's a chance to learn about the significant Koonwarra Fossil Bed and what was discovered there, with Palaeontologist Mike Cleeland running a couple of sessions on the morning of Saturday, November 1, at Koonwarra Hall.

Leongatha Rotary Club has won strong support for plans to construct a fossil-themed display shelter alongside Koonwarra's public toilets and the Great Southern Rail Trail, and visible from the South Gippsland Highway.

The club has partnered with Melbourne Museum and Hulls Engineering, with expectations the shelter will appeal to rail trail users, travellers and locals.

The shelter project has been almost five years in the making, intended to celebrate Rotary's centenary in Australia and 70 years in Leongatha.

Brian Paynter, the managing director of the Victorian Livestock Exchange, located a short distance from the intended shelter site, was delighted to lend VLE's support to the cause through a contribution of \$25,000 for the creation of the display.

Leongatha Rotary Club's Lindsay Moore explained that the display is being done professionally, certain it has the potential to become a significant tourist attraction.

"We haven't got dinosaurs; we've got the other end of the scale," he said, saying fossils of plants, insects and vertebrates were discovered locally, having been preserved at the bottom of a freshwater lake in fine silt.



Leongatha Rotary Club's Jim McNiven, Lindsay Moore, Andrew Debenham and Jol Dutton with Leongatha VLE Managing Director Brian Paynter, who is thanked by club President Andrew for a substantial contribution to the Koonwarra shelter project. A19_4325

The Koonwarra Fossil Bed was discovered during highway construction in 1962.

Despite the significance of the fossils found there, the discovery isn't widely known, helping explain the importance of the shelter project.

A giant flea named Tarwinia, once native to Koonwarra, is one of the well-preserved creatures, a caricature of the species attracting attention and Lindsay recently called on to chat about the subject on ABC Gippsland.

The overall shelter project is budgeted at \$200,000, with \$50,000 towards its construction provided by a State Government Tiny Towns Grant.

Those attending one of Mike's presentations on November 1, at 9.30am or 11am, will learn

about the significance of the Koonwarra Fossil beds and why the Rotary Club is passionate about building a display to educate and excite visitors to the Koonwarra village.

Brian spoke of VLE being approached by members of Leongatha Rotary Club for assistance with the shelter project, remarking Rotary in general is a key organisation, and clearly impressed by the work of the Leongatha branch.

He said the VLE was very happy to support Rotary in its initiative for such an important community project, feeling that being one of the major businesses in a key local industry, its support would encourage others to contribute to the cause.

Leongatha Rotary Club president Andrew Debenham expressed excitement at expectations the shelter plans will come to fruition in 2026.

Those at the club are highly grateful to Brian and the VLE for the key sponsorship of the project and to the State Government for its grant assistance.

All other contributors are also much appreciated, with the chance to help realise the initiative by donating or through purchasing a paver for \$100 featuring your name or that of your business, which will be used in the construction of a pathway leading to the shelter.

Visit Leongatharotary.org.au/koonwarra-shelter to learn more and to contribute to the project.

• FAITH FACTOR

Does God answer our prayers?

By Father Darren Howie, Parish Priest, St. Joseph's Parish Wonthaggi

PRAYER assumes two things: first, that God can act in the world and secondly, that he cares for people.

It has been my experience, and the experience of countless others since the time of Christ, that God, through his providence, helps those who call out to him. This experience in the early Church was expressed by St John the Evangelist in 1 John 4:16 with the words, "We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love."

St Paul expressed this experience in his letter to the Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

This does not deny the fact that sometimes terrible things happen to Christians. Nevertheless, many people in times of difficulties have had the sense that the very same Jesus who suffered the injustice of crucifixion is there for them, so they don't feel that they have been abandoned, so they don't feel that their lives are without hope and meaning.

How can someone argue that such a love and hope can be real? This love is so real that there have been countless Christians who have been prepared to have their lives taken away from them, to suffer hardships, rather than deny or compromise their relationship with God.

Believers are reminded that when difficulties come, scripture stresses the importance of remembering the good things God has done, to reflect on God's faithfulness and guidance. This requires patience.

On the importance of patience, the words of Isaiah 30:15 come to mind, "For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: by waiting and by calm you shall be saved; in quiet and in trust your strength lies, you would have none of it."

It has been my experience and the experience of countless others that God does work everything unto the good of those who love him and trust in him.

Find out why South Gippsland koalas are so special

WE ALL love them but how much do we really know about our beloved Australian koala?

A direct descendant from the original Victorian koala gene pool, the Strzelecki South Gippsland Koala is the most important koala population remaining in Victoria.

All other local koala populations are the result of translocations from a handful of animals sent to French Island in the late 19th century. The

Strzelecki animals may now hold the key for the survival of the species in Australia, as koala populations in Queensland and New South Wales continue to succumb to a variety of problems.

The Loch-Nyora Landcare Group is planning a South Gippsland Koalas are Special Information Day at the Loch Public hall from 11am on Sunday, November 9.

This koala's genetic diversity

makes them more resilient to threats like disease and climate change, highlighting the crucial importance of conserving their fragmented habitat.

Similar to koalas in other parts of Australia, the South Gippsland population of Strzelecki koalas faces threats from habitat destruction for farming and urban development.

The South Gippsland Landcare Network assists landholders

with activities like fencing, weed control, and koala habitat revegetation with a focus on improving habitat quality and creating corridors to connect fragmented areas to allow koalas to move more freely between forests.

To find out more about the Special Koalas Landcare event, look for South Gippsland Koalas are Special on Facebook or phone Malcolm Brown on 0403 997 831.



COME AND LEARN ABOUT FOSSILS

Koonwarra Hall
Next to the Farmers Market
Saturday, November 1
Session times: 9:30am and 11:00am
Early birds welcome from 8.30am

WHO WILL BE THERE:
Palaeontologists: Mike Cleeland & Rotarians

BE A PART OF SUPPORTING OUR PROJECT



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION



LOCH-NYORA LANDCARE GROUP

Special Koalas

South Gippsland Koalas are Special

Find out why
Sunday November 9 at 11am
Loch Public Hall
(Gold Coin Donation)

 Mal Brown **0403 997 831**

Guest Speaker Kelly Smith from Westernport Biosphere.
Loch-Nyora LandCare AGM at 10AM

Loch Village Garden Festival blooms again this weekend



Last year, Loch's Simon Sullivan opened his garden to the community. Tk06_4524



Member of Loch Village Garden Club, Howard Booth is opening his garden 'Lochchester' to the community once again for the popular Loch Open Gardens event. Z23_4523

LOCH Village Garden Festival is presented by Loch Village Garden Club in conjunction with Poowong Garden Club's Flower and Photographic Show. This year's festival will feature nine beautiful gardens in Loch Village and large country gardens at Loch, Jeetho, Bena, Nyora, Poowong and Poowong East. These include Ellesmere, Lochchester, The White House, Midsomer Loch, Bimbadeen, Burraview, Wodalla, The Old Dairy, All Saints Poowong Community Garden and the Pioneer Chapel in Poowong.

People are also invited to take a walk around the village of Loch to discover our parks, view garden art and sculpture, and purchase fresh local produce from village stores. Loch Village eateries offer visitors food and wine from the Southern Gippsland region. If you're interested in the history of our charming village, you can step back in time and take our self-directed history walks in Loch and Poowong, maps available at Loch Village Post Office.

Gardens are open from 10am to 4pm on Saturday, November 1.

Garden Maps and garden lists will be on sale on the day at the Loch Village Post Office, 20 Victoria Road, and Poowong Public Hall, adults \$10, children free.

Previous festivals have attracted many visitors, and we hope to see more of the same exploring our beautiful gardens. We like to bring folks together for a relaxing and informative outing leading up to the festive season.

An easy drive one hour from Melbourne, these historic villages with special events and places to explore, antiques to buy, wine and dine, there are many reasons to make a weekend or day trip to the green rolling hills of South Gippsland. Come and find out for yourself.

ExxonMobil

Community Consultation - decommissioning of oil & gas infrastructure in Bass Strait

Esso Australia Resources Pty Ltd (Esso), a wholly owned subsidiary of ExxonMobil Australia Pty Ltd, is committed to operating and decommissioning its Gippsland and Bass Strait facilities safely and effectively. After delivering energy to Australia for over 50 years, many of the Bass Strait oil and gas fields are now reaching the end of their productive life. As planning for decommissioning progresses, Esso is focused on safely shutting-down non-producing facilities and ensuring they stay safe throughout the entire decommissioning process.

Community Information Sessions

If you'd like to know more about decommissioning of platforms and pipelines in Bass Strait, the Esso Consultation Team will be hosting community information sessions at the following locations:

Monday 10 November 2025 - Lakes Entrance

On the Wharf Café
Bullock Island, Lakes Entrance

Tuesday 11 November 2025 - Sale

The Criterion Hotel
90 Macalister Street, Sale

Tuesday 11 November 2025- Foster

Foster War Memorial Arts Centre
79 Main Street, Foster

Wednesday 12 November 2025 - Leongatha

Leongatha RSL
Cnr Smith St & Michael Place, Leongatha

All the above sessions will run from **5.00pm - 7.00pm** with a **presentation** about Esso's operations with a focus on decommissioning projects.

We encourage you to come along and ask questions or to raise any concerns you may have. Please **register your attendance** by emailing: consultation@exxonmobil.com

If these dates and times don't suit, please contact us at consultation@exxonmobil.com or by phone on 03 9261 0000.



An ExxonMobil Brand

The Esso Team will also be available to discuss proposed activities, including:

- Bass Strait Environment Plans
- Campaign 1A Environment Plan

[Like to be consulted about these activities?](#)

Esso is working to identify and consult with relevant persons [stakeholders] whose functions, interests, or activities may be affected by one or more of Esso's proposed activities.

Complete the [Esso Consultation Questionnaire \(sli.do\)](#) in the Esso Consultation Hub to let us know if you'd like to be consulted or have any questions or feedback.

Refer to the NOPSEMA brochure [Consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans brochure.pdf \(nopsema.gov.au\)](#) to understand more about consultation on offshore petroleum environment plans assessed under the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2023.

Your feedback and our response will be included in the relevant regulatory application documentation and submitted to the regulator.

[Please connect us with other interested people](#)

If there is anyone you know who may be interested in our activities, we encourage you to share this information with them.

To find out more information



For more information about Esso's activities and other projects, please go to the Esso Consultation Hub at: <https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/locations/australia/our-approach>

HM13027



Loch Village Garden Club

Garden Festival

Saturday, November 1

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Open Gardens & Plant Sales

Entry by Maps available for purchase from the Loch Village Post Office.



Adults \$10
Children Free



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GSHS highlights the value of local care

A TRIO of community engagement meetings across South Gippsland has highlighted the value of local healthcare. Gippsland Southern Health Service (GSHS) has wrapped up the series of meetings that updated local residents on upcoming changes to local health services.

GSHS CEO Lou Sparkes said that health care starts with listening and meeting people where they are, and GSHS was putting that into action.

During the past week, GSHS hosted community meetings at the Dakers Centre in Leongatha with more than 70 members of the Woorayl Probus Club and community round tables at Korumburra Golf Club and Leongatha Memorial Hospital.

Ms Sparkes said that at each meeting the message was clear.

“People value local care, personal connection, and being kept in the loop about the future of their health service,” she said.

At each session, Ms Sparkes and local teams shared updates on what’s changing as GSHS prepares to join the Bayside Health merger in January 2026.

Across all three meetings, locals heard about a 57 per cent rise in Urgent Care presentations at Leongatha Memorial Hospital, reflecting that more people are choosing local care.

Local residents heard of expanded services like audiology, breast screening and cardiac CT, reducing travel for diagnosis and treatment, and a dedicated family-centred maternity model, creating calm, connected spaces for new parents.

There was information about aged care homes like Koorooman House and Alchera House being redesigned around warmth, comfort and belonging, not hospital beds. In Korumburra, director of nursing Carol Pontil said GSHS’s aged care homes were becoming true homes.

At the meetings, Ms Sparkes also assured the community that the upcoming merger means more services for South Gippsland – not less.



Meals on Wheels coordinator Ella Ricardo and delivery driver Riley Sharp help to keep the community fed with nutritious meals.



Chefs Glenda Churchill and Myint Soe prepare lunch for patients at the Wonthaggi Hospital and residents of Kirrak House residential aged care home.

Support Services team essential to patient care



Kirrak House cleaner Cameron Geer keeps Mavis Baird’s room tidy at Kirrak House residential aged care home at Wonthaggi.

RUNNING a public healthcare service not only takes clinical staff, but also the dedicated, hard-working, skilled and qualified members of the Support Services team.

On Support Services Recognition Day on October 29, Bass Coast Health (BCH) is acknowledging the many staff who help to provide public healthcare to you.

The BCH Support Services team includes cleaners, health service attendants and staff who work in the kitchen, café and residential aged care facilities.

They also collect waste, arrange preparation and delivery of Meals on Wheels, and make accommodation arrangements for the visiting clinicians and specialists.

There is also the Supply team, which ensures the departments have the equipment and consumables they need.

BCH director of support services Blake Carew said the team

is essential to the successful operation of a public healthcare service.

“The Support Services team members are passionate about the work they do. They keep the foundation of our hospital operating, from taking patients to radiology and keeping patients’ wards clean, to preparing and serving their meals,” he said.

“While much of their work is seen and appreciated by patients and their families, their work is also behind-the-scenes and keeps our services running smoothly every day.

“We value the contribution the Support Services team makes to public healthcare locally and invite the community to thank them when they help you in any way.”

If you’d like to join the BCH Support Services team, please email your expression of interest to hr@basscoasthealth.org.au.



Meet Gippsland’s offshore wind developers

Offshore wind energy is a new opportunity to continue electricity generation in Gippsland, bringing jobs and investment to the region.

Come along to meet locals already working in the industry, hear about project plans, view maps and share your ideas and feedback.

Government agencies VicGrid, Offshore Wind Energy Victoria and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water will also be there to answer questions about transmission and energy plans.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Seaspray	Thursday 6 November, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm Seaspray Public Hall, Futchter St <i>Enjoy a BBQ by local volunteers</i>
Port Welshpool	Friday 7 November, 4 – 6 pm Old Ferry Terminal, 86 Lewis St <i>Enjoy a BBQ by local volunteers</i>



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CAR OF THE WEEK

2020 Toyota Landcruiser GXL

89,990 DRIVE AWAY

Ready for work 68,594kms, 5 spd sports manual 4x4 cab chassis SN: W102218



2013 Suzuki Swift

14,990 DRIVE AWAY

Nifty motoring, 155,705kms, 4 speed auto hatch, ABS, airbags. SN: W102156



2022 MG MG3 Excite

16,990 DRIVE AWAY

Great first car, 38,685kms, 4 speed auto, hatch SN: W102254



2017 Renault Kangoo SWB

16,990 DRIVE AWAY

Perfect van, 154,510kms, 6 speed manual van SN: W101800



2015 Toyota Yaris Ascent

17,990 DRIVE AWAY

Reliable Small Car, 98,505kms, 4 speed hatch SUV SN: W102247



2020 Mazda 3 G25 Astina BP Series

29,990 DRIVE AWAY

Feature Packed, 77,521kms, 6 speed sports auto sedan SN: W102249



2021 Toyota Camry Ascent

34,990 DRIVE AWAY

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



2015 Holden Commodore SV6 VF Series II

20,990 DRIVE AWAY

A classic, Auto MY16, 162,928kms SN: W102228

Leongatha Toyota

FINANCE AVAILABLE INSTORE. ASK ABOUT AN EXTENDED WARRANTY.



4 X 4 OF THE WEEK

2008 Toyota Landcruiser VX

49,990 DRIVE AWAY

Go Touring, 210,810kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV. SN: L101396



2019 Volkswagen Tiguan 162TSI Highline Allspace SN

26,990 DRIVE AWAY

Performance Plus 114,085kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV SN: L101429



2021 Toyota Prado Kakadu

70,990 DRIVE AWAY

Just arrived, 105,242kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 SUV SN: L101440



2023 Hyundai Staria Load

38,990 DRIVE AWAY

Ready to Move, 36,000kms, 8 speed CVT auto van. SN: L101420



2021 Suzuki Baleno GL

17,990 DRIVE AWAY

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2018 Toyota C-HR Koba

24,990 DRIVE AWAY

4x4 On Demand, 81,525kms, 7 speed CVT auto SUV, alloys SN: L101400



2022 Ford Ranger Sport

51,990 DRIVE AWAY

Well-equipped, 66,391kms, 10 speed CVT auto 4x4 double cab SN: L101432



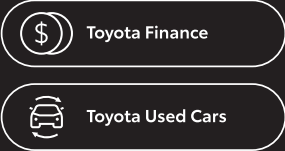
2022 Mitsubishi Triton GLX+ MR

40,990 DRIVE AWAY

King Cab, 71,500kms, 6 speed CVT auto 4x4 ute SN: L101401

Wonthaggi Toyota
346 Bass Highway,
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LMCT 8179
wonthaggitoyota.com.au

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



OH WHAT A FEELING

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



*THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE TALENTED
LOCAL CHILDREN AND WATER HEROES WHO
PARTICIPATED IN OUR POSTER COMPETITION.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS!*



Jarvis W from San Remo Preschool won first place in the Kindergarten category.



San Remo Primary students Bronte H (second place Grade 1-2) and Landon D (equal third place Grade 1-2).



Grade 6 students from San Primary School: Allira H (second place), Lucille (first place) and Lucy W (equal third place).

Young 'Water Heroes' take action to save every drop

IN CELEBRATION of National Water Week (October 20-26), Westernport Water is proud to announce the winners of this year's poster competition, which attracted an incredible 315 posters from six primary schools and one kindergarten.

The annual competition encourages students to explore the National Water Week theme through art and creativity.

This year's theme, 'Water Heroes: Save Every Drop', inspired students to see themselves as everyday heroes – people who make small, positive choices that add up to big impacts. Whether it's turning off the tap, having shorter showers, or spreading awareness, every action helps protect our precious water resources.

Each year, Westernport Water staff look forward to the tough job of selecting the top three posters in each age category. Judges consider both creativity and how well the artwork captures the National Water Week theme.

Students from across the region embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and passion, producing colourful and thoughtful posters that highlight how everyone can play a role in conserving water.

The top three winners from each age group were recognised at their school assemblies over the past two weeks, and presented with Westernport Water prize packs and gift vouchers for Turn the Page bookshop in Cowes. Every entrant also received a participation certificate to celebrate their effort.

The winning posters from each age category were also entered into the Victorian poster competition, competing against other regional winners for top honours in the State. Venus from Newhaven College took home third place



Talented students from Newhaven College: Esther G (equal second place – Prep), Arabella W (first place – Grade 1-2), Venus M (first place Grade 3-4 and third place in state competition) and Jude T and Airlie L (equal 3rd place Grade 3-4).



Newhaven Primary School students Quinn K and Ziggy J took out equal third place in the Prep category, while Eden P also came equal third place in the Grade 1-2 category.

in the Statewide Grade 3-4 category.

"Congratulations to all our young Water Heroes who took part in this year's competition. It's inspiring to see how our local students are thinking deeply about the importance of saving water and protecting the environment," Westernport Water's general

manager corporate and community, Gareth Kennedy, said.

"This year's theme, 'Water Heroes: Save Every Drop,' reminds us that everyone can make a difference. Whether you're at home, at school or outdoors, every little drop counts."

"Well done to all the talented students who entered, and to

Bass Valley Primary School winning this year's \$1000 school participation prize to support a sustainability project. We can't wait to see how they put it to good use."

For more information about National Water Week or the poster competition, please visit Westernport Water's website.

WINNERS

2025 NWW Poster Competition – Top three posters in each category

4-Year-Old Kinder – Individual

• Jarvis W – San Remo Preschool

Prep

- 1st Place: Nora H – Cowes Primary School
- 2nd place: Esther G – Newhaven College
- Equal 3rd place: Quinn K – Newhaven Primary School
- Equal 3rd place: Ziggy J – Newhaven Primary School

Grade 1-2

- 1st place: Arabella W – Newhaven College
- 2nd place: Bronte H – San Remo Primary School
- Equal 3rd place: Eden P – Newhaven Primary School
- Equal 3rd place: Landon D – San Remo Primary School

Grade 3-4

- 1st Place: Venus M – Newhaven College
- 2nd place: Lillith B – Cowes Primary School
- Equal 3rd place: Jude T – Newhaven College
- Equal 3rd place: Airlie L – Newhaven College

Grade 5-6

- 1st Place: Lucille – San Remo Primary School
- Equal 2nd place: Allira H – San Remo Primary School
- Equal 2nd place: Jamie Y – Cowes Primary School
- Equal 3rd place: Lucy W – San Remo Primary School
- Equal 3rd place: Samantha E – Cowes Primary School

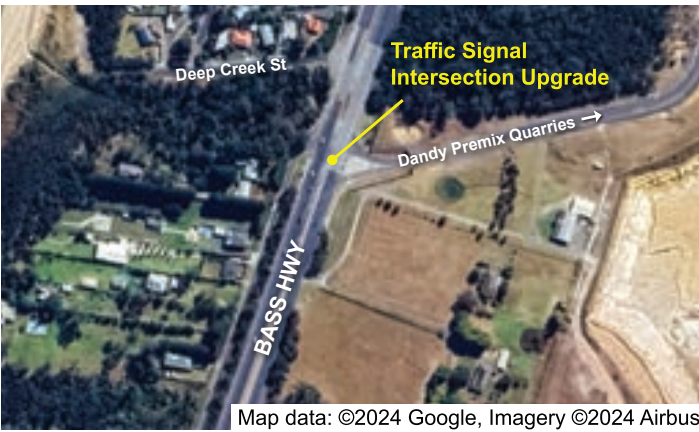
ROADWORKS NOTICE



Bass Highway (M420), Grantville Traffic Signals Installation

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

- Works commenced July 2025, approx. 4-month duration
- Lane closures, reduced speed limits, contra-flow traffic
- Deep Creek St and Bass Hwy Service Rd access impacted
- Bass Hwy southbound bus stop temporarily relocated



Map data: ©2024 Google, Imagery ©2024 Airbus

COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION OF ROADWORKS

Stage 1 Roadworks confined to the existing quarry intersection commenced early July 2025.

Stage 2 Roadworks on the Bass Highway Northbound carriageway commenced 14 August and were completed 19 September 2025.

Stage 3 Roadworks require temporary closure of the Bass Highway Southbound carriageway and the introduction of contra-flow traffic to the Northbound carriageway.

The left lane of the Northbound carriageway will continue to be used for northbound traffic and the second lane for southbound traffic after diversion across the highway median to share the Northbound carriageway. During **Stage 3 Roadworks**, each of the two lanes of the Northbound carriageway will have traffic moving in the opposite direction.

During **Stage 3 Roadworks** there will be reduced speed limits through the Bass Highway construction zone with modified traffic layouts and traffic controls in place to assist motorists.

ROADWORK TIMES AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

Stage 3 Roadworks will generally be undertaken Monday to Saturday (6 days/week) between 7.00am and 7.00pm. Some short-term roadworks may be carried out overnight.

Stage 3 Southbound carriageway roadworks will be carried out in two (2) phases –

- **Stage 3A** being the smaller section of roadworks north of the Quarry Entrance, with
- **Stage 3B** being the larger section of roadworks south of the Quarry Entrance.
- **Stage 1 Quarry Entrance** roadworks will also be completed during Stage 3A and trucks will commence right turn Quarry departure onto the Bass Highway northbound carriageway via portable traffic lights as part of Stage 3B.

Stage 3 Traffic Controls will include Variable Message Signs (VMSs), Safety Barriers, Portable Traffic Lights, Traffic Controllers and Truck Mounted Attenuators (TMAs) in operation.

ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

Deep Creek Street and the Bass Highway Service Road traffic will be temporarily impacted during Stage 3 roadworks.

Deep Creek Street: temporary use of Bonney Road for Bass Highway access and egress, including for Smith Street, Broome Court, Stewart Street, Malcolm Drive and Panoramic Drive traffic.

Bass Highway Service Road (southbound, eastern side of Bass Highway): temporary southbound egress to Bass Highway under traffic controller supervision. This will impact on traffic attending Grantville Cemetery, the temporary southbound Bus Stop and 1421 Bass Highway.

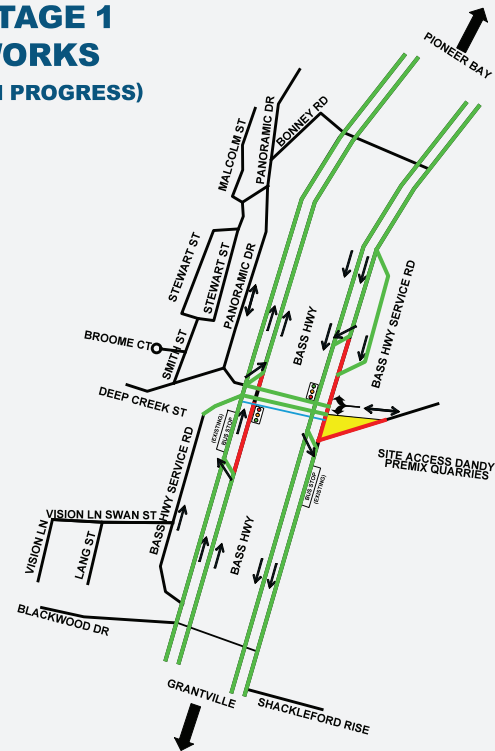
BUS STOP - SOUTHBOUND

The Bass HWY southbound bus stop located in the Stage 3 roadworks zone will continue to be temporarily relocated further north (approx. 220m) in the Bass Highway Service Road (southbound) with signage, waiting area provision and pedestrian protection provided.

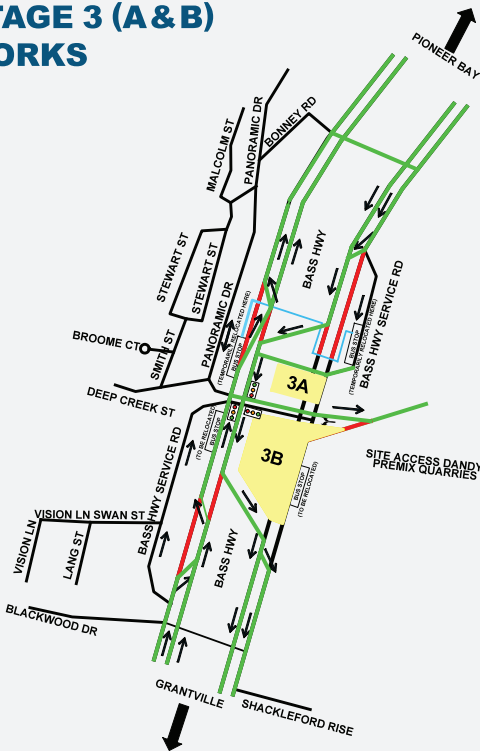
PROJECT OUTCOMES

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

STAGE 1 WORKS (IN PROGRESS)



STAGE 3 (A & B) WORKS



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

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

Applicant

Dandy Premix Quarries Pty Ltd
(Regional Group Australia)
Garry Cranny, Sustainability Manager
Email: gcranny@dandypremix.com
Mob: 0419 587 440

Head Contractor

R&C Asphalt Paving Pty Ltd (Austek Roads)
Simon Varghese, Construction Manager
Email: simonv@rcasphalt.com.au
Mob: 0427 480 668

LEGEND

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ROAD CLOSURE | TRAFFIC SIGNAL |
| LANE CLOSURE | SOUTHBOUND DETOUR |
| PEDESTRIAN CROSSING | NORTHBOUND DETOUR |
| WORK AREA | |

Wishing the Class of 2025 every success

AS FINAL exams draw near, I'd like to take a moment to wish every Year 12 student across eastern Victoria the very best of luck for their exams and future endeavours.

As a former secondary school teacher, I understand this time of year is often filled with nerves, excitement, and pressure, but it's also a good time to reflect on how far you've come and what you've achieved.

Thirteen years of schooling have led to this moment – a testament to your hard work, perseverance and determination. You've faced challenges, adapted to change and continued striving toward your goals with resilience and grit.

As you contemplate your future and reflect, be proud of who you are and what you've accomplished.

Trust in the preparation you've done and know that your teachers, families and communities are behind you every step of the way.

Remember, success isn't defined by a single exam result, it's shaped by your attitude, effort and the values you carry forward.

Whether you're taking up an apprenticeship, traineeship, starting work, or planning to study at university, I sincerely wish you every success in the next chapter of your journey.

You are the future of our community, and I believe in you.

Melina Bath MP, The Nationals' Member for Eastern Victoria Region

Good luck future leaders

AS MANY of our local Year 12 students prepare to sit their final exams from October 28, I want to wish each of them the very best of luck.

This is an exciting and sometimes stressful time, and it is important to remember that exams are just one step on a much bigger journey. I encourage students to do their best, but to remember that balance and wellbeing matter just as much as results.

I also want to acknowledge the parents, families and teachers who support our young people through this busy time. Your encouragement, patience and guidance make a real difference and help our students stay focused and confident.

Throughout the year I've had the pleasure of visiting many local schools and meeting an impressive group of young people. I know first-hand that our local schools are full of bright, capable and community-minded students who will go on to do great things.

To all our future leaders I say congratulations on reaching this milestone and good luck for the exciting future ahead.

Danny O'Brien MP, The Nationals Member for Gippsland South

Enough is simply enough

WHEN will Labor finally acknowledge the reality that Melbourne has become the crime capital of Australia? The latest data from the Crime Statistics Agency show Victoria now holds the highest number of recorded criminal incidents in two decades, with Melbourne leading all local government areas for both total offences and incident rates. In the 12 months to June 2025, police recorded over 483,000 criminal incidents statewide – an 18 per cent rise on last year – with Melbourne's crime rate sitting at over 18,000 incidents per 100,000 residents.

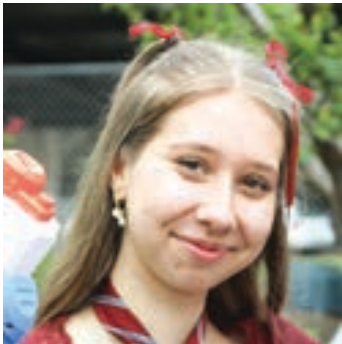
Closer to home, our own Bass Coast community is not immune to this upward trend. The latest figures show

Vox Pop

Who was your favourite teacher and what was your favourite memory from school?



Maya Hayward-Bannister
Foster
"Jacqui Dinsberg, because she was always there in the hard times. And our last day, today!"



Lucy Jennings
Foster
"Maths teacher Kyle Materia. And our athletics day earlier this year. All the year 12s came together and had fun."



Sari Hickey
Leongatha
My favourite subject was maths with Mr Hussein, and my best school memories are just hanging out with everyone, talking, socialising and having fun."



Bonnie Crawford
Korumburra
"I can't pick a favourite, having great support from Ms Marotta, Ms Reymers, Mr Blake, Mr Churchill and Ms Turner; my best memories are of school productions."

criminal incidents rose by 10 per cent in the Bass Coast Shire in the year to June 2025. Family violence incidents also increased by nearly eight per cent, with over 700 breaches of family violence orders recorded across the local area. Theft, property damage, and assault remain the most common offences – signs that lawlessness is spreading beyond metropolitan Melbourne and into regional Victoria.

The scenes in Melbourne last weekend should be a wake-up call. Acting Commander Wayne Cheeseman said it plainly when he emptied a box of rocks before the media – "This is what was thrown at police today, and I think Melbourne has had a gutful." Police were attacked with projectiles, bottles filled with glass shards, and rubbish bins and flags set alight. Meanwhile, Victorian Police Association boss Wayne Gatt rightly called out the hypocrisy, saying of the violent groups, "Nobody believes you. You have no credibility."

Premier Jacinta Allan's weak response – referring to the culprits merely as "a small number" – shows a government utterly detached from reality. Labor continues to hide behind the issue instead of confronting it. Ordinary Victorians – from the streets of Melbourne to the towns of Bass Coast – have had enough of excuses.

Victoria Police can see what's happening. The public can see it. And so can anyone watching the nightly news. It's time for accountability, not just from the violent few, but from those in power who refuse to act. The people of Victoria have had a gutful. Enough's enough.

Rob Parsons, The Gurdies

Risk to pedestrians

WITH the closure of the boardwalk for some six weeks or more, there is a serious risk of injury to pedestrians walking The Esplanade, especially the Sunderland Bay end, as there is no nature strip or footpath to walk on.

There is a deep gutter one side and thick scrub the other.

As cars often speed around the corner there is little warning for pedestrians.

Tradies, surfers and others in a hurry are a major risk, despite the 20km/h slow speed warning.

There needs some partition between cars and walkers, families and others on foot.

I emailed Nature Parks and they declined responsibility.

I rang Bass Shire Council and they were to get back to me, a week ago.

Hopefully, some action is taken to prevent trauma to someone.

Terry Ahern, address supplied

Sentinel-Times COMMENT

Big V or big joke?

By Michael Giles

VICTORIA was the laughingstock of a joint awards night for the Victorian and NSW country newspaper associations at Yarrowonga last Friday night.

"How well's Victoria going?" asked the NSW-based comedian hosting the event.

"They've adopted a new five-bin system down there. The machete bins go out every other week!"

Funny right, but also an indictment on Victoria's biggest problem right now, affecting not only the community but clearly, our reputation.

In this column, we've previously preached that a knee-jerk reaction to Victoria's burgeoning crime rate, involving harsher penalties and tougher bail laws, isn't the answer.

And honestly, what's a machete bin going to achieve?

Victoria Police have consistently maintained that the response to crime needs to be a whole-of-community approach and the Victorian Coroner Ingrid Giles (no relation) underscored that last week when she handed down her findings into the 2020 death of Solomone Taufe'ulungaki, who was bashed to death with a baseball bat in a shopping centre carpark at Brimbank.

"The evidence before me demonstrates that youth knife crime (like all youth offending) represents a complex issue rooted in a broad range of socio-economic factors... In this sense, the responsibility to prevent further fatalities from youth knife crime requires a whole-of-community response that addresses the reasons such crimes are being committed in the first place."

Hallelujah, finally some common-sense and in the next few weeks you'll hear how the Inverloch police and local community groups, including the local Lions club, are taking up the challenge of changing youth behaviours in a positive setting.

Interestingly enough, the same newspaper conference heard from Peter Norris, son of Clarry Norris, one of Australia's most notorious criminals, about how one or two isolated acts of kindness changed his life (see his new

book 'The Bank Robber's Boy').

That's going on every week in football-netball clubs, soccer, cricket and swimming clubs and basketball associations where youth from all backgrounds are motivated to take responsibility for their actions, to learn the lessons of discipline, hard work, leadership, sacrifice, self-control and other life skills in a fun, team-based environment.

Leaders of any of these clubs can tell you how the involvement has changed dozens of lives for the better.

Former Bass Coast Mayor and operations manager of the West Gippsland Football Netball Competition Brett Tessari can attest to that, and he's also of the belief that the AFL, with all its billions, should be doing a lot more to keep the 16s, 17s and 18-year-olds engaged, not only for the benefit of the game but also the overall development of country and suburban youth.

They should be part of the response to crime, as should our major companies and corporations.

Which is why it's an absolute tragedy that a previous Bass Coast Shire Council wasted \$34 million-plus on the Berninnet Cultural Centre in Cowes, where \$2 million to \$3 million would have done the job, when there was such a glaring need for sporting fields, courts and facilities in Cowes, notwithstanding the sell-out crowd at the performance by the Victorian State Concert Orchestra there last Sunday.

What's the fallout from not being able to accommodate those that want to play, let alone trying to attract disaffected youth? Huge.

As much as Bass Coast made a mistake committing so much of its scarce resources to an under-utilised cultural centre, the rise in crime across Victoria is a complex problem needing research, recommendations and a whole-of-community response.

Any help that our sporting and community organisations get will always be put to good use building a better, safer community.

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.

• NEWHAVEN COLLEGE

Newhaven College's Year 12s celebrate their graduation

NEWHAVEN College's Class of 2025 bid farewell to their school life last week, with plenty of festive activities. The four-day celebration commenced with a playful twist as students dressed up as "What I want to be when I grow up" as remembered from their childhood, and then on Friday, they 'blinged' their uniforms.

This was just the beginning, as the days that followed were filled with Celebration Day dress-ups and competitive House commando games at the Year 9 Environmental Centre. These activities provided an opportunity for the students to let off some steam before they embarked on the more official formalities of their final all-school assembly and emotional goodbyes.

Valedictory Day commenced with a family breakfast in the amphitheatre, with the sun shining and lots of smiles. Next on the agenda was a chance to share their stories about each other with the House groups. The formal final assembly commenced with all the Year 12s entering behind the haunting bagpipes played by their fellow student, Mackenzie Cameron. Formalities ensued with awards being presented to high achievers.

The pinnacle of the memorable last day was the explosion of confetti as they posed on the grass in front of the Senior School, providing a delightful surprise for all. To round off this momentous occasion, a Valedictory dinner was held at Silverwater Resort, where the students had the chance to spend their final moments together as the close-knit Year 12 cohort, surrounded by their dedicated teachers and proud parents.

Addressing the gathered Class of 2025 at the final all-school assembly, principal Tony Corr imparted a very heartfelt congratulations to each of the students.

On behalf of the entire College community, he said, "We are proud of the year level we are sending off today – who you are and what you have achieved. You are bright, fun, vibrant, enthusiastic, respectful and committed. In many ways, you embody all that is good about our school. You are what we hope our graduates will be – and there is great pride in that."

Mr Corr continued, "It is symbolic that your parents are here today to accompany you on your last day of school. This is a particularly significant day for those parents whose youngest or only child is finishing school."

A remarkable 52 families are leaving the College this year, having had numerous students go through the school. Notably, the Taylor family, of six children, is ending their time at the College, with Max being the last. Although the next generation of Taylors may not be far away.

"It has been our honour to share your journey, to walk with you, support you, and encourage you. Thank you for all you have taught us. Your year group is special and has left a lasting legacy. Let your time here at Newhaven serve as a compass to guide you on your next adventure," Mr Corr concluded.

Tony Corr presented the prestigious Principal's Prize to Marley Brown. Marley is an excellent representative of the College values and consistently demonstrated determination and perseverance across his time at Newhaven College.



Marley Brown was awarded the Principal's Prize. Pictured here with Mr Tony Corr and his mum Fiona Rawson.



Gabriel Di Falco was awarded the ADF Long Tan Leadership Award, pictured here with his parents Jo and Adrian, and siblings Sebastian and Amalia.



The Smyth family celebrated Lara's many awards, with the Papworth Prize, presented by Chair of the Board, Mr David Jobe. Lara was also awarded four academic awards and the ADF Future Innovators Award.

The prestigious Papworth Prize was awarded to Lara Smyth who was also the recipient of both the ADF Future Innovators Award, numerous Sports Awards and academic awards for four subjects. Lara is a diligent, hard-working and enthusiastic member of the Newhaven College community and has consistently demonstrated excellence across her time at Newhaven College in the academic and sporting areas.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) also recognised Gabriel Di Falco with the Long Tan Leadership Award. Gabriel was a College Captain and instrumental in the Youth Parliament team this year.

Additionally, awards were bestowed upon those who exemplified the school's House values, excelled in sports, and who earned the prestigious Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Congratulations to the major award winners:

- Principal's Prize 2025 – Marley Brown
- Papworth Prize 2025 – Lara Smyth

- ADF Long Tan Leadership Award – Gabriel Di Falco
- ADF Future Innovators Award – Lara Smyth
- Year 12 Academic Endeavour Award – Jazz Mau and Isaac Savona
- CUC Achievement Award – Mackenzie Slidders

Academic Awards

- Two Subject Awards – Sienna Bell and Abby Papas
- Three Subject Awards – Cecily de Gooyer
- Four Subject Awards – Lara Smyth

Sport Awards

- SEISA Sport Awards – Lucas Allen and Lara Smyth
- Major Sport Awards – Olivia Cumming and James Harman

Values Awards

- Bass House – Charlotte Derham and Zoe Scott
- Clarke House – Nissa Campbell Walker and Jasper Cashman
- McHaffie House – Jasmine Crooks and Joey Thompson
- Sambell House – Grace Morris and Matilda Russell

• FOSTER SECONDARY COLLEGE



Maddy, Sunday, Lily, Will and Lucy were all set and excited for their final day on Thursday morning. C19_4325

Water fun marks final day at Foster

IT WAS all smiles and a few water pistols, as Foster Secondary College's Year 12 students celebrated their final day on Thursday.

Armed with water pistols, the group surprised teachers and classmates as they arrived at school, keeping the mood light with some good-natured water fun.

Wanted posters of teachers were plastered across the school, fragile tape stretched across doorways, a few streamers scattered, and small amounts of water were as serious as the fun got, with students taking their creativity to their uniforms instead, as they closed the book on their schooling chapter.

Foster senior school leader and teacher, Kit Rotthier, said the day capped off a good year.

"We had a bigger VCE/VM split this year than previously. They've had a great

year academically and over their years at Foster," Kit explained.

Foster was recently recognised as one of the top 20 per cent of schools in the state, coming in as the highest performing government secondary school in Gippsland.

"We've focused on the students' wellbeing and how we can support them throughout year 12; this has included yoga and focus groups."

Taking into account the perspectives and input of the year 12s themselves.

"They're all great kids," Kit smiled.

"We are looking forward to seeing how they do in exams, and beyond."

After some lighthearted fun in the morning, students took to the field for the annual Year 12 v staff football match and enjoyed a trivia night.



Year 12s Maya and Aiden were at the ready on Thursday. C18_4325



Riley and Matt were busy refilling their water pistols in the common room ahead of their final day. C16_4325

• KORUMBURRA SECONDARY COLLEGE



The Jamaican bobsled team prior to competition, with Aaron Damon, Hailey Belvedere, Bryce Riddell, Kiera Witton and Lukas Gallagher. A14_4325

KSC Year 12s dance into the next phase of life

YEAR 12 students cut loose on the dance floor, celebrating the end of their school days at Korumburra Secondary College on Thursday, maintaining the tradition of entertaining their peers, staff and younger students.

Those younger students appeared to enjoy the show and relished the shower of sweets heading their way throughout.

It was a mixed performance, with a band, a Jamaican bobsled team, a trio of sumo wrestlers, and some impressive moves that put Olympian 'Raygun' in the shade, especially from Ben Camp, who

leapfrogged Billy Dixon and Bayli Fraser before adding an extra flourish.

There was a touch of horror along with the frivolity, a frightening clown with a machete making an appearance.

That aside, Year 12 coordinator Steven Scott praised members of the cohort for their kindness to each other and resilience, saying "The class of 2025 is dismissed," doing so on a friendly note.

For the Vocational Major students, it's time to turn attention to careers, while VCE students knuckle down to study for exams.



Nathan Halliday, Hayden Hessels, Thomas Sherar, Caitlin Ware and Hannah Thomas were inspired by Scooby Doo on their final day of school. A15_4325



Holly Fowler, Olivia Joyce-Anthony and Maile Ahokava are ready to show off their Sumo moves. A16_4325



Rhiannon Rawlins, Lily Canavan and Ashleigh Crouch show their style on the final day of school. A18_4325

• LEONGATHA SECONDARY COLLEGE



Brayden Sellings, Rhett Collins, Hayley Poletti, Jordan Cleator, Mitchell Sheppard and Caiden Brown have fun on their last day of school. A04_4325

From fancy to formal dress for LSC Year 12s

A FANCY dress informal breakfast kicked off a memorable day for Leongatha Secondary College Year 12 students on Wednesday, that leading into the evening's formal graduation dinner.

At the latter, students watched a slideshow capturing their journey from Year 7 to Year 12, after being acknowledged by assistant principal Tanya Chalmers for the challenges they had overcome during that time.

Those include a global pandemic, extreme weather and tight deadlines.

"No matter where life takes you, remember the connections you've built here," Tanya said.

College leaders spoke, including Kelsey Fisher, who commented on the support the Year 12 contingent has received.



Sari Hickey transforms into the Crocodile Hunter. A07_4325

"To all the teachers who tried to turn us into academic weapons this year – with varying levels of success – thank you," she said.

Chloe Le Page reflected on how quickly Year 12 has gone and that while the next phase of life is exciting, it is a bittersweet moment.

"There will be no more school holidays, no more stealing lollies from Abby's lolly jar, and no more seeing each other every day," she said.

Awards were presented, and principal Brad Hutchinson wrapped up the evening.

"You've reached a significant milestone in your lives, one that reflects years of effort, resilience and growth," he told the Class of 2025 in his concluding speech.



Max Minchella awaits machete deposits on his final day of school. A06_4325

Morning festivities involved traditions such as spray string, with a wide array of costumes including TV personalities, fast food identities, Steve Irwin complete with crocodile, and The Cat in the Hat.

Vocational Major student Max Minchella was up with current Victorian concerns, showing creative flair by coming as one of Premier Allan's more intriguing crime-tackling initiatives, the machete disposal bin.



Remy Jans and Farrah van der Zalm get into the fast food spirit, the diet proving popular with busy students. A08_4325

• MIRBOO NORTH SECONDARY COLLEGE



Jess, Jada, Emma and Rhian from Mirboo North Secondary College Class of 2025. B20_4325



Year 12 students Thomas, Thomas and Jack from Mirboo North Secondary College. B21_4325

Mirboo North Class of 2025 end-of-year assembly

MIRBOO North Secondary College farewelled their Year 12 students at a whole-school assembly last week. The 35 Year 12 students attended a school breakfast before accepting individual awards of personal significance in the school auditorium.

Reflecting on their six years at Mirboo North S.C., school captains Jada Sutherland and Billy Jennings were both looking forward to entering university next year.

"It's been great, but I'm happy that school is finished," said Jada, who is hoping to become a kindergarten teacher.

Billy is looking forward to studying for a Bachelor of Science at Monash University.

"Very emotional after six years of secondary school," he said.

Applied learning leader Amanda Vosper said

students in the applied program at Mirboo North S.C. had already gained apprenticeships in agriculture and horticulture.

Senior school leader Petra Hopkins said the Year 12s had been a resilient group, having lived through last year's big storm. They are a hard-working group, and all have high aspirations, whether it is university, TAFE, apprenticeships or work.

"The academic standard at Mirboo North S.C. is always high with students living locally or travelling each day from Boolarra, Yinnar, Churchill and Inverloch."

Mirboo North Secondary College has approximately 320 students and offers a diverse range of co-curricular activities including sport, camps, music, and a sister-school exchange with Germany.



Kicking back after their final year at Mirboo North S.C. Year 12 students Billy, Jacob, Finn and Diesel. B23_4325



Mirboo North Secondary College final year students Jasmine and Sophie. B25_4325

• BASS COAST COLLEGE



Bass Coast College Year 12 students Ally, Evie, Georgie, Eva, Lily, Milla, Sonny and Sarah with student engagement principal Ross Bramley and Senior Constable Megan Krause from the Wonthaggi Proactive Policing Unit. B59_4325

Record year 12 for Bass Coast College

A RECORD number of Year 12 students gathered at Bass Coast College for the Class of 2025 farewell breakfast and final school assembly.

"It's been an exceptional year," said Bass Coast year 12 co-ordinator Vaughan Gleeson.

Offering both VCE and Vocational Major (VM) streams, Bass Coast College attracted a total of 192 students for Year 12 in 2025, with many of the vocational students already securing apprenticeships or traineeships.

"All vocational students graduate with VET certificates," said Mr Gleeson.

"VM Student of the Year was Charlotte Crellin, who will graduate with three certificates."

Ninety students have applied to go to university, and a number will go to TAFE.

PE. teacher Jim Lees said the Bass Coast College boys and girls Year 12 basketball teams played in the state championships, and Gippsland Power and Inverloch-Kongwak medium forward Jobe Scapin was selected to represent Victorian Country in the AFL U18 National Championships.

A highlight of the year was the school musical Alice's Rock and Roll Adventure with Year 12 student Chris McKenzie playing the Cheshire Cat.

"It was a great year, our biggest Year 12 ever," Mr Gleeson said.

The college's community program included recycling wheelie bins and collecting cans.

Lorenzo Lepiten and Harvey Green were awarded Watersure Scholarships, Chris McKenzie won the ADF Long Tan Youth Leadership and Teamwork Award, Jayden Burns the Miner's Dispensary John Lindsay Scholarship, and Alicia Rousel was named the TAFE Gippsland Outstanding VET student.



'Who ya gonna call?' Bass Coast College Year 12 students Jackson, Karter, Saxon, Alex, Michael and Lukas. B50_4325



Bass Coast College Year 12 Class of 2025 students Sophie, Macey and Giarshi. B61_4325



Campbell and Will from the Bass Coast College Class of 2025. B51_4325



Alex, David and Lady Gaga Lulu at the Bass Coast College Year 12 final assembly. B69_4325



Bass Coast College Year 12 sister act, Lincoln and Riley. B49_4325



Year 12 Bass Coast College students Jacob, Baxter, Matt, Max, Connor, Lloyd, Harry and Lenny at the Class of 2025 farewell breakfast. B53_4325

... This Halloween

The Great Witch Hunt

Finishes October 31
Bass Coast

Welshpool and District Horticultural Society 65th Spring Show

Friday, October 31,
from 1.30pm – 5pm
Welshpool Memorial Hall

Family Halloween Night

4.30pm – 6.30pm
State Coal Mine

Halloween Spooktacular

4pm – Manna Gum Community House

Trick or Treat

4pm – Welshpool Park

Halloween Disco

5pm – 8pm
Korumburra Showgrounds

The Curse of Dumbalk

6.30pm – The Dumbalk Hotel

Flesh Creep Halloween Disco

6.30pm – 8.30pm – Fishy Hall

... Around town

Hour of Power Exercise session

For parents and friends
– kids of all ages welcome
Tuesdays, 9.15am – 10.15am
Leongatha Scout Hall
\$15 per session,
first session 28/10 free

Art Group

Wednesdays, 1.45pm – 3.30pm
Wonthaggi Neighbourhood House

AA Wednesdays

Wednesdays, 7pm – 8pm
Wonthaggi Neighbourhood House

65th Spring Show

Welshpool and District
Horticultural Society
Friday, October 31,
from 1.30pm – 5pm
Saturday, November 1,
from 10am – 4pm
Welshpool Memorial Hall

Sourdough Workshop

Saturday, November 1, 10am - 2pm
Leongatha Community House
\$70.00 – includes materials

Calligraphy Christmas Class

Saturday, November 15, 12pm – 4pm
Leongatha Community House
\$30.00 – includes materials

Alister Clark Roses a feature at Rose Spectacular

AS SPRING nears an end, those drawn to its floral blooms are in for a treat when the Leongatha Rose Spectacular hits town on November 15 and 16, the vibrant display again being held at The Dakers Centre. This year, there'll be a focus on Australia's most famous rose breeder Alister Clark and his roses, with Leongatha Horticultural Society (LHS) committee member Wendy McDonald creating several displays showcasing Clark's best-known roses, along with information on women to whom they were dedicated.

Two well-known rose cultivators, Susan Irvine and John Nieuwesteeg, undertook in the late 1980s to discover and preserve as many of Alister Clark's roses as possible. Many of the existing roses were found on properties associated with friends after whom Alister Clark had named roses, in Kyneton, Berwick and Bulla, as well as his own property 'Glenara' near Bulla. John's son, Reuben Nieuwesteeg, is a fifth-generation nurseryman who continues the family rose growing tradition, with his 'Wild Rose Nursery' in the Yarra Valley providing Alister Clark roses for the Rose Spectacular. Some will be available to buy, while others will be awarded as prizes.

Spooky blooms and garden magic, don't miss the 65th Spring Show



Visitors can vote for their favourite display in the Public Choice section at Welshpool and District Horticultural Society's Spring Show.

THE Welshpool and District Horticultural Society's 65th Spring Show returns to the Welshpool Hall this week, with visitors invited to enjoy the colourful spectacle and the ever-popular huge plant stall on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday.

This year's Halloween theme is set to bring out the kooky, the spooky and the spectacularly creative – so be prepared for all things mystical, magical, and maybe even a little monstrous!

The Public Choice section is always popular with exhibitors and visitors, while the front foyer display by local school-children adds a burst of youthful creativity.

A photography exhibition is always a welcome sight, with plenty of categories to keep experts and first-timers busy in the final build-up.

Expect to find 1000s of plants available for sale from the society's nursery behind the

hall, but be quick, as ever-popular species will disappear under the wave of the magic wands.

There are the unusual must-haves, alongside groundcovers, perennials, trees, and bulbs, plus wonderful woodwork creations for the garden.

With the Halloween twist, organisers are expecting some truly imaginative entries – from pumpkin-inspired floral art to eerie arrangements that would make even a witch proud.

Visitors can vote with a gold coin donation for their favourite entry in the Public Choice section, which raises funds for an organisation.

Club member Rob Gyles, who is collating the club's history, is opening the show at 2pm on Friday.

The club looks forward to lots of 'treats' and not too many 'tricks' and seeing the regular show visitors and meeting first-time visitors.

Wonthaggi's biggest scare set to haunt the State Coal Mine

HALLOWEEN is set to come alive – and maybe even rise from the grave – at the State Coal Mine in Wonthaggi, where the town's biggest Halloween display is promising thrills, chills and plenty of family fun.

These past weekends' visitors have stepped inside the restored railway carriage to discover a spooky world of mystery and adventure, where the grim reaper, a vampire and a witch stand side by side among eerie decorations.

The fright-filled festivities will culminate on Friday, October 31, with a Family Halloween Night from 4.30pm to 6.30pm, featuring trick-or-treating, face painting, popcorn, a sausage sizzle, and of course, the spooky train carriage, open between 5pm and 7pm for brave visitors.

Children, families and friends are all encouraged to dress up in their scariest costumes and join in the Halloween spirit at one of Wonthaggi's most unique venues.

For more information and for updates, head to The Friends of the State Coal Mine on Facebook.



There is plenty of spooky fun this Friday night at the State Coal Mine. B02_4025

Thelma showcases Alister Clark roses in Rose Spectacular



The Glenara rose is special for Alister Clark rose lover Thelma Arnup, as the variety is named after his Bulla property at which many examples of his blooms are displayed. A25_4325

OUTTRIM-BASED Thelma Arnup's love of Alister Clark roses began about 20 years ago through her membership of the Historical Rose Society, and she now has 24 varieties, some of which will feature in the Leongatha Rose Spectacular on November 15 and 16.

"It just resonated with me, Alister Clark roses, because he came out from England and created roses for Australian conditions and his roses are so colourful, so out there and they're just beautiful," she said.

Thelma proudly showed Sentinel-Times her Glenara rose, named in honour of Alister Clark's Bulla property.

"That is spectacular," she said of the garden there that showcases his roses.

Asked her favourite Alister Clark rose, Thelma responded, "whatever is out at the time".

That will determine which varieties she enters in the Rose Spectacular, both Alister Clark roses and others, with Thelma growing mainly old-fashioned roses, those types having generally originated between the 1920s and the 1940s.

A Mrs Hugh Dettman rose, a glorious golden yellow, is one of her Alister Clark roses that should be right for the show.

Heartbreak Choir hits all the right notes on opening weekend

OPENING night at Leongatha's Memorial Hall for the Lyric Theatre production of The Heartbreak Choir was filled with warmth and heart-felt emotion.

Heartbreak Choir, written by Aidan Fennessy under the direction of Bernadette Grainger, is a touching and beautifully crafted play that has struck a chord with local audiences at every performance.

An entertaining mix of humour, heartache and hope, The Heartbreak Choir features a small breakaway choir which meets in the local CFA hall, authentically represented in Colin Mitchell's set design, to sing, laugh and support each other.

The a capella singing sprinkled throughout the play is a credit to vocal coach Bianca Wicks. Alison McIntyre portrayed the choir's leader, Barbara, with grace and warmth.

President of Leongatha's Lyric Theatre, Bron Beach said she was genuinely thrilled to be able to share The Heartbreak Choir with South Gippsland.

"I would like to thank each and every volunteer who contributed to the Heartbreak Choir, on stage, backstage, front of house and in the production team.



The contrasting personalities of the choir members in The Heartbreak Choir are brought to life by a very talented and entertaining cast. B99_4325

"After 60 years, The Lyric Theatre just keeps getting bigger and bigger," said Bron.

Melita Berzins' quirky character, Totty, was a delight, Bianca Wicks' portrayal of the boisterous character, Mack provided lots of laughs, Kiki Joseph charmed the audience as the heavily pregnant, Asini, Yasmin Tough's Savannah had a pensive, mystical quality combined with her beautiful singing voice, Trevar Skillithorn-Chilver was most convincing as the

country cop Peter, and Lachlan Denbrok was every bit the troubled but lovable young boy, Beau.

Members of two local choirs feature in the final scene of the play when they join the cast in a beautiful rendition of the Birds of Tokyo's song, Lanterns.

Vocal coach Bianca Wicks graduated from Victoria University with a Bachelor of Arts in Performance Studies and studied singing AMEB Level 7 at the Melba Conservatorium of Music in 2002. Twenty years

later, Bianca has returned to her musical roots.

Nothing is out of place in this faultless production by Lyric Theatre with the high standard of production, lighting, sound and set design a credit to all involved.

The Heartbreak Choir is a must-see for lovers of great local theatre.

Tickets for the remaining performances at the Leongatha Memorial Hall are available on Trybooking or by phoning 0490 525 482.



Chicken Sandwiches

By Meg Viney

NEARING Melbourne Cup, when people tend to gather to watch the races, snacks seem in order. So, I've decided to do lots of variations for sandwiches. Chicken sandwiches, ribbon sandwiches of many kinds, and the like, so expect plenty of ideas over the coming weeks.

Ingredients

- A whole chicken is best
- Half a lemon
- A sprig of thyme or oregano
- A good pinch of salt
- A few peppercorns
- 1/2 cup white wine

Optional: A stick of celery and a small carrot are optional

Sandwich Filling

- 1/2 to 2/3 cup mayonnaise, salt and white pepper to taste
- Chopped iceberg lettuce
- Very fresh bread (white or whole-meal) sliced thinly

Method

In a pot into which the chicken fits snugly, add all the ingredients and then add water to just cover the bird.

Cook on high until almost boiling, then turn to a bare simmer – the lowest heat – and cook until the drumstick moves easily, about an hour.

Remove the pot from the heat and allow the chicken to cool in the stock.

Once cool, remove the meat and cut into small pieces (it will probably just break up naturally), and place in a large bowl.

Keep the stock for soup or sauces – wonderful flavour!

Add mayonnaise, salt and pepper to taste and then place plenty onto one slice of bread, sprinkle with lettuce, top with a second slice of bread and continue until sufficient sandwiches for your needs.

Cover with a damp tea towel until ready to serve.

NOTE: Some people like crusts off, your choice, but then cut into quarters and place on a platter covered with a tea towel or plastic wrap.

Photo by Leanna Myers, Unsplash.

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SAT 1/11	GUT HEALTH, SHOCK CORRIDOR & MESS ESQUE
SUN 2/11	ROSS WILSON & THE PEACENIKS
MON 3/11	JULIA DEANS (NZ) & JONNY GOES TO CHURCH
SAT 8/11	TROPICAL F**KSTORM
SUN 9/11	DEBORAH CONWAY & WILLY ZYGIER
THU 13/11	SYLVIE (US)
FRI 14/11	JENNY DON'T & THE SPURS (US)
SAT 15/11	ASH GRUNWALD
SUN 16/11	SUZANNAH ESPIE
FRI 21/11	GALLIE
SAT 22/11	BEN OTTERWELL & IAN BALL (UK)
SUN 23/11	19 TWENTY
SAT 29/11	MISS EILEEN & KING LEAR ALBUM LAUNCH
SUN 30/11	TEX PERKINS & MATT WALKER
December	
SAT 6/12	FLORIST (US)
SUN 7/12	THE AUDREYS
SUN 14/12	NEIL YOUNG'S ZUMA 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FEATURING NICK BARKER, LISA MILLER & CRACK BAND LED BY SHANE OMARA
SAT 20/12	MAGIC DIRT
SUN 21/12	LOST RAGAS & SILVERSOUND
January	
THU 1/1	MICK THOMAS' ROVING COMMISSION NEW YEAR'S DAY SHOW W/ HANNA & JESSIE LEE'S BAD HABITS, DANNY WALSH BANNED & QUEEN OF HEARTS MARIACHI BAND

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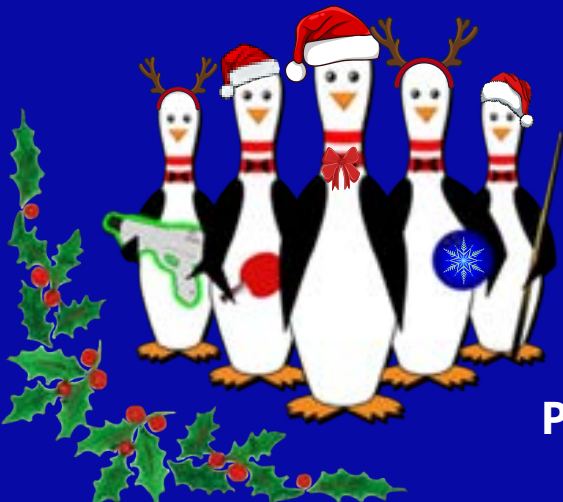
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PHILLIP ISLAND WINERY

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2025 | 35



Marlo, Odie and Rose enjoyed a magical morning of storytelling with the Flying Bookworm theatre company at the Meeniyan Town Hall. B43_4325



Mirboo North S.C. teachers Mick McKenzie, Jennifer Talbot and Rebecca Borg at the Class of 2025 school assembly. B30_4225



Mirboo North S.C student Lateesha with teacher and Year 12 parent Kate Gibson and teacher Jacob Manning at the Class of 2025 school assembly. B31_4225



Teachers James Corbin and Angela Burke with Mirboo North S.C. Year 12 students at the final school assembly for the Class of 2025. B32_4225



South Gippsland Shire Council coordinator children and family services Shelley Fixter with early years project officer Siona Jones at the Flying Bookworm in Meeniyan. B36_4325



Pictures of you and your friends at the Bass Coast and South Gippsland Specialist School swim sports, Flying Bookworm storytelling morning at the Meeniyan Town Hall, Eat Drink Play and Year 12s final day around the region.



Emily Brett from Buffalo enjoyed the Flying Bookworm at Meeniyan Town Hall. B41_4325



Teachers Caroline Tait, Leah Underwood, Norm De Silva and Chris Anders farewelling the Mirboo North S.C. Class of 2025. B33_4225



Leongatha Secondary College Year 12 students Mia Hulshof and Keelie Pulham are Rosie and Sophia from the Ellen TV show. A10_4325



Zoe and Lauren at the Flying Bookworm storytelling morning at the Meeniyan Town Hall. B44_4325



Ayanna Cashmore, Melissa Diggerman and Charlotte Tripodi were inspired by TikTok to adopt a Cat in the Hat theme for their final day at Leongatha Secondary College. A09_4325



Chloe Smedley and Aphra Lamers celebrate their final day at Leongatha Secondary College as Barden Bellas from Pitch Perfect. A11_4325



Swim co-ordinators Rachel Cullen (Bass Coast Specialist School) and Linda Slabik (South Gippsland Specialist School) at the second annual specialist school swim sports in Wonthaggi. B07_4225



Sergeant Peter Pearce from the Bass Coast Highway Patrol with Bass Coast S.C. Year 12 student Kai at the Class of 2025 farewell breakfast. B60_4325



Ethan and Tyler competed in the Bass Coast and South Gippsland Specialist School swim sports at the Bass Coast Aquatic Centre. B09_4225



Stacey and Riley watched the specialist school swim sports at the Bass Coast Aquatic Centre in Wonthaggi. B11_4225



Steph Strings starts the evening action at Eat Drink Play. A56_4225



Andrew Ross, Penni Ellicott, May Matra and Danielle Todaro take it easy at Eat Drink Play. A57_4225

Sentinel-Times

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Generations come full circle for Tarwin Lower Primary’s 100-year milestone

A CENTURY after Tarwin Lower Primary School first opened its doors, the spirit of community that built it still runs deep through the generations that call it home. This weekend, families, teachers, and the community, past and present, will gather to celebrate 100 years of learning and country camaraderie that makes Tarwin Lower PS so special.

One of the families that is amongst the celebrations and helping coordinate is the Fishers. Vanessa Fisher’s children mark the fourth generation who have walked through the school’s gates with her youngest son, Oscar, in prep this year.

“My husband’s grandfather, Ted Fisher, was in the very first class that started at the school 100 years ago,” Vanessa smiled.

Edward, or Ted as he was known locally, was one of 28 students in 1925, who was coincidentally taught by a Fisher relative, his uncle, the school’s first teacher.

“It’s quite special,” Vanessa said. “My husband went here, his dad went here, and his grandfather was in that first class. There’s been a Fisher here in every generation since.”

The school’s origins trace back to a single room behind the old Tarwin Hall, opened to educate the children of local butter factory workers. Within three years, the growing number of students and the booming township meant the school needed its own building. Classrooms were heated by open fireplaces, horses filled the pony paddock where the basketball



In 1992, Tarwin Lower Primary School hosted a Spanish camp. This photo was taken on the final day of a week-long study of Spain, complete with paella, songs, and games.



Students pictured with the time capsule buried in 1985, set to be opened this weekend.

court now sits, and koalas were regular visitors in the surrounding gums, a detail remembered fondly by students across every decade.

This weekend’s celebrations will honour both those early days and the generations who’ve followed. From 10am to 12pm, guests will gather at the school for the opening of a time capsule buried on the 80th anniversary.

Afterwards, the Tarwin Lower Hall will host a historical display with photos, a detailed timeline, and plenty of tea, coffee, and homemade scones for old classmates and teachers to reconnect over.

Guests will also be able to join current students in singing the beloved Tarwin Lower Song, a tune no doubt still remembered by those who

learnt it under a spirited teacher in the 1980s.

“It’s amazing how much has changed, and how much hasn’t,” Vanessa reflected.

“Every generation remembers the koalas, and I’ve found communication from the 30s/40s when the school was applying to the education department for rabbit-proof fencing, because they were trying to fix the oval and sow grass. They’re still fighting the rabbits 80-odd years later.

“There’s also memories about the calf fundraiser...”

There are plenty of memories to share, from Walkerville school camps where parents catered meals, to students developing photos in the darkroom, and the days when children rode ponies to school and tied them up in the old pony paddock.

In one memorable chapter, recent high school graduate Ellen Patterson stepped in to teach in the 50s when a staff member left unexpectedly, and the education department “closed” the school, ensuring no student fell behind.

While enrolments never quite reached three figures, the school has ebbed and flowed over the years, once exceeding 70 students following the closure of nearby schools.

The Fishers are among several families marking multi-generational milestones this weekend, with many others celebrating two or three generations of Tarwin Lower alumni.

Alongside the memories, visitors can enjoy a raffle and purchase commemorative mugs on the day.



The Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O’Brien with Welshpool and District Primary School teacher, Chloe Wade.

South Gippsland schools secure VicHealth Kitchen Garden Grants

THE Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O’Brien, was celebrating a win for local schools last week, with five Gippsland South primary schools successful in securing a VicHealth and Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation grant.

Korumburra Primary School, Toora Primary School and Welshpool and District Primary School in South Gippsland will each receive \$1500 for kitchen and garden equipment, along with a two-year membership to the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program.

Mr O’Brien said the grants will help students develop practical cooking and gardening skills while building confidence and healthy habits.

“This is fantastic news for these schools and their students,” Mr O’Brien said.

“Hands-on learning in the kitchen and garden gives children skills they will use for life and encourages healthy, confident choices from a young age.

“I congratulate the principals, teachers and students on this achievement.

“It’s terrific to see our local schools leading the way in food education and making a real difference in our community.

“These grants will empower our kids to learn about healthy eating, sustainability, and the joy of cooking, all while having fun in the garden.”

Mr O’Brien highlighted that the grants are part of a state-wide initiative by VicHealth and the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Foundation, aimed at supporting schools to provide practical food education and lifelong skills to young Victorians.

It’s cow pat bingo time

LOCH Primary School is gearing up for their annual Cow Pat Bingo and Mini Market on Sunday, November 9, from 10am to 2pm. This quirky country event promises plenty of entertainment for the whole family, with favourites such as the Gum Boot Throw and Tug of War sure to bring out some friendly competition.

The highlight of the day will be the Cow Pat Bingo, where participants can buy a square for a chance to win the top prize of \$500 – all depending on where the cow makes its mark! Alongside the fun and games, visitors can browse a variety of local stalls, enjoy delicious food and coffee, and soak up the welcoming community atmosphere.

Proudly supported by Burra Foods, Merry People, and Olive at Loch, this event is a great way to support Loch Primary School while enjoying a light-hearted country day out.

Foster students map out emergency skills with SES

WHILST some Foster Secondary students were busy at the local CFA – read all about it in this week’s fire feature – a group of Year 9 students were busy building their map and coordinate skills with Foster SES last Thursday.

The initiative, driven by Foster Secondary College teacher Richard Johnston, is part of the Year 9 program, which moves beyond traditional classroom teaching to include volunteering, hikes, and respectful relationships education.

It’s hoped that some of the students will continue volunteering after the eight sessions and go on to become qualified members across various local organisations.

In the unassuming training room of Foster SES, beside the secondary college, students were learning about what3words, the Cartesian coordinate system and the Military Grid Reference System. Coordinate tools heavily relied upon by emergency services, including the SES.

Alongside Thursday’s mapping session, students will spend the next six two-hour sessions learning about gear maintenance, ropes, radios, and other essential skills.

“We love to support the students where we can,” SES volunteer Alice explained.

“We’re also hoping that some of the students, if not all, will



Year nine students with Foster SES volunteers Jonathan and Alice. C23_4325

sign up as new recruits, with volunteers welcome from 15 years of age.”

Still on call during the sessions, students took in the detailed maps, noting how Foster crosses multiple map boundaries.

“My family have volunteered with emergency services, and I’ve therefore been around it my entire life,” student Josh explained.

“I thought I’d try out SES and increase my skills and knowledge. I knew a little bit about mapping before, but this is more in-depth.”

Student Ebony said she was keen to learn more about the important work the SES does within the community.

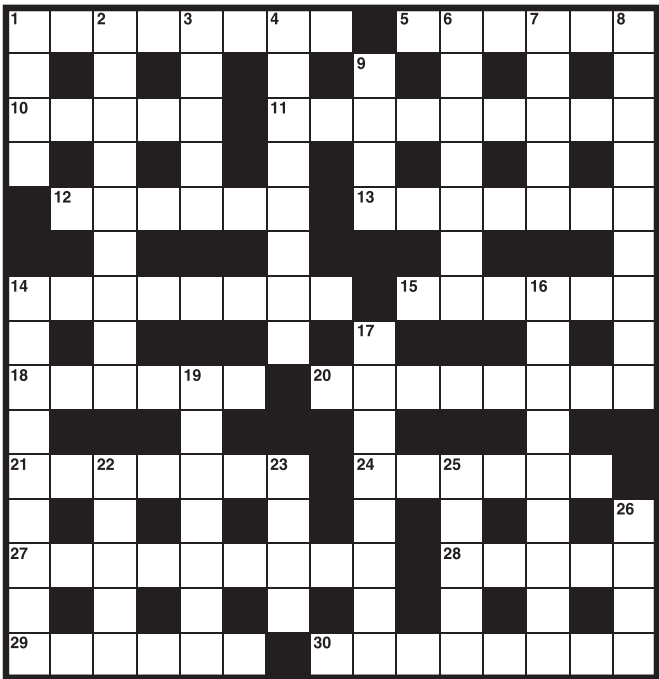
“What they do on a job and how they do it,” Ebony stated. “It’s all pretty new and helpful.”

Elsewhere on Thursday, other students were undertaking Bronze Medallion pre-training with Sandy Point Surf Life Saving Club. They are encouraged to complete their Bronze later in the season. Unfortunately, cuts to government funding have meant the school-based Bronze Medallion programs of previous years are no longer supported.



CROSSWORD

No. 304



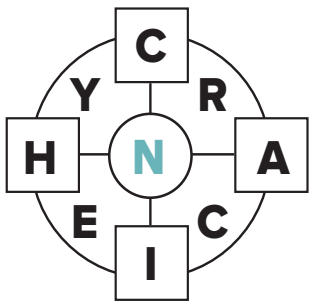
- ACROSS**
- 1 Acute viral disease (8)
 - 5 Region of Southern Italy (6)
 - 10 Internet connection device (5)
 - 11 One who believes in sharing wealth evenly (9)
 - 12 Nut (6)
 - 13 I don't know (coll) (5,2)
 - 14 Getting rid of (8)
 - 15 Free from an obligation (6)
 - 18 Bleachers (6)
 - 20 Government by the populace (8)

9-LETTER

No. 304

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

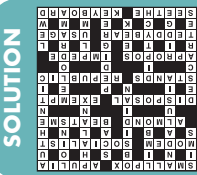
- Today's Aim:**
- 20 words: **Good**
 - 30 words: **Very good**
 - 41 words: **Excellent**



- 21 In respect of (7)
- 24 Obstruct (6)
- 27 Ursine bed companion (5,4)
- 28 Custom, practice (5)
- 29 Stew (6)
- 30 Organ or laptop component (8)

DOWN

- 1 Life simulation series developed by Maxis, The – (4)
- 2 Southern Spanish region (9)
- 3 Between heaven and hell (5)
- 4 Black stone (8)
- 6 Body of troops (7)
- 7 Certain cuts of meat (5)
- 8 Genuine (9)
- 9 Strikebreaker (4)
- 14 Philosopher, René – (9)
- 16 Exaggerated theatre (9)
- 17 Line of descent (8)
- 19 A hinged altarpiece (7)
- 22 Spine (5)
- 23 Pursue (4)
- 25 Perpendicular (5)
- 26 Smutty (4)



acne, calm, cancer, cane, chain, chance, changer, changery, change, chancre, chanery, chancery, chancy, chicane, CHICANERY, chin, china, chine, cinch, crane, cyan, cyanic, cynic, earn, enrich, henry, hernia, hyena, inch, nacre, nary, near, nice, nicer, niche, rain, rainy, ranch, ran, rein, yarn, yeast, yearn

WORDFIT

No. 213

3 LETTERS

- ANT
- ASK
- COP
- EGO
- EWE
- FEN
- GAS
- HAY
- INN
- ITS
- LOW
- MRS
- NIL
- ODE
- ONE
- OWN
- RAN
- RAY
- SHE
- SUB
- TEE
- TON
- USE
- UTE

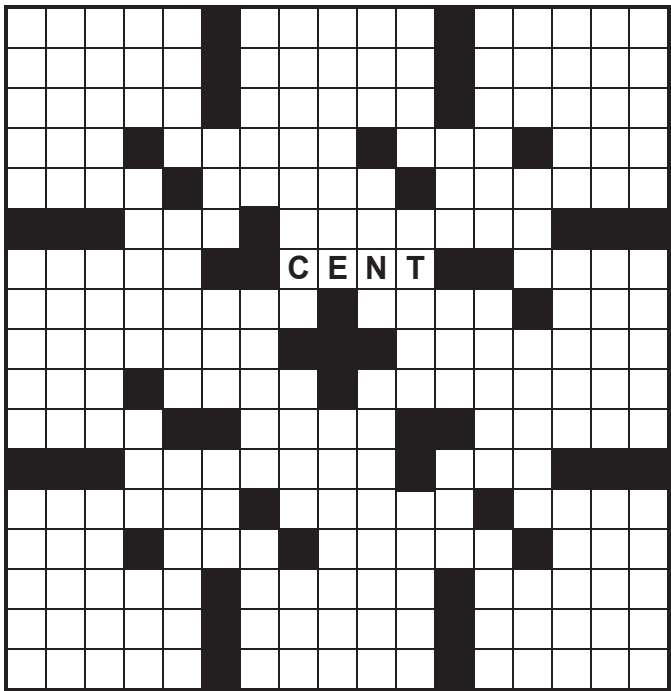
- SUMS
- TEST
 - THIN
 - TOYS
 - YANK

5 LETTERS

- ACUTE
- ADEPT
- ADOBE
- AFTOS
- AGONY
- AIRD
- ALIAS
- APPAL
- APRIL
- ARMED
- ARRAY
- AWFUL
- CEASE
- CRAFT
- CRASS
- DRINK
- EDGES
- ELDER
- ELUDE
- HOOTS
- INANE
- INLET
- ITEMS
- METED
- MILES
- MODAL
- NEEDS
- OMITS
- PESTS

4 LETTERS

- ARIA
- ARTS
- CENT
- DAMS
- KEGS
- LESS
- NETS
- SEED
- SODA



- PHASE
- PREEN
- PRESS
- ROCKS
- RODEO
- ROGUE
- SEDAN
- SHOES
- SLEDS
- SMOTE
- SNAPS
- SPELL
- STUNS
- SUEDE

- SWELL
- TENET
- TOTAL
- UNCLE
- USING
- VISIT
- VISOR

7 LETTERS

- AGAINST
- HERNIAS
- MANACLE
- PACKAGE
- SAUSAGE
- TADPOLE

8 LETTERS

- ASSAILED
- ASSERTED
- INTERACT
- PHONIST

6 LETTERS

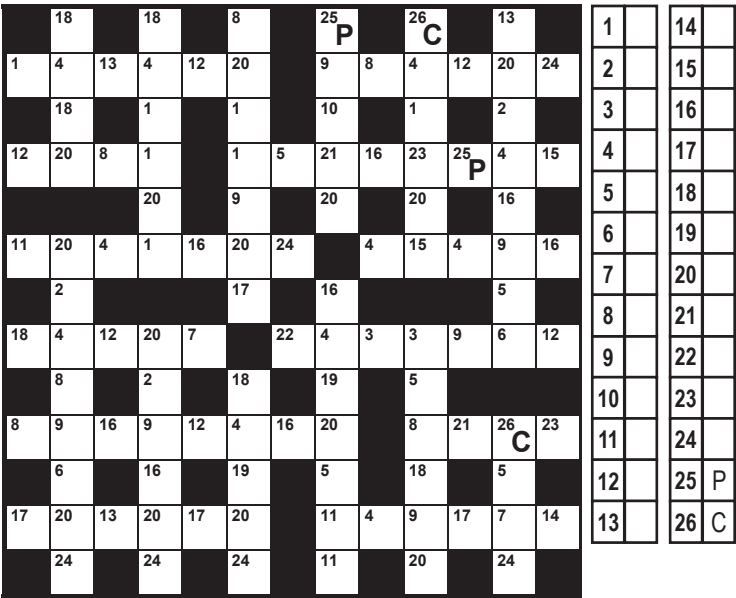
- CAMERA
- ERASER
- SAUNAS
- WAISTS



CODEWORD

No. 294

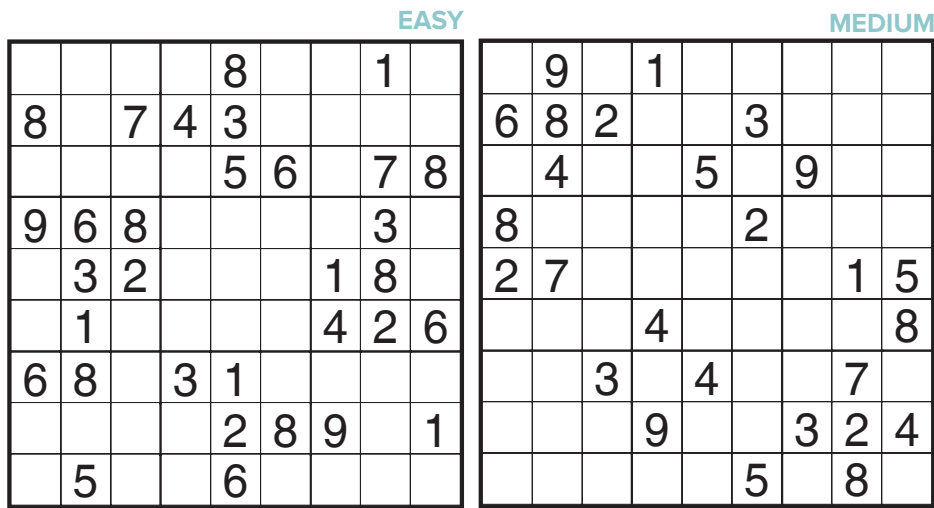
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



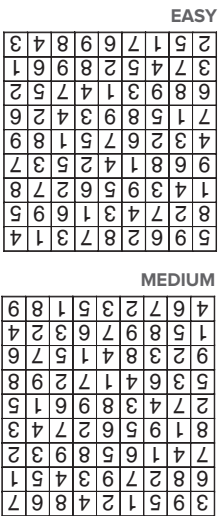
SUDOKU

No. 303

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. Which Spanish artist had a 'blue period' and a 'rose period'?
- 2. Thumper is a rabbit from which Disney film?
- 3. What is the capital city of Wales?
- 4. Don Cheadle (pictured) starred as Marty Kaan in which US series?
- 5. What is displayed in the centre of the Argentinian flag?
- 6. Which composer wrote the *Wedding March*?
- 7. By what common abbreviation is polyvinyl acetate known?
- 8. In which Australian city did the Eureka Stockade take place?
- 9. Which planet was discovered by Sir William Herschel in 1781?
- 10. A falchion is what type of weapon?



WORD SEARCH

No. 214

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.



- AMAZON
- BONGO
- BONOB
- CANOPY
- CLOUD
- FOREST
- CONGO
- DAINTREE
- ELEPHANT
- FOREST
- FLOOR
- FUNGI
- GIBBON
- GORILLA
- HORNBILL
- JAGUAR
- JUNGLE
- LEMUR
- MACAW
- OKAPI
- ORANGUTAN
- PANGOLIN
- PIRANHA
- RAINFALL
- RESERVE
- SAPO
- SIAMANG
- TAMARIN
- TEMPERATE
- TIGER
- TITAN BEETLE
- TOUCAN
- VALDIVIAN

SECRET MESSAGE: Nearly fifty per cent of all life



Exceptional grazing opportunity

SET on a generous 286 acres (approx.) across two titles, this superbly maintained grazing property presents an outstanding opportunity in the tightly held and highly regarded Fish Creek district.

Located just minutes from the charming township of Fish Creek, with the convenience of bitumen road access with two road frontages, this property offers both productivity and potential in one of South Gippsland's most scenic farming regions.

The land is a beautiful mix of undulating to rolling country, with approximately 10 acres of steeper ground, ideal for live-stock. Currently operating as a successful grazing enterprise, the property has been meticulously maintained by long-term owners, making it a true turn-key opportunity.

Property Features:

- 14 main paddocks with quality electric fencing (two units)
- Well-watered, featuring six

dams (two large), with water pumped to a header tank and reticulated to troughs in every paddock – some with two-three troughs for additional security

- Highly improved pastures, primarily clover and rye grasses, offering excellent productivity
- Disused dairy with power
- Two sets of stockyards (in need of repair)
- Excellent vehicle access across the property

This is a rare chance to secure a high-performing grazing property in an area known for its reliability, productivity, and natural beauty. Whether you're expanding an existing operation or seeking a fresh start in a proven district, 715 Falls Road delivers the size, infrastructure, and location to support a successful agricultural future.

Please contact Barry Redmond on 0477 622 292 for any more information or to arrange a private inspection.

Land Approximately 286 Acres

715 Falls Road, **Fish Creek**
For Sale \$13,200 Per Acre
Agent Nutrien Harcourts
Barry Redmond 0477 622 292
barry.redmond@nh.com.au

Nutrien Harcourts Leongatha

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47 Bair Street (03) 5662 2292
nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha

COMING SOON

LEONGATHA

3 1 2

“MONTVILLE”

- Beautiful cottage-style home on approx. 1,513m².
- Spacious and well-appointed kitchen.
- Fenced backyard with shedding, gorgeous gardens and rural outlook.
- Great location and only a short walk to the main street.

Contact Agent

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA

3 2 2

What a View!

- Quality built family home on a huge 1,007m² block.
- Modern design, spacious living, double lock up garage.
- Gorgeous north facing rural views, quiet court.

\$765,000

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA

3 2 3

Immaculate Family Home!

- Lovely family home on sizable 977m² block.
- Fully appointed kitchen with a large step in pantry.
- Double lock up garage with direct access into the house.

\$699,000

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA

4 2 2

Modern and Turnkey Ready!

- Stunning BV on an 801m² elevated block.
- Spacious, well designed and turnkey ready.
- Fenced backyard with entertaining & lush grassed areas.

\$699,000

COMING SOON

KORUMBURRA

3 1 2

Rural Living – Town Boundary

- Solid BV Home on approx. 1.48 acres.
- Established gardens, chook house.
- Town water, lock up shed.

\$950,000

FOR SALE

MARDAN

3 1 2

Lovely Lifestyle Property!

- Lovely renovated home on approx. 41 acres.
- Well appointed kitchen, good sized living areas.
- 5 main paddocks, shelter belts, good shedding.

\$1,280,000

FOR SALE

LEONGATHA

5 3 2

Prestigious Family Home in Leongatha!

- Iconic double-storey home on approx. 968m² block.
- Chefs kitchen with walk in pantry and marble benchtops.
- Luxury fittings & fixtures and thoughtfully designed.

\$1,150,000

FOR SALE

DUMBALK

4 2 2

Peace & Tranquillity

- Spacious home on 1,185m² with stunning rural views.
- Flexible dual living or Guest/Air BnB.
- Double lock up garage with extra storage space.

\$620,000



Barry Redmond
Director / Estate Agent
0477 622 292



Kellie Thomas
Licensed Estate Agent
0438 647 449



Monique Wightman
Marketing & Administration
(03) 5662 2292



Skye Clothier
Sales Associate
(03) 5662 2292

KORUMBURRA SECONDARY COLLEGE



Aaron

I'm looking forward to a bit more freedom. Next year I hope to work full time as a chippy.



Ashleigh

I'm looking forward to stepping out into the world and discovering new experiences, as scary as they seem I think they will also be fun.



Bonnie

I am most looking forward to having more freedom. Next year, I'm hoping to earn some money and spend it on travelling.



Caitlin

I'm looking forward to beginning work and travel. Next year I hope to work at a primary school as an aide, or go to uni to study teaching.



Faith

I'm looking forward to travelling. Next year I hope to travel to Canada and work at a summer camp.



Flynn

I'm looking forward to having more free time. Next year I plan to work.



Grace

I'm looking forward to moving out. Next year I would like to study interior architecture.



Hailey

I'm looking forward to no English, focusing on less subjects (one main subject focus at uni) and having more free time.



Hannah

I'm looking forward to moving closer to the city. Next year I would like to be working in real estate.



Lukas

Next year, I'm looking forward to continuing my apprenticeship.



Maile

Next year I want to take a gap year and save money.



Marty

I'm looking forward to making new friends. I'm hoping to study a Bachelor of Science at Melbourne Uni.



Moneve

I'm looking forward to becoming independent. Next year I hope to further my study.



Nathan

I'm looking forward to no school. Next year I plan to be working.



William

Next year, I'm looking forward to working and not having to worry about school.



Bayli

I'm looking forward to being free and sleeping in. Next year I plan to work.



Hayden

I'm looking forward to no more SACS and school work.



Riley

I'm looking forward to being able to explore the world and have some freedom. I am hoping to study engineering.



Oliviah

I look forward to leaving behind math stuff we never actually need. I hope to go somewhere without using Apple maps.

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**Good luck to the 2025
Year 12's of Korumburra
Secondary College**

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**Good luck to the
2025 Korumburra
Secondary College
Year 12 Students,
we wish you all
the very best!**

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Korumburra Secondary
College Year 12's
and best wishes for
the future.**

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Year 12 Celebration 2025



Chloe

I'm looking forward to being more independent. Next year I hope to attend university.



Declan

I'm looking forward to having more choice in who I am around. Next year I aim to get a job and earn some money.



Ethan

I'm looking forward to more time to work and to do what I would like. Next year I hope to enter the ADF.



Eva

I'm looking forward to being more independent. Next year I hope to attend University.



Holly

I'm looking forward to not having to remember my login for Compass ever again. Next year I hope to attend university.



Isabella

Beyond school I am most looking forward to travelling the world. I want to visit places like Paris, Rome, Fiji, Hawaii and the Maldives.



Jasmine

I'm looking forward to moving out. Next year I hope to study nursing and midwifery.



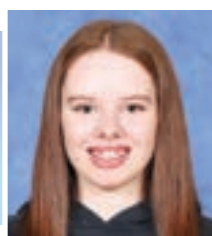
Jett

I'm looking forward to not being at school. Next year I hope to attend university.



Lily

I'm looking forward to making some money.



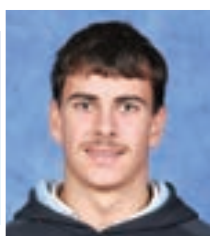
Rhiannon

I'm looking forward to starting a career in the health industry. I am hoping to study a Diploma of Nursing at TAFE Gippsland.



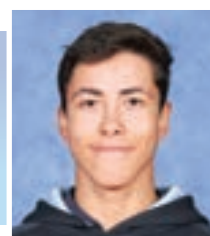
Riley

I'm looking forward to university and being able to move away from home to gain independence.



Thomas

I'm looking forward to not being at school. Next year I plan to stay far away from school.



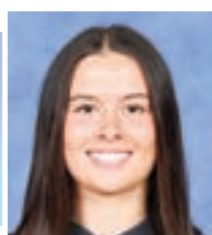
Raoni

I'm looking forward to moving out. Next year I plan to work.



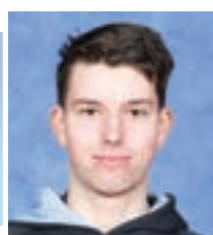
Ben

Next year, I'm looking forward to gaming on Rust and working.



Kiera

I'm looking forward to making some questionable life decisions. I hope to win the lottery, buy a van and be a nomad.



Dylan

I'm looking forward to going pro on the game Rust and working.



Charlotte

I'm looking forward to spending time away, and making lots of money. I am hoping to find my ideal career path.



Tom

I'm looking forward to having independence. I am going to move out next year.



Bryce

I'm looking forward to playing football. Next year I plan to reduce my golf handicap to below 20.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025



To all year 12 students, we wish you all the very best with your upcoming exams. The Community Engagement Group and our Community congratulate you on reaching this milestone.



We are very proud of your commitment and resilience – you've got this!!



MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...

CLAAS Harvest Centre

Rain lifts confidence at store sale

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded another good offering of 2750 head at this week's VLE Leongatha store sale.

Quality of the offering improved along with prices, with gains of 10-20 cents seen on some lines after some handy falls of rain, and the chance of further falls possible, and a firming of the fat market across the county this week having an impact.

The regular field of feedlot buyers attended, along with a good crowd of local agencies and graziers, all keen to grab a share.

Leongatha Store Sale On Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025

Steers			
P Fox 19 Angus	635kg	\$4.73	\$3010
B & M Frawley 10 Angus	625kg	\$4.79	\$3000
P Fox 12 Angus	619kg	\$4.71	\$2920
GA Clarke 22 Angus	589kg	\$4.83	\$2850
Est A & F Birss 19 Angus	584kg	\$4.79	\$2800
Avon Beef 12 Hereford	583kg	\$4.69	\$2740
D Batten 15 Angus	573kg	\$4.79	\$2750
GA Clarke 23 Angus	520kg	\$5.12	\$2670
J Mosley 18 Angus	490kg	\$4.99	\$2450
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	478kg	\$5.25	\$2510
D Jelbart 19 Angus	477kg	\$4.94	\$2360
Jackson Pastoral 19 Angus	468kg	\$5.14	\$2410
D Jelbart 16 Angus	462kg	\$4.97	\$2300
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	449kg	\$5.24	\$2360
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	445kg	\$5.24	\$2360
Collins & Jackson 20 Angus	446kg	\$4.97	\$2220
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	438kg	\$5.01	\$2200
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	434kg	\$5.06	\$2200
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	431kg	\$4.87	\$2100
Jackson Pastoral 16 Angus	425kg	\$4.89	\$2080
Blackwood Grazing 20 Angus	424kg	\$4.94	\$2100
N Mcnamara 15 Angus	418kg	\$4.96	\$2080
Narrang 23 Angus	395kg	\$5.11	\$2020
A Missen 21 Angus	395kg	\$5.10	\$2020
Hollywoods Past Co 15 Angus	364kg	\$5.32	\$1940
Elm Valley 20 Angus	355kg	\$5.40	\$1920
MJ Jeffrey 14 Angus	352kg	\$5.24	\$1850
Merlewood Angus 13 Angus	334kg	\$5.47	\$1830
Elm Valley 22 Angus	326kg	\$5.59	\$1830
Elm Valley 25 Angus	299kg	\$5.58	\$1670
RA Jones 12 Angus	290kg	\$5.26	\$1530

Heifers			
K Kimray 20 Angus	406kg	\$4.79	\$1950
Narrang 20 Angus	406kg	\$4.79	\$1950
J & R Mowat 10 Angus	347kg	\$4.46	\$1550
D Land 10 Hereford	337kg	\$3.67	\$1240
D Land 18 Hereford	334kg	\$3.70	\$1240
Merlewood Angus 21 Angus	331kg	\$4.56	\$1510
Burwood Hills 14 Angus	322kg	\$4.56	\$1470
Burwood Hills 11 Angus	301kg	\$4.45	\$1340
Burwood Hills 14 Angus	322kg	\$4.56	\$1470
D Land 14 Hereford	287kg	\$3.62	\$1040

Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, October 20, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$22 to \$50
Friesian Bulls	\$46 to \$104
Beef Bulls	\$40 to \$300
Beef Heifers	\$35 to \$160
Friesian Heifers	\$40 to \$70
Number of Calves:	238
Number purchased to rear:	101



Leongatha's Big Cook Up team.

Saputo Leongatha employees unite to tackle food insecurity

THE Big Cook Up is a community initiative run by Saputo Dairy Australia (SDA), where employees help prepare meals to support vulnerable local communities, and on Monday, October 20, 18 SDA employees from its Leongatha site partnered with Eat Up – an Australian not-for-profit

that helps feed hungry kids – to prepare 2130 sandwiches for schoolchildren using Devondale butter and CHEER cheese.

The sandwiches were distributed by Eat Up across its national schools' network. Eat Up is Australia's only volunteer-driven organisation

providing free, nutritious lunches to school students in need.

Gerard Lourey, operations and supply chain director at SDA, said the initiative reflects the company's deep commitment to community wellbeing.

"Wearethrilledtopartnerwith Eat Up for this incredible initiative. Our team is passionate

about making a difference in our community, and this event allows us to contribute in a meaningful way. By coming together to make these sandwiches, we are supporting children in need while fostering a spirit of teamwork and generosity among our employees."

Local grass feeders active at Leongatha Store Sale

NOTICEABLY more cattle are going back onto local farms and less to feedlots observed Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock's Terry Ginnane at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale, the situation having been the other way around for quite a few months.

"The feedlot price has come back and there's a lot more cattle available in NSW and Southern Queensland, so it's come back to a level that the grass feeders are able to trade," Terry explained, adding there is still feedlot competition.

He described the quality of

Nutrien's yarding of steers as "very good".

An annual draft from Trafalgar's Blackwood Grazing, consisting of 160 Angus steers weighing between 430 and 470 kilos, made around \$5 to \$5.20 per kilo, Terry putting those prices as a rise of 20 cents a kilo from Nutrien's last sale.

A repeat buyer picked up most of the Blackwood steers, which will likely remain in South Gippsland.

Terry said that it's pleasing to see more cattle sold to local farms.

"It's good because we get to sell 'em again," he said.



Terry Ginnane was pleased with the run of steers Nutrien South Gippsland Livestock sold at Thursday's Leongatha Store Sale. A01_4325

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Livestock Sales

KORUMBURRA		FOSTER	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
LEONGATHA		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	WONTHAGGI	
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
WARRAGUL		David Holden	0428 749 390
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	PAKENHAM	
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
		Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
		Imogen Price	0417 225 498

Real Estate Sales

KORUMBURRA		LEONGATHA		MELBOURNE LAND	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
BERWICK		LANG LANG		Angus Hall	0466 326 487
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898		

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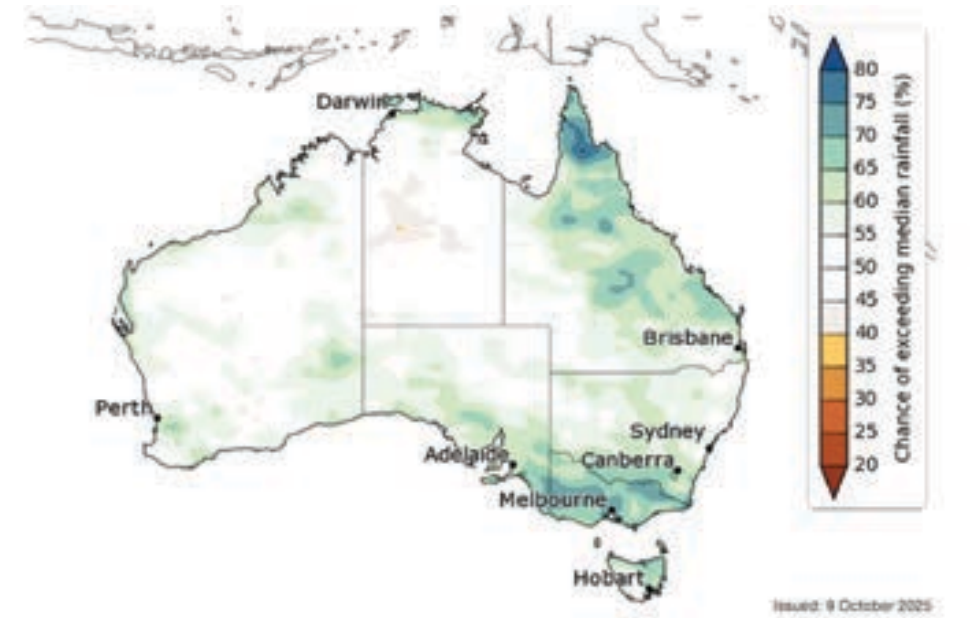
ABS Direct: Cattle processed from Friday to Friday

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250+ KG/DW	\$7.50
200 TO 249	\$7.30
160 TO 199	\$6.80
120 TO 159	\$4.80

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Cattle Trade Margin Matrix - Grass Fed							ep3
Sell Price	3.50	3.75	4.00	4.25	4.50	4.75	
Buy Price							Buy Price
3.45	590	728	865	1003	1140	1278	6.50
3.70	515	653	790	928	1065	1203	7.00
3.95	440	578	715	853	990	1128	7.50
4.20	365	503	640	778	915	1053	7.90
4.45	290	428	565	703	840	978	8.40
4.70	215	353	490	628	765	903	8.90
4.95	140	278	415	553	690	828	9.30
5.20	65	203	340	478	615	753	9.80
5.45	(10)	128	265	403	540	678	10.30
5.70	(85)	53	190	328	465	603	10.80
5.95	(160)	(23)	115	253	390	528	11.20
All prices in \$/kg lwt - Margin in \$/head							(Buy Price
Purchase weight (kg)	300						In Carcass
Costs (\$/head)	300						Weight
Sale weight (kg)	550						Terms)

Good prospects for backgrounders

AFTER a dry and difficult period in the south, the outlook for grass-fed cattle trading heading into 2026 is looking notably more positive. The recent Bureau of Meteorology forecast for November through January shows a strong probability of above-median rainfall across much of eastern and northern Australia, particularly in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria.

This improved seasonal outlook points to good pasture availability through spring and early summer, giving producers the feed base needed to carry young cattle through a backgrounding or grass-finishing program. Combined with tightening US beef supplies and resilient global demand, the conditions are aligning to create an appealing window for producers to take on trading cattle through the coming months.

The trade model illustrated by Episode 3's "Cattle Trade Margin Matrix - Grass Fed" helps frame the opportunity in numerical terms. The example assumes a restocker or backgrounder purchasing a 300-kilogram steer and feeding it on grass until it reaches 550 kilograms live weight, with a cost allowance of \$300 per head for expenses such as animal health, transport and labour.

The key variable, of course, is the buy and sell price per kilogram live weight, which together determine the eventual margin. The matrix shows that at a purchase price of 470¢/kg live weight, a level that matches current restocker yearling steer values, the margins remain positive across a range of sale price outcomes.

If that steer is later sold at around 400¢/kg live weight, which aligns with the EP3 forecast average for heavy steers through 2026, the model indicates a margin of roughly \$490 per head. Should prices edge higher toward 425¢ or 450¢, which is not

By Matt Dagleish, Episode3

implausible in a tightening global beef market, the potential returns climb to between \$628 and \$765 per head, respectively. Even at more conservative sale prices of 375¢, the trade remains viable, delivering around \$353 per head after costs. These results underline the leverage that pasture availability and market timing can offer to grass-based operators when conditions are supportive.

The economics of this trade become clearer when placed in the broader market context. US beef production is forecast to contract further in 2026 as the American cattle herd rebuilds after years of liquidation. That tightening supply is already pushing imported lean beef prices higher, and Australia is well positioned to benefit, particularly given its expanding access into key markets such as the US, South Korea, and Japan. The stability of Chinese demand adds further ballast to export prospects, even as domestic consumption in the developed world plateaus. For Australian processors, this mix of offshore demand and constrained local supply should sustain solid price levels for finished cattle over the next twelve months. For restockers and grass finishers, it translates to confidence that sale prices for heavy steers in the 3.75 to 4.50\$/kg live weight range are achievable under typical seasonal conditions.

At the same time, the seasonal rainfall outlook suggests that grass availability will not be a limiting factor for many producers this spring. The Bureau of Meteorology's November to January map points to a 60 to 80 per cent chance of above-median rainfall across much of the eastern seaboard, extending into southern Queensland and northern New South Wales. These conditions favour strong pasture growth, improved weight gains, and

lower reliance on supplementary feed, which are all factors that enhance trading margins. In previous dry seasons, feed costs or limited paddock capacity often forced earlier turn-off or lower target weights, eroding potential profit. This year, the rainfall probability and pasture outlook provide a handy alignment of feeding potential and market opportunity.

Naturally, there are risks worth considering. A sudden surge in young cattle prices could erode entry-level margins, just as a sharp downturn in export values or processor capacity could pressure exit prices. However, with global supply fundamentals supportive and domestic restocker sentiment steady, the balance of probabilities currently sits on the positive side. The EP3 forecast of a 400¢/kg live weight heavy steer average through 2026 is grounded in these same fundamentals of constrained global beef/cattle supply, solid offshore demand, and stable processor competition for finished stock. For producers with access to abundant grass, this environment rewards strategic buying.

The grass-fed trade opportunity moving into late 2025 and early 2026 stands out as one of the more promising in recent years. The combination of high rainfall likelihood, firm global beef prices, and positive domestic sentiment creates a rare moment of alignment between climate and market. Purchasing young cattle around 300 kilograms now and carrying them through to 550 kilograms on grass appears a rational and potentially lucrative strategy. Based on the EP3 matrix, margins in the \$490-\$765 per head range are within reach if the forecast price levels hold. For many producers, this may well represent the best chance in several years to capitalise on abundant feed, favourable prices, and solid export demand.

VLE - LEONGATHA

STORE SALE

2500 CATTLE 2500

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

A/c Hine Vegetables, Lindenow (ELDERS)
60 BB steers, 18 mths
60 HFD steers, 18 mths
GF & ABF
A/c The Camp (ELDERS)
65 Hereford steers, 2.5 yo, East Gippsland bred, All treatments, GF & ABF
A/c Gibson Farm, Hallston (ELDERS)
22 Angus steers, 16 mths, Euroa District bred, GF & ABF
14 Angus & Angus/HH X steers, 16 mths, East Gippsland bred, GF & ABF
6 Angus X steers, 16 mths, GF & ABF
A/c J&C Triantafyllou, Woodside (ELDERS)
30 Poll Hereford steers, 16-24 mths, VB, GF & ABF
A/c G Potts, Nilma North (ALEX SCOTT)
22 Angus steers, 18 mths, Leawood & Absolute Angus blood, 1 mark, East Gippsland bred
A/c D & M Farming (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Angus steers, 20 mths, GF & ABF
A/c M Triantafyllou, Woodside (ELDERS)
20 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, VB, GF & ABF
A/c NW Page (ALEX SCOTT)
17 Angus/Hereford steers, 16 mths, GF & ABF
A/c M Seddon (ALEX SCOTT)
17 Angus/Murray Grey steers, 16 mths
A/c A Lester, Foster (ELDERS)
14 Angus steers, 20 mths, GF & ABF
A/c P&R Fairey, Whitelaw (ELDERS)
12 Angus steers, 2½ yo, GF & ABF, very quiet
A/c Cindy Ryder (ALEX SCOTT)
7 Angus X steers, 15 mths, VB, GF & ABF

GROWN HEIFERS

A/c J&C Triantafyllou, Woodside (ELDERS)
30 Poll Hereford heifers, 16-24 mths, VB, GF & ABF
A/c M Triantafyllou, Woodside (ELDERS)
20 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths, VB, GF & ABF
A/c C Wade (ALEX SCOTT)
8 Angus heifers, 14 mths, GF & ABF

WEANERS

A/c T, C & M Hulls, 'Narra Tingha', Leongatha (ELDERS)
180 Angus steers, 10-12 mths, Sparta blood, weaned 3 mths, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred

A/c Glensheil (ELDERS)
80 Char/Angus X heifers, 12 mths, Rosedale blood, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred
A/c Sandy Creek Past, Stratford (ELDERS)
70 Angus mix sex weaners, 6-7 mths, Bowman blood lines. All health treatments GF & ABF
A/c NW Page (ALEX SCOTT)
30 Angus steers, 13-14 mths, Leawood blood, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred
20 Speckle Park steers, 14 mths, GF & ABF
10 Speckle Park heifers, 14 mths, GF & ABF
A/c R. Kirtlon & N. Griggs, Outtrim (ALEX SCOTT)
45 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-11 mths, by Cheltenham Park Angus Bulls, weaned 12 weeks, Drenched, Multimin and B12 inj 25/9, GF, ABF, VB
A/c The breeder, C Angelopolous, Cardinia (ALEX SCOTT)
40 Angus mixed sex calves, 7-8 mths, 2x5 in 1 inj, By stud Angus bulls
A/c G & S Wiggins, Berrys Creek (ELDERS)
31 Angus/Hereford x mix sex weaners, 12 mths, VB, GF & ABF
A/c Brad Rinaldi, Wonthaggi (ALEX SCOTT)
25 Angus steers, 12 mths, By Absolute Angus bulls out of Leawood cows, 2 x 7 in 1, weaned
A/c Q Wade (ALEX SCOTT)
10 Angus steers
13 Angus heifers
10-11 mths, weaned, VB, GF & ABF, Pinora blood
A/c M Nutley, Ferndale (ALEX SCOTT)
20 Angus steers, 12 mths, by Newpark Angus bull, 2 x 7in1, weaned 2 mths
A/c Cobbah Downs Grazing (ALEX SCOTT)
13 Angus heifers, 10-11 mths
A/c D&K Bowman, Mardan (ELDERS)
6 Angus heifers, 10 mths, weaned, GF & ABF

COWS & CALVES

A/c NW Page (ALEX SCOTT)
14x14 Angus cows 5 yo 3rd CAF, August Drop, Leawood Blood calves, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred
2x2 Charolais X cows, with CAF, August Drop calves, Genuine sale, property sold

5658 1894

5655 1133

5941 4666

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For further details contact:

Jack Ginnane 0458 322 615

Mitch Cochrane 0438 078 000



Some of the attendees at the first day in the series on Phillip Island, learning how to do rabbit proof fencing.

Partnerships against pests: New days announced for Outtrim and Wonthaggi

Integrated Invasive Species Management field days for Bass Coast

LEARN your local weeds and the most effective ways to control them, as well as information on local rabbit and fox control programs with Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) at a series of free Field days coming up this spring across the region.

BCLN is working with our local Landcare groups to deliver four sessions designed for anyone, on any sized property. The first was recently held at Phillip Island, and two more dates have just been released for Outtrim and Wonthaggi. There will also be an online session on the various apps and technologies in play to help us identify, track and map invasive species.

The second session is to be held with the Wonthaggi Urban Landcare Group at the Tank Hill Reserve on Thursday, November 6, 10am to 2pm. At this session you can bring along weed samples to be identified, enjoy a walk with members of the Wonthaggi Urban Landcare group and BCLN staff and a catered lunch. There will also

be some local native plants available for participants, chosen as good substitutes for invasive garden escapee plants that can choke our bushland and foreshore reserves.

The third session is to be held at the Outtrim Hall and Reserve on Friday, November 7, 10am to 2pm, also including a catered lunch. Each of the sessions will follow a similar format, but with a focus on weeds and pest animals that are more relevant to each area.

Bring along all your questions, as you will hear from and be able to discuss issues with various BCLN staff at these days, who will share their extensive experience in weed spraying, woody weeding, community programs, rabbit and fox control.

BCLN's Works Crew Leading hand, Bill Barry, will show samples of various weeds, answer your questions and discuss the most effective control methods and timing to get better impact for your weed control efforts.

The BCLN Invasive Species team will share information on control programs and methods, featuring Jack Harriss, on Rabbit control programs including exclusion fencing techniques, as well as Aaron Stephens, who will share information about fox control programs.

Depending on the session, either BCLN's David Bate-man, executive general manager, or Robbie Grey, operations manager, will also facilitate a short session on working together, discussing needs and pooling resources for better impacts on controlling invasive species.

Each of the days will include a guided walk at a local reserve, highlighting some of the local weeds, demonstrating removal techniques, and discussing impacts across the region.

This free series has been made possible with funding from Agriculture Victoria through the Partnerships against Pests program for the BCLN project, 'Building capacity against complacency'.

To book your place at the

second session in Wonthaggi on Thursday, November 6, please use this link to get to our booking page: trybooking.com/DGWOF.

To book your place at the third session in Outtrim on Friday, November 7, please use this link to get to our booking page: trybooking.com/DGROC

In the coming weeks, the last session in the series will be confirmed, which will be an online webinar focusing on new Tech, Apps and other ways we can identify, map and manage invasive species. Before the end of the year, there will also be a release of an online, Bass Coast-specific Weed calendar, all part of the BCLN project.

Please check the Bass Coast Landcare Network News and Events web page for updates and confirmation of dates, locations and details for events in the series at basscoastlandcare.org.au/news-and-events. For enquiries on this series, please contact Lisa Wangman on lisa.wangman@basscoastlandcare.org.au

Partnerships Against Pests Spring 2025 Series
Integrated Invasive Species Management
Field days for Bass Coast

Learn your local weeds, the most effective and efficient ways to control them, bring samples to be identified, and get information on local rabbit and fox control techniques and programs.

Session 2: Tank Hill Reserve

Dates/Time: Thursday 6th November – 10am to 2pm

Location: Meet at Reed Crescent entrance gate, Wonthaggi 3995

RSVP: Please book your place at

<https://www.trybooking.com/DGWOF>

Catering: Lunch provided, RSVP essential



Partnerships Against Pests Spring 2025 Series
Integrated Invasive Species Management
Field days for Bass Coast

Learn your local weeds, the most effective and efficient ways to control them, and information on local rabbit and fox control techniques and programs.

Session 3: Outtrim Hall & Reserve

Dates/Time: Friday 7th November – 10am to 2pm

Location: Outtrim Hall and reserve,

1051 Outtrim Leongatha Road, Outtrim 3951

RSVP: Please book your place at

<https://www.trybooking.com/DGROC>

Catering: Lunch provided, RSVP essential





Are you fire ready this summer?

Lieutenant Cameron Hanley with budding firefighter Noah at Leongatha Fire Brigade's recent open day.

Wait for station upgrades at Foster and Mirboo North continues 10 years on

THE Nationals Member for Gippsland South, Danny O'Brien, is frustrated that the urgent need for replacement fire stations in Foster and Mirboo North continues to be ignored by the State Government.

"Ten years ago, I stood up in Parliament and asked the then Minister for Emergency Services to fund these critical projects," Mr O'Brien said.

"At the time, I was assured that CFA had identified that the fire stations in Foster and Mirboo North were in need of replacement and that they had "been placed on its District Capital Works list for potential future development."

"Ten years on and these communities and their CFA volunteers are still campaigning for the replacement of stations that are outdated, unsafe, and no longer fit-for-purpose."

Mr O'Brien's comments come after he questioned the Minister for Emergency Services, Vicki Ward, in Parliament about when the government would finally provide funding for these vital projects.

In response, Minister Ward said Foster and Mirboo North would be "assessed alongside other projects" to determine when replacements would happen.

"The Minister's response is eerily similar to the one I received ten years ago and does nothing to provide certainty that these projects will actually be funded."

"Local CFA volunteers give their time freely and work around the clock to keep our towns safe, yet they continue to face outdated stations and a lack of government support, even as locals contribute more through the new \$3 billion Emergency Services Tax."

"The current stations in Foster and Mirboo North are too small for modern trucks and equipment."

"Volunteers struggle to change and prepare safely while trucks are backing in and out. These are real safety issues, not minor inconveniences and continued delays in funding put our communities at risk."

The damage is clear inside the Mirboo North station, which served as a base for emergency services during last February's storm. Scars on the walls, left by fire trucks moving in and out, visible to the hundreds who passed through during the emergency response.

Mr O'Brien's statements come as South Gippsland Shire enters this season's Fire Danger Period, with CFA expecting hotter and drier summer conditions.

CFA keep community safe at Moto GP

CFA crews successfully delivered fire protection and suppression services at the 2025 Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix, held at Phillip Island over October 17-19.

The event, which remains the largest major sporting event in Regional Victoria, drew over 90,000 attendees and thousands of campers.

Months of planning ensured CFA was well-prepared to manage the unique risks associated with MotoGP, including protection of the infield and outfield, camping areas, as well as providing increased capacity for the Phillip Island area due to large numbers of visitors. Phillip Island's population swells by tens of thousands during the event.

2025 MotoGP Commander, Ricky Read, said the event was a huge undertaking.

"The event takes six months or more of planning, so it was good to see it happen without any major incidents," he said.

"All our volunteers enjoyed the experience of working at the event, and it was a really positive atmosphere both at the track and at the Phillip Island station."

CFA was placed inside the event's emergency operation centre, where they were able to work alongside the other agencies to ensure a smooth response to any incidents.



ECC Representatives Scott Hamilton and Barbara Bednarek.

"I'd like to publicly acknowledge and thank all the CFA volunteers who committed themselves to the event over the weekend, both at the track and behind the scenes," he said.

"A massive shoutout to the Phillip Island Fire Brigade for hosting us and all the vehicles, as well as providing delicious breakfasts and dinners every day for the track crews."

This year, volunteers from all over District 8 put their hands up to volunteer at the event.

"We have to provide coverage to the event, but we also have to ensure coverage of Phillip Island," Ricky said.

"It was really good to see our people out there giving everyone a hand and contributing to the overall positive vibe of the event."

"We also would like to thank Beaconsfield, Dalyston, Dandenong, Rye and Edithvale brigades for loaning their vehicles to the event for the week. We simply couldn't have provided the service we did without them and the volunteers who crewed them."

"Another great example of CFA members coming together to protect our communities."

Neighbourhood Safer Places

ALSO known as Bushfire Place of Last Resort, CFA have listed the following across Bass Coast and South Gippsland.

Cape Paterson:

Anchor Parade Reserve, Corner Anchor Parade and Park Parade

Cape Woolamai:

Woolamai Park,
11-19 Sunnyside Avenue (entry also available from Corona Road)

Cowes:

Cowes Recreation Reserve,
2-8 Church Street

Grantville:

Memorial Park,
Corner Bass Highway and Pier Road

Inverloch:

Community Hub Grounds, Corner Reilly Street and A'Beckett Street

Sandy Point:

Sandy Point Community Centre,
Corner Ocean View Parade
and Church Parade

Valuable lessons learned from The Gurdies fire



Glenn Skrobalak, resident of The Gurdies, advises people to leave early if a bushfire threatens.

CLOSE to panic, Glenn Skrobalak, local resident of The Gurdies, vividly remembers the day the December bushfire came within metres of engulfing his modest bungalow.

"Flames were licking at the fence," said Mr Skrobalak.

Going back to the day the fire started, Mr Skrobalak said at first he wasn't concerned.

"I saw the smoke, and water bombing helicopters circling overhead. I thought the fire would be brought under control."

Water bombing aircraft dispatched to The Gurdies were unable to operate at night and the fire took off about 11pm that evening.

Another wind change the following afternoon fanned the fire towards The Gurdies-St Heliers

Road and Mr Skrobalak's home. Although Mr Skrobalak intended to leave the property, he stayed with his three dogs.

"That was a mistake," he said. "I chose to stay, and I won't be doing that again."

About 4pm, Mr Skrobalak began to feel anxious, his house, which had already been extensively damaged during the big wind storm in February, was engulfed in smoke.

After going to an assembly point on the Bass Highway, Mr Skrobalak then checked with his neighbours in nearby housing units to make sure they were safe.

"Many of the unit residents were quite elderly," he said.

When spot fires began to break out around his property, Mr Skrobalak returned to open the

gates to allow fire trucks to get in to defend the nearby residential units.

"I started up the fire pump for the fire tankers."

The fire raced along his southern boundary before burning a fence and trees.

Mr Skrobalak said a major mistake was poisoning weeds along his fence line.

"It created dry undergrowth which caught fire."

Still living in his small bungalow while a replacement home is being constructed, Mr Skrobalak said his new house is BAL40 fire-rated, the second-highest fire rating after BAL FZ (Flame Zone).

Mr Skrobalak's advice for the coming fire season is to clear undergrowth before it gets tall and dry, and leave early.

"Talk to your neighbours, make sure everything is tidy, and buy fire pumps with CFA fittings on your water tanks so the fire crews can connect up quickly."

"Every minute counts," said Mr Skrobalak.

"It's important to let the CFA come and do their thing."

After the main fire, the CFA came around to put out spot fires in adjacent bushland.

"They were so reassuring. I hadn't slept in two days, and they stayed while I had some sleep."

Corinella CFA captain David Cox and Kernot-Grantville CFA Lieutenant Andrew Blackney were among the first responders.

"We could see Glenn just standing out there by himself," said David.

A short time later, the Glen Alvie brigade was able to get some appliances into Glenn's property and tackle the fire more completely.

Both Mr Skrobalak and Captain Cox said the incident highlighted the importance of listening to advice and leaving early.

"Things can be replaced, but imagine never getting to hug your loved ones again."

The CFA advises that on a catastrophic day, leaving high-risk bushfire areas the night before, or early in the morning is the safest option.

"Plan your route, and ensure your car has enough petrol so you don't need to stop."

For more advice, go to cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/leave-early.



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• PHILLIP ISLAND FIRE BRIGADE



Phillip Island CFA volunteers Pete Gray, Dean Holden, Irene Christy and Richard Davis.

Phillip Island gears up for summer

WITH six new members joining the ranks and several veterans marking more than 25 years of service, the Phillip Island Fire Brigade is heading into this fire season with the perfect blend of experience and fresh energy.

Captain Lino Drazzi said the brigade is well prepared, with pre-summer training in full swing and members confident heading into what's expected to be another challenging season.

"We're well and truly into our preparedness for the fire season," Captain Drazzi said.

"There's always the threat of grass and scrub fires on Phillip Island."

While Bass Coast's official Fire Danger Period date is yet to be confirmed, Lino said locals shouldn't wait for restrictions to begin before taking action around their homes and properties.

"It's the same message we share every year, and it's just as important now – clean up your yards, remove firewood or leaves, mow lawns, and make sure you've got a working smoke detector," he said,

adding that farmers need to stay on top of maintaining and cutting their hay and silage.

"We had huge success with our open day recently, around 250 people came through the station, which was great to see from the community."

This year, six new recruits will experience their first fire season after completing their General Firefighter training. They'll have no shortage of guidance, with a wealth of knowledge around them, including several long-serving members such as Gary Grace, Sue Waterton, Terry Quarrell, Paul Hayes, and Captain Drazzi himself, all with around 25 years of service to the brigade.

"There's plenty of experience in our crew," Lino said. "And all of us are more than happy to mentor the new members coming through this season."

The brigade remains well-resourced, with two tankers, a pumper, and an FCV, and continues to benefit from strong daytime availability thanks to members who work

locally or are retired.

"We're pretty comfortable in that sense," he said. "It takes the pressure off when we know we can turn a truck out during the day without stress."

Phillip Island's landscape, from its coastal scrub to open farmland, brings a mix of challenges for local firefighters, who respond to grass and scrub fires, structural incidents, and motor-vehicle accidents. The brigade also works closely with neighbouring units to provide coverage across the island and beyond.

"We always prepare for the worst and hopefully walk away with the best case scenario," Lino said.

"The message might sound familiar each year, but it's because it matters. Look after your property, have a fire plan and practice it. You just never know – it can happen in your town."

Never wait for an official warning before you leave, as you may not get one. Fires can start quickly and threaten homes and lives within minutes. Make sure you have a plan.



Simon Furniss, Georgia Anderson, Kyle Wood and Garry Thompson from Phillip Island CFA are ready to train after changing into their safety gear.

• SAN REMO FIRE BRIGADE



Peter Shearer, Irwin Newberry, Kathy Bright, Harry Beaumont, Ross Pryor and Rick Pearce from San Remo CFA.

Remain vigilant and plan ahead

AS THE fire season approaches, the San Remo fire brigade members are participating in simulated fire scenarios that involve using breathing apparatus to navigate and extinguish fire in controlled environments.

With the fire season approaching earlier this year due to drier conditions, all 42 members are proactively rolling out programs, including the Property Advise Visit Services (PAVS), to educate residents on fire safety and property preparedness.

The program aims to equip residents with knowledge on emergency preparation, helping them understand fire danger ratings and the importance of maintaining properties to reduce fire hazards.

Operational volunteer and community engagement officer at the San Remo station, Stefan Poll, said the goal is to keep the community informed and prepared.

This year has been especially exciting for San Remo, with many new members joining.

"And training is always a priority; besides training new members, skills development is vital for everyone's safety and readiness."

In response to expanding membership, the brigade is also enhancing its facilities. Plans are underway to extend the station to create additional vehicle storage rooms and improve change rooms.

"We've secured the funding for this expansion, which is essential given the growth," said Stefan.

"These improvements will ensure a safer and more functional space for everyone."

Works will begin shortly on the expansion.

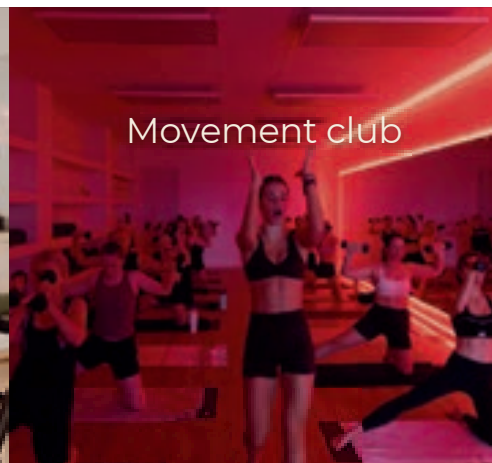
As the summer approaches, the risk of local grasslands is a priority, being within proximity to homes, Stefan said it's important to remove any wood from beside the house and clear any dry vegetation.

"And remember, San Remo is one way in, one way out, so it's important to be prepared, understand fire danger ratings and the benefits of leaving your property early if required."

For more information about the San Remo brigade and their operational and non-operational roles, visit the station at 69 Genista Street, San Remo.



Social club



Movement club

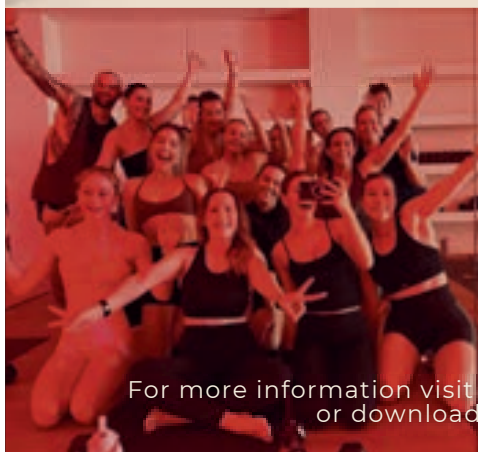
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• BASS FIRE BRIGADE



There's a hose with your name on it

BASS Fire Brigade is gearing up for the coming fire season with new faces, renewed energy, and a clear message to the community: there's a fire hose waiting with your name on it.

After a challenging year marked by the loss of former captain Ross, the brigade is looking ahead with optimism. Three new recruits have joined the ranks, bringing fresh enthusiasm and helping to strengthen the team as summer approaches.

"It was pretty sad earlier in the year for everyone, but we're heading into summer feeling confident," Captain Andy Stuart said.

While new members have brought a welcome boost, recruiting and retaining volunteers remains the biggest hurdle for Bass.

The brigade meets every Tuesday night from 7pm, and anyone curious about joining is encouraged to drop in.

"We're happy to get anyone, whether you're an accountant, can mow the lawns, or can cook barbecues. It takes a big group of people to keep things running smoothly."

One of the newest recruits, Andrea, has already taken on the role of secretary.

"Sometimes the CFA can look a bit intimidating from the outside, but it's not. If you knock on the door, you'll be welcomed with open arms," the captain said.

With summer on the horizon, Captain Stuart is urging residents to ensure they have their fire plan ready and practiced, and are aware of the ramifications of burning off.

"The fire danger period is going to come in earlier, I think, and that will potentially come as a shock to some people. But our concerns will always be around people burning off in the fire danger period when they shouldn't be and the ramifications of that can be disastrous," he explained.

"Everyone should have VicEmergency on their phone and have a plan of what they would do in an emergency – it doesn't have to be elaborate, just something you can enact quickly and easily. Get out early, get out safely. You can rebuild a building, but you can't rebuild a person."

Captain Stuart also highlighted that for those who plan to stay and defend their property, it's crucial they make contact with their local fire brigade to map out their fire plan and ensure they have appropriate equipment, clothing and necessities to safely do so.

"People must also remember, if there is a big disaster in the area, there is every chance we'll be somewhere else and won't be where you are."

Back at the station, Captain Stuart said Bass is in a good position with a reasonably new ultra light tanker, two defibrillators, plenty of new upgrades technology-wise and a widening crossover, meaning it's easier to get in and out of the station.

"We're pretty healthy, and well supported by the CFA and local businesses."

Pop in on a Tuesday night if you need assistance with your fire plan or have any questions about the upcoming fire season and preparing your property.

• CORINELLA FIRE BRIGADE

Seeing some of the driest conditions on record, they say

CORINELLA Fire Brigade has 37 members, including 17 active operational members, nine non-operational members, and 11 juniors. It is seeking younger operational members aged between 30 and 45 years.

Captain David Cox said the brigade is full of experience, but the grey nomads take off each winter for the sun.

"Recruitment is ongoing, and I just want to remind everyone that any amount of time is enough. Whether you want to be operational or non-operational, there is always something to do that will make a huge difference to not only the brigade but also our community."

With four recent members having just completed their General Firefighting course, David said the brigade is travelling nicely.

Pre-season training at Corinella has consisted of structure firefighting, BA training, hazardous tree awareness, entrapment drills and now grass and scrub fires.

"Theory sessions followed by practical scenarios allow members to fine-tune our skills and be the most equipped we can be as a team to ensure everyone's safety. Our safety is paramount."

The Corinella brigade was successful in securing a second firefighting appliance, a Light Tanker, through last year's VESEP grants.

"However, due to many factors, this will not be available to us this fire season," said David.

"We are also in the early stages of some renovations



Corinella CFA volunteers David Cox (Captain), Cara Munnings, Les Smith, Damien Merry, Rick Hemley and Paul Evans.

to the fire station that will assist us in achieving a new turnout room equipped with a separate changeroom, larger workshop, and a BA wash area."

As per the Chief's orders, all members are fully operational and up to date with their seasonal firefighting requirements.

"We turned our training to bushfire and grass and scrub firefighting tactics, including draughting, running grass fire attack and working around machinery."

"Another very important aspect is our understanding of working around trees that are affected by fire and the drought conditions. As we are seeing minimal rainfall this year, that's really not helping us. The top looks green and

lush, but underneath, we are seeing some of the driest conditions on record. This presents many new challenges."

There are many areas of concern for the Corinella Brigade, and what volunteers really need is the community to play their part and start clearing around their homes and keeping the grass below 30 centimetres. Clear gutters, move log piles away from the home and trim any overhanging branches.

"Our farmers need to assist in providing fire breaks between their land and adjoining residential landowners. If everyone does their part, it will really help reduce the fire risk and give us all a chance to manage and suppress the fire before it gets worse," said David.

"In addition to this, we really recommend that everyone has a fire plan in place and act on it as soon as possible."

"We have seen recently firsthand that fire can happen anytime and spread quite quickly. Therefore, the community needs to be ready to act."

The Corinella Brigade will be holding Fire Essential sessions in Coronet Bay, Corinella and Tenby Point to assist in planning for bushfire and what to do in an emergency.

"The friendly brigade members are available to answer any questions you may have at any time. Alternatively, pop down to the Corinella market each month and have a chat with us too, over a snag, of course."

• GLEN ALVIE FIRE BRIGADE

Glen Alvie helps locals be fire ready through community action

GLEN Alvie is gearing up for whatever this fire season may bring.

It's still pretty green in Glen Alvie at the moment, and the households in the small town are spread out.

However, it's still important to prepare for summer and Get Fire Ready.

The local rainfall has been below average for the last two years, and this summer is shaping up to be a bad fire season.

The Glen Alvie brigade reminds local farmers to consider the risks of hay shed fires during this time.

Community safety coordinator Heather Andrews said the changing demographic in the Glen Alvie area has also brought new risks during the fire danger period.

"We acknowledge that we are in a rural area, but in recent times we've seen more hobby farms and rental properties have been established, which come with their own fire risks," she said.

"We ask the community to help us by cleaning up their properties, clearing out the gutters and checking the fittings on their barbecues."



Glen Alvie Fire Brigade's Paul Bird, Heather Andrews, Peter Clark and Captain Craig Matthews will be doing random property visits to ensure the community is safe during the fire danger period.

Advice from the CFA warns of a dangerous fire season due to the forecasted wet and warm spring.

The grass is green now, but it could become fuel down the track.

The Glen Alvie brigade asks the community not to be complacent in the lead-up to and during the fire danger period.

Glen Alvie's brigade is always ready to help and is

equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and thermal imaging camera.

To help the Glen Alvie community get fire ready, the volunteer firefighters will also be doing random property visits.

It's the brigade's chance to get to know the locals and answer any questions about fire safety.

If you would like to make sure you get a property visit,

you can call Heather on 0407 566 786, and a time can be arranged.

The Glen Alvie Fire Brigade is always looking for new recruits.

Anyone interested in joining the team is also encouraged to contact Heather to find out more.

To stay up to date with the brigade, be sure to follow the Glen Alvie Fire Brigade on Facebook.

Be fire ready...

Our local CFAs are prepared to act ahead of the Fire Season

• KERNOT-GRANTVILLE FIRE BRIGADE



Kernot-Grantville CFA operational firefighters and non-operational volunteers are looking for daytime recruits to join their brigade.

Kernot-Grantville recruiting daytime members

KERNOT-Grantville CFA have a steady and committed group of members who train regularly and respond to emergencies without hesitation, with Captain Jason Duck confirming that this steady commitment is vital, but the team are looking for more members who have flexible daytime availability.

Jason understands the challenges posed by traditional work schedules.

"The more daytime recruits we have, the better equipped we'll be to handle emergencies."

The brigade's presence was felt over the past 12 months, including at The Gurdies fire, and Jason said the team are trained and ready for the upcoming bushfire season.

As summer approaches and conditions get drier, preparation is at the forefront of Kernot-Grantville's training



Kernot-Grantville CFA firefighters Daniel Blackney and Allan Kerr during a training session.

regimen.

"Over the past six or seven weeks, we've been focusing on bushfire training, including vital drills for emergencies," said Jason.

"We cover everything from hose handling techniques to entrapment drills, ensuring our team knows exactly what to do if the unthinkable happens."

With predictions of a challenging bushfire season due to below-average rainfall and elevated temperatures, the brigade's readiness is paramount.

"Community education is essential," Jason explained.

"We want residents to have a fire safety plan that goes beyond just relying on neighbourhood safe places."

The brigade held a community meeting on October 18 in Pioneer Bay that aimed to reinforce that message. Discussing effective strategies and informing residents about the nearest safe places.

"But ultimately, we encourage everyone to plan and leave early."

"We have a strong team of operational firefighters and non-operational volunteers, allowing us to be versatile and adaptable in tough situations," said Jason.

"But we're always open to welcoming new people and getting them trained up and a part of the team."

For those interested in joining Kernot-Grantville brigade, email Captain Jason Duck at jason.duck@members.cfa.vic.gov.au or head on down to Grantville Fire Station, Monday nights from 7pm and Sunday mornings from 9am.

Thank you, from The Gurdies

"THE Gurdies Winery would like to give the CFA, Bushfire Management and Parks Victoria a big heartfelt thank you for their amazing and relentless efforts during the bushfire at The Gurdies in December 2024."

Over 35 trucks attended, coming from many different areas.

CFA, Bushfire Management and Parks Victoria did an amazing job keeping all the residents and their houses safe over what was a worrying and unsure time for many of us.

We would also like to acknowledge those volunteers who unselfishly left their own properties in the fire area to save others.

Thank you, thank you, thank you."

From Bruce and Wendy, The Gurdies

Reducing the risk for Bass Coast as fire season approaches

THE Bass Coast Municipal Fire Risk Reference Group (MFRRG) has been set up as a subcommittee of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) to contribute to MEMPC and the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) with respect to Structure Fire Risk and Wildfire Fire Risk.

The committee comprises representatives from CFA, DEECA/FFM, Park Victoria, Phillip Island Nature Parks, Bass Coast Shire, and Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

The committee meets four times a year and is open for other relevant organisations to be involved in fire management ahead of the bushfire season to ensure the municipality is prepared for the fire danger period.

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• KILCUNDA FIRE BRIGADE



Brett Holmberg, John Westby, Brendan Keane, Allan Richardson and Dan Murdoch from the Kilcunda CFA.

Property assessments to mitigate risk

TO MAINTAIN 24/7 availability, the Kilcunda CFA brigade is encouraging more members to get on board and join as operational firefighters or non-operational volunteers. First Lieutenant and Training Officer Brett Holmberg said they have an enthusiastic crew.

"But it's about having 24/7 365 availability ready to respond to emergencies, especially over holiday periods when people go away."

With training currently focused on burn-over and hazardous trees, Brett said that falling trees are one of the most dangerous aspects of bushfire situations and can be less obvious than a roaring flame front.

"Our training focuses on mitigating a variety of dangers. We practice various techniques and skills to ensure we're prepared for any situation. Firefighter safety is always our highest priority."

Community awareness is the best fire-fighting tool.

"If residents clear their backyards and ensure water points are accessible, we can reduce emergencies," Brett explained.

"We encourage property assessments to identify risk and mitigate them before the fire season."

Residents are encouraged to engage with the brigade in proactive safety

measures and consider becoming involved in their efforts.

"Our community's safety largely depends on how prepared we all are," said Brett.

To actively engage with the community, The Ocean View Hotel – also known as the Killy Pub holds a monthly pub raffle, inviting the community to get involved and meet the local Kilcunda CFA volunteers.

"The raffle is held on the last Friday of the month, starting at 6pm with the raffle drawn at 7.45pm," said Brett.

"We're deeply grateful for the support of Brett and Paula at the Killy Pub for their ongoing support, it really is a great way for us to connect with locals, discuss their properties, chat about how to prepare for the season and even encourage others to jump on board to become a member themselves, because as a community we can work together to make a difference."

For more information on property assessments or to join the brigade, reach out via email at brett.holmberg@members.cfa.vic.gov.au or connect through their Facebook page. The Kilcunda Fire Brigade is committed to ensuring the safety of the community and is ready to face the challenges of the bushfire season together.

• DALYSTON FIRE BRIGADE

Welcoming new recruits ahead of fire season

NEW recruits are strengthening Dalyston Fire Brigade's ranks. Captain Roger O'Brien said the addition of new members was a welcome boost for the brigade, particularly for daytime coverage.

"Daytime response is always an issue, so having people who can help out during those hours makes a big difference," Captain O'Brien said.

All compulsory pre-season training has been completed, with the team now focusing on fine-tuning skills and maintaining readiness.

"We've ticked off all the prerequisites and are keeping up the practice – it's about ingraining good habits," he said.

While Dalyston hasn't had to attend any local grass fires in recent months, the brigade has supported nearby units as part of group operations, including deployments to the MotoGP at Phillip Island.

Captain O'Brien said the brigade's vehicles were in good shape, and the station recently underwent maintenance to replace its access ramp decking.

With the subsoil still very dry, he warned that conditions could turn quickly once hot, windy weather arrives.

"If we get a few hot days, the country will dry out really quickly," he said. "People should be planning ahead now and cleaning up early so they don't get caught out."

He encouraged property owners to ensure driveways and access tracks were suitable for emergency vehicles, with a minimum three-metre height clearance and



Dalyston Fire Brigade may be small, but they are mighty and were recently on the scene of a fire at Big W in Wonthaggi, providing support.

enough width for tankers to pass through. Residents should also make sure property numbers are visible and easy to locate, helping crews respond faster during emergencies.

"Sometimes you can lose a lot of time just trying to find the right property," he said.

Captain O'Brien also reminded landholders to continue to register burn-offs and to maintain clear space between their homes and nearby bushland to reduce fire risk.

"We haven't been called to a burn that's happening yet, obviously, people are registering them, which is good. It's always a good time of year to see people busy doing that."

And although dams may be looking good around parts of the district, Captain O'Brien noted that those in the gullies have recovered fairly well, but other dams are not faring so well.

"We're making ourselves aware of where the water supplies are this season. We are fairly well-versed, with a

number of farmers amongst the brigade, but we do want to remind farmers that if we do need to take water, it will be replaced. Water's a major resource and some people don't have a huge supply, so it's important people realise that whilst we'll try not to take it, unless we absolutely have to, it will be replaced."

Pamphlets and resources are available around town and through the brigade's Facebook page, as well as on the CFA website.

"We'll be out and about, down at the store and around the district, with information to help people prepare their families and properties," he said.

If a fire breaks out, those on the edge of town are advised to move two streets away, where a grass fire is less likely to impact them, and ensure roads are clear for emergency vehicles.

Dalyston CFA continues to respond alongside neighbouring brigades, and Captain O'Brien thanked the community for its ongoing support.



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• WONTHAGGI FIRE BRIGADE

Wonthaggi plans ahead for safe fire season

PREPAREDNESS is key to a safe fire season.

Wonthaggi CFA is committed to helping the community become fire-ready and will be hosting helpful information sessions in the lead-up.

The upcoming sessions will be held at Cape Paterson's Cape Taven at 11am on November 1 and the Harmers Haven car park on Olearia Street at 11am on November 2.

People can also stop in and have a chat with the brigade at Bunnings on a Saturday morning.

The information sessions will help the community develop their own fire action plans, learn about fire danger ratings and find their way around the Vic Emergency app.

Wonthaggi CFA's community safety coordinator, John Simmons, warned the community not to be complacent in the lead-up to the fire season.

"This year is a bit different. We've only had about 60 per cent of our annual rainfall so far," he said.

"We always worry about complacency, so leading into summer, we always try to arc up people's general awareness of what's going on.

"The latest spring outlook shows there's a band that heads from the top end corner of the state and sort of slashes across the state and across Bass Coast, which CFA is saying has got elevated fire danger.

"The reason behind that is the low rainfall and the fact the soil is really dry. Grass to the north of Wonthaggi is a potential issue because fires tend to come down from the



Wonthaggi CFA's community safety officer, John Simmons, advises the community to make a plan to ensure a safe fire season.

north under a north wind and then the wind change comes through and pushes them west.

"We've got the heathland to the west of Wonthaggi as well. The wetlands can be a potential issue, and then down the coast, there's the coastal scrub in Harmers Haven and Cape Paterson. When that goes, it burns fast and hard."

Wonthaggi CFA has been busy preparing for the fire season as well.

The brigade has around 60 members, most of whom are active, with a good core group of non-operational members working behind the scenes.

The brigade has been training regularly on Wednesday nights, with meetings held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Last season was reasonably quiet for the Wonthaggi CFA, with the exception of The Gurdies fire and the fire on Moores Road.

"There will be, I'm sure, one or two significant fires this season, but Wonthaggi is relatively safe," John said. "You can never be

complacent though. Do your prep, particularly if you've got quite a lot of land around you.

"The (Bureau of Meteorology) is saying it will be wet right up to Christmas, so we'll see about that. The summer looks like it will be hotter, particularly at night."

John recommended making good use of Bass Coast Shire Council's green waste amnesty to clean up properties for a safe start to the season.

The Wonthaggi CFA has expanded its community services by adding its new fire medical response.

Wonthaggi CFA would also like to warn the community that it will be testing its siren from November 6.

Monthly siren tests will take place at 11am on the first Thursday of the month.

The test will last 10 to 15 seconds to ensure the siren is working reliably.

If the siren lasts longer than 60 seconds, a real emergency is occurring and people are advised to check the Vic Emergency app, ABC radio or television for more information.

• KONGWAK & DISTRICT FIRE BRIGADE



CFA volunteer Nick Stevens and Kongwak and District Captain Tony Reade with the new Kongwak Fire Brigade heavy tanker.

New heavy tanker for Kongwak and District

BRIGHT and shiny as a new pin, the new Kongwak and District Fire Brigade heavy tanker is sure to be put to good use this summer.

The 2007 twin-cab Hino Ranger previously operated by Maffra is a big step-up from Kongwak's previous tanker, which had a crew capacity of six but with half the crew outside the single cab.

Equipped with a 3750 litre water tank and two sets of breathing apparatus, the new Hino tanker carries more water than the previous tanker and seats five in a double cab.

"We have 26 members, including two women," said Kongwak and District Captain Tony Reade.

Aged in their 30s to 70s, the Kongwak and District volunteers are kept busy year-round.

"Mostly motor vehicle accidents, but we were called out twice to The Gurdies fire," said Captain Reade.

The rapid spread of the fire at The Gurdies surprised everyone.

"It burned for a couple of days due to a culmination of high and changing winds, dry conditions and thick undergrowth.

"It was unpredictable."

A notorious back spot for motor vehicle accidents, the hills around Kongwak, can

be treacherous in any weather.

"They're country roads, not freeways," said Captain Reade.

Access to farmland and nearby hills is essential for the Kongwak Fire Brigade.

"Farmers should check their farm gates are compliant," warned Tony.

"Farm gates must be at least three metres wide and have a clearance of three metres high to take the new heavy tanker."

Captain Reade's advice for the coming summer is to properly prepare your properties and households according to CFA guidelines and have a fire plan.

"Make sure your water pumps are working, and ensure you have a good water supply."

An adequate water supply for many properties could be a problem this year, according to Captain Reade.

"The dams are low, and it's been a dry year from The Gurdies to Moe. The CFA is forecasting a dangerous summer this year from South Australia to Cann River," said Tony.

For more information on volunteering or advice on preparing for the coming fire season, go to cfa.vic.gov.au or simply drop in and say hello to the Kongwak Fire Brigade any Sunday morning on Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road.

New members are always welcome.

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• INVERLOCH FIRE BRIGADE



Captain Shane Frogley, Archie Thornhill, Allan Williamson and Aston Thornhill of the Inverloch Fire Brigade.

Inverloch CFA stands ready on the coast

THE Inverloch Fire Brigade is getting ready for another fire season, with its volunteers already training and preparing for what could be a challenging few months ahead.

Captain Shane Frogley, who is entering his fourth year leading the local brigade, said the group continues to face the same issue as many volunteer organisations.

"We're going alright, but like most fire brigades and volunteer services, we're always looking for new members," he said.

Recruitment numbers have slowed in recent years, though training remains an important part of the group's weekly routine. A major focus in the coming months will be the new Fire Medical Response program, which allows firefighters to attend life-threatening medical emergencies.

"That's for code zero calls, so things like heart attacks and when patients aren't breathing, we can get called out for that," Mr Frogley said.

Mr Frogley said weekly training sessions are not only about sharpening firefighting skills but also about building teamwork and keeping volunteers confident in using equipment during emergencies.

While training continues, they're also keeping a close eye on equipment needs. The pumper truck, which plays a central role in firefighting operations, is starting to show its age.

"Our pumper is about 26 years old, so we're always needing a new truck," he said.

Preparation for the fire season is well underway, with preseason training helping firefighters keep their skills sharp. Mr Frogley said Thompson Reserve is one local area of concern the brigade will be watching closely.

He urged residents to think ahead and get their fire safety plans in order.

"Work out your fire plans, prepare your property, and if it gets really bad, please leave early," he said.

This year also marks a personal milestone for Mr Frogley, who is celebrating his 40th year in the CFA. Eight of those have been with the Inverloch brigade.

With a healthy amount of experience behind him and a dedicated team by his side, he said the message for the community remains simple: preparation saves lives.

• POUND CREEK FIRE BRIGADE



CFA firefighters Daryl Mullett, Maureen Davidson and Mark Pardoe train at night at Pound Creek.

New CFA Captain for Pound Creek Fire Brigade

STEPPING into the hot seat at Pound Creek Fire Brigade on the eve of summer, Captain Mick Hughes has big shoes to fill.

Former Captain Ivan Smith stepped aside during the year to take on the role of treasurer.

Boasting 45 members, Pound Creek CFA has both men and women firefighters and operational and non-operational volunteers aged from their early 20s to late 80s.

"Volunteers undertake a variety of roles," said Mick.

Pound Creek is equipped with a 2500 litre five-seater, dual cab, heavy tanker backed up by a high capacity big fill with a long range monitor or oscillating water spray, capable of filling two big tankers simultaneously.

"We can pump a spray line right into the seat of a

fire or connect to town water," said Fire Brigade secretary Andrew Mutton.

"It's not as big as a town pumper, but very useful, particularly for shed fires.

"We're a rural fire brigade and most of our members are farmers," said Andrew.

"Some live in nearby Inverloch."

On stand-by for the South Gippsland District 9 Strike Team, several Pound Creek members were called out to assist with The Gurdies fire in December.

According to Captain Hughes, most of the callouts are a mixture of housefires and car accidents, with grass or shed fires in summer and occasional tractor or barn fires.

"We average about 70 callouts a year," said Mick.

"House fires are most often caused by poorly maintained or blocked flues."

A training ground has been set up alongside the Pound Creek Fire Brigade to be utilised by local fire groups for joint training exercises.

"Come along and see what we have to offer," said Mick.

"Check what is needed to make your property fire safe."

After a drier-than-normal winter, Mick said it is important to have a fire plan.

"Be prepared and make sure your farm gates are wide enough for heavy tankers."

New members are always welcome at Pound Creek CFA.

You can find the Pound Creek Fire Brigade at 686 Inverloch-Venus Bay Road or look for Pound Creek Rural Fire Brigade on Facebook.

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• LOCH FIRE BRIGADE



The Loch team were busy practising their hydrant sinking skills.

Early preparation urged as fire danger period arrives

LOCH Fire Brigade is entering one of the earliest fire danger periods in recent memory, and Captain Len Wyhoon says now is the time for residents to act.

"It's one of the earliest fire danger periods I can recall," Captain Wyhoon said.

"If people need to burn off, they should get a permit and make sure it's done safely, or hold off unless it's absolutely necessary."

While the brigade remains steady in numbers, recruitment continues to be a challenge.

"Recruitment is slow as always," Captain Wyhoon said. "We don't see a lot of new members coming through, but we're fortunate we haven't lost any either. We're still pretty strong."

The brigade recently welcomed a new operational firefighter, who completed their General Firefighter training just three weeks ago and will join the frontline

this summer.

Training for the team has been intensive, with members completing all pre-summer requirements and now focusing on advanced skills such as crew leading and incident control.

"We've covered the essentials, and now we're progressing into more senior-level training," Captain Wyhoon said.

While there are no new fire risk areas around Loch, Captain Wyhoon said McDonalds Track, Cherry Tree Road, and Koala Court in Nyora remain areas of concern.

"People in those areas should make sure we can reach their properties easily, that's most important," he said. "Keep driveways clear, trim overhanging branches, and make sure your property is clearly numbered."

With population growth around Nyora and the district, he said it's also crucial that newer residents

familiarise themselves with their local fire risks and escape routes.

"Nyora is not necessarily a fire-prone area, but areas west of Nyora we are watching," he said. "It's important to know what to do if a fire breaks out, plan your trip, and practice it."

Captain Wyhoon reminded residents not to underestimate how quickly conditions can change.

"If you're not prepared to stay and defend, don't be at home on a high-risk day – get out early. Don't drive into smoke, be wary of emergency vehicles on the road and don't assume you'll be able to get back for your animals."

He said residents should have plans for animals and livestock, ensuring they're not tied up and have room to move to safety.

Loch CFA also continues to provide road rescue services, even on high fire danger days.

• POOWONG FIRE BRIGADE



Poowong CFA Captain Zeb Mitchell (centre) and brigade members are gearing up for the fire season, with pre-summer training well underway and equipment in top shape. Locals are being urged to clean up properties early and ensure access for emergency vehicles.

Poowong prepares for a fast-drying season

POOWONG Fire Brigade is heading into the fire season well prepared, with a strong crew, new leadership, and pre-summer training in full swing.

Captain Zeb Mitchell said the brigade recently held its elections, welcoming a new brigade management team that brings fresh energy and ideas.

"We've got a good crew in at the moment," Captain Mitchell said.

"Pre-summer training has focused on key safety skills, including entrapment and turnover drills, and tree hazard awareness."

While conditions across Poowong and surrounding areas remain relatively damp, Captain Mitchell said the ground could dry out rapidly once the weather shifts.

"This time last year, you couldn't even mow the lawn without getting bogged around Poowong," he said.

"But if we get a snap of hot, dry weather, all the long grass will dry quickly — just like last year around Strzelecki and Ferndale."

The brigade's areas of concern include the Strzelecki, Ferndale, and Seaview districts, where remote terrain and heavy vegetation can make access difficult.

"It can take us 20 to 30 minutes to reach some of those remote spots, so people in

those areas really need to be prepared," Captain Mitchell said.

He encouraged property owners to start cleaning up now – trimming vegetation, clearing access tracks and gateways, and ensuring driveways are wide and high enough for tankers.

"Access is everything. Make sure your property number is visible, and if we need to, we can get onto your property," he said.

With fire restrictions starting yesterday Captain Mitchell urged locals to apply for a permit, register all burn-offs and stay alert to changing conditions.

The brigade's equipment is in excellent condition, with a heavy tanker (4500L capacity) and a relatively new ultralight, both ready for action.

Recruitment remains an ongoing focus. While Poowong has welcomed several new members in recent years, the brigade still needs more daytime responders, as many locals now work away from town.

"We've probably gained four new members but lost six to eight, so daytime crew is still our main challenge," Captain Mitchell said.

Locals interested in joining can apply via the CFA website, using the volunteer QR code that connects applicants directly with their nearest brigade.

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South pretends to put out an electricity pole fire. C33_4325

Foster students start learning crucial skills

YEAR nine students from Foster Secondary College are scattered around the town on Thursday mornings as they take to their community sessions.

For seven youngsters this involves having plenty of fun, and learning essential firefighting skills from their local fire brigade, with Foster Captain David Jones and his team taking the time to teach their skills to potential junior volunteers. And if the students' enthusiasm is anything to go by, the local brigades could soon have a few new recruits.

"Students elected which organisation they wanted to team up with," secondary teacher and coordinator Richard Johnston explained, noting the school was fortunate to have several volunteer organisations take part, including the CFA, SES, surf lifesaving, kindergarten, primary school, and op shop.

"Last week students learnt to roll hoses and this week it's the ends of the hoses," he added.

Students spoke highly of their experience so far, with comments ranging from "it's interesting to learn and a lot of fun" to "a great experience" and "you get to use hoses."

As students kept their activities safely to the edge of the road within the cones, meaning no free car washes this week, Captain Jones explained branch operations and the difference between the nozzles, particularly the one designed for power pole fires that breaks water particles apart more easily.

Owen, Archie and Willow noted that they were looking forwards to learning how to fill up the truck, watching on whilst the professionals did it last week, with the promise that students will themselves have the skills to do so in coming weeks.

South was interested to learn how to control the water pressure on the truck, whilst Julia was keen to understand the different water and foam types available for firefighting.

A junior firefighter in the making, Casey said she was keen to get involved with the CFA and learn more, while Zac was taking it all in on Thursday, learning about the hoses.

Having used the tankers water to the low water level, Casey asked Captain Jones if firefighters could continue battling the blaze while refilling.

Captain Jones explained that yes, they could, and described how it's done.

• HALLSTON, MOUNT ECCLES AND WILD DOG VALLEY FIRE BRIGADE

Hallston, Mount Eccles and Wild Dog Valley CFA forged by fire

RED Tuesday will never be forgotten in Wild Dog Valley.

It was the first day in February 1898 when one of the worst fires experienced in South Gippsland burst into life, ravaging Wild Dog Valley near Hallston, claiming 12 lives, destroying over 2000 buildings and affecting 15,000 local residents.

Captured in 'The Homestead Saved', an oil on canvas by James Alfred Turner, the scene depicted by the artist was one of utter devastation with 260,000 hectares of bushland and farmland destroyed, and 2500 people left homeless.

A report in the Argus newspaper at the time gave some idea of the impact of the fire.

'At Korumburra people had been fighting fires for three or four days straight.'

'Neerim South was ablaze, all remaining buildings from the deserted town of Mirboo were razed, and there had been a prolonged struggle with the fire at Longwarry South.'

'The fires had been remorseless at Poowong East, Leongatha was engulfed by fire and smoke, and the Leongatha Labour Colony was destroyed.'

Five days later, The Argus was still carrying stories of bushfires burning in Korumburra, McDonalds' Track, Wild Dog Creek, Lang Lang, Warragul, Drouin, Jeetho and Leongatha.

The Australasian newspaper in December 1908 described the scene painted by James Alfred Turner as one certain to keenly interest all dwellers in Australasia.

'The cherished spot on earth we call 'home' has been menaced by a forest fire.

'The wind has brought the flames very near to the slab-and-bark dwelling, and a few sparks would soon set it in a



Hallston, Mt Eccles and Wild Dog Valley CFA firefighters David Lewis, Trudi Dale and Captain Ron Holt prepare for the coming fire season.



The Homestead Saved by James Alfred Turner (circa 1900), published in the Melbourne edition of The Australasian, December 1908.

blaze, but strong and willing arms have set to work vigorously, and have managed, at all events, to subdue 'the enemy'.

'The line of fire has been checked sufficiently to 'Save the Homestead.'

'Only those who have ever experienced a bushfire know what

a fearful thing it is.

'The hideous roar, the crackling of the undergrowth, timber crashing down, the blinding smoke, the tongues of flame darting from unexpected places, the stifling air and heat, and the speed of it all once experienced can never be forgotten.'

The current eight members of the Hallston, Mt Eccles and Wild Dog Valley Fire Brigade, including David Lewis, Trudi Dale and Captain Ron Holt, are well aware of the danger posed by fires in local bushland.

Equipped with a 2000-litre, single-cab, light-duty Hino 300 series fire tanker, the Hallston, Mt Eccles and Wild Dog Valley Fire Brigade is also regularly called out to motor vehicle accidents in the hills.

"Burn-offs are a problem at the beginning of each fire season," said Captain Ron Holt.

"Plan ahead and keep your eye on the weather."

Hallston-Mt Eccles, Allambee and Berry's Creek hosted a Get Fire Ready event earlier this month to provide tips on how to prepare your home for the coming fire season.

Friendly fire crews provided hands-on experience with fire extinguishers, essential fire safety advice for the home and lots of family fun events for local children.

• BERRYS CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

Berrys Creek CFA ready for action with new recruits and training boost

WHATEVER this fire season has in store, Berrys Creek CFA is prepared to protect its community.

Four new members have joined the brigade in the last two years, all of whom have completed their General Firefighter (GFF) training.

"It's a nice little inflow for Berrys Creek," Captain Dannielle O'Loughlin said.

"We are a small brigade with only one truck, but the steady recruitment keeps the enthusiasm in the brigade."

Berrys Creek CFA currently has 10 active members, with the brigade supporting Leongatha, Mirboo North and Hallston during turnouts.

"We have a fair bit of highway frontage with Leongatha and Mirboo North, and we're into the bush with Hallston," Dannielle said.

The brigade maintains its preparedness with at least one training a month, which it has upped to fortnightly with the fire season now in sight.

"We do a fair bit of our training with Mirboo North," Dannielle said.



Captain Dannielle O'Loughlin is happy with Berrys Creek CFA's preparedness for the upcoming fire season.

"The brigade is well prepared. We've done our entrapment drills and hazardous trees, and everyone has done their GFF, which is a requirement to get on a tanker."

To help with future training schedules, Berrys Creek CFA has applied for a Volunteer Emergency Services

Equipment Program (VESEP) grant.

If successful, this grant will go towards a small station extension, which would include a meeting room, training room and kitchenette.

This would provide the brigade with more usable space to continue training through

winter.

Dannielle said Berrys Creek CFA didn't experience a bad fire season during last summer, but were called out more frequently through autumn.

"We were fighting fires – burn-offs that were out of control – until May," she said.

"I can probably foresee that for this season as well. We are well and truly below the average rainfall for this time of year – we just haven't had the winter rain. I can see we'll be okay for a while with the rain we've had recently, but when the rain stops, it will dry out quickly."

Dannielle said there's still time for the community to prepare, even with fire restrictions already in force.

"It's time to get cracking if you've got cleaning up to do, and really monitor the weather," she said.

Those planning burn-offs must now apply for a permit.

The community can receive updates by following the Berrys Creek CFA or Strzelecki Group of Fire Brigades Facebook pages.

• MIRBOO NORTH FIRE BRIGADE

Mirboo North Community Fire Brigade 80 years strong

NOW in its 81st year, the Mirboo North Community Fire Brigade continues to support the local community with 50 members attending fire and rescue emergencies throughout the local district and beyond.

Mirboo North CFA has attracted many new members over the last twelve months following the devastating storm in February last year.

The Mirboo North Fire Brigade's 2500 litre medium pumper tanker seats three in a single cab and three more firefighters in a rollover protection area behind the cab.

Captain Trent Venten and the team at the Mirboo North Fire Brigade have attended numerous rescue jobs in the area over the past year and an increasing number of burn-offs as the weather warms up.

"It's been drier than usual this year, and burn-offs can easily get out of control," said Captain Venten.

Water levels in tanks and dams are still recovering from the dry winter. Debris has been left on the ground after the 2024 storm, and overhanging hazards such as weakened branches and tree limbs pose an added danger for firefighters.

"The canopy is gone and is lying on the ground," said



Mirboo North CFA firefighters Charlotte Cambage, Thomas Jensen, Jed Bessell-Browne, Jess Healey, Charlotte Pors and Arda Sander.

volunteer firefighter Jed Bessell-Browne.

"The big storm created a lot of tree hazards, including hangers.

"We're not allowed within two lengths of a tree."

The advice from Mirboo North CFA for the coming fire season is to be prepared early.

"Check the weather and make sure there's a clear path onto your property for fire trucks."

A Get Fire Ready fun and information day was held at the Mirboo North Community Market recently to help prepare for the coming fire season.

Fire crews from 15 appliances attended the community event, handing out brochures and providing advice on how to keep families safe this summer.

For more information on how to Get Fire Ready, check out the Mirboo North CFA on Facebook, or go to the CFA website.

• RUBY FIRE BRIGADE

Ruby Fire Brigade Tanker 2 in action ahead of fire season

RUBY Fire Brigade is well prepared for the expected challenging fire season, with a major improvement being the addition of a new tanker that is now in operation, and its members having completed pre-season training requirements such as burnover drills.

The new tanker, 'Ruby 2' is brigade-owned, with the help of grant funding through the Victorian Government's Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program, and has been keenly awaited and planned for over the past decade.

Lieutenant Tim Hardacre noted that the light tanker is ideally suited to hills and undulating terrain in the local region.

"It will be good for the northern part of our primary area of Arawata and Fairbank," he said, adding the new tanker is likely to support other Strzelecki brigades in places such as Poowong, Hallston and Mount Eccles.

It carries 2000 litres of water, only 500 litres less than Ruby Fire Brigade's medium tanker.

With that medium tanker often deployed on strike teams and possibly away from the local area for extended periods, 'Ruby 2' will mean less reliance on other local brigades to cover the Ruby area.

"Having the two trucks will give us a lot better coverage of our area," Tim said, noting that is all the more important with a potentially challenging fire season ahead.

A recent CFA rollout of new



Cody Ingram, Carrick Barter, Chris Peters and Tim Hardacre with Ruby Fire Brigade's new light tanker at the recent Strzelecki Group training day.

portable radios will help improve communication for brigades such as Ruby, reducing the difficulties experienced in hilly areas by allowing automatic connection to the mobile phone network when it is not possible to pick up radio reception.

However, there may still be times when communication drops out due to a lack of radio signal or mobile connection.

While the Ruby Brigade is doing ok on the volunteer front, new members are always encouraged, both operational and non-operational.

The brigade's auxiliary, which does catering for other brigades at CFA courses in the area, also needs volunteers.

Anyone considering joining or wanting to learn more about Ruby Fire Brigade or how to prepare for the fire season is welcome to visit the brigade on Monday nights when its members are training between 7.30pm and 9pm.

With people encouraged to tidy up before the fire season, reducing fuel loads around their properties, many are looking to burn off.

As well as registering burns, people need to be mindful of

conditions, with Tim mentioning it is a good idea to check predictions of wind, not just when you plan to burn off, but in the following few days.

It is crucial to ensure that once your burnoff is complete, it is fully extinguished.

Windy conditions can easily result in a flare-up if the area is not cool to the touch after applying water.

Farmers preparing for silage and hay season should ensure tractors and other equipment are up to scratch mechanically and are clean, and a fire extinguisher is on hand in case something goes wrong.



CFA is encouraging carers to get fire ready this summer through its People at Higher Risk program, which helps Victorians with disabilities, health conditions, or other challenges create tailored bushfire plans.

CFA calling on carers to Get Fire Ready

CFA is encouraging carers to think about fire preparedness ahead of what's expected to be a high-risk fire season in parts of Victoria.

Through its People at Higher Risk (PAHR) program, CFA works with community members, carers and support organisations to help people with disabilities, health conditions or other challenges build tailored bushfire plans to suit individual needs.

CFA Senior Engagement Advisor for People at Higher Risk, Angela Cook, said the program helps ensure every Victorian can prepare with confidence.

"Bushfire planning is different for everyone," Angela said.

"The PAHR program gives people practical steps to plan around their unique needs. That could include mobility, equipment, transport, or the support of a carer."

Lakes Entrance Fire Brigade member Bianca Bassett knows first-hand the importance of being ready. A wheelchair user and active CFA member, Bianca and her family were forced to evacuate during the 2019-20 Black Summer fires, discovering gaps in their plan along the way.

"I thought I was prepared, I thought I had everything ready, set, go, but in hindsight, I could have done a lot better," Bianca said.

"Now we keep important items packed and ready to go and make sure assistive equipment can travel with us.

"We live in a town, so we had not considered being under threat, but then the wind picked up and away it went."

She now uses her experience to encourage others to plan early and think practically.

"Fire planning is about knowing where you can go that is suitable and having some back-up options," Bianca said.

"Knowing you've thought about your needs, your family and your equipment takes away some of the panic when you do have to act."

CFA is encouraging carers to speak with their local brigades and councils to learn about their local fire risk and pick up practical steps for supporting those in their care during emergencies.

Complete the online learning module developed with Carers Victoria, Bushfire Planning: You and the person you care for at cfa.vic.gov.au/atrisk, and learn more about the People at Higher Risk Program at engage.cfa.vic.gov.au/projects/emergency-planning-advice-service/page/people-at-higher-risk-pahr-at-cfa.

• KORUMBURRA FIRE BRIGADE



Korumburra Fire Brigade crew members Chris Gaskett, Graham Denney and Kevin Griffiths are ready for duty.

Korumburra preparing for worst, hoping for best

THE Korumburra Fire Brigade are always training for something, but ahead of the fire season they have begun drills and training specifically for bushfire situations.

"That's our main focus, the upcoming season and getting everything all organised and ready to go," said Brigade Captain Shane Maskell.

"And hopefully we don't need to use it." While Korumburra is not usually prone to bushfires, there are a lot of areas outside of the town that are very dry and the availability of water could be an issue.

"It's definitely a concern that we haven't had the rainfall that we would normally have up until now," said Shane.

"Outside of town, dams are not as full as they should be normally. So, water is going to be, potentially, a little bit difficult to come by on farms."

Farmers and landowners can help out fire crews by getting a CFA approved fitting to their water tanks.

Crews would then have access to a water supply, which could prove invaluable, especially if dams are dry.

To reduce fire risk on properties and help out the brigade, homeowners can keep driveways and tracks well-maintained and clear, gutters free of debris, addresses clearly signed, gateways three metres wide at a minimum for the CFA vehicles to fit through and clear of overhanging branches up to three metres.

Korumburra also need some more volunteers who could fill the gaps during daytime hours.

"Daytime response during the week, between 7 or 7.30am till 5pm or 6pm, we struggle for numbers. And that's been the case forever and a day, and it's the case not just for us, it's the case for everyone," said Shane.

And the Brigade are still hoping to secure a new and safer site, but without funding from the State Government don't envision that this will eventuate any time soon.

"We'll see what the season brings, and hopefully we get a bit of rain, and things are all going to be, not too bad. Plan for the worst and hope for the best," said Shane.

• LEONGATHA SOUTH FIRE BRIGADE



Captain Greg Carruthers and Lieutenant Kristian Nielsen of Leongatha South Fire Brigade relax after completing a recent training day.

Ensure firefighters can find and access your property

"CAN we find you if you call us, and can we fit?"

Those are key considerations, Jodi Butler of Leongatha South Fire Brigade noted.

The first of those elements requires property numbers to be clearly visible both night and day, and for people not to assume everyone knows their property.

Being a regional brigade, with a mix of small properties and farms, it's often difficult to determine which property is which, Jodi stressed.

"You drive around in some of these areas, and at the end of a street there could be six letter boxes with numbers on them; well, which one's your house?"

Jodi spoke of fire trucks sometimes having to crawl

along as firefighters search for a fire, with many people assuming that would be easy to spot.

"You can't always see it until it gets too big, and we like to try to stop it before it gets too big," she said.

Failing to have clearly visible property numbers also makes it tough for ambulance crews to locate you in the event of a medical emergency.

As far as firefighting access goes, there are a number of considerations when determining if fire trucks can fit in your driveway.

It may be a very narrow driveway or blocked by vehicles, or there might be overhanging branches.

A CFA brochure is available illustrating the potential height and width of a fire truck.

If fire trucks can't access your property, it presents challenges in getting water to the fire, hoses being only 30 metres long.

Should extra hoses be needed that takes time in a time-critical situations.

While acknowledging the importance of clearing up around your property and minimising fuel loads, Jodi said fire crews being able to find and access your land is equally essential.

"There's no point getting it fire ready if we can't find you and we can't get in," Jodi said.

Leongatha South Fire Brigade has one relatively new member in his early twenties, inspired to join about a year ago by the fact his dad belongs to the brigade, but more volunteers are needed.

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ME0674

Be fire ready...

Our local CFAs are prepared to act ahead of the Fire Season

• LEONGATHA FIRE BRIGADE

Don't leave your safety to chance

WITH a challenging fire season likely, clearing up around your property and ensuring you have an up-to-date Fire Plan tailored to your circumstances, and doing so as soon as possible, is essential.

Knowing when it's safe to leave is crucial, with an emphasis on leaving early if you are going to.

How early you need to leave depends on prevailing circumstances, with Leongatha Fire Brigade Captain Phil McIlwaine stating that for severe fire danger days, people leaving once a fire has already started is likely too late.

Pointing out there are more houses than fire trucks, he stressed, "Some people are going to have to be self-sufficient if they choose to stay and defend their properties."

A Fire Plan is all about the best solution for you to get to safety in the easiest and quickest manner.

"If a fire starts on one side, you've got to be able to get out safely in a different way, not necessarily the way you normally go," Phil said, with people needing to know where to head in certain circumstances to avoid making

panicked decisions.

It's not just residents having to prepare earlier this year.

"We're currently seeing aircraft being shipped to Australia for the upcoming fire season," Phil said, with those aircraft likely to be in operation by early November, rather than their usual December start.

With fire restrictions already in force it's important to ensure any burn-offs have a permit and if approved, are conducted in suitable conditions.

While a recent volunteer has just completed his General Firefighter training and a couple more are expected to do so soon, more volunteers are always welcome, with operational and non-operational roles available.

Being an operational member doesn't obligate you to turn out to certain events such as traumatic motor vehicle accidents, with an emphasis on managing the welfare of firefighters.

The brigade has been busy with entrapment drills, practising drafting water and joining a Strzelecki Group training day.



Noah and Tiff enjoy the open day at Leongatha Fire Brigade, intended to help people prepare for an expected challenging fire season.



Firefighter Edward Browning is on hand during the recent Get Fire Ready open day in Leongatha.



Leongatha Fire Brigade member Louise Black, Karienne, Audrey and Finn, and Lieutenant Cameron Hanley at the brigade's Get Fire Ready open day.



Mason and Claudia McNiven at the recent Leongatha Fire Brigade open day.



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• KOONWARRA



Koonwarra Fire Brigade participates in the Strzelecki Group training.

Organisation is the key to emergency response

HAVING an emergency plan, evacuating early if doing so, and knowing what to take are important considerations in planning for the fire season.

Lieutenant Andrew Brick of Koonwarra Fire Brigade mentioned important items include mobile phones and chargers, and a transistor radio with batteries to ensure you can check for emergency updates.

Remember medication, and to notify people where you will go or where you are intending to stay.

The CFA, SES, Red Cross and South Gippsland Shire Council all offer valuable resources to help you plan for the fire season.

While it is important for everyone to clean up around their properties ahead of the fire season, it is all the more so in places such as Koonwarra, where the town's surroundings are heavily treed, presenting a serious threat from embers.

Reduced rainfall adds to the need for vigilance, with everything likely to dry out quickly with a few hot days.

"The Australasian Fire Agencies Council has parts of South Gippsland, where Koonwarra is, and further down south towards the coast and along the coast through the Bass Coast Shire, recognised as being at high risk of fire," Andrew said.

He noted that was the spring outlook, with a summer one due soon.

Andrew remarked there have been fires burning in NSW and South East Queensland, where they have had significant quantities of rain over the last 12 or 18 months, suggesting "That shows we could be in for an interesting season."

Clearing gutters and not storing wood against the house or decks, ensuring windows can be properly sealed to prevent embers getting inside, and inspecting under house eaves to ensure there are no flammable materials are important actions.

Koonwarra Fire Brigade is pleased to have welcomed a few new volunteers over the last year.

"With the advent of the emergency services volunteer levy, that may spur some people to become volunteers," Andrew said, suggesting that while the initial motivation may be to get a rebate, it's a great opportunity to be part of the community.

Both operational and non-operational members are wanted, including such roles as manning the barbecue on Koonwarra Market days or administrative work.

Operational roles start with obtaining your general firefighter qualifications, but can lead to many opportunities.

Andrew highlighted the positive and welcoming environment at Koonwarra Fire Station, and the keenness of members to build their skills and share them with others.

"We're all there to help the community," Andrew said, with age and gender irrelevant.

• NERRENA FIRE BRIGADE

Nerrena seek recruits ahead of fire season

WITH increased grass fire risk forecasted for the upcoming fire season, now is the opportune time to join the CFA.

Nerrena CFA is among the brigades actively searching for new recruits.

"We are certainly in need of members. There are plenty of roles behind the scenes, and we do need turnout personnel," Nerrena CFA Captain Samantha Smith said.

Nerrena currently has eight active members.

As part of the Chief Officer's program, Nerrena hosted an open day on October 12 in hopes of driving up more interest.

Samantha said it is imperative that the brigade gets more people through the door, as the CFA is anticipating a fire season similar to the lead-up to the Ash Wednesday bushfires.

"Although it's green out there, there is a massive deficit in the ground moisture. You've got a green tinge on top, but you'll find a lot of the growth is actually dead and dry underneath," Samantha said.

"Once it dries out, you only need a week of dry weather to get a fire going."

The community can help the CFA by cleaning their properties ahead of the fire season.

"People need to be cleaning their gutters and making sure their roadside numbers are clear and presentable," Samantha said.

"They need to make sure the entrance is big enough for us to get in, maintaining their properties as best they can, moving firewood away from the house and making a fire plan."

The Nerrena CFA has been assisting landowners with



Colin Lester, Ken Koetsveld, Captain Samantha Smith and Herbert Wildes are looking for new recruits to join the Nerrena CFA.

burn-offs to reduce the risk of fire during the warm months.

"When people are burning off, it's always good to use the online portals so we aren't turned out needlessly," Samantha said.

"People should also be taking full advantage of council's free green waste amnesty period in November and December."

At the station, Nerrena is looking to apply for a grant to build an extension, which would include a proper meeting room and office.

Nerrena is working with CFA, which will either foot the bill or help them work through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP).

Nerrena is also seeking a new tanker but anticipates these projects will be two or

three years down the track.

The brigade has been working through its mandatory training sessions ahead of the fire season, which included a group training in Leongatha during October.

Nerrena's turn-out area includes Phelans Road through to Hulls Road, runs halfway down Carmodys Road and down to the end of Reilly and Allens Road.

The brigade often supports the Dumbalk CFA and would look to support more brigades with the help of more recruits.

Those interested in joining the Nerrena CFA can go to the CFA website and put in an expression of interest, which goes into the system.

From there, the Nerrena CFA will clear it and invite the applicant to the station for a meet and greet.

Members of the CFA can also assist with filling out applications.

"Once fully qualified, the volunteers can put in as much or as little time as they need," Samantha said.

"It could be only three meetings a year for non-operational members, and for operational members it could be three meetings, a handful of Sundays and turnouts."

New members will be joining a long legacy, as the CFA is preparing to celebrate its 70th anniversary.

The 70th anniversary will take place on November 16, and will include a get-together, a barbecue and presentations.

The community can find out more about the Nerrena CFA by following the Facebook page.

Chance for young people to boost confidence and skills

THE CFA's Junior Development Program provides the perfect opportunity for young people to learn new skills while making friends, offering safe, enjoyable and challenging activities.

Participants develop crucial firefighting skills, including pump use, handling hoses, radio technique and map reading.

The program aims to build young people's self-esteem and confidence, develop their social skills, encourage positive group dynamics and teach risk-assessment and response skills, while promoting a sense of community responsibility.

The Meeniyon-Stony Creek Fire Brigade Juniors meet at the fire station in Welsford Street on the second Monday of the month starting at 6pm and finishing between 7.15 – 7.30pm, followed by a supper.

Three senior firefighters with extensive experience run the sessions, providing real-life context to what participants learn.



Meeniyon-Stony Creek Fire Brigade Juniors learn hands-on firefighting skills as part of the CFA's Junior Development Program.

The program is open to those aged 11 to 15 years.

While junior members don't attend emergencies, they will be well-positioned to graduate into operational members of the Brigade once they turn 16.

Although the program is commonly run at the fire station, the juniors are also

exposed to other resources available locally, such as visiting the Heli-med helicopter, the Fish Creek Road Rescue team and the SES.

"This is important for our Juniors to become familiar with emergency services available beyond our own brigade," Meeniyon Stony Creek

Fire Brigade stated.

For further information, call Meeniyon-Stony Creek Captain Mal Price on 0438 329 578.

General information about Juniors and contact details for other Brigades are available on the CFA website (cfa.vic.gov.au).

• MEENIYAN - STONY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

Meeniyon-Stony Creek CFA call on community to help keep fire season manageable

WITH the fire season approaching, Meeniyon-Stony Creek Fire Brigade highlighted actions community members can take to maximise their safety.

Staying informed via the Vic Emergency App allows people to make timely decisions, while appropriate preparation of your property decreases the chances of significant fire damage.

Finally, having a plan that you and your family are aware of and understand is crucial to making informed decisions.

Property preparation tips:

- Mature trees can shield against radiant heat and embers.
 - Keep grass cut to less than 10cm.
 - Keep wood piles away from your house.
 - Store flammable liquids away from your house.
 - Get rid of dry grass, leaves, twigs and loose bark.
 - Prune shrubs and trees appropriately.
 - Cut back overhanging branches.
 - Remove boxes, door mats, etc. from decks and verandahs.
 - Consider large shrubs near windows as a fire risk.
 - Keep gutters clear of leaf litter.
 - Use pebbles or rocks in your garden as mulch.
- Meeniyon-Stony Creek CFA is prepared for the fire season, its operational members up to date with their training and having practised their firefighting skills.

The brigade has some



Members run through pre-season training ahead of the fire season.



Meeniyon-Stony Creek Fire Brigade Captain Mal Price.

new members commencing their basic training, but is always open to more.

"We have a Junior Volunteer Development Program and one of our graduating juniors is making the transition to senior firefighter," Captain Mal Price said.

While those in the brigade are ready to protect people and property when called on, they hope for a less eventful fire season than feared, the preparation of community members and their cooperation in minimising risks play an important role.

• DUMBALK FIRE BRIGADE



Dumbalk Fire Brigade members have been busy with pre-season training drills.

Dumbalk Fire Brigade stresses need to prepare now

WHILE the message from Dumbalk Fire Brigade captain Dallas Campbell is again for people to prepare for summer by having an up-to-date Fire Plan and to clean up around houses and sheds to reduce fuel loads, there is a greater sense of urgency this year.

He highlighted the drier winter and expectation the fire season is likely to start earlier.

"It's been raining the last few weeks, and that's been good, but (we're) a little bit concerned about moisture levels in the bush," Dallas said, with the fear of things drying out quickly with a few hot days.

Dallas spoke of the importance of a Fire Plan to ensure you have thought through the circumstances applicable to your property and what you intend to do should certain scenarios arise, rather than making spur-of-the-moment decisions.

As for tidying up to minimise the threat of fire to your property, cutting long grass and removing wood from near buildings are important measures.

Having a clear property number at your front gate and ensuring fire trucks can access your land are crucial measures, being mindful the trucks are much bigger

than they once were.

Registering burn-offs to prevent unnecessary brigade call-outs, and being mindful of conditions when considering lighting a burn-off are other useful actions. Those in South Gippsland must now apply for a permit to burn-off.

As with other brigades, Dumbalk members have been busy with burnover drills and hazardous tree training to sharpen up for the fire season, and looked forward to joining those from other brigades in the South Gippsland Group at a training exercise last weekend.

There's been good news on the recruitment front for Dumbalk Fire Brigade with a few new members this year, but more is hoped for.

Opportunities exist in both operational and non-operational roles.

The brigade is hoping for exciting news on the equipment front, having applied for a field control vehicle through the Victorian Government funded Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program.

If the outcome is positive, the new vehicle would be used to take over the control side of things at a job, freeing up the tanker and ultra light to focus entirely on fighting fires.

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We want to say a massive THANK YOU to all the amazing firefighters and volunteers who've worked so hard to keep us safe. Your courage, tireless efforts, and unwavering commitment to protecting our community have not gone unnoticed.

• TARWIN LOWER FIRE BRIGADE



Michael Plant, Cara Munnings, Captain Mick Moore, Rod Hill and communications officer Paul Stampton from the Tarwin Lower and District CFA, ready for the coming fire season.

Community engagement pays dividends

A SUCCESSFUL program of community engagement by the Tarwin Lower and District CFA with residents of Venus Bay, Walkerville and Tarwin Lower has been rewarded with fire-safe communities across the district.

Equipped with a 3000 litre medium tanker and Forward Control Vehicle at Tarwin Lower, and a light tanker at Venus Bay, the Tarwin Lower and District Fire Brigade plays a vital role in keeping local coastal areas fire-free over the busy summer months.

With 32 volunteers Captain Mick Moore is rightly proud of his firefighting team and has a clear message for local residents and property owners.

"Check smoke alarms and make a fire plan," said Mick.

Captain Moore regularly conducts community engagement sessions around the district.

"We had a come and meet the captain community lunch over December from 10am to midday at the Venus Bay Community Centre, and set up a marquee in the park at Venus Bay over January to hand out literature and provide free information.

"We also opened the fire station at Walkerville on the first Friday of every

month over summer to share our experience and help local residents with their fire plans.

"Last year we averaged 25 people at Walkerville with a peak of 60 in January."

Summer is always a worrying period for the Tarwin Lower and District CFA, with large numbers of holidaymakers and a single access road to locations such as Venus Bay.

"Call into the fire station at Tarwin Lower on a Sunday morning and say hello," said Mick.

Relieved to have had a relatively quiet fire season last year, Tarwin Lower and District Fire Brigade is always on standby for engagement with the Strike Teams Task Force.

"Number one, have a plan and make sure you have an evacuation kit with first aid items, prescription medications, legal documents, battery radio, phone charger and some basic food and toiletry items.

"Install the Vic Emergency App on your mobile phone."

The Vic Emergency app is available from the App Store or Google Play, and the Vic Emergency can be found on Facebook or by contacting the Vic Emergency hotline on 1800 226 226, or by going online to emergency.vic.gov.au/respond.

• FISH CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

Fish Creek brigade ready to serve its community

FISH Creek and District Fire Brigade has been serving the local and greater community for more than 80 years.

Although three recruits have joined the brigade in recent times – looking to complete their General Firefighting course in the coming months – the crew is ageing, and new blood is required in both Fish Creek and at the satellite station in Sandy Point to carry on the significant work undertaken by the members.

Experience is a big factor in knowing how to handle situations that require CFA assistance, and there is no time like the present to gain that experience.

Locally, Fish Creek's brigade borders Tarwin Lower, Meenyan, Buffalo and Milford, and will attend incidents from Tarwin through to Hedley.

Fish Creek and District Fire Brigade has also served all around Victoria and interstate in New South Wales and Queensland.

Its Road Accident and Rescue crew have supported Police, Ambulance Victoria and SES at accidents, searches and rescues, not only providing manpower but expertise in extracting people from accidents, recovering people from traumatic situations and providing lighting at incidents.

There are many positions to be filled within the brigade – not only the frontline duties, but also first aid, local control facility and radio communication.

As a member, volunteers will learn how to use the equipment, brigade management and community



Fish Creek and District Fire Brigade Captain Ray Poletti asks the community to help the brigade by having a plan ready for the fire season.

awareness.

It all starts with the willingness to protect and help the community.

Fish Creek and District Fire Brigade trains on three Thursday nights a month.

To prepare for the upcoming season, the brigade has been undergoing its usual training requirements, including burn over drills, hazardous trees and road rescue drills.

The last Thursday of the month is for meetings to discuss brigade activities.

Fish Creek and District Fire Brigade often attend community events and would welcome any queries from the community about volunteering. A community group discussion will be held in Sandy Point in the coming weeks.

The brigade is gearing up for the fire danger period which came into effect yesterday.

Captain Ray Poletti said last season wasn't too bad, and the brigade is hopeful this season will be similar. "So far in this area, the

rainfall has been within 30ml of what we had last year," he said. "It is still dry though, and we've had a few fires that weren't expected where people have had registered burns that have gotten away."

The brigade asks the community to help by making sure properties are accessible to trucks, cleaning gutters, removing overhanging vegetation and clearing rubbish.

The community is also reminded that increased vegetation, population and tourist activity may cause response delays, so it is crucial to have a plan in case of emergency.

"We ask people to have a plan so that if we do have a catastrophic day, they can be ready to either move out or take action," Ray said.

"We hope the community will help us out by being prepared for fire."

Back at the station, Fish Creek and District Fire Brigade has had a few upgrades to keep the service functioning.

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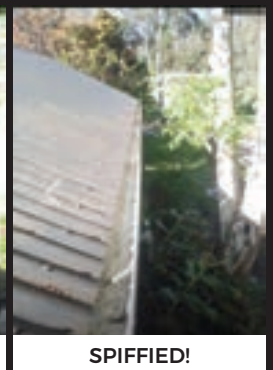
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• FOSTER FIRE BRIGADE

Foster inspires future firefighters

FOSTER Fire Brigade is inspiring the next generation of firefighters.

Students from Foster Secondary College are being shown the ropes at the fire station every Thursday.

The school approached the CFA to run this program, and the brigade hopes the interest will turn into volunteer opportunities.

"Recruitment has been slow for us, as is the case with most volunteer services across the board. We have had two new members in the last 18 months," Captain David Jones said.

"This program has given school kids an insight into the brigade. They've been shown practical skills, such as rolling out the hose, and also the importance of being a team, staying safe, and looking out for each other. We hope the interest continues."

To prepare for the fire season, Foster has undergone its required training and recently held an open day.

CFA duties are year-round and training has been ongoing to ensure the brigade members are prepared to attend a range of incidents.

Whilst it is ready to serve its community, the brigade is in desperate need of a new station.

The brigade has secured a block of land to lease and is



Foster student Casey practices holding the hose under the instruction of Captain Jones.

shovel-ready when the government or CFA can offer funding.

"(Gippsland South MLA) Danny O'Brien regularly goes into bat for the brigade. Our old station was built in 1957 and had an upgrade in 2011 to spruce the interior, but it is not fit for purpose," David said.

"There are no training facilities, we can't get heavier trucks into the station, and there are no changing facilities. It has become a safety issue.

"Foster deserves better access to firefighting appliances. We do the best we can, but Foster is missing out on a decent fire service."

Although in need of better facilities, the brigade is backed by an excellent team of volunteers.

However, the community needs to play a role to ensure safety throughout the fire danger period.

Community members must ensure multiple trucks can fit into the property, should they be required to attend.

Residents should also be cleaning up their properties and ensuring their house numbers are easily identifiable.

"The house number needs to be out on the front gate. The trucks may need to attend in the middle of the night, and it needs to be made as easy as possible to find the property," David said.

Foster turns out to the local community, and supports Toora, Fish Creek, Hedley, Welshpool and Milford.

• TOORA FIRE BRIGADE

Toora brigade urges community to prepare

TOORA Fire Brigade has launched its fire-ready campaign in the lead-up to summer.

Toora's brigade has recently been focused on its winter fire duties – chimney fires and testing hydrants – but is now turning its attention towards the summer threats.

An information session was held early in October to educate the community about how to prepare for the fire season.

The brigade offered information about staying safe while camping, participating in summer activities like barbecues, offered advice on what to do if a fire does get out of control, and numbers to call if assistance is needed.

Leading up to summer, the brigade will also be focused on drafting and tanker work.

"Toora fire station has what we call a Big Fill, which is basically a pump and truck that can fill other trucks," Toora fire brigade's Lieutenant Alex Berry said.

"The district uses it a lot when we have fires here."

The Toora Fire Brigade turns out within its community, and supports brigades in Foster, Welshpool and Fish Creek.

Whilst there have been no upgrades to the Toora fire



A great turnout responded to Toora Fire Brigade's recent open day.

station within the last 12 months, plans are in the works to install a generator in case of community-wide power outages.

"We want to be able to open our doors to the town if the power goes out, like it did during the Boxing Day floods," Alex said.

"We were out attending to the floods last year, but we were also manning the station and making sure people were safe."

In recent times, the Toora Fire Brigade has been attending

road accidents and out-of-control burn-offs.

"Lots of people would assume that we've had that much rain that nothing is going to burn. In particular, we are encouraging the Mt Best community to gather as much information as possible, because they are out in the bush," Alex said.

Whilst the Toora Fire Brigade is operating smoothly with a rejuvenated management team, it could always use more hands on deck.

The brigade has a diverse

team from teenagers to retirees, and everyone is encouraged to consider volunteering.

"You can do as little or as much as you can," Alex said.

"There's no pressure, as long as everyone is trained up and we are able to keep everyone safe."

The community can receive more information about the Toora Fire Brigade via its Facebook page.

The brigade will also be out at community events, handing out flyers to continue to educate residents and tourists.

• YANAKIE FIRE BRIGADE



Helicopter assistance was required to control a bushfire travelling from Millar Road to Hourigan Camp Lane in January.

Yanakie warns public to make a fire plan

COMING off a big fire season last summer, Yanakie Fire Brigade is gearing up to protect its community.

Yanakie Fire Brigade saw an increased number of callouts during January and February at the start of this year. For the first time in years, a public warning was issued due to a bushfire travelling from Millar Road to Hourigan Camp Lane towards Shallow Inlet.

Three helicopters were involved in controlling this bushfire and Sandy Point was smoke-affected at the time.

This incident put a spotlight on the lack of fire plans on local households.

"We found that a lot of locals were unsure about how to respond in this situation," Yanakie Fire Brigade Lieutenant Mark Wrigley said. "People need to be preparing a fire plan and learning how to enact it. The number of households with fire plans would be less than one in 10. It's easy to do – you can Google a fire plan, download it and tailor it to your specifications."

Mark also highlighted the importance of having clear house numbers out the front of properties.

"There have been real examples where obscured house numbers have caused delays and loss of houses," he said.

Mark also urges the public to leave immediately, rather than staying to defend properties – largely due to the aging demographic in his turnout area.

"The entire region has a higher percentage of elderly residents. They are more likely to move slower and could suffer breathing issues and succumb to toxic smoke. Fire moves fast, so it is highly recommended people leave as early as possible – well before they see fire," Mark said.

As well as Yanakie, the brigade turns out to Wilsons Promontory and halfway to Fish Creek via Soldiers Road. Its secondary turnout locations are Fish Creek and Sandy Point.

However, in big fire scenarios, Yanakie often cannot be called away as it needs to be available for the protection of Wilsons Promontory, which attracts thousands of tourists each year.

Although a small brigade, it is building momentum after a recent recruitment drive proved successful with a good turnout and several new members signing up.

In the coming months, these new volunteers will go through the process of obtaining all their firefighting qualifications.

Mark said it is optimal for a diverse team to make up the brigade.

"Most country CFAs see it as a man's responsibility, but it works so much better when there is a diverse crew," he said.

"Women's input is invaluable, and everyone can haul a hose. We need more active members to be joining the CFA."

Whilst training is a year-round commitment, Yanakie Fire Brigade has turned its attention to the summer requirements, including hazardous trees and entrapment drills.

Brigade members have also been undergoing training to hone their skills and maintain their qualifications.

Yanakie turns out to various incidents including fires and car accidents, and warns people about the dangers of burn-offs, open flames while camping and, in some cases, dry lightning.

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DEATHS

BROWN, Betty Dawn:
27/03/1927 - 24/10/2025.

Passed away peacefully at Rose Lodge.

Cherished wife of Jim (dec.).

Loved and loving mother and mother-in-law of Colin (dec.) and Carolyn and Marlene and Dennis.

Adored Nanna Betty of Dallas, Craig and Kerry, Emma and Mark, Shane and Sarah and great Nanna Betty of Grace, Amelia, Audrey, James and Heath.

For funeral details, please go to www.handleyandanderesonfunerals.com.au

GILMORE, Winsome:

18.10.2025.

Loving partner to Neil for 34 years.

Deepest sympathy to Winsome's children.

Passed away peacefully at Warragul. Fondly remembered and will be sadly missed.

Beloved sister-in-law to Janice, Beryl and Brian, Alan and Penny and families.

Resting peacefully.

HUNT, Jessica Lee:

Aged 41.

Passed away on October 15, 2025, at Traralgon (formerly of Wonthaggi).

Much loved daughter of Greg and Laureen and loving sister of Aaron and Chris.

DEATHS

HUNT, Jessica Lee:
03.07.1984 - 15.10.2025.

We are heartbroken to announce Jessica passed away suddenly at home in Traralgon (formerly of Wonthaggi).

Much loved daughter of Greg and Laureen.

We will miss your smile, laughter and bear hugs.

Loving sister of Chris and Aaron, sister-in-law to Samantha.

Aunt to Olivia and Alyssa.



HUNT, Jess:

Thanks for many years of friendship.

We shared a love for Collingwood, Home and Away, and dogs.

I am going to miss hearing about all your adventures, you lived life to the fullest.

-- Holly and Anges.

I am going to miss your pats. -- Dougie.

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DEATHS

McCONCHIE, Rodney Ernest:
15.02.1933 - 17.10.2025.

Passed away suddenly, aged 92.

Beloved husband of Joan (dec.) partner of Jenefer. Loved father of Pam (dec.), Paul and Janine. Father-in-law of John, Melita and Mark. Loving grandad of Matthew, Daniel, Ashleigh, Sarah, Laura, Rachel and Stacey. Cherished great grandad of Ava, Isla, Ayla, Maisie, Cole, Nicholas and Maddison.

Gone too soon. Forever in our hearts.

McCRAW (nee Dumesny), Patricia Mary:

18.09.1939 - 19.10.2025.

Passed away aged 86 years in Tongala.

Loved wife of Stuart (dec). Mother of Charles, Murray (dec.) and Trudy. Mother-in-law of Rhonda. Grandmother of Joshua, Blair, Christopher (dec), Chloe and Kira.

Grandmother- in-law of Caitlyn and Cassandra. Great Grandmother of Charlotte and Archie.

Much loved by all.

Rest in peace.

RIPPON (nee Crosthwaite), Glenys Joyce:

Passed away 16.10.2025, aged 95 at Inverloch.

Loving wife of Gordon (dec.). Loving mother of Marilla.

Loved Nan to Robyn, Adam and Annette and Amanda (dec.).

Little Nanny to Meagan and Macca, Jacob and Maggie, Alyssa and Brodie, Jordyn.

Brian and Maddison, Kirk, Sarah; Courtney and six great great grandchildren.

FUNERALS

GOODWIN:
Due to legal reasons beyond Cheryl's control, Susy's burial will take place in Port Lincoln, South Australia.

A Memorial Service and wake will be held in Wonthaggi, with details to be advised at a later date. Go to www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au for more details.

HUNT:

The Funeral Service for Jessica Lee Hunt will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Thursday, November 6, 2025, commencing at 2pm.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Kilcunda Cemetery.

McCONCHIE:

The funeral service for Rodney McConchie will be held in the Renowden Chapel at Springvale Botanical Cemetery, 600 Princes Hwy, Springvale on Thursday, October 30, 2025, at 12 noon.

McCRAW:

The Funeral of Mrs. Patricia Mary McCraw will be held in the Chapel at Wesley Place, 15 Skene Street, Colac on Wednesday, October 29, 2025, commencing at 1:30pm.

The Funeral will leave the Chapel at the conclusion of the service for the Colac Lawn Cemetery.

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FUNERALS

RIPPON:
The Funeral Service for Mrs. Glenys Joyce Rippon will be held at the Kongwak Uniting Church, Brownes Road, Kongwak, on Friday, October 31, 2025, commencing at 11am.

A private family burial will follow this service.

THANKS

THANK YOU:
Members of St Vincent de Paul Conference Leongatha wish to thank the members of the Woorayl CWA for the beautiful Pamper Packs donated to us this week.

The Pamper Packs will be welcome and appreciated by the women we assist. We send our sincere gratitude for your generosity and kindness.

May God bless you.

FOR SALE

CARAVAN:
2024 Hilltop feathertop 19"4" \$69,000. Call 0411 761 950

CHEAP PLANTS:

Season closing down sale.

235 Lowrys Road, Fish Creek.

9am - 3pm. Melbourne Cup weekend, Friday, Saturday and Monday only.

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All plants must be sold. Cash or card.

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47 McBride Avenue 5672 1888

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2 cubic metre loads. \$300. Contact-5657 3291.

OLD PORT POULTRY FARM:
Delivering 18 week old Isa Brown laying hens to your area on Sunday, November 2. \$32 each. 0438 832 535.

GARAGE SALES

INVERLOCH:
32 Grand View Grove, Saturday, November 1, 8am - 12pm. DVD's, shed stuff, art works and kids' games.

WONTHAGGI:

28 Stewart Street, Saturday, November 1, 8am - 1pm. Collectables, salt and peppers, biscuit barrels and teapots etc.

WONTHAGGI:

23 Beveridge Close, Saturday and Sunday November 1 and 2. 8am - 2pm. Mixed Goods.

WONTHAGGI:

31 Merrin Cresent. Saturday and Sunday, November 1 and 2. 8am - 1pm. Collectables and mancave items.

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(a) The cash price of the motor car; and
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• 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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PUBLIC NOTICES



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PUBLIC NOTICES

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WONTHAGGI MENS SHED:

The Wonthaggi Men's Shed Inc. has made the executive decision to shut down the garden group operating within the grounds of the men's shed precinct.

This decision was reached due to unreconcilable differences negatively affecting the Wonthaggi men's shed purpose and vision.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Annual General Meeting

Woorayl Lodge warmly invites all stakeholders, including staff, residents, families, volunteers, and community members to attend our Annual General Meeting.

Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at 5pm
Space 47, Leongatha
Light finger food provided

Please RSVP by Friday, November 21 to enquiries@woorayllodge.com.au for catering purposes.

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing updates on the year's achievements and future plans for Woorayl Lodge.

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.



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SITUATIONS VACANT



Receptionist / Administration Assistant

About Us
They say 'if you love your job, you'll never work a day in your life' - and at Highview, we believe that loving your job starts with the right environment, the right people, and meaningful work that makes a difference.

We're a multi-award-winning accounting and financial advisory firm based in Victoria and Queensland, with close to 25 years of experience helping individuals and businesses succeed. More than just a workplace, Highview is a place where careers are built, ideas are encouraged, and people are genuinely supported.

We are looking for a Receptionist / Administration Assistant to join our Bass Coast office in Wonthaggi in a part-time capacity (minimum 3 days / 22.5 hours per week).

- About You**
What are we looking for?
- Ideally, you'll have prior administration experience within professional services sectors such as accounting, financial services, or legal practices.
 - You'll be proficient in Microsoft Office, and it's an advantage if you've used Xero, CAS, or HandiSoft before.
 - Your strong organisational skills, keen eye for detail, and solid time management will set you apart.
 - You communicate confidently and bring a positive, professional approach to your work.
 - You're able to juggle multiple tasks, set priorities, and work autonomously when needed.
 - Being reliable, proactive, and maintaining a can-do attitude is essential.
 - You'll show initiative and be open to tackling a variety of tasks, big or small.

- About the Role**
- Welcome clients and handle incoming calls with a friendly, solution-focused manner.
 - Take charge of incoming and outgoing mail to ensure smooth and timely processing.
 - Scan and file client documents to maintain tidy and accurate records.
 - Keep the client database up to date and well organised.
 - Send invoices by email and follow up on outstanding payments in a professional way.
 - Prepare and lodge client tax forms with attention to detail and accuracy.
 - Oversee ASIC compliance tasks and processes as required.
 - Set up new clients on the ATO portal and in our systems, ensuring all details are captured correctly.

This is a permanent position, so we're looking for someone who is an Australian Citizen or holds full Australian work rights. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Keen to learn more?
Send your CV and a cover letter sharing why you're the right fit for the role to our People & Culture Manager, Rosanne Brownlee, at rosanne@highview.com.au.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Positions Vacant Occupational Therapist

Grade 1
0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

Dietitian

Grade 2
0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

For more information:
<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

Volunteer Expression of Interest
Community Information Volunteer
Volunteer Catering Administration Assistant
Ward Assist Volunteer
For more information call
Annie on 5683 9704
www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers

SITUATIONS VACANT

Employment Opportunity

School Crossing Supervisor (Foster)

- Ongoing Part Time
- Monday to Friday, 8.15am to 9.00am and 3.15pm to 4.00pm
- Split shift for this position will be considered
- \$12,897 per annum (pro-rata) + 12% superannuation (annualised salary agreement)

Enquiries to Sarah Male on 03 5662 9200.

Applications close when a suitable candidate is identified
For more information and to apply, please visit
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/employment

Major Projects Advisor



With our 2040 Vision and Strategy guiding us toward our vision - to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations - we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to join us.

- South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:
- Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
 - Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
 - Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
 - Family friendly workplace, including Paid Parental Leave
 - Attractive Salary Packaging options available (eligibility conditions apply)
 - Flexibility to work from home, with base location at any of our offices in Wonthaggi, Foster or Leongatha

Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

- Fixed Term (2 Years) Full Time
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band 6 \$82,702.66 - \$89,148.20 + Leave Loading + Superannuation

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

Applications Close: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 5pm

1300 851 636 | www.sgwater.com.au

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Coordinator



With our 2040 Vision and Strategy guiding us toward our vision - to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations - we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to join us.

- South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:
- Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
 - Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
 - Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
 - Family friendly workplace, including Paid Parental Leave
 - Attractive Salary Packaging options available (eligibility conditions apply)
 - Flexibility to work from home, with base location at any of our offices in Wonthaggi, Foster or Leongatha

Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

- Fixed Term - 18 months/Full-time
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band 7 - \$91,505.57 - \$101,070.60 + Leave Loading + Superannuation

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

Applications Close: Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5pm

1300 851 636 | www.sgwater.com.au

DEADLINES

Classified single column

Mondays 12.00 noon

Classified double column

Fridays 3.00pm

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.

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Mail:
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Office Hours:
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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





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FOOD TECH ASSISTANT

San Remo Campus

Ongoing role, commencing

January 27, 2026.

5 days a week 8.30am to 3.30pm

Applications close on

Thursday, November 6, 2025

Bass Coast College is seeking a
suitably qualified and/ or experienced
person to join its team in 2026
for the above position.

**Applications need to be made via
School Jobs Vic:**

**www.vic.gov.au/school-jobs
Job Vacancy I.D 1499671**

Further details are available on School
Jobs Vic or for more information please
contact **Gabe Windsor – Business
Manager on 5611 4000**

AF0057



Junior Office Assistant

Full-Time

Are you a motivated, organised, and
enthusiastic individual looking to start your
career in a professional office environment?
We're looking for a Junior Office Assistant
to join our team at MJA Accounting.

About the Role

This entry-level position is ideal for
someone eager to gain experience in office
administration and learn the day-to-day
operations of a professional services firm.
You'll work closely with our administration
and accounting staff to ensure the smooth
running of our office.

We welcome applications from students
soon graduating from secondary school
who are looking to begin their career in
an office or accounting environment. Full
training and support will be provided.

Key Responsibilities:

- Assisting with general office
administration (filing, scanning, data entry,
mail handling).
- Answering phones and greeting clients in
a professional, friendly manner.
- Preparing and formatting correspondence
and documents.
- Maintaining office supplies and stationery.
- Supporting accountants and senior staff
with ad hoc administrative tasks.
- Assisting with document management
and compliance filing.

About You:

- Strong attention to detail and good time
management skills.
- Confident using Microsoft Office (Word,
Excel, Outlook).
- Excellent verbal and written
communication.
- A positive attitude and willingness to
learn.
- Professional presentation and a friendly
manner.

This role offers an excellent opportunity
to build practical office experience and
develop long-term career skills in a
professional yet relaxed team environment.

Study Allowance & Support

- We promote further education for this
role. We offer the successful candidate
financial support and study time allowance
for the pursuit of a Certificate IV or similar
in a related course.

Please email your resume and a short
cover letter to **practice@mjacpa.com.au**
explaining why you'd be a great fit for the
role.

**Applications close
Friday, November 7, 2025 at 5pm**

HM13146

WE ARE HIRING Disability Support Workers



Work with a team of Registered Nurses and Disability Support Workers to
assist a local gentleman with complex disabilities to maintain an interesting and
fulfilling life.

The successful applicant will be competent in supporting the gentleman to
retain his independence within his home and the community, passionate about
community inclusion and confident in taking the initiative.

You will be a team player, dedicated to working collaboratively and constructively
with his support team and supporting him with all activities of daily living.

Salary: We pay above the award, dependant on your qualifications and experience.



For more information, or to apply, contact:

- General Manager Alex on 0400 753 502 email: alex@adamsupport.org.au
- President Les on 0417 572 475 email: admin@adamsupport.org.au

WE ARE HIRING Registered Nurses



Work with a team of Registered Nurses and Disability Support Workers to
assist a local gentleman with complex disabilities to maintain an interesting and
fulfilling life.

The successful applicant will be competent in supporting the gentleman to
maintain his independence within his home and the community, passionate
about community inclusion and confident in taking the initiative.

You will be a team player, competent in quality control and dedicated to working
collaboratively and constructively with the support team. The role also involves
working hands on in the holistic care of the gentleman.

Salary: We pay above the award, dependant on your qualifications and experience.



For more information, or to apply, contact:

- General Manager Alex on 0400 753 502 email: alex@adamsupport.org.au
- President Les on 0417 572 475 email: admin@adamsupport.org.au

Is your employment opportunity listed online?

Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a
FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at

www.sgst.com.au

Email your job adverts to: ads@sgst.com.au

DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm

Sentinel-Times



Focus on you

By author Claire Chitty

IN TODAY'S busy world, it's easy to
ignore the subtle signals our bodies
send, whether it be persistent aches and
pains, creeping weight gain, a decrease
in vision or hearing until they demand
attention that's impossible to ignore.

We all know the importance of caring
and taking responsibility for our physi-
cal and mental health, consuming a bal-
anced diet and staying active. And given
that the Bass Coast offers a natural
backdrop for beach walks, bike trails,
sailing, fishing, and water sports, that's
an added incentive to get active.

In addition, we are fortunate to have
access to medical care, make informed
choices and have community facilities
available for connection.

Equally important is our emotional
and spiritual health. True wellbeing is
not found in material things or on so-
cial media with distorted images of
health and beauty, but in every minute
from healthy communication, qual-
ity time with others, laughter, the quiet
moments we allow ourselves and in the
memories we create.

Art, music, gardening, community
groups and time spent in nature are
perfect ways to find calm in the chaos.
I find it deeply restorative to watch fairy
wrens, black swans or the rolling waves,
as part of my self-care routine. A warm
bath, a kind word to oneself or a mo-
ment of laughter can also shift the en-
ergy of an entire day.

I see humanity as works in progress,
each carrying our own imperfections
and hopefully recognising that the mind,
body, spirit are interconnected and re-
quire balance. Burnout is not a badge
of honour when our bodies, mind and
emotions cry for attention. By practis-
ing self-compassion, replacing negative
thoughts with positive ones and choos-
ing kindness over criticism, we create
space for our own healing.

My suggestion is when your mind is
racing with distractions and the 'to-do'
list goes longer, go within and find inner
peace by simply observing the breath.
By slowing down the inhale and exhale,
your nervous system will settle and
you'll hear your body's messages more
clearly.

SITUATIONS VACANT



Be part of something special at our small,
alternative high school in Gippsland.

This position commences in Term 1, 2026

MATHS YEARS 7-10 (FTE 0.6)

An exciting opportunity to join an innovative
school that places the wellbeing of students
and staff at its core. We're seeking an
experienced and passionate **Secondary Maths
Teacher** who enjoys working with young people
and creating engaging, student-centred learning
experiences.

Requirements:

Experience teaching Secondary Mathematics
Current VIT registration (or eligibility)
Demonstrated understanding of Applied
Learning methods
Commitment to wellbeing, collaboration, and
innovative practice

If you're passionate about education that
empowers young people, we'd love to hear
from you.

Applications close Sunday, November 9, 2025

Visit www.villagehighschool.org/join-the-team
for the position descriptions
and application information.

AF0059



Bass Coast College celebrated its graduating Year 12 students last week.

Bass Coast College farewell Year 12s with uniform rite of passage

BASS Coast College had the opportunity to farewell the class of 2025 last week.

The graduating Year 12 students had the chance to explore their creative side and bedazzle their uniforms as part of the final week of celebrations on Wednesday.

This year's Year 12 cohort had a rocky start to high school, having to go through their Year 7 experience in lockdown.

While some students flourished studying from home, others found it challenging, but the whole group has come through to have enjoyed an extremely positive Year 12 experience.

"It's been a really good year. This group has galvanised more and more as the year has gone on and this week has been a really positive celebration of their time at Bass Coast College," student engagement principal Ross Bramley said.

"This group started high school in 2020 and experienced all the interruptions. They've come through that really well, and we're excited to see what they're going to do next."

It has been another massive year at Bass Coast College, with the tertiary camp helping students decide what they want to do in the future, the formal once again held at Silverwater Resort, and the graduation celebrations.

The students are now heading back into exam preparation, with the English exam set to be held today (Tuesday, October 28).



Eva Garnham, Georgie Bright, Sophie Carter, Amelie Ion, Giarshi Adams, Macy Peterson and Georgia Avery were in the spirit of bedazzling their uniforms at Bass Coast College last Wednesday.



Back from left, Archie Terlich, Sam Patterson, Noah Forrest, Harry Howell, Jasper Cousins, front from left, Jobe Scapin, Jesse Dugard and Hamish Gleeson sporting a new look in their school uniforms at Bass Coast College.

Occupational therapists enhance quality of life

DURING Occupational Therapy Week – October 27 to November 2 – Bass Coast Health acknowledges and celebrates the wonderful work of its occupational therapists.

The aim of occupational therapy (OT) is to support and enable you to participate in everyday activities that are meaningful and important to you.

This could be activities such as taking care of yourself or others, working, volunteering and participating in hobbies, interests and social events.

It could also be helping you to have more independent access to your home or the local community, regaining your hand strength and function following an injury, or improving your sensory regulation and readiness for school for children.

Occupational therapists use their knowledge, creativity and



The dedicated occupational therapy team at Bass Coast Health are ready to help people of all ages to maximise their quality of life and participation in daily activities as much as possible.

problem-solving skills to support you in focusing on your strengths and abilities to find new ways to achieve the goals you want to achieve.

"We are incredibly proud of the work we do to support the members of the local community. I am proud to lead the team of dedicated and skilled

occupational therapists here at Bass Coast Health (BCH)," BCH occupational therapy manager Natalie Gourley said.

BCH's occupational therapy services include assessment, education, advice and therapy for physical, cognitive, developmental, emotional and environmental factors across a range of ages and life stages.

The services cover paediatric, adult and older people in both the hospital setting, as well as in the community or at home.

If you have an illness, disability or injury that is impacting your ability to participate in and enjoy everyday life, the occupational therapists at BCH may be able to help you.

To learn more, go to basscoasthealth.org.au/ot.

For appointments, phone the Access referral service on 5671 3175 or email access@basscoasthealth.org.au.

Bass Coast riding high on back-to-back major events

THE Australian MotoGP circus might have left town, but it was replaced by yet another Australian championship event last week, the Australian SUP Titles, officially launched on Tuesday night, but with competition starting at Phillip Island on Wednesday, October 22.

And as is often the case with surfing competitions, "you should have been here yesterday!"

On Tuesday, early arrivals enjoyed ideal conditions on the western side of Phillip Island, as light east to northeast winds of around 15 to 20 km/h, a decent swell and daytime temperatures between 18 and 22 provided the perfect warm-up.

But all that was set to change with the wind forecast to swing strongly to the south-west on Wednesday, with gale force winds off the local coast and at rare "storm force" wind speeds of the East Gippsland coast. One of those making the big trip down to Phillip Island, and getting in some welcome practice at Right Point near Cat Bay on Tuesday, was Marty Cole of Crescent Head north of Port Macquarie.

"I did alright last year and hope I can do it again," said Cole, winner of the Open 10-foot Division last year.

The 1432 kilometre trip, lasting 16 hours one way, is about average for competitors from all of the eastern states and some from South Australia and Western Australia.

According to Surfing Victoria, the event will see the country's best SUP surfers and racers compete for a spot in the National Team heading to the ISA World SUP Championships.

Locals had plenty to cheer about too with Surfing Victoria confirming that the Victorian SUP State Team would compete at the Australian titles on Phillip Island.

"We are thrilled to see some incredible Victorian SUP surfers and racers represent Victoria again this year," said Surfing Victoria CEO Adam Robertson.

"Phillip Island has not only some incredible waves, but also amazing long distance paddle courses. We are looking forward to seeing the Victorian Team compete and do the state proud!"

Headlining the 2025 state team is multiple Victorian Champion Matt Takle (Torquay), who will feel right at home in the powerful waves and strong winds on Phillip Island, as well as 2024 Australian Champion Gwen Carbone (Ocean Grove), who was back to defend her title in the Over 50 Women division.

The championship event was launched by First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria reserve member Robert Ogden of the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, who welcomed the surfers to Milawul, Phillip Island, saying that the surfing fraternity had a special relationship with Victoria's indigenous people for the way they looked after the oceans for whales and other sea creatures.

"This place Milawul is a special place for the Yallock Bullock people, a clan of the Boonwurrung people and part of the Kulin nation, who came here for the mutton birds and to enjoy the beaches and beautiful surrounds 25,000 to 30,000 years ago, just as you people are coming here this week as well, so wominjeka, welcome."

Mayor of the Bass Coast Shire Council, Cr Rochelle Halstead also welcomed the surfers to the area, announcing that the council had secured the event for another year, in 2026.

"It's great to see another major event here, coming off the back of the MotoGP last weekend, to keep the momentum going," said Cr Halstead.

"Phillip Island is a premier surfing location also hosting the 2025 Rip Curl GromSearch event earlier this month," she said.

Event director, Max Wells of Surfing Victoria, supported Mayor Halstead's remarks, also urging the visitors to be mindful of the sensitive nature of the local coast and its resident native animals, urging them to stick to tracks and stay out of the dunes.

Angler support confirms kingfish bag limit change

THE rise of Victoria's ever-improving yellowtail kingfish fishery will continue in years to come, with recreational anglers overwhelmingly supporting a proposal to change the bag limit for the revered saltwater species.

Victorian Fisheries Authority (VFA) CEO Travis Dowling said hundreds of fishers statewide had responded to the proposal through online and in-person consultation, strongly supporting the reduction in the daily bag limit from five to two, which took effect on Wednesday, October 22.

"Feedback from recreational fishers was a big reason behind proposing this change, and early in the consultation period, it became clear the majority of responses were supportive of a daily bag limit of two," Mr Dowling said.

"We spoke to fishers at in-person forums, our fisheries managers fielded plenty of calls, and social media was abuzz with comments – reflective of the passion and stewardship of the Victorian fishing community.

"From more than 190 formal responses to consultation, 79 per cent were supportive of changing the bag limit of two, viewing it as being more representative of a fair day's catch. A recent VRFish survey also showed strong support from more than 1000 respondents.

"This decision strikes the right balance between encouraging people to get into the great outdoors to wet a line for kingfish and continuing to share the stock among anglers during the summer season.

"The proposal was informed by the best available scientific knowledge on kingfish, including a recent kingfish tagging project funded by recreational fishing licence fees led by Deakin University, interstate researchers and VFA scientists."

Mr Dowling said the bag limit of two would be in effect from today, ahead of the annual season, which traditionally begins when water temperatures rise to around 18 degrees in summer.

"We usually see kingfish caught from December right through the warmer months, so we're giving fishers time to prepare for the season with the new bag limit in mind," he said.

"Victoria is home to some spectacular fishing for 'kingies' right along our coastline, and the fishery will remain a drawcard for years to come, supporting tourism and the local businesses that benefit from people hitting the road for their fishing trips."

A minimum legal size of 60 centimetres also remains in place for kingfish, which can reach 120cm or more. To stay across all catch limits, download the free Vic Fishing app via your app store or by heading to vfa.vic.gov.au/vicfishingapp.

Venus Bay SLSC leads the way in innovation and safety

VENUS Bay Surf Life Saving Club has cemented its reputation as a leader in lifesaving innovation, taking home multiple prestigious awards and now heading to the national stage.

In August, the club was honoured with the Dr Nigel Taylor ESM Innovation Award at the 2025 Life Saving Victoria Awards of Excellence for its groundbreaking work in developing new communication technology to support lifesaving operations.

Last Wednesday, Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) and Life Saving Victoria were also recognised by the Australian Radio Communications Industry Association (ARCIA), receiving the Outstanding Critical Communications Project Award at the ARCIA Industry Gala Dinner, held in conjunction with the Comms Connect Critical Comms Conference at the Sofitel Melbourne.

The award recognises a critical communications project that has delivered



Dr Bernadette Matthews and Grace Strugnell from Life Saving Victoria with Paul Hoffman and Kimberley Gee from Venus Bay Surf Life Saving Club at the 2025 Life Saving Victoria Awards of Excellence.

outstanding results in project delivery and client outcomes – in this case, Venus Bay's Public Rescue Equipment (PRE) project, which integrates advanced communication technology to enhance emergency response capability and safety on the coast.

The club extended its thanks to Chris Stevens from CartGIS

and his team for their ongoing support in developing the technology that has significantly enhanced patrol communication, coordination and safety outcomes.

Following these achievements, Venus Bay SLSC will now represent Victoria at the Surf Life Saving Australia National Awards of Excellence in

Sydney on November 1, where it is a finalist for the National Innovation Award.

Club president Kimberley Gee said the recognition reflects the creativity and dedication of Venus Bay's volunteer members.

"We're proud to see a small regional club making a big impact through innovation," she said.

"Our partnerships with Life Saving Victoria and CartGIS have allowed us to find smarter, more efficient ways to keep the community safe, and these awards are recognition of that commitment."

As the patrol season approaches, Venus Bay SLSC memberships for 2025/26 are now open.

The club welcomes new and returning members of all ages to join a passionate and community-minded team dedicated to saving lives and promoting beach safety.

Memberships can be accessed via the club's website venusbayslsc.org.au.

Australian SUP Titles wrap up with Marathon Racing off Phillip Island

THE 2025 Australian SUP Titles concluded on Saturday, with champions crowned across six divisions in SUP Marathon Racing.

Open Women Marathon winner, Victorian Sorelle Nolan, was proud of her victory and the SUP community, describing the experience as "absolutely awesome" and saying the conditions were challenging but fun and it was amazing to be the first woman over the line.

"Everyone's cheering for each other out there – it's such a special sport where everyone genuinely wants each other to succeed," Nolan said.

Open Men Marathon winner Juan Cruz (QLD) loved returning to Phillip Island and was delighted with his victory.

"The course they chose definitely played in my favour; I might've run out of steam on a longer one," he said, having come third last year on the long course.

Cruz praised the crew, hospitality and event organisers at Phillip Island.

Thermos Open Men's Champion, Matt Takle (VIC), thanked his lucky charms for a cracker wave that came to him right at the last minute.

"That last one came through right on the buzzer and I just did what I had to do," he said, having caught a wave early, then having to be patient for about the next 10 minutes, admitting he was struggling and out of en-



Some of the stand-up paddleboard practice action on Phillip Island, ahead of the start to the Australian Championships on Wednesday.

ergy when the last moment opportunity arrived.

"I'm stoked! It's been an awesome week, and Surfing Australia and Surfing Victoria have put on such a great event," Takle said.

Thermos Open Women's Champion, Rebecca Dunning (NSW), was equally stoked to take the win against some younger rivals:

"I've been wanting this one for a while, so it feels great to get it done against the young guns," she said.

"My bottom turn felt really good, but I got the wobbles on the top turn and I'm just stoked I held it together; Phillip Island's been so much fun this week."

2025 Australian SUP Titles results:

Thermos Open Men: Matt

Takle (VIC) – 16.00, Blaire Moore (NSW) – 13.33, Connor Linz (NSW) – 9.76, Ben Mardon (WA) – 9.73

Thermos Open Women: Rebecca Dunning (NSW) – 11.17, Ke'ale Dorries (QLD) – 8.10

O60 Men: Dave Sheen (WA) – 16.00, Damien Quinlan (VIC) – 6.83, John Takle (VIC) – 6.50, Craig Caldwell (NSW) – 5.27

O50 Men: Sam Hodder (VIC) – 8.77, Blair Moore (NSW) – 8.50, Chris Twomey (WA) – 8.00, Jason Barbour (NSW) – 7.23

O50 Women: Gwen Carbone (VIC) – 10.50, Juanita Read (QLD) – 6.00

O40 Men: Marty Cole (NSW) – 15.67, Ben Mardon (WA) – 9.76, Matthew Russell (NSW) – 8.26, Steve Toy (VIC) – 7.17

O40 Women: Rebecca Dunning (NSW) – 11.56, Lucy Bell

(VIC) – 3.83

9ft+ Open Men: Marty Cole (NSW) – 16.17, Liam McCafferty (VIC) – 12.17, Matt Takle (VIC) – 10.36, Connor Linz (NSW) – 10.00

9ft+ O60 Men: Dave Sheen (WA) – 11.54, Richard Wain (WA) – 6.93, Jamie Ralston (WA) – 6.53, John Takle (VIC) – 5.36

9ft+ O50 Men: Liam McCafferty (VIC) – 12.00, Andrew Cassidy (NSW) – 9.77, Brendan Ryan (VIC) – 6.80, Sam Hodder (VIC) – 6.57

9ft+ O40 Women: Lucy Bell (VIC) – 10.37, Juanita Read (QLD) – 8.73

U18 Jnr Women: Willa Webb (VIC) – 5.00, Tulleah Close (VIC) – 2.83

Technical Race

Open Men: Connor Linz (NSW)

Open Women: Ke'ale Dorries

O40 Men: Warwick Lee (VIC)

O40 Women: Rebecca Dunning (NSW)

O50 Men: Dave Warner (VIC)

Prone Open Men: Hayden Copping (NSW)

Marathon Race

Open Men: Juan Cruz (QLD)

Open Women: Sorelle Nolan (VIC)

O40 Men: Warwick Lee (VIC)

O50 Open: Dave Warner (VIC)

Open Men Prone: Hayden Copping (NSW)

O40 Women: Rebecca Dunning (NSW)

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
October 28

5.00am 1.63m
10.43am 0.66m
4.45pm 1.41m
10.45pm 0.34m

WEDNESDAY
October 29

5.36am 1.57m
11.15am 0.68m
5.19pm 1.37m
11.15pm 0.37m

THURSDAY
October 30

6.15am 1.51m
11.49am 0.71m
5.58pm 1.32m
11.48pm 0.42m

FRIDAY
October 31

6.58am 1.45m
12.24pm 0.72m
6.43pm 1.28m

SATURDAY
November 1

12.27am 0.48m
7.45am 1.39m
1.06pm 0.72m
7.42pm 1.24m

SUNDAY
November 2

1.16am 0.56m
8.40am 1.35m
2.00pm 0.69m
8.57pm 1.24m

MONDAY
November 3

2.19am 0.65m
9.39am 1.33m
3.06pm 0.63m
10.25pm 1.31m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au



Committee – Sally Ross, Mel Wright, Jo O'Reilly Stubbs, Ash Easton, Emily Scott, Nat Van Der Heyden, Nala Taylor, Jake Eisen, and Geoff Russell.



The best junior clubwoman was awarded to Savannah Bennett.



Lachie Eastwood, Ry Cicero and outgoing club captain Ash Easton.



Lillian Bassed, Sarah Seuren, Scarlett Rennie – Open women's awardees.

Phillip Island Boardriders celebrate huge year at presentation night

THE Phillip Island Boardriders Club capped off another incredible season with a packed-out presentation night at the clubrooms. The evening had a vintage theme, with catered pizza and music from DJ Lachie Eastwood – last year's junior clubman – who kept the dance floor pumping well into the night.

The best club personward – the most prestigious honour of the night – was awarded to Nat Van Der Hayden, recognising her enormous contribution both in and out of the water. Nat not only keeps the club running smoothly year-round but also brings great energy and positivity to every comp.

The president's award followed, presented to Andrew Lidsey for his tireless work and ongoing commitment throughout the season. Andrew's support in keeping the club tidy and shooting some outstanding photography at the events has been instrumental in another successful year.

Another highlight was Eddie Maier receiving the best junior clubman award. Eddie is not only impressed with his surfing talent at such a young age but consistently shows leadership, enthusiasm, and a willingness to help at every event. He truly lives and breathes Boardriders and is shaping up as a future leader of the club.

Savannah Bennett and Phoenix

Stedman also received big wraps for their performance, growth, positive contribution both in and out of the water, reflecting the club's strong youth development focus, taking out the best junior club woman award and most improved female awards.

Most improved junior went to Toby Davies, who was blowing up all of last season and is a future champion of the club.

The open men's champion, Harry de Roth, and open women's champion, Lillian Bassed, were celebrated for their outstanding seasons. Their wins also secure them the club's coveted wild-card entries into the 2026 Rip Curl Pro Trials, a huge opportunity on one of surfing's biggest stages.

With the new season set to start in just a couple of weeks, Phillip Island Boardriders have a jam-packed calendar ahead, including the World Club Championships at Snapper Rocks in February and the Australian Boardriders Battle national final in March, where the club's top surfers will once again fly the flag for the Island on the national stage.

Awards:

Open Divisions

- Women: 1. Lillian Bassed 2. Sarah Seuren 3. Scarlett Rennie.
- Men: 1. Harry de Roth 2. Dylan Thomas James 3. Luke Archibald.

Juniors and cadets

- Junior females: 1. Abbey Clarke 2. Lillian Bassed 3. Jade Hilford
- Junior males: 1. Jarrah Cicero 2. Rye Cicero 3. Lachie Eastwood
- Cadet females: 1. Scarlett Rennie 2. Savannah Bennett 3. Phoenix Stedman
- Cadet males: 1. Arch Rayner 1. Dusty Rayner 2. Angus Kennedy 3. Eddie Maier

Longboard Division

- Mixed juniors: 1. Savannah Bennett 2. Scarlett Rennie 3. Taj Ransom
- Style masters: 1. Andrew Lidsey 2. Natalie Van Der Heyden 3. Warren Fowler
- Open women: 1. Ebony Maier 2. Nala Taylor 3. Jerrie Liberati
- Open men: 1. Andrew McHenry 2. Eli Curry 3. Ben Gerard Taylor

Special Awards

- Most improved male – Toby Davis
- Most improved female – Phoenix Stedman
- Gung Ho award – Jarrah Cicero
- Dumb Bell award – Jai McDonald
- President's award – Andrew Lidsey
- Club person of the year – Natalie Van Der Heyden
- Best junior club woman – Savannah Bennett
- Best junior club man – Eddie Maier
- Most improved longboard – Lucy Camenzuli



Grand masters winners Mal Gregson and Brian Tancheff.



Kellie McDonald, Nat Van Der Heyden and Emily Scott.



The president's award went to Andrew Lidsey and the best club person to Nat Van Der Heyden.



Junior women's champs – Lillian Bassed and Abby Clarke.



Masters winner Adrian Maier and senior men's winner Ash Easton.



Best junior clubman, Eddie Maier, with president Jake Eisen.



Helen Gladstone, Ken Webb and Marg Hender were the Breakaway Bowls winners with +24 on Monday.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Thursday social bowls winners were Rob Westbrook and Frank Cimino. Absent: Wendy Donohue.



Fred Demenech, Jeannie Slocombe and Theo Sholley were the winners of the Triples Championship at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls.



The Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were Judy Sweetnam, Jean Wylde and John Rook.



Graham Turton, Sue Floyd and Terry Orford had a win at Inverloch Bowling Club's social bowls.



Pat Novak, Linda Newman, Helen Gladstone and Graeme McAlpine were the winners of Breakaway Bowls on Friday.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

IT WAS another great Monday of bowling, with a great afternoon tea and a lot of laughs.

The winners were Helen Gladstone, Ken Webb and Marg Hender.

They won with +24.

There was a great day of bowling on Friday with a really great turnout of bowlers.

The team of Marj Ford, Marg Morgan, Peter Morgan and Peter Grenville even surprised everyone with an eight count.

The winners today were Pat Novak, Linda Newman, Helen Gladstone and Graeme McAlpine.

They won with a score of +18 – well done to you all.

FISH CREEK

IT WAS an excellent week of bowls for the club.

It started on Tuesday, October 22, when Division 2 journeyed to Lang Lang and came home winning all three rinks 67/16 to 40/0.

Good bowling by all.

Division 4 played Toora and lost 33/1 to 47/9. A chance to redeem ourselves this week at home.

Last Saturday, Division 2 travelled to San Remo and had an excellent day by winning all three rinks, although it was very tight on a couple of the rinks.

Bill Symmons' rink won on the last bowl 21/20, Rob Mortlock won 22/17 and Scott Jennings boys won 26/14.

Division 4 was at Phillip Island and put up a great effort but went down by four shots 53/2 to 57/14.

A win is just around the corner.

Another top performance by Division 6, which was away at Korumburra.

Final scores were Fish Creek 42/8 to 34/2.

Last Thursday, the club had its Monthly Turkey Triples sponsored by Ag Warehouse with a full green of players.

Winners on the day were Lee McKenzie, Jorma Takenan and Bill Symmons.

Runners-up consisted of Al Spooner, Bart Zaffarese and Phil Stimson, whilst best last game was Andy Kerr, Colin Bell and Wendy Watkins.

The club has its Bendigo Bank-sponsored Invitational Triples on Sunday, November 9, and hopes to be able to officially open its new verandah with all the local tradies doing a great job.

The final of the 100 Up competition is between Bill Symmons and Ray Watkins this Friday at 2.30pm.

All members and supporters are encouraged to come along for a look.

Next casserole dinner is on Friday, November 7.

See everyone there.

FOSTER

SADLY, no Jack Attack report this week.

The night was called off due to the bad weather.

This week will be a fun one, as it's Halloween dress-up night.

Last week's Pennant matches saw some mixed results once again.

The midweek games saw Division 1 and Division 3 head to Wonthaggi.

One rink in Division 1 had a win, but the other two couldn't quite overcome Wonthaggi's outstanding bowling.

Foster lost by 17 shots overall.

Division 3's results were exactly the same – one rink up and two down, but only losing by two shots overall.

It was a good result.

Wonthaggi proved just too strong for the Foster team.

The weekend Pennant saw Division 3 travel to Lang Lang.

Weather conditions were perfect for bowls.

Lang Lang played a strong game, but Foster got into stride and came home with a comfortable win.

Division 4 ventured to Tarwin Lower Bowling Club.

The club had one rink up, but overall Tarwin proved strong, winning by six shots overall.

Foster needs to knuckle down next week and keep up the good work.

Sunday saw Foster host the Strz Sth State Mixed Pairs Competition.

The green was full of colour.

The first round was played in perfect conditions, and some good bowling was seen all round.

Sadly, the afternoon saw the weather turn and the rain come in as predicted.

Six ends of the second round were all they got in, so games will resume at 9am next Sunday, and will follow on through to the final.

INVERLOCH

FOLLOWING close on the heels of the Wednesday "Big Wet and Wind" event, views were tentative about actually playing on Thursday.

Regardless, 35 turned up and were surprised by the relative calm on the green.

The day's competition consisted of 10 teams – five fours and five triples – playing one game of 10 ends, then lunch, then a second game of 10 ends.

Scoring was agreed on 10 points for a win, one points for each end won and tie breakers using shots up and then percentages. There were three by two game winners on the day.

The hard luck story went to the team of Reg Varty (skip), Darryl Floyd (third), George Scott (second) and Harry Dunn (lead) with 33 points.

The other two game winners were equal on ends, both with 34 points.

Runners-up with 34 points and 13 shots up was the team of Laurel Lee (skip), Rob Howard (third), Rob Higgins (second) and Andrew Rowe (lead).

The winner with 34 points and 17 shots up was the team of Terry Orford (skip), Graham Turton (third) and Sue Floyd (lead).

Reminder – next week's social bowls is on October 30.

Names are to be in by 9am, with a start time of 10.30am.

There will be a special social bowls event on November 4, Melbourne Cup Day, consisting of one game of 10 ends before the Melbourne Cup lunch at 12.30pm.

There is a separate list for this event.

Names are to be in by 9.30am, with a start time of 11am.

There will be sweepstakes and a hat parade, and the race will be displayed on the big screen for all to see.

Please add your name to the list by end of Halloween Members Night on October 31 and specify if you are playing bowls and/or having lunch.

Bowls entry is \$5, and lunch is \$10.

Pay on the day. Please get your name in early so the chef (Jim) will know in advance how many to cater for.

KORUMBURRA

IT WAS another week of varied Pennant results.

In midweek, Korumburra hosted Tarwin in Division 1.

Ben Peachey had a good win 21 shots to 12, Grumpy lost 20 shots to 29 and Katrina Evans lost 24 shots to 19 – an overall five-shot loss.

In Division 2, Korumburra hosted Inverloch.

Peter Hearn had a good win, getting up 21 shots to nine and Jim Garnham won 22 shots to 18 while Cheryl Moore lost 13 shots to 1 – an overall 13 shot win.

In Saturday Pennant, Division 1 hosted Mirboo North in a very tight contest.

Charlie Edgerton won 16 shots to 12, Kevin Beecroft went down 13 shots to 17 and Shane O'Loughlin lost 18 shots to 20 – an overall two-shot loss.

Division 3 travelled to Loch and, in another tight contest, came out close victors.

Grumpy won 21 shots to 17, Rob Sund won 18 shots to 17 and Garry Dorling fought back to go down 19 shots to 20 – an overall four-shot win.

Division 4 travelled to Wonthaggi and had a draw.

Katrina Evans won 30 shots to 12, Peter Hearn lost 14 shots to 23 and Jim Garnham lost 14 shots to 23 – an overall draw.

Division 6 – in its first game of the season – hosted Fish Creek.

Jo Lomagno got up 22 shots to 16.

Unfortunately, Judith Nicholl went down 26 shots to 12 – an eight-shot loss.

If you are looking for something to do on Cup Day, there will be bowls and lunch at the club.

The cost is \$20 per head with an 11.30am start.

LEONGATHA

COME join barefoot bowls at Leon-gatha Lawn Bowls Club, starting on November 11, and running for five weeks.

Get your teams ready for a fun-filled night.

Learn how to play bowls with your work colleagues or friends, have a drink with a snag and onions on top with a piece of bread and sauce.

You can't get more Aussie than that.

It's all very laid back and child-friendly.

The night starts around 5.30pm – you can't miss this event, more laughs than bowling.

Monthly Triples and social bowls were cancelled due to bad weather.

On Tuesday, during Pennant round two, Division 1 and Division 4 made the journey to Inverloch.

That pesty wind hovered around most of the day, but otherwise a nice outcome.

Division 1 went down 40 to Inverloch 63.

Division 4 had a good win 57 to 29 – nice work everyone.

During Saturday Pennant, three out of three wasn't bad.

Division 1 had a close win 56 to 54.

Division 2 69 to Phillip Island 45.

Division 5 won all rinks 72 to 39.

Keep it going.

Go The Gatha.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS another good week at the club.

Tuesday saw fine weather for the second round of Midweek Pennant.

Division 1 played host to Foster at Wonthaggi in a rematch of last year's grand final.

Wonthaggi played well, with two rinks having a win and the other a narrow loss.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 75, Foster 58.

Division 2 travelled to Meeniyar looking for their first win of the year.

One rink had a win, with the other two going down.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 43, Meeniyar 65.

Division 3 played host to Foster at Wonthaggi.

After a tight battle all day, Wonthaggi were able to secure a good win with all rinks playing well.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 68, Foster 66.

Thursday saw a cold morning to greet the social bowlers, with the group playing against the fence and bowling north-south. That proved to be a success, giving the group some shelter from the wind.

Thursday social bowls at 1pm saw a good number of bowlers play two games of ten ends on a cool and sometimes cold afternoon.

At the end of the day, only one team was able to win both games.

Continued page 71

From page 70

They were WendyDonohue, Rob Westbrook and Frank Cimino with a score of two wins and 34 points.

Once again, Friday night was a success with more than 40 people there to enjoy the evening.

The members' draw didn't go off, with John (Pangers) leaving before the draw at 6pm.

Peter Miller was happy to take the meat tray home, while Norm won the chicken tray.

Alan Bolding and Sylvia each won a brekky pack.

Other winners were Michael (twice) and Stan.

The members' draw will jack-pot to \$60 next week.

Saturday saw Division 1 travel to Leongatha looking for another win.

Two rinks had wins, with the other going down to a team also looking for their first win.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 56, Leongatha 58.

Division 2 played host to Meeniyen at Wonthaggi on a fine, cool day with little or no wind.

Two rinks had good matches, with one having a win and the other a narrow loss.

The remaining rink came up against a very good team who were better on the day.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 47, Meeniyen 62.

Division 4 played host to Korumburra at Wonthaggi looking for their second win.

Two rinks had wins, with the other going down to finish in a draw.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 58, Korumburra 58.

Division 4 (3) ventured down the road to Inverloch looking for their first win.

Two rinks had good wins, with the other going down, to record a solid overall victory.

Final scores: Wonthaggi 83, Leongatha 46.

Division 6 had a win as a result of Mirboo North forfeiting the match.

Bowls this week:

Tuesday: Midweek Pennant.

Thursday: Social bowls at 9.30am and again at 1pm.

Friday: Coaching at 10am.

Saturday: Pennant.

Don't forget the Friday night members' draw, now at \$60, plus two meat trays, two brekky packs and other prizes to win.

A couple of dates for the calendar:

Basket Cabaret: Friday, November 8.

Only \$10 per head with a live band and great music.

Bring your own nibbles.

Melbourne Cup sweep sheets are now available – make sure you get a horse.

Have a good week and good bowling.

Indoor

THIS week, the club held its Triples Championships.

It was a very competitive day on Tuesday, with some very close finishes.

The winners after three games were Theo Sholley, Jeannie Slocombe and Fred Demenech.

Runners-up were Ray McCurry, Lia Smith and Ian Bice.

On Friday, the club had 24 players competing.

The winners with a plus 19 were John Rook, Judy Sweetnam and Jean Wylde.

Runners up on plus 17 were Ray McCurrie, Pam Russell and John Ferguson.

Both teams won two games each.



Korumburra's Shocktober session with Kirsty (Ambulance Victoria), showing Pam Eyers and Viv Enbom how to use the defib machine.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, October 21. Stableford: 27 players.

Winner: A Grade Greg Wilson 37 points.

Winner: B Grade Mick Belvedere 35 points.

NTPs: first Shane Harland, 10th Athol Worthy and 13th Chris McConnell.

Thursday, October 23: Stableford: 14 players.

Winner: Ian Gibson 41 points.

NTPs: 13th Steve Rose.

Saturday, October 25:

Sponsors: Golf Club.

Foursomes Championship: 50 players.

Scratch winners: Rob Gallagher and Shane Harland 74.

Nett winners: Barry Kerr and Ian Morris 65.5.

NTPs: first Clint Newcombe, seventh Jacob Wrigley and 13th Ian Morris.

Ladies

WEDNESDAY, October 15, was the start of the Singles Matchplay Knockouts.

Well done to all players and good luck to those going on to play their next round.

The club held a Stableford event for players not involved in the first singles round.

Congratulations to Gail Beer (30) winning with a nice 33 points.

Runner-up was Shelley Snooks (18) with 28 points.

NTPs: first Judy Webb, and seventh and 13th Shelley.

Recently, the club held a 'Shocktober' information session.

A big thank you to Kirsty from Ambulance Victoria for coming to the clubhouse to discuss CPR, how to use a defib and the symptoms of stroke.

The club was thankful for the information received, making everyone more aware if ever needed.

On Saturday, October 18, the women had 16 play the rescheduled October RB Medal.

The M/M (sponsored by Luscious Cafe), A Grade winner and Best Scratch Score went to Merrissa Cosson 83(12)71 net.

Runner-up was Shelley Snooks

with 90(18)72 net.

The B Grade winner was Lorraine Knox with 110(41)74 net.

Runner-up was Trudy Olden had 108(30)78 net.

BDTL: Lyn McIvor 73 net and Jenny Blackmore 74 net.

NTPs: first Lyn McIvor (Kelly's Bakery) and second shot on the seventh, and closest on the 13th Shelley Snooks.

On Saturday, October 25, the ladies played a Stableford game with Gail Beer (30) the winner having a fabulous 44 points.

Gail sliced three shots of her handicap and is now well and truly into the 20s – congratulations.

Runner-up was Lyn McIvor (23) with 35 points.

BDTL went to Shelley Snooks (17) with 34 points.

NTPs on the first (Kelly's Bakery Voucher) and second shot on the seventh was Gail.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, October 21: Stableford.

Overall winner: Malcolm Gin 40.

A Grade: Malcolm Gin 40; Ray Mathews 37 c/b.

B Grade: David Tobin 38; Graeme Clark 33.

Nearest the pin: fifth second shot Ken Smirk; 14 Doug Clemann; 16 Peter Stivic.

Thursday, October 23: Par.

A Grade: Malcolm Gin +4; Mark Lafferty +1 c/b.

B Grade: Bernard Skerys +2; Gordon Allan 0 c/b.

C Grade: Peter Hartigan +1 c/b; Delia Perry +1.

Nearest the pin: fifth shot second Ken Smirk; 14 Warren Stewart; 16 John McLennan.

Saturday, October 26: Vern Pears Ambrose Fours – board event.

1 Andrew Sorenson and Finn O'Halloran 56.667.

2 Jeremy De Silva, Chad Clabby, Alan Starkey and Michael O'Rafferty 56.75.

3 Rebecca Brown, Jim Cresp, Ryan Thomas and Norman Hughes 56.875.

Nearest the pin: fifth second shot Matthew Hildebrand 250cm; 14 Chris Indian 167cm and 16 Jim Cresp 205cm.



Korumburra's Wednesday Stableford winner Gail Beer.



Korumburra Saturday's October RB Medallist Merrissa Cosson.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, October 21: Stableford.

A Grade: T. Whitelaw 39 points.

B Grade: C. James 39 points c/b.

DTL: S. Hill-Smith, A. McCarthy 37 and G. Renwick 36 c/b.

NTP: fourth G. Renwick, sixth T. Whitelaw, 13th R. Thompson and 16th C. James.

Saturday, October 25: Ambrose.

Winner: M. Payne, S. Hill-Smith and J. Hughes (7.7) 62.3 net.

Runner up: H. Kerr and A. Collins (7) 63 net.

DTL: N. Bickerton, Tim Traill 63.5, P. Draper, R. Clark 65, S. Woodall and T. Bradshaw 64.75.

NTP: fourth C. Dawson, sixth M. Payne, 13th C. Dawson and 16th L. Gervasi.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND GOLF INC

Women's Foursomes Championship

WONTHAGGI Golf Club hosted the South Gippsland Golf Inc Women's Foursomes Championship last Friday.

Twenty-six pairs played amongst the many resident kangaroos on the golf course that seem to have no interest whatsoever in the serious game being played before them.

The Scratch Foursomes Championship was won by Korumburra pair Merrissa Cosson and Shelley Snooks.

They finished the day with a scratch score of 92.

The handicap winners in A Grade were Betty Bowmar and women's captain Catherine Bolding from Wonthaggi with a net 73.

The host club, Wonthaggi, won the Minor Championship, with a very surprised Chris Hamilton and Jan Beaumont achieving a winning scratch score of 103.

In B Grade, the handicap winners were also from Wonthaggi, with women's president Patsy Britt and Carole Sartori finishing with a net 73.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES

ing with a net score of 72.5 – the best net result of the day.

Down the line balls went to the following combinations: Marg Johnson and Merryn Dear, Jenny McRae and Donna Brosnan (Wonthaggi), Colleen Touzel and Jenny Teasdale (Leongatha), Sue Hoskin and Jo Graeme (Meeniyen), Barb Britten and Barb Warren (Foster), Jeanette Diss and Adrienne Anglin (Phillip Island), and Jo Fennell and Kath Davis (Woorayl).

Elly Berryman (Woorayl) was closest to the flag on the 17th and Sarah Gordon (Phillip Island) on the eighth.

Thanks to the women's captain Catherine for her very efficient organisation along with president Patsy, and all the volunteers who helped in hosting this event at Wonthaggi.

This was the last South Gippsland Golf Inc women's event for the year.

The Maree Anderson 4BBB Opening Day will be held on Friday, February 6, at the Korumburra Golf Club.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: October 23.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Glenn Hewlett 36.

Runner up: Glen Turner 35.

Results: October 23.

Competition: Stableford back nine-hole.

Winner: Bill Howard 17.

Ball DTL: Ray Hender 16.

Results: October 25, S.R 71.

Competition: Stableford.

A Grade: Ian Baker 40.

B Grade: Glen Turner 37.

C Grade: Peter Ali 38.

Balls down the line to 37: Allan McLean 39, Dean Winning 38, Hamish Burns 38, Bill Howard 38, Jim Jordan 37, Graeme Campbell 37, David Hynes 37 and Glenn Hewlett 37.

Eagles: Ian Baker 10th and Allan McLean 11th.

NTPs: Gus McIntyre second; Allan McLean fourth; Bob Cornelis propin eighth; Brendon Stapleton 13th and Don Paproth money hole 17th.

South Gippsland Bridge Club

MONDAY nights are hanging on by the skin of their teeth, but they are hanging on. Sean Munley and Tom Kudelka led with 62.7 per cent, Clive Hope and Susan Ruffin 61.31, Julie and Ian McPhee 58.93, and Ruth Stevenson and Kathy Dowd 50.99 per cent.

Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston continued to rule Tuesday play with 67.03. Bron Sund and Michael Dooley with 59.63, Ruth Harvey and John Currier 57.41, Marie Sands and Ken McKenzie 53.33, and Ann Rinder and Neville Chapman 52.59 per cent.

The club welcomed visitors Amanda and Adam to a strong field of 10.5 tables on October 24.

In the lead of N/S, Caroline Shaw and Jean Barbour with 58.8, Alan Johnston and Clive Hope 56.17, Penny Lanser and Doug McIntosh 55.66, Julie and Ian MacPhee 54.3, and Ann and Philip Rinder 52.26 per cent.

E/W Maureen Stiles and Penny Loughran 64.14, Lois Dwyer and Robyn Egan 56.5, Catherine Burton and Robyn Synan 54.42, Amanda Stewart and Adam Trumble 52.33, and Ruth Harvey and Philip Chapman 50.92 per cent.

There will be no play on Cup Day. Anyone wanting to learn the game or join the club, please contact president Mary on 0427 338 598 or secretary Kathy on 0438 859 561.

Phillip Island Bridge Club

THE spirit of friendly competition was alive and well at the Phillip Island Bridge Club on Wednesday, October 22, as the Seniors Festival brought a lively group of visitors eager to learn and experience the fascinating game of Bridge.

Five tables were in play, with club president Caroline Shaw and champion player Jean Barbour guiding newcomers through the intricacies of the game.

The day's honours went to Marion and Kevin Taylor, visiting from Traralgon, who took out top spot with an impressive 61.57 per cent.

Earlier in the week, Monday's session saw five and half tables in play, with Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour emerging victorious on 59.58 per cent.

For those inspired to join in, beginners' lessons will restart on Tuesday, October 28, at 10am – please arrive by 9.45am.

For more information, contact Caroline Shaw on 0418 369 557.

Allambee Mirboo and District Tennis Association

RESULTS:
Section 1: Korumburra 6.42 defeated Outtrim 2.24; Westernport White 6.42 defeated Koonwarra 2.29; Leongatha 6.46 defeated Westernport Red 2.20.

Ladder: Leongatha 31; Westernport Red 26; Westernport White 25; Koonwarra 17; Korumburra 11; Outtrim 10.

Section 2: Korumburra 6.43 defeated Outtrim 2.28; Leongatha 4.43 defeated Baromi 4.42.

Ladder: Leongatha 27; Korumburra 20; Baromi 19; Outtrim 14.

In Section 1, all results were the same – 6/2.

The Westernport Red ladies won their two sets for their team, but that was all the team could manage against Leongatha. Nick Beale for Outtrim won his two mixed sets, the only sets his team won for the day.

A mixed and a men's set went Koonwarra's way, with Glenn Kleeven having his hand in both of those.

In Section 2, Korumburra won the game against Outtrim 6/2.

After some confusion for the Outtrim teams, it was great to see them get a team on the court. Well done to Lana Brusamarello for playing.

The match of the round this week goes to Baromi v Leongatha.

Both teams were equal on sets with just one game the difference.

Both sections are having some terrific matches, and even if the scores don't always show it, there can be plenty of great rallies and games that run to deuce a few times.

There is no play next week due to the Melbourne Cup weekend.



Jamie, Marilyn, Alby and Vince were the winners during last week's round of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League spring competition



Laurie Jones was the meat tray raffle winner at Phillip Island Darts this week.

Mid-season thrills in Phillip Island Darts

THE darts flew fast and furious on Monday night as 24 keen players gathered for another thrilling round of the Phillip Island and Districts Darts League spring competition.

With the league now hitting its halfway mark, the competition for bragging rights and top spots is tighter than ever.

The atmosphere was electric as the darters squared off.

A huge welcome back goes to Jamie, who immediately made an impact, expertly captaining his team of Marilyn, Alby, and Vince to a sol-

id five-to-two victory on the night.

It was a superb demonstration of team synergy, showing that strategy is just as important as a steady aim.

The race to the top tightens.

Despite the constant pressure from the pack, the top three individuals held their ground after week seven, but the gap is closing fast.

Bob Hee maintains his slender lead, sitting on 45 points.

Just two points behind and breathing down his neck is Paul Gleeson with 43 points.

David Healey rounds out the top three with a strong 36 points.

With plenty of matches left to play in the spring series, there's still ample opportunity for a dark horse to surge up the ranks and challenge the leaders.

The luck of the draw fell to Laurie this week, who walked away with the much-coveted San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle prize.

Congratulations, Laurie – enjoy the feast.

Looking ahead to next week, the league is gearing up to inject even more excitement

into the competition.

Organisers are planning fun and exciting additions to the competition, designed to allow all darters to earn extra points.

This could be a game-changer for those looking to climb the ladder.

So, grab your arrows, practice your treble-20s, and make sure you turn up next week to be part of the action and try out the new format.

It's all happening in the Phillip Island darts scene.

Who do you predict will be the dark horse to jump into the top three next week?



New life members welcomed at Phillip Island Tennis Club

Phillip Island Tennis Club's recently welcomed four life members who were installed at their recent AGM and recognised for their service to the club. Pictured from left are Alison FitzGerald, Robyne Lunn, Helen McCormick and Michael McLeod.

— Korumburra earn the tennis honours at Outtrim —



Korumburra's Darren Roberts and Paul Ramsbottom played Section 1 doubles against Outtrim at Outtrim Recreation Reserve. B95_4325



Nicely placed return from Ryan Cargill playing against Korumburra Section 1 at Outtrim. B86_4325



Harry Cecil and Cam Dike battled it out in the Sports Sedan class. Photo: Napier Photography.

Juniors put on a show at Nyora Raceway for season opener

WHAT a way to start the season! A massive two days of racing at Nyora Raceway saw new cars, fresh wraps, and plenty of on-track action from our junior and senior drivers alike.

The junior competitors certainly put on a show for the crowd, with multiple heat winners and close, hard-fought finals.

1500 Juniors – Steane Cosson claimed the win in front of Tyson Heaphy and Brad Marshall. Brad also had the fastest lap in the final with an 18.177. Would also like to thank The Smith family for bringing Tyler over and having a run at our track hope you guys enjoyed it and to all of our other drivers who supported us on the day Maddy and Blake Beach, Darcy Dan-natt, our own club kids Jackson Heaphy, Kade Robertson who is getting faster every time he hits the track and our own little pocket rocket Cruz Abela.

1200 Juniors – Ryder Taylor, with a fastest lap time of 20.829 seconds, took the victory in his first final, which made it all that much more special winning against his cousin, Eliza and brother Cruz. In the second heat of this class, Ruby wanted to show her skills and please the crowd with her spectacular roller over, she got out of the car still smiles all over her face, mum's not so much. She was checked over by the

ambulance, and all was clear, and she was back out to race again. Our other two competitors in this class were Roary Southam and Zeke Warren, who has only had less than a handful of runs in the car, but he is also improving on every showing he has. He has some big shoes to fill with the likes of his dad, Wazza, and also Uncle Plugga, who both can drive anything

Junior Standards – Nathan Miles, with a fastest lap time of 18.926 seconds, drove strongly to take home the win in front of Cooper Irons and Jazmyn Miles, this being her first meeting in a race car, and she did extremely well. She will only get better from here. We also had a new driver to the scene, Chloe Cormack, who was a bit nervous, but she gave it a go, which was the main thing, and she also got out of the car happy she could do it.

The Standard Saloons for all classes provided some great entertainment, with Courtney Meakins taking the top spot in the Ladies Standards in her newly wrapped #84, and Wayne Sherman claiming victory in the Open Standards ahead of Kacey Ingram and Chris Miles.

The Outlaw Karts made a big impression, too, featuring the Coates Family Team.

The Senior Karts, using the bigger inside track, also put on some incredible racing.

We also had Sports sedans

run with a great field of 16 cars most having a run before their season opener of the JP ESSS asphaltting sports sedan series running Wangaratta next weekend, we had some new drivers start with us welcome to the club Riley Sher-rard, Harry Cecil had some good results with two heat wins and a sec which put him of pole for the final and that is where he stayed to never look back he finished with a fast-est lap time of 17.014. Behind him, however, there was some close racing with the likes of Cameron Dike and Brad Warren, who gave each other a run for their money, swapping positions a couple of times until lap five where Cameron cemented his position in second spot, followed by Brad in third, followed by River AX47 and Darren N 69 finishing in fourth and fifth.

Sunday saw a fantastic turnout for the Junior Quarter Midgets as Nyora hosted Round 1 of the JQMV Country Series. It was wonderful to see so many new drivers hitting the track, with smiles all around as the kids returned to Nyora.

Winners on the day:

- 1. 1600 Opens – 1st Lexi Eastham, 2nd Bily Parsons, 3rd Kaiden Obrien
- 2. Novice – 1st Lewis O'Brien, 2nd Nate Roycroft, 3rd Hunter Brown
- 3. 120 Restricted – 1st Brax-

ton Bonnici, 2nd Jed Simpson, 3rd Chase Goss

4. 120 Opens – 1st Dusty Eastham, 2nd Ollie Roycroft, 3rd Kade Foster

We also had a few new trophies to give out on the week-end with best presented trophies sponsored by Ultimate Awards. These went to Dayne Reddecliffe and Jordan Lawry. Two sportspersons' awards went to Lexi Eastham and Lewie Blencowe Kart. Also, a big thanks to Sky High Media for all of the awards they presented to the kids; they absolutely loved them. It's great to have sponsors like them and also Napier Photography on board to help support the kids

These future speedway stars were absolutely brilliant! Watching their growing friendships and sportsmanship shows exactly what makes grassroots speedway so special.

A huge thank you to the Nyora Raceway Committee, our amazing volunteers, and sponsors who make these events possible. Your dedication keeps this community track alive and thriving.

Next up:

Join us on Sunday, November 2 and Monday, November 3, for the Dougo Memorial Standards – featuring Wing-less Sprints and other great classes taking to the track. It's going to be another big week-end of racing you won't want to miss!



Dusty Eastham during the 120 Opens, securing first place. Photo: Napier Photography.



Steane Cosson claimed the win in the 1500 Juniors. Photo: Napier Photography.



After four people drowned at Forrest Caves in January 2024, there were repeated calls by locals for improved signage.

Sign up if you can help

MONASH University and Life Saving Victoria (LSV) are looking for anyone aged 18 or over to help with a research project on how to design more effective coastal safety signage.

Participants will take part in a short virtual reality experience to test signage and provide feedback.

There are two opportunities to be involved, on October 30. The first session is at the Berninnet Cultural Centre in Cowes from 12pm-4pm, with another at the Penguin Parade from 4pm-7pm.

Each virtual reality experience runs for 20 to 25 minutes, with participants filling out two surveys (one before and one after).

The sessions are part of a study undertaken by Monash University and LSV to try and improve beach safety signage.

Victoria has experienced record summer drowning tolls in recent years, with the Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula identified as the highest-risk areas.

“Our project aims to refine and evaluate coastal safety signage to improve public engagement, understanding, and prompt action at these locations,” said Dr Hannah Graefe, Manager – Research and Evaluation at LSV.

“The signs will complement and not replace current safety signage in these areas,” she said.

To register your interest, go to: surveymonkey.com/r/L2DLQWX.

Phillip Island Tenpin

RESULTS:

2's Company – week 12: first place King Pins on 23 points; second place Jail on 23 points; third place Him and Her on 22 points.

ABL – week 12: first place Just Bowl Already on 149 points; second place Pin Pals on 138.5 points; third place The Fireballs on 137 points.

Phantom – week 10: first place Spin King on 255 points; second place Herdy Gerdy on 226 points; third place Lala on 208 points.

Business Early – week three: first place NTC on six points; second place The Redundants on six points; third place Woolly Balls on six points; fourth place Balls Deep on five points.

Business late – week three: first place City Lights on seven points; second place Gym Rats on seven points; third place S and R Clarke Auto on five points; fourth place The Ex Men on four points.

Top scores for this week across each league:

Men: Raff Merante 220, Justin Port-house 214 and Pete Wolf 192.

Women: Mary Dardha 159, Penny Wolswinkel 158 and Valma Peterson 158.

Fight to the finish at Wonthaggi Table Tennis

ANDRO defeated Nittaku 3 to 2; Double Fish defeated Butterfly 3 to 2; Radak defeated Donic 3 to 2.

Finalists have been sorted after a rollicking regular season ride.

The gap between top and bottom was so razor-thin that everyone had realistic hopes to win the whole shebang.

First semi-final: Donic v Nittaku.

Donic led by rocketballs Charley has the chutzpah of classic punk sporting black painted nails and Johnny Rotten facial piercings.

With trusty bandmate Michael, they can inflict serious damage, on both scoreboard and opponents.

Nittaku's Braden and Jake with their boy band looks and power pop antics, that is short aggressive rallies with a gnarly backing soundtrack, will be tough to beat.

Second semi-final: Stiga v Double Fish.

Stiga reflect a time of yore.

Like folk rockers, Tim and Trish play with a blend of craft, guile and good time vibes, combined with thoughtfulness and smiles.

Always a chance. Double Fish are of the ambient pop variety, fending off threatening tempest with calm, ensuring the inner self is protected from panic as the outer self is bombarded from all those rascally punks and vintage rockers.

Ladder: Double Fish 40; Stiga 36; Nittaku 32; Donic 24; Andro 20; Radak 16; Butterfly 8.

Leading players: David 20; Braden 18; Tim 16.

Leongatha Table Tennis

A RESERVE was not on due to the weather this week.

In A Grade, Michael Chang got to the top of the ladder for the first time this season.

Derek defeated his first number two in a grade.

Sam had a nail-biter against Glenn after losing the first two sets, he won 11 to 8 then 12 to 10 and in the finals he won 13 to 11.

Coffee also defeated Peppermint after losing to them the first time they played against each other this season.

A Grade ladder: Mocha 18; Biscotti 14; Coffee 12; Banana 10; Peppermint 8; Boysenberry 6; Caramel 4.

Leading players: Michael C 25; Trent 24; Case 22; Phil 22; Neil C 21.

A Reserve ladder: Flake 12; Crunchie 12; Old Gold 10; Kit Kat 6; Turkish Delight 6; Snickers 2.

Leading players: Matt 20; Ghun 20; Kale 17; Vince 16; Julian 15; Alex 14.



South Gippsland Volleyball Club brought home silver following the recent Gippsland Regional Volleyball League grand final. Pictured from left, Tamara Miller (coach), Amelia Hams, Jessica Sanders (captain), Georgia Mills, Natalie Churchill, Liselott Webster, Annika Webster and Jonamae Kindom. Absent: Georgia Scarce.

Sensational silver for South Gippsland Volleyball Club

SUNDAY, October 19, marked another proud chapter in South Gippsland Volleyball Club's journey, as the team brought home sensational silver in the Gippsland Regional Volleyball League grand final.

After six months of traversing the Strzeleckis to the Latrobe Valley, the season reached a rewarding conclusion – one that showcased the club's depth, unity, and enduring passion for the game.

The club is immensely proud of its junior players, many of whom made their debut appearance in this year's grand final and shone brightly under pressure.

Following an unfortunate injury that saw captain Tamara Miller sidelined, she and Jessica Sanders seamlessly swapped roles. Tamara took on the strategic role of coach, while the ever-experienced and composed Jessica stepped up as captain – guiding her team with focus and determination all the way to the grand final.

"We are so proud of our juniors who continue to impress us both on and off the court," Jessica said.

"A very big thank you to our senior players who put in the training, effort and travel throughout the season to get us to where we are today!"

Semi-final knock-out two: South Gippsland edged out Bairnsdale in a thrilling five-setter,

3-2 (24-26, 25-19, 25-23, 22-25, 16-14).

The match could have gone either way – two well-matched rivals trading blows point for point.

South Gippsland's composure in the final set sealed its spot in the grand final.

Grand final:

Facing a strong and formidable Latrobe Valley 1, South Gippsland fell 3-0 (25-13, 26-24, 25-12) in a hard-fought contest. The second set was heartbreakingly close, with only a few points separating victory from defeat.

The standard of play was exceptional – long rallies, powerful spikes, expertly timed blocks, and an iron-clad back-court defence that reflected the grit and unity the club has built its reputation on.

Each player walked away with a well-deserved mini-trophy – a keepsake and reminder of their strength, teamwork, and determination both on and off the court.

As the curtain falls on the 2025 Gippsland Regional Volleyball League season, the club looks ahead with optimism and pride.

Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the 2026 season is warmly invited to contact club secretary Jessica Sanders at southgippslandvolleyball@outlook.com.



Georgia Mills in action during the Gippsland Regional Volleyball League finals series.

Play Well Expo promotes confidence and connection

WOMEN and girls across South Gippsland are being encouraged to play their way, that highlighted by the successful South Gippsland Play Well Expo on Saturday at Splash in Leongatha.

The free community event brought together clubs, volunteers and community members to celebrate women and girls in sport, supported by South Gippsland Shire Council with assistance from the Australian Sports Commission's Play Well Participation Grants program.

The Play Well initiative is part of a nationwide movement to break down barriers and ensure everyone has a place in sport, regardless of background or experience.

Locally, the program focuses on increasing opportunities for women and girls in traditionally male-dominated sports such as Australian Rules football and cricket.

GippSport partnered with South Gippsland Shire Council to deliver the event, which featured hands-on activities, club demonstrations, and a Gippy Girls Can Confidence Lounge intended to spark

reflection and conversation about confidence, participation and belonging in sport.

"When women share their stories and cheer each other on, it inspires others to get involved too," GippSport's Nicole Osborne said.

Local trailblazers came together through the Community Voices Panel, sharing their stories of leadership, persistence and passion for sport.

"It was inspiring to hear about the challenges that have been overcome to get women's sport to where it is today," Gen Anderson of Leongatha Town women's cricket team said.

For younger girls, the event was a reminder that sport is a space for everyone.

"I enjoyed being on the panel and sharing how we got our team started," Violet, a member of Nyora's Under 14 girls football team said, looking forward to what lies ahead for girls in sport locally.

For more information on how to get involved, please visit gippsport.com.au/playwell or contact Gene Parini at gene@gippsport.com.au.



Saturday's South Gippsland Play Well Expo in Leongatha encouraged women and girls to participate in sport and to support others to do so.



Aislin Jones during competition in Athens, alongside Lucie Anastassiou of France.

Aislin Jones continues to work towards her goals

AISLIN Jones of Leon-gatha finished 21st in Women's Olympic Skeet at this month's ISSF World Championship Shotgun event held in Athens, Greece.

While she led at the end of the opening day, having hit 49 out of 50 targets, Aislin then recorded three consecutive scores of 22 out of 25, her final total of 115/125 falling short of the 119 cutoff to make the final, which was won by Samantha Simonton of the United States.

"It was a really good experience," Aislin said of the event and the chance to experience Athens.

She was impressed by the shooting range and relished the opportunity to explore the city and its history, the keen marathon runner also doing laps of the Panathenaic Stadium, where the original modern Olympics were held.

A training camp in Qatar provided solid preparation

for the Athens competition.

While not able to back up her day one score as she would have liked, Aislin feels confident she is doing the right things and "It's just piecing the three days together so you're in a position to be in a final," she said.

She achieved her aim of starting positively, enjoying the competition as much as possible, but it takes experience to learn to handle the pressure a strong start brings.

"It's easier to come back when you haven't started well because you've taken the pressure off yourself, but what I've been working hard on is putting the runs on the board early and then you put yourself in a position where you've got to then hold it," Aislin explained.

Working more on that is a way off, with plans to take time off until Christmas, her next competition being

the Nationals in March.

Aislin's father and coach Dave, said she did a lot of work in the lead-up to the Athens event.

"She shot really well at the World Cup in Italy in June; she was in the top six until the last round," Dave said, saying Aislin took a lot of positives from that.

Aislin is still only 26, having started shooting at age 12, in a sport in which one can be competitive for many years.

Her busy life includes continuing to study a Bachelor of Commerce, having recently started working for a financial planning company in Melbourne.

Her fiancée, Jack Stockdale, a member of Korumburra Gun Club, withstood an epic shoot-off competing in American Skeet on the weekend, winning the State Title in Tasmania, hitting 99 targets out of 100 during the event, then 61 straight in the shoot-off.



Robert and family celebrate Robert's 80th birthday in the parkrun tradition.

80th birthday celebrated at parkrun

THE sun came out as 47 participants warmed up to take part in the weekend Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun and regular Robert celebrated his 80th birthday.

With two local first-timers and a number of tourists, the Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun's supporters organised a birthday cake for Robert to share with family and friends.

An experienced time-keeper who always keeps an eye on the progress of local participants, Robert was wished a very happy 80th birthday and thanked for becoming a regular volunteer at parkrun events.

With 90 volunteer credits, Robert was keen to get back on his bike to help out with pre-course checks and work toward completing his 50th parkrun event.

A big thank you was extended to the tribe of volunteers who helped celebrate and share in the community spirit that the Grand Ridge Rail Trail parkrun is renowned for including Libby Belton, Shirley Buckley, Julia Groves, Vanessa Hardie, Stacey Krausz, Alan McKenzie, Marissa Shields, Greg Smith, Val Smith, Audrey Valentine, Chris Waldron and Linda Zhang.

NYORA FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB PRESENTATION NIGHT



The 2025 Senior award winners for Nyora were Paul Delaroche (goal kicking), Tyler Kirkbride (most determined), Jordan Anderson (best and fairest), Dylan Heylen (runner-up best and fairest) and Lucas Lee (most consistent). They are pictured with coach Scott Battams (third from left).



Nyora's A Grade awards went to runner-up best and fairest Tanasha Walters, best and fairest Tiana Heylen, and coach's award recipient Shannon Heylen.



The Graeme Skilton Memorial Reserve Most Courageous Award went to Luke Forescutt, with Lincoln Brock named Nyora Reserves' runner-up best and fairest, and the best and fairest honours going to Andrew Dike.



Nyora's C Grade award winners were runner-up best and fairest Makayla Lee, best and fairest Lexie Jobling and coach's award recipient Erin Mantel.

Gippsland Goannas Over-60 cricket season underway

THE Gippsland Goannas Over-60 cricket team finally got their season underway Sunday last week at the Wy Yung cricket ground, against the Baw Baw Veterans.

Winning the toss, the Goannas batted first with Ray Smith and local Bernie Symons opening the batting. They both retired after facing 40 balls, Smith for 40 and Symons for 36. Rob Bacchetti and Rob Taylor were together at drinks after 20 overs with the score on 88. Taylor was out soon after for six, quickly followed by Rino Metlikovec for two.

Bacchetti retired for 20 while Ray Floyd, nine run out, Chris de Vent 22 not out, Adrian Quirk, 15 stumped, Peter Anton 13 retired, Chris Bowen and Andy Slevin helped take the score to 6/175 after 40 overs.

After lunch, Symons and Quirk opened the bowling, with Quirk removing Mark McLachlan for nine in his second over. He then proceeded to break down and was replaced by Anton. Symons bowled Peter Felstead in his third over, and the score was 2/23 in the seventh over when Symons broke down.

Bacchetti completed that over, and then he and Anton each took a wicket, skipper Metlikovec had a run out, and Baw Baw were 5/80 at the 20-over drinks break. Smith and Rino bowled the next eight overs, with the sixth wicket falling at 120 in the 30th over.

Slevin had three overs and took 2/19. There was another run out, and Bacchetti returned to bowl the number four bat, who had retired earlier and resumed his innings. He finished with 2/28 from 5.4 overs, Anton 1/30 from eight overs and Metlikovec 1/35 from his eight overs.

Chris de Vent had a good day behind the stumps, taking three catches and having an assisted runout. Smith, Floyd and Metlikovec also took catches, as Baw Baw were bowled out for 156 runs after 37 overs.

The Goannas 60's played away against the Endeavour Hills team on Sunday, while the Over-50 team hope to start their season with an away game against the Eastern Hawks.

The Over-70 team will play at Toongabbie against the West Gippsland Wombats on Tuesday, October 28.

WONTHAGGI & DISTRICT
NETBALL ASSOCIATION

AGM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12
AT 6.15PM

Korumburra-Wonthaggi Road
Courts Clubroom.

All positions declared vacant
Nomination forms
wdnawonthaggi@outlook.com

EVERYONE WELCOME

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AROUND THE GROUNDS...

C GRADE

Kilcunda Bass v MDU

KILCUNDA BASS' C1 side faced Meenyan Dumbalk United at its home ground in Bass on Saturday, October 25.

After winning the toss, Kilcunda Bass elected to bat first.

Its innings got off to a confident start, with key contributions coming from Joel Hockett (28) and Daniel Bettles (26).

A handful of middle-order players added useful runs to keep the scoreboard ticking over, and despite some tight bowling from MDU, Kilcunda Bass managed to post a competitive total of 122 runs.

With the ball, Kilcunda Bass wasted no time applying pressure.

Opening bowlers Hunter Bettles and Andrew Blackney set the tone early, keeping MDU's run rate down and produced four quick wickets.

Blackney was particularly effective, finishing with three wickets for the match, while the rest of the attack maintained excellent line and length throughout.

Fielding was another highlight for the home side, with sharp catching and energetic efforts in the field ensuring MDU never found momentum.

The visitors fought hard but ultimately fell short of the target in the 35th over, handing Kilcunda Bass a well-earned victory.

It was a complete team performance – bat, ball, and field and an encouraging sign of things to come for Kilcunda Bass C Grade.

Kilcunda Bass had many of its players missing this week and pulled a team together with the help of players from the junior and women's teams.

Congratulations to Sarah Tyrell for debuting in C1 and to Tiana Gold for taking her first C1 wicket.

"The team did well to get the score up to 122 and then went on to bowl really well to keep MDU to 91," Kilcunda Bass president Ash Larcombe said.

"It's really good for the club to have such a range of talent."

Leongatha Town v Inverloch

LEONGATHA Town's C2 side was sent into bat first, with Karl Aeschlimann and young Shem Hickey opening the innings and laying a strong foundation.

Karl was in fine touch, top scoring with 43, while Shem contributed a handy 16.

New recruit Melvin Kezhuvanthanam added spark to the middle order with a brisk



Russell White chases Nerrena's tally of 125 in Leongatha and District League C1 at Digger Park. B104_4325



A change of pace by Nerrena's Zach Trease in Leongatha and District League C1 at Digger Park. B107_4325

27, pushing the run rate along nicely.

The innings was finished off in style by Ash Hickey, who smashed a quick 31 not out, guiding Town to a solid total of 8/158 from 35 overs.

With the ball, skipper Cam Dowling made the early breakthrough, finishing with 1/20 off four overs.

Nijo Devassy (1/8 off 3) and PJ Kallookkaran (1/12 off 3) also picked up wickets, while everyone contributed in the field.

Despite the effort, Inverloch proved too strong, chasing down the total in the 28th over to finish 3/161.

A solid all-round performance from Town, with

plenty of positives to take into next week.

The Leongatha Town Scorpions Cricket Club is hosting its major fundraiser for the season – a comedy night.

Join the club at the Daker Centre on Saturday, November 22, for a huge Comedy Night featuring Matt Elsbury, Katie Burch, and Brad Oakes.

Tickets are \$50 each (tables of 10), with nibbles provided and drinks at bar prices.

Doors open at 7.30pm – come along for a great night of comedy and support your local club.

Book your spot: Cam Dowling – 0438 314 305.

Koonwarra L/RSL v OMK By Carmen Dettmer

PLAYED at the Velodrome, Koonwarra L/RSL faced OMK and bowled first in warm, steady conditions.

From the outset, the bowling and fielding effort was top-notch, a real team performance across the board.

Glenn Boxall opened the bowling brilliantly, taking two wickets for just four runs from six overs, setting the tone early.

Matt Boswell was equally tight and dangerous, finishing with two wickets for five runs from seven overs, and adding a superb run-out to his name.

Tyson Lund and Alvis Piksons each claimed two wickets, and Shane Paterson also contributing with a catch and bowled wicket maintaining pressure through the middle overs.

A special mention to Nick Botha, who stepped up as wicketkeeper and took a clean catch.

By the end of the innings, Koonwarra L/RSL had taken all 10 wickets, holding OMK to 100 runs, an effort that reflected discipline and commitment in the field.

Chasing, Koonwarra L/RSL needed only 21 overs and just four batters to secure the win.

Both Glenn Boxall and Glenn Matthies led the way, top-scoring with 33 runs each, guiding the Cougars home comfortably. Finishing two for 101, sealing a confident and well-deserved victory for Koonwarra-Leongatha RSL.

This was an outstanding team effort, let's carry that same intent and teamwork into the next game.

The South Gippy Kookas over 60's, always the winner

THE South Gippy Kookas were at headquarters, the magnificent Outtrim Reserve.

Skipper Pete Miller called correctly, and the Kookas opened up! Unfortunately, the Kookas were soon reeling at 3/29. Young Phill Richards and Ol Grayza Wighty responded with 27 and 28, respectively, to "steady the ship".

Mr Cricket, Gary Adams then, as usual, peeled off a Masterful 28no. to get the Kookas to 5/91 at the 20-over mark. The Mornington Olden Goldies were trundling well, but Pieter Loos 20, the Ageless Freddy DeBono 19no and the Experienced Brendon Thomas 12no got the ol' Kookas up to 8/139 of their allotted 40 Overs.

After the usual superb lunch, the Kookas propelled the pill. The very slick, young Mick Whiteside and ever-reliable Pieter Loos kept things tighter than the South Gippy council budget.

The Marauders were up and about, and although the Tundlers never gave up, the Mornington Lads cruised to Victory in the 30th over with

2/142. Best of the Bowlers were Pieter Loos 1/17, Wayne Bridle 1/18, and a speedy Mick Whiteside with 0/25.

Man of the Match went to the Youngin, Freddy DeBono. So, alas, the Kookas were, for once, "Beaten by a better Side"! The Kookas will bounce back, with fun, great cricket and friendship. Always the Winner!

AROUND THE GROUNDS...

B GRADE

Wonthaggi Club v Korumburra

CLUB enjoyed a handy win over Korumburra in B1 on Saturday. The highly experienced and strong Wonthaggi Club side batted first and posted a big total of 278.

“We had a very good batting performance by our team. Gavin Adams performed extremely well, making 86 runs,” Club president Luke McGuirk said. “Unfortunately, he had to retire with an injury. Kai Allison also batted well, which contributed to our score.”

Allison made 53 not out. Despite the challenge, there were plenty of positive signs with the ball for Korumburra as Owen Maskell and Tyler Dole applied pressure through the middle overs to slow the scoring rate.

The introduction of Billy Dourley into the attack had an immediate impact, with Billy producing a great spell to claim 2/27.

Noah Belvedere and Paddy Beadel also chipped in with a wicket each as Korumburra continued to fight hard through the innings.

Unfortunately, Korumburra was a batter short after Matt Allen suffered a severe hamstring injury during the fielding innings, but the side showed real grit with the bat to ensure it batted out the overs.

Phil Richards led by example with a determined 30 off 93 balls (three fours), supported by James Dunn (14 off 33, two fours) and Paddy Beadel (16* off 30, three fours).

Club’s top bowler was Chase Adams with three wickets, and Jai Williamson and Bryce Evans claimed two wickets each.

Wonthaggi Club’s Woolworths Blast program launched at McMahon’s Reserve last week, with more than 20 participants.

Club’s U13s have also made a strong start to the season with a win over Phillip Island.

Inverloch v Nerrena

NERRENA proved too strong for Inverloch in the B1 match at the Inverloch Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

Inverloch won the toss and chose to bat.

Nerrena bowlers Jaxon Checkley and Will Croatto restricted the run rate early, but Inverloch made a comeback with Will Rankin making 53.

James McNamara added 19 to the score, followed by Greg Eddy with 23.

Tyson Harris was Nerrena’s top bowler, taking 3/23.

Nerrena was chasing 138, and Harris and Gerard Murphy made a good start with 20 and 21 runs respectively.

Eamon Berryman got Nerrena over the line with 59 runs.

For Inverloch, Callan O’Flynn took the bowling honours with 2/20.

Nerrena’s winning score was 5/141.

The Imperials v Koonwarra L/RSL

A FIERY Imperials outfit took Koonwarra L/RSL on Saturday afternoon.

The matches between the Imps and the Cougars always stir up competitiveness and this game was no different.

The Imperials started off by winning the toss and elected to bat first in favourable conditions.

Their openers fought well, but it was Sajeswarman Keneshathasan (Saj) (2/16 off eight overs) who would make the breakthrough.

Louis Read (1/25 off 7 overs) bowled well alongside Saj, putting the pressure on early.

However, after having them 2-36 at 12 overs, they dug in for an 89-run partnership until Will Cashin (3/28 off seven overs) bowled out the Imps top-scorer for the day, Kane Maskell (81), which would help the Cougars limit them to 7-164.

Reggie Read (1/16 off 3 overs) also picked up a wicket.

Imperials president Kristian Gray was happy with the batting performance.

“Kane had a good partnership with Al Curnow, and Martin Reidy (18) picked it up for us at the end,” he said.

“A couple of dropped catches kept us in it, and we were happy with the score. We felt we just needed to bowl well to be in with a chance.”

Heading out to bat, the Cougars looked shaky early, losing openers Will Cashin (0) and Kevin Thorne (11) at the hands of Imps bowler Cameron Bruce, leaving behind a position of 2-12.

Brett Pedlow, however, had other plans for the day as he and Louis Read (29) dug in for a 73-run partnership before Louis was stumped.

Adam Drury (22*) would lock down one end as he and Brett Pedlow not only steered us home for the win (3-167), but steered Brett towards a well-fought century.

He showed class in his batting yesterday, finishing 104 runs off 88 balls (not out) with a broken bat.

For the Imperials, James Jeffery bowled well without having much luck and young gun Taj Houston claimed the only other wicket on the day.

Houston was playing his first Senior game for the Imperials, alongside Ollie Bolge, who got a call-up in A Grade.

Houston and Bolge are bottom age U15s players who are showing real promise and are set up for more appearances in the Seniors.

Glen Alvie v Nyora

A YOUNG Glen Alvie side stepped up in B2 on Saturday but were defeated by a determined Nyora.

Playing at the Poowong Recreation Reserve, Nyora won the toss and sent the opposition into bat.

Glen Alvie suffered a slow start, but Jack Brown got the ball rolling with 24 runs and Tony Bals top scored with 35 runs.

Nyora’s bowling efforts were shared between Keith Maclure, Lincoln Brock, Viraj Peiris and Tyler Perkins, who claimed two wickets each.

Michael Lynch was a single-wicket taker.

Nyora was chasing 118 and opening batsman Colin Knox set the tone with 37 runs.

Lynch contributed 25 runs and Peiris made 19 not out.

Glen Alvie bowler Lachlan McRae ran through Nyora’s batting order with 4/17, but Nyora did enough to claim the win.

Nyora’s final score was 6/120.



Russell White was on the attack against Nerrena, leaving OMK C1 to chase 125 runs for victory. B87_4325



Impressive spin bowling from OMK’s Vishar Sharmer against Phillip Island A1 at Outtrim Recreation Reserve. B93_4325



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it’s Azhar! Azhar Mehmood in full flight against Korumburra on Saturday. Photo: Jodie Arnup.



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LEONGATHA & DISTRICT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

- A1: Madura Madusanka (Town) 89 ; Frazer Livingstone (Town) 4/37
A2: Tharindu Nuwan (MDU) 134* ; Archie Casey (MDU) 4/20
B1: Dylan McMeekin (OMK) 102* ; Toby Nicholas (OMK) 5/27
B2: Brett Pedlow (Koon L.RSL) 104* ; Tyrone Zukovskis (MDU) 4/14
C1: Mathew Walker (OMK) 57 ; Nick Tucker (Nerrena) 4/22
C2: Karl Aeschlimann (Town) 43 ; Dean Cashin (Inverloch) 5/14

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AROUND THE GROUNDS...

A GRADE

OMK v Phillip Island

A GRAND final rematch against A1 giants OMK and Phillip Island saw the Diggers reign supreme once again.

Playing at the Outtrim Recreation Reserve, Phillip Island won the toss and chose to bat first.

Brodie Johnston kept Phillip Island in the game with a 69-run haul.

However, Phillip Island was dealt a blow when captain Daniel Mock was caught by Travis Pickering off the bowling of Ethan Lamers.

The early loss of the skipper rattled the rest of the batting order, with Ethan and Jacob Lamers claiming three wickets each and two to Pawan Thind.

Kohen Beaumont and Jobe Williams managed to contribute 17 and 21 runs respectively to Phillip Island's score.

The Diggers were chasing 146.

Ethan Lamers continued his fine form, scoring 71 not out.

Williams claimed three wickets and two were taken by Heath Womerlsey, but OMK did what it needed to do to claim the points.

OMK's winning total was 6/146.

After this weekend's round bye, OMK will play Inverloch.

A1 captain and coach Koby Brann said this is anticipated to be a tough game, with Inverloch having a lot of young talent in their side.

OMK has Bogan Bingo coming up on November 29. It's sure to bring plenty of laughs.

Tables are still available.

Get in contact with Russ White or the club to book.

Koonwarra L/RSL v Korumburra

KOONWARRA L/RSL made the journey across to the Korumburra Recreation Reserve on Saturday afternoon for the A2 clash.

With both teams being undefeated for the season thus far, the rights for the top spot were up for grabs.

Korumburra won the toss and sent the Cougars in for a bat.

The Cobras made an early breakthrough before Koonwarra L/RSL steadied and built a solid start.

Quick wickets to Liam Dole and Jayden Douglas brought the Cobras into the context, but a strong middle order partnership from Koonwarra L/RSL pushed the total out of reach.



MDU had a win over Foster in A2 on Saturday. Photo: Dave B.

Opener Tanuj Namalge (Benja) started off well making 35 runs from 44 balls.

Isuru Darshana also made a handy score of 26 in his 50th match.

However, it was James Rushton (60*) who would take out the spot of number one scorer for the day, leading the boys to a final total of 6/192.

Jacob Whiteside was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with an excellent 3/45.

With a defendable total in hand, it was now up to the Cougars to head out and defend the tally with Josh Thomas (0/27 off 8 overs) and Nick Arnup (0/23 off 4 overs) opening the attack.

The first and crucial wicket falling via a run out with the next coming from Benja (1/10 off 4 overs), who took the wicket of Caleb Turton (18) via lbw.

The composed run stand between Aaron Damon (28 off 44, four fours) and Turton (18 off 42, one six and one four) steadied the innings and set a strong platform for the chase.

Whiteside would be the top-scorer for the match, with a well-made 61 off 73 balls, including one

boundary and a pair of towering sixes, the second of which bringing up his half century in style.

Fortunately for the Cougars, Korumburra would fall 26 runs short of the total (7-166) as James Rushton (3/30 off 8 overs) would be the top wicket-taker.

With the league bye this week coming as well as their bye for round five, Koonwarra L/RSL's next match won't be until November 22 against Kilcunda-Bass, which is when they will start the first two-day match of the season.

MDU v Foster

MDU defeated Foster in A2 at the Meeniyana Recreation Reserve on Saturday.

The home side won the toss and went into bat first, putting the score up to 5/276 and later bowling out the opposition for 69.

Tharindu Nuwan had a standout performance for MDU, batting 135 not out with five fours and eight sixes.

Wayne Prosser contributed 27 runs and Jai Bright made 35.

It was a challenging day on the field for Foster, though the younger players provided a highlight for the day.



Jimmy Rushton celebrates 50, pointing to Thornton's Bakery sticker on the bat. Photo: Jodie Arnup.

The program is perfect for young children eager to learn the basics and join the fun.

Watch the Facebook page for further details.

Nyora v Kilcunda-Bass

NYORA dug deep and managed to steal a win over Kilcunda-Bass.

Playing at home, Nyora won the toss and chose to bowl.

Cameron Davidson opened well for Kilcunda-Bass with 46 runs.

Captain Matthew Grayson added 14 runs, but otherwise the batting order was restricted by Nyora's bowlers.

Aaron Thompson, Aidan Simmons, Jy Hull and a fill-in player claimed two wickets each.

Nyora had its eyes on the target – 124 runs.

Nyora lost Benn Hayes for a duck off the bowling of Brad Wright, but regrouped from there with Daniel Esler, Simmons and Hull making 20, 15 and 25 runs respectively.

Thompson finished it off with 21 runs.

Grayson gave it his all by taking 4/34, but Nyora crept over the line.

Nyora won with a score of 9/125 in the 38th over.

LADDERS

Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%	Team	Points	%
A GRADE, Division 1			A GRADE, Division 2			B GRADE, Division 1			B GRADE, Division 2			C GRADE, Division 1			C GRADE, Division 2		
OMK	48	1.297	Koonwarra L/RSL	48	2.214	Club	42	3.656	MDU	42	1.152	Nerrena	30	1.547	Club	30	1.849
Club	24	1.413	Nyora	36	0.785	OMK	30	6.915	Nyora	30	1.395	Kilcunda Bass	30	1.090	Inverloch	30	1.760
Nerrena	24	1.310	Kilcunda Bass	24	1.416	Nerrena	30	1.765	Kilcunda Bass	30	1.013	OMK	24	1.035	Glen Alvie	30	0.792
Phillip Island	24	0.924	Korumburra	24	1.376	Phillip Island	18	0.490	Glen Alvie	18	1.214	Club	18	1.059	Town	24	1.013
Inverloch	12	0.842	MDU	12	1.326	Inverloch	12	0.938	Koonwarra L/RSL	18	0.772	MDU	18	0.745	Koonwarra L/RSL	18	1.175
Town	12	0.724	Glen Alvie	0	0.581	Town	6	0.324	Imperials	6	0.625	Phillip Island	18	0.521	OMK	6	0.287
Imperials	0	0.700	Foster	0	0.195	Korumburra	6	0.199				Korumburra	6	0.624	Nyora	6	0.000



Brodie Johnston scores a boundary with this shot in Leongatha and District League A1 at Outtrim Recreation Reserve.
B89_4325

Winning weekend for the Diggers at home in Outtrim

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

CAPPING off a great weekend of cricket, OMK won three out of four matches over the weekend, securing victory against Phillip Island in A1 at Outtrim Recreation Reserve.

Best for OMK was Jacob Lamers taking 3/22 and Ethan Lamers not out on 71.

Opening the batting for Phillip Island, Max Arceo was caught and bowled by Vishal Sharma for just eight runs after being repeatedly coaxed forward out of his crease to take a shot.

Brodie Johnston steadied for Phillip Island, notching up 69 runs before being eventually clean bowled by Ethan Lamers at the end of the innings, leaving Phillip Island teetering.

The Island had struggled early losing Heath, Womersley, captain Daniel Mock and Thomas Niven for just seven runs between them. The middle order looked like holding until OMK's bowlers took Jobe Williams and Brodie Johnston's wickets one after the other and then the final wicket of Archie Williams to dismiss the Island all out

for 144.

Travis Pickering, Vishal Sharma and Ethan Lamers shared the bowling honours for OMK with two wickets apiece and Sharma took two catches, including one field catch off the bowling of Ethan Lamers.

Opening the batting for OMK, Clayton Quaife and Ethan Lamers put together a respectable partnership of 42 before Quaife was taken lbw by Jobe Williams on 17.

A series of costly hiccups including a duck for Jacob Lamers and Noel Creed run out with the score on 115

could have proved costly for OMK, however a solid knock by Vishal Sharma (n/o 12) and a match-winning performance by Ethan Lamers (n/o 71) sealed the win for OMK with three wickets in hand.

George McCausland and Heath Womersley took two wickets each for Phillip Island.

OMK B1 (7/216-40) scored a resounding victory over Leongatha Town (10/69-23) with Peter Dell taking 4/25 off 8 overs.

OMK C2 (10/100) succumbed to Koonwarra Leongatha RSL (2/101).

All in the family with a win for OMK at Digger Park

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

CONTINUING the father-son tradition at Digger Park, OMK's Steven Loader and his young son Bradley took the field against Nerrena, chalking up a handy win.

Bradley Loader played his first C1 match alongside his father against Phillip Island, with younger brother Mitchell playing in the juniors.

"I hadn't played for years," said proud father Steven.

"But 11-year-old Mitchell was keen to step up after taking six wickets in junior cricket."

Opening the batting for Nerrena, Brian Gannon and Jack Donohue were dismissed cheaply. Gannon was caught by Russell White off the bowling of Jordan Myers for nine, and Donohue was caught by Paul Harper off the bowling of Matthew Loader for just three.

Darren Curtis steadied for Nerrena, eventually notching up an impressive innings of 56 despite seeing off Clancee Salmon and Christos Marinou, both dispatched scoreless.

Russ White, Jordan Myers and Matthew Loader shared the bowling honours for OMK.

Chasing Nerrena's tally of 125, Mathew Walker and Russell White opened for OMK, notching up an impressive century between them before White was caught by Ben Croatto off the bowling of Nick Tucker for 37 and Matt Walker was caught and bowled for 57.

Notching up 130 runs off 32.5 overs, OMK sealed victory with the loss of only five wickets.

RIGHT: Steven Loader and his son Bradley, along with younger brother Mitchell, are part of the father-son tradition at Digger Park.
B82_4325



LDCA - OCTOBER 25 HIGHLIGHTS

A GRADE, DIVISION 1

OMK 6/146 d Phillip Island 144
PI Batting: B Johnston 69, J Williams 21
PI Bowling: J Williams 3/46, H Womersley 2/17
OMK Batting: E Lamers 71*, C Quaife 17
OMK Bowling: J Lamers 3/22, E Lamers 3/28
Nerrena 9/132 lt Club 6/197
Club Batting: R Thomas 81, M Thomas 54
Club Bowling: S Beaumont 2/20, J Brann 2/36
Nerrena Batting: J Curtis 36, T Gannon 34
Nerrena Bowling: J Hoy 2/35, A Gannon 1/31
Imperials 148 lt Town 183
Town Batting: M Madusanka 89, S Kyle 44
Town Bowling: F Livingstone 4/37, M Madusanka 2/18
Imperials Batting: A Williams 41, L Wright 21
Imperials Bowling: J Ginnane 3/32, L Wright 2/33
Inverloch – BYE

A GRADE, DIVISION 2

Korumburra 7/166 lt Koon L/RSL 6/192
K-L/RSL Batting: J Rushton 60*, T Namalge 35
K-L/RSL Bowling: J Rushton 3/30, T Namalge 1/10
K'burra Batting: J Whiteside 61, A Damon 28,
K'burra Bowling: J Wihiteside 3/35, L Dole 1/22
Nyora 9/125 d K-Bass 124
K-Bass Batting: C Davidson 46, M Grayson 14
K-Bass Bowling: M Grayson 4/34, B Wright 2/14
Nyora Batting: J Hull 25, A Thompson 21
Nyora Bowling: J Hull 2/6, A Thompson 2/12
MDU 5/276 d Foster 69
MDU Batting: T Nuwan 134*, J Bright 35
MDU Bowling: A Casey 4/20, M Cantwell 3/15
Foster Batting: L Rooker 14, M Allott 11
Foster Bowling: L Moon 3/74, M Johnston 1/23
Glen Alvie – BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 1

Club 5/278 d Korumburra 94
Club Batting: G Adams 86, K Allison 53*
Club Bowling: C Adams 3/13, B Evans 2/8
K'burra Batting: P Richards 30, P Beadel 16*
K'burra Bowling: W Dourley 2/27, N Belvedere 1/43
Phillip Island 83 lt OMK 2/257
OMK Batting: D McMeekin 102*, A Rose 63
OMK Bowling: T Nicholas 5/27, B Maguire 3/11
PI Batting: T Blackwell 27, A Williams 16
PI Bowling: A Williams 1/30, T Allan 1/48
Inverloch 138 lt Nerrena 5/141
Inv. Batting: W Rankin 53, G Eddy 23
Inv. Bowling: C O'Flynn 2/20, H Butcher 1/12
Nerrena Batting: E Berryman 59, G Murphy 21
Nerrena Bowling: T Harris 3/23, W Croatto 2/19
Town – BYE

B GRADE, DIVISION 2

Imperials 7/164 lt Koon L/RSL 3/167
Imperials Batting: K Maskell 81, Private player 29
Imperials Bowling: C Bruce 2/29, T Houston 1/35
K-L/RSL Batting: B Pedlow 104*, L Read 29
K-L/RSL Bowling: W Cashin 3/28, S Kaneshathasan 2/16
Nyora 6/120 d Glen Alvie 118
Glen Alvie Batting: T Bals 35, J Brown 24
Glen Alvie Bowling: L McRae 4/17, N Brown 1/8
Nyora Batting: C Knox 37, M Lynch 25
Nyora Bowling: K Maclure 2/12, T Perkins 2/13
K-Bass 8/131 lt MDU 7/132
K-Bass Batting: V K Gopal 37, R Gardiner 31
K-Bass Bowling: A Bedford 3/23, A McBride 2/22
MDU Batting: R Henry 39, K Sinclair 30*
MDU Bowling: T Zukovskis 4/14, S Browne 2/13

C GRADE, DIVISION 1

K-Bass 9/122 d MDU 9/91
K-Bass Batting: J Hackett 28, D Bettles 26
K-Bass Bowling: A Blackney 3/16, A Joseph 2/4
MDU Batting: T McGrath 29*, C Hooper 28
MDU Bowling: J Allen 2/5, L Thomas 2/10
OMK 5/130 d Nerrena 7/125
Nerrena Batting: D Curtis 56, Fill-in 31
Nerrena Bowling: N Tucker 4/22, M Croatto 1/33
OMK Batting: M Walker 57, R White 37
OMK Bowling: R White 2/13, J Myers 2/15
Club 3/63 d Phillip Island 57
PI Batting: P Francis 31, J Parry 7
PI Bowling: S McMillan 2/21, C Chambers 1/15
Club Batting: M Chisholm 25*, J Caddy 12
Club Bowling: S Liddle 3/7, M A Mohamed Nizar 2/5
Korumburra – BYE

C GRADE, DIVISION 2

Koon L/RSL 2/101 d OMK 100
OMK Batting: J Battersby 36, Private player 24
OMK Bowling: J Battersby 1/14, A Halliwell 1/25
K-L/RSL Batting: G Matthes 33*, G Boxall 33
K-L/RSL Bowling: G Boxall 2/4, M Boswell 2/5
Town 8/158 lt Inverloch 3/161
Town Batting: K Aeschlimann 43, A Hickey 31*
Town Bowling: N Devassy 1/8, P J Kallookkaran 1/12
Inv. Batting: L Jacobs 37*, D Harris 37
Inv. Bowling: D Cashin 5/14, L Jacobs 1/15
Glen Alvie d Nyora (forfeit)
Club – BYE

Bronze medal for Dan Lucas at the Masters Games

WONTHAGGI RSL Sub Branch vice president Dan Lucas returned home triumphant from the Australian Masters Games in Canberra with a bronze medal in skeet shooting.

Proudly backed by the RSL Wonthaggi Sub-Branch and competing as a member of Team RSL, it was Dan's first attempt at skeet shooting. Dan also finished first in his group in his debut in recurve archery and came sixth in his first-ever national clay target shooting competition in a tight field after 75 shots.

The National RSL Team achieved outstanding results with an impressive haul of medals.

RSL Australia was proud to sponsor RSL members' registration as part of the RSL Active initiative, which helps veterans connect through sport and promotes wellbeing, social connections, and camaraderie.

Federal Member for Monash, Mary Aldred MP, paid tribute to Dan Lucas.

"I've met Dan a number of times through his volunteer work at the Wonthaggi RSL advocating for veteran welfare and he's doing a great job."

Thanking his sponsors, Rotary Wonthaggi, Mary Aldred MP, Inlet Fish and Chips and Ice Cream Inverloch and Wonthaggi CWA Owls, Dan said his main goal for competing in the Masters Games was to get picked up by Invictus Australia.

Dan achieved that goal and was given a team veteran shirt, and is now aiming to compete in Birmingham at the Invictus Games in 2027.

Australian Masters Games general manager Adam Drinkwell said the Masters Games is more than competition, it's about camaraderie, celebration and lifelong participation.

"We had participants from 18 to 99 years old take to the fields and courts, we've seen a former Olympian, aged 90, swimming to inspire others, and we've had participants overcome deadly illnesses and use sport to turn their lives around."

Confederation of Australian Sport CEO, Rob Bradley, said the Australian Masters Games brings people together through sport in a truly unique way.



Dan Lucas won a bronze medal in skeet shooting at the Australian Masters Games and is now aiming to compete at the Invictus Games in Birmingham.

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