



# ALL IN ONE

Graduate Nurse Tarra Funnell and Registered Nurse Linda Tack care for patient Heather Harry while she receives cancer treatment in the L. Rigby Centre at Wonthaggi Hospital. (Photo supplied by BCH in celebration of Cancer Nurses Day in August).

## - Wonthaggi, Cowes, Leongatha and Korumburra hospitals linked by ‘voluntary merger’

MORE than 1.2 million people from the Wonthaggi, Cowes, Leongatha, Korumburra, Koo Wee Rup and Mornington Peninsula areas have been linked together through the creation of a huge new public hospital entity called Bayside Health.

Minister for Health Mary-Anne Thomas announced last Friday that she has officially approved the voluntary merger of five health services – Alfred Health, Bass Coast Health, Gippsland Southern Health Service, Kooweerup Regional

Health Service and Peninsula Health – from January 1, 2026.

The five health services, she said, were able to clearly demonstrate how their voluntary merger would benefit each local community by “delivering increased access to specialist services closer to home and improved patient outcomes”.

Minister Thomas said the merger of these health services into Bayside Health would deliver better health outcomes by making it easier to access specialist care and by providing a more seamless

experience for the south-east region.

“This is a great outcome for these communities as they’ll have one health service to better coordinate their patient journey – with improvements already being implemented on services ahead of the formal commencement date,” said Minister Thomas.

She said the health services were already working together to improve patient care and identify areas for service improvement and development.

**Continued page 3**

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This fly-away trampoline made it across the Bass Highway before being caught by this road sign at a very windy Kilcunda on Saturday morning.

# Roaring winds send trampolines and trees flying

THE severe weather 'watch and act' warning issued by Vic Emergency for Phillip Island, San Remo and parts of the Bass Coast and South Gippsland coastal areas over the weekend certainly came to fruition with a roar in the early hours of Saturday morning.

While the relatively sheltered measuring stations at Rhyll on Phillip Island and Pound Creek near Inverloch recorded peak gusts in the high 70km/h and 80km/h range respectively, areas closer to the exposed coast topped the 100km/h mark, with the highest recordings at Wilsons Promontory.

Here, winds gusted consistently above the 110km/h level between 1.41am and 8.49am on Saturday peaking at a damaging 119km/h at 6.21am.

The storm sent dozens of trampolines flying including one which crossed the Bass Highway at Kilcunda and wrapped itself around a 'Bunurong Coastal Drive' tourism sign.

The gale force winds beached yachts at Rhyll, gouged out replacement sand at the Inverloch Surf Beach and brought down hundreds of trees across the district, some on rooftops and across cars.

There was even a small branch across the starting line at the Inverloch Parkrun.

The VICSES Leongatha reported a "busy morning" on social media, answering their first call at 2am and continuing "flat out", attending to 25 requests for assistance until well into the day on Saturday.

"The majority of calls were for trees blocking roads after last night's winds. We also attended a couple of jobs involving building damage and fallen trees on buildings.

"Throughout the morning 12 of our dedicated members have been on-shift and ready to roll at a moment's notice," according to their report.

The group was also delighted to see SES Deputy Chief Officer Cain Trist visit the unit on the day, offering support and encouragement as the team went about its work.

Flashing blue and red lights and chainsaws ripping through fallen trees were a familiar sight around Inverloch and Kongwak.

Inverloch S.E.S. were out clearing fallen trees in the rain and hail from 3am.

According to Neil Warren from the Inverloch SES, High Street was an early morning call with a large tree branch had fallen where

cars usually are parked in the street.

"An awning came down on a coffee shop and there were numerous call-outs to clear trees blocking roads between Inverloch, Koonwarra and Kongwak," said Neil.

Almost 200 people responded to the Sentinel-Times' appeal for photos and reports.

Here's a selection:

- Yacht off its mooring at Rhyll boat ramp
- I had to winch a tree off Walkerville Road in Tarwin Lower earlier this morning that was blocking a lane of traffic
- How we didn't lose power with the amount of trees down I don't know... the island is a mess!
- When will people realise they have to anchor or dismantle their trampolines in bad weather, they're the first thing to go!
- Coghlan Road, Cowes
- Trees down Korumburra Golf Course
- Our bins went for a spin last night! I wonder what they could've been drinking to end up in such a state?
- Normally it's kangaroos you have to watch out for bouncing across the road at Killy.
- Could've been worse

## Wonthaggi, Cowes, Leongatha and Korumburra hospitals linked by 'voluntary merger'

### From page 1

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer at Alfred Health, Professor Simone Alexander, who is also the interim CEO at Bass Coast Health, welcomed the news and, speaking on Gippsland ABC Radio this week, provided an example of how the merger was already working.

"We saw that together, we were much stronger, and we could provide more comprehensive care across the entire lifespan for the community," said Professor Alexander.

"Each health service has their own strengths and specialist services, and when we put all of this together, the true benefits of comprehensive care are fully realised, and care is more accessible for the community.

"A good example of that at Bass Coast is, just recently, we have commenced a cardiology specialist clinic, so our community in Bass Coast can come down to our local site in Wonthaggi and they can see the same specialist that you would see if you were in metro Melbourne, coming to the Alfred, and so that same level of care is available in the Gippsland region," said Ms Alexander.

Asked if the merger would improve waiting times for public patient surgeries, for example, Ms Alexander said we hope so.

"We're hoping, with the scale, that that will certainly be another one of the benefits. I mean, obviously, we've got a growing population, and there's many additional services that you know as health services we need to continue to provide, develop and build on. But when you're talking about an example like ENT for paediatrics and the like, we've now got five health services that we can work together with to see how we can improve waiting times," she said.

Professor Alexander said the hook-up with the Alfred, Peninsula Health and the other partners would result in a seamless experience for ED patients as well.

"A good example would be patients at Wonthaggi that are in the emergency department that need to go to Peninsula or to the Alfred because of the level of care that they need," she said.

Their transfer would be much quicker, she said, with their records already in the system and, importantly, also getting them back home in a timely manner.

"And being able to provide the services closer to home when they are ready for that, and the capability allows within the rural or sub-regional health service."

The Sentinel-Times also put some questions to Professor Alexander about the future of local boards, branding, community consultation, job security, when the Phillip Island Community Hospital would be finished and advocacy for the promised completion of Stage Two of the

Wonthaggi Hospital redevelopment.

"Starting from January 1, 2026, this unified service will be called Bayside Health, though the names of our hospitals and sites will remain unchanged, as our staff continue to provide the same trusted care every day," said Professor Alexander.

"Bayside Health will be guided and supported through a single board. Recruitment for board members is underway.

"We are already engaging with our local consumers and community representatives about how our community voices and priorities will be directly heard by the new Bayside Health Board.

"Connecting and consulting with the community is an essential step whenever we are dealing with major changes and developments.

"Bass Coast Health is excited about this voluntary merger. We made this decision because we knew it would better connect care and increase access to specialist services.

"This is essential to improving the health outcomes for the people who live in the Bass Coast and southern Gippsland areas. Already, we can see this happening as we work together to bring the merger to life."

Professor Alexander said that all staff would transfer to Bayside Health on January 1, 2026.

CEO of Gippsland Southern Health Service, Louise Sparkes, also welcomed the announcement.

"This is an important development for South Gippsland. Over time our community will have easier access to the care they need, when they need it, as well as a growing number of specialist services available closer to home," said Ms Sparkes.

"For our staff, the merger means they can work and live locally, while having new training, education and career opportunities available in a leading health service that is serving more than 1.2 million people."

However, while the messaging is all positive from the Minister and from hospital administrators, Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien remains sceptical about local services and local jobs.

"In centralising decision-making and merging regional health services with metropolitan or major regional hospitals, the government is stripping away local jobs and the ability to prioritise the unique needs of regional communities," said Mr O'Brien.

"Strong, locally managed health services are vital for ensuring timely care and meeting the unique demands of regional Victorians," he said.

BCH provided details about the completion of the Phillip Island Community Hospital and further work at Wonthaggi. These responses will be included online at [sgst.com.au](http://sgst.com.au).

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6 Day  
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GIPPSLAND

 <b>TUE   Aug 26</b> Possible shower. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: NW 20-30km/h 7° <b>17°</b>	 <b>WED   Aug 27</b> Showers. Wind AM: NW 25-35km/h Wind PM: Light 8° <b>16°</b>	 <b>THUR   Aug 28</b> Shower or two. Wind AM: NW 20-30km/h Wind PM: W 15-25km/h 7° <b>15°</b>	 <b>FRI   Aug 29</b> Shower or two. Wind AM: W-NW 15-20km/h Wind PM: S-SE 20-25km/h 6° <b>18°</b>	 <b>SAT   Aug 30</b> Shower or two. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: E 15-25km/h 9° <b>22°</b>	 <b>SUN   Aug 31</b> Shower or two. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: NE 15-20km/h 12° <b>23°</b>
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IN BRIEF

Roo collisions on the rise

RACV is urging Victorian motorists to stay alert behind the wheel as the latest RACV claims data shows thousands of collisions involving kangaroos have been reported across the state in recent years.

Between 2021 and June 2025, RACV Insurance received over 23,000 claims for kangaroo-related collisions, with 2024 recording the highest number of claims (5883).

The average RACV claim total following a collision with an animal in the 2025 financial year was \$8984.

Free pop-up shop at the Wonthaggi Men's Shed garden

PLANNING a spring clear-out, why not donate your unwanted clothes, household goods, cuttings and seedlings to the Wonthaggi Men's Shed Garden for the Spring Free Shop on Saturday, September 6.

Rain or shine, everything is free, according to garden coordinator Jessica Harrison.

"Trade your trash for free spring seedlings," said Jessica. "Find something to take home. One person's trash is someone else's treasure."

Books, toys, clothes and hand-made goods are all welcome.

The Spring Free Shop will be open from 9am to midday on Saturday, September 6 at the Wonthaggi Men's Shed Garden located along the rail trail across from Apex Park.

No furniture or electrical goods please.

Free guided tours at Berninneit

TOURS at Berninneit start next Tuesday, September 9. Book in a free guided tour and get an insider's look at every space. In just half an hour, you'll explore meeting rooms, kitchen facilities, art gallery, MYLI library, kiosk and theatre's stage – including behind-the-scenes access.

Hear about the technical

capabilities and facilities that make events shine, get room details, pricing, and booking info on the spot.

Bookings are essential. Reserve your free spot via try-Booking [trybooking.com/DEO](http://trybooking.com/DEO).

Show success for Prom Country Cheese

MOYARRA cheesemakers, Prom Country Cheese, have scooped the cheese awards as part of the Royal Melbourne Show. They've scored two gold, one silver and two bronze for five of their popular cheese styles.

"We are so proud to share that we've brought home five medals from the 2025 Melbourne Royal Australian Food Awards," said a spokesman for Prom Country Cheese.

"These awards are a reflection of the passion, care, and hard work that goes into every wheel of cheese we make from our farm to the factory.

"A huge thank you to our amazing team, our cows, and our supportive community who continue to champion handcrafted, organic farmhouse cheese."

They are as follows:

- Gold – Kongwak (Semi Hard)
- Gold – Inverloch Blue (Blue Cheese)
- Silver – Inspiration (Fresh Cheese)
- Bronze – Granny's Blue (Blue Cheese)
- Bronze – Glen Moidart (Semi Hard)

Their cellar door at Andersons Inlet Road, Moyarra is currently closed for winter, but you can find retailers on their website at [promcountrycheese.com.au/cellar-door](http://promcountrycheese.com.au/cellar-door).

Tarwin Lower welcomes return of service station

AFTER being stranded for most of the year without a local fuel supply Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay residents have applauded the imminent opening of a Caltex service station.

The previous Shell service station at Tarwin Lower closed

earlier this year when the operator was locked out after an alleged dispute with the landlord.

Lisa Breen from the Tarwin District Auto and Machinery Club said the return of a petrol station to the town was a very good thing.

"We've been without a service station since Christmas and it's just been a hassle. It's something every town needs and it's inconvenient not having one."

Caltex anticipates the Tarwin Lower service station will be operating again by October.

Local residents hope Caltex will now extend the operating hours of the service station.

"We'd appreciate longer opening hours particularly on weekends," said Lisa.

Information sought for Foster burglaries

BASS COAST CIU are investigating two separate burglaries at Celebrations in Foster last week. Both occurred overnight the first on August 24 and the second on August 28.

It's understood alcohol and cigarettes were stolen by at least three disguised suspects on each occasion.

Anyone with any information, including CCTV and dashcam from the area around on those dates is urged to contact Bass coast CIU on 5671 4100 or Crimestoppers.

Not a good start for learner

TOO FAST, too drunk, too stupid... it wasn't a good start to the driving career for an 18-year-old learner driver from Ashburton when police pulled him up in Wentworth Road, Wonthaggi last Saturday morning.

According to police, the male driver of the black MG hatch was doing well over the speed limit, wasn't accompanied by a supervising driver and blew 0.112.

"The driver received three infringement notices and his passenger, whose car it was, was not happy."

Media broadside from Simon Patterson

THE "abrasive legal system" and "occasionally callous mainstream media" copped a blast from Simon Patterson in his victim impact statement, read into the court record by his cousin Naomi Gleadow, at the plea hearing on Monday, August 25.

Mr Patterson said he found his interactions with both "remarkably dehumanising" and while he described the pretrial machinations of the legal process, before he gave evidence, as "distressing", he said the behaviour of some legacy media personnel was "deplorable".

"My kids and I have suffered many days filled with strangers menacing our home, brandishing notebooks, phones, cameras, and microphones. We have faced people waiting in ambush at our front door, inches away with TV camera and microphone at the ready after ringing our doorbell."

He claimed reporters have banged on his windows and tried to "peek into my children's bedrooms, always skulking away before the police arrive".

There have also been ambushes while parking the car, filming at cafés or in the street and the need to install security cameras at home with the result that family members were often looking at the screen to see if anyone was approaching the house.

However, while the intrusion of the media has forced them to change their routines when outside, he praised members of the local community for their support: "The sensitivity of the local community in relating with our family, including by minimising their communication about us to reporters, has also been amazing. I am so grateful for this."

A total of 28 victim impact statements were tendered to the Supreme Court last week and will be taken into account in the sentencing of triple murderer, Erin Patterson, next Monday, September 8.



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# A new fresh idea that's already saved Palm Beach

By Chloe Kent

EARLY March this year, Queensland experienced Tropical Cyclone Alfred. The Gold Coast specifically experienced steep sand scarping and damaged access ways and coastal infrastructure; however, there was one new piece of infrastructure that held up, the Palm Beach artificial reef. The project has been praised by the City of Gold Coast, and in reports “demonstrated exceptional resilience during Tropical Cyclone Alfred. Prior to the PBAR [Palm Beach Shoreline Project], such an event would likely have caused severe erosion and scarping back to the seawall, leaving no usable beach width. Post-PBAR, the beach held up strongly and retained functional width.”

The reef, now six years old, was implemented as a two-phase project solution, which incorporated sand nourishment (phase one) and construction of an artificial reef 270 metres offshore (phase two).

Palm Beach was nourished with 470,000m3 of clean sand (2017), followed by the placing of 60,000 tonnes of basalt and greenstone rock in 2019.

The primary objective of the project was to manage coastal hazards, whilst maintaining beach amenity and improving surf amenity.

The same artificial reef technology has been used to create a surf break at Middleton Beach in Albany earlier this year.

Inverloch local and president of Bass Coast Boardriders Stephen Gow, ‘Gowie’, is urging the state government and authorities to consider an artificial reef for Inverloch, sending letters throughout August.

“We need a reef or something to keep it in, otherwise it's just going to keep going down the inlet,” Gowie said. “It's new technology that I feel needs to be considered – it's just starting to come in and had huge success at Palm Beach and in Western Australia.”

According to Gowie's letter, which has also been sent to local Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale, the benefits of an artificial reef for Inverloch include erosion control by stabilising the sand and reducing direct wave energy, surfing enhancement, and creating a marine habitat. That sits alongside a tourism boost, adding community value and helping to safeguard the future of the surf club, Surf Parade road and residential areas.

Gowie believes Inverloch is ideal for an artificial reef due to “Inverloch's consistent swells, which typically arrive from the same direction, making it an excellent candidate for an artificial reef. The wind conditions are generally favourable, and the underwater contours are predictable and manageable.”

Furthermore he states that “using local rock for reef construction would further connect the project with the region, directly improving the stability and longevity of the shoreline.”

And Gowie is not alone in stating that an artificial reef should be considered for Inverloch.

“Over the years prior to retirement and in my position at Surfing Victoria, I only had positive feedback about the values of



Stephen Gow is urging authorities and the government to investigate the feasibility of an artificial reef using new technology. He stands in front of the erosion left after the Saturday morning storm passed through South Gippsland. a100\_3525



The Gold Coast artificial reef during construction.

artificial reefs, mostly this was in relation to creating surfable waves and their protection in relation to erosion control,” fellow Inverloch resident Max Wells stated to the Sentinel-Times last week.

“I don't actually see an artificial reef placed off the front of the surf club as being an at-risk hard solution... If an artificial reef, properly planned, was placed in that location, I believe it would break the power of the swells before hitting the beach in front of the club.

“The result of this, as shown by other artificial reef placements, is the dropping of sand and net gain of beach amenity. Thus, protecting infrastructure.

“There may or may not be quality surf breaks created, which if it did would be an awesome result for us surfers, but the major gain would be in erosion protection and the saving of beach amenity.”

A passionate surfer, who recently wrote a letter to the Sentinel-Times about the disadvan-

tages of hard solutions – having experienced them first hand in Kuta, which has seen significant negative economic impacts along one of the most famous strips of beach, Max is keen to preserve Inverloch.

“Beach amenity is my main priority as the placement of hard rock solutions, as we now have up on the Cape Paterson Road corner, shows a complete loss of sand and normally the loss of beach amenity (no dry sand),” Max continued.

“The pillars that make Inverloch such a special place are our beaches, the village feel and our inlet. If we lose our front beach, which inevitably would be the result of a hard rock solution to erosion, would, I believe, have catastrophic consequences for the social, economic and environmental balance of our town.”

According to Gowie, the next steps from here would be to engage marine engineers and conduct feasibility studies into an artificial reef and understand if it could provide beach erosion

mitigation and surfable waves.

Back on the Gold Coast, the artificial reef six years down the track appears to have been the right long-term solution.

It has achieved its key performance indicators, which included coastal protection, beach amenity, surfing amenity, maintenance costs, safety and environmental performance, and monitoring has shown that one of the greatest benefits has been its ability to dissipate wave energy, which during major swell events has averaged 17 per cent, and seen up to 50 per cent reduction in larger wave heights.

Under the water, the once bare sand bottom is teaming with marine life, including fish, turtles, crabs and even octopus, to name but a few. Above it's teaming with surfers and looks nothing like the erosion images of Palm Beach in 1967, 2009, 2013 and 2016 when houses were mere metres from being sucked out to sea, down large sand drop-offs.

Whether an artificial reef is the “hard” but soft solution for Inverloch, only marine engineers will be able to advise; however, it's looking like a pretty good idea that should be considered. And will keep the government's sand nourishment in place.

**Response from local members of parliament:**

Melina Bath MP, Member for Eastern Victoria Region: “Inverloch surf beach is an important natural asset which holds significant social and economic value, and nothing should be off the table. The Allan Government has a responsibility to explore all best practice coastal erosion adaptation measures successfully implemented nationally and internationally to mitigate risks for community, environment and visitors to the Bass Coast.”

Jordan Crugnale MP, Member for Bass: “The enquiry I received from the President of the Bass Coast Boardriders outlined the benefits of an artificial reef citing examples including over in Albany WA and I thank Stephen Gow and the organisation for being proactive, detailed in benefits and looking at solutions for the Inverloch area.

Adaptation pathways including Offshore Breakwaters/Offshore Reefs were considered and modelled as part of the costal hazard assessment stage of the project along with a number of other options. All were assessed using a Multi Criteria Analysis so that the options could be compared against each other. Understanding artificial reefs are submerged as per the one in Albany WA, I have made further enquiries requesting also that the C2C website be updated to mention them explicitly and the pros and cons given the extreme movement of sand.

DEECA have advised that “Offshore breakwaters/Offshore Reefs would need to be so large that they would always be visible above the water from the beach, even at high tide. They would block the view to the ocean from the beach, significantly impacting beach amenity. They would cost a minimum of \$40 million to build and would also require beach nourishment. By design, they would change the local wave conditions, meaning they would also impact on the recreational amenity, and the ability to surf in these areas.”

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## Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



YOU may have seen articles, social media posts or advertising about the Council Plan and other Strategic Documents that Council has been working on over the last few months.

The Council Plan was developed through Community Engagement as well as a Deliberative Engagement through a panel of community members representative of the wider Bass Coast.

The document sets out our priorities and provides clear direction for the Council term. It is an important overarching document that guides every decision we make so it was critical that it reflected our community's priorities.

The plan is built on four key areas – our Strategic Objectives – which reflect what matters most to our community:

- **Naturally Beautiful** – protecting and enhancing our natural environment.
- **Thriving Places** – ensuring growth is well planned and our economy, agriculture, tourism and industries are resilient.
- **Vibrant Communities** – creating healthy, inclusive, and socially connected communities that celebrate diversity, culture and heritage.
- **Visionary Leadership** – making decisions that are open, responsible and in the best interests of our community.

Each year, we bring the Council Plan to life through an Annual Action Plan, which outlines the projects and initiatives we will deliver in that financial year. This ensures we remain accountable and transparent, reporting regularly to the community on our progress.

The **2025–2026 Annual Action Plan** has now been released and details the work we will do over the next 12 months to advance the Council Plan 2025–2029. From major infrastructure projects to programs that support health, wellbeing, culture and sustainability, this plan shows how our long-term priorities are being delivered day by day.

There is still time to provide your feedback. Our draft Council Plan and Annual Action Plan 2025–2026 is available now on our dedicated community engagement website, **Engage Bass Coast**.

# On your bike, but only if you're game

By Bruce Wardley

CYCLISTS at Cape Paterson have had enough of the potholes, broken asphalt and lack of a decent bike path on the road to Wonthaggi.

"There are a lot of potholes on the verge to Wonthaggi," said local resident Rob Cowan.

"I wouldn't ride on some of the roads; they badly need improving."

Rob loves riding from Cape Paterson to Kilcunda.

"They need to spend money to extend the Inverloch pathway to Cape Paterson. Cape Paterson cyclists can't connect to Inverloch."

Margaret and Robert McIntosh, also from Cape Paterson, say the current condition of the existing bike track alongside the road between Wonthaggi and Cape Paterson is not adequate to meet the needs of cyclists and pedestrians.

"The track has eroded edges, and repairs conducted on the road sometimes result in debris from pothole maintenance spilling onto the bike track," said Margaret. "Additionally, vegetation is encroaching onto the track, affecting its usability."

Another new Cape Paterson resident, Sally Bird, said there was wide community support for a bike track linking Wonthaggi, Inverloch and Cape Paterson.

"I feel very unsafe riding on the road from Cape Paterson to



Nathalie Charles and Alec Stewart with Sally Bird campaigning for a decent bike path from Cape Paterson to Wonthaggi. B06\_3525

Wonthaggi as opposed to a bike track," said Sally. "I've only done it once and wouldn't do it again."

Council explained to Sally, the new shared pathway, under construction between Wonthaggi and Inverloch, goes across farmland to Inverloch.

"How short-sighted," said Sally. "If they brought it to Cape Paterson it would cater for eco-friendly bike users. What we want is a direct route between Cape Paterson, Wonthaggi and Inverloch. It would be an absolutely stunning bike ride."

Nathalie Charles and Alec Stewart, who ride regularly at

Cape Paterson, agree the road from Cape to Wonthaggi is dangerous.

"You're totally exposed to cars, although the 80 km/h speed limit is helpful," said Alec.

Nathalie recently fell from her bike while riding to Wonthaggi for the bike to be serviced.

"I was lucky I fell into the ditch onto soft grass," said Nathalie still shaken. "I fell into the shoulder of the road rather than onto the bitumen."

Rob admitted that acquiring land to construct a new purpose-built track or extend the new track from Wonthaggi to

Inverloch may present challenges and could be impractical.

One suggestion, said Rob, was to resurface the entire section of road from Wonthaggi to Cape and restore the current track so that it was suitable for use by cyclists.

"Alternatively, re-marking the lines and increasing the width of the bike track could allow for two-way riding or walking on a shared track."

"Additional safety features, such as a safety rail or cable, could also be considered."

**Read more online at [sgst.com.au](http://sgst.com.au)**

## Tick of approval for Bass Coast Disability Action Plan

By Bruce Wardley

AMAZING, inclusive, equitable, that's how Cr Jan Thompson described the Draft Disability Action Plan presented to Bass Coast Shire at its most recent council meeting.

As Chair of the Access and Inclusion Committee, Cr Thompson said she had seen the amount of preparation and consultation that had gone into the implementation of the plan.

"One of the highlights is an annual event to celebrate and recognise carers in the community who provide countless hours caring for disabled children or adults. Carers are our unsung heroes," said Cr Thompson.

The plan includes supporting and developing a renters' rights resource kit for people with a disability and their carers, and collaboration with surf lifesaving clubs to continue to improve



Cr Jan Thompson described the Draft Disability Action Plan as an amazing plan that will build an inclusive, equitable and thriving community. B04\_3525

beach accessibility, including a free water wheelchair and all-terrain wheelchair hire.

Cr Mat Morgan said he was happy to see the plan out for community consultation.

"Nothing about us, without us,"

was a phrase Cr Morgan recalled from a time when he worked with policy makers in disability.

"The Bass Coast disability community has clearly been let down by governments for too long," said Cr Morgan.

"The Disability Action Plan is not going to solve all the problems and shortcomings, but I hope this plan will genuinely help people living with a disability in the Bass Coast. Be seen, be heard, engage with us."

Cr Brett Tessari said having family members with disabilities and seeing the gap that exists the Disability Action Plan was an important piece of work.

"Having to go through the NDIS home package with an elderly mother was a nightmare and a joke," said Cr Tessari.

"This is an incredibly important piece of work that I am very passionate about."

Council approved the draft Disability Action Plan to be released for a period of community consultation until September 14 with adoption of the final plan to be considered in October 2025.

**Read the full story online at [sgst.com.au](http://sgst.com.au)**

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

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Plant Sales • Orchid Supplies • Repotting Demonstrations

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JAC2467



# Wonthaggi business demands action on crime

AFTER opening The Curry Club in Wonthaggi just three months ago, owner Surdeep Singh says the State Government must act immediately to reduce crime and that increased police presence is needed, after the business suffered its second break-in early on Saturday morning.

The culprit hit about 4.45am and while unable to find anything of value, damaged doors and the ceiling, with Surdeep estimating repairs will cost at least \$10,000, with the incident captured on security cameras.

"Somebody has to put the foot down and do something, otherwise more and more people are going to do it," he said of the consequences of inaction on crime.

He expressed dismay at the impact on the business and personally.

"I spent my savings to make something nice in Wonthaggi; it's disrespectful of people to come in and smash everything up when I'm trying to make an honest living and be part of the community," Surdeep said.

"It's sad and it puts my morale down."

The single offender captured in video footage broke the back door and two other doors.

"He couldn't break the fourth door, so he decided to go to the ceiling and jump inside from the roof top," Surdeep said, with plasterboard broken in the process and the roof damaged in two places.

The previous break-in cost about \$5000 for a couple of vandalised doors.

Even if insurance covers the cost, it will drive up the premiums the business pays.



The damage left by the offender after climbing through the roof.

Surdeep said the government needs to be asked, "Why is it happening?"

While disheartened by the damage to his premises, the business owner expressed his appreciation for the support from the thousands of people who have already eaten at his restaurant.

An attempt was also made to force entry into nearby business, Ronni's Restaurant, but the perpetrator failed to do so, the effort damaging a door.

"An offender has forced entry into The Curry Club and caused damage inside the premise," a spokesperson for Bass Coast CIU stated, noting they are also aware of an attempted forced entry at a nearby restaurant.

"Police are appealing to the public for anyone who may have seen suspicious activity in the area, or who have

information, including dash cam footage."

Police noted that incidents over the last couple of months in Wonthaggi are unrelated to the break-in at The Curry Club, with an offender already processed for those crimes.

Mr Singh's sentiments on action have been echoed by Eastern Victoria MP, Renee Heath, who challenged Premier Jacinta in Parliament last week to follow expert advice and adopt the Liberal Nationals' evidence-based bail reforms, which mirror the approach successfully taken in New Zealand to cut youth crime.

According to Ms Heath, New Zealand has reduced ram-raids by 60 per cent through tougher policing, instant fines and stricter bail enforcement which follows reforms the opposition have been calling for in Victoria.

"A mother asked me how the



An inside door has been completely ripped from the lock inside the recently opened restaurant.

government could let crime spiral out of control so much that her 16-year-old daughter has to wear a body cam when working on the checkouts," Ms Heath told Parliament.

Ms Heath and Mr Singh's calls for action have been echoed by thousands of Victorians fed up with the government tinkering around the edges of dealing with escalating crime.

Fox FM radio hosts Fifi Box and Brendan Fevola launched a petition for tougher bail laws which gathered over 120,000 signatures, while a Herald Sun "Three Strikes on Bail, Go to Jail" petition attracted more than 4000 signatures.

Anyone with information regarding the forced entry to either The Curry Club or Ronni's Restaurant are urged to contact Bass Coast CIU on 5671 4100 or make an anonymous report at Crimestoppers.



Without community input, we risk developing an asset plan that does not reflect local priorities, according to Bass Coast Cr Tracey Bell. B08\_3525

## Spotlight on overlooked community assets

IT MAY not be everyone's favourite bedtime story, but according to Cr Mat Morgan, the draft Asset Plan released by Bass Coast Shire for public comment is actually quite a fascinating read.

Reflecting on the recent decision to demolish the Kilcunda viaduct bridge, Cr Tim O'Brien said council needed to avoid situations like the viaduct bridge in Kilcunda, where a vote was taken on a community asset, which was beyond repair.

"If the community was more closely engaged with council these sorts of situations may not arise as much," said Cr O'Brien.

"Where there are much-loved community assets, we need to hear that back from the community, especially if they're tucked away in dark corners."

Cr Tracey Bell noted Bass Coast Shire had over \$1.47 billion in infrastructure assets, including roads, drainage, buildings, open space, and parkways.

"Our community would be wise to have a look," said Cr Bell.

"We have ageing assets, the impact of climate, population growth and financial constraints that we are trying to deal with in managing existing assets."

"Without community input, we risk developing a plan that doesn't reflect local priorities."

The asset plan identified a number of potential threats, including operating risks from a growing and ageing population, the intensity of climate change, a growing asset base compared to council's limited income stream, and the declining health of many assets leading to increased maintenance costs.

Bass Coast Council's capital works budget of \$31.5 million in 2025/26 accounted for over 20 per cent of the annual operating budget of \$123 million.

## Bass Coast Shire Council questioned on special charge schemes

IN WHAT was likely to have been the last public question time for Bass Coast Shire Council, where all questions were read by the Mayor, special charge schemes generated the most questions from residents and ratepayers.

Susie W. (Petitions for Special Charge Schemes)

If a petition containing 50 per cent of signatures from ratepayer/owners in a street is submitted and accepted by council, is it then factually

possible for a special charge scheme to be implemented and completed in that street with a complete absence of any further participation by any ratepayers in that street?

Response (CEO Greg Box)

No, once a petition is received Council officers work with the landowners to confirm their preferred design for the upgrade project. The designs are costed and a formal vote conducted, as required by the Local Government Act.

Amanda N. (Drainage Outfalls for Special Charge Schemes)

In concept plans for the Esplanade Special Charge Schemes, BCSC claims each scheme provides community benefits by improvements in the quality of surface and stormwater discharging to the existing drainage outfalls, but then states that drainage via existing outfalls will continue unchanged, without upgrading existing outfalls, how is

this possible or realistic?

Response (CEO Greg Box)

Sealed roads, kerb and channel and drainage pipes are included in the design, if the upgrade project proceeds stormwater outflows will be much cleaner than if the road remained unsealed. Council contributes financially to this added community benefit as calculated in the benefit ratio statement.

Read more online at [sgst.com.au](http://sgst.com.au)

With a backlog of 3.6 per cent of assets in a poor or very poor state, at an estimated cost of \$13 million to replace, it is expected to grow to 5.6 per cent over the forecast 10-year period, due to a constrained capital works budget and strong demand for new infrastructure.

Opportunities were identified in the open space Asset Management Plan to avoid rebuilding non-critical assets and 'sweat' some assets by using nature-based solutions instead of hard 'grey' infrastructure to reduce costs.

The draft Asset Plan has been released for community consultation until September 9 and can be found at [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/asset-plan](http://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au/asset-plan).

## PARRY'S KORUMBURRA

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# Breath testing millions of drivers this year.

Police are out there to keep our roads safe. If you've been drinking, don't drive. Getting caught with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 and over will result in loss of licence and significant fines. Chances are you will be caught.  
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# Heated debate on Fish Creek development

A PROPOSED development in Fish Creek sparked heated debate at last Wednesday's council meeting and uncovered a flaw in the Shire's zoning regulations.

In the proposal, five new cabins containing two bedrooms each would be built on the 3.2-hectare property at 252 Soldiers Road, Fish Creek, which currently has an existing five-bedroom dwelling on the site.

Five objections to the proposed group accommodation had been lodged, primarily from nearby residents.

These outlined a mixture of concerns, some of which are noise impacts, traffic management and vehicle movements, unsatisfactory effluent treatment arrangements, drainage issues and impacts on surrounding properties.

Subject to council approving the application, the developers would need to adhere to over 45 stringent requirements.

The recommendation before councillors at Wednesday's meeting was to issue a Notice of Decision to grant a Planning Permit for the project.

Cr Scott Rae put forward an alternate motion for Council to refuse the permit of application on the basis that it doesn't meet the purpose of the farming zone by not being compatible with adjoining and nearby land use activities.

"When does group accommodation become a motel? Although a neighbour on a small lot in a subdivided area under four hectares in the farming zone could reasonably expect a farming operation to impact on their serenity, they might not have ever considered a motel and a volume of neighbours that just suddenly appear next



**Cr Scott Rae put forward an alternate motion to refuse the proposed development of group accommodation, which was initially lost and then revoted on.** ob19\_3425

door," said Cr Rae. "When is there a trigger to rezone a property to become a commercial lot?"

"I believe to approve this application would set a very detrimental precedent for small lot farm zone blocks to be overdeveloped in manners you could not do with any other Shire."

Cr Nathan Hersey and Cr John Schelling agreed with Cr Rae.

Cr Hersey argued that the Council's planning scheme work needs attention and a strong strategic direction to ensure land is protected and development occurs intentionally.

"Agriculture land is being eroded in South Gippsland Shire at a rapid rate," said Cr Hersey.

"It's being lost to those who are planting out their property in trees. Those who buy lifestyle properties and rewild, therefore, essentially letting it turn to weeds. There is so much wrong with this direction in approving something that is not in



**Cr Sarah Gilligan believed the proposed development brings up issues around Council's planning scheme, which need cleaning up.** ob20\_3425

line with what is the intended purpose."

While Cr Schelling believes the proposal is on a house block and is bigger than what's needed, and accommodation should be constructed in tourist-specific areas, such as Yanakie and Sandy Point – rather than in zoned farming areas.

Cr Gilligan meanwhile sat on the fence as she believed it was a tricky situation due to the zoning.

Although, she also stated that concerns have been addressed through the conditions applied by Council and accommodation is needed in the area to invite and invest in tourism.

"Since 2003, it was deemed as lost to agricultural land, and I think the issue is, is that it's still zoned for farming, whereas, actually, all of these small blocks are not actually used for farming," said Cr Gilligan.

"So, it highlights absolutely the cleaning up we need to do in our

planning scheme. It's a tricky one."

"We do want to encourage more accommodation. We do have a lack of it," Cr Gilligan added.

Cr Bron Beach, Cr Clare Williams and Cr John Kennedy were supportive of the development proposal.

Cr Beach believed it presents an opportunity rather than a threat as the land is never going to be farmed.

"There's a desperate need for visitor accommodation and also housing. It fits well with South Gippsland's tourism objectives, the design presented is compatible with the natural environment and it's close to attractions, including supporting small-scale tourism in our villages as well as the Great Southern Rail Trail."

Cr Williams also debated that it isn't productive farm land and group accommodation could present a good opportunity for businesses to gain additional economic support from the 1.2 million

visitors South Gippsland sees every year.

Cr Kennedy stated that the lack of accommodation in the shire hinders prosperity, and the proposal ticks a lot of boxes and should be considered and approved.

He also debated that many such proposals have been rejected in the past and development shouldn't keep being overlooked by Council, particularly when people are willing to spend money in the interests of tourism and investment in the region.

Cr Rae's alternate motion to refuse the planning permit was initially lost in a vote of five to four; the original motion – to approve the planning permit – was then also lost to a vote of four to five.

Cr Rae's alternate motion then underwent a revote, gaining an additional vote, to be carried at five to four.

The permit applicant may now seek a review through VCAT, at a cost of about \$20k to council.

## COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

Saturday 13 September

Connect with nature, wildlife and community.

FREE\* entry to the Nature Parks attractions:

- Churchill Island** - Conservation and research presentations, demonstrations, music and stalls.
- Koala Conservation Reserve** - Enjoy easy walks discovering the wonder of the woodlands and spot koalas.
- Penguin Parade** - General Viewing Fri 12 and Sat 13 Sep.

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Info: [community@penguins.org.au](mailto:community@penguins.org.au) or call 5951 2830

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## BASS COAST Living Lightly Bass Coast

### September Events | Practical Workshops Across Bass Coast

<b>Energy Evolution</b>	
<b>Home Battery Storage</b>	
Saturday, 27 September – 10am	
Corinella and District Community Garden	Free
<b>Future Foods</b>	
<b>Extending the Harvest</b>	
Saturday, 13 September – 9:30am	
Bass River Garden	Free
<b>Garden Gems</b>	
<b>Create an Urban Forest in Your Backyard</b>	
Saturday, 14 September – 10am	
Coronet Bay Community Garden	Free
<b>Circular Solutions</b>	
<b>Fixit Café</b>	
Sunday, 21 September – 9am - midday	
Wonthaggi Men's Shed	Free

### Scan To Learn More Or To Stay Up To Date

Visit: [thecap.com.au](https://thecap.com.au) for more information

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





# South Gippsland Shire Council News

## Step up for Rural Road Safety in September

This September, the Australian Road Safety Foundation is asking all road users to step up for Rural Road Safety month. South Gippsland Shire Council is proud to support this initiative and is calling on everyone who travels our roads to look out for one another and make safe driving choices.

Almost two thirds of all road fatalities in Australia occur on rural roads. Here in South Gippsland, driving comes with added challenges of slow-moving farm machinery, heavy vehicles, tourist traffic, wildlife, and unpredictable weather. These risks make it all the more important that we stay alert, take breaks, and adjust our speed to the conditions.

Sadly, the most vulnerable road users in our region are older drivers, who make up more than two thirds of fatalities. Children are also a high-risk group, especially when travelling to and from school. By slowing down in school zones, avoiding distractions, and never driving while tired or impaired, we can all help to protect the people most at risk.

We can all do our bit make our roads safer. Rural Road Safety Month is a reminder that every journey matters and every choice on the road can save a life.

**ROAD SAFETY POP-UPS**

To raise awareness among visitors about the challenges of driving in South Gippsland and promote safe motorbike-riding routes, Council will host three pop-up information sessions at key visitor sites in September.

**Fish Creek Rail Trail Park**  
**Sunday 14 September, 11.00am - 1.30pm**

**Tidal River Campground**  
**Monday 15 September, 11.00am - 2.00pm**

**Mirboo North and District Centre, Tuesday 16 September, 11.00am - 1.30pm**

For more information on how to make safer choices on rural roads in South Gippsland and beyond, visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/ruralroadsafety](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/ruralroadsafety)

### Australia Day Awards 2026 Nominations Now Open



These awards are a chance to shine a light on the everyday people who go above and beyond to make South Gippsland a better place.

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.

Nominations close on Wednesday 5 November 2025.

For more information about the Awards or to nominate a South Gippslander, visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/australiaday)

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 September at 2.00pm.

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

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

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

Council has received a request to rename the oval at Korumburra Recreation Reserve to 'Summerfield Oval' in honour of Allen Victor Summerfield to acknowledge his extraordinary community service.

For more information and to provide your feedback, visit: [yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

**COMMUNITY IMMUNISATION SESSION**

**When:** Thursday 11 September.  
**Where:** Leongatha Early Learning Centre

For more information on other sessions or to book, visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/immunisation)

**SGSC PETS FACEBOOK PAGE**

The South Gippsland Shire Pets page is where we share the photos and stories of animals who have been separated from their owners and those who need to be rehomed.

To follow the page, visit: [facebook.com/sgscpets](https://facebook.com/sgscpets)

**UPDATED CUSTOMER SERVICE HOURS**

Leongatha customer service counter will be open from Monday to Thursday, 9.00am to 4.00pm.

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[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)



# State Government support for coastal hazard overlays voted down by two Councillors

WHAT appeared to be a simple tick and flick exercise at Council's most recent meeting turned out to be otherwise, when two Councillors voted against gaining State Government support to coordinate and fund coastal hazard overlays.

The motion, which will be submitted to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) at the next State Council Meeting on Friday, October 10 calls on the Victorian Government to urgently coordinate and fully fund a statewide Coastal Hazard Overlay to be implemented into applicable planning schemes across Victoria.

MAV may then advocate for the proposal to the Victorian Government on behalf of local governments.

If successful, this would allow South Gippsland Shire Council – among other coastal Councils – greater ability to implement coastal hazard overlays and strengthen erosion controls and plan appropriately for the future.

"This is actually what is needed, because low-lying coastal areas, they need to be treated differently than inland areas. When you look at places like Inverloch, when you look at these places where there's a lot of legacy planning issues and things are moving and shifting and being more susceptible to more extreme storms and storm surges – there's lots of inundation issues," explained Cr Gilligan.

The State Government has a vast amount of information on hazard mapping and data mapping, which has been carried out on our coastline and on other Victorian coastlines, added Cr Gilligan.



**Cr John Kennedy (pictured) and Cr Steve Finlay both voted against taking the issue of coastal hazard overlays to MAV, who would then potentially advocate to the State Government to coordinate and fund the amendments for coastal Councils. ob06\_3525**

"All coastal councils are screaming out for the planning tools that will allow us to get on with common sense planning."

Councillor Scott Rae agreed with the motion.

"We need the tools to help those that can't help themselves. The only thing more prevalent in humanity than ignorance is greed, and greedy people will always find ignorant people to purchase swampland, tell them they can build a house," he said.

"I'd like to see the ability to tell people, you can't build there because it's no good."

However, both Cr John Kennedy and Cr Steve Finlay disagreed with submitting the

motion to MAV for consideration, but only Cr Finlay outlined his reasoning.

"I like the concept of personal responsibility. My concern is handing responsibility or being compelled by a State Government in regard to our planning schemes. I may well be wrong, but I wish that all our planning and many other areas would be independent of State Government interference."

Cr Nathan Hersey responded to Cr Finlay's comments.

"Why would you not want us to be asking with a united voice that the State step up and do their job? Why would you not want to be asking with a united voice that we have

the Municipal Association of Victoria's support in advocating alongside us? That the State Government do exactly that – their job in spending money on a planning scheme? Why would we not be asking with a strong, united voice, along with others in the state, that we save money on a planning scheme amendment that probably is going to have to happen anyway and will ultimately cost us money?"

The Sentinel Times made several attempts to contact Cr Kennedy to gain his views on the issue and learn why he voted against the motion; however, no response was forthcoming from the Councillor.

## Objections raised at third attempt to subdivide Sandy Point Caravan Park

THE third iteration of a planning application to subdivide the Sandy Point Caravan Park into individual lots has been made to the South Gippsland Shire Council.

The first application to subdivide the caravan park, located at 89 Beach Parade, Sandy Point, into 14 lots was made in February 2021.

A second application to subdivide was made in June 2023, which was subsequently rejected by Council.

Council refused the application for various reasons including inconsistency with Clauses 11, 12, 13, and 15 of the South Gippsland Planning Scheme, failure to meet objectives and guidelines of the township zone and overlays, inadequate consideration of future climatic conditions and the lands constraints and opportunities, issues regarding roadside vegetation, defensible space, vehicle access and insufficient effluent and stormwater management.

The applicant appealed Council's decision at the Victorian Civil and Administration Tribunal (VCAT), which was also rejected by VCAT in October 2024.

The most recent application has a number of key changes, including reducing the number of residential lots from 13 to 11, providing for larger



**The planning application to subdivide the Sandy Point Caravan Park into 11 residential lots has been submitted to Council.**

allotments, better neighbourhood character and the ability to retain vegetation.

The applicant has addressed issues relating to bushfire overlays, trees, land constraints and opportunities through re-designing dwellings, driveways and implementing landscaping.

A plan has been put in place to address wastewater and effluent management.

The updated application states that these changes "further reduces the impacts and reinforces the applicants intent to accommodate a responsive subdivision and development proposal for the land."

Objections to the subdivision

have once again been submitted by the Sandy Point Community Group Committee, who have also put a call out for others to do the same, stating on their Facebook page:

"Our full objection is now submitted to Council and is available to read on our website [sandypoint.vic.au/news/caravan-park-subdivision-2025](http://sandypoint.vic.au/news/caravan-park-subdivision-2025).

"If you agree with any of our responses, please feel free to use them in your own submission. A number of submissions (no matter how brief) need to be sent in to ensure that the application goes to a Council meeting before a decision is made. We therefore

encourage you to submit an objection – it is not too late."

The Sentinel Times contacted the president of the Sandy Point Group, Michelle Jelleff, who stated the group are not willing to comment until the process has been completed.

The group's two key objections, as detailed on their website, are:

"That the form of the subdivision, if approved, could be improved by maintaining the two existing entry points with an internal roadway so that the perimeter of the caravan park/subdivision remains as is, with no conflict between driveways, parking, vegetation, and pedestrian and bicycle movement."

"That the loss of community benefit should be offset by a public open space contribution, as is commonplace in other jurisdictions in relation to planning applications such as this. Our view is that the most beneficial location for a camping site is in the town centre, where it provides benefit to businesses and access to the patrolled beach. Its loss, if subdivision is approved by Council and the Catchment Management Authority, could be compensated in part by the creation of a village green which would augment various community activities."

### Mayor's Message



**Cr John Schelling**

I WANT to begin by acknowledging the incredible service and sacrifice of our police force. The recent tragic event in Porepunkah has deeply affected not only Victoria Police but communities across the nation. To all the men and women who serve in uniform – thank you. We stand with you in this time of sorrow and extend our heartfelt condolences to those impacted.

### Councillor Bus Trip

Last week, Councillors, Council staff and I took part in a regional bus tour to learn more about the future of our local ports and the upcoming decommissioning project. We also visited Fish Creek to see the streetscape works underway and stopped in at Yanakie to view the site of the proposed Nanjet First Nations tourism attraction. The site holds great potential for cultural and economic development in South Gippsland.

### 2026 Australia Day Award Nominations – Now Open

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Australia Day Awards. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the everyday legends in our community. The award categories are:

- Citizen of the Year
- Young Citizen of the Year
- Community Event of the Year

If you know someone or a community event making a difference, I encourage you to nominate them. [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/aus-day-awards](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/aus-day-awards)

### Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show

You know spring has arrived when the Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show returns. Now in its 67th year, this event is a true testament to the dedication of its organising committee. Congratulations on another blooming success.

### Leongatha Business Association AGM

I had the pleasure of attending the Leongatha Business Association's annual meeting last week. It was a valuable opportunity to hear directly from local business owners and operators about the challenges and opportunities they're facing. Council looks forward to continuing to work alongside them to support growth and innovation in our region.

### Leongatha Knights Soccer Club

Last week, I met with Locan and Stew from the Leongatha Knights Soccer Club. We spoke about the club's recent successes, its growing membership, and its plans for the future. It's great to see local sport thriving, and I commend the club for the inclusive and energetic environment they've created for players and supporters.

### Letter from resident

I also received a thoughtful handwritten letter from Len and Anita Trease, expressing their appreciation for the work we do. I want to sincerely thank them – it's gestures like these that remind us why we nominate for Council and what an honour it is to serve our community.

### Dairy Expo

The Dairy Expo is on this week (Wednesday 3 to Thursday, September 4). I'm disappointed I won't be able to attend this year, especially given the challenges our farmers continue to face. However, I want to congratulate the organising committee for putting together another fantastic event and wish them another successful Expo.

### Visit to Canberra

The reason for my absence is that I've been invited to Canberra – as a guest of the Municipal Association of Victoria – to represent our sector. I'll be meeting with ministers across a range of departments, to advocate for South Gippsland and ensure our region's voice is heard at the national level.



# Korumburra petrol station out of action after fire



The office and convenience shop at the Endeavour Korumburra Service Station has been extensively damaged by fire and will remain closed for sometime.

THE Endeavour Korumburra Service Station, specifically their 'Duck Over Food and Drinks' convenience store has been extensively damaged by fire and is unlikely to open anytime soon.

Last Saturday night at about 10.55pm, volunteer firefighting crews from Korumburra, Leongatha, Ruby, Kongwak and Inverloch CFA, together with Loch Fire and Rescue, attended a structure fire at the fuel stop in Korumburra.

Police from Leongatha and Wonthaggi also attended and assisted with incident control and traffic management.

Along with the crews mentioned above, they also had support from Bass Group of Fire Brigades, providing rehab for CFA members, and

paramedics from Ambulance Victoria, who attended the scene treating and transporting one person to hospital and providing welfare checks for firefighters prior to the arrival of the rehab unit from Wonthaggi.

"Fortunately, the fire was contained and brought under control fairly quickly, but our members worked into the morning blacking out and overhauling," said a spokesperson for the Korumburra Fire Brigade.

It will be quite sometime before the fuel stop reopens.

"Due to an electrical fire at our Endeavour Korumburra Service Station over the weekend, the site is temporarily closed and unable to trade or accept deliveries," said marketing manager at Endeavour

Energy Fuels, Ross Gilberthorpe, this week.

"We are pleased to confirm that all staff are safe, with no injuries reported. The fire was quickly brought under control, however, the damage sustained means we are unable to reopen the store at this time.

"Our team is working closely with the relevant authorities and contractors to restore the site as safely and promptly as possible. We will provide further updates once the store is ready to reopen and resume normal operations.

"We thank the community for their understanding and support during this time," Mr Gilberthorpe said.

He also thanked local emergency services for their efforts on the night.



Reserve next Sunday in your diary, the Melbourne Cup is coming to Meeniyan. Photo: Lucas Dawson Photography.

## Stony Creek to host iconic Melbourne Cup Trophy

STONY Creek Racing Club (SCRC) will play host to one of the most famous trophies in the world, with the 2025 Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour coming to South Gippsland.

On Sunday, September 14, the iconic \$850,000, 18-carat-gold Melbourne Cup trophy will visit Meeniyan Town Hall from 11am-12pm, bringing the prestige of the race that stops a nation to our region.

SCRC CEO Jason Benbow said the club was thrilled to be selected as one of just 35 Australian destinations on the tour.

"The Cup is such a significant part of racing culture and history, and to get to bring it to Meeniyan is really special. It's something our community will remember for years," he said.

The free community event will feature a Q&A with SCRC CEO Jason Benbow, kids entertainment including face painting and a colouring competition, plus complementary CWA scones and tea. The public will also have the rare opportunity to take photos with the Melbourne Cup trophy.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our local community to connect with the magic of Australia's most iconic race," said Jason.

The event will officially launch Stony Creek's 2025/26 Summer Racing Season, which will bring five exciting race days to the region.

The season kicks off on Sunday, December 7 with the Brandt Christmas Races, the perfect opportunity for local businesses and groups to host their Christmas party at the track, with live music, kids activities including Santa's Workshop, food trucks and more.

"There's nothing like the atmosphere here at Stony Creek on race day, and we can't wait to welcome our community back to the track," said Jason.

Whether you're a racing enthusiast, a family looking for a fun day out or a group planning your Christmas celebration, this season has something for everyone.

The full racing calendar includes:

- Sunday, December 7, 2025 – Brandt Christmas Races
- Tuesday, December 30, 2025
- Sunday, January 18, 2026
- Sunday, February 15, 2026
- Sunday, March 8, 2026 – Ladbrokes Stony Creek Cup Day

Memberships for the 2025/26 season are now open, offering excellent value, exclusive race day access, and early bird prizes for those who sign up before September 15, 2025.

Stony Creek Racing Club (SCRC) is the home of thoroughbred racing in beautiful South Gippsland and home of the triple dead heat in 1987 which made worldwide news. Located two hours from Melbourne on the South Gippsland Highway, it's a wonderful place for a family day out. Stony Creek races five times a year, starting in December and finishing with the feature event being the Ladbrokes Stony Creek cup on the Labor Day Weekend. Tickets: Adults \$20, Concession \$15, kids are free. There are a range of ticketing packages available, including annual memberships and bus routes to get you to and from the track.

For more information, please visit [stonycreek.com.au](http://stonycreek.com.au).



## 2025 LEXUS MELBOURNE CUP TOUR

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@melbournecup #PeoplesCup #MelbourneCup [melbournecuptour.com.au](http://melbournecuptour.com.au)





# Repeated power outages costly for Venus Bay food store

By Bruce Wardley

NOT one to normally complain, food store proprietor Bridget McCutchan from the Bay Gourmet Food and Wine Store in Venus Bay is hopping mad over power outages.

“Repeated power outages are costing me hundreds of dollars each time they occur,” said Bridget.

“Now AusNet is planning to shut the power down on a Sunday, our busiest trading day.”

Unplanned and planned outages are common in Venus Bay, according to Bridget.

“We received two days’ notice before the last planned outage, only to be told at the last minute it was going to be rescheduled for a Sunday.

“Each time the power is off, it costs our business \$500 a day in lost sales.”

AusNet claims the planned outages are essential for routine maintenance.

Venus Bay is not connected to town water or sewerage, and a reliable power supply is essential to operate water pumps and keep toilets flushing.

Complaints about power outages are common throughout South Gippsland.

“We have a gravity-fed system, so although we lose the water pressure without the pump, we still have running water during an outage.”

“Power goes out three or four times a year, so I bought a generator.”

“Our tanks will normally slowly fill the toilet, so it can be flushed once or twice a day; last outage, it didn’t, so we used an outside tap and a bucket to fill the toilet.”

“I carry buckets from the tank to the house.”

“We live in Venus Bay and need power to run our pumps and septic.”

“I’ve seen some properties with solar panels on their water tanks.”

“The power goes out regularly unfortunately.”

A generator of sufficient size would just be too costly, according to Bridget, with some appliances at



Each power outage at Venus Bay can cost Bridget McCutchan, owner of the Bay Gourmet Food and Wine Store, hundreds of dollars in lost coffee sales. B23\_3525

the Bay Gourmet Food and Wine Store needing three-phase power.

“No water, no toilets, no coffee machine, no cool room without power,” said Bridget.

“We would need a very large generator.

“During a storm, the power can go off without notice and take hours to be restored.”

Even planned outages are difficult to manage, according to Bridget.

Staff need to be organised and much of the stock in the cool room is perishable.

Bay Gourmet Food and Wine Store normally opens every day except Wednesday and seven days a week during summer and school holidays.

“We’ve been closed for a month to take a winter break,” said Bridget.

“The last thing we need now is to be forced to close on a Sunday.

“It’s a beautiful country town, and we have a lot of loyal customers.

“Families are starting to move in with lots of new buildings underway.”

“Everyone looks out for each other.”

According to AusNet, the

maintenance works that are being undertaken in Venus Bay are essential to maintain a safe and reliable network and will also help with bushfire preparedness ahead of summer.

“Over the last few years, we’ve seen significantly more weather events impacting the network, so undertaking these types of maintenance works have become even more important,” said a spokesperson for AusNet.

“We know that it’s inconvenient to be without electricity and we thank our customers for their patience as we make these important upgrades to the network.”

AusNet has scheduled a planned outage for critical maintenance in Tarwin Lower, Pound Creek, Inverloch and Venus Bay from 8.30am to 4.30pm on September 14.

Critical maintenance has also been scheduled for Cape Paterson, Inverloch and Wonthaggi on Tuesday, September 12 and Ventnor and Cowes on Sunday, September 17. For further information on planned outages go to [outagetracker.com.au/outage-list](http://outagetracker.com.au/outage-list).

## • FINANCIAL LITERACY MADE SIMPLE

### Downsizing the Family Home

#### What to expect

By David Caporale,  
Chief Investment Officer of RELIcapital

For many retirees, selling the family home feels like the key to a fresh start - less cleaning, fewer gardens to look after, and hopefully some money left over to enjoy life. But while the idea of “unlocking” home equity is appealing, the costs of downsizing often come as a surprise. By the time you add up agent fees, stamp duty, and moving expenses, the windfall surplus isn’t always as large as people imagine.

#### The cost of selling

In Victoria, real estate agent commissions usually range between 1.5% and 2.5% of the sale price. On a \$750,000 home, that’s around \$11,000 to \$18,000. Marketing, professional photography, advertising and online listings can add another \$2,000 to \$5,000, and legal fees for conveyancing are generally \$1,200 to \$2,500.

Put together, selling costs alone can easily reach \$15,000 to \$25,000.

#### Buying the next place

The biggest shock for many is stamp duty. On a \$600,000 unit in Victoria, the duty is about \$31,000. While there are some concessions for pensioners, there is no broad exemption for retirees who are simply moving to a smaller home.

Other states sometimes offer targeted relief - New South Wales and Queensland, for example, have run downsizer concessions in recent years - but these depend on the government of the day. It’s important to check what’s available before making a decision.

Add to that another \$1,200 - \$2,500 for legal fees, plus \$500 - \$800 for building and pest inspections.

#### Moving costs

Shifting a household after decades can be more expensive than expected. A typical move for a three-bedroom home within Victoria can cost \$2,000 to \$4,000. Storage, if needed, adds

\$250 - \$400 per month. Then there are smaller extras such as redirecting mail, reconnecting electricity utilities and internet, and updating insurance which can easily add \$500 - \$1,000.

#### How the Age Pension can be affected

Selling the family home can also change your Age Pension entitlements. While your home is exempt from the assets test, the sale proceeds are not. If you plan to buy another home, the money is exempt for up to two years (sometimes three in special cases). But during that period, it may still be “deemed” under the income test, which could temporarily reduce your pension. Timing your move carefully makes a difference.

#### A chance to boost super

On the positive side, the Downsizer Contribution lets eligible Australians over 55 contribute up to \$300,000 each (\$600,000 for couples) into super from the sale of the family home. This can turn housing wealth into a more flexible retirement income stream. Just remember, once the money is in super, it’s still counted under the Age Pension assets test.

#### The bottom line

Downsizing can be the right move to free up funds, cut household chores, and offering a fresh start. But it’s not always the financial windfall many expect. Between selling costs, stamp duty, moving expenses, and potential changes to the Age Pension, the final figure can be far lower than first imagined.

The key is to step into the process with clear expectations. By understanding the real costs, you can make a decision that’s right not only for your finances, but also for your lifestyle in retirement.

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

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# Telstra 5G coming to Dumbalk

TELSTRA will be upgrading its mobile base station at Dumbalk, which will bring new 5G coverage to the area; however, it means there will be temporary disruptions between September 1 and 12. Telstra 5G delivers increased capacity, which means more consistent speeds, smoother streaming, and typically faster download times. Delivering 5G to the area will also help boost the area's existing 4G performance.

Telstra mobile services in the area will be temporarily affected while the upgrade works are underway.

There will be no disruptions to the central Telstra mobile site in Lancefield.

Telstra mobile customers will receive texts advising of the upcoming work. Landline services, NBN & Starlink/Satellite internet services, and mobile coverage from other providers will not be impacted.

The site will need to be switched off during the following periods:

- Monday, September 1, 7.30am, to Thursday, September 4, 7pm. There will be no Telstra mobile coverage from this site. The Telstra mobile network will be restored at the end of the day on Thursday, September 4.
- Friday, September 5. There will be interruptions to the mobile network during the day, only to conduct the call testing and integration of the mobile network. There will be no interruptions to the Telstra mobile network over the weekend, Saturday, September 6-7.
- Monday, September 8 to Friday, September 12. The work will continue with interruptions to the Telstra mobile network, with restoration at the end of each day.

Tips for improving connectivity while work is underway.

Telstra customers can continue to make calls and send texts during disruption to mobile services by switching on Wi-Fi Calling. This is a free setting on most popular mobile phones and allows the mobile to make and receive mobile calls while connected to Wi-Fi.

Telstra encourages business owners to talk

# Upgrades to Rhyll boardwalks

Boardwalks and a viewing platform at Rhyll Inlet are set to be upgraded to create an improved nature experience for trail users.

Around 250 metres of boardwalk will be upgraded and resurfaced with non-slip material. New handrails will also be installed.

The wetland boardwalk lookout, previously closed due to disrepair, is planned to be removed due to the high environmental impact of rebuilding the structure in such a sensitive environment.

The upgrades, delivered by Phillip Island Nature Parks, will take place between Conservation Hill and McIlwraith Road and will run between October and December, excluding school holiday periods.

There will be staged closures of individual structures, but the main Cowes – Rhyll shared trail between Conservation Hill and McIlwraith Rd will remain open.

Cyclists and walkers are encouraged to use the recently completed Stage Three of the Cowes Rhyll Trail, which was completed in partnership with Bass Coast Shire Council.

Projects coordinator at the Nature Parks, Andrew Dallinger, said the boardwalk upgrades would not only encourage visitors to explore the Rhyll area, but improve access to a lesser-known part of Phillip Island (Milawul).

“Two sections of gravel trail, either side of the wetland boardwalk, will be improved as part of the project,” said Mr Dallinger.

The works are part of the Nature Parks’ ongoing commitment to reduce safety risks and improve public access around Phillip Island (Milawul).

“These upgrades are part of a longer-term capital works program and are an example of successful eco-tourism directly funding public assets,” said Mr Dallinger.

“We thank the community for their understanding during short-term closures to allow work to be conducted safely and efficiently and ultimately enable long-term safety and benefits for all trail users.”

For project updates, please visit Infrastructure Projects Updates at Phillip Island Nature Parks.

# LBA AGM highlights resilience of Leongatha business community

LEONGATHA businesses are feeling the pressure of higher costs, increased taxes and the impact of drought, but the town's business community is showing resilience by supporting one another and strengthening its local networks.

That was the clear message from the Leongatha Business Association's annual general meeting, held on Wednesday, August 27, where about 15 people from a dozen businesses came together to reflect on the past year and set priorities for the future.

President Martin Reidy said while the past 12 months had been difficult for many operators, there was a real sense of strength in working together.

“It is not necessarily the most conducive economic time in our region,” he said.

“We've got higher costs of operation, higher taxation in the marketplace. It hurts disposable income and then you add in the drought in our local area, and it's made things tougher for businesses. So, it's good to see them banding together, sharing our experiences and learning from each other. That networking side of it and just getting together and collaborating about how we approach things is very beneficial.”

Mr Reidy said the Association had focused on giving members more opportunities to connect and learn from each other.

A Christmas celebration, a business breakfast with leadership speaker Tristan White, and a dinner event on building cohesive teams were among the highlights. The events were deliberately spaced across the year with set meeting dates, making it easier for businesses to plan ahead and attend.

“From a networking



Members of the Leongatha Business Association committee at last week's annual general meeting, where local business owners reflected on a challenging year and reinforced the importance of collaboration, connection, and advocacy for the future.

perspective, I think we achieved our goal of giving more to the members,” he said.

At the same time, the Association has been modernising its systems to give businesses a smoother experience. Google Drive was introduced to replace fragmented record-keeping, new email addresses and an email marketing platform were set up to improve communication, and a membership management system was mapped out to streamline renewals and help new members connect with the right people.

“Our processes were a bit manual and fragmented,” Mr Reidy said.

“We have taken some big steps to ensure continuity and clear communication for members.”

Advocacy has remained a priority, too. Over the past year, the Association made formal submissions to South Gippsland Shire Council on its draft plan and

budget, pushing for stronger economic stewardship and measurable outcomes in areas such as agriculture, food processing, tourism and accommodation. Mr Reidy said the group wanted council to set clear targets for planning approvals and to actively facilitate private sector growth.

The AGM also served as a moment to acknowledge the contribution of committee members. The only change to the executive committee came with David Humphreys taking over as secretary from Scott Cameron. Mr Reidy paid warm tribute to Mr Cameron, who had held his secretary role for several years while also managing his business Tricky Trees, pursuing further education, serving with the CFA and coaching youth sport.

“He has been an outstanding member, and it is sad to see him move out of that role,” Mr Reidy said.

Looking ahead, the Association is determined to build on

the progress of the past year.

“Our main goal is simple, to continue to build off what we did with our membership engagement,” Mr Reidy said. “We want to really engage the business community, continue to grow our membership numbers, improve our systems and operations, and make sure that the business community is heard, whether it be with the shire, with the state government, or the federal government.”

For Mr Reidy, the AGM confirmed that while the region's businesses face challenging times, there is strength in collaboration and optimism for the future.

“I was really pleased with what we achieved throughout the year,” he said.

“We are on the path of getting the association some great systems, structure and consistency, and the outlook for the next 12 months is to build on that and continue to engage with our members.”

# Corinella Jetty closure raises community concern



Bass Coast locals are frustrated with the State Government's inaction following a partial closure of the Corinella Jetty in January. Melina Bath MP with locals Amanda Keilar, Murray Wannan, and Sally Van Hees.

THE future of Corinella Jetty is in doubt, seven months after the State Government ordered a partial closure of the loved public facility.

The Nationals' Melina Bath called on the Minister for Ports and Freight in state parliament to commit to a timeline for its repair and reopening.

In January, a large section of the fishing platform was fenced off, leaving locals and visitors unable to access a large part of the jetty.

Ms Bath said residents have expressed their frustration with the State Government's inaction – there's been no communication, no progress, and only weekly inspections by Parks Victoria staff.

“The closure feels like history is repeating itself for locals after the Newhaven Jetty was closed indefinitely last year,” Ms Bath said.

“Corinella residents were hopeful their asset wouldn't suffer the same fate as Newhaven's, but after months of stagnation, their hope is

evaporating.”

Ms Bath said the social and economic impact of Parks Victoria infrastructure closures across Gippsland was well documented.

“There are too many ‘closed’ signs on Parks Victoria footbridges, walking tracks and jetties – it's unacceptable.

“Not everyone owns a boat, our state government-owned piers must be maintained and kept open for accessible land-based fishing.

“The Corinella Boating and Angling Club has run successful ‘come and try’ fishing clinics for children and adults; its members are deeply concerned that the jetty will soon end up padlocked behind mesh fencing.

“Labor must deliver full transparency and an assurance to the Corinella community that their jetty will be fixed and not left to rot.

“The community deserve answers and a firm commitment to repair Corinella Jetty before the summer fishing season commences.”





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\$325,000 bin delivery doesn't go to plan, but it's now open

THE safe disposal bin for machetes was delivered to Wonthaggi Police Station on Friday, August 22, but it wasn't without its hiccups. The bin lying on the ground around 11am as delivery personnel were assisted by nearby security in attempting to move the \$325,000\* bin into its new location.

The 40 bins across the state came into operation on Monday this week and are available until November 30, 2025. Those found from September 1 in possession of a machete without exemption (and not on their way to hand it in) will incur a fine of more than \$47,000 or up to two years in prison.

The rolling out of the bins has been met with much controversy, not least the price tag per bin, which Victorians have broken down to \$325,000\* each, and comes as police face budget cuts and a failing justice system that has seen, particularly youth offenders, continuously bailed and reoffending.

\*The state government announced \$13 million towards the machete ban amnesty program. It's understood this budget includes public awareness, retailer education, managing exemptions for the ban and manufacturing and installation of the safe disposal bins, as well as the secure collection and destruction of the items that are handed in. Whilst the bins themselves cost approximately \$2400 each according to the Premier's Office, local residents, and those across Victoria, have taken issue with the exorbitant cost for the program overall, breaking it down to \$325,000 per bin. One does have to wonder at approximately \$100,000 for all 40 bins, if the additional aspects to the program should really be costing \$12.9 million, or whether that money could be better spent solving the root of the problem.

FRRR steps up with funding for mental health

PHILLIP Island Medical and Health Action Group have been announced as a recipient of the Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR's) flagship Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) program, set to receive \$4900 towards Island Minds, a program for mental health first aid aimed at community leaders.

The program will increase awareness and community capacity to provide emergency mental health support through the delivery of three Mental Health First Aid training courses.

Jill Karena, head of granting at FRRR, said that programs like Strengthening Rural Communities are a vital source of funding for the hundreds of remote and rural not-for-profit organisations (NFPs) that continue to fill the service gaps in their communities.

"Locally-led, grassroots organisations are key to ensuring vital community services continue to be delivered. That takes committed volunteers, and we are seeing more NFPs working hard to attract and retain volunteers by making improvements to training. This not only makes things easier and more efficient for current volunteers but helps to encourage a new generation of people to step up, which is critical to the sustainability of these organisations."

"The initiatives we've funded in this round of grants really showcase the diversity of needs of remote, rural and regional communities. This is why flexible funding programs, like SRC, are so critical to the sustainability and vibrancy of our inland communities. We are grateful to all our partners who share our commitment and make these grants possible," Ms Karena said.

FRRR always accepts applications to this program, which typically awards funds four times a year. Local NFPs and community groups are encouraged to review the program guidelines and apply. More information about the SRC program is available at [frrr.org.au/src](http://frrr.org.au/src).

The SRC program is collaboratively supported by donors, ranging from private individuals to larger foundations, who are acknowledged on the FRRR website. This round also saw the first grants funded from the returns on the FRRR Small Grants Fund corpus, which was established in 2023. There are always more eligible grants than can be funded, so if you would like to help, donate at [frrr.org.au/donate](http://frrr.org.au/donate).

Apex Park becomes stage for national debate

APEX Park in Wonthaggi was certainly busy on Sunday, August 31, being the stage for two very different gatherings, both beginning within an hour of each other and both drawing attention to one of the biggest national conversations of the moment, immigration.

At 11am, the Diversity and Inclusion Mini Festival began with an invitation for the community to "come along and celebrate Bass Coast's dynamic and diverse communities, including its rich Indigenous culture." The flyer encouraged people to wear rainbow colours or anything that celebrated inclusion.

The festival featured music, singing and guest speakers, including local Aboriginal community member Safina Stewart. In her speech, she focused on kindness as a foundation for connection.

"When we smile, we invite conversation. That is our power," she said.

She also referred to the other group gathered across the park, preparing for the March for Australia Rally, stating that she has friends there and will continue to love them because "love conquers all... in no way does it harm, it only heals."

Speaking afterwards, Stewart said she was encouraged by the support on display.

"It's encouraging to see how many have gathered to support values of kindness, compassion and love. It's important to stand for our Australian values of fairness, inclusion and dignity."

Councillor Mat Morgan also addressed the crowd. He used his time to refute the argument that immigration drives up house prices, saying instead that political choices are to blame.

"We need to move our energy into action and political action," he said.

Afterwards, Morgan expanded on what the day meant for him.

"As a community, we need to make sure that we leave nobody behind. To have a safe community in Bass Coast means nobody gets put in danger and we oppose hate.



Event attendees and speakers from the Diversity and Inclusion Mini Festival, Mia O'Neill, Anneka Gan, Oliver Jobe, Cr Tim O'Brien, Cr Mat Morgan, Anabelle Bremner, Travis Thompson and Safina Stewart. W07\_3525



Organisers of Wonthaggi's March for Australia Rally, Matt Gibson and Curly Gardner lead the way as others follow in their march through the town. W08\_3525

We'll come peacefully and we will oppose racist sentiments, we will oppose fascism, and we will do it every day of the week."

Councillor Tim O'Brien, who also attended the festival, spoke about Australia's history of migration.

"It is simply fact that this country was built on migrants. We are on land that was never ceded, and since the arrival 200 odd years ago of the first fleet, we have been an immigrant land and the country is built on immigration, and will continue to be built on immigration."

Immigration remained a central talking point. Those on the other side of the park claimed they did not oppose immigration altogether, only its current scale. When asked about this, Morgan certainly gave a strong response.

"There was a prolonged period during COVID where we shut down our borders. We had no immigration to this country, and house prices continued to rise. The fake premise that these neo-Nazis are using across rallies all across this country, blaming immigrants for the housing crisis, is a complete lie and is just an excuse for racism."

O'Brien added: "They are operating on a false premise, and that false premise is that immigration is a key driver of our housing crisis. We have

turned housing into an asset class which favours the few, but not the many."

Across the park, a different perspective was preparing to march through town. The March for Australia Rally, one of many held across the country on the same day, began at 12pm. The group walked from Apex Park to the Wonthaggi recreation reserve. In an email, organisers said the event was simply about pride in being Australian.

Local organiser Michael "Curly" Gardner told the Sentinel Times that the rally was not against immigration as a whole.

"Everyone was an immigrant at one point. You, me, but it is just that too many at once is bad," he said.

He argued that the housing crisis does have links to immigration, stating, "The government thinks the housing crisis has nothing to do with immigration, but it does."

Gardner said the rally was also about acting before it was too late.

"I think Australians tend to wait until the horse has bolted to do anything. This is a chance to do something."

Despite the two groups standing for very different messages, both events remained peaceful. A small police presence was observed at the park, though no intervention was needed.

In our thoughts, as flowers line entrances to police stations



Flowers outside Wonthaggi Police Station on Thursday. C01\_3525

COMMUNITIES across the state have mourned the loss of two police officers who were killed in the line of duty last Tuesday in Porepukah. A third officer remains in hospital, recovering from serious injuries sustained in the shooting at a property on Rayner Track shortly after 10.30am.

Locally, residents have rallied en masse in support, leaving flowers outside police stations across the region, delivering food, and checking in on local officers to show their appreciation and support.

"This is an extremely difficult and sad time for our Victoria Police family, and we're profoundly grateful to the Victorian and the Bass Coast community for the compassion and support shown to us during this challenging period," Inspector Cath Middleton, Bass Coast Local Area

Commander, stated on Thursday afternoon to the Sentinel-Times.

Across the state, flags flew at half-mast and buildings lit up blue.

"Our hearts go out to the families, friends and colleagues of the two police officers who so tragically lost their lives in Porepukah. No one should go to work and not come home to their family," Bass Coast Shire Mayor Rochelle Halstead said.

"On behalf of our community, my fellow Councillors and Council Officers, we also extend our deepest sympathy to the entire Victoria Police family."

"This is a devastating reminder of the risks our police officers face every day in keeping our communities safe, and today we honour their courage, service and sacrifice."

Recognising the significance of the incident, South Gippsland Shire Council has lit up the shire building in blue, joining the statewide tribute led by government and councils.

"In the Mayor's Message this week is a tribute to the fallen police officers. Additionally, we will be lighting the hall up blue in recognition of the police who have lost their lives and to show our feelings for the police force in general," South Gippsland Shire Mayor John Schelling said on Thursday afternoon.

"We are treating it as a very severe incident that the public should be distressed by."

Police named the two officers killed in the line of duty as Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson (VP26182) and Senior Constable Vadim De Waart (VP44954). The name of the injured officer has not been released.



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SUV SN: L101410

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Mollie's award-winning artwork, Bloom, from her younger years.

## Korumburra's Mollie Fernandez returns to Noble Park exhibition

KORUMBURRA'S own Mollie Fernandez is once again in the spotlight, with her artwork featured in a special exhibition at the Noble Park Community Centre (NPCC). The showcase, which opened on August 29, celebrates former junior winners as part of the lead-up to the 20th anniversary NPCC Art Show this October.

Mollie first entered the NPCC Art Show as a six-year-old, impressing judges with her creativity and talent. She went on to win the Junior section three years in a row (2014, 2015 and 2017). Her very first winning piece, Owls – completed when she was just five – was even purchased by one of the judges. Mollie was tutored by Wendy Rahilly of Creative Kids at an after-school program.

Now aged 18, Mollie is completing Year 12 locally while working towards her dream of becoming an Occupational Therapist. Though her focus has shifted to her studies, she has remained passionate about arts and crafts.

Mollie is one of six past junior winners invited to display their winning work as part of the “soft launch” ahead of the October exhibition.

NPCC's curators said the exhibition is not just a celebration of individual achievement, but a reflection of community support for young talent:

“[This exhibition] is a vibrant collection of youthful vision, resilience and imagination... Together, they reflect the growth not only of the artists themselves, but also of a community that has consistently championed creative exploration from an early age.”

The Noble Park Community Centre's 20th anniversary Art Show will run from October 17–19 at the Bendigo Bank Exhibition Hall.

## Strategy to stop industry moving out

A LONG overdue strategy to ensure local industry is located in the right place along the Bass Coast has been welcomed by Bass Coast Shire Council.

“It's been needed for quite some time,” said Deputy Mayor Cr Brett Tessari. “I've been contacted so many times by businesses trying to find somewhere suitable for them to expand, and I know of several businesses that moved out of our shire because they couldn't find a suitable space in the industrial area. This is long overdue and a great start.”

Bass Coast Shire has identified a range of issues affecting the availability of suitable industrial land, including the lack of industrial land in townships, the small size of some industrial precincts and a conflict between industrial and non-industrial uses of land.

Cr Jon Temby said it was really important for businesses to be located in a place that is suitable for the activities going on as they employ a lot of people in the shire.

“We want to create opportunities for people to work close to home,” said Cr Tracey Bell. “It's really important. This strategy will future-proof our industrial land so we're supporting local jobs and laying the foundation for local businesses to grow, innovate and invest.”



The season is off to a roaring start at Wilsons Prom, don't miss out, book your tickets today.

# Whale watching takes to the Prom

WILSONS Promontory National Park, fondly known as The Prom, is a wild, remote gem tucked away in the south-east corner of Victoria. Its craggy headlands, hidden coves and granite cliffs mark the southernmost tip of mainland Australia, and its surrounding waters form the state's largest marine national park.

Each spring, the Prom becomes a vital waypoint in the whale migration. Humpback whales return southward

from their winter breeding grounds in Queensland, many spotted with calves in tow. This year is no different with a successful start to the southern migration season.

One of the best ways to experience this migration is on a Wilsons Prom Whale Cruise with Wildlife Coast Cruises. Departing from Port Welshpool at 10.30am, this six-hour adventure explores the spectacular east coast of the Prom, an untouched wilderness rich

with marine biodiversity. Aboard there's a 90 per cent chance of spotting whales on these springtime tours.

Keep watch with the expert crew as they scan the horizon for spouts, tail slaps, and the shimmer of whale footprints. Along the way, you'll likely encounter playful dolphins, sunbathing fur seals and soaring seabirds.

It's a chance to connect with nature, witness the whale migration, and experience the

wild up close. Enjoy morning tea and lunch onboard, with expert crew sharing insights and tips along the way.

This is immersive, respectful wildlife tourism at its best, set in one of Victoria's most awe-inspiring natural sanctuaries and runs from now until November 2.

For more information and to book visit: [wildlifecoastcruises.com.au/cruises/wilsons-prom-whale-cruise](http://wildlifecoastcruises.com.au/cruises/wilsons-prom-whale-cruise) or contact the team at 5952 9500.



## Preparations begin for Dumbalk's 150-year celebrations

DUMBALK will reach its 150-year milestone in 2028, and preparations have begun for the town's celebrations.

Last Thursday evening, community members came together to discuss the event and a committee was formed, with members from the Dumbalk Hall Committee and Dumbalk and District Progress Association alongside other locals joining.

The committee will now work towards preparing for the 150-year celebrations, which will be held during the Easter weekend in April 2028.

Celebrations will include the raising of the 50-year-old time capsule, buried in front of the Dumbalk Hall in 1978, during the town's 100th year celebrations.

One of the first tasks for the new committee will be to update the list of names and



Glenda Xuereb, Marie Murphy, Walter Aich and Tanya Thorson have formed a committee to begin preparations to celebrate 150 years of Dumbalk and unearth the 50-year-old time capsule.

addresses of the people who placed items in the capsule so they, and their descendants, can be formally invited to the event.

The committee would like to hear from anyone who

might have updated information and can be contacted by phone: Glenda 0439 912 966 or Walter 0419 559 367.

For those interested in learning more, the next meeting will be held at the

Dumbalk Community Centre at 20 Miller Street, Dumbalk on Thursday, October 2 at 7.30pm or keep an eye on the Dumbalk and Dollar Community Page on Facebook for updates.

## Sand dump at Inverloch surf beach after weekend storms

ANOTHER council patch-up job is about to get underway at the Inverloch surf beach to replace sacrificial sand lost after weekend storms battered the Inverloch SLSC.

Heavy equipment was put in place over the weekend waiting for conditions to improve after gale-force winds and a high tide left the lifesaving clubhouse dangerously exposed.

Bass Coast Council is continuing to work with local contractors to try and keep ahead of weather conditions, but the last couple of days have again been challenging.

Replacing beach sand lost during storm surges costs Bass Coast Council between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for each event depending on the amount of sand needed.

State Member for Bass Jordan Crugnale MP said earlier this year she was hopeful a

tender would be awarded to a successful contractor between May and August with dune reconstruction to commence between September and November 2025.

A \$10 million package announced by the State Government for six sites along the Victorian coastline included funding to repair and extend the geotextile container wall at Inverloch, safe access to the Inverloch surf beach, road asset protection and dune stabilisation for the planting of vegetation.

According to DEECA, sacrificial sand is placed on the Inverloch beach to protect the public foreshore and public and private assets within and behind the foreshore.

**RIGHT: Inverloch SLSC clubhouse left dangerously exposed after weekend storm surges. B26\_3525**





## Excellence, innovation and community celebrated



Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre won the Environmental Sustainability Award, were runners-up in the Marketing and Communications Award, and a finalist for the Access, Equity and Inclusion Award.



Phillip Island Sauna secured the New Business Award and the People's Choice Award for Health and Lifestyle.



The Hills Are Alive Group took home the coveted Business of the Year award, for a second year in a row for their Ocean Sounds Festival event held every January. The event also won the Event Excellence Award.



Mates Gin Distillery Pty Ltd came runners-up in the New Business Award (Judged category) and runners-up in the People's Choice Award Health and Lifestyle. B64\_3425



San Remo Fishermen's Co-op placed runners-up in the Environmental Sustainability (Judged Award). B60\_3425



2024 Hall of Fame recipients John Dickie and Jess Patman of Wildlife Coast Cruises were named this year's runners-up in the People's Choice Accommodation and Tourism Attraction Award. B43\_3425



Rob and Erin Gardner, along with their team from Bass Coast Support Work Services who came runners-up in the People's Choice Health and Lifestyle Award. B56\_3425

AWARD winners, runners-up and finalists of the 2025 Bass Coast Business Awards

### JUDGED AWARDS

#### Access, Equity and Inclusion sponsored by Phillip Island RSL

- Empowered Lactation Consulting - Winner
- Southcoast Psychology - Runner Up
- Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre - Finalist

#### Business Innovation sponsored by nbn Local Gippsland

- Empowered Lactation Consulting - Winner
- Inverloch Bike Hire - Runner Up
- Trent Allen Building Pty Ltd - Finalist

#### Environmental Sustainability sponsored by Harman Wines

- Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre - Winner
- San Remo Fishermen's Co-op - Runner Up
- Hycon Homes Pty Ltd - Finalist

#### Event Excellence sponsored by Watersure

- Ocean Sounds 2025 (The Hills Are Alive Group) - Winner (Hall of Fame)
- Inverloch Running Festival - Runner Up
- Bass Coast Yoga Festival - Finalist

#### Marketing and Communications sponsored by Destination Phillip Island

- Coast to Coast Conveyancing - Winner
- Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre - Runner Up
- Made. By Bronte - Finalist

#### New Business sponsored by Phillip Island Business Network

- Phillip Island Sauna - Winner
- Mates Gin Distillery Pty Ltd - Runner Up
- Made. By Bronte - Finalist

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

#### Accommodation and Tourism Attraction sponsored by Telstra

- Anchor Belle Holiday Park - Winner
- Wildlife Coast Cruises - Runner Up
- Maru Koala and Animal Park - Finalist

#### Food and Beverage sponsored by Telstra

- Harman Wines - Winner
- Hotel Phillip Island - Runner Up
- Beachside Bakehouse - Finalist

#### Hair and Beauty sponsored by Dead4eva Designs

- Urban Hair - Winner
- Studio 13 - Runner Up
- H-Bombs Barbershop - Finalist

#### Health and Lifestyle sponsored by Interchange Gippsland

- Phillip Island Sauna - Winner
- Bass Coast Support Work Services - Runner Up
- Voyage Fitness Wonthaggi - Finalist

#### Online, Mobile and Home-Based Business sponsored by Mac&Ernie

- Foodies on Phillip Island - Winner
- Made. By Bronte - Runner Up
- Empowered Lactation Consulting - Finalist

#### Retail and Services sponsored by Maru Koala and Animal Park

- Dalyston General Store - Winner
- Bass Coast Boat & Caravan Storage - Runner Up
- San Remo Butchers - Finalist

#### Trade sponsored by Bass Coast Shire Council

- McKenzie Motors and Machinery - Winner
- ESI Solutions Pty Ltd - Runner Up
- Bass Coast Carpentry & Maintenance - Finalist



## Empowering families, one feed at a time

WHEN I first began my journey as a lactation consultant, my vision was simple – to ensure no family in our community ever felt alone when navigating breastfeeding. Fast forward to today, and I am humbled to see that vision recognised through winning two awards – Access, Equality and Inclusion and Business Innovation at the 2025 Bass Coast Business Awards.

My business began in the living rooms of local families, with newborns snuggled close and parents finding their feet in those tender first months. It's where I've shared countless cups of tea, shared the joy of pain-free feeds, and celebrated every "We're doing it!" moment. These awards are for every family who's opened their door to me, every person who's recommended my services to a friend, and every business here that's cheered me on along the way.

Breastfeeding can be a beautiful experience, but it can also be overwhelming, isolating, and full of unexpected challenges. Too often, families struggle in silence, unsure of where to turn. That's why I created Empowered Lactation Consulting, to provide evidence-based, compassionate support to every family, regardless of their circumstances.

These awards reflect the heart of what my business stands for: making quality lactation support accessible for all



**Sarah Long of Empowered Lactation Consulting was proudly recognised with both the Access, Equity and Inclusion Award and the Business Innovation Award. B54\_3425**

families. Through services such as home visits, Telehealth consultations and breast pump hire, I strive to remove barriers to breastfeeding support in our community.

I'm deeply grateful to our community for embracing my work and to every family who has

trusted me with such an important part of their journey. It's an honour to be recognised among so many incredible local businesses who are making a difference in Bass Coast. Congratulations to all the winners and finalists of the Bass Coast Business Awards 2025!



**The team from Coast to Coast Conveyancing Angela, Tania, Katrina and Anthony won the Marketing and Communications Award at the Bass Coast Business Awards.**

## Coast to Coast Conveyancing win Marketing and Communications Award

THE team at Coast to Coast Conveyancing were thrilled to win the Marketing and Communications Award at the recent Bass Coast Business Awards.

"We're really excited and grateful to the judges for recognising the efforts of our team. It was such a lovely night and wonderful to be able to celebrate together as a team," said Katrina Morris, conveyancer at Coast to Coast Conveyancing.

Katrina works alongside principal Anthony Murdoch, property lawyer Angela Wallis, conveyancer Tania Dods-Cumming and assistant conveyancer Andrew Rigoni. Together, the company has been supporting the Bass Coast community for more than 20 years, offering a full range of conveyancing services. Coast to Coast are qualified legal representatives.

"We handle all aspects of conveyancing – from buying and selling property, off-the-plan contracts, and commercial properties, to subdivisions, deceased estates, and title changes," explained Katrina.

Community connection has been a big focus for the business and a key factor in their marketing success.

"We use lots of different channels to communicate with our clients, making things as accessible as possible for them," said Katrina.

"We've also made a strong effort to support local groups. We've sponsored the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, the Foster Football and Netball Club, and the Wonthaggi Gun Club. It's a way to give back, rather than just relying on traditional advertising."

Katrina, Anthony, and Tania are all members and volunteers with the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club, while Angela and Tania are actively involved in their local football and netball clubs.

Coast to Coast Conveyancing also works closely with Patten Robins Lawyers, giving clients direct access to additional legal support when needed, without the stress of outsourcing.



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**Bass Coast Business Awards**  
**Judged Award Winner 2025 - Access, Equity and Inclusion**  
**Judged Award Winner 2025 - Business Innovation**



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There's no denying that Anchor Belle Holiday Park is a popular location, voted the People's Choice in Accommodation and Tourism for the third year running.

## Triple treat as Anchor Belle make it three in a row

ANCHOR Belle Holiday Park has once again claimed the Bass Coast People's Choice Award in the Accommodation and Tourism category – making it three consecutive wins for the much-loved Phillip Island holiday destination.

Proudly family-owned and operated since opening on Christmas Day in 1960, the park is now run by third-generation siblings Brad and Amy Wolfenden. The pair are honoured to carry forward a legacy that began more than 60 years ago and has grown into one of Phillip Island's most recognised holiday parks.

"This award is a testament to our team's dedication and the loyalty of our guests. To be recognised three years in a row is an honour. It reflects not only the commitment of our staff but also the support and loyalty of our wonderful guests," said Brad and Amy.

Located just 100 metres from the beach and minutes from the heart of Cowes, Anchor Belle Holiday Park is perfectly positioned for those looking to explore Phillip Island. Guests can choose from a wide variety of accommodation options, including townhouses, self-contained cabins, and powered or ensuite

camping sites.

The park is also known for its family-friendly facilities. With an indoor heated pool, jumping cushion, games room, and direct beach access, it offers something for families, couples, and adventurers alike. Whether it's a summer getaway, winter escape, or special celebration, Anchor Belle is committed to creating lasting holiday memories.

The Wolfenden family expressed their gratitude to both staff and guests, emphasising that the award is the result of teamwork and community support.

"We are incredibly proud of our staff for their dedication and customer service. And we are truly thankful to every guest who voted for us – this recognition motivates us to continue delivering the very best experiences."

Brad and Amy also congratulated all the other finalists and winners across the Bass Coast Business Awards, recognising the strength and diversity of local businesses that make the region such a vibrant place to visit.

Book your stay at Phillip Island's award-winning holiday park by visiting [anchorbelle.com.au](http://anchorbelle.com.au) or calling 5952 2258.

## Harman Wines' menu is a reflection of the region

HARMAN Wines owners Daniel and Nicole Harman are proud winners of the 2025 Bass Coast Business Awards People's Choice Food and Beverage.

"We're incredibly proud to again be recognised by winning this award – it's a true reflection of the hard work and passion our team puts in every day," said Nicole.

"We thank our loyal customers who, time and time again, vote for us for this People's Choice Awards – we appreciate them and their amazing support of Harman Wines."

"For us, it's not just about the award itself, but the acknowledgment that our commitment to showcasing Gippsland's produce and hospitality is resonating with our community and visitors."

With over 30 exceptional local team members, Nicole said they're proud that the majority of their staff live right here in the region.

"We can support the local economy, which really strengthens the connection between our business and the community."

"The awards were a family occasion this year; David and I attended with our daughter Jenna."

Wherever possible, Harman Wines prioritise

local and seasonal produce. "Gippsland has such an abundance of outstanding growers and producers, and we love showcasing that on our menu," Nicole explained.

"Ninety per cent of our ingredients are homegrown or sourced within 30 kilometres, supporting



The Harman family of Harman Wines the 2025 winner of the People's Choice Food and Beverage Award. From left, David, Jenna and Nicole B45\_3425

Gippsland farmers and producers. It keeps our food fresh, sustainable, and truly reflective of the region."

Open Fridays and Saturdays from 12pm to 8.30pm for lunch and dinner service, and Sundays from 12pm to 4.30pm, with extended hours during the January school holidays.

Harman Wines is excited to introduce a new seasonal Spring menu from September featuring delicious shared platters and tapas, wood-fired pizzas, and house-made desserts. They have live music on Sundays.

Self-guided wine paddles are a popular new offering that enhances the tasting experience for all.

"We're always looking ahead," said Nicole.

"We are a growing and evolving business, having increased the property size in the last 12 months."

Another Pinot Noir vineyard has been planted on site with the addition of 2400 new vines.

"We have recently built and opened our new wine production facility on-site, more than doubling our previous operational space. This supports our ongoing growth and our commitment to quality production and delivering a premium wine visitor experience."

Harman Wines is a solar-powered winery, with 100 per cent of the production facility operating off-grid.

Nicole said the focus remains on continuing to grow sustainably while staying true to their core of great food, wine, and genuine hospitality.

"Our vision is to be the must-visit wine destination in Gippsland. We are super proud of where we live, our exceptional team, and our product offerings and services."

## Enjoy an ideal family holiday at Anchor Belle Holiday Park!



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Urban Hair have celebrated their first win under the new management of Clair Burns, who stepped up in 2024, with the People's Choice Hair & Beauty Award. B46\_3425

## Urban Hair celebrates award-winning year under new ownership

IT'S been a whirlwind 12 months for Clair Burns, who stepped into management and ownership of Urban Hair just over a year ago. With 15 years of experience in the hairdressing industry, Clair brought her creativity, passion, and vision to the salon, determined to create a welcoming space where every client leaves feeling confident and beautiful.

That vision has quickly become reality. Urban Hair has gone from strength to strength, and it was no surprise when the business was crowned winner of the coveted 2025 Bass Coast Business Awards People's Choice – Hair and Beauty Award on Friday, August 22.

"This award is incredibly special because it's voted on by the community," Clair said.

"Thank you to our clients for their incredible support over the last 12 months since we opened under new ownership."

Clair leads a talented team of five, each bringing their own strengths to the chair. From senior stylist Holly, who loves the final styling stage, to blonde colour expert Ash, and Kara, who loves a colour challenge.

Apprentice Lacee is learning all the ropes, alongside salon assistant Eva, from the four women who have over fifty years of experience in women's and men's cuts, colours, and styling.

The Urban Hair crew are passionate about staying up to date with the latest trends, techniques and products, and are retailers for Keune and high-performance hair serum Liquid Locks.

In the styling seat, the team use first-class products including Cloud Nine heat styling products.

Urban Hair prides itself on more than just great cuts and colours – it's about the full experience. Clients are welcomed into a friendly, relaxed salon where consultations are personalised, service is attentive, and results speak for themselves. Whether it's a simple trim, a dramatic transformation, or styling for a special occasion, the team's commitment to quality has built a loyal following.

Appointments are filling fast for the festive season, so book in early to secure your new look before December celebrations take off.

## Buona Domenica, as Foodies on Phillip Island celebrates first award

"Winning this award is as sweet as my lemon tiramisù," Kara said in response to winning the 2025 Online, Mobile and Home-Based Business at this year's Bass Coast Business Awards.

Foodies on Phillip Island is the creation of Kara Williams – a local foodie with a knack for finding and sharing the best spots to eat, drink and explore across the Bass Coast.

What started as a love of good food and community has grown into a go-to guide for locals and visitors alike, packed with insider tips on where to eat and seasonal produce.

Kara combines storytelling, photography, food and a genuine passion for the region's food scene on the Foodies on Phillip Island Instagram page, which extends beyond Phillip Island, across Bass Coast into Gippsland.

You see, for more than a decade in the fashion industry, Kara was fortunate enough to travel the world, dining in the most exclusive Michelin-starred restaurants, and when life dealt her an unexpected twist, she found herself in Tuscany living la vita italiana as a chef.

A keen eye behind the camera, Kara's creations soon opened doors she would never have imagined, from sailing the Italian/French coastline to working as a private chef for Europe's elite.



After coming in runner-up in 2024, Kara has smashed it out of the park this year winning the People's Choice Award for Online, Mobile and Home-Based Business.

Kara learnt artisan techniques, traditional dishes, and flavour combinations in the small bakeries and restaurants of Sicily that gave her the ability to draw on an instinctive approach to cooking.

Now back home, Kara is using that experience to shine a light on the best of what's right here on our doorstep. From farmers to café owners, she's passionate about showcasing local food, produce and the people

who make it happen.

Simple, seasonal produce, Kara is the 'secret ingredient' as she evokes joy through food, culture and community, weaving a magical journey with Foodies on Phillip Island that is a must-have resource.

"Congratulations to all the finalists across all categories and to everyone who voted."

"Thank you to Bass Coast Shire and the abundance of quality food."

# ALL ASPECTS OF HAIRDRESSING



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# Creating MEMORIES THAT TASTE DELICIOUS

Foodies on Phillip Island is the serious food lovers first point of call and ultimate business guide to local restaurants, cafes, grand openings, menu launches, events, and local cuisine. Highlighting exceptional produce and suppliers in our region.

Kara specialises in:

- Local food photography
- Online and media content creator for business growth
- Food and menu consultations
- Creative food styling
- In-house private chef service for bespoke home cooked food and meal preparation
- Promoting local food business.
- Corporate and private cooking classes

foodiesonphillipisland@gmail.com  
Instagram: foodies\_on\_phillipisland





Proud owners of Dalyston General Store Meghana Singareddy and Siva Annapereddy with their children celebrated the success as People's Choice Award winners for retail and services at this year's business awards.

## Rewarded for service with a smile

THE Dalyston General Store has been crowned the winner of the People's Choice Award in the Retail and Services category at the 2025 Bass Coast Business Awards.

Owner Siva Annapereddy said the recognition felt "absolutely fantastic" and credited the win to the strong bond between the store and the local community.

"What goes around comes around. We love helping the community and the community certainly supports us," he said.

The store has been a feature of Dalyston for decades, with several owners over the years keeping it alive and adapting to the community's needs. From delivering the mail to serving what many call the best food in Bass Coast, the store has long been a hub for locals. Siva said the famous local flake and homemade potato cakes remain favourites.

When asked what keeps customers coming back, he pointed to the welcoming atmosphere and the food.

"I would say it starts from the customer service, service with a smile. In the end, of course, the food makes the experience. Anyone who has a nice meal feels like coming back again."

The Dalyston General Store continues to rely on its loyal customer base. "Without the community we wouldn't be able to survive. We do get quite a few passers-by, but in the end, we're a local store being supported by the community," Siva said.

He also credited his wife for her unwavering support.

"I wouldn't be able to do this without my wife's hard work, who works behind the scenes seven days a week, morning to evening with two kids, looking after the family and helping in the business regardless of when and what time it is. They say there is a woman behind every man's success, and I am very proud to say that Meghana Singareddy is my strength."

Looking ahead, he hopes to build on the store's strong foundations by working more closely with other businesses.

"We would love to talk to any other local business that can supply us. The local community supports us, and in return, we would love to support local businesses."

The store also proudly donates 100 per cent of its tips to Powlett River Primary School.



Glen and Belinda O'Brien from McKenzie Motors and Machinery, winners of the People's Choice Trade Award. B51\_3425

## McKenzie Motors drives off with trade award

MCKENZIE Motors and Machinery has been recognised at the 2025 Bass Coast Business Awards, taking out the People's Choice Award in the trade category.

Owner Glen O'Brien said the win came as a surprise.

"We didn't expect the win to go our way, and to get it was quite a pleasant surprise," he said.

Glen believes the business was chosen because of its straightforward approach and honest service.

"What I've found in business is it's really easy to be nice to people and offer them an honest service. Based on feedback I've received from customers, we do offer a reasonably priced trade with no unnecessary fuss surrounding it."

The business began when Glen and his family moved to Bass and noticed a gap in the community.

"There was a lack of mechanics in the area when I first started, and the local mechanic had recently closed. We decided to take a risk and start an

agricultural and automotive repair business, and word quickly spread. The business has gone from strength to strength from there."

McKenzie Motors and Machinery has now become known for providing road-worthy certificates, filling an important need in the local VicRoads testing region. Glen says offering this service has helped set them apart.

The Bass Coast community has been central to the success of the workshop.

"Certainly a lot of the customers I have are based in the Bass Coast. We also try to support other local businesses wherever we can, because those businesses support us."

Looking ahead, Glen hopes to grow his team and continue building strong ties with the region.

"The next stage would probably be to grow employee numbers to cater for our workload, and to continue to support the local community however we can."

### BASS COAST'S FINEST TAKEAWAY

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- General store
- Australian Post Outlet
- Fresh local flake
- In-house Thorpdale Spud potato cakes
- Best hot chips
- Mouth watering burgers

**General store hours:**

Monday-Tuesday	6am-5pm
Wednesday-Friday	6am-7pm
Saturday-Sunday	9am-7pm

**Take away kitchen hours:**

Monday-Tuesday	10am-2pm
Wednesday-Sunday	10am-2pm/5pm-7pm

**Post office hours:**

Monday-Friday	9am-5pm
Saturday	9am-12 noon



**2025 Bass Coast Business Awards**  
**People's Choice Winner - Retail Service**

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**2025 Bass Coast Business Awards.**  
**WINNER PEOPLE'S CHOICE FOR TRADE**

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# HAPPY Father's DAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

## Messages from across the region

Allan Jordan,

You treated us kids as if we were your own blood and biological children. You loved and supported us unconditionally and still do even though we are grown adults. You never introduced us as your stepchildren you called us your children. You stepped in and stepped up to the plate and raised three kids as your own despite never having any of your own children. You are the best dad in the world. I consider myself blessed and very lucky.

With love your daughter, Wendy Wilson.

★★★★★

Stephen Jacques,

Thank you for being the best dad ever. We love how you play with us, kick the footy, play hide n' seek, fix our bikes, read us books and take us to Gumbuya World.

Love Marley, Bella, Lily

★★★★★

Kevin Else,

Thank you for our special Saturday morning breakfast outings, for letting me help clean the cars, for teaching me lots of new things, and for understanding when I try but might not get things right just yet; like almost putting a drill through your hand. Wishing you a happy Father's Day.

With love, Memphis

★★★★★

Ian Gillbee,

Happy Father's Day to our wonderful Dad and Grandpa! Thank you for the tractor rides, the best cuts of meat, and for looking after us no matter how grown up we get. We love you so much. Love from your girls & grandkids.

Sara, Lisa, Joanna, Frank and Sophie.

★★★★★

Sean Main,

Happy Father's Day to the best Dad in the world! Thank you for always being there for us. You give the best cuddles. We love you so much, have the best day ever.

Love always, Esme and Bump xx

## LIFE Moments



ERICK Seb Anit was born at Leongatha Hospital on August 18. He is a gorgeous baby boy for Anit and Melby. Welcome to the world.



Jim can often be spotted helping out daughter Janine at work, although he prefers to get paid in peanut brittle.



It's a family business at Ray White Inverloch with three generations having stepped up to the plate following in dad/grandfather Kevin's footsteps. Pictured with Kevin is Olivia and Fiona.

## Rediscover Inverloch this Father's Day

STILL deciding on what to get Dad or the father figure in your life this Father's Day. Inverloch businesses have a vast range of items to help make memories on September 7.

Inverloch's Father's Day Guide has your go-to gifts, experiences and adventures available.

Grab a cuppa, wine or chocolate, ready to sit and scroll through the online guide: [visitinverloch.co/fathers-day-in-inverloch](http://visitinverloch.co/fathers-day-in-inverloch).

Inverloch is a laid-back coastal town with everything at hand to create a memorable day, from cafes, award-winning bakeries, pub meals and wineries, helping raise a glass with Dad.

Owned and operated by locals, stores including,

Mookah, Dot & Lu Boutiques, The Larder Inverloch and Treat Time Inverloch offer a range of special gifts, from clothing to something sweet, or if it's adventure you're looking for, Inverloch Bike Hire are offering Free Delivery to Dads/Special Father figures over Father's Day weekend, if the weather does hold up for a bike ride, vouchers are available for the next sunny afternoon.

Or make a weekend of it, perfect for gardeners, homesteaders and foodies alike, Wattlebank Farm has a How to Grow Mushrooms at Home workshop on Saturday, September 6, then hit the Bunurong Coastline, stopping at secluded spots along the way.



Shop local this Father's Day and enjoy September 7 in Inverloch.



Stephen Kennedy, Happy Father's Day Dad! Thank you for everything you do with us. We love reading stories, cuddling, and mowing the lawn with you. We love you so much! Love Frank and Sophie.



Mal Sell, Happy Father's Day Dad! Love from all of us.

## Father's Day cards that support a good cause

Looking for that special card for this Sunday? Why not pop into Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre at Mitchell House. Proceeds from all cards sold go to WNC to help fund their community lunches and frozen meals program. Your \$2.50 will certainly make a difference.



# HAPPY Father's DAY

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

## Leongatha Mens Shed members connect over Tools Down mornings

FOR the past two years the Leongatha Men's Shed have been successfully running a Tools Down morning, where they don't do any work in the workshop between 10.30am and 12.30pm on Fridays.

Instead, the men take turns catering for each other and enjoy the social side of belonging to the group.

"They are a very important part of our shed as the blokes get time to chat, play pool, eat and cook food, and run a prize draw and generally enjoy each other's company," explained president David Brereton.

The shed has more than 60 members and they always have a good turnout for the mornings, with between 20 and 30 men going along each week.

It offers the opportunity for the men to get to know one another a bit more, and while they occasionally have guest speakers at the mornings, sometimes one of the men will share their life story with the group.

"You find out stuff that you don't find out in regular shed activities," said David.



There are always a few of the men playing pool during the Tools Down morning at the Leongatha Mens Shed. ob14\_3525

Gaining a greater understanding of one another during these mornings has proven to be valuable, with many of the men viewing the group as an important support network and one which can often fill in the gaps where male support or connection is otherwise missing.

"At our men's shed, as a younger member, I often think about my many years without a father, as he passed away when I was 18, so I'm very fortunate to have many good men

around me who I consider father figures and we have become very close and I cherish that," said one member.

Having a strong connection to other men in the group can be a balm at times, especially on occasions that are considered celebratory, such as Father's Day.

"I would like to remind people that Father's Day can be a joyful day for some but for some it's not such a joyous day as many fathers

can be estranged from their children through marriage breakdown, or even disagreements that happen through life and being involved with a group like a mens shed can help men navigate these life challenges," said another member.

While the men continue to successfully create woodwork items for markets, like their ever-popular T puzzle, which they've sold nearly 100 of and their wooden cars for underprivileged kids and possum boxes, among a myriad of other things, it is these fulfilling connections that keep the men coming back.

"It's not just about the woodwork, there needs to be other parts of the Men's shed," commented David.

And it appears that the Tools Down mornings have proven to be one of those essential parts.

The men will be selling their goods at the Rail Trail Community Market Leongatha on Sunday, September 21, to raise money for Motor Neuron disease in support of one of their members who has recently been diagnosed.

### • FAITH FACTOR

## Honouring Fathers

By Karen Evans,  
Wonthaggi Christian Life Centre

WITH Father's Day approaching, I've been reflecting on the impact my dad had on shaping my life, especially my strong convictions, my faith in Jesus, and my love for the Church.

Dad was a family man with mum and my two sisters. He worked two jobs to keep a roof over our heads, but I never remember him being absent. He always made time for us, no matter how busy he was. One of the most significant things he did was take us to church from an early age, where we learned about Jesus.

Dad would demonstrate this not just through words, but through example and how he lived. He taught us how to forgive, how to say sorry, how to tell the truth, and how to take responsibility. Most importantly, he showed us that we are all precious in the sight of Jesus. There was also discipline and many boundaries that, at the time, I thought were too strict and ridiculous. Especially as a teenager, I didn't always understand and definitely didn't agree with them. But looking back, I now see they were for my protection and came from a place of love. One thing I never doubted was that my dad loved me. He told me often, and he always promised to be there for me, no matter what.

When I left home, I also left the church, and I left God. Without the boundaries I had grown up with, I could now do whatever I wanted, and I did. There was fun, careless living, parties, irresponsible spending and lots of bad choices. But hey, I was living it up without being told what to do. I could do anything I wanted. But with all that freedom, I also discovered loneliness, hunger and some of those bad choices I made had some pretty serious consequences that are still with me today. There was also the painful reality that some people can be mean, manipulative and took advantage of me. This was a big shock to me. Some might call me gullible or naive, but I had assumed everyone grew up with dads like mine. I thought everyone had a loving home and the same values. It took me nearly 15 years to realise that my dad raised me the right way and I am now raising my children with the same convictions, values and love that my dad did.

In our community, there are all kinds of dads and all kinds of fathering experiences. But no matter what your experience was or is, one truth remains: There is a perfect Father, and His name is God. God the Father is the ultimate Dad. He is perfect in love, always truthful, never absent. He is faithful even when you are not. He comforts, protects, rescues, and remains unshaken by anything you do. You can never surprise Him, shock Him, or make Him turn His back on you.

My husband and I pastor a church now because we know this Father, and we want others to know Him too. If you want to know more about the Heavenly Father, get to a church and ask.

This Father's Day, let's honour the dads who've shaped our lives, and give thanks to the One who makes himself available to those who ask: our Heavenly Father.

## Ever wondered what gifts are most popular for Father's Day?

FATHER'S Day is almost here, and across Bass Coast and South Gippsland, families are heading into their favourite shops in search of something to make Dad smile. So, what ends up in the shopping bag when locals wander through the doors of some of our local businesses?

In Inverloch, it seems plenty of dads are getting something sweet. At Treat Time, hampers filled with peanuts, liquorice and old-fashioned lollies are often snapped up. Owner Janine Eigenraam said dads love seeing the classics from their childhoods, and families enjoy putting together a little custom hamper.

"It is a whole lot of small surprises rather than one big one," she said.

For others, rather than being filled with sweets, the gift bag might be clinking. At Liquorland in Wonthaggi, whisky is a favourite choice, with many families choosing to go a step above Dad's usual bottle.

"They might buy his favourite, or a nicer version of it. For example, he may really like Johnny Walker,



Father-daughter combo, Lucy Sharpe and Kanen Dicker from Home Cook & BBQ in Wonthaggi say Weber Qs are the go-to Father's Day splurge at their store, while knives and barbecue accessories are a popular pick for those on a budget. W02\_3525

but instead of that, they might go for green labels, gold reserve or even the blue," sales rep Max Donohue said.

"It's about going the extra step with something he wouldn't normally buy himself."

In Leongatha, practical gifts are popular. When locals pop into Mitre 10, it is often tools, Stihl or Makita gear, or even a new esky that make their way to the checkout. Store Manager Dani Blackney

said hardware stores have become a reliable hunting ground for Father's Day presents.

Sporty dads are not forgotten either. Cargills Sports Store in Wonthaggi said dart boards and fishing gear are regular picks. Owner Andrew Cargill said the appeal is often in sharing the activity.

"It is a bonding activity the whole family can have a go at," he said.

Some families prefer to dress Dad up. At Panthers

Menswear, polos and t-shirts are often chosen by kids who notice what is missing from Dad's wardrobe.

"Men don't usually shop for themselves as much and their kids can see the need," owner Sue Panther said.

From hampers and whisky to tools, fishing rods and polo tops, these are just some of the ways locals know how to keep Dad happy. Whatever ends up in the gift bag, dads across the region look set to be spoiled this Sunday.





# 2025 Daffodil & Floral Show



**Shirley Turton, president of Leongatha Horticultural Society won first prize for her pot of six plants, just missing out on best exhibit at the show. ob09\_3525**

## Small gardens can be some of the best

PRESIDENT of the Leongatha Horticultural Society (LHS), Shirly Turton, was pleased to be considered for the best exhibit table at the Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show.

Having recently moved into a townhouse and with little space to garden, Shirley grabbed what bulbs she had growing to enter into the 'At least six kinds of bulbous plants in the Class B' section.

"I got first prize for that one and I was considered for Best Exhibit. I nearly got there," she said.

In a small pot, Shirley planted blue hyacinths, snowflakes, daffodils, cyclamen, allium alstroemeria and a starflower.

"I went for the colours. They complement each other, and you had to have the six, so I made it with seven, and that was about all

I had to choose from. So, it just all came together, thankfully."

Shirley used to enter her daffodils, but now is limited to the other exhibits, where she still manages to win a few.

Entering the cut flower section and gaining a prize for her rock plants in a rockery section.

"I just have little things to put in a rock garden. So, things like that I grow and put in there."

Shirley also mentioned that while the shows LHS holds throughout the year are wonderful events, the friendships formed are just as good.

"At the Garden club you make a lot of friends, because you're all like-minded people – gardeners – and that's a great way to make friends, and to be with friends," said Shirley.



**Marion Dewar, secretary and treasurer of the St. Peter's Ladies Guild with Peter Finlayson, who was helping out at the church across the weekend. ob11\_3525**

## Church hall complements floral show

EVERY year since the inception of the Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show, St. Peter's Church in Leongatha have held in tandem a display and refreshments for the community in the church hall.

This year was no exception. The St. Peter's Ladies Guild saw to it that the church hall was filled with beautiful bouquets arranged by St Peter's along with other churches in the area who also like to contribute.

An exhibition titled 'Treasures from the Op-shop' featured a colourful range of vintage wares, with the added bonus of being available to purchase.

Pots of soup had been cooked to keep attendees warm; bread was donated by Thorntons Bakery, and members of the St Peter's Ladies Guild had baked an impressive table of cakes and sweets, enjoyed with tea and coffee, which was a gift from the church.

The popularity of having

somewhere warm and spacious to stop for refreshments hasn't been lost on people coming to the show and a huge influx of people all at once last year made the ladies rethink the layout.

"The other thing we did differently this year, we have two separate serving places, so the soup is totally separate from the from the cakes. Last year we had two buses arrive on Friday at the same time without any notice and we used to have the money table right here, so we had a lot of people out the door," said Marion Dewar from the St. Peter's Ladies Guild.

A few other special offerings were available across the four days of the show and these included a small display from New Beginnings Book Shop and a display from the Knitter Knatter group, who raise money for Mission Without Limits. There was also a dedicated prayer corner for people to visit.

## Champion Daffodil pays homage to late daffodil enthusiast

DAFFODILS of every shade of yellow, spectacular floral arrangements, native flowers, photography and artwork, fruit and vegetables once again decorated Leongatha's Memorial Hall for the annual Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show.

The show, held over four days, was officially opened last Thursday by Ian Rasmusson, South Gippsland Citizen of the Year and life member of the Leongatha Horticultural Society.

"It's just such a wonderful display," said Ian.

"Just the variety of plants and flowers are unending. Originally it was all daffodils, but now there's natives in it as well, and it just adds so much to the show overall, and it's great to get together with people of the same interest of flowers and garden."

Maria from Milly and Romeo's Café in Koonwarra was the main sponsor of the event and had the honour of presenting the Champion Daffodil of the show, won by Sue Thompson.

The winning daffodil is judged on overall symmetry, a perfectly round and even cup, straight petals, a strong, straight stem, and ideally is free of any blemishes.

"I have a huge patch. I have hundreds of daffodils," explained Sue.

Despite yellow being Sue's least favourite colour, her love of daffodils began over 20 years ago.

"I found a daffodil that wasn't yellow and I started liking that, and then I've just sort of got into yellow," she laughed.

"I really like lemon. This sort of thing, I love that," Sue explained as she pointed out very pale lemon coloured daffodils.

"I have a lot of ones with white perianths (petals) and white cups."



**Sue Thompson shows off the Champion Daffodil at the Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show. ob08\_3525**

The avid gardener entered over 50 daffodils into the show, and her large daffodil patch pays homage to the late, enthusiastic daffodil breeder from Dumbalk, Ian Dyson.

Sue is a member of LHS and the secretary of the Daffodil Society, which inherited seedlings from Ian when he passed away.

"We inherited his seedlings and I've been looking after them ever since," said Sue.

The champion daffodil came from one of Ian's seedlings, and while it doesn't yet have a name, there is a process in place.

"I've been selecting the ones that I think are worthy, and when we've assessed them and they multiply, we'll name some."

The range of colours and formations of daffodils on display are captivating and Sue explained each flower is different

due to cross-pollination, by bees, self-pollination or by gardeners themselves.

"You can cross a pink one and a white one, and you get anything from pale pink to white and pink."

"They grow easily from seed and some people think their daffodils have changed colour. But what's happened, they've seeded, and the seeds have grown in amongst their bulbs and they've got the different colour from the seed."

Sue admits she was worried they wouldn't have many daffodils to exhibit at the show this year.

"There's not a lot out there, and I just thought, well, I'll just pick what I've got and bring some along."

Unexpectedly, picking amongst them, the Champion Daffodil of the show.

## A little bit of country and nostalgia, in floral art arrangement

EACH year for the Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show, Dawn Green puts together spectacular pieces for the Floral Art section.

This year was no different, and among the many arrangements she entered, one was themed: A little bit of country – and the story behind it also bears a little bit of nostalgia for Dawn.

"I gather a lot of material because you need it, and you use a heck of a lot of stuff, and you need all different materials. The neighbours are very good," laughed Dawn.

One of these neighbours Dawn used to rely on for materials and creative input was the late Stan Robinson, who passed away earlier in the year.

"He was a horticulture man and his mother had been a floral artist, so he loved the floral art and I'd go and pick from his garden and we'd talk about what I could use for what," explained Dawn.

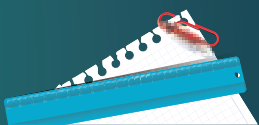
"He was nearly 90, but he had always grown plants for this show and for the Rose Show that we do for Vision Australia and for Woorayl Lodge."

Dawn managed to incorporate the spirit of Stan into her arrangement.



**Dawn Green talked about how her large floral arrangement came together and her personal connection with it. ob13\_3525**





## Newhaven College Seniors celebrate in style

IN RECENT weeks, Newhaven College Senior School students have enjoyed the chance to celebrate their school, teachers, parents, and each other. The events mark the importance of connection and community and allow for some fun before the hard work of final exams and assessments kicks in.

On Saturday, August 2, the Year 12 cohort gathered at RACV Inverloch Resort for their special evening. Students made their red-carpet entrance, posed for group photos, and sipped mocktails before sitting down to dinner. Once the formalities ended, the dance floor quickly filled as students celebrated their final year in style.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, August 16, it was the Year 11 students' turn. Together with parents and guardians, they gathered at Silverwater Resort in San Remo for a night of fun and laughter. Every student chose one of their parents or a special person to dance with, bringing the generations together on the dance floor.

Events like these provide a chance for students to pause, reflect, and celebrate the friendships and experiences that have shaped their time at Newhaven College. For the students, the memories created will carry them beyond the classroom, a reminder of the confidence, community and self-awareness they have built throughout their schooling.

**RIGHT: Newhaven College Year 12 girls know how to make a night of it at RACV Inverloch Resort. From left, Maya Huther, Meika White, Mia Fostin, Marnie Banks, Jazz Mau, Kate Thornborough and Sophie Gurr.**



**Newhaven College Year 12 boys enjoyed the night at RACV Inverloch Resort. From left, Thomas Courtney, Lucas Allen, Nathan Bain, Oliver Duggan, Charlie Bird, Ayden Fawaz and Jack Kennedy.**



**The Year 11 girls really complemented each other at Silverwater Resort. From left, Chloe Hosking, Jemilla Prideaux, Fleur White, Miki Leary, Eve Oakley, Georgia Courtney and Alice MacGillivray.**



## Colourful parade of characters for Book Week at St Joseph's

STEPPING right out of the pages of their favourite children's books students from St Joseph's Primary School in Wonthaggi celebrated Book Week with a parade of their favourite storybook characters last Friday, postponed a week due to swimming the week prior.

Students from Prep to Year 6 gathered in the St Joseph's Primary School Hall grade by grade in front of a large audience of family and friends to celebrate the importance of reading.

Now in its 80th year, the theme for Children's Book Week in 2025 was 'Book an Adventure', a chance to fire up kids' imaginations and discover new stories and places.

The theme for the first Australian Book Week in 1945 was 'United Through Books' followed by 'Books are Bridges' in 1946 and 'Books for the World of Tomorrow' in 1947.

Books and storytelling have always been popular at St Joseph's.

School principal Joanne Coldebella, teachers and staff St Joseph's hope Book Week will help develop a lifelong love of books and libraries for all their students.



**St Joseph's Catholic P.S. Student Representative Council (SRC) Oliver, Seth, Lachlan, Shanaya, Esha, Holly and Isla with school principal Joanne Coldebella for Book Week.**

## Unlocking the 'missing middle' to address the 83,000 tradies shortfall

"AN AVERAGE person leaving school today will have up to 15 different jobs in their lifetime. High school students, as they finish their senior school education, have an unlimited number of career options at their feet," said HIA managing director, Jocelyn Martin, as part of the launch at National Skills Week.

"Whether they have just left school or are enjoying an extended gap year, there are over 1.6 million people in Australia aged between 17 and 21, the key age cohort, making decisions about their future career.

"Our education system is heavily weighted to supporting young Australians through their schooling and into post-education, but once they leave, they often become lost to the system.

"Equally, there is a large cohort who start a university degree, realise it is not for them and look to change direction.

"We still hear commonly that a career in a trade or undertaking apprenticeships, cadetships and traineeships is often treated and promoted as second-choice careers.

"This is despite the hugely rewarding career and financial benefits that undertaking a trade or career in our industry provides.

"Recently, HIA modelling found that we need at least another 83,348 workers across the top 12 trades in residential construction.

"The shortage of skilled workers is a major impediment to the supply of housing. Labour shortages are resulting in project delays, which add to the cost of construction.

"Not only is Australia facing a chronic shortage of skilled workers, but the competition for workers has never been tougher. This competition is only expected to increase with a number of significant infrastructure and big build projects in the pipeline.

According to HIA, there are currently 343,640 apprentices and trainees in training across all sectors, with construction apprenticeships making up approximately 100,000 of this share. In 2024, however, only around 21,000 17-21-year-olds commenced training in construction trades linked to home building.

"Another challenge that exists in attracting this 'missing middle' cohort is that our apprenticeship system treats those aged over 21 as 'mature aged'. In the absence of support for those employing adult apprentices, it has become common for employers to overlook workers eligible for the adult apprentice wage in favour of younger workers," continued Ms Martin.

"Providing career opportunities for local workers should always be the priority; however, this alone will not see the workforce grow quickly enough. There are a large number of skilled migrants in the country, but due to the complexity of our training and jurisdictional licensing many of them are not working in our industry despite having some relevant experience that could be tapped into.

"Proximity of training services is also another barrier to education and labour force outcomes. For apprentices, the proximity of training facilities may necessitate them moving or travelling excessively to complete their trade training. This is particularly pronounced in regional, rural and remote areas.

"HIA has heard stories of apprentices having to drive three to four hours to and from trade schools.

"This National Skills Week, HIA is calling for fresh thinking to address our industry's chronic skills shortages," concluded Ms Martin.



## Sentinel-Times

### COMMENT

### Be the change you wish to see

YOU know how you can tell that those involved in the pro-Palestine protests and anti-immigration rallies we saw at the weekend don't really give a toss about either their own populist causes or the community in general?

That theirs is a feigned, disingenuous concern for the world around them?

Because they turned up.

Knowing full well that police were already heavily committed in the state's north-east, chasing down a deranged individual who has already shown himself to be capable of anything, they needed to call off their marches and avoid confrontation until such time as police were back to their regular duties.

There's also the lack of respect they've shown for the whole Victoria Police organisation, trying to come to terms with a shocking incident that any one of them could walk into, just doing their job, on a daily basis.

Yes, certainly, they've handled the unwanted workload in the city, but it was a disgrace for the protests to go ahead in such circumstances.

Of course, the misguided individuals who are getting involved in these events are playing into the hands of the anarchists and other nutjobs who have an interest in disrupting law and order for their own nefarious purposes. Write a letter!

The killing of the two police officers, the shooting of a third and the tragic fallout that followed has really impacted the community at a time of change and uncertainty in Australia and threats to global security in Europe and the Middle East.

So, how does that affect us locally?

Of immediate interest is that from September 1, it will be illegal to own, use, buy, sell or transport a machete and an amnesty to allow for the safe disposal of these items will run from September 1 to November 30, 2025 with a safe disposal bin located at the Wonthaggi Police Station.

How has it come to this?

The reality is that we do have some serious problems in this country that have resulted from public policy, the rise and rise of illicit tobacco sales being one of them. You could probably name dozens more.

And together with the increasingly secretive nature of government authorities or the tendency to try and shutdown discussion about alternatives, it's no wonder that the general community has disengaged or in the case of those few trying to bring about change, become frustrated at the response (or lack of it) they receive to their genuine inquiries.

What can we do? Focus on the many positives in this still great country of ours and try to bring about change through the proper channels, including the ballot box.

And those wishing to do something meaningful to support the police at this difficult time might consider making a donation to Victoria Police Legacy, a charitable not-for-profit organisation where funds go directly to those affected by this tragedy. Go to [policelegacyvic.org.au](http://policelegacyvic.org.au).

## Vox Pop

### What is your favourite nostalgic TV series and why?



**Leanne Dicker**

Wonthaggi

"There's lots of them, but probably McLeod's Daughters because it was set in the country, the girls were running the farm, and the landscapes were great."



**Jade Butler**

Korumburra

"Sabrina the Teenage Witch. This show allowed me to broaden my imagination while also being funny and relatable."



**Libby Singleton**

Werribee

"A Country Practice because the characters are very likeable and the storylines are interesting; Molly's death is iconic."



**Stephen Gow**

Inverloch

"I used to like Countdown back in the day because all the good new music used to come out on it, and I also enjoyed The Young Ones and The Goodies."

### The time for action is now, not in five years

I WAS staggered to see last week that the Inverloch Coastal Advisory Network (I\*CAN) called for funding for a five-year plan to address the crisis of erosion at the Inverloch foreshore. The last thing we need is another woke, kick the can down the road no outcome expensive report.

The Victorian Labor Government has already wasted five years and come up with nothing even though the former Morrison Federal Government gave them a grant of \$3.3 Million almost four years ago to address the crisis of erosion on the Inverloch foreshore. Almost five years ago, the State Labor Government established the Coast to Coast Resilience Project with a budget at that time exceeding one million dollars and a two year timeframe to report with recommendations to address the erosion crisis at Inverloch.

Now, almost five years later, following endless reports and now two million dollars wasted, still no report and the biggest worry for our community is the suggestion that retreat is now being actively considered. This outcome means long term, hundreds of Inverloch homes will be lost.

If their success to date is followed, their new five year plan proposal will take years longer to finalise. There are a couple of very good people on that committee but others seem more interested in protecting the Labor Government than our community.

The time for urgent action is now yet I am amazed that I\*CAN has again stated they support the works the Government is about to undertake. To be clear, this is to place more sandbags around the front of Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse and pump up sand on the foreshore. Millions of dollars of unprotected sand destined to be washed away within a short space of time. This proposal is destined to be a scandalous waste of taxpayers hard earned money, yet I\*CAN back it. That sand will all be lost within a short period of time and we know from what is happening in front of the clubhouse now, that the sand bags will start rotting away within five years.

On Sunday, January 5 this year, around 700 people attended a major public rally held on the beach in front of the Surf Lifesaving Clubhouse and voted unanimously for permanent protective works to be undertaken urgently to protect the Clubhouse, the road and restore and permanently protect and replant the dune formation. Simply put, put in permanent protective works first, then pump up the sand and replant the dunes.

Hundreds of homes are at risk if permanent protective works are not undertaken urgently and now is not the time for procrastination and further dithering as proposed by I\*CAN. The time for urgent action is now.

**Alan Brown, Wattle Bank**

### Thank you for giving this Daffodil Day

I'M WRITING to share my appreciation and thanks to every Victorian who supported Cancer Council's Daffodil Day.

Nearly all of us have been impacted by cancer – whether directly or through the experiences of a loved one – and it's incredibly sad that about one in two of us will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85.

But, each year, the Daffodil Day message is one of hope. Not just for today, but for the future too.

When we urged Victorians to get behind our campaign and its goal of raising \$4 million nationally for life-saving cancer research, we also asked them to share hope across the community.

The response was humbling, and it was heartwarming to see the immense level of generosity shown, far and wide. Whether it was fundraising, volunteering, raising awareness, participating in the Daffodil Day Dip, or supporting the efforts of others – including buying a daffodil – every single person who contributed can feel proud they have helped drive positive change.

Thanks to this kindness, I'm pleased to share we were able to reach – and exceed – our fundraising target.

Last year, Cancer Council Victoria invested approximately \$27 million in research to discover the next cancer breakthroughs. And now, thanks to community support for Daffodil Day, we can do even more to grow world-class research, helping increase survival rates and give hope for a cancer-free future.

To everyone who got involved – thank you.

**Todd Harper AM, CEO of Cancer Council Victoria**

### Together we can be stronger

WE HAVE written to our Strzelecki Ward Councillors with requests to move three Notices of Motion as follows:

1. To restore a genuinely open and transparent council question time at council meetings.
2. To seek a report from CEO on ways of reducing costs in order to freezing rates for the remainder of your term
3. To take a commercial approach to running of Coal Creek including appropriate investment etc.

To fulfill the principle as voiced and emphasised in Council's own plan to be open, transparent, and accountable. One may think as obvious steps to start to restore confidence in Council. Our current Council according to the impartial State Government

Customer Satisfaction Survey is the worst performing Council on key performance indicators over the past 13 years.

The increasing impression in the community is that our Councillors incorrectly believe that their role is to protect Council, rather than represent the community and their issues and concerns. The Local Government Act is clear that elected Councillors are to listen and represent community concerns.

Councils performance on the State Government Customer Satisfaction Survey key indicators has dropped by four per cent since last year and is lower than all preceding Councils back to 2012-16 Council.

There is a real opportunity for our Ward councillors to display some real leadership and start to genuinely listen to their community and respond to our concerns. To start to turnaround their poor and declining performance. Moving a notice of motion to restore open question time would have wide support and praise. Genuinely considering how to achieve a rates freeze and genuinely taking a commercial approach to Coal Creek operations would be a real step forward. We have extended to our Ward Councillors our desire to collaborate with them for the betterment of our respective communities. Together we can be stronger.

**Andrew McEwen, co-coordinator Strzelecki Ward Citizens Assembly**

### Please pick up after your dogs

LIKE Joseph's coat, the inlet beach in line with Western Street, Inverloch, is one of many colours. Its beauty shifts each day. Increasingly, though, certain dog owners who go there are looking the other way when their dog takes a dump.

Battle-weary locals are tiring of doing that which those owners ought to have done.

Memo to owners: 'Stop pretending you didn't see it. Pick up after your dog.'

We, your guardian angels, have had enough.

**Nicholas Green, Inverloch**

### Inverloch dog park location

IF THE BCSC is having difficulty finding a suitable central location for the recently approved dog park I have a suggestion: The rear of the Inverloch Catholic Church is a large empty block of land facing St Kilda Street. Wouldn't it be a great gesture for the church to donate that land to the community for this important facility for the benefit of the local community?

**Mark Stevens, Inverloch dog owner**



# YOUR SAY

## If Meta was a miner we'd shut them down

I'M OFTEN asked why Meta (owners of Facebook) should be forced to pay compensation to news publishers.

It's a fair question.

On the surface, Facebook can be seen as a media disruptor, like Uber upending the taxi industry, or cars replacing horse and cart.

It's easy to think social media is just the "new and improved" media.

But Facebook isn't a modern version of traditional media at all – it's an entirely different thing.

The core business of traditional media is producing content – primarily news and entertainment. We are a product business.

Facebook doesn't produce any content. Zero.

Its business model is to "share" other people's content – without paying for it.

This has never been done at scale before.

In the early days, many of us curated our Facebook feeds to include trusted news sources. That made the platform more important to us, more credible, and far more valuable.

Credible journalism gave Facebook enormous legitimacy. It made the feed worth coming back to – and helped Facebook build its empire.

Credit where due – Facebook was a brilliant pioneer of the internet, effectively inventing social media and colonising the World Wide Web. It offered everything for free – until we relied on it.

Then they cashed in – creating one of the most powerful and profitable corporations in history.

But like all new boom industries, social media's race to dominate the internet has left regulation in the starter's blocks.

There were no guardrails to protect people and organisations from the consequences of its domination.

No recourse for scams or misinformation.

No regard for the mental health of teenagers.

No thought for the destruction of regional news services.

The benefits of social media are clear. But the full extent of the harms caused by Facebook – and the copycat platforms that followed – are still not fully understood, let alone addressed.

Facebook's real "product" is you.

Your attention is what they sell. And they'll serve up almost anything to keep it – along with your personal data – to advertisers, based on what you read, watch, click, and where you go online.

Now, with Meta glasses, they're even tracking what you see and say every day. The potential for harm is staggering.

While Facebook deserves credit for innovation, its refusal to engage with regulation is contemptible.

Google has behaved differently.

Its core product – search – is also vastly more valuable when it includes journalism from credible sources. For example, when you search for updates on a local bushfire or the war in Ukraine, those results are far more valuable when they include stories from trained journalists at credible news organisations.

Without trusted journalism in the mix, Google's search results would be less relevant, less useful – and far less valuable.

That's why Google agreed to pay Australian news publishers after the introduction of the world-first News Media Bargaining Code in 2021.

Facebook initially complied. Then they walked away. They are now openly defying the Australian government and refusing to pay for the journalism that helped build their empire and continues to drive their profits.

The Albanese Government is responding with the News Bargaining Incentive to force them to the table. So far, Facebook has responded with silence and contempt.

Let's put this into perspective as the government stands up to the bullying tactics of Meta.

Imagine for a moment that Meta was a mining company.

It's not a perfect analogy, but it's a useful one.

Mining companies don't own the resources they extract – so they pay royalties because those resources belong to the people.

Facebook doesn't own the internet or the content it extracts – yet it refuses to pay anyone, anything.

Mining companies impact the environment, so they pay taxes, levies, and offsets.

Facebook has damaged the information environment massively – spreading scams, misinformation, and harmful content – yet takes no responsibility.

Mining is dangerous, so companies are required to invest in safety, education, and emergency services.

Facebook profits from dangerous content that fuels our mental health crisis – yet contributes nothing to public well-being.

Mining companies affect the communities where mines are located, so they invest in those communities as part of their social licence to operate.

Facebook has pillaged and damaged local news in regional Australia. Now it refuses to pay for the journalism it profits from.

If Facebook were a mining company, we wouldn't let them get away with it.

We'd shut them down.

**Damian Morgan, Country Press Australia president**

## ~ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE & ADULT LEARNING NEWS ~



### WONTHAGGI NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

OUR Qi Gong Group is small but passionate. The classes are 12.30 - 1.30pm and run in a series of four, with the most recent series having started last Tuesday. It will continue for the next three Tuesdays – September 2, 9 and 16 so you can still join in. The casual rate is \$20 per person per session or less if you can book the series – call Nicky on 0488 333 139.

Our talented art group is at it again – Father's Day cards have started appearing at the front counter of Mitchell House. If you're looking for a special card

for that special someone, you can't go wrong checking out what we have here at Mitchell House. Proceeds from all cards sold go to WNC to help fund our Community Lunches and Frozen Meals program. Your \$2.50 will certainly make a difference.

The Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre 2025 Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 2pm, Thursday, September 25, here at Mitchell House. Everyone is welcome to come along. Under the rules voted in at last year's meeting if you would like to nominate to be

on the Mitchell House Committee – and who wouldn't? – you will need to submit your nomination form at least 10 days before the meeting. You can pick up a nomination form at our front counter or give us a call and we can email one to you. Just make sure to submit it to us by September 15 at the latest.



6 Murray St, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3731 [www.wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com](http://www.wonthaggineighbourhoodcentre.com)

### MILPARA COMMUNITY HOUSE

WE'RE well into Term 3 with a full schedule of activities. If you're into fun and games, try Mahjong, 500, or board games with our Games and Giggles group. If you are interested in DnD and tabletop gaming, Gippsland Gamers meet every Thursday, and on the third Saturday of the month, Burra Board Gamers meet to play modern euro-style board games. For book lovers we have Monday Book Club, and if singing is your thing, why not come and join Milpara Singers on a Wednesday? For crafty folks you can bring along your craft project and join Crafts with Barb every Friday or Korumburra Craft Group every second and fourth Thursday of the month. If you would like to improve your health and wellness, we have Yoga, Tai Chi for Arthritis and Qi-Gong classes that are open to all fitness levels.

On the topic of health and well-

ness, we have Hearing Australia in the house to give free hearing checks on Wednesday, September 17 from 10am – 3pm. Call us to book a 15-minute appointment. We also have our free Quality of Life luncheon and information session on Wednesday, September 10, 12.30pm – 3pm. Organised in partnership with PHN Gippsland, the luncheon will feature information sessions on Palliative Care Awareness, Stroke Awareness, and the importance of writing your will. Bookings are essential.

Milpara Community House is more than a place for learning and connection – it's also a vital support hub for those in need. Our Emergency Food Bank provides a respectful, safe, and supportive environment for emergency relief. Assistance is available Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10am to 1pm, or by appointment – please

bring your own bags. Our food produce table welcomes donations of surplus homegrown fruit and vegetables, helping to share fresh produce with our community. Every contribution makes a difference, as donations are the lifeblood of our food bank.

Our Services Australia agent is available to assist with inquiries on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am to 1pm, and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9.30am to 2pm.

For more details or to book your spot at any event, visit [milparacommunityhouse.org.au](http://milparacommunityhouse.org.au), call us on 5655 2524, or pop into our friendly office on the lower level of the Korumburra Community Hub.



15 Little Commercial Street, Korumburra PH: (03) 5655 2524 [www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au](http://www.milparacommunityhouse.org.au)

### BASS COAST ADULT LEARNING

THE Friday job-ready courses, focusing on the care economy and health services are flourishing with success stories.

One student has started work at Kirrak House and is getting excellent marks in her Certificate III in Individual Support course at TAFE Gippsland. Another is now working three days a week for Bass Coast Health.

Two more are on the brink of starting work with one having just completed an interview in the allied health field, and one being accepted to a voluntary position in childcare to gain experience.

Clearly, this is a course that gets results! With a rolling intake, more people are joining the course all the time. If you're looking for work but don't know where to start, this is the perfect starting point.

For more information on all BCAL's courses and services, please visit [bcal.vic.edu.au](http://bcal.vic.edu.au) or call 5672 3115 to learn more.

#### ■ WONTHAGGI COMMUNITY GARDEN

If the garden gave out awards for best performances in cold-season growing they would probably go to two members, both new to community gardening. Local resident Tuk has grown almost every winter vegetable in her expansive plot, creating what looks a lot like a mini market garden, in no time at all. And disability support group C2A, Wonthaggi, used two small, raised plots to produce a very healthy and abundant crop of broccoli and Asian greens.

All this was achieved despite challenging winter weather, which started with a long dry spell. A special mention to compost champion, Kevin, who cooked up some great soil-improving compost to give a boost to the garden's winter growth.

For more information about the garden contact email [tgordon@westnet.com.au](mailto:tgordon@westnet.com.au) or phone BCAL on 5672 3115. Visit on Thursdays between 10am and noon to see what's happening.

#### ■ WONTHAGGI WOODCRAFTERS

The Woodies group makes a perfect starting point for people who have always wanted to have a go at woodworking but never had the chance. A recently signed-up member had been interested in woodwork her whole life but was never given the chance to try because she was always told, "girls don't do that."

The joinery sessions are a great place for beginners to start, as it instructs people on basic carpentry. While many join the Woodies to express a creative side, others want to be able to do household maintenance and repairs. Each is as much a craft as the other.

For more information, visit [wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au](http://wonthaggiwoodcrafters.com.au) or pop in to the workshop.



239 White Rd, Wonthaggi PH: (03) 5672 3115 [www.bcal.vic.edu.au](http://www.bcal.vic.edu.au)



### Best NZ import: Maximus or Fred Dagg?

By Paul Coulter, Talking Pictures

IT IS difficult if not impossible to compare the talent of Russell Crowe and John Clarke, but from a Bass Coast point of view, former Phillip Island resident the late John Clarke must be the winner.

While Russell Crowe has soared to international heights in his many major films, John Clarke initially as Fred Dagg and later as just John Clarke etched his way into our national psyche. From Dave Sorenson, the often-injured farnarkaler, seen on "The Gillies Report" to the wit and wisdom of Clarke and Dawe, John Clarke honed the art of pitch-perfect satire.

A new film, "But Also John Clarke", written and directed by his daughter Lorin Clarke provides a personal insight into the legend and captures the disruptive power of creativity. Using a remarkable series of recorded conversations together with personal anecdotes and a rich archive of Clarke's own work and letters, "But Also John Clarke" offers audiences both the public legend and the private father.

The film was originally titled "Not Only Fred Dagg, But Also John Clarke" as a tribute to Clarke's earlier and very popular NZ-based persona of Fred Dagg. Now shortened to "But Also John Clarke" the film will have multiple screenings at both the Union Theatre, Wonthaggi and Ber-ninneit, Cowes from early September. Check their website for session details.

Film diary dates  
This Friday the Prom Coast Film Society screen "Godland", a stunning 19th century historical epic telling of a Danish priest travelling to Iceland to establish a church. Screening at 7.30pm at the Fish Creek Memorial Hall, membership is required but is definitely good value with films such as "The Salt Path" and "Memoirs of a Snail" coming up. Check website for details.

On Friday, September 19, the Tarwin Lower Film Society present Anthony Hopkins in the Australian classic "Spotswood" – retitled "The Efficiency Expert" overseas. It also stars Ben Mendelsohn and Toni Collette. Screening at 7.30pm at the Tarwin Lower Hall, membership is required which will cover forthcoming films such as "The Woman King" and "The Holdovers". Check website for details.

The Wonthaggi Library holds monthly film activities. This Friday at 2pm, the David Wenham starring "Spit" will screen at 2pm. Admission is free. On Saturday at 2pm there will be a "Film Chat" about Musicals. Again, it is free and a great opportunity to talk with like-minded fans about your favourite movie musicals.

For all the movie news, views and reviews, listen to 'Talking Pictures' with Paul Coulter and Bill Ten Eyck Wednesdays at 11.05am on SouthCoast FM (live or streaming) returning September 24.

### A musical about printing – and so much more

REHEARSALS are in full swing for Gutenberg! The Musical! opening at the State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi, on September 26 for eight performances until October 5.

The show follows two aspiring writers, Bud and Doug, who have poured their hearts into a musical about the inventor of the printing press. With nothing but boundless enthusiasm and a stack of baseball caps, they present their creation to the audience in the hope of being "discovered." What unfolds is a hilariously chaotic mix of ambition, friendship, and pure theatrical silliness.

Director Joel Stevenson explains, "At its heart, Gutenberg is about friends coming together to create something extraordinary. It is witty, heartfelt, and completely absurd, the kind of show that reminds us why we make theatre in the first place."

The two-hander stars Jay Nelson and Jonah van Stekelenburg, who, between them, bring dozens of eccentric characters to life. For Nelson, the biggest challenge is not the script, but the laughter.

"Of all the roles I have played on stage, this is by far the most difficult... I have never had to work so hard at holding back fits of raucous laughter at the absurdity and comedic genius of this show."

Van Stekelenburg agreed, saying, "This is the kind of show where the audience is in on the fun from the very first scene. It is impossible not to get swept up in it."

With just two actors, dozens of hats, and unstoppable energy, Gutenberg! The Musical! promises a theatre experience unlike any other. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased by visiting wtg.org.au.



Jay Nelson stars as Doug Simon alongside Jonah Van Stekelenburg as Bud Davenport in Wonthaggi Theatrical Group's upcoming stage production of Gutenberg! The Musical!

### Summer, in Between hits the shelves this month

A FUNNY, heartwarming story about first love, family, and finding out where you belong, award-winning author Holly Cardamone brings us, Summer, in Between.

Seventeen-year-old Cat Kely should be spending her last summer before Year 12 buried in books, prepping for the future she's determined to claim.

Instead, she's trapped in a house with rowdy brothers, mortifyingly affectionate parents, and a

cantankerous Nonna.

Then, to make things worse, Paul GD Lightwood – a walking surfer god, king of the Neanderthals, all abs and an infuriatingly disarming smile – shows up to work for her father.

Cat's plan is simple: escape this testosterone-fueled town and never look back. But life – and Paul – have other ideas.

Salty hot chips, beach parties, swimming beyond the breakers – Holly Cardamone's Summer, in Between

explores the tender moments of adolescence and the teenage angst between girlhood and womanhood, while deftly exploring deeper themes of identity, cultural heritage, and anticipation for the future.

Holly Cardamone was the winner of the 2024 Hawkeye Publishing Manuscript Development Prize. She was a finalist in the 2025 Romance Writers of Australia Opal Award for an unpublished manuscript, the 2024

Romance Writers of Australia Sweet Treats Anthology and longlisted in the 2023 Furphy Award.

Though she lives and writes in Melbourne drafts of this novel were written at Phillip Island and Cape Paterson, inspired by her own adolescence growing up in the Bass Coast.

Summer, in Between is available from September 16 in all good bookstores, pre-order online at Hawkeye Publishers.

### Book your tickets now for the South Coast FM music trivia night

THE much-anticipated South Coast FM Music Trivia Night is back again on Saturday, September 20 at the Wonthaggi Workmen's Club in Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Round up your friends and book a table of 10 or join another table and make some new friends while testing your musical knowledge.

Fun and games are guaranteed with raffles and a silent auction to raise money for South Coast FM, a community station run by a small army of volunteer presenters and helpers.

Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start with drinks at the bar and a light supper.

To get you in the mood, volunteer drive-time presenter Chris 'Doc' White has prepared two questions to be answered on the night.

Who played bass for 'Something in the Air' by Thunderclap Newman?

What was the name of John Lennon's band before The Beatles?

If you think you know the answers, make a booking at Trybooking.com/DEKSF.



Volunteer South Coast FM hosts Bill Ten Eyck, Tim Smith, Chris 'Doc' White and Ed Thexton are ready for the station's annual trivia night on Saturday, September 20. B25\_3525

It's on again...

# SOUTH COAST FM

# MUSIC TRIVIA NIGHT

Wonthaggi Workmen's Club

## SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

SouthCoastFM.au  
for details and booking

Wonthaggi Theatrical Group Presents

# Gutenberg!

BEST The Musical! EVER

26 September – 5 October  
State Coal Mine, Wonthaggi

"The most inaccurate history lesson you'll ever give a standing ovation."\*

"The greatest musical never written... until now!"\*

Tickets: [www.wtg.org.au](http://www.wtg.org.au)

\*May or may not be actual reviews by very reliable news sources, or an unnamed 15th-century





Shirley Turton, president of the Leongatha Horticultural Society and Ian Rasmusson, life member of the LHS, with Sue Thompson, who was awarded Champion Daffodil of the Festival. ob01\_3525



Cheryl Jones and Shirleyanne Wright were enjoying all the blooms on display at the Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show. ob02\_3525



Jan Leslie with Anne Larking, chief steward of the Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show, were pleased with the array of exhibits they received this year. ob03\_3525



Ken and Dawn Green, who once again had some fabulous winning entries in the floral arrangements category. ob04\_3525



John Turra helping out on the door with Betty Williamson, who entered daffodils, flowers and vegetables in the show and a winning pair of beets. ob05\_3525



Karina and Gary enjoyed Book Week at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Wonthaggi. B17\_3525



Theresa, Alli and Jessie watch the parade of characters at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. B18\_3525



Lisa and Sarah with baby Avaiah at St Joseph's Catholic P.S. Wonthaggi for Book Week. B19\_3525



Patrick and Marcus from St Joseph's P.S. Wonthaggi dressed as their favourite book characters for Book Week. B11\_3525

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at the Leongatha Daffodil and Floral Show and Book Week at St Joseph's Wonthaggi



Lexi, Kanoa and Mairead with mum Lacey and Tuscany, Dante and Layla with their mum, Tiffany, happily watching Book Week at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. B22\_3525



Ed and Bev Hanley were enjoying the displays and coffee and cake at St Peter's Church in Leongatha as part of the Daffodil and Floral Show. ob10\_3525



Jack and Archie dressed as the Cat in the Hat and Pinocchio for Book Week at St Joseph's Primary School Wonthaggi. B20\_3525



Oompa Loompa children Amelia and Eden from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory enjoys Book Week at St Joseph's P.S. Wonthaggi. B16\_3525



Lydia looking very much like Pippi Longstocking from the popular series of children's books by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren. B15\_3525



Freya and Avarnika are happy to be dressed as their favourite characters for Book Week at St Joseph's Catholic P.S. Wonthaggi. B12\_3525



St Joseph's Catholic P.S. teaching staff, Kym Sleeman, Michelle Darling and Rosemary Daniel joined students dressed as their favourite book characters. B13\_3525



Captain Jack Smith of the Titanic enjoys Book Week at St Joseph's Catholic P.S. Wonthaggi. B14\_3525

## Sentinel-Times

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Working toward building  
1.2 million homes

“HIA forecasts show that recent policy announcements will see more than 1 million new homes commencing construction over the next five years,” said HIA Chief Economist, Tim Reardon last week.

The Housing Industry Association (HIA) recently released its quarterly Housing and Economic Outlook Report, covering forecasts for residential building activity across Australia. This HIA Outlook has revised the forecast for the number of new homes to commence construction in the five years to June 2029 from 986,000 to 1.01 million considering recent policy decisions.

“Higher than previously anticipated population growth, and changes to government policy, have resulted in an upgrade to our forecasts for the number of homes that will commence construction over the next five years,” added Mr Reardon.

“Despite the upgrade in the Outlook, policy settings remain too restrictive to achieve the goal of 1.2 million new homes over the next five years.

“The decline in the cash rate has seen home building activity pick up, but this improvement is not evenly spread across regions or building types as government policies remain the main determinant of the volume of home building.

“Changes to government policies are starting to focus on reducing the costs and barriers to new home building and will add further to the supply of new homes.

“The announcement by the Australian Government to lower the cost of Lenders Mortgage Insurance (five per cent deposit) will also see an ongoing increase in first home buyers building a new home. This policy could add as much as 10,000 new homes, per year, to supply. Further reform of macro-prudential restrictions introduced since the GFC also warrant review and could add further to the supply of new homes.”



Spacious home with pool  
and spa on approx. 5 acres

WHEN ‘run of the mill’ just won’t do, here is a fabulous property that warrants the use of the cliché, “the ultimate escape to the country”.

Situated only minutes from Leongatha on a sealed road, boasting stunning rural views and a unique five-bedroom home on approx. five acres, there’s a lot to love about Leongatha North.

Whether you’re looking for a weekend getaway, B&B opportunity or a sizeable home to raise your family and some livestock, there are some great possibilities available.

A major focal point of the home is the open-plan kitchen, living, and dining spaces that overlook the 10-metre solar-heated swimming pool and spa. The kitchen features a butler’s pantry with a 600mm oven plus the main kitchen area has a delightful combination of red gum and stone bench tops, dishwasher, 900mm oven and lots of storage. A double-sided gas fireplace provides ambience and warmth over the cooler months. Eco-friendly features such as double glazing and solar options are high on a buyer’s wish-list these days and feature in this home.

If you’re an avid reader, the mezzanine landing is an amazing space to house your treasured texts and set up a workspace with Leongatha views. A great place to pen your memoirs or next best-seller!

The home can be segmented into two ‘wings’ essentially, which is ideal for families or accommodation. The master bedroom comprises of a WIR, ensuite, garden views via French doors and its own deck for morning cuppas in the sun.

Each bedroom has its own landing, BIR, and are well-appointed to the bathroom, living area and TV room, making this wing ideal for sharing the spaces within the home.

- Double carport and 12m x 7m Shed
- Veggie patches
- Orchard
- Solar HWS
- Ducted R/C air con
- Double-glazed windows
- Chook sheds
- Three fenced paddocks and laneway

This is one of my favourite areas of Gippsland as it boasts stunning rural views of undulating hills, proximity to town, usable small acreage and the opportunity to create the rural lifestyle you’ve always imagined.

Inspections are strictly by appointment only. Contact Christie on 0407 812 904 or conjunctional agent Alan Steinholt 0409 423 822 (Alex Scott & Staff).



OPEN FOR  
INSPECTION  
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6  
12-12:30PM

52 KARDELLA ROAD, KORUMBURRA \$1,490,000

QUALITY HOME, 2.74 ACRES & MASSIVE WORKSHOP; IT’S ALL HERE

This commanding home is sure to impress and exudes quality from the minute you enter the formal entry. Featuring high ceilings, solid Messmate flooring, solid doors, granite bench tops in the kitchen, marble bench tops and flooring to entry, bathroom and ensuite, plus large, double-glazed windows throughout to take in the garden views; nothing has been spared here in this local builder’s-own home.

Key features include:

- Mobility friendly home, no-step showers, wide hallways.
- 2m x 15m barn style shed with 3 phase power, studio with toilet, sink & mezzanine.
- Sealed road with edge of town convenience.
- Private outdoor ent. area with pizza oven.
- Opposite rail trail with rural outlook.
- Stunning feature dam.
- Ducted heating and cooling.
- 7.5KW solar. Solar HWS.
- Town water + dam water for gardens.
- Rear access to paddocks from Witton Street

There’s so much more to see. Your inspection is invited.

4 2 5  
Land: 2.47 acres



CHRISTIE NELSON  
0407 812 904

HM12079

5 2 4 5 Acres\*

55 Leongatha North Road,  
Leongatha North  
For Sale \$1,495,000  
Agent Christie Nelson  
@realty 0407 812 904  
\*Approximately



# Peace and tranquility with dual occupancy

LOCATED in the quaint village of Dumbalk, this versatile and well-appointed home offers exceptional value for families, investors, or those seeking multi-generational living or dual occupancy. Positioned on a generous 1185m<sup>2</sup> block, the property boasts a flexible layout, ample outdoor space, and a range of lifestyle features.

- Property Features:
- Four bedrooms
  - Two bathrooms
  - Spacious open plan living area with fireplace, plus reverse cycle air conditioner
  - Modern kitchen – includes a dishwasher and ample storage
  - Built-in robes in bedrooms for easy storage
  - Internal laundry for everyday convenience

- Outdoor and additional features:
- North westerly facing aspect – capturing natural light throughout the day
  - Dedicated outdoor studio allowing flexibility and space to work from home, or a professional consulting space
  - Covered and enclosed decking area – great for entertaining or relaxing
  - A well-maintained garden with an abundance of shrubs

- and seven healthy fruiting trees
- Additional outdoor decking taking in the surrounding, stunning rural views
  - Double lock-up garage with extra space for storage
  - Fully fenced backyard – perfect for children and pets

### Unique dual-living potential!

The fourth bedroom and bathroom, located in a separate space, offer privacy and flexibility, located just steps away from the main house and accessed via a bright, fully enclosed undercover deck with its own living area, kitchenette, and ensuite. This space is ideal for guests, extended family, teenagers, or even as an Airbnb-style retreat – all while remaining close and connected to the main residence.

This property combines comfort, functionality, and flexibility in one of Dumbalk's most desirable locations. Whether you're looking for a family home, dual occupancy for dependent family members, or space for a home business, or guest accommodation, 37 Miller Street, Dumbalk delivers. Don't miss out – arrange your inspection with Kellie Thomas on today!



 4  2  2 1,185m<sup>2</sup>

37 Miller Street, **Dumbalk**  
**For Sale \$660,000**  
**Agent** Nutrien Harcourts  
Kellie Thomas 0438 647 449  
kellie.thomas@nh.com.au  
\*Approximately



 **Nutrien Harcourts** Leongatha

*We make it possible*

47 Bair Street (03) 5662 2292  
nutrien.harcourts.net/au/office/leongatha

<div>EOI</div> <div></div> <div><b>TOORA</b>  3  1  2 Unique Opportunity in Toora • 2 titles- home/ garage 1,235m<sup>2</sup> &amp; 510m<sup>2</sup> block with shed. • Prime main street location with laneway access. • Ideal to live, invest, or develop in a sought-after setting. <b>EOI closing Monday, September 29 at 5pm</b></div>	<div>FOR SALE</div> <div></div> <div><b>WOOREEN</b>  2  1  1 Stunning Rural Outlook! • Fully renovated cottage on flat 669m<sup>2</sup> block. • Functional and spacious kitchen. • Lovely manicured gardens, single carport. <b>\$475,000</b></div>	<div>FOR SALE</div> <div></div> <div><b>KORUMBURRA</b>  4  2  2 Charming &amp; Character! • Stunning family home on approx. 688m<sup>2</sup> block. • Beautiful spacious kitchen with butlers pantry. • Double lock up garage, close to main street. <b>\$750,000</b></div>	<div></div> <div><b>Barry Redmond</b> Director / Estate Agent 0477 622 292</div>
<div>NEW PRICE</div> <div></div> <div><b>BERRYS CREEK</b>  4  3  2 Peaceful Rural Retreat on 4 Acres! • Spacious brick home with stunning rural views. • Kitchen boasting quality appliances &amp; butlers pantry. • Approx. 4 Acres, outdoor alfresco area. <b>\$945,000</b></div>	<div>FOR SALE</div> <div></div> <div><b>MEENIYAN</b>  4  3  2 Executive Residence in Meeniyen! • Luxuriously appointed family home on approx. 3,492m<sup>2</sup>. • Kitchen boasting quality appliances &amp; walk in pantry. • double lock up garage, massive shed. <b>\$1,150,000</b></div>	<div>FOR SALE</div> <div></div> <div><b>KARDELLA SOUTH</b>  3  2  2 Lifestyle and Location on Acreage! • Gorgeous family home on approx. 8.4 Acres. • Executive kitchen, open plan living. • Excellent shedding, mature gardens, lovely views. <b>\$1,100,000 - \$1,150,000</b></div>	<div></div> <div><b>Kellie Thomas</b> Licensed Estate Agent 0438 647 449</div>
<div>FOR SALE</div> <div></div> <div><b>LEONGATHA</b>  4  2  2 Stunning Family Home! • Turnkey home on 871m<sup>2</sup> block in a quiet court. • Executive kitchen, open plan living. • Double lock up garage, access for trailer/boat/caravan. <b>\$950,000</b></div>	<div>FOR SALE</div> <div></div> <div><b>TOORA</b>  4  2  1 Your Own Slice of Paradise! • Solid brick veneer home on approx. 3.6 Acres. • Master bedroom with WIR and ensuite. • Subdivided into manageable paddock for animals. <b>\$750,000</b></div>	<div>FOR SALE</div> <div></div> <div><b>MIDDLE TARWIN</b> Outstanding Turnout Block! • Turnout block of approx. 133.6 Acres of flat country. • 8 Well fenced main paddocks, Tarwin River frontage. • Good farming amenities, stockyards &amp; shedding. <b>\$11,500 Per Acre</b></div>	<div></div> <div><b>Monique Wightman</b> Marketing &amp; Administration (03) 5662 2292</div> <div></div> <div><b>Skye Clothier</b> Sales Associate (03) 5662 2292</div>

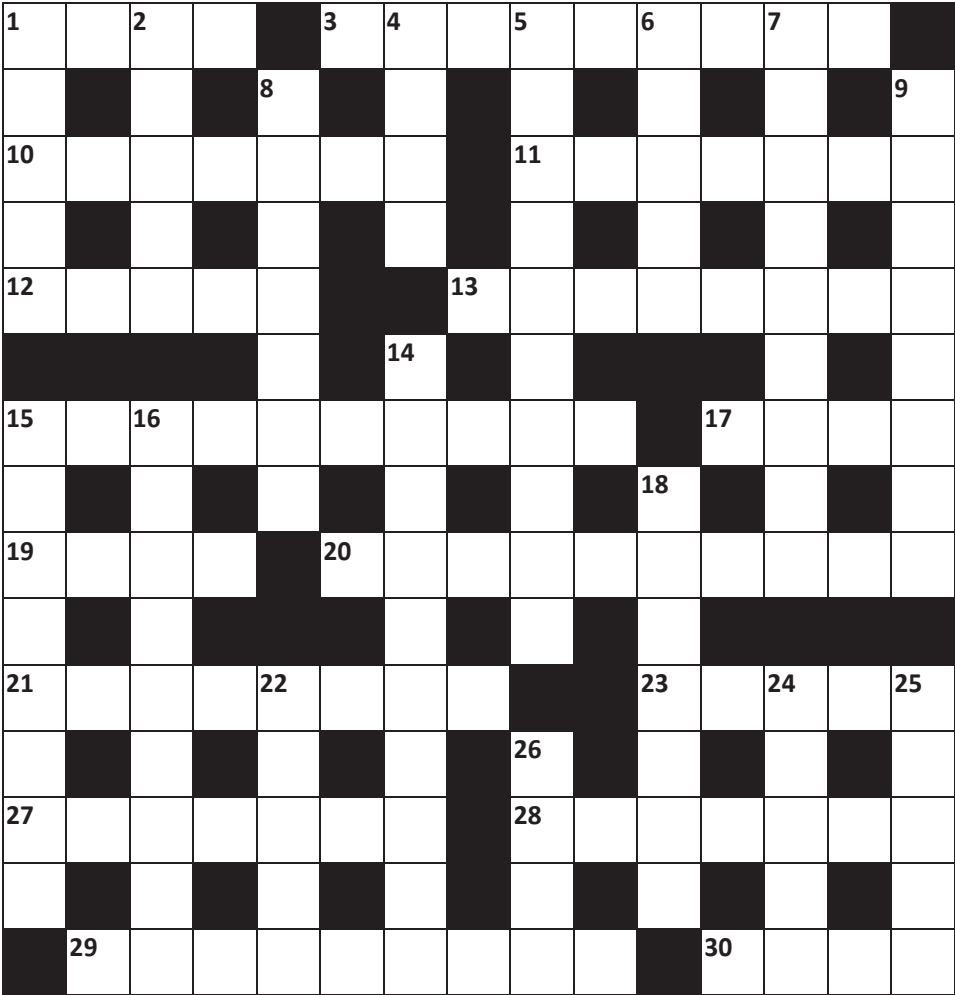


CROSSWORD

CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS
- 1 Darn in checks, during COVID (4)
- 3 Clamp to stem a half hard bleeding? (9)
- 10 Vegetable's hot, fully stuffed (7)
- 11 Loss from lake, challenging to time? (7)
- 12 1-across with energy: harsh checker! (5)
- 13 Free beer 'lit' a party (8)
- 15 Nice little 'presser', without first rehearsing applicant (10)
- 17 Lead return of 1-across... (4)
- 19 ...weave, once linked with feathers (4)
- 20 Pigeonhole Spooner's lachrymose Irish magistrate? (10)
- 21 Went by open door, avoiding jambs with knots (8)
- 23 Citizens' assembly originally convened under 'regulation in absentia' (5)
- 27 Tuna swimming, rigidly originally then by heart really wild (7)
- 28 Humble little bird, too, was serious (5,2)
- 29 Polish leader, living by himself? (9)
- 30 Ruler for 1-across tailoring (4)

- DOWN
- 1 Presented again, even in 1-across outbreak (5)
- 2 Foremost expectation in 1-across outbreak was RIPs (5)
- 4 Refined 1-across skills (4)
- 5 Little bit of sorghum I'm into/on (10)
- 6 Look! Long European, in 1-across, doing a reel! (5)
- 7 S. L. Goddard plays occasionally, stubbornly (9)
- 8 Precision trial managed within company walls (7)



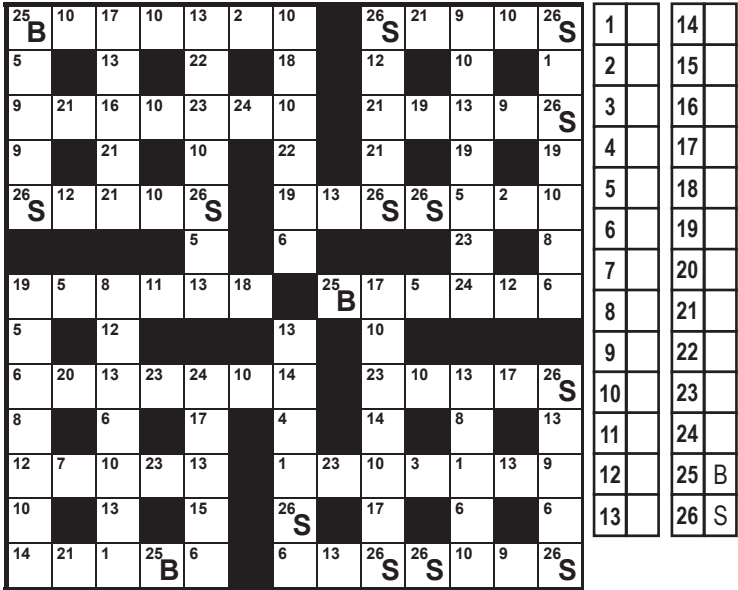
- 9 Prepare to take in an echo's last pulse (8)
- 14 Ran milk stirrer, getting ghee and curd ultimately (10)
- 15 Ready seedling's status, both current *and* future, perhaps? (3-5)
- 16 Rock outcrops surrounding troops are a pain! (9)
- 18 New flouncy lace, after mostly cow hide (7)
- 22 1-across, becoming frenetic when energy is applied, causes weight deductions (5)
- 24 1-across takes energy, *and* tolls (5)
- 25 Shaping 1-across, around base of thimble, into flower (5)
- 26 Truly top blokes? (4)

STRAIGHT CLUES

- ACROSS
- 1 Darn! (also rodents) (4)
- 3 Arterial clamp (9)
- 10 Onion-group vegetable (7)
- 11 Loss, generally unintended, of liquid, gas, etc. (7)
- 12 Harsh 'checker', carried by police, etc. (5)
- 13 Free, from custody, oppression, etc. (8)
- 15 Applicant, to a court, government, etc. (10)
- 17 Lead, in film, theatre, etc. (4)
- 19 \_\_\_ and feathers (4)
- 20 Pigeonhole, typecast (10)
- 21 Went by (another moving vehicle, person, etc.) (8)
- 23 Citizens' assembly, e.g., in ancient Rome (5)
- 27 Wild, unaltered (7)
- 28 Was serious (5,2)
- 29 National, organisational leader (9)
- 30 Russian ruler, historically (4)
- DOWN
- 1 Presented again, e.g., for exam (5)
- 2 Rips, rends (5)
- 4 Skills (also describes painting, music, etc.) (4)
- 5 Little bit / metric measure (10)
- 6 Look long (at) (5)
- 7 Stubbornly, inflexibly (9)
- 8 Precision, lucidity (7)
- 9 Prepare, practise, for performance (8)
- 14 Ran, kept in hand (10)
- 15 Possible fate of a constricted plant (also, a seedling's destiny?) (3-5)
- 16 Pain, harasser (9)
- 18 Hide from view (7)
- 22 Weight deductions, in e.g. vehicle mass spec. (5)
- 24 Tolls, charges (5)
- 25 Flower - 'Michaelmas daisy' (5)
- 26 'Truly', to end a prayer (4)

CODEWORD

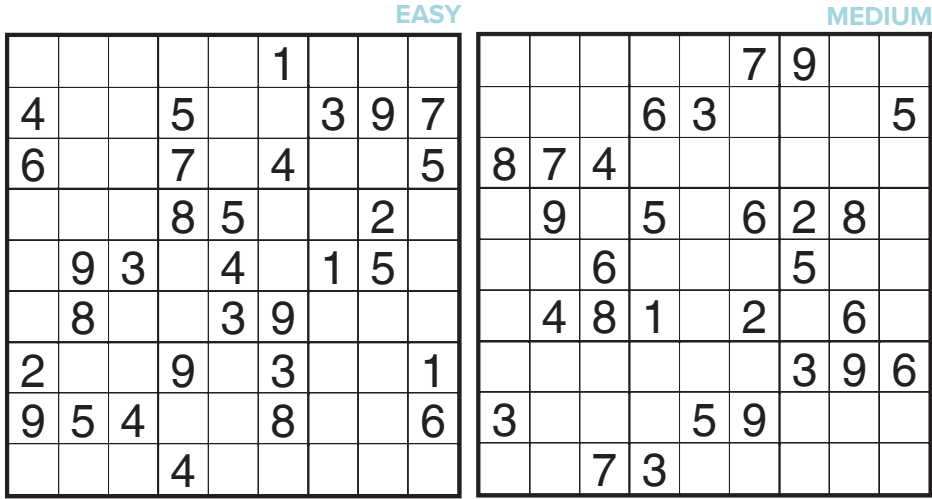
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



No. 286

SUDOKU

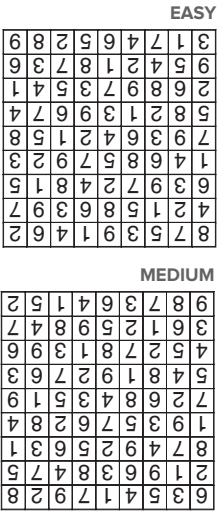
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.



No. 295

2908 | PUZZLES AND PAGINATION © pagemasters.

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

1. If you are born on December 13 which star sign are you?
2. Which Greek poet was known as the 'Tenth Muse' and 'The Poetess'?
3. Which singer was Mia Farrow (pictured) married to from 1966-1968?
4. Mont-Saint-Michel is a tidal island in which country?
5. Alyson 'Aly' Michalka is half of a musical duo with who?
6. In which year was the graphic design platform Canva founded?
7. And in which country was it founded?
8. The 'Pale Mountains' is another name for which Italian mountain range?
9. Saint George's is the capital of which Caribbean island?
10. *The Swimmers* is a 2022 film about on two young sisters from which country?



WORD SEARCH

No. 206



Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

- ALSATIAN
- BASENJI
- BASSET HOUND
- BEAGLE
- BICHON
- CATTLE DOG
- COCKER SPANIEL
- DALMATIAN
- DINGO
- FRENCH BULLDOG
- FRENCH POODLE
- GREAT DANE
- GREYHOUND
- HAVANESE
- KELPIE
- LABRADOR
- LHASA APSO
- PAPILLON
- PHAROAH HOUND
- PUG
- ROTTWEILER
- SAINT BERNARD
- SAMOYED
- SETTER
- SPITZ





The new DJI Agras T100 will be unveiled for the first time in Gippsland at the South Gippsland Dairy & Farming Expo this week.

## Game-changing aerial drone to make gippsland debut at Dairy & Farming Expo

GIPPSLAND farmers will get their first look at a revolutionary piece of technology when the DJI Agras T100, the largest agricultural drone of its kind, is unveiled at the South Gippsland Dairy & Farming Expo in Korumburra on Wednesday, September 3.

The DJI Agras T100, released in Australia this month, is set to transform agricultural practices with its unprecedented 100kg payload capacity and versatile quick-change system for spreading, spraying, and even

cartage. For farmers already familiar with the DJI Agras T50 – which carries 40 litres or 50kg – the new model effectively doubles productivity and further streamlines on-farm operations.

Fastrak Drones, in partnership with authorised Gippsland DJI reseller Farm Forest Drones, will showcase the T100 at the expo. Both companies are encouraging local farmers to not only view the drone in action but also book on-farm demonstrations tailored to their land

and operations.

"This is a ground breaking announcement, and highly anticipated by the farming community as the adoption of aerial drones makes a positive impact on the daily lives of our farming communities," said Rob Blanco, Director of Field Operations at Fastrak Drones.

Agricultural drones are already delivering strong returns across Australia. Studies show precision spraying and resource management can deliver ROI ranging from eight

to 30 per cent, with additional benefits from reduced chemical use, improved yields, and ecological gains.

The unveiling of the DJI Agras T100 at the Dairy & Farming Expo will provide farmers with a rare first-hand opportunity to see how drones can play a bigger role in precision agriculture, efficiency, and long-term farm value.

For more information, visit [fastrakdrones.com.au](http://fastrakdrones.com.au), [farm-forestdrones.com](http://farm-forestdrones.com) or see them at the Dairy Expo this Wednesday.

## Record your rabbits

IF YOU have seen a rabbit on your property, South Gippsland Landcare Network wants to know.

South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN) will hold an online webinar All About feralSCAN to help people get started using feralSCAN on Wednesday, September 4, from 5pm to 6.30pm.

Peter West from the Department of Primary Industry will share why recording pest animal sightings on feralSCAN is one easy way anyone can contribute to pest animal management.

Whether they are gobbling up your veggie garden in the middle of town or grazing grass meant for sheep or cows, evidence suggests rabbits are increasing across the region.

This September and October, SGLN is calling on South Gippsland residents to record their rabbits or other feral animals using the feralSCAN app.

Search feralSCAN in your app store or visit [www.feralscan.org.au](http://www.feralscan.org.au) to get started.

Head to [sgln.net.au/events](http://sgln.net.au/events) to register for the webinar.

Email [kirby@sgln.net.au](mailto:kirby@sgln.net.au) for more information.

## 69th Annual All Breeds Bull Sale

VLE LEONGATHA

**Monday, September 8, 2025**

Commencing 12 NOON on Beef Bulls.

Entries to date include:

**Angus, Jersey, Shorthorn, Limousin, Hereford**

**Vendors:**

Fernleigh Angus, Featherstone Angus, Tempany Park Red Angus, Garras Angus, Grenfeld Holdings, Gairnshiel Shorthorns, D. Benson, D. Britt, W. Lace, A Carmichael, P & L Whiteside

For further details on Bulls to be featured at our sale visit our Facebook page

Alex Scott & Staff – Livestock or contact your local representative

Rob Ould 0408 595 183  
Dane Perczyk 0408 176 063  
David Ryan 0408 311 895  
Jack Curtis 0427 762 670  
David Holden 0428 749 390  
Alan Bolding 0419 723 255



Visit our website:  
**[www.sgst.com.au](http://www.sgst.com.au)**

## Mt Lyall dairies tour where technology meets tradition

THE Mt Lyall Dairies Tour at Nyora on Wednesday September 3 looks set to attract hundreds of participants as part of the South Gippsland Dairy and Farming Expo.

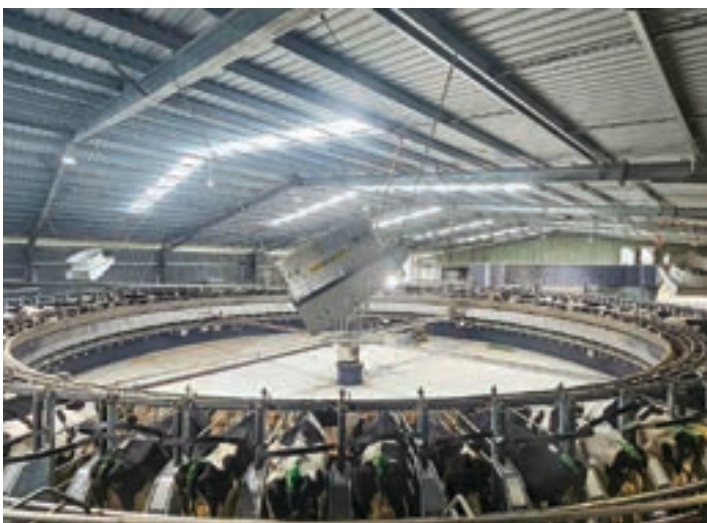
Proudly presented by the Lions Club of Strzelecki the Dairy and Farming Expo opens at 10am at the Korumburra Showgrounds with a bus departing for the Mt Lyall Dairies Tour from the Sanders Pavilion at Gate 1 at 2.15pm for a 20 minute drive to the farm.

To ensure everyone's safety and to maintain strict biosecurity boot covers will be provided at the registration desk and must be worn at all times.

Groups will be rotated through the dairy station, the loading barn and drone station.

A classic Aussie BBQ will be provided along with a coffee cart, milk and cool drinks and fresh scones with jam and cream all made possible through the support of the Lancey family and valued platinum sponsor Westpac, gold sponsors GEA, Westfalia Warragul and Worker Bee Drones, and trade sponsors ADF Milking and Yarroweyah Engineering.

For more information email [dairyexpo@jaydee.net.au](mailto:dairyexpo@jaydee.net.au) or look for Mt Lyall Dairies Tour on Facebook at the South Gippsland Dairy & Farming Expo.



The Mt Lyall Dairies Tour at Nyora will be a unique opportunity to see a 100-stand rotary dairy in action.

**26 YEARS**  
SHOWCASING THE DAIRY INDUSTRY IN GIPPSLAND

**Wednesday 3rd & Thursday 4th September 2025 • 10am - 3pm**

**Korumburra Showgrounds**  
Cnr South Gippsland Highway & Charles Streets, Korumburra

[www.dairyexpo.org.au](http://www.dairyexpo.org.au)

**Behind EVERY GREAT GLASS OF MILK is someone Remarkable**

**Not all heroes wear capes, some wear gumboots...**

**Matt Harms ONFARM CONSULTING**  
Wednesday 3rd September at 11am

Our dairy industry is characterised by 'Remarkable People', who quietly achieve incredible outcomes. Join us to hear about the *incredible journeys* of **Russell Follett**, **David** and **Penny Conn** - large-scale dairy and beef farmers across multiple states; **Peter Notman** - a seed merchant and dairy farmer; **Colin Wright** - a respected rural accountant and **John Verstedden** - a dairy farmer and industry stalwart. Discover the impactful contributions they have made to our dairy industry.



Proudly sponsored by Westpac

**Where technology meets tradition**

**Mt Lyall Dairies Farm Tour**

**Wednesday 3rd September | 3pm - 5pm**

Take a rare opportunity to step behind the scenes of one of Gippsland's most talked-about dairy operations!

Join us for a concise two-hour tour of the Lancey family's farm in Nyora – home to a brand new 100-stand rotary dairy and loading barn that has locals saying, "you can see it from Mars."

From the Expo to the paddock – your next stop is the Mt Lyall Dairies Farm. To find out more or register your interest please visit: [www.trybooking.com/DDLVJ](http://www.trybooking.com/DDLVJ)



### GOLD SPONSORS

Saputo Dairy Australia, DPS DAIRY PUMPING SYSTEMS, Brandt, DAIRY PROTECT, GEA Engineering for a better world, ewis, SRH MILK HANDLING, REID Stockfeeds, TOW AND FERT, LASY DAIRY, Dairy Australia

### SILVER SPONSORS

DAIRY & HAWTHORN, South Gippsland Shire Council, DAIRY, Green Mote, BURRA, Rabobank, A DeLaval, LLY

### MEDIA SPONSORS

Sandwich Times, The Gazette, DAIRY NEWS



# Rainfall has helped but more needed

WHILE rainfall from the start of the year has been well below average, with the exception of February, July saw the skies finally break apart, much to the relief of South Gippsland farmers. Rainfall in July exceeded the monthly average of 100.4 points, recording 163.9 points (Upper Toora) and rain continued in August, once again at below averages.

Hedley farmer Kevin Opray runs between 600 and 700 breeders and commented that while conditions had been ok and they hadn't been greatly impacted, he hopes they are through the worst of it.

"It's been a little bit hard there this winter, because we didn't get rain in the autumn. So, it's been pretty slow growth and so forth. Looks like we're finally coming out of it now. Looking like it will be better," said Kevin, who added that the recent rain has helped with pastures.

"It's all helped a little bit, but we do need a lot more."

They haven't had to buy in feed, maintaining a good supply of hay, but in better conditions, the Opray's generally run double the cattle than they currently do. Kevin was selling off about 80 weaners from their grassfed herd at the Leongatha store sale last Thursday.

"They're all right. We've generally got them a little bit better than that. We generally don't sell them 'til the spring time, but we thought we'd offload these, we've got a lot of young calves on the ground."

Kevin was hoping he'd get a good price for the stock.

"We sold some a month ago and I think it's similar to that as far as I can see."

As the auctioneers neared, Kevin's parting words were full of optimism. "Just as long as it keeps raining in the springtime, it will be fantastic."



Hedley farmer, Kevin Opray, was selling off 80 weaners at last week's store sale and is hopeful it will keep raining. ob07\_3525

# Overhead transmission lines still a major worry for local farmers

OVERHEAD transmission lines remain a major concern for local farmers surveyed in the first State of the State Victorian Farmer Priorities Survey conducted by the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF).

"The biggest issue in the region at the moment is the proposed greenfield development of overhead transmission lines without consultation with local communities and landholders," said one local farmer.

"Government taxes, policies and regulations are making it harder and harder for farmers to stay on the land," said another farmer on the Bass Coast.

Topping the list of concerns for farmers across the state were the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, crumbling regional roads,

maintaining a biosecurity safety net and the steamrolling of renewable energy infrastructure across farmland.

President of the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Brett Hosking said Victorian farmers have shown their lack of trust in the Victorian Government with 90 per cent saying they don't believe the government understands farming issues.

"The frank results should ring alarm bells for the Victorian Government and be a 'wake-up' call for genuine engagement and discussion with farmers and rural communities," said Mr Hosking.

"Farmers and our regional communities have sent a blunt message that they aren't being

listened to and have lost faith in our Victorian Government.

"From massive increases to the Emergency Services and Volunteers Fund, roads literally falling apart and communities being steamrolled in the face of renewable energy infrastructure, farmers have a lot to worry about."

Mr Hosking said 92 per cent of farmers don't believe the Victorian Government understands or is even listening to the concerns of farming communities.

"That's a massive indictment and it must change because they've lost the trust of these farming communities," said Mr Hosking.

Despite the blunt results of the survey, Mr Hosking said there remained considerable opportunity and a bright outlook

for Victorian agriculture.

"Victorian farmers are the best in the nation at what they do.

"We produce 25 per cent of Australia's food and fibre value using just three per cent of Australia's farmland.

"We employ more than 150 thousand people and contribute more than \$20 billion to the state and national economies."

One farmer said a big concern for farmers in South Gippsland was changing farming zones to residential zoning in some of the most productive land areas of our state.

"We are getting left behind in all aspects."

The full results of the Victorian Farmer Priorities Survey can be found at [vff.org.au/farmer-frustration-highlighted-in-vff-survey](http://vff.org.au/farmer-frustration-highlighted-in-vff-survey).

## MARKET REPORT

Brought to you by...  
CLAAS Harvest Centre

## Store market steady

By SGSAA

AGENTS yarded another good offering of 3600 head at this weeks VLE Leongatha store sale.

The market remained generally firm in line with the last few weeks sales with prices finding a level.

The regular feedlot buyers again purchased a large portion of the heavier cattle to feed with local graziers securing the bulk of the weaners and xbred.

### Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, August 28, 2025 Steers

DW Bishoff, 20 Angus	547kg	\$5.36	\$2940
D French, 10 Angus	525kg	\$5.04	\$2650
D Franz, 18 Angus	515kg	\$5.22	\$2690
G & R Scanlon, 17 Angus	512kg	\$5.22	\$2680
PR Henderson, 26 Angus	483kg	\$5.49	\$2660
S & V Greeley, 10 Angus	480kg	\$5.27	\$2539
G & R Underwood, 16 Angus	472kg	\$5.39	\$2550
Jackson Pastoral, 27 Angus	471kg	\$5.61	\$2650
J Forrester, 12 Angus	453kg	\$5.24	\$2380
Gm Davis, 16 Angus	445kg	\$5.48	\$2440
D Franz, 11 Angus	431kg	\$5.30	\$2290
Ft Vallekopp, 20 BB	402kg	\$5.22	\$2100
S+L Harrison 22 Angus	392kg	\$5.61	\$2200
Bangala Pastoral 17 Angus	383kg	\$5.69	\$2180
SJC Farms, 22 Angus	377kg	\$5.53	\$2090
R & D Egan, 12 Hereford	372kg	\$4.85	\$1810
Henderson Farms, 21 Angus	363kg	\$5.64	\$2050
K.D. Opray 75 Angus	339kg	\$5.48	\$1858
Henderson Farms, 20 Angus	345kg	\$5.50	\$1900
R & C Jennings, 17 Angus	332kg	\$5.38	\$1790
Von Pace Pastoral, 17 Angus	328kg	\$5.50	\$1810
J & S Kelly, 18 Angus	294kg	\$5.56	\$1640
Von Pace Pastoral, 26 Angus	280kg	\$5.55	\$1560
JJ Killian, 16 Hereford	275kg	\$5.00	\$1380
FT Vallekopp, 18 BB	272kg	\$5.14	\$1400
J & S Kelly, 18 Angus	266kg	\$5.63	\$1500

<b>Heifers</b>			
J Daniels, 11 Angus	420kg	\$4.09	\$1720
J Daniels, 11 Angus	392kg	\$4.00	\$1570
S+L Harrison 15 Ang X	389kg	\$4.83	\$1880
K.d. Opray 19 Ang	385kg	\$4.38	\$1689
G & B Morrison, 10 Angus	374kg	\$4.89	\$1830
Md P/L, 13 Angus	371kg	\$5.17	\$1920
R & C Jennings, 13 Angus	351kg	\$4.54	\$1600
Md P/L, 10 Red Angus	344kg	\$5.13	\$1770
Bangala Pastoral 27 Angus	339kg	\$4.78	\$1622
C & R Schellekens, 10 Angus	339kg	\$4.54	\$1540
Md P/L, 14 Angus	338kg	\$5.04	\$1710
Md P/L, 15 Angus	334kg	\$4.96	\$1660
Jj Killian, 10 Angus	322kg	\$4.45	\$1480
Von Pace Pastoral, 13 Angus	323kg	\$5.00	\$1620
M & K Hall, 10 Hereford	301kg	\$4.64	\$1400
Von Pace Pastoral, 10 Angus	296kg	\$4.39	\$1300
S+L Harrison 35 Ang	274kg	\$4.74	\$1300
B Dungey, 14 Angus	273kg	\$4.68	\$1280
Ranleigh Downs, 29 Angus	251kg	\$4.53	\$1140
P & T Dowsett, 17 Angus	247kg	\$4.64	\$1150
Minarou, 19 Angus	240kg	\$4.36	\$1050
Three Boots Farming, 16 Angus	230kg	\$4.33	\$1000
Ranleigh Downs, 25 Angus	224kg	\$4.94	\$1110

### Lardner Park Calf Market Report Monday, August 25, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x	\$10 to \$34
Friesian Bulls	\$26 to \$75
Beef Bulls	\$35 to \$220
Beef Heifers	\$35 to \$80
Friesian Heifers	\$35 to \$95
Number of Calves:	573
Number purchased to rear:	104

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### Livestock Sales

<b>KORUMBURRA</b>		<b>FOSTER</b>	
David Ryan	0408 311 895	Dick Faulkner	0408 595 174
		Brian Vuillermin	0429 436 040
<b>LEONGATHA</b>		<b>WONTHAGGI</b>	
Dane Perczyk - Livestock Manager	0408 176 063	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	David Holden	0428 749 390
		Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
<b>WARRAGUL</b>		<b>PAKENHAM</b>	
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Imogen Price	0417 225 498

### Real Estate Sales

<b>KORUMBURRA</b>		<b>LEONGATHA</b>		<b>MELBOURNE LAND</b>	
Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Andrew Newton	0402 940 320	Matt Koster	0474 781 711
		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244		
<b>WONTHAGGI</b>		Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	<b>COWES</b>	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783			Chase Watters	0423 272 819
		<b>WARRAGUL</b>		<b>VENUS BAY</b>	
<b>GRANTVILLE</b>		Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
Angus Hall	0466 326 487			Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
<b>INVERLOCH</b>		<b>PAKENHAM</b>			
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472		
<b>BERWICK</b>		<b>LANG LANG</b>		<b>KOO WEE RUP</b>	
Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	Scott McKenzie	0427 552 898	Angus Hall	0466 326 487

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Community rallies to plant 300 natives in Coronet Bay



A SUCCESSFUL planting was carried out in the Banksia forest on the foreshore area of Coronet Bay Saturday morning August 30. You might remember the wild windy weather we had the night before! But as it frequently happens here, those that promised to come did come. There were even extras who registered on the day. This particular area of the Banksia forest is managed by Coastal Estates – the main developer in Coronet Bay. It is between the northern end of Champ Elysees Esplanade and Norsemens Road. Three hundred indigenous plants to this beautiful area were planted here. The planting was carried out in conjunction with Bass Valley Landcare Group, Coastal Estates and the Coronet Bay Community Association. The planting improves the biodiversity and reduces invasive species encroaching. The planting Event was catered for by Coastal Estates and very much enjoyed at the end. The Coronet Bay Community Association are having another planting Wednesday, September 10 at 10am at Norsemens Road. This is with the Bass Coast Shire Council and will be around Wang too-lome parning (Duck Waterhole) to enhance the habitat of the Vulnerable Swamp Antechinus that lives there.

**LEFT: Volunteers rolled up their sleeves to plant 300 native species in Coronet Bay's Banksia forest, boosting biodiversity and protecting habitat.**

VLE LEONGATHA STORE SALE  
3500 CATTLE 3500

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 - Starting at 9am

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

GROWN STEERS

**A/c Bingarra Park , Leongatha (ELDERS)**  
100 Angus steers 2 yo, Western District bred, Pathfinder, Claremont and Banquet blood, JBS accredited, GF & ABF, excellent quality  
**A/c F & D O'Connor, Berrys Creek (ALEX SCOTT)**  
30 Angus steers, 2 yo, drenched 2/8 with Cydectin. NE Accred  
**A/c Scorpex Agri, Outtrim (ELDERS)**  
30 Angus steers, 2 yo, GF & ABF  
**A/c Breeder, AG Jorgensen Holdings P/L (ALEX SCOTT)**  
25 Angus steers, 18 mths, by stud Angus "Wattlewood" bulls  
**A/c A. Walker, Warragul (ELDERS)**  
25 Angus steers, 18 mths, Leawood Angus blood  
**A/c Riverslea Ag, Riverslea (ALEX SCOTT)**  
20 Angus steers, 14-15 mths, Kunuma blood  
**A/c S Anderson, Wonthaggi (ALEX SCOTT)**  
17 Angus & Black Baldy steers, rising 2 yo  
**A/c Pipe Grange Past Co, Toongabbie (ALEX SCOTT)**  
17 Murray Grey steers, 18 mths, VB  
**A/c Allan Quirke (BAW BAW)**  
16 Angus steers, 16-18 mths, Alpine Angus blood, VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred  
**A/c Dean cox (BAW BAW)**  
16 Hereford steers, 15 mths, East Gippsland bred  
**A/c Mornington Park, Flinders (ELDERS)**  
15 Angus steers, 17-18 mths, Merridale blood, GF & ABF  
**A/c M & B Harding, Hill End (ALEX SCOTT)**  
12 Angus steers, 2 yo, Yea Dist bred  
**A/c Baycity Motors, Woolamai (ALEX SCOTT)**  
13 Angus steers, 16-18 mths  
**A/c N & E McGuinness (ALEX SCOTT)**  
10 Angus steers, 28 mths, VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred  
**A/c D & S McMahon, Tonimbuk (ELDERS)**  
10 Speckle Park steers, 20 mths, GF & ABF  
**A/c Reyloc Hereford Stud (ALEX SCOTT)**  
10 Hereford steers 2 yo, Mawarra blood, VB, NE Accred  
**A/c K Smith (ALEX SCOTT)**  
9 Angus & Angus/Hereford X steers, 24 mths, GF & ABF  
**A/c Shaw Pastoral (ALEX SCOTT)**  
5 Angus steers, 22 mths VB GF & ABF  
**A/c C Hempel (ELDERS)**  
5 Angus & Hereford steers, 16-18 mths, GF & ABF

GROWN HEIFERS

**A/c Riverslea Ag, Riverslea (ALEX SCOTT)**  
20 Angus heifers, 14-15 mths, Kunuma blood  
**A/c Shaw Pastoral (ALEX SCOTT)**  
15 Angus heifers, 22 mths, VB, GF & ABF  
**A/c W J Horner & Estate of R K Horner, Woolamai (ALEX SCOTT)**  
12 Angus heifers, March 2024 drop, AI By TeMania Rambo R624, out of full blood TeMania cows, genuine herd replacements  
**A/c Baycity Motors, Woolamai (ALEX SCOTT)**  
12 Angus heifers, 16-18 mths

WEANERS

**A/c Breeder, "Nethercote Trading P/L" , Rosedale (ELDERS)**  
250 Angus mixed sex weaners, weaned, Bowman & Leawood Angus blood, GF & ABF  
**A/c Breeder, "A & J Gerrand", Longford (ELDERS)**  
80 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned  
80 Angus heifers, 12 mths, weaned  
Alpine Angus blood  
**A/c Powlett River Pastoral (ELDERS)**  
80 Angus steers, 10-12 mths, Alpine & Bowman blood  
**A/c "Rosebank Farm", Loch (ELDERS)**  
60 Angus steers, 10-12 mths, Milwillah & Kelly Angus blood, weaned, VB, GF & ABF and Greenhams NE Accred  
**A/c S & S Johnstone, Hastings (ELDERS)**  
60 Pure Angus mixed sex weaners, 9-10 mths, Fernleigh & Temania bloodlines, VB, GF & ABF  
**A/c Hurley Family Angus, Dargo (ALEX SCOTT)**  
60 Angus steers by Millah Murrah stud bulls, 10-12 mths, weaned 30/5/25, drenched with Zeromec Gold 3/8/25 and Coopers Easy Dose, 3 x 5 in 1 and Multimed, noted doing cattle  
**A/c Breeder, R & J Warren, Winnennndoo (ELDERS)**  
60 Angus X mixed sex weaners, weaned  
**A/c R & P Durham, Flynn (ALEX SCOTT)**  
60 Black Baldy mixed sex weaners, Bowman, Mawarra and Newcomen blood, 12 mths  
**A/c P&M Hanratty, Traralgon East (ELDERS)**  
40 Angus & BB heifers, 10 mths  
20 Hereford steers, 10 mths weaned, GF & ABF  
**A/c Breeder, "Kathwal Farm", Pakenham South (ELDERS)**  
60 Char & Char X mixed sex weaners, weaned, Kenmere Char blood

**A/c Leebrooke Livestock (ALEX SCOTT)**  
50 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-12 mths, by Alpine Angus bull CGKR704 and Kunuma NOL21S129, 2 x 5 in 1 vacc, drenched with Metec plus, B12 /Selenium and easy dose on 2/8/25 VB, GF, & ABF, no heifers retained tops of the drop, noted doing cattle  
**A/c Gail Hoekstra, Myrtlebank (ELDERS)**  
50 Angus mix sex weaners, 12 mths, Battersby blood, weaned, VB, GF & ABF, Ne Accred  
**A/c Breeder, "Parker Amber P/L", Krowera (ELDERS)**  
50 Angus mixed sex weaners, weaned, Bowman & Wattlewood blood  
**A/c Glensheil (ELDERS)**  
50 Charolais steers, 12 mths, VB, NE Accred  
**A/c N W Page (ALEX SCOTT)**  
50 Angus heifers, 10-12 mths, Leawood blood, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred, property sold, tops of the drop  
**A/c Bindalee Pastoral, Boisdale (BAW BAW)**  
48 Angus/Black Baldy, mixed sex, 10 mths, By Millwillah shane S23, VB, GF, ABF, NE Accred  
**A/c Netherwood Pastoral, San Remo (ALEX SCOTT)**  
45 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-12 mths, by stud Fernleigh bulls, drenched with Trifecta and Copper 11/8/25, 2 x 7 in 1 vacc and weaned noted doing cattle  
**A/c Eddington Holdings, Loch (ALEX SCOTT)**  
40 Angus steers, by Banquet, Welcome Swallow, Fernleigh bulls, 10-12 mths, weaned  
**A/c "Langley Farms", Glengarry (ELDERS)**  
30 Angus & Angus X steers, 12 mths, weaned, Leawood Angus Blood, GF & ABF  
**A/c DJM Agriculture, Archies Creek (ELDERS)**  
30 Angus mix sex weaners, GF & ABF  
**A/c Reyloc Hereford Stud (ALEX SCOTT)**  
16 Hereford steers, 12 mths, Mawarra blood, VB, NE Accred, weaned  
14 Hereford steers, 10 mths, Mawarra blood, VB, NE Accred, weaned  
**A/c L & A Farmer, Woodleigh (ELDERS)**  
30 Speckle Park X mixed sex weaners, 9-11 mths, VB, GF & ABF  
**A/c Divine (BAW BAW)**  
30 Speckle Park steers, 8-10 mths, NE Accred  
**A/c Bimbimbie (BAW BAW)**  
13 Angus heifers  
14 Angus steers  
10-12 mths, Innesdale Angus blood, VB, NE Accred  
**A/c Breeder, "E.J & M.L White", Kilmany (ELDERS)**  
25 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned, Pinora Angus blood  
**A/c Breeder, "JCM Farms", Glengarry (ELDERS)**  
20 Angus steers, 12 mths, weaned, GF & ABF

**A/c Warrook Angus, Caldermeade (ELDERS)**  
20 Angus steers, 8-10 mths, Te Mania & Adameluca blood, VB, weaned, GF & ABF  
**A/c Brad Rinaldi, West Creek (ALEX SCOTT)**  
20 Angus steers, 12 mths, By Absolute Angus bulls out of Leawood cows  
**A/c Richards & Rae, Almurta (ALEX SCOTT)**  
20 Angus mixed sex weaners, 10-12 mths, by Coffin Creek bulls weaned, vaccinated and multimed  
**A/c Breeder, L. Cook, Neerim North (ELDERS)**  
20 Angus mixed sex weaners, weaned, BY A.I Rembrandt Millumurah Genetics  
**A/c Breeder, AG Jorgensen Holdings P/L (ALEX SCOTT)**  
20 Angus steers, 7-8 mths, 2 x 5 in 1, weaned 4 weeks, by stud Angus "Wattlewood" bulls  
**A/c Breeder, Johnson & Woods, Neerim (ELDERS)**  
20 Char mixed sex weaners, weaned  
**A/c Breeder, R & J Aucterlonie, Dumbalk (ALEX SCOTT)**  
20 Danish Blue heifers, A.I sired by Vikbnase, 12-14 mths  
**A/c P & N Bertacchini (ALEX SCOTT)**  
17 Speckle Park mixed sex weaners, 8-12 mths  
**A/c J & B Gathercole, Glengarry (ALEX SCOTT)**  
15 Angus mixed sex weaners, 11 mths, Sparta blood  
**A/c C&J Moore, Jack River (ELDERS)**  
15 Hereford steers, 9-10 mths, Glendon Park blood, VB, weaned, GF & ABF  
**A/c Oakbank Pastoral (ALEX SCOTT)**  
8 Angus/ Hereford X heifers, 12 mths, VB, GF & ABF, NE Accred

XBRED & DAIRY

**A/c Sassafra, Nilma North (ELDERS)**  
60 Hereford X mix sex, 8-16 mths, VB  
**A/c W & T Warren (ELDERS)**  
26 Angus/FF X steers, 2 yo  
**A/c Mumford Truck and Earth (ALEX SCOTT)**  
12 Angus X steers, 21 mths  
**A/c J & B Gathercole, Glengarry (ALEX SCOTT)**  
15 X/Bred steers, bucket reared, very quiet

COWS & CALVES

**A/c Breeder, R & J Aucterlonie, Dumbalk (ALEX SCOTT)**  
2 x 2 Danish Blue heifers with A.I Sired Angus C.A.F, 10 weeks old, both steer calves, not rejoined



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# JLo crowned 2025 OZ Top Office Dog

THE votes are in, the tails are wagging, and the results are official! People2people Recruitment, in partnership with Dogs Connect, is delighted to announce the winners of the fifth annual OZTOPDOG Awards, recognising the incredible dogs who make Australian workplaces and home offices happier, healthier, and more connected.

This year's theme, "Dogs at Work," highlighted the growing role of canine colleagues in reducing workplace stress, boosting morale, and combating isolation — benefits that resonate strongly at a time when more than 75% of Australians report moderate to very high stress levels.

The Top Office Dog was awarded for their unmatched ability to lift spirits and bring joy to the office every single day, and the 2025 winner is JLo, a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever from Newhaven, Victoria.

JLo's owner said my Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever is more than just my companion at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum—she's a quiet source of comfort for veterans, staff, volunteers, and visitors alike, always knowing when someone needs a moment of connection.

"For me, as I live with stage 4 cancer, she's been invaluable in keeping me moving, lifting my spirits, and

reminding me daily of the power of simple joys and steadfast companionship."

Mary Savova, Recruitment Manager at people2people, says the competition continues to shine a spotlight on the extraordinary role dogs play in workplace culture, "OZTOPDOG has grown into a true celebration of the bond between people and their dogs, and how these relationships enrich our working lives. From office mascots to service dogs, every entrant this year reminded us of the unique joy and well-being benefits dogs bring.

Congratulations to our winners and a big thank you to all the amazing dogs who took part."

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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**





# Join the team at Miners' Dispensary

### About Us

Miners' Dispensary is a large, not-for-profit Community Pharmacy in Wonthaggi with around 40 team members. We're experiencing strong growth and invite new recruits to join our motivated, award-winning team.

With a modern, efficient layout, purpose-built packing room, Consis robot, and three consulting rooms, we deliver a wide range of services including immunisations, diabetes education, sleep and CPAP programs, MedsChecks, and more.

With exciting projects ahead, we are looking to expand our offering. Now is the perfect time to be part of our journey as we take our professional services to the next level.

### Why join us?

- Competitive salaries with opportunities for advancement
- Generous discounts on prescriptions and over-the-counter medications
- Access to an Employee Assistance Program (for you and your family)
- Supportive, team-focused work environment
- Ongoing professional development and training opportunities

### Pharmacy Operations Manager (full-time)

*\$70 000 to \$110 000 per annum (plus super) depending on experience and qualifications*

We're seeking a hands-on **Operations Manager** with strong **retail management and business operations experience** to oversee daily operations, drive sales growth, and lead a passionate team. You will work closely with the General Manager and retail supervisor.

### What you'll do:

- Manage daily store operations and oversee team performance with a strong focus on retail excellence.
- Monitor KPIs and deliver strong financial outcomes
- Oversee stock control, merchandising, and supplier relationships
- Ensure compliance and operational efficiency
- Support and develop staff to deliver exceptional customer experiences

### What you'll bring:

- Proven experience in retail management and/or business operations (pharmacy experience a bonus)
- Strong leadership and people

management skills

- Excellent financial and KPI management experience
- Customer-first mindset and problem-solving ability
- Marketing experience with social media would be a bonus

### Desired but not essential qualifications

- Diploma/Bachelor of Business, Administration, Management or equivalent or Bachelor of Pharmacy with management experience or HR, marketing, OH&S or AICD qualifications.

### Pharmacist in Charge (full-time)

*\$138 000 to \$145 000 per annum (plus super) depending on experience and qualifications*

An exciting opportunity is available for an experienced pharmacist to step into a leadership role within our dispensary. You'll play a key part in guiding our team through day-to-day operations while ensuring we maintain the highest standards of professional practice, compliance, and patient care. You'll be joining a high-achieving, well-trained, and supportive team who share a passion for delivering outstanding health outcomes.

Importantly, you won't be doing this alone — you'll have the strong backing of our General Manager (a pharmacist focused on professional services) and an Operations Manager, who will work alongside you to ensure both clinical and business success.

### What you'll do

- Provide leadership and oversight of the dispensary's daily operations
- Optimise workflow, accurate dispensing and supply of pharmaceutical items
- Ensure adherence to industry legislation and standards
- Oversight of professional services

### What you'll bring

- Demonstrated experience leading and managing a dispensary team
- Strong leadership capabilities with proven people management skills
- Sound business acumen and an understanding of pharmacy operations

### Qualifications

- AHPRA registration, Bachelor of Pharmacy, vaccination qualified and trained to deliver Victorian State Pilot services

### Pharmacist (full-time or part-time flexible hours)

*\$108 000 to \$138 000 per annum (plus super) depending on experience and qualifications*

We're looking for a passionate Pharmacist who wants to make a real difference in people's health every day. At Miners Dispensary, we understand that pharmacists bring unique skills and interests, so we can tailor a role to suit your strengths and preferences.

### Opportunities include:

- Patient counselling at script out and script in
- Front of practice care, supporting patients with complete health solutions
- Packing room operations
- Pharmacotherapy services
- Professional services such as immunisations, MedsChecks and more

If you thrive on delivering high-quality care and want the flexibility to shape your role, we'd love to hear from you.

### What you'll do

- Deliver and grow professional health services
- Dispense medications safely and consult with patients and healthcare providers
- Provide advice on minor ailments and product recommendations
- Administer vaccinations (training available if required)
- Oversee DAA packing for community and aged care clients
- Support medication adherence and health monitoring

### What you'll bring

- Pharmacists of all experience levels encouraged to apply
- Sound pharmaceutical knowledge and the confidence to deliver improved patient outcomes

### Qualifications

- AHPRA registration, Bachelor of Pharmacy, vaccination qualified or willingness to learn and trained to deliver Victorian State Pilot services

### Dispensary Technician Level 3 (Part-time or casual)

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We are seeking a motivated and reliable **Dispensary Technician(s)** to join our friendly team.

### Part-Time Position

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- Every second weekend:
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  - Sunday: 9.00am – 1.00pm

### Casual Opportunity

We also have a casual role available for a dispensary technician to provide cover for variable roster vacancies.

### What You'll Do

- Provide friendly, professional service to customers in-store, over the phone, and via email
- Process prescriptions and support daily dispensary operations
- Handle transactions accurately and maintain customer confidentiality
- Assist with non-prescription medicine sales and promote pharmacy products and services
- Support stock management and dispensary orders

### What You'll Bring

- Certificate III or IV in Community Pharmacy (or working towards it)
- Pharmacy students qualified to dispense are welcome to apply
- Strong communication and teamwork skills
- A customer-focused mindset and attention to detail

### Pharmacy Assistants (Casual)

*Above award wages depending on experience.*

We're looking for an enthusiastic Casual Retail Assistants to provide outstanding customer service, assist with product sales, and help keep our store looking great. This role offers flexible hours, ideal for someone looking to balance work and life.

### What You'll Do

- Deliver friendly, helpful service to all customers
- Assist with retail transactions and stock management
- Maintain tidy and well-presented product displays
- Support pharmacy services and promotions

### What You'll Bring

- Retail or customer service experience (pharmacy experience a bonus)
- Positive, helpful attitude and willingness to learn
- Good communication and teamwork skills
- Availability to work flexible shifts, including weekends if required

**Miners' Dispensary**  
Our Community Pharmacy

All above roles report to the General Manager.  
Enquires to Sally Cairnduff on 03 5672 1034.  
Apply now for any of the above positions by sending your resume and cover letter to [manager@minersdispensary.com.au](mailto:manager@minersdispensary.com.au)





Gold medallists South Gippsland Volleyball Club U18 Girls. From left, back Tamara Miller (coach), Eevee Dennehy, Tara Moodie, Natalie Churchill (captain), Amelia Hams, Georgia Mills (Vice Captain) and Georgia Scarce. Front, Jessica Churchill, Chloe Ringer and Yasmin Gloria.

# South Gippsland shines at Mornington Junior Volleyball Tournament

By Emmy-Lou Mills

The future looks bright for South Gippsland volleyball after the South Gippsland Volleyball Club came away with a swag of medals from the Junior Volleyball Tournament at Mornington over the weekend.

Competing in the hotly contested Mornington Junior Tournament played at the Somerville Recreation Centre and Frankston Jubilee Park Stadium, the U18 Boys and U18 Girls teams did themselves proud.

Captained by Christian Ringer, the U18 Boys showed grit and determination across four hard-fought matches at Jubilee Park. Facing Mornington White twice, the U18 Boys secured a win in the opener before dropping the return match.

Playing against a powerful Tempo Volley line-up, the boys fell short in both encounters, but not without moments of brilliance, catching their more experienced opponents off-guard more than once.

Crucially, the U18 Boys won a must-have set against Tempo Volley to qualify for the Grand Final. Despite going down 2-0 in the decider, the boys walked away with a well-earned silver medal and a huge sense of achievement.

Of the eight players, six were competing in their very first tournament with Jaedon (13) and Matthew (recently turned 14) being the youngest com-



Silver medallists South Gippsland Volleyball Club U18 Boys. From left, back, Christian Ringer, James Parkes, Ethan Findlay, Matthew Churchill and Noah Rodriguez. Front, Jaedon Kindom, Andre Gutierrez, Edward Hams and Mark de Guzman (coach).

petitors. Their height, courage, and enthusiasm had supporters cheering, with the team's new catchphrase quickly becoming 'Height is Might'.

The U18 Girls hit the courts at Somerville with energy and purpose.

Their opening match against the Victorian State U14 team was a thriller, after dropping the first set they fought back to win the next two, only to fall agonisingly short in a nail-biting finish (1:2, 50-48).

Undeterred the girls went on to topple Heidelberg (2:1, 51-39), overcame VIP (2:1, 52-43), and dominated the Mornington U18 Division 2 side (3:0, 57-30).

After a quick 15-minute refuel and pep talk from Coach Tamara Miller the U18 Girls returned to face

Heidelberg again in the Grand Final.

Backed by cheers, airhorns, and unwavering support from parents and guardians the team played like a well-oiled machine. With powerful serves, sharp passing and relentless defence, the U18 Girls claimed a fabulous gold medal (2:0, 50-40).

Captain Natalie Churchill capped off the day named MVP for the Division 2 U18 Girls, a fitting tribute to her leadership and performance.

With medals proudly displayed around their necks our junior boys and girls now turn their focus to the Junior Country Championships in Horsham in September.

Congratulations to both teams 'Go Souths'.

## 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.

## PUBLIC NOTICES



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ME0095



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AF0022



Newhaven College is an independent co-educational school on Phillip Island offering quality education for students from Prep to Year 12

Due to the expansion of our Junior School Newhaven College is seeking applications for:

### PRIMARY TEACHER

Full Time Junior School Classroom Teacher for the 2026 school year.

For more information and details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website.

Commencement start of the 2026 school year. Applications to be submitted to: [recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au](mailto:recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au)

Applications close Wednesday 17 September, 2025

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.



# Local freestyle athlete making his mark in the mountains

INVERLOCH local and freeski athlete Will Radcliffe is making a name for himself in the Australian freestyle ski community. This year 8 student has taken on Australia's best and is proving he has what it takes.

On July 12, he won his division in the 2025 Subaru Junior Rail Jam, beating athletes from across the country.

He was due to compete in the Junior Freeride World tour at Mount Hotham on July 26, but unfortunately, the event was cancelled due to adverse weather.

On August 2, he competed in the 2025 Adams Junior National Mogul Championship in the U18 division at Mount Buller. After a hard crash in training on the Friday, he made it through to the finals on Saturday and finished in seventh place.

On August 9, he competed in the Hotham Hammer Mogul Competition, landing on top of the podium in first place.

On August 21-22, he returned to Mount Buller to compete in both moguls and slopestyle at Victorian Interschools and came home with third and second place, respectively earning a start in both at the Australian Interschools competition in September.

Returning to Hotham, William was back in training Saturday for the Oakley slopestyle competition on Sunday, August 24, at which he placed third.



Will during his slopestyle performance.

Closing out his competition for the season will be the ABOM Mogul Challenge again at Mount Buller. In this competition, he will be in the open category and pitting his skills against athletes on the national and national development teams, as well as top athletes from Japan and around the

world. What an opportunity for a 14-year-old.

Will is a full-time athlete with Mount Hotham Freeski. This has him training five days a week on snow while juggling schooling, rest and socialising at other times.

As a freeski athlete he trains in moguls which require

technical turns through bumps combined with clean aerial skills over jumps followed by more bumps, slopestyle which combines tricks over jumps along with rail features to slide and trick, and freeride which takes place on the wild slopes of the mountains and consists of smooth skiing on steep slopes, natural terrain jumps and cliff drops all while maintaining "flow".

In the off-season, he spends weekends training on water ramps in Lilydale as well as three to four gym sessions a week at Tomfit, guided by his snow performance specialist trainer, Hugh O'Keefe from Pillar of Strength.

Will is working toward a place on the Emerging Talent Program for moguls with Snow Australia. This requires a minimum of 55 training days on snow in Australia, as well as a minimum of three weeks training and competing overseas in the northern winter. He will once again travel to Japan in March of 2026 to train with Martin Rowley, an ex-World Cup athlete and one of Australia's top mogul coaches.

Will is currently seeking sponsors and funding to help him on his journey. If you think you can assist, reach out or donate tax-free at [asf.org.au/campaigns/williamradcliffeskis](https://asf.org.au/campaigns/williamradcliffeskis).

For more on Will's adventures, follow him at [@williamradcliffeskis](https://twitter.com/williamradcliffeskis).



Sophie McKenzie and coach Dylan Muir prepare for Sophie to swim her second finals.

## Championship success for SBG

IT WAS a big weekend at MSAC for the South Gippsland Bass Swimmers at the State Open Championships.

Lachie Patterson, Sophie McKenzie, Trinity O'Keefe, Cormac Flynn and Molly Dettbarn all competed under the watchful eyes of coach Dylan Muir.

The event had swimmers competing in open events, so anyone with the qualifying time could swim, regardless of age.

This meant the South Gippsland Bass (SGB) swimmers rubbed shoulders with several of the Australian Dolphins in the heats.

The swimmers competed in heats in the morning with several swimmers managing to get personal bests.

Sophie made two finals, coming 10th in 50 metre breaststroke and eighth in 100 metre breaststroke.

Sophie managed to swim several times that will see her return to MSAC in October for the National Open Championships.

# Bronze medal for two Korumburra Wildcats

TWO Wildcat basketballers were represented on the Victorian team competing at the School Sport Australia National Championship in Brisbane recently.

Korumburra Basketball Association's Billie Peterson and Ruby Mewett shared the great experience, playing from July 26 to August 1.

The team lost in the semi-final but won the bronze medal match.

Both Billie and Ruby felt their best game was the semi-final.

Ruby felt it was her best game in offence, whilst Billie was proud to have shot a number of threes and to have displayed the most determination through the game.

Ruby said he best defensive game was against Queensland, which was a lot more physical.

"The whole thing was an awesome experience. I don't normally play as a big, and it was a good opportunity for me to try out that position. I think I did pretty well," Ruby said.

"I've played against some of the girls before and they are all

my friends as well. It was good to catch up with them and meet new people.

"The games were fast, so it was good to get that experience as well."

The team was coached by Chris Clark, who was very knowledgeable and made the experience fun and worthwhile.

Both girls are currently playing in Korumburra's VC Reserve side, looking for a grand final victory.

"It's my first time playing VC and I've really loved playing with this team," Billie said.

Billie has been playing with the Wildcats since U10s.

She has been an emergency for the Victorian team with Basketball Victoria for two years in a row and is working towards being named in the side.

Ruby has been playing for Casey this season, which is currently sitting on top of the ladder.

Whilst Ruby has aged out of playing SSV basketball next year, Billie was bottom age and said it was something she would definitely like to try out for again.



Ruby Mewett and Billie Peterson from the Korumburra Basketball Association enjoyed playing alongside each other at the School Sport Australia National Championship.

## Gippstar 2025/26 award nominations now open

GIPPSTAR are currently accepting nominations for the July and August Gippstar Awards 25/26, and nominations for the Junior and Open Awards close on September 8.

Team of the Year, Club of the Year and Special Achiever nominations are accepted at any time in the Gippstar year.

To recognise the sporting achievements of a Gippsland athlete or any of the below categories, nominations can be made online at the Gippsland Sports Academy website: [sportgippsland.org.au/gippstar-award-nomination-forms](https://sportgippsland.org.au/gippstar-award-nomination-forms).

Monthly Gippstar Awards:

- Junior – under 16 years
- Open – any age as long as they are competing in an open competition

Annual Gippstar Awards:

- Gippsland Champion Award
- Special Achiever Award
- Team of the Year
- Club of the Year

These annual awards can be nominated at any time during the current Gippstar year.

### 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 September 2	WEDNESDAY September 3	THURSDAY September 4	FRIDAY September 5	SATURDAY September 6	SUNDAY September 7	MONDAY September 8
6.22am 1.44m	12.09am 0.44m	12.48am 0.48m	1.38am 0.51m	2.41am 0.53m	3.56am 0.54m	5.10am 0.52m
11.47am 0.80m	7.13am 1.38m	8.12am 1.34m	9.18am 1.32m	10.27am 1.34m	11.27am 1.39m	12.18pm 1.46m
5.51pm 1.41m	12.26pm 0.87m	1.11pm 0.93m	2.11pm 0.97m	3.29pm 0.95m	4.54pm 0.86m	5.58pm 0.72m
	6.30pm 1.35m	7.22pm 1.29m	8.30pm 1.24m	9.53pm 1.24m	11.14pm 1.30m	

### Email us your fishing photos

[news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)





Victoria Blue Over-70s National Cricket Championship Division 2 team. Back row: Brian Mitchell, Charlie Morris, Carl Muscat, Peter Loos, Robin Court, Graeme Anderson, and Ian B Gibson. Front row: Terry Martin, Rod Dungan, Tim Spear, John Kent and Ian Rowland playing on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, from August 27 to September 3, 2025. Z01\_3525.

# Bass Coast locals selected for Over 70s National Cricket Championships

THE Over 70s National Cricket Championships are being held on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, from August 27 until September 3, 2025, with Bass Coast locals Carl Muscat, Brian Mitchell and Peter Loos playing for Victoria Blue Division 2.

Cricket Australia Masters Murray Harrision said this will be an important event for the international aspirants leading up to both a Silver Ashes series and a World Cup in the coming Summer. "I wish everyone hoping to impress the best of luck. Hav-

ing said that, the true worth of our National Championships is not really measured in individual or team success, rather the wonderful opportunity to just keep playing competitive cricket at our age and to enjoy the camaraderie so evident across Veterans cricket."

Results:  
Division Two First game:  
Victoria Blue 7/156 def ACT 2 10/70 At Caboolture  
Division Two Second Game:  
SA 10/57 def by Victoria Blue 0/58 at Maroochydoore CC home ground in Buderim.  
Final results to come.

## PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE

LAST Monday's Bridge competition was an Australia-wide Open Pairs event. Ann Hodgson and Caroline Shaw emerged victorious with a commanding 61.11 per cent. They were closely pursued by Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour, who finished in a tie for second place alongside Shirley Stewart and Lorrie Read, both pairs scoring 59.03 per cent. Two days later, on Wednesday, August 27, the Duplicate Bridge event, played over three and a half tables, was dominated by Nicholson and Barbour once again, who posted an impressive 76.04 per cent. Looking ahead, the Phillip Island Bridge Club Congress on September 13 (Swiss Pairs) and September 14 (Teams) is quickly filling up. Players are encouraged to secure their entries soon to avoid missing out.

## SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

STRONG attendance of seven and a half tables on August 26 saw Deb Anglim and John French leading N/S with 63.83 per cent. Then Matti Shub and John Quayle 53.88, Philip Rinder and Philip Chapman 52.14, and Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston tied with 52.14. Playing E/W, Ann Rinder and Neville Chapman with 62.15, Glenda and Roger McNee 59.38, and Hannah Martin and Maureen Stiles 51.74 per cent. On Friday at Inverloch, the Australia Wide Open Pairs saw Pamela Nisbet – welcome to a distinguished new member – and Neville Chapman score 61.46, Hannah Martin and Ruth Stevenson 60.94, Deb Anglim and John French 57.29, and Philip Chapman and John McLennan scoring 51.3 per cent in N/S. Playing in E/W, Matti Shub and John Quayle an impressive 67.82, Glenda and Roger McNee equally impressive with 67.36, Faye Rowlands and John Currier 61.57, and Anne Somerville and Kathy Dowd 53.24 per cent.

# WIN A CAR

Kilcunda Bass Football Netball Club Inc.

## GRAND PRIZE RAFFLE

MITSUBISHI TRITON GLS

MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER EXCEED

MITSUBISHI PAJERO SPORT GLS

KIA SORENTO SPORT + AWD

KIA SPORTAGE SX + AWD

**1st PRIZE: Choose One of Five Vehicles!**

SCAN FOR TICKETS

2nd PRIZE: \$5000 Flight Centre Travel Voucher

3rd PRIZE: \$3000 JB HI-FI Voucher

4th PRIZE: \$2000 Bowens Phillip Island Voucher

5th PRIZE: \$1000 Foodworks Grantville Voucher

6th PRIZE: \$1000 IGA San Remo Voucher

**TICKETS: \$20 each | 3 for \$50 | 6 for \$100**

VGCCC Raffle Permit No: 10222/25 for 14400 tickets in total. Name of permit holder: KILCUNDA BASS FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB INC Raffle will be drawn Saturday, October 4, 2025 5PM at Bass and District Sports Club, 100 Hade Avenue, Bass, VIC, 3991. Prize winners will be notified by phone & email. Prize winners names will be published on the Kilcunda Bass Football Netball Club Website & facebook within 3 days of being drawn. All entrants must be over 18 years of age. Vehicles proudly supplied by Bay City Auto Group. Mitsubishi vehicles displayed at Mitsubishi Frankston. Kia vehicles displayed at Kia Frankston. Vehicles will be displayed at KBFNC home games. First prize valued at \$69,077.

## Come and help us celebrate

# 45 YEARS

## OF WONTHAGGI UNDERWATER HOCKEY

6pm Saturday 6th September 2025

\$20 ticket on entry

Wonthaggi Golf Club,  
11 Dr Sleeman Drive,  
Wonthaggi 3995

**RSVP by August 10<sup>th</sup> via this QR code or email [Wonthaggiunderwaterhockey@gmail.com](mailto:Wonthaggiunderwaterhockey@gmail.com)**

We are also looking for historical treasures and photos to display, if you want to contribute please contact 0488 040 028

We are also hosting our annual Wonni 4's tournament on the same weekend, use this QR code to find out more and register





Janet Murphy, Ken Webb and Pat Novak had a win at Breakaway Bowls on Monday.



Jon Justin, John Cook, Keith Cousens (skip) and Patrick Bowd were the social bowls winners at the Inverloch Bowling Club this week.



Vern Elliott (S), Alex Martin (L) and Trevor Loughridge (3) were South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's best one game winners.



Helen Rook, John Rook and Jo McIntyre were the Tuesday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls.



Friday's winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls were Jenny Bakker, John Rook, Pam Russell and Max Sweetnam.



Friday's dream team at Breakaway Bowls was Linda Newman, Pat Novak, Helen Gladstone and Marj Ford.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

ANOTHER Monday of bowling was had and what a day. The winners on the day were Janet Murphy, Ken Webb and Pat Novak. They won with a score of -12 – a great result. Another great day was had by all on Friday. The winners were the team of Linda Newman, Pat Novak, Helen Gladstone and Marj Ford. What a win, would you believe –+34, great win.

INVERLOCH

THE Season Opening Day is on Thursday, September 4. The day will begin with Club Champions Martin Hannaford and Lorraine Dowson rolling the opening bowls. Four games of five ends will be the order of the day. The day starts at 11am with lunch after the second game and afternoon tea after the last game. Please bring a plate to share for afternoon tea. Please wear club uniform. Remember that highly recommended bowls coach Neville Brown will be coaching at Inverloch on Tuesday, September 9, at 10am. The next dinner night is Friday, September 12. Names are to be in by Tuesday, September 9. The date for the CPR/AED update at the club scheduled for October 2 has now been changed to Thursday, October 9, at 3pm. Pennants' starting dates are Tuesday, October 14, and Saturday, October 18. Please be aware of scheduled practice matches. Christmas dinner night to be held on Friday, December 19. Last week's social bowls was held under threatening weather conditions that did not eventuate. Seventeen Spartan-like bowlers braved conditions to finish two games of 10 ends. All teams finished with a win and a loss, so had to be separated by ends won. The hard luck story was the team of Bruce Corrigan (skip), Steve Snelling, Jenny Haydon, Karen Orford and Jill Kennedy who finished with 18 points. The team that was in the runner-up position finished on 22 points. This team consisted of Terry Orford (skip), Mal Marshall, Rob Howard and Rob Black. The winning team for the day finished on 23 points. The winning bowlers were Keith Cousens (skip), Jon Justin, John Cook and Patrick Bowd.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

WINTER certainly descended on Melbourne this past week and this morning wasn't the odd day out. Many of the family of bowlers took a look outside and decided to either go back to bed, or to rug up with the heater going.



This week's winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group were Laurie Bell (3), Terry Floyd (S) and Lou Capsalis (L).



South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's runner-up team included John Nicholson (S), Tony Heppleston (L) and Luke Monckton (3).

However, 26 turned up at Loch and District Bowls Club to partake in the usual challenge, and as cold and windy as it was, the rain stayed away, and the players had a fun day with great company. They were welcomed aboard by Bev and John as Vern arranged the teams for the day. Their good friend Trevor prepared the green with some help from Alec and Paul. The young ladies from Loch looked after the kitchen and kept the players with hot drinks – thank you to both Sue and Robyn for that. Out on the green, everyone froze, but they still had plenty of fun – how could they not with such good friends? As always, there can only be one winning team, and the winners on a count back with a score of 34 were Laurie Bell (3), Terry Floyd (S) and Lou Capsalis (L). Runners-up also on a score of 34 were John Nicholson (S), Tony Heppleston (L) and Luke Monckton (3). Best one game winners on a score of 18 were Vern Elliott (S), Alex Martin (L) and Trevor Loughridge (3). The club once again thanks all the wonderful volunteers who keep the Thursday challenge going from week to week. Without them, the club couldn't keep going. Next week, the bowlers will be meeting at Corinella to once again fight it out for team of the week. Please be on site by 10am to allow time to prepare the teams. Unfortunately, with numbers generally reaching capacity, the club will have to be strict on a 10am cut off time. Meanwhile till then, have fun and stay safe.

WONTHAGGI

IT WAS not a good week for bowls. Wednesday was a cold day, and bowls was called off with the threat of rain in the afternoon while the weather remained chilly. Saturday was fine but very windy. With not enough names on the sheet, the decision was made to call the day off. A number of bowlers still took advantage of the sunshine to have a practice and enjoy a good chat. Friday night was a good but quiet

night, with several people still away and the weather again cold. The members' draw didn't go off, with Lorraine Day's name being called. Next week, the jackpot will be \$110. Howard was a lucky meat tray winner, while Hans and Steve each collected a brekky pack. Other winners were Jeannie, Allan, Norm, and Hans. Bowls this week: Wednesday: Turkey Triples Day. Saturday: Opening Day at 12.30 pm – please wear your uniform. Afternoon tea will be served after bowls. Thursday: Social bowls will start on Thursday, September 11, at 10am – names in by 9.30 am. The club will also have three practice matches before the start of Pennant: Saturday, September 13: San Remo at Wonthaggi. Saturday, September 20: against Phillip Island at Phillip Island. Saturday, October 4: Inverloch at Inverloch. Things are starting to get busy with the arrival of spring and the lead-up to Pennant in October. Don't forget Friday night. The members' draw is \$110, with meat trays and other prizes to be won. Doors are open at 4pm, with the draw and raffles at 6pm. Have a good week and good bowling.

**WONTHAGGI INDOOR**

THIS week, the club had an incredible 56 players compete. Tuesday's winners with a plus 32 were John Rook, Helen Rook and Jo McIntyre. Runners-up on plus nine were Maggie Scapin, Max Sweetnam and Ian Bice. Friday's winners with a plus 16 were Jenny Bakker, Pam Russell, Max Sweetnam and John Rook. Runners-up on plus 8 were Betty Huitema, Mario Toffolon, Theo Sholley and Allan Ireland. The results from Wednesday night's United Pairs Championship saw Pam Russell and John Postlethwaite named the victors. Runners-up were Maggie Scapin and Jeannie Slocombe. Well done to all who competed.





The fourth annual Col Sperling Memorial Golf Day was recently held at the Leongatha Golf Club.

Over \$2000 raised at Col Sperling Memorial Golf Day

LEONGATHA Golf Club hosted the fourth annual Col Sperling Memorial Golf Day on behalf of the Koonwarra Leongatha RSL Cricket Club's past players last Friday.

In cool and windy conditions, 75 players braved the weather, and some pretty hot golf was played.

Two groups carded a scratch score of 58 (12 under), but the day's winners with a net score of 49.5 was the team of Sam Sperling, Paul Le Page, Damien Symons and Mark Cantwell – Paul, a grandson of Col's and Sam, a great nephew.

Nearest the pins went to Nick Shaw, Ian Davidson, Patrick

Bowd and Paul Kennedy.

Russell Hughes won the longest drive on the first that ended up about 30 short of the green.

Festivities continued after play with a tribute to former club great Barry Wigney, who played for many years.

His eldest son Brad, a former

state player for South Australia and teammate of Barry Alan Sperling shared stories of Barry's career with those present.

After the most subscribed year to date and with well over \$2000 being raised for the cricket club, organisers are already planning for the event to be even bigger next year.

SGB at the Con Amalos swim meet

IT WAS all smiles at the Con Amalos swim meet in Morwell on Sunday for the first GSI of the 25/26 season. The event, hosted by the Morwell swim club, had many of the younger competitors of the region in attendance, with the 25m pool helping boost their confidence.

Swimmers from all seven Gippsland clubs were in attendance, and there was a lot of excitement as the young swimmers tried their best.

Also in attendance was a handful of older swimmers, trying to get their last required qualifying times for the Age State Championships in a fortnight.

Podium finish for Linden Hall

VICTORIAN athlete Linden Hall had a podium finish to round out the Diamond League Final in Zurich, Switzerland, on Friday.

The 34-year-old middle-distance runner continued her career-best season as she finished her 1500m race with a time of 3:57.44 – a milestone achievement.

Leongatha's Eleanor Patterson also performed well in Switzerland, placing fourth on countback in the women's high jump.

The difficult weather proved a challenge for many athletes, but Patterson managed to clear 1.91m to earn her spot.

The high jump victory went to Olympic medallist Nicola Olyslagers, who also cleared 1.91m on her first attempt, but was unable to progress beyond 1.94 due to the conditions.

Double Fish charge to the top of the ladder

THE world of entertainment has enriched table tennis fans with dynamic double acts.

The humble hall is also blessed with synergetic pairings that are proving to be the difference between glory and loss.

Andro defeated Butterfly three to two.

Andro's Luke and Yeti, with their salty beards and swash-buckling slapshots, gangplanked their opponents Butterfly into the deep blue sea of demise.

Captain Hook and Mr Smee would have approved with glee when these modern-day pirates prevailed in a ruthless five-set doubles display.

Nittaku defeated Radak four to one.

Once Nittaku's doubles team of Braden and Michael, drawing upon the rhythmic Lennon and melodic McCartney, blunted the bold and bruising play of Radak into submission, the road for Radak was always going to be too long and winding to claw back.

Double Fish defeated Stiga three to two.

Double Fish's Lee Lee brought the boom boom and twinkle toes.

She led not only her opponents, Stiga, but also her doubles partner on a merry jig around the table in a top-of-the-ladder doubles match.

The jig being so merry that there was confusion about who was Astaire and who was Rogers.

Donic had the bye.

Ladder: Double Fish 20; Stiga 16; Andro 12; Nittaku 12; Butterfly 4; Radak 4; Donic 0.

Leading players: Luke 7; Brad 7; Tim 7; David 7.



The winner of the Betta Electrics Stableford event at the Leongatha Golf Club was Joc Howson.



Marg Johnson was the winner at the Wonthaggi Golf Club in challenging conditions this week.



Janet Thompson was the winner of Woorayl Golf Club's Stableford event.

KORUMBURRA

RESULTS: Tuesday, August 36. Stableford: 16 players.

Winner: Chris McConnell (20) 38 points.

NTPs: first Shayne Harland, seventh Rob Gallagher and 13th Steve Rose.

Thursday, August 28: Stableford: 10 players.

Winner: Rob Gallagher (12) 39 points.

NTPs: first Shayne Harland, seventh Steve Duffield, 10th Iain Riddell and 13th Shayne Harland.

Saturday, August 30: Sponsor: Doug and Lyn McIvor.

4BBB Stableford: 29 players.

Winners: Rob Gallagher and Lukas Gallagher 46 points.

NTPs: first Lukas Gallagher, seventh Billy Wrigley and 10th Jaarl Enbom.

Ladies

WELL done to Jenny Blackmore (23) who had a win last Wednesday, finishing with 34 points, and to Shelley Snooks (16), who was runner-up, 32 points.

Julie Hillberg (20) won a BDTL with 31 points and was also NTP on the 10th green.

The remaining NTPs went to Heather Grist first, (Kelly's Bakery voucher), Deb Wrigley second shot on the seventh and Jenny Blackmore on the 13th.

The club had two teams compete in the Lang Lang Bowl last Friday and is happy to report that Julie Hillberg scored a NTP on the 15th hole.

Due to a number of women playing at Lang Lang the previous day, along with the wintery blast, there weren't sufficient numbers for a competition on Saturday.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, August 26: Stableford.

Tuesday was a Stableford event with a smaller field of 23 members/guests on course due to a wintery blast.

A Grade winner: Paul Kennedy (11) with 36 on a countback. A Grade runner-up: Rene Zeller (21) with 36 points.

Great score by Alan Starkey (6) with an eagle on the 18th hole.

NTP fifth second shot: Alan Starkey (6) at 2.38m. NTP 14th: Colin Bear (11) at 3.26m. NTP 16th: John Ryan (12) at 2.59m.

Thursday, August 28: Stableford.

Thursday's event was a Stableford event with 20 members/guests hitting off with a shotgun start in rather better conditions than forecast.

A Grade winner: Andrew Secull (17) with 37 points. A Grade runner-up: Andy Bassett (20) with 35 points on a countback.

NTP fifth second shot: Winton Knop (8) at 8.00m.

NTP 14th: Gary McGrath (6) at 4.20m.

NTP 16th: Alan Starkey (17) at 7.70m.

Saturday, August 30: Stableford.

A bleak winter's day out was the experience for the 47 members/guests who entered Saturday's Stableford event.

Overall winner: Timothy Hogan (22) with a score of 37 points on a countback.

A Grade winner: David Richards (14) with 35 points on a countback.

A Grade runner-up: Matthew Hildebrand (6) with 35 points.

B Grade winner: Melinda Honig (37) with 37 points.

B Grade runner-up: Alana Davis (19) with 35 points.

NTP fifth second shot: Kent Hams (17) at 3.60m.

NTP 14th: Gary McGrath (6) at 2.18m.

NTP 16th: Timothy Hogan (16) at 6.01m.

Ladies

WIND made for a challenging day on the course for the Stableford event sponsored by Betta Electrics last week.

Joc Howson was the winner finishing with 34 points and Neryl Hopcraft was runner-up with 33 points on a countback from Lynda Bassett.

Both winners and runners-up received Betta Electrics vouchers.

Down the line balls went to 30 points: Lynda Bassett, Nan Meagher, Delia Perry and Lianne Adamson.

Leanne Costello was closest to the pin second shot on the fifth and Trish Owen on the 14th.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, August 26: Stableford.

A Grade: N. Whichello (14) 38 points. B Grade: D. Taylor (22) 40 points c/b.

DTL: Tom Traill 40, S. Beitz, N. Rutledge 38 and P. Cummaudo 36.

NTP: fourth T. Bradshaw, sixth D. Symons, 13th C. James and 16th T. Whitelaw.

Birdies: fourth P. Lee, sixth Tom Traill and D. Symons.

Saturday, August 30: Stableford. A Grade: C. Bourne (13) 33 points. B Grade: N. Baker (23) 39 points.

DTL: D. Jerram 35, J. Smeriglio 34, T. Bradshaw and S. McInnes 32 c/b.

NTP: fourth N. Whichello, sixth T. Whitelaw, 13th B. Cunningham and 16th S. Mills.

Birdies: sixth T. Whitelaw and 16th S. Mills.

Eagles: G. Shandley 10th hole.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: August 28, SR. 71. Competition type: Stableford 18-hole.

Winner: Andrew Hooten-Shandley 40.

Runner-up: Ian McNish 38.

Results: August 30, S.R 71. Competition: Stableford.

A Grade: Alan Cubbin 38.

B Grade: Garry O'Connor 34.

C Grade: Graham Ryan 37.

Balls down the line to 32: David Hynes 37, Rohan Todd 34, Ross Lovett 33, Simon O'Halloran 32, Paul Cornelis 32, Glenn Hewlett 32, Rohan McRae 32 and Rod McBride 32.

NTPs: Gerald Miwtchell second, Peter Dell fourth, David Hynes propin eighth, Jim Jordan 13th and Mat Johnson money hole 17th.

Ladies

KUDOS to the small but dedicated group of ladies (9) who battled the elements, mainly the full-blown wind gusts, which didn't stop all round.

There was only one grade with Marg Johnson (15) 33 points the best score from Geraldine Prentice and Robyn Wilkinson both 31, who got a BDL.

Marg Ryan claimed the NTP on both the second and eighth.

WOORAYL Ladies

A WET, windy and cold day greeted five extremely brave ladies to play a game of Stableford, sponsored by Woorayl Golf Club.

The winner was Janet Thompson 30 points on a countback.

BDL: Elly Berryman 30 points.

NTP: eighth Jean Hayes, 11th Janet Thompson and 17th Elly Berryman.



GIPPSLAND SOCCER LEAGUE

FINAL LADDERS

SENIOR MENS	W	D	L	PTS
Phillip Island	12	1	1	37/42
Trafalgar Victory	10	2	2	32/42
Korumburra City	9	0	5	27/42
Leongatha Knights	9	0	5	27/42
Inverloch Stars	5	2	7	17/42
Drouin Dragons Maroon	5	0	9	15/42
Lang Lang United	3	0	11	9/42
Wonthaggi United	0	1	13	1/42

SENIOR WOMENS	W	D	L	PTS
Phillip Island	16	0	0	48/48
Leongatha Knights	12	1	3	37/48
Trafalgar Victory*	11	1	4	34/48
Drouin Dragons Maroon*	11	0	4	33/48
Inverloch Stars	7	0	9	21/48
Wonthaggi United	5	0	10	15/48
Korumburra City	4	1	11	13/48
Mirboo North United	3	1	12	10/48
Lang Lang United	0	0	16	0/48

MENS RESERVES	W	D	L	PTS
Phillip Island	10	1	3	31/42
Inverloch Stars	9	1	4	28/42
Trafalgar Victory	7	3	4	24/42
Drouin Dragons Maroon	7	1	6	22/42
Leongatha Knights	1	0	13	3/42

UNDER 17 MIXED	W	D	L	PTS
Drouin Dragons Maroon	16	0	0	48/48
Leongatha Knights Blue	11	2	3	35/48
Phillip Island	11	2	3	35/48
Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow	10	1	5	31/48
Korumburra City	5	4	7	19/48
Wonthaggi United	5	2	9	17/48
Leongatha Knights White	5	1	10	16/48
Inverloch Stars	3	0	13	9/48
Mirboo North United	0	0	16	0/48

UNDER 15 GIRLS	W	D	L	PTS
Drouin Dragons Yellow	10	1	4	31/45
Phillip Island	9	2	4	29/45
Wonthaggi United	8	2	4	26/45
Korumburra City	7	3	5	24/45
Drouin Dragons Maroon	5	2	7	17/45
Leongatha Knights	0	0	15	0/45

UNDER 14 MIXED	W	D	L	PTS
Wonthaggi United	15	0	2	45/54
Phillip Island Penguins	15	0	3	45/54
Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow*	14	0	4	42/54
Drouin Dragons Maroon*	13	1	3	40/54
Inverloch Stars	8	0	10	24/54
Mirboo North United	7	1	10	22/54
Phillip Island Stingrays	5	1	12	16/54
Korumburra City	5	1	12	16/54
Leongatha Knights	5	0	13	15/54
Lang Lang United	0	0	18	0/54

UNDER 12 GIRLS	W	D	L	PTS
Phillip Island	11	0	1	33/36
Wonthaggi United	9	1	2	28/36
Lang Lang United	8	0	4	24/36
Inverloch Stars	7	1	4	22/36
Drouin Dragons Maroon	3	0	9	9/36
Korumburra City	1	1	10	4/36
Leongatha Knights	1	1	10	4/36

UNDER 12A MIXED	W	D	L	PTS
Phillip Island	15	0	1	45/48
Drouin Dragons Maroon	12	0	2	36/45
Leongatha Knights Blue	10	0	4	30/42
Inverloch Stars	11	0	5	33/48
Mirboo North United U12*	8	0	9	24/51
Wonthaggi United*	8	0	8	24/51
Drouin Dragons Maroon Yellow	6	1	9	19/48
Korumburra City	1	1	13	4/45
Lang Lang United	0	0	13	0/39

UNDER 12B MIXED	W	D	L	PTS
Drouin Dragons White	10	0	4	30/42
Phillip Island Penguins	9	1	4	28/42
Phillip Island Stingrays	7	2	4	23/39
Trafalgar Victory	6	2	6	20/42
Drouin Dragons Yellow	6	1	7	19/42
Leongatha Knights White	5	1	8	16/42
Wonthaggi United	5	0	9	15/42
Inverloch Stars	0	1	13	1/42

\*Games still to be played

# Final game for Gippsland United U13 season

By Kerry McGennissen

CLOUDY skies didn't deter Gippsland United FC's U13s from putting up a great fight in Morwell against Bentleigh Greens SC on the weekend for their final game of the 2025 season.

Goalkeeper Brock Upton was kept a little quiet in the first half of the game while defenders William Calabro, Bailey Robson and Romeo Vitale prevented any opposition goals.

Midfielders Alexander Olijnyk, Kingston Vella and forwards Mitchell Hanckel, Toby Osborne and Oliver Fak were kept busy pushing the ball down to the Gippsland goals.

Light rain in the first half didn't distract the home team from their focus as they continued to display plenty of scoring opportunities. Fak finally scored after many attempts with

local supporters cheering loudly.

Bentleigh scored with a long shot right before half-time to bring the score to 1-1.

After halftime Calabro and Robson were joined by Harry Lawrence to maintain pressure in defence. Ryan Lissa joined Vella in the midfield to also put a stop to the opposition's attack while Eddy Marriott and Jett Ason assisted Fak with more pressure in the forward line.

A free kick by Lissa was unlucky not to find the back of the net, but inspired the home team to rally together. The sun came out in the second half as did Bentleigh's hunger to win.

Supporters held their breath when an opposition kick from near the half-way line nearly hit the back

net. Some poor behaviour by the opposition was not tolerated by the GU Ref as both teams continued the fight for dominance.

Osborne came back on in the second half to show his ball skills and to inspire GUFC to push harder. The tight game continuing Hanckel nearly scored towards the end of the second half which only motivated his team to continue their fight, but they were unable to increase the score.

The impressive match finished with a 1-1 draw under the intermittent blue sky.

After the game in his closing speech to the team Coach Jamie Robson said there were no negatives and only lots of positives to take away.

"I can't fault it," he said about the U13s performance reminding the players not to be down on the

result because today's performance was great and everyone did their roles as they had been asked.

Jamie also said "the first half performance was the best all year" to which many of the surrounding families and supporters agreed with a round of applause.

Best player medals were awarded to Calabro for his "consistent contribution" and Osborne as a "very consistent performer" in today's game and others throughout the season.

Coach Robson and Assistant Daniel Lissa thanked the U13s on a very successful season and expressed their gratitude at everyone's positive attitude and determination.

They also thanked all the families for their support and hoped to see everyone back again next year. Go Gippy!

## Uncertain future for Leongatha Gymnastics Club



Leongatha Gymnastics Club have put a shout out for a new location to operate from.

LEONGATHA Gymnastics Club and its 300 participants face the prospect of imminent eviction from their Bair Street home of four years and are calling for help to stay where they are or to swiftly find somewhere else suitable.

The 32-year-old club caters for a wide range of people, including toddlers taking their first brave tumble, seniors wanting to keep moving, neurodivergent individuals who enjoy the Ninja Gym and teenage girls developing their confidence and discovering their strength.

Management took to Facebook to enlist community support, asking "Do you know of a building we could call home?"

High ceilings, open floor space and bathrooms are requirements, with school gyms, halls, warehouses and recreation centres examples of the kind of buildings likely to be suitable.

Lawyers or legal advisors able to help guide those in charge through the

challenging situation are encouraged to offer their support to the not-for-profit community gym.

Those with fundraising experience are also being called on.

Everyone is urged to share Leongatha Gymnastic Club's Facebook post made on August 29 to help spread the news and enlist help.

As well as the impact on participants and the loss of a sense of community, 12 young coaches, mostly still at school, face missing out on valuable experience and the sense of purpose it provides.

The committee in charge of Leongatha Gymnastics Club is adamant the prospect of eviction is through no fault of the organisation, arguing that their request for needed repairs is behind the notification that they have to vacate by the end of September.

Those wishing to help in any way are encouraged to email [info@leongathagymclub.com](mailto:info@leongathagymclub.com) or call 0400 273 658.

## Explore the local terrain with the Bass Coast Strollers

HAVE you ever wanted company while out exploring the Bass Coast?

Bass Coast Strollers might be the answer.

As September is Bushwalking Victoria's Try Bushwalking Month, it is the perfect time to link up.

This walking group covers eight to 10 kilometres each Monday morning at a different locality each week.

The feature walks in September are Eagles Nest, George Bass Trail and The Gurdies.

Generally, there aren't too many hills – but there is warning when there are – and the trails and beaches

vary the terrain.

The group regularly walks on Phillip Island and around Wonthaggi, and have regular visits to Grantville, Cape Paterson, Inverloch and numerous other places.

There are occasional trips further afield with some members heading to Lakes Entrance for a couple of nights before Christmas.

A backpack with some snacks and water, plus shoes with a good grip are the basic requirements for the morning.

You can come on three walks to try it out.

Contact the group at [bass-coaststrollers.org](http://bass-coaststrollers.org).



The Bass Coast Strollers were pictured walking along the beach in Venus Bay.





Leongatha Knights Charlie Dougherty celebrated his 100th game for the Knights.

# Knights retain Brian Newey Memorial Shield

LEONGATHA Knights FC hosted neighbours Korumburra City in the final round of the Gippsland Soccer League prior to finals. The Senior Men's fixture saw both teams battling it out for the Brian Newey Memorial Shield.

Leongatha's Oscar Murdoch opened the goal scoring with a stunner that curled beautifully into the corner of the goal. Leongatha's second goal early in the match came from a breakthrough run from left winger Henry Mbuthia who cut a pass to the finishing foot of captain Luke Knights. Korumburra hit back with a congested finish. A foul in the box from Korumburra's defender against Leongatha's Noel O'Donnell saw a penalty converted by the calm foot of Sven Gebele gifting the Knights a confident 3-1 lead at halftime.



Leongatha's Tallarah had a strong game in U17s, scoring two goals.

the pitch with determination, with possession more evenly distributed. A fumble in the Korumburra 18-yard box, saw Henry Mbuthia slotting home the fourth goal for the Knights. Korumburra were quick to respond with two goals in quick succession.

Man of the match, Charlie Dougherty pulled off two incredible penalty saves during his 100th game for the Knights, proving the game to be another highlight for his Knights career.

The game ended with Leongatha retaining possession of the Brian Newey Memorial Shield and heading to semi finals against Phillip Island next week.

RIGHT: Korumburra's Senior Men's captain Hayden Smith and Leongatha's captain Luke Knights with the Brian Newey Memorial Shield.



Leongatha's Hannah Matthews played a strong game in the U15 Girls.



Leongatha's Noel O'Donnell was a force to be reckoned with up front.

## GIPPSLAND SOCCER LEAGUE

### ROUND 18 RESULTS - AUGUST 30-31

#### SENIOR Mens:

Drouin Dragons 4 d Wonthaggi United 0  
Leongatha Knights 4 d Korumburra City 3  
Lang Lang United 5 d Inverloch Stars 0

#### Senior Womens:

Leongatha Knights 6 d Korumburra City 0  
Inverloch Stars 3 d Lang Lang United 0  
P-Island Breakers 18 d Mirboo North United 1  
Drouin Dragons Maroon v Wonthaggi United match abandoned

#### Mens Reserves:

Phillip Island Breakers 5 d Trafalgar Victory 0

#### Under 17 Mixed:

Drouin Dragons 6 d Wonthaggi United 0  
Leongatha Blue 6 d Korumburra City 0  
Leongatha White 5 d Inverloch Stars 1  
P-Island Breakers 6 d Mirboo North United 0

#### Under 15 Girls:

Drouin Yellow 5 d Phillip Island Breakers 0  
Korumburra City 3 d Leongatha Knights 0,  
Drouin Dragons Maroon v Wonthaggi United match abandoned

#### Under 14 Mixed:

Drouin Maroon Yellow 6 d P-Island Stingrays 0,  
Korumburra City 2 d Leongatha Knights 1  
Inverloch Stars 6 d Lang Lang United 0  
P-Island Penguins 8 d Mirboo North United 2  
Drouin Dragons Maroon v Wonthaggi United match abandoned

#### Under 12 Girls:

Wonthaggi United 4 d Drouin Maroon 0  
Korumburra City 6 d Leongatha Knights 2  
Inverloch Stars 3 d Lang Lang United 1

#### Under 12A Mixed:

Leongatha Blue 6 d Korumburra City 0  
Inverloch Stars 7 d Lang Lang United 1  
P-Island Breakers 8 d Mirboo North United 2  
Drouin Dragons Maroon v Wonthaggi United match abandoned

#### Under 12B Mixed:

Drouin Dragons Yellow 5 d Wonthaggi United 0  
Drouin Dragons White 2 d Inverloch Stars 2  
Phillip Island Stingrays 7 d Trafalgar Victory 1

### SEMI FINAL 1 FIXTURES SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER AT BELLBIRD PARK, DROUIN

#### Senior Mens:

Phillip Island Breakers v Leongatha Knights

#### Senior Womens:

Phillip Island Breakers v TBC  
(Trafalgar Victory or Drouin Dragons Maroon)

#### Mens Reserves:

P-Island Breakers V Drouin Dragons Maroon

#### Under 17 Mixed:

Drouin Maroon v Drouin Maroon Yellow

#### Under 15 Girls:

Drouin Dragons Yellow v Korumburra City

#### Under 14 Mixed:

Wonthaggi United v TBC  
(Drouin Maroon or Drouin Maroon Yellow)

#### Under 12 Girls:

Phillip Island Breakers V Inverloch Stars

#### Under 12A Mixed:

Phillip Island Breakers V Inverloch Stars

#### Under 12B Mixed:

Drouin Dragons White V Trafalgar Victory





Ema Hodgson leaps for the Kangaroos as Brylee Angwin prepares to shoot for Foster, Angwin scoring 22 goals in the Tigers' five-goal A Grade win. A13\_3525



Foster mounts an attack during its A Grade win over Fish Creek. A16\_3525



Emma Watkins has control of the ball for Fish Creek during the opening quarter of the B Grade Semi Final. A09\_3525



Mirboo North coach Alison Snell displays her determination during the Tigers' D Grade contest with Yinnar. A18\_3525



Lexie Andrews has the ball for Mirboo North during its D Grade loss to Yinnar. A17\_3525



Fish Creek's Lauren Gale and Foster captain Catherine Butinar compete for possession during Saturday's tight B Grade match in Stony Creek. A08\_3525

RESULTS

ELLINBANK

**2nd Semi Final - Catani (Sat, Aug. 30)**  
A Grade: Neerim South 55 d Nilma Darnum 41  
B Grade: Ellinbank 27 lt Neerim South 47  
C Grade: Ellinbank 44 d Neerim South 23  
17 & Under: Longwarry 40 d Lang Lang 22  
15 & Under: Catani 25 d Poowong 19  
13 & Under: Lang Lang 31 d Buln Buln 23  
**1st Semi Final - Nyora (Sun, Aug. 31)**  
A Grade: Ellinbank 45 d Trafalgar 37  
B Grade: Bunyip 56 d Nilma Darnum 39  
C Grade: Trafalgar 41 d Buln Buln 27  
17 & Under: Nilma Darnum 34 lt Catani 41  
15 & Under: Lang Lang 21 d Neerim South 19  
13 & Under: Trafalgar 20 lt Bunyip 22

MID GIPPSLAND

**2nd Semi Final - Stony Creek (Sat, Aug. 30)**  
A Grade: Foster 35 d Fish Creek 30  
B Grade: Foster 50 d Fish Creek 49  
C Grade: Yinnar 30 d Newborough 29  
D Grade: Mirboo North 19 lt Yinnar 27  
17 & Under: Boolarra 36 lt MDU 37  
15 & Under: Yinnar 21 lt Toora 36  
13 & Under: Yinnar 24 d Newborough 17  
**1st Semi Final - Thorpdale (Sun, Aug. 31)**  
A Grade: Yinnar 39 lt MDU 40  
B Grade: Yinnar 45 lt Newborough 46  
C Grade: MDU 32 d Fish Creek 27  
D Grade: Toora 27 lt Fish Creek 31  
17 & Under: Mirboo North 37 d Toora 20  
15 & Under: Hill End 32 d Boolarra 28  
13 & Under: Tarwin 25 d Boolarra 19

THIS WEEKEND'S GAMES

ELLINBANK

**Preliminary Final - Lang Lang (Sat, Sept. 6)**  
A Grade: Nilma Darnum v Ellinbank  
B Grade: Ellinbank v Bunyip  
C Grade: Neerim South v Trafalgar  
17 & Under: Lang Lang v Catani  
15 & Under: Poowong v Lang Lang  
13 & Under: Buln Buln v Bunyip

MID GIPPSLAND

**Preliminary Final - Boolarra (Sat, Sept. 6)**  
A Grade: Fish Creek v MDU  
B Grade: Fish Creek v Yinnar  
C Grade: Newborough v MDU  
D Grade: Mirboo North v Fish Creek  
17 & Under: Boolarra v Mirboo North  
15 & Under: Yinnar v Hill End  
13 & Under: Newborough v Tarwin



MDU players swarm around Yinnar's Lisa Yates during the third term of Sunday's tight A Grade match. A40\_3525



Sharlette Broadmore goes in for the rebound for Poowong in the U15s. Photo: Jeff Tull.



Lauryn Eyre-Walker of MDU and Yinnar opponent Halie McColl refuse to give an inch during their A Grade semi final. A39\_3525



Poowong's Pallas Jackman-Riches attempts to intercept in the goal circle for the U15s. Photo: Jeff Tull.





Kasie Rump with Kate Sperling in support gets the ball moving Leongatha's way in a thrilling B Grade qualifying final at Maffra on Saturday.



Leongatha's GA Emma Ton chases the loose ball in a thrilling B Grade Qualifying Final at Maffra on Saturday.



Leongatha B Grade centre Stacey Giliam looks for a way around Moe's Brittany Milne during a close final at Maffra on Saturday.



Wonthaggi's Bec Farrell aims up this shot on goal, combining well with Power shooter Brigitte Tack in the C Grade Qualifying Final against Leongatha.



Leongatha's Anika Grabham-Andrews gets the ball moving Leongatha's way in the C Grade Qualifying Final against Wonthaggi.



Isabella Tiziani was busy through the midcourt for the Wonthaggi Power C Graders on Saturday in their qualifying final against Leongatha.



Inverloch-Kongwak's goal attack Sindy Boyd balances for her next goal attempt in D Grade. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography



Dalyston's Sienna Tiziani shoots from long range. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography



Kelly Boyd lines up under direct pressure from her Tooradin-Dalmore opponent. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography



Sam Hume controls the netball in the C Grade elimination final. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography

RESULTS

GIPPSLAND

**Qualifying Final - Maffra (Sat, Aug. 30)**  
A Grade: Warragul 58 d Morwell 42  
B Grade: Leongatha 55 d Moe 53  
C Grade: Leongatha 24 lt Wonthaggi 31  
17 & Under: Bairnsdale 50 d Sale 32  
15 & Under: Sale 38 d Moe 31  
13 & Under: Sale 23 d Moe 19  
**Elimination Final - Wonthaggi (Sun, Aug. 31)**  
A Grade: Drouin 59 d Bairnsdale 37  
B Grade: Traralgon 51 d Warragul 48  
C Grade: Drouin 36 d Moe 35  
17 & Under: Drouin 25 lt Leongatha 34  
15 & Under: Warragul 47 d Leongatha 28  
13 & Under: Maffra 14 lt Traralgon 31

WEST GIPPSLAND

**Elim. Final - Nar Nar Goon (Sat, Aug. 30)**  
A Grade: Inverloch-K 44 lt Tooradin-Dal 51  
B Grade: Cora Lynn 46 d Inverloch-Kongwak 41  
C Grade: Warragul Ind 32 lt Nar Nar Goon 34  
D Grade: Garfield 25 lt Inverloch-Kongwak 28  
17 & Under: Phillip Island 44 d KWR 25  
15 & Under: Cora Lynn 54 d Kilcunda Bass 19  
13 & Under: Nar Nar Goon 23 d Phillip Island 8  
11 & Under: Koo Wee Rup 38 d NNG 14  
**Elimination Final - Bass (Sun, Aug. 31)**  
A Grade: Cora Lynn 44 d Dalyston 31  
B Grade: Dalyston 37 lt Kilcunda Bass 50  
C Grade: Tooradin-Dal 33 d Inverloch K 23  
D Grade: Koo Wee Rup 31 d Tooradin-Dal 21  
17 & Under: Tooradin-Dal 32 d Warragul Ind 26  
15 & Under: Phillip Island 26 d Koo Wee Rup 19  
13 & Under: Koo Wee Rup 18 lt Garfield 26  
11 & Under: Inverloch-K 18 d Phillip Island 7

THIS WEEKEND'S GAMES

GIPPSLAND

**2nd Semi Final - Morwell (Sat, Sept. 6)**  
A Grade: Moe v Warragul  
B Grade: Wonthaggi v Leongatha  
C Grade: Morwell v Wonthaggi  
17 & Under: Traralgon v Bairnsdale  
15 & Under: Traralgon v Sale  
13 & Under: Leongatha v Sale  
**1st Semi Final - Moe (Sun, Sept. 7)**  
A Grade: Morwell v Drouin  
B Grade: Moe v Traralgon  
C Grade: Leongatha v Drouin  
17 & Under: Sale v Leongatha  
15 & Under: Moe v Warragul  
13 & Under: Moe v Traralgon

WEST GIPPSLAND

**2nd Semi Final - Warragul (Sat, Sept. 6)**  
A Grade: Korumburra-Bena v Nar Nar Goon  
B Grade: Tooradin-Dalmore v Nar Nar Goon  
C Grade: Cora Lynn v Garfield  
D Grade: Nar Nar Goon v Cora Lynn  
17 & Under: Cora Lynn v Nar Nar Goon  
15 & Under: Tooradin-Dalmore v Nar Nar Goon  
13 & Under: Cora Lynn v Tooradin-Dalmore  
11 & Under: Cora Lynn v Garfield  
**1st Semi Final - Inverloch (Sun, Sept. 7)**  
A Grade: Tooradin-Dalmore v Cora Lynn  
B Grade: Cora Lynn v Kilcunda Bass  
C Grade: Nar Nar Goon v Tooradin Dalmore  
D Grade: Inverloch-Kongwak v Koo Wee Rup  
17 & Under: Phillip Island v Tooradin-Dalmore  
15 & Under: Cora Lynn v Phillip Island  
13 & Under: Nar Nar Goon v Garfield  
11 & Under: Koo Wee Rup v Inverloch-K

LDNA under 11s finish the season in style

THE under 11 players at LDNA wrapped up the 2025 season with a round robin competition on Saturday. Twenty teams from the many clubs that play each week gathered together to play several short games to finish the season. The day is a great way to wrap up the season and is always a popular event for the players and for the families to see how far their players have come over the season.

After the games, all players received a certificate to recognise their efforts in playing the season. The under 11s is a development year, with the youngest age receiving extra coaching from the sidelines and consideration from the umpires.

On the sidelines, umpiring were many of the trainee umpires, officiating for the first time on their own. LDNA is committed to training up the young umpires and has a wonderful mentoring program with a waitlist for next year.



Under 11 players wrapped up the 2025 season.



# SOUTHERN GIPPSLAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL 2025 GRAND FINAL



Inverloch-Kongwak Under 14 Girls won the Fairhaven Homes Southern Gippsland Junior Football Competition Grand Final 6.12.48 to Dalyston 1.1.7 at Korumburra on Sunday. They include Tanjil Richards, Rhianna Brown, Ebony Maguire, Amber Neal, Makenzi Kranen, Piper Richards, Milla Jenkinson, Maya Scott, Nina Egresits, Asiah Phillips, Charlotte Foon, Savannah Bergmeier, Khali Trewin, Emilia Ireland, Harriette Burness, Ruby Friswell, Emma Patterson, Sass Martin and Grace Wallis.



Leongatha Under 12s won the Fairhaven Homes Southern Gippsland Junior Football Competition Grand Final 7.8.50 to Phillip Island Blue 1.2.8 at Korumburra on Sunday. They include Anthony Callahan, Jahva Cameron, Liam George, Angus Rowe, Hugo Fennell, Cody Herral, Hudson Cooper, Oliver Jarrett, Tom Clancy, Liam Meyer, Jaxon Eddy, Ben Lester, Chayse Reeve, Archer Trease, Felix O'Leary, Ollie Heinrich, Archie Beavis, Noah Elkin, Cleeve Hooper, Hayden Bruce, Finn Matheson, Spencer Ozols, Tyson Houston, Tyler Stevic, Harvey McLennan, Henry Stuckey, Ryker Dean, Jai Burge and two listed as 'private player'.



IK's Khali Trewin kicked a goal and had plenty of possessions on her way to being named best affield in the Under 14 Girls' Grand Final.



IK Under 14 Mixed coach Lucas McMillan is congratulated on his team's success by Phillip Island Blue coach Lucas Piera.



IK's Charlie Jury was named best affield in the Under 14 Mixed Grand Final on Sunday.



Phillip Island's Callum Chambers gets into the clear during the Under 14 Mixed Grand Final at Korumburra on Sunday.



Inverloch-Kongwak's Charlie Jury takes a fine contested mark in the Under 14 Mixed Grand Final at Korumburra on Sunday.



# Nyora Junior Footy Club grew from two teams to five in a single season

NYORA Junior Football Club have had outstanding success in bringing in the young ones this season, flourishing from having just two teams at the start to five teams by the end. They began with an Under 10s and an Under 12s side and went on to form an Under 8s side and two Under 14s sides – one of which was the first all-girls team for the club. They also had 17 kids registered for Auskick, who had the opportunity twice to play during the seniors game, at half time and run through a banner, like AFL players do.

Not only this, but two of the club's teams also made the finals – the Under 10s and the Under 12s. "We made the finals, unfortunately lost. But it's still, for a small town like us, it's a pretty big achievement to actually compete against teams like Tooradin, Drouin, Koo Wee Rup and Warragul," said Shannon Gallagher, President of the Nyora Junior Football Club and Under 12s Coach – and one of the driving forces behind the club's success. Creating a family-friendly and welcoming atmosphere in an inclusive environment, together



The Under 8s for Nyora Junior Footy Club.

with word of mouth and forming cross-league connections, have been some of the elements Shannon attributed to their success. "Families have said that they came to us because of our posts we do on Facebook, where they see that we're very much a family-oriented club, and we do lots of fun things for the kids; like last presentation night we had people riding one of those bucking bulls," said Shannon. They also held a pie night, two pizza nights and a game day for Motor Neurone Disease (MND), raising over \$9000 for

the charity. They played a parents versus kids game at the last training session for the season, which was followed by a BBQ and the club will finish off with a presentation day in September, with inflatable activities organised for the kids and catered with souvlaki and HSPs. The junior club also recently hosted the junior football finals at the Nyora Football ground, where six games were played, 12 teams competed and about 800 people came through the gates. Being involved in area

agreements with other leagues has proved to be beneficial for clubs, young players and sides that may be struggling for numbers. "Players from Nyora went and played for Poowong and Hallora, and then we had players from Poowong come and play with us this year as well, throughout the season, and Korumburra filled in at times as well," explained Shannon. Some of Nyora's senior football players trained with the juniors on occasion to help bolster their spirits. "When senior players come and do that, the juniors tend to lift their form a bit more. They train better and train harder. So that was great." The club managed to secure great sponsors for the season, which made things a little bit more affordable for families, explained Shannon. "The community is really getting behind us and seeing the development of how we're going. "It's been a great community, and we've had the support of many volunteers at the football club. We're really proud of the volunteers and the community that we live in."

# Under 16s earn their ticket to the preliminary finals

POOWONG Under 16s and Under 18s played in the first semi-finals at Nyora before a large crowd. Ground surface was good, the weather was overcast with a couple of light showers and a breeze blowing to the speedway end of the ground. Poowong U/16s played Ellinbank, and the Under 18's played Buln Buln. Ellinbank's Under 16s were kicking with the breeze and opened with an early goal, Poowong replied with a good goal from the pocket before Ellinbank added two points. Poowong added two goals, one from the pocket, the second from a free kick at CHF, to go in at quarter time 3.1.19 to Ellinbank 1.2.8, a good

start against the breeze. Poowong opened the second quarter with a point followed by a goal on the run from centre half forward. Ellinbank added their second goal from a free kick from the pocket, with Poowong adding four points. Ellinbank came back late in the quarter with two late goals to reduce the margin to six points at halftime. It was anyone's game. The skill level was good, and it was great to see so many players kicking the ball with either foot with confidence for both sides. The third quarter was even with both sides adding a goal. Three quarter time

Poowong 5.10.40 to Ellinbank 5.3.33, a seven-point lead. In the last quarter, Poowong's boys worked hard, adding two goals, five points, with the breeze to Ellinbank one goal, two points. Poowong had a good win by sixteen points 7.15.57 to Ellinbank 6.5.41 and now meet Trafalgar in the Preliminary Final. All the best next week boys from the Club and all Poowong supporters. Under 18s U/18's kicked to the speedway end, but it was Buln Buln with two goals early to go in 2.4.16 to Poowong 0.2.2 at quarter time. The second quarter Buln

added three goals with Poowong kicking a late goal, Buln Buln to lead 5.5.35 to Poowong 1.4.10. Poowong would have to have a good third quarter to get back into the game, but Buln Buln's defenders were working hard. Poowong kicked an early goal and held Buln Buln to a point Buln Buln 5.6.36 to Poowong 2.5.17. Buln opened the last quarter with a goal, Poowong replied with a goal from a 50 metre penalty before Buln added five goals to finish 11.6.72 to Poowong 3.5.23. Congratulation boys, a good season with a lot of talent coming through and some great senior prospects.



## — Sharks snap up junior premiership success —

The winning Tarwin U16s Grand Final team in the Central Gippsland Junior League, which includes Harper Cocksedge, Isaac Joske, Alec Francis, Lachlan Cann, Evan Bruning, Lance Moon, Jacoa Cameron, Jake Andronaco, Jackson Commadeur, Oscar Bright, Jarrah Lowe, Felix Finlay, Jack Cashin, Will Campbell, Eswaramahadev Gundlapalli, George Mackenzie, Hudson Guymer, Nate Jennings, William Taylor, Ethan Langstaff, Cody Gerretzen, Archer Gibson, Noah McLennan, and Lucas Duvoisin. Photos: G.S. Bruning.

## ELLINBANK & DISTRICT LEAGUE RESULTS

### 2ND SEMI FINAL (QUALIFYING)



NEERIM SOUTH	2.1	6.2	7.5	11.8 (74)
Longwarry	6.4	7.11	8.14	8.16 (64)

**GOALS Neerim Sth:** L Bambridge, L Kinder, K Mounsey, K Wilson 2, L Guy, M McGarrity, W Papley 1 each  
**BEST:** K Wilson, A Ramm, W Papley, L Bambridge, J Erickson, R George  
**GOALS Longwarry:** J Serong 3, J Wells 2, F Fox, B McHugh, J Serong 1 each  
**BEST:** J Serong, B Werle, F Fox, L Willis, B Stephens, R Rundell

RESERVES				
Lang Lang	0.0	4.1	4.1	7.2 (44)
Trafalgar	1.2	1.2	2.3	4.7 (31)

**GOALS Lang Lang:** K Batt, B Kiss, N Perkins 2, J Ventura 1  
**BEST:** J Stokkel, J Ventura, B Fraser, K Parker, J Hand, R Harvie  
**GOALS Trafalgar:** B Northover 2, D Brock, D Puglia 1 each  
**BEST:** T Radford, N Minichiello, D O' Brien, B Zimora, D Brock

THIRDS				
Ellinbank	2.3	3.7	8.10	9.12 (66)
Longwarry	0.1	0.3	1.3	4.3 (27)

**GOALS Ellinbank:** R Butters 3, C Armour, J Armstrong, A Clarke, H Cunningham, A Debenham, B Handley 1 each  
**BEST:** T Davidson, L Rollinson, R Butters, A Martel, T Keeble, J Armstrong  
**GOALS Longwarry:** J Doyle, R Ryan, E Seskis, J Taylor 1 each  
**BEST:** J Doyle, H Mylius, G Morgan, H Colvin, T Hickford, E Seskis

FOURTHS				
Trafalgar	0.0	0.1	2.3	4.6 (30)
Bunyip	1.2	1.2	5.2	5.2 (32)

**GOALS Trafalgar:** C Hennessy 2, C Hammond, R Jinks 1 each  
**BEST:** C Paul, O White, J Dinsdale, M Dastey, B Tipping, W Scott  
**GOALS Bunyip:** K Jones 2, L Clark, N McCaughey, M Wouters 1 each  
**BEST:** N McCaughey, C Cunningham, O Marson, S Blackley, B Interlandi, H Mollison

### 1ST SEMI FINAL (ELIMINATION)



TRAFALGAR	1.1	2.2	2.3	5.8 (38)
Buln Buln	1.0	3.0	4.5	5.7 (37)

**GOALS Trafalgar:** K Beveridge, J Butler, W Claridge, M Devon, J Roe-Duggan 1 each  
**BEST:** D Brewster, D Farrell, M Ablett, B Hoffmann, J Roe-Duggan, H Kenny  
**GOALS Buln Buln:** M Gray, A Mitchell 2, S Batson 1  
**BEST:** A Mitchell, S Beecroft, M Nobelius, W Battley, M Gray, J Kos

RESERVES				
Longwarry	3.1	5.1	5.2	5.5 (35)
Ellinbank	2.2	8.3	9.3	13.4 (82)

**GOALS Longwarry:** B Blazeovic, J Downes, A Fazackerley, L Ramsay, B Stanfield 1 each  
**BEST:** B Martin, J Mitchell, B Hamilton, K Oldham, J Downes, L Clarkson  
**GOALS Ellinbank:** A Scott 5, S Phelan, T Wright 2, S Barwick, T Bingham, K Brwon, B Dixon 1 each  
**BEST:** A Scott, J Cole, T Bingham, A Quirk, B Wareham, B Rintoule

THIRDS				
Buln Buln	2.4	2.4	5.6	11.6 (72)
Poowong	0.2	0.2	2.5	3.5 (23)

**GOALS Buln Buln:** C Kilmartin 3, F Bravington, J Stuckey 2, T Best, Z Nakamura, J Olsson 1 each  
**BEST:** F Bravington, C Kennedy, C Kilmartin, C Lindau, B Nicholas, M Steenholdt  
**GOALS Poowong:** C Deal 2, J Blackwood 1  
**BEST:** J Blackwood, B Broadmore, G Monson, M Cook, H Bott, W Dowel

FOURTHS				
Poowong	3.1	4.8	5.10	7.15 (57)
Ellinbank	1.2	4.2	5.3	6.5 (41)

**GOALS Poowong:** L Moriarty 3, Chase Deal 2, Cruze Deal 1  
**BEST:** L Moriarty, C Dorian, T Nicholls, C Deal, R Van Venrooy, L Nieuwerth  
**GOALS Ellinbank:** P Alger 4, J Baxter, X Ridsdale 1 each  
**BEST:** P Alger, O Jenkins, J Tylee, X Ridsdale, B Parke, J Baxter



Fish Creek named GippStar Club of the Year

FISH Creek Football Netball Club proudly received the GippStar Club of the Year Award recently.

The presentation was held in Moe and Fish Creek won the award over eight other nominated Gippsland clubs.

“It was a pleasant surprise, considering everything that has happened over the last few years,” club president Travis Manne said.

Fish Creek was recognised for its resilience in rebuilding its club.

The club was subject to arson in November 2023, which burned the club memorabilia, change rooms and social rooms.

The members have worked tirelessly to keep teams on the courts and on the football field without their own rooms, while also raising funds, seeking grants and collaborating with all levels of government to try to rebuild.

Fish Creek has faced difficulty but have continued to overcome them and run a thriving club, winning its 37th Senior premiership last year and remain favourites for another three-peat.

The club has been juggling temporary rooms, which has hampered their ability to organise fundraising parties, but with such a passionate following and community behind them, they hope to see both on and off the field success by the end of year, with news of both premierships and approvals to rebuild.

This weekend, Fish Creek’s Senior footballers and A and B Grade netballers will be playing for a spot in the grand final.

The U13s were knocked out of their first final last weekend, while C Grade and D Grade are both continuing their finals campaign.

Manne said he was proud of the small club’s representation in the 2025 finals series.

Manne said looking ahead to 2026, Fish Creek will continue its rebuild and take every chance to develop its junior players.

Foster and Yinnar face off for grand final position

By Rob Popplestone

LAST time they met: Round 7 @ Yinnar: Yinnar 9-7-61 defeated by Foster 10-11-71.

What the coaches said at the time:

Sam McCulloch, Yinnar: We came out and started the game with high intensity and took advantage of the breeze. Mid-way through the second Foster got on top and maintained that for a large portion of the game. We certainly were still a chance to win late in the game, but couldn’t get the job done. We’ve learnt a lot about ourselves over the last two weeks and will get to work over some areas we need to work on.

Sam Davies, Foster: Huge win for the group – they jumped us, we lost a forward in the first, and we had our backs against the wall when the score was 40-9 in the second, but we got the game back on our terms from then on. It was a real team effort and buy-in to keep grinding away, and we backed our fitness to outrun them late. We kicked crucial goals when it mattered, and it’s a game we can refer back to throughout the year when the going gets tough.

This week:

Sam Davies, Foster: The beauty of finishing top two is the second chance, no time to be down and out. Big week of recovery and planning for this weekend.

Sam McCulloch, Yinnar: Last week it was a very even performance from the whole group. Was a four-quarter performance in which we maintained our intensity throughout and were composed when needed. Look forward to Foster this week and will need to bring the same level of footy to progress through to the grand final.



Foster’s Matthew Clark tries to conjure some magic despite the pressure from Fish Creek, being one of his team’s top couple of players in the Tigers’ narrow loss. A01\_3525

Fish Creek qualifies for grand final in low-scoring tussle

By Rob Popplestone

FINISHING first and second on the ladder respectively, two of the league’s heavyweights met in a qualifying clash that offered a golden ticket to just one, in the shape of a direct route through to the 2025 MGFNL Grand Final.

Previous meetings throughout the year between the duo had fallen at one a piece; that of course, come finals time counted for nothing, their third and most important clash to date was all that mattered.

The reigning premiers of 2024 and 2025 found a way to win in what turned out to be a hard-fought arm wrestle for most of the day.

Fish Creek victors by six points in a low-scoring affair. 5-5-35 to Foster 4-5-29.

“Probably wasn’t a spectacle of good footy, but both defences were pretty strong, it made it pretty hard to score,” Jarrad Walker, Fish Creek coach said.

“Both teams actually scored, or seemed to score better against the wind, as we worked in numbers, but both teams, I feel, were hesitant to take risks as the game was always so close, and we and I’m

sure they, didn’t want to make a costly mistake.

“We have a week off now, a rest for some sore players and wait to find who our Grand Final opponent might be.”

The Kangaroos led by eight points at quarter time and thirteen at the main break before the Tigers got it back to eight points again at the final break.

“The scoreboard flattered us – beaten convincingly around the ball, they were cleaner and won the outside game,” Sam Davies, Foster coach said.

“They had really good plans in place and executed them accordingly, which meant we could never get our game going. Our defenders stood up again to their credit, as they always do and absorbed a lot of footy coming their way.

“The beauty of finishing top two is the second chance, no time to be down and out. Big week of recovery and planning for next weekend.”

Foster now to take on Yinnar, the Tigers’ path to a grand final faces a major stumbling block in the shape of a dangerous-looking and all of a sudden in-form Magpie side.



Fish Creek’s Kairon Dorling flies for the footy, but his Foster opponent did enough to prevent the mark. A06\_3525



Archie Woodall has the footy but is under pressure from his Hill End opponent, Woodall being among the best for the Tigers in a narrow Under 18s loss. A34\_3525



Hill End’s Thomas Bastin under pressure from Mirboo North in the U18 Mid-Gippsland Football League semi-final at Thorpdale. Photo: Annie Holland.



# MDU out of finals as Yinnar outguns them from the outset

By Rob Popplestone

LAST year's runners-up, Yinnar, had from early in the season set themselves to have a second shot at the ultimate prize.

What stood before them on the weekend, however, was somewhat of a bogey side for 2025 in the shape of the Demons.

MDU having accounted for the Magpies in two previous meetings throughout the home and away season, and was looking for the trifecta to keep their premiership aspirations alive.

The game started with Yinnar jumping out of the blocks and keeping the Demons at arm's length for most of the first thirty minutes, holding a 20-point lead at the first break, three goals three to a single point.

MDU, with some work to do, found it hard with the pressure being applied by a well-organised Magpies side.

The margin at the main break out to better than five goals, with the Demons falling further and further behind as each minute passed.

Yinnar, in the end, were comfortable fifty-eight point winners, 14-12-96 to 5-8-38.

"Very even performance from the whole group," Sam McCulloch, Yinnar coach said.

"Was a four-quarter performance in which we maintained our intensity throughout and were composed when needed."

The Demons felt as though they had the personnel to do the job, but just could not



MDU skipper Fraser Kelly tries to find a way past a couple of Yinnar opponents, the Magpies proving too strong on the day. A20\_3525

get their game going, Yinnar closing them down whenever there was a possibility of a spark.

"Disappointing end to the year. I thought the boys worked hard, but Yinnar worked harder and were just too good across the board," Rhett Kelly, MDU coach said.

"All credit to Yinnar today. They played a great game, and we could not fire a shot.

"We will regroup and celebrate what I think has been a really positive year. We have had plenty of growth internally, and we will look to continue to work on this over the preseason. We will get around

our reserves team and cheer them on next week and hopefully beyond."

Yinnar now move forward to take on the minor premiers in Foster, the Tigers, all that stands in the way of a replay of last year's Grand Final clash between Fish Creek and the Magpies.



While his Yinnar opponent got the tap on this occasion, Josh Schelling performed strongly to be MDU's best player in the semi-final. A22\_3525

## MID GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

### 2ND SEMI FINAL (QUALIFYING)

	29		35
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	FOSTER		FISH CREEK	
Foster	0.1	0.3	3.3	4.5 (29)
Fish Creek	1.3	2.4	4.5	5.5 (35)

**GOALS, Foster:** J Flavelle 2, B Flavelle, L Rathjen 1 each  
**BEST:** J Flavelle, M Clark, O Callcott, C Wray, D Williams, B Cripps  
**GOALS, Fish Creek:** S McGannon 2, D Berryman, J Shaw, L Williams 1 each  
**BEST:** J Stefani, R De Biase, T Valenta, K Dorling, M McGannon, J Kenny

### RESERVES

Yinnar	0.2	0.6	2.6	3.7 (25)
Morwell East	1.3	2.3	7.5	9.7 (61)

**GOALS, Yinnar:** J Garlick, T Russell, J Shea 1 each  
**BEST:** K Alexander, J Shea, D Webster, L Alexander, B Burrows, L Pollard  
**GOALS, Morwell East:** P Henry 3, H Dwyer, B Francis, F Marks, N Nikodemski, J Quinn, I Terrick 1 each  
**BEST:** J Atkinson, B Atkinson, H Dwyer, C Lane, B Francis, J Quinn

### THIRDS

MDU	0.2	5.6	5.7	5.7 (37)
Newborough	3.2	3.2	5.8	6.10 (46)

**GOALS, MDU:** B Sellings 2, C Bruce, L Hamilton, A McInnes 1 each  
**BEST:** A Casey, C Bruce, W Campbell, T Hibberson, L Webb, L Hamilton  
**GOALS, Newborough:** O Hanson, B Young 2, R Kunziak, M Langdon 1 each  
**BEST:** M Brosnan, C Hanson, A Daley, T McCabe, H Gallagher, L Nelson

### 1ST SEMI FINAL (ELIMINATION)

	96		38
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	YINNAR		MDU	
Yinnar	3.3	6.4	10.9	14.12 (96)
MDU	0.1	1.2	2.7	5.8 (38)

**GOALS, Yinnar:** K Grinstead-Jones 4, J Notman, W Robertson 3, B Cheffers 2, J Bugeja, N Hall 1 each  
**BEST:** T Robertson, J Notman, W Robertson, D Linton, L Linton, K Grinstead-Jones  
**GOALS, MDU:** S Walsh 2, T McRae, N Nagel, S Wilson 1 each  
**BEST:** J Schelling, J Hickey, S Wilson, T McRae, J Kennedy, T Corry

### RESERVES

Tarwin	1.1	1.2	1.2	2.4 (16)
MDU	3.1	5.4	6.5	8.6 (54)

**GOALS, Tarwin:** D Leggo, B Senior-Gibson 1 each  
**BEST:** D O'Halloran, D Windsor, L Kelly, P Houston, J Osborne, L Anderson  
**GOALS, MDU:** H Fennell 3, L Wright 2, L Harris, T Harris, R Weaver 1 each  
**BEST:** M Hooper, H Fennell, J Ballagh, E O'Loughlin, M Harris, B Cantwell

### THIRDS

Hill End	1.2	2.4	3.7	6.7 (43)
Mirboo North	1.1	2.1	4.4	5.8 (38)

**GOALS, Hill End:** J Winduss 5, D Paul 1  
**BEST:** D van der Stoep, M Hasthorpe, J Winduss, T Bastin, B Boothman, D Paul  
**GOALS, Mirboo Nth:** T McDuffie 3, C Crutchfield, N Jackson 1 each  
**BEST:** L Poljak, N Jackson, A Evans, J Conlan, O Mahoney, A Woodall



Logan Anderson looks to get his handball away for Tarwin as MDU's Travis Ruedin closes in during the first half of the reserves match. A28\_3525



Tarwin's Daniel Windsor tackles Demon Angus Kemper during Sunday's reserves semi-final. A27\_3525



This contest reflects the tenacity of both sides in the Under 18s match between Mirboo North and Hill End. A36\_3525



Mirboo North kept the pressure on Hill End all day, going down by just five points in the U18 Mid-Gippsland Football League Semi-Final played at the Thorpdale Rec. Reserve. Photo: Annie Holland.



## Statistics for Semi-Finals

By Paul Carter

### Second Semi-Final Leongatha v. Traralgon (1969 – 2025)

All GL matches: Played 138 - Leongatha 61, Traralgon 75, drawn 2

Finals: Played 21 - Leongatha 9, Traralgon 12

Last ten matches: Leongatha 8, Traralgon 2

Last three matches: 2024 (GF @ Morwell) Traralgon 11.12.78 d Leongatha 7.11.53, 2025 (T) Leongatha 9.11.65 d Traralgon 7.6.48, 2025 (L) Traralgon 11.10.76 d Leongatha 11.7.73

Match Aggregate High:258 pts (2011) Leongatha 21.12.138 d Traralgon 17.18.120

Match Aggregate Low: 72 pts (2012) Leongatha 5.12. 42 d Traralgon 4. 6. 30

Highest scores: Leongatha 23.24.162 (1995 Grand Final), Traralgon 29.14.188 (2009)

Lowest scores: Leongatha 2. 7. 19 (2006), Traralgon 1.14. 20 (2003)

Greatest winning margin: Leongatha 123 (2015), Traralgon 127 (2009)

Most goals (match): Leongatha 9, Jake Best (2015)

Traralgon 12, Tim Aitken (2009)

Notes: Last year's Grand Finalists meet in the 2nd Semi-Final with the winner booking their place in this year's decider. These two great clubs have met in nine Grand Finals to date and form would suggest that they might both be there on the last day of the season once again. Their two meetings this year have seen the visiting team return home with the premiership points, coincidentally Leongatha holding a 16 point three quarter time lead on both occasions. In Round 1 they maintained the advantage to win by 17 points, whereas the return match saw Traralgon kick four goals to one to overrun the Parrots. Both matches were classics in their intensity and skill level and the fans will roll up in droves to see the best football east of Melbourne.

### First Semi-Final Moe v Morwell (1954 – 2025)

All matches GL: Played 157 - Moe 88, Morwell 67, drawn 2

Finals: Played 5 - Moe 4, Morwell 1

Last ten matches : Moe 8, Morwell 2

Last three matches: 2024 (Mw) Moe 11.9.75 d Morwell 8.10.58, 2025 (Mw) Moe 13.14.92 d Morwell 7.6.48, 2025 (Mo) Morwell 9.9.63 d Moe 8.13.61

Match Aggregate High: 325pts (1997) Morwell 44.15.279 d Moe 7.4.46

Match Aggregate Low : 54 pts (1990) Moe 5.5.35 d Morwell 2.7.19

Highest score: Moe 30.14.194 (2018), Morwell 44.15.279 (1997)

Lowest scores: Moe 3.5.23 (1996), Morwell 1.3.9 (2001)

Greatest winning margin: Moe 134 (2018), Morwell 233 (1997)

Most goals (match): Moe 14, Ken Rainsford (1994)

Morwell 13, Doug Jorgenson (1954), Rod Taylor (1997)

Notes: It may come as a surprise that near neighbours and traditional rivals Moe and Morwell have only contested five finals games since the formation of the LVFL in 1954. All five matches have been of the knockout type – two Preliminary Finals in 1964 and 1967, then three Elimination Finals in 1994, 2005 and most recently in 2017. Moe has won all since the first final went the way of the Tigers. Since the start of the 2016 season these teams have met 18 times with Moe winning 16. It is worth noting, however, that Morwell's two wins were gained at this weekend's venue, Moe's Ted Summerton Reserve, including the heart-stopping two point win at their most recent clash. Nothing will be left to chance today as there's no double chances for the losing team – expect a tough, close encounter with the result in doubt until deep into the final quarter.

# Parrots' Under 18s through in windy win at Maffra

THE start made by the Leongatha Under 18s, with the wind in the first quarter at Maffra on Saturday, kicking four straight goals to nil against Moe, went a long way to winning them the Gippsland League Qualifying Final.

Receiving a handball inside 50 within the first few minutes, Connor Richards opened the Parrots' account setting the scene for three more, one to Alby Logan, another to Richards and one to Eamon Berryman.

It was a great start, but coach Jesse Giardina was alive to the potential for Moe to return fire with the wind in the second quarter, urging his players at the break to not let their Moe opponents have the front position, and to work their way forward with short, darting kicks into the significant wind.

Leongatha continued on where they left off at the start of the second quarter but lost focus when a 'push and shove' broke out on the wing. Moe's Andre Battista was picked out for the free kick by the umpires, and a 50 metre penalty, to produce the goal that ignited the Lions.

The formidable figure of Juddson Ryan won the next centre break, over to a running Will Mills and on to another Moe player with senior experience, Max Moroney, for their second, and it was suddenly game-on after a lack of concentration had let them in.

Leongatha steadied through hard work by the likes of Finn Donohue with a great goal-saving tackle, and Noah Bradley contesting strongly and running the lines out wide, but it was Moe who got their third only this time Leongatha was up and going again to respond.

Through Jhett Brown, Bradley and Max Carter, they ran the ball up into the wind to find Eamon Berryman for a much-needed strike, the Parrots' fifth, just the tonic they needed going into halftime.

They then had the chance to set up the win in the third quarter, with the wind once more, and after a fine mark by Klayton McGrath in defence, they went on the attack themselves, initially with a shot from long range by Sam Bradley which drifted wide, but then with a great snap by Archie Fixter, moving to take advantage of the loose ball off the pack.

Leongatha's forwards including Charlie Bickerton, closely guarded by Moe's Ethan Wildblood and Mitchell Croatto picked up by Paul Gatpan looked the most likely to score and it wasn't long before Bickerton took his chance with a great shot for goal, when it was really needed, going into the last break.

Despite not kicking a goal themselves Moe had done well to limit the Parrots to two and there was still the sniff of a chance they might come back in the last quarter.

But it wasn't to be with Leongatha sticking to their task, managing an early goal themselves through Bickerton again on the lead to a pass by Croatto, before Moe replied soon after, but there were to be no more goals and the Parrots came away 23-point winners in a solid display.

Not only were they able to make the most of their opportunities, but they did all the team things well also, the tackling, the chasing, getting into the clear to provide options and contesting strongly for the ball.

Final scores: Leongatha 8.1.49 to Moe 4.2.26.



Leongatha's Aydan Williams looks to get the punch away from this stoppage in a tightly contested qualifying final against Moe at a windy Maffra Recreation Reserve on Saturday.



The score's on the board in the fourth quarter as Leongatha Under 18 player Kade Berryman tracks down his Moe opponent.

## Wonthaggi Reserves outclassed by Maffra



Jye Douthat takes a defensive chest mark for the Power. W04\_3525

WHILE Wonthaggi's effort in making the Reserves finals was commendable, given Power's injury issues this season, Maffra proved too strong in Sunday's Elimination Final to win by 33 points.

Wonthaggi hung in the contest until halftime, trailing by just 14 points at that stage, but despite its best efforts could manage just a solitary behind after the long break.

The Eagles made a decisive break in the third term by booting three goals while keeping Power scoreless.

Wonthaggi fought it out, levelling the final quarter at a behind each.

Andrew McNeel, James Lewis and Cade Brown did best for the beaten side, with Ryda Kay-Darts and Lewis registering Power's couple of goals for the day.

Wonthaggi coach Riley Lindsay praised inside midfielder McNeel's characteristic contested work, noting his ability to win the footy and supply it to Power's running players.

"He's really good defensively too," Lindsay said of McNeel's willingness to work both ways and shut down difficult opponents.

Midfielder Lewis displayed his blend of speed and skills, while Brown played off the back flank on Sunday rather than filling his usual midfield post, providing drive out of defence, coach Lindsay remarking on his composure under pressure.

A strong start to the year and winning a number of away games put Power in a good position to reach the finals.

Sustaining strong effort over the four quarters was a key focus on Sunday with Lindsay pleased with the commitment level throughout.

"Our effort all day was really good," he said, acknowledging Maffra's experience won out with the Eagles playing smart footy in the wet conditions.

Winston Gieschen helped give Maffra early momentum, booting a couple of first-quarter majors and finishing with three for the match, being among the winner's best, Ryan Phelan lead the way as the Eagles' top performer.



# Marriott, Harry, Littlejohn tune up for Parrots recall

THE Leongatha Reserves booked their place in the second semi-final against Traralgon at Morwell this Saturday with a hard-fought, low-scoring win over Moe in windy conditions at Maffra.

And sprinkled among the best players on the day were two senior premiership heroes likely to be pressing hard for a return to the top side against Traralgon, also at Morwell this Saturday.

Named best at Maffra last Saturday were Jackson Harry, who is yet to play a senior game this year, Luke Marshman, Tom Marriott, returning from injury through the reserves, Noah Clark, Nathan Skewes and Brok Davidson. You could also add the name Will Littlejohn to Marriott and Harry, as another player who impressed at Maffra, and likely to find his way back into the seniors.

Harry, in particular, had a big first quarter, turning back Moe's attacking moves with the wind so effectively, especially with a number of intercept marks, that they didn't score while Flynn Materia made the most of his limited chances to kick the opening goal.

As much as the Parrots' fans were delighted to see the form of three of their former premiership players, there was also a lot to like about the overall team effort of the Parrots' reserves.

Stung into action by the lack of scoring in term one, Moe returned fire immediately after the restart with a mark and goal to Callum Nash from the goal square to even the scores.

Both Marriott and Littlejohn were getting a good run if needed for the seniors next week, but the goals just wouldn't come until Darby Kratzat



Will Littlejohn showed some pace around the flanks as he got an extra game under his belt in the Reserves on Saturday.

scored one with a snap and Materia copped a head-high tackle going for the ball before kicking the Parrots' third just before the half-time break.

The Parrots had to defend against the wind, but they did better than that with good forward pressure from Brok Davidson and Materia while Noah Clark, Marriott, and Harry were pushing the ball forward out of the defensive end.

Finally, however, Jayden Van Dyk kicked a goal from a seemingly impossible angle, out on the boundary, after a Leongatha kick-in was blown way off course. They were still in it at three-quarter time.

Leongatha coach Jake

Cochrane singled Clark and Harry for praise at the last break and urged his players to use the ball well going into the forward 50 if they were to make good use of the wind.

But it was Moe's Nash who produced the first goal of the quarter, drifting forward on his own to mark and goal, making it just one point the difference.

Harry cleared their next forward thrust and at the other end, Davidson found Marriott in scoring range and he made no mistake.

Mitch De Kleuver was contesting vigorously in the ruck and at the stoppages, as too was Lachy Rock, and with Marriott, Davidson and Tadhg

Gannon also working hard the Parrots soon had the buffer they needed via a running snap from Gannon.

Moments later Gannon found Ben Fort with a 'laces out' pass and his goal allowed the Parrots to run away with the win, but not without effort across the board, from defence through the midfield and with plenty of forward pressure in attack.

The competition for ultimate success in the 'Development' division looks to be fierce this year but Leongatha have taken an important step by qualifying for the 'double chance'.

Final scores Leongatha 6.5.41 to Moe 3.3.21.

## Morwell Tigers keep season alive for another week

MORWELL has stayed alive in the race for the Gippsland League premiership after a thrilling five-point win over a plucky Warragul side, who staged a late run at the Tigers in the elimination final at Wonthaggi on Sunday.

But the winning margin brought into sharp focus a disputed goal kicked by Morwell's Josh Galea in the opening minutes of the last quarter.

Leading by 14 points at the time, it stretched Morwell's lead to a defensible 20 points but the Gulls' defenders would certainly have called on the AFL's score review technology if it was available.

Galea had put himself in harm's way to take a hotly-contested mark, 35 metres out on a 45-degree angle, but while he was setting up for the kick, his Warragul opponent edged forward a metre or two on the mark and it almost proved crucial.

Galea kicked the ball high and straight, and it either just cleared the line or was touched by a Warragul defender and in the confusion, the field umpire raced in to confer with the goal

umpire.

After a short conversation, the umpire gave it the "all clear" and the goal umpire signalled with two fingers and waved the two flags.

But the Gulls' defenders continued to appeal to the field umpire, aware that a 20-point margin was going to be tough to beat.

Warragul's Lamb pulled one back at the 12-minute mark and they continued to drive it forward to the Wonthaggi pool end of the ground, favoured by the wind.

Five minutes later they had another on the board and it was "game on" only eight points the difference and the Gulls back in attack again through Tom Stern and co.

Warragul peppered the scoring zone and trailing by a goal, Jed Lamb had a chance to at least equalise late in the quarter, but only a point resulted.

A short time later the siren sounded and Morwell had held off a looming Warragul team to set up a first semi-final clash against Moe at the Ted Summerton Reserve next Sunday.



Morwell's Cody Macdonald gets into the clear, running towards goal at a crucial time in the last quarter only to be tackled by his Warragul opponent.

### GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS

#### QUALIFYING FINAL

56 47

TRARALGON

MOE

Traralgon	2.4	4.6	6.8	7.14 (56)
Moe	3.4	5.5	6.7	6.11 (47)

**GOALS, Traralgon:** H Dunbar, J McMahon, M Northe 2, J Macumber 1

**BEST:** J Scholtes, T Hourigan, L D'Angelo, J McMahon, H Dunbar, C Ambler

**GOALS, Moe:** B Crocker, L Pohlke 2, D Keilty, M Pohlke 1 each

**BEST:** M Woodall, H Sim, S van Dyk, A Paxton, M Pohlke, L Masters

#### RESERVES

Leongatha	1.2	3.3	3.3	6.5 (41)
Moe	0.0	1.0	2.2	3.3 (21)

**GOALS, Leongatha:** F Materia 3, B Fort, T Gannon, T Marriott 1 each

**BEST:** J Harry, L Marshman, T Marriott, N Clark, N Skewes, B Davidson

**GOALS, Moe:** C Nash 2, J Van Dyk 1

**BEST:** M Heywood, J Van Dyk, L Rock, D Blackshaw, C Nash, J Makepeace

#### THIRDS

Leongatha	4.0	5.1	7.1	8.1 (49)
Moe	0.0	3.0	3.0	4.2 (26)

**GOALS, Leongatha:** E Berryman, C Bickerton, C Richards 2, A Fixter, A Logan 1 each

**BEST:** K McGrath, F Donohue, N Bradley, C Richards, C Reid, S Bradley

**GOALS, Moe:** A Battista, M McQualter, M Moroney, J Pace 1 each

**BEST:** J Ryan, P Gatpan, E Bush, M Moroney, K Budnik, M McQualter

#### FOURTHS

Maffra	0.2	2.8	3.9	3.14 (32)
Warragul	2.1	2.2	4.5	4.5 (29)

**GOALS, Maffra:** Brown 2, M Pendergast 1

**BEST:** A Weatherley, I Brown, M Pendergast, L Stephenson, J Armstrong, C Kelly

**GOALS, Warragul:** B De Araugo 3, C Leighton 1

**BEST:** D Brown, J Boote, H Allsop, B De Araugo, F Aubrey, C Leighton

#### ELIMINATION FINAL

60 55

MORWELL

WARRAGUL

Morwell	5.2	5.5	8.6	9.6 (60)
Warragul	0.2	2.6	5.9	7.13 (55)

**GOALS, Morwell:** J Galea, T Hillier 2, I Abas, B Macfarlane, N Noblett, A Rosato, S Walsh 1 each

**BEST:** H McColl, A Rosato, B Macfarlane, B Couling, A Quigley, S Walsh

**GOALS, Warragul:** J Lamb, J Stewart 2, T Hobbs, T Stern, S Stewart 1 each

**BEST:** I Wallace, S Whibley, L Carter, S Masterson, R Senini, K Grass

#### RESERVES

Maffra	3.5	4.5	7.6	7.7 (49)
Wonthaggi	1.1	2.3	2.3	2.4 (16)

**GOALS, Maffra:** W Gieschen 3, J Lambourn 2, J Oldham, S Walker 1 each

**BEST:** R Phelan, S Walker, J Lambourn, B Dowsett, W Gieschen, S Pendergast

**GOALS, Wonthaggi:** Ryda Kay-Darts 1

**BEST:** A McNeel, J Lewis, C Brown, C Magro, E Joma, S McBean

#### THIRDS

Traralgon	1.1	3.1	4.1	4.5 (29)
Warragul	0.1	1.1	3.4	5.5 (35)

**GOALS, Traralgon:** M Farley, L Hooper, L Macumber, E Pass 1 each

**BEST:** H Henry, L Macumber, B Hagley, C Anderson, H Pirie, S Wight

**GOALS, Warragul:** L Moore 2, S Grummisch, C McIntosh, C Thompson 1 each

**BEST:** S Grummisch, L Moore, C Ward, C McIntosh, J Simpson, D Hammond

#### FOURTHS

Moe	2.6	2.8	5.10	5.11 (41)
Bairnsdale	1.1	1.4	2.6	3.6 (24)

**GOALS, Moe:** N Romeril 3, A Nardone, J Polik 1 each

**BEST:** K Kaka, J Polik, E Romano, S Shields, L Willis, B Raymond

**GOALS, Bairnsdale:** D Martin 2, Z Holley 1

**BEST:** D Martin, A Crawley, H Young, L Desio, Z Holley, O Baylis



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WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION	
— ELIMINATION FINAL (3v6) —	
Seniors:	Phillip Island 13.14.92 d Kilcunda Bass 9.8.62
Reserves:	Cora Lynn 8.7.55 d Koo Wee Rup 4.8.32
— ELIMINATION FINAL (4v5) —	
Seniors:	Cora Lynn 19.13.127 d Warragul Industrials 5.11.41
Reserves:	Phillip Island 10.6.66 d Inverloch-Kongwak 4.6.30

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## IK appoints Ryan Sparkes as co-coach

ONE of the best players in the Gippsland League, a former Collingwood VFL and Wonthaggi Power star mid-fielder, Ryan Sparkes, is going back to where it all began.

Sparkes has been signed to return to his former club, Inverloch-Kongwak, in a move that has blindsided both Wonthaggi Power and the league.

He will join Leigh Cole as senior coaches at IK in 2026, back to where he started his footy journey having played in a U18s premiership in 2016 and a senior premiership in 2017 at the age of 16.

Sparkes has been keen to pursue a dream of coaching and he gets his chance at one of the top clubs in the West Gippsland League, where he's sure to make an impression on and off the field.

### THIS WEEKEND'S DRAW

SAT, SEPT. 6 & SUN, SEPT. 7

#### GIPPSLAND SEMI FINALS

- 2nd Semi Final - Saturday, September 6**  
**Morwell Recreation Reserve**  
Seniors: Leongatha v Traralgon  
Reserves: Traralgon v Leongatha  
U18: Maffra v Leongatha  
U16: Traralgon v Maffra
- 1st Semi Final - Sunday, September 7**  
**Ted Summerton Reserve, Moe**  
Seniors: Moe v Morwell  
Reserves: Moe v Maffra  
U18: Moe v Warragul  
U16: Warragul v Moe

#### WEST GIPPSLAND SEMI FINALS

- 2nd Semi Final - Saturday, September 6**  
**Western Park, Warragul**  
Seniors: Nar Nar Goon v Tooradin-Dalmore  
Reserves: Tooradin-Dalmore v Nar Nar Goon  
U18: Phillip Island v Inverloch-Kongwak  
U16: Warragul Industrials v Nar Nar Goon
- 1st Semi Final - Sunday, September 7**  
**Inverloch Recreation Reserve**  
Seniors: Phillip Island v Cora Lynn  
Reserves: Cora Lynn v Phillip Island  
U18: Nar Nar Goon v Tooradin-Dalmore  
U16: Inverloch-Kongwak v Tooradin-Dalmore

#### ELLINBANK PRELIMINARY FINAL

- Saturday, September 6**  
**Lang Lang Community Sporting Complex**  
Seniors: Longwarry v Trafalgar  
Reserves: Trafalgar v Ellinbank  
U18: Longwarry v Buln Buln  
U16: Trafalgar v Poowong

#### MID GIPPSLAND PRELIMINARY FINAL

- Saturday, September 6**  
**Boolarra Recreation Reserve**  
Seniors: Foster v Yinnar  
Reserves: Yinnar v MDU  
U18: MDU v Hill End

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Darcy Thompson puts the pressure on the Sea Eagles as they work the ball forward. Photos: Bec Casey Sports Photography



It was full steam ahead for Inverloch-Kongwak in their Under 16s victory over Kilcunda-Bass.



Phillip Island work the ball forward in Sunday's final at Bass.



Kilcunda-Bass was well served by Charlie Burgess in the Under 16's contest against Inverloch-Kongwak.



Phillip Island release a handball in the tightly contested reserves elimination final.



Ready to pounce in the senior contest was the Panthers' Lleyton Cartmel.





Lachlan Burns feels the heat from both sides as the Bulldogs applied the pressure. Photos: Bec Casey Sports Photography.

# Finals fever for the Bulldogs

THE Phillip Island Bulldogs are firing on all cylinders as both the Seniors and Reserves storm into the semi-finals.

After thrilling elimination final victories this weekend, the club, players, and supporters are buzzing with excitement.

The Seniors lit up the field in an elimination final full of energy, skill, and determination. Playing at Nar Nar Goon, the seasonal grass held up well despite the rain through the day.

From the opening moments, Phillip Island's message was clear – the team was here to win, and nothing was going to stop them.

Zak Vernon and Cameron Pedersen led the charge through the midfield, winning crucial contests and delivering the ball cleanly to their forwards.

Yianni Caffieri's brilliance was on full display, slotting goals at critical moments, while Jack Taylor, Daniel Pearce, and Mark Collison made relentless efforts to dominate the field.

It was a high-scoring game, and Kilcunda-Bass felt it held up well against the Bulldogs, playing the best game it possibly could.

Scores were tight after the first quarter but tipped in favour of the Bulldogs during the second.

Phillip Island's forward line's composure ensured that every opportunity was capitalized on, with goals coming from Brendan Kimber, Billy Taylor, Max Walton, and more.

The third quarter was an arm wrestle, but Phillip Island proved to be that little bit better, cleaner and more experienced.

Kilcunda-Bass had a vision for the game that 15 tackles per quarter was going to be key.

It managed 20 tackles in the first quarter, but the

score dropped away when the pressure wasn't as consistent.

For Kilcunda-Bass, Nathan Foote, Dale Gawley and Travis Tuck were named among the best.

Dean McRae played a superb game, relentlessly focused on quieting Pedersen as much as possible.

The was also a good finals experience for the young Panthers, demonstrating the club still has a lot of young skill despite not having an U18 side this year.

Trent Cartmel kicked two goals for the game while Owen Thomas kicked one.

Ashden Grenness and Jed Rosenow also played well through the final.

Despite a strong challenge from Kilcunda Bass, Phillip Island's skill, experience, and team spirit shone through, sealing a 30-point win and a semi-final showdown against Cora Lynn Seniors at 2.10pm, at the Inverloch Recreational Reserve.

The club is celebrating in style – finals football is here, and both teams are ready to make their mark.

The energy around Phillip Island is electric, and supporters are rallying behind the Bulldogs as they chase their finals dreams.

For Kilcunda-Bass, it is time for a break before getting back into it with preseason training before Christmas.

Kilcunda-Bass will be preparing for another healthy season under the leadership of coach Lee Rowe, who has signed on for another season.

The Panthers will be looking for more finals representation in 2026, whilst still focusing on the improvement of the junior players and getting an U18s side up.

They will also be looking to add more depth and numbers in the Reserves side.



Panthers Bradley Aldwell snags his opponent.



Dean McRae uses his height to advantage to lock the ball in.

WEST GIPPSLAND  
COMPETITION  
RESULTS

ELIMINATION FINAL (3v6)

92

62

PHILLIP ISLAND	KILCUNDA-BASS
Phillip Island 3.3 9.7 10.11 13.14 (92)	K-Bass 3.1 5.5 7.6 9.8 (62)
<b>GOALS, Phillip Island:</b> Y Caffieri 3, B Kimber 2, M Collison, J Huther, J Patullo, C Pedersen, B Taylor, J Taylor, C Thompson, M Walton 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> Z Vernon, C Pedersen, Y Caffieri, J Taylor, D Pearce, M Collison	
<b>GOALS, K-Bass:</b> T Cartmel, T Tuck 2, A Daraio, N Foote, D Gawley, T Gunn, O Thomas 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> D Gawley, N Foote, D McRae, B Aldwell, T Gunn, A McGillivray	
<b>RESERVES</b>	
Cora Lynn 0.2 2.4 6.4 8.7 (55)	Koo Wee Rup 1.3 3.4 3.6 4.8 (32)
<b>GOALS, Cora Lynn:</b> L Taylor 3, L Foreman, M McDermott 2, C Power 1	
<b>BEST:</b> T Arnett, D Ross, J Ross, J Boccari, J Black, L Taylor	
<b>GOALS, KWR:</b> D Alanis, J Cammarano, B Delarue, T Evans 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> C Taylor-McKain, T Evans, S Cox, B Delarue, R Wilby, M Alderson	
<b>THIRDS</b>	
Nar Nar Goon 5.2 10.3 12.5 16.6 (102)	Warragul Ind 0.0 1.2 2.5 5.7 (37)
<b>GOALS, NNG:</b> C Pope 4, W Airdrie 3, Z Ferguson, T Millar, O Ockwell-Payne, O Ratten 2, A Tymensen 1	
<b>BEST:</b> Ryder Kaminski, Oliver Ratten, Oliver Ockwell-Payne, Tarrant Millar, Cooper Becker, Clancy Pope	
<b>GOALS, Warragul Ind:</b> S Oling 2, K Bannister, R Butler, Z Tepper 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> J West, R Butler, R Awty, K Bannister, J Huggins, H Brooks	
<b>FOURTHS</b>	
Inverloch-K 3.3 6.5 8.9 11.12 (78)	K-Bass 0.0 0.0 0.1 1.2 (8)
<b>GOALS, IK:</b> M Tonkin 4, J Bowring 2, C Bergmeier, T Debono, C Newman, F O'Halloran, H Sorensen 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> J Martin, A Rayner, T Reich, J Bowring, J Brown, C Newman	
<b>GOALS, K-Bass:</b> T Amato 1	
<b>BEST:</b> C Burgess, P McKay, H Fenwick, T Amato, S Rennie, B McMillan	

ELIMINATION FINAL (4v5)

127

41

CORA LYNN	WARRAGUL IND
Cora Lynn 9.1 10.6 15.10 19.13 (127)	Warragul Ind 0.3 3.7 3.10 5.11 (41)
<b>GOALS, Cora Lynn:</b> N Gardiner 7, J Briggs 4, H Briggs, M Ryan 2, M Banham, LHartley, C Machaya, H Paul 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> W Stephenson, N Gardiner, G Da Costa, H Briggs, T Warkuss, J Munro	
<b>GOALS, Warragul Ind:</b> T Cornwall, D Leslie 2, B Hillard 1	
<b>BEST:</b> T Cornwall, D Leslie, W McGillivray, J Monckton, T Hancock, J Bradley	
<b>RESERVES</b>	
Phillip Island 2.4 4.4 8.5 10.6 (66)	Inverloch-K 2.0 2.1 3.4 4.6 (30)
<b>GOALS, Phillip Island:</b> L Chihotski, B Ross 3, A Officer 2, B Kleverkamp, T Woodfield 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> M Paulsen, B Kleverkamp, L Chihotski, D Thompson, F Cousins, T Niven	
<b>GOALS, IK:</b> T Mahoney 2, R Dal Pozzo, T Leonard 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> L Williams, C O'Flynn, P Jobling, S Hawking, D Lawton, M McCaughan	
<b>THIRDS</b>	
Tooradin-Dal 1.3 3.4 6.8 8.9 (57)	Koo Wee Rup 1.2 1.4 3.4 3.6 (24)
<b>GOALS, Tooradin-Dal:</b> B Hamilton 3, W Setford, J Worrall 2, H Hetherington 1	
<b>BEST:</b> B Hamilton, D Ahern, J Brearley, C Campbell, J Worrall, J Gillespie	
<b>GOALS, KWR:</b> L Pirota 2, K C Galucho 1	
<b>BEST:</b> T Rudeforth, L Briganti, L Pirota, B Robson, M Monckton, M Simpson	
<b>FOURTHS</b>	
Tooradin-Dal 1.2 3.2 6.6 6.7 (43)	Phillip Island 1.3 2.4 3.6 4.7 (31)
<b>GOALS, Tooradin-Dal:</b> B Dean 2, R Kinna, W Setford, B Spittal, A Swinburne 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> W Setford, B Spittal, J Alexander, D Freeman, C Hudson Sibilla, K Angleton	
<b>GOALS, Phillip Island:</b> L De Fazio 2, L Addison, S O'Garey 1 each	
<b>BEST:</b> C Fischer, S O'Garey, L De Fazio, A Williams, H Power, J Mascaros	





**Inverloch-Kongwak Under 14s won the Fairhaven Homes Southern Gippsland Junior Football Competition Grand Final 1.4.10 to Phillip Island Blue 1.1.7 at Korumburra on Sunday. They include Noah McMillan, Franklin Boyd-Munro, Elijah Asbury, Thomas Simon, Ambrose de Gooyer, Cruz Hill, Liam Jones, John Kirton, Clement Mackenzie, Lincoln McCartney, Dusty Rayner, Levi Richardson, Tyler Sharp, Francis Wilkinson, Austin Huitema, Lennox Hawking, Harry Tonkin, Oliver Morgan, James Bruce, Wilco Stubbs, Charlie Jury, Teo Parmington, Cale Cripps, Dal Tayler and Jack Berry.**

## IK's day at grand junior finale

INVERLOCH-Kongwak's Under 14s only just scraped into the finals' race in 2025, but have gone on to claim the Fairhaven Homes Southern Gippsland Junior Football Premiership by three points over Phillip Island Blue.

But the match went right down to the wire at Korumburra last

Sunday with a Phillip Island player having a shot within seconds of the final siren to snatch the title for the Bulldogs.

They'd given themselves the chance by heroically holding IK goalless with the wind in the third quarter; however, after having it deep in their forward line for most of the last quarter

they were unable to get the go-ahead goal they needed.

Phillip Island managed a point in the last quarter while IK were held scoreless but still got home by three points in the end.

For some in the IK squad it was their third premiership in a row, having won two at Under 12 level.

IK's Charlie Jury was named best afield in the Under 14 Mixed Grand Final.

Final scores: IK 1.4.10 to Phillip Island 1.1.7.

In other games, Inverloch-Kongwak won the Southern Gippsland Under 14 Girls Football Premiership 6.12.48 to Dalyston 1.1.7 after an absorbing

contest played in wet and windy conditions.

IK's Khali Trewin was named best afield in the Under 14 Girls' grand final.

Leongatha won the 2025 Southern Gippsland Junior Under 12 Mixed Football Premiership 7.8.50 to Phillip Island Blue 1.2.8.

**See photos on page 52.**

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