

# Sentinel-Times

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## PERFECT PARROTS

It's pure joy and pandemonium on the presentation dais as hero of five Leongatha premiership victories, captain Tom Marriott, and coach of a record three premierships for Leongatha, Trent McMicking, raise the Gippsland League premiership cup for 2025 at Morwell on Saturday after a near-perfect performance against Traralgon. It was the fourth premiership for the Parrots on the day, starting with the Under 13s netball, continuing with the B Grade netball and Reserves football, in thrilling circumstances, but missing out on the Under 17s and Thirds. More photos and details inside.

THE Leongatha Parrots were simply too good for Traralgon in Saturday's Gippsland League Grand Final, seriously too good.

You sensed it from the way they attacked the ball and swarmed the opposition from the outset.

You'd expect us to say that after a 95-point demolition of the second-best team in the competition, the third-highest winning margin in Gippsland League history.

It was something akin to the Traralgon teams of the 1980s and 1990s when they won eight premierships in 14 years, between 1987 and 2000, around the same

time as they were running a team in the VFL.

Everyone said Traralgon was too good then. Now it's Leongatha's turn.

It all started with the ferocious heat the Parrots brought to the contest, led by Dyson Heppell, who brought all of his AFL experience to bear, laying upwards of half a dozen tackles in the opening minutes, and using the close-checking by the likes of Traralgon's Mitchell Mustoe to power his attack on the ball.

And fellow onballers, no slouches in their own right, brother Aaron Heppell, and Tom Marriott and Luke Bowman

back to their best, Kim Drew and others were only too happy to follow his lead.

They completely shut down the time and space available to their opponents to a degree not seen in this league, possibly ever, with the result that they couldn't link up their hot possessions and didn't score a goal until halfway through the second quarter, by which time Leongatha had surged to a 50-point lead.

The game was over well before half-time.

While denying Traralgon any access, and unable to get their much-vaunted 'run and carry' game going, the Parrots

got plenty of outside support when they broke the ball free to the likes of Jack Hume, in charge in the air and on the ground on his wing, Ben Harding the league medallist on the other wing, Tim Sauvarin and Sam Forrester coming off half back or deeper when required, Jay Walker, Tallin Brill, Nick Argento... they all arrived with the same intent.

All that was needed, and it was no certainty with Traralgon's Tye Hourigan already stamping his authority on the defence, was for Leongatha's forwards to come to the party.

**Continued page 61**



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**AFTER HOURS COMMERCIAL BREAKDOWN**  
**EXPERT AFTER SALES SERVICE**





2025

# GRAND FINAL

PHOTOS



Leongatha Reserves' premiership player Nathan Skewers is congratulated by Parrots' vice president Al Fixter after the game.



Club life members Graham Fixter and Frank Welsford get around them, including Tom Marriott, Luke Bowman, Ty Hall and Dyson Heppell out on the ground as the celebrations begin.



Parrots' players Alicia Marshman and Kasie Rump enjoy a victorious embrace after the final whistle. W28\_3825



It was a family occasion after the win for five-time premiership player Cade Maskell taking his children on to the presentation dais with him.



One of the heroes of Leongatha's thrilling win in the Reserves' grand final Chris Rump shares the moment with daughters Jemma and Georgia, captain of the winning Under 13 netball team. Mum Kasey also won with the B Grade netballers.



One of the best in Saturday's grand final, Tim Sauvarin enjoys the moment with parents Sue and Gary, and sister Sarah after the game.



About to be 'three-time premiership Leongatha coach' Trent McMicking takes a moment to gather his thoughts before the final siren.



Two Traralgon kids wanted their photo taken with Dyson Heppell during the presentations and the former Essendon champ was only too happy to oblige.



The Parrots Senior players line up for the national anthem before unleashing a stunning performance on the big stage at Morwell on Saturday.





# PEDESTRIAN KILLER OUT ON BAIL

Sampath Jayasundara, the Narre Warren man charged with culpable driving causing death, as a result of crashing into and killing a pedestrian and her friend's dog in Campbell Street, Wonthaggi, in March this year, while heavily intoxicated, leaves court with his wife and barrister, Lucien Richter, after a preliminary hearing in the Latrobe Valley Magistrate's Court on Friday.

THE 47-year-old Narre Warren North man, who was allegedly so drunk he didn't even know he'd crashed into a Wonthaggi pedestrian in March this year, killing her and her neighbour's dog, is not in jail.

In fact, when south-eastern suburbs business-owner, Sampath Jayasundara, appeared in the Latrobe Valley Magistrates' Court last Friday, September 19, facing three charges, including one of culpable driving causing death, his bail was extended.

And a number of the conditions of his \$100,000 bail, including the requirement that he report to police weekly and observe a nightly curfew, were removed by Magistrate Mia Stylianou following application from the man's lawyer, Lucien Richter, a preferred Criminal Trial Barrister in Doyle's Guide.

Legal representative for the Office of Public Prosecution Alan Cecil offered no objection.

A condition that he not travel overseas remains.

Mr Jayasundara, who has already entered a plea of guilty to the culpable driving charge, when he appeared by video link in the same court on Friday, July 25, was free to go at the end of Friday's directions hearing, and will face a committal hearing at Morwell on Tuesday, December 2.

His barrister, Mr Richter, indicated to the court that while his client had no issue with the main charge, he was keen to cross-examine witnesses in relation to the other two charges, one of failing to stop after being involved in a fatal collision and another of failing to render assistance. He allegedly recorded a blood/alcohol level of between 0.21 and 0.247.

Mr Richter said his client maintained that he was so drunk at the time, he was not in a position to know that he had hit and killed someone in Campbell Street, Wonthaggi, on Sunday afternoon, March 2 and would be seeking to interrogate the video footage, taken by a police body-worn camera, to support his claims.

"He was not in a state of sobriety at the time that he could have known or ought to have known that he hit someone and, in fact, killed someone."

He said their defence would rely partly on identifying parts of the video footage that supported his client's claims.

Continued on Page 5

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# ‘Peace’ at last for Susan Goodwin’s family

MANY people in the Wonthaggi community have carried a torch for missing local woman, Susan Goodwin, long after she disappeared in 2002, not the least of these being the late firebrand Sentinel-Times’ journalist Richard Schmeiszl.

At the encouragement of Susan’s late mother, Margaret Goodwin, Mr Schmeiszl published a number of articles appealing for information about Susan Goodwin, but sadly, neither her mother nor Schmeiszl lived long enough to hear news from the South Australian Police last Wednesday, September 17, that her remains have been found.

And that a Port Lincoln man, 64-year-old John Mislov, has been charged with her murder, and remanded in custody until a further hearing on April 15, 2026.

The family of the deceased, some of whom still live locally in Wonthaggi, issued the following statement over the weekend.

“On behalf of myself Sue’s partner, Sue’s sister Chick, and Sue’s extended family we want to thank everyone involved in the search, investigation and discovery of Sue’s remains.

Your efforts over the past few days have finally brought us the answers we’ve been looking for after such a long time.

We’d also like to give a heartfelt thank you to the people who have been on this journey with us over the years, both in friendship and through investigations – your ongoing support, care and pursuit of the truth have meant more than these few words can say.

You’ve helped carry us through some of the hardest moments and we are incredibly grateful for that.

Now begins a very personal journey for us as try to come to terms with what’s happened; laying Sue to rest once this is over so that she can be at peace with family that has gone before her and finding some sense of peace and acceptance within ourselves.

As you can imagine this is a very emotional and difficult time. We’re dealing with a lot and we ask for privacy and space so that we can look after our mental health and support each other.

Thank you for your understanding.”

Here’s what South Australian Police had to say last week:

“Late this afternoon, Wednesday, September 17, Major Crime Investigation Branch detectives have arrested and charged a man in connection with the 2002 murder of Port Lincoln woman Susan Goodwin, 39.

“The breakthrough in the cold case was made late today following the discovery of human remains, believed to be those of Susan Goodwin, buried in the backyard of a Port Lincoln house.

“A 64-year-old man from Port Lincoln has been charged with murder and will appear in Port Lincoln Magistrates Court tomorrow, Thursday, September 18.

“Susan Goodwin was reported missing on Friday, July 19, 2002 from her home on Moonta Crescent at Port Lincoln.

“Susan was last seen around lunchtime that day, after shopping at Coles and Woolworths in Port Lincoln. At about 4.45pm Susan’s vehicle was found in the driveway of her home address.

“Extensive searches in areas surrounding Port Lincoln over the past two decades have been unsuccessful in locating her remains.

“The renewed search in recent days, with the assistance of Port Lincoln and Australian Federal Police officers, focused on a property in Pamir Court at Port Lincoln. The new search used specialised radar equipment provided by the AFP.

“Early on Wednesday, initial excavations discovered bones that were examined by an anthropologist from Forensic Science SA. This examination confirmed they are human remains. Additional resources from SAPOLs Forensic Response Section and Major Crime Investigation Branch have travelled to Port Lincoln to continue investigations.

“Major Crime Investigation Branch Acting Detective Superintendent Andrew Macrae said today’s breakthrough followed an ongoing review of the cold case and all available evidence.

“It does not matter how old the case is, we will continue to review all available evidence and look for opportunities to resolve the matter,” he said.

“This investigation is 23 years

old and should provide reassurance to the family and friends of other victims that Major Crime Investigation Branch continues to investigate cold case homicides.

“We would not have discovered these remains without information from the public. I would implore anyone who has information about any homicide to put themselves in the position of a family or friend of the victim and come forward by either contacting police directly or by contacting Crime Stoppers.”

As late as July this year, police and individuals were still seeking information about the missing woman after a \$200,000 reward was posted for information leading to the recovery of Ms Goodwin’s remains or the conviction of those responsible.

According to the Missing, Murdered & Unsolved Crimes Of Australia Facebook page, a friend last saw Susan at her home address the day she went missing, describing her disappearance as out of character.

Speaking about the initial search and investigation, the friend praised police and emergency services at the time.

“The Port Lincoln SES and police have both been fantastic, conducting searches in the area. The family are very stressed and heartbroken, because Susan survived a car accident in the 1980s, which claimed the lives of two of her sisters and her brother. It’s a terrible blow to her parents and sister, who live in Victoria. I think about Susan every day, wondering if she’s dead or alive, so there’s no closure.”

Finally, there are at least some answers.

After the crash in 1984, Susan’s late mother Margaret placed an ‘In Memoriam’ notice in the local paper every year until her death, including the names of sisters Cheryl and Susan as still grieving their loss.

In 2017, her father Don issued a plea from his hospital bed for closure for his wife and surviving daughter. Both parents died later that year without answers.

The accused man appeared in court last Thursday, issuing an expletive-laden tirade as Magistrate Davis remanded him in custody.



Port Lincoln man, 64-year-old John Mislov, has been charged with the murder of Wonthaggi woman Susan Goodwin. He appeared in Port Lincoln Magistrates Court last Thursday. Picture: 7 NEWS.



The Sentinel-Times has carried a number of articles over the years, highlighting the case of the missing Wonthaggi woman, Susan Goodwin.

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6 Day  
Weather  
Forecast

SOUTH  
GIPPSLAND

TUE   Sept 23	WED   Sept 24	THUR   Sept 25	FRI   Sept 26	SAT   Sept 27	SUN   Sept 28
Showers. Wind AM: SW 15-20km/h Wind PM: W 15-25km/h	Showers easing. Wind AM: W 20-30km/h Wind PM: NW 15-20km/h	Showers. Wind AM: NW 20-25km/h Wind PM: W 20-30km/h	Showers. Wind AM: Light Wind PM: NW 15-25km/h	Shower or two. Wind AM: NW 15-20km/h Wind PM: W 25-35km/h	Shower or two Wind AM: Light Wind PM: W 15-25km/h
9° 16°	10° 16°	9° 16°	10° 19°	9° 16°	6° 17°

IN BRIEF

Child employment  
inspections over the  
school holidays

WAGE Inspectorate Victoria (WIV) will be conducting inspections across hospitality venues, such as restaurants, cafés and fast-food businesses, these school holidays to ensure compliance with Victoria's child employment laws.

Employing kids under 15 can be a win-win, with businesses getting additional help during peak periods, and kids getting valuable experience and earning spending money. However, it must be done safely and legally to prevent harm.

Businesses employing kids under 15 must have a child employment licence and must adhere to strict conditions around the type of work the child may perform, supervision, working hours and rest breaks.

The rules around when children can work and for how long are different during school holidays compared to the school term.

During school holidays, children can work up to six hours per day and 30 hours per week.

WIV Authorised Officers will be inspecting businesses right across Victoria – 'we can't be everywhere, but we can be anywhere at any time'.

Businesses found to be in breach of child employment laws can face penalties exceeding \$200,000.

Be prepared and register  
your burn-off online

WITH Victorians across the state preparing their property for fire season, emergency services are urging landowners to register their burn-offs online, through the Fire Permits Victoria website.

Spring is a common time for landowners to take advantage of the favourable weather conditions to conduct burning off activities; however, in most areas in Victoria, less than 50 per cent are registering their burn-offs online, with many

unnecessarily waiting on hold to register over the phone.

The quickest and easiest way to register your burn-off is by using the Fire Permits Victoria website at firepermits.vic.gov.au/notify.

Triple Zero Victoria Chief Operating Officer Nicole Ashworth said registering burn-offs online was fast, easy, and allowed call-takers to focus on higher-priority calls.

"Spring is the ideal time to prepare your property ahead of the fire danger period, which makes it one of the busiest times for people registering their burn-offs by phone," Nicole said.

"That's why we always urge landowners to plan ahead and save themselves some time by jumping onto the Fire Permits Victoria website and registering well in advance, especially when suitable weather conditions are forecast."

The website allows you to notify emergency services of your burn-off, and also check and apply for a permit, if necessary.

However, if your burn is taking place within the next two hours, you must register your burn via the phone line on 1800 668 511.

Government rolls out  
library funding

THE State Government is continuing to invest in public libraries, the essential programs and services they deliver and the integral role they play at the heart of communities across Victoria.

Minister for Local Government Nick Staikos announced \$48.1 million has been allocated through the latest round of the Public Libraries Funding Program to promote education and innovation among young Victorians.

Bass Coast was allocated \$291,877 and South Gippsland received \$258,511.

The program was established to provide annual funds for councils, regional library corporations, Connected Libraries Ltd, My Community Library Ltd, Your Library Ltd and Vision

Australia, and supports a range of essential community activities and services delivered every day across 293 branches statewide.

This includes everything from physical and electronic collection of items, information technology facilities, delivery of library and outreach programs, and the raft of other services provided by public libraries across Victoria.

For more information, head to [localgovernment.vic.gov.au/funding-programs/public-library-funding](http://localgovernment.vic.gov.au/funding-programs/public-library-funding).

Information session to  
support aged care

SOUTH Gippsland Hospital is hosting an aged care information session on October 15.

The session will discuss home care packages available, as well as general health and wellbeing, local services, independent living, patient transport, advanced care plans, independent living, and active lifestyles.

This session will take place from 2pm to 4pm in the Fleming Room.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

For more information and to RSVP, call 5783 9777 or email [reception@sghs.com.au](mailto:reception@sghs.com.au).

Face-to-face beats online

AS AUSTRALIA prepares to introduce new social media age restrictions, a shocking survey of Aussie kids aged 10-16 found two in five (41 per cent) favour face-to-face connection with family, compared to just 15 per cent who prefer digital interaction. In fact, three-quarters (76 per cent) of kids feel most connected to their family when talking about their day in person, despite almost half (46 per cent) spending over an hour a day talking online.

Furthermore, three-quarters (74.3 per cent) of children feel positive about their parent being in the same room whilst they're online, with nearly one in five (17 per cent) feeling safer.

Despite this, only 10 per cent of children reported always having an adult in the same room when they're online.

To encourage adults to create stronger everyday connections with the kids in their lives, child protection organisation Act for Kids is launching its Let's Connect IRL (In Real Life) campaign, co-designed by children. Whether chatting in the car or being present, kids want real, in-person time with their families, despite the common assumption of screen addicted kids.

New faces wanted to  
join Bass Coast Rural  
Engagement Group

THE Bass Coast Rural Engagement Group is calling for community members with a background in agriculture and farming life to step forward before the expression of interest period closes on October 17, 2025. The advisory group, established in 2013, acts as the voice of the agricultural sector, helping Councillors connect with those on the land and ensuring rural concerns are heard at Bass Coast Shire.

Currently chaired by Cr Tim O'Brien, the group includes representatives from local farming, Landcare, and advocacy bodies. Together, they work to align Council's strategic goals with the needs of the rural community: protecting the natural environment, strengthening local economies, and helping foster a healthy thriving region.

It's not a big time commitment – members must attend a two-hour meeting every quarter and commit to contributing constructively. Terms are typically one or two years.

If you want a seat at the table, act fast: the window for applications closes at 5pm on October 17 2025, and new appointees will be announced later in October. For more information or to apply, contact Bass Coast Shire Council via phone (03) 5671 2211 or [business.support@basscoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:business.support@basscoast.vic.gov.au).



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# Bad hair day, good day for Phillip Island

THE blustery wind might have been playing havoc with the Senator's hair, but it was still a good day for Phillip Island when Senator for Victoria Michelle Ananda-Rajah visited Cowes last Thursday.

She was here to officially launch the \$9.6 million Cowes Foreshore Precinct Project, of which \$8 million is being funded by the Federal Government.

Confessing a soft spot for the Island after visiting the world-famous penguin parade 10 years ago, Senator Ananda-Rajah was delighted to see the growth in the local economy, certain the reinvigoration of the Cowes foreshore will benefit visitors and locals alike.

"The last time I came here was to visit the Phillip Island Penguin Parade, of course, they're wonderful.

"It's great to see the progress being made here and we're delighted to be playing our part," said the Senator.

"This Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program is all about enhancing liveability and visitor amenity and also economic activity in regional areas.

"We've committed \$8 million towards a \$9.6 million project in partnership with the council that will deliver great benefit to the area.

"They're remodelling the foreshore and roadway, creating more green space, and better accommodating pedestrian movement and the hospitality sector which is so important to Cowes and Phillip Island.

"I've seen the results of a similar regional partnership program down at Warrnambool and I'm looking forward to coming back here in a year's time and seeing something equally great taking shape here on Phillip Island."

Whilst visiting Phillip Island, Senator Ananda-Rajah, was taken on a Cooks' Tour of advocacy projects across the



The wind might have been playing havoc with hairdos, but the news last Thursday from the Senator for Victoria, Michelle Ananda-Rajah, Bass Coast Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead and shire CEO Greg Box of a start to the Cowes foreshore upgrade project was well received all the same.

shire before travelling to Drouin to meet community groups there and make an assessment of infrastructure needs in that rapidly growing community.

It was a busy and productive day for the Senator who is also the Deputy Chair of the Federal Parliament's Select Committee on Information Integrity on Climate Change and Energy.

As a medical doctor, formerly on staff at the Alfred Hospital, with a special interest in climate change and the environment, Senator Ananda-Rajah was also interested in the recent amalgamation of Bass Coast Health with Peninsula Health and Alfred Health and the initiatives locally to adapt to climate change.

According to Bass Coast Shire CEO Greg Box, the works by contractors Ful-

ton Hogan, will commence immediately, and continue through until the end of 2026, with a comprehensive scheduling plan in place to limit impact on the town and business operators during major events, including the Australian Motorcycle Grand Prix (October 17-19), and the busy Christmas-New Year holidays.

As revealed by Mr Box at last week's council meeting some late changes have been made to the project.

"Refinements made during tendering have allowed us to reach the best return on investment for the project for Bass Coast. The changes do not diminish the delivery of a new town centre that will transform Cowes. An updated render will be published on Engage Bass Coast, in the coming days."

## What's Wonthaggi missing – have your say

BASS Coast Shire Council is reviewing the Wonthaggi Structure Plan to guide the town's growth and development, and they want to hear from you.

"We're inviting the community to share what they value most about Wonthaggi today, what opportunities they see for the future, and what might be missing.

"As the regional centre of Bass Coast, Wonthaggi is rich in history, from its origins as a coal mining town to its vibrant arts scene and all surrounded by natural beauty. Its proximity to Melbourne, strong community, and essential services make it a vital hub not only for residents but also for people from surrounding towns, Phillip Island and beyond."

A structure plan is a long-term strategic document that outlines potential changes to land use, development, and urban design.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, is eager to hear the community's ideas.

"Wonthaggi is growing, and this is your chance to help shape its future for today's residents and generations to come," Cr Halstead said.

"Right now, you can see the Activity Centre Plan unfolding before your eyes in Graham Street: new trees, upgraded pavements and a refreshed streetscape. That plan came out of earlier structure planning. What we're asking for this time is even bigger," Cr Halstead said.

"We're not just talking about what Wonthaggi needs today, but what it could and should look like for our children and grandchildren. We want your bold, creative future-focused ideas about how Wonthaggi grows, connects and thrives for the people who live, work, shop and

visit here."

They're seeking feedback across key areas:

- Settlement and Housing: land supply, housing diversity, location and choice
- Economic Development: jobs, tourism, commercial activity, industry, events
- Character and Heritage: urban and building design, village character, architectural style, building heights, heritage protection
- Open Space and Environment: parks, natural areas, recreation, health and education facilities, community spaces
- Connectivity: walking, cycling, public transport, roads, parking, freight, accessibility
- Infrastructure: utilities, drainage, health and education services

Have your say by visiting Bass Coast Engage.

## Pedestrian killer out on bail

from page 1

Magistrate Stylianou read out the new conditions of the accused man's bail, asking his wife, who put up the \$100,000 surety bond, if she agreed with the new conditions.

Having completed these preliminaries, Mr Jayasundara left the court with his wife and lawyer.

Several members of the Wonthaggi community attended the hearing.

The victim of the incident was retired retail worker Heather Mills, 68, of Wonthaggi, who was out walking a friend's dog when she was struck by Mr Jayasundara's car. Both Ms Mills and the dog died as a result.

Local residents want to know when the Bass Coast Shire Council will introduce the long-awaited, proposed speed limits on Campbell Street and Chisholm Road, located on the western side of town, now that the public consultation period has closed (September 19). The council has been asked for comment.

## One small piece of information

SOMETIMES, all it takes is a small piece of information that helps solve a string of crimes. It may not be overwhelming, it may not be seeing a person break into a building, but it could be seeing an individual looking suspicious, hanging around the back of businesses, checking out locks, and simply 'casing the joint'.

"Passing non-urgent information onto Crimestoppers, either online or via 1800 333 000, is the best way to get information where it needs to be," Bass Coast Acting Senior Sergeant Andrew Boldiston explained.

"Our members are consistently answering phone calls and fielding calls from other stations when members are out on the road, and as such, it can take a couple of days for information to go through our systems. Whereas the process starts immediately through Crimestoppers."

Uncomfortable talking to someone on the phone, then Crimestoppers online system for reporting a crime is quick, easy, and you can choose to be anonymous. Check it out at [crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime](http://crimestoppersvic.com.au/report-a-crime).

"Information from Crimestoppers is evaluated and may be applicable to multiple areas; therefore, it can be sent to multiple places at once, and can help solve multiple crimes at the same time.

"It's a primary way of passing information on that's non-urgent, and doesn't require police attendance but further investigation."

As always, police do urge individuals to utilise 000 in emergencies that require immediate police attendance, or the Police Assistance Line 131 444 for non-urgent crimes and assistance, for example, burglaries and theft after the fact.

Remember, no matter how minor something may seem, it may be the final piece in a complicated puzzle that helps solve an open crime or cold case.

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THE NATIONALS for Regional Victoria



# Mayor's Message



Cr Rochelle Halstead



WONTHAGGI is at a pivotal moment in its story. As the regional centre of Bass Coast, it has always been a place of industry, resilience and creativity – from its proud mining history to its vibrant arts scene, all set against the backdrop of our stunning natural environment. It continues to grow as a hub for health, education, business and community life.

Bass Coast Shire Council is reviewing the Wonthaggi Structure Plan to make sure Wonthaggi can continue to thrive. This long-term strategic document will help guide how our town grows, connects and evolves over the coming decades. We want to hear directly from you – what you love most about Wonthaggi, what you think is missing, and the opportunities you see for the future. This review is about the bigger picture – how Wonthaggi can serve future generations.

A key part of this conversation is the future of the old Wonthaggi Secondary College site. Council has been strongly advocating for funding to ensure this important parcel of land can be used for something that adds value to our community. We see it as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create a central, community-focused space that could deliver lasting benefits for health, education, culture, housing and recreation. Your input into the Wonthaggi Structure Plan will help shape our advocacy and ensure the site reflects the needs and aspirations of our community.

Wonthaggi's cultural identity is strong, this year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of The Union Theatre, a landmark that has been central to the community's social and cultural life from Wonthaggi's earliest days. We are also excited to have secured Victorian Public Art Program funding to honour the contribution of Agnes Doig and Agnes Chamber, two women who established The Wonthaggi Miners Women's Auxiliary, founded during the 1934 coal strike and had a lasting impact on the town.

We are seeking your feedback across areas such as housing and settlement, economic development, heritage and character, open space and environment, connectivity, and essential infrastructure. You can share your ideas and mark them on an interactive map at [engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au](https://engage.basscoast.vic.gov.au) or apply to join the Community Reference Group which will take part in workshops over the coming months.

I encourage everyone to get involved – together we can ensure our regional centre grows in a way that reflects the values, character and aspirations of our community.



Bass Coast CEO Greg Box and the shire's new general manager of 'Innovation and Engagement' Patrick Dillon with contractors from engineering and infrastructure firm Fulton Hogan at the start of the Cowes Foreshore Precinct Project last week.

# Fewer managers but shire wages still on the up

THE Bass Coast Shire Council has slimmed down its executive structure, from four general manager positions to three, adding Irishman Patrick Dillon to the key role in charge of 'Innovation and Engagement' in recent weeks.

But employee costs are still on target to pass \$50 million within five years.

The structure was the subject of a community question at the council meeting last week with Gina Rosamilia wanting some details on the new structure and the reasons for the change.

"The change from four to three divisions supports a stable, sustainable structure and enhances collaboration between and within

divisions," said CEO Greg Box last week.

"The organisational structure offers Council improved efficiency and service delivery, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and greater financial sustainability."

Speaking to the Sentinel-Times last week, Mr Box said that while Patrick Dillon was only added in recent weeks, the structure has been in place since last October.

He said it was more about efficiency and better service delivery than it was about cutting wages and salary costs, with total expenditure on wages and salaries expected to increase by \$1.5M-\$2M annually from

\$40.93M this financial year, until it exceeds \$51.5M in little more than five years' time.

A native of the Galway in Ireland, Mr Dillon is quite at home on the green rolling hills of South Gippsland and plans to give our golf courses a try when time permits.

He has responsibility for the portfolios of financial services, governance & communications, people & culture, and customer & digital experience.

Understanding financial services, he says, goes hand-in-hand with communications and addressing customer expectations.

Here are a few points about the Bass Coast Shire

Council's commitment to employment:

- Annual employee development and recruitment \$878,000 up six per cent
- Wages and salaries \$29.968 million up \$2M or 7.1 per cent
- Total employee costs \$39.068 million up \$1.9M or 5.0 per cent
- Total employee numbers: 351.4
- HR Expenditure (Community & Culture): \$15.325M
- HR Expenditure (Future Places): \$12.379M
- HR Expenditure (Innovation & Engagement): \$11.409M
- Total employee costs (including capitalised labour): \$40.936M

## Additional Council Meeting



Bass Coast Shire Council will be holding an additional Council Meeting on **Wednesday, 8 October.**

The meeting will commence at 1:00pm in the Council Chamber, Bass Coast Civic Centre, Baillieu Street East, Wonthaggi.

The purpose of this meeting is to consider the Community Vision 2045, Council Plan 2025-2029, Annual Action Plan 2025-2026 and the 2024-2025 Financial Statements.

The agenda will be available on Council's website at [www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings](https://www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/meetings).



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# Christmas comes early for Inverloch Surf Club

THE Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) has announced the engagement of a contractor for the delivery of dune reconstruction and beach nourishment works at Inverloch.

But, instead of going ahead in spring and ready for the Christmas visitor season, the long-awaited work is now scheduled to commence in February 2026.

Nonetheless, a spokesperson for the local community, Inverloch Tourism Association President Glenn Morris believes the delay might “not be a bad thing” given contractor unavailability as there’s no risk now that the beach works will impact the summer peak.

“Contractor availability was the key issue, but I also believe they had to find more money to award the contract and fund the Year 1 vegetation work which they are also planning to do,” said Mr Morris.

“That said, the surf club sandbag seawall extensions are going to be built pre-Xmas,” he said.

DEECA has confirmed the surf club protection works will go ahead in its ‘Project Update Number 3’ dated September 2025:

“The sandbag seawall in front of the Inverloch Surf Life Saving Club on Surf Beach will be repaired and extended to address damage resulting from the significant storm



While the major sand-shifting and dune renourishment works have been delayed until next year, the extension of the sandbag seawall in front of the Inverloch Surf Lifesaving Club will go ahead immediately, to be completed prior to Christmas.

event in August last year.

“The Victorian Government has allocated funding for the works and detailed designs are now complete. The construction works will be delivered by Bass Coast Shire Council (BCSC) and will create a larger buffer between the extended wall and Surf Life Saving Club building.

“The wall will be buried

under the reconstructed dune and beach nourishment which will provide additional protection.

“DEECA will continue to partner with BCSC to ensure collaborative delivery of this project, and the dune reconstruction and beach nourishment works. The timing of repair and extension works to the Surf Life Saving

Club Sandbag Seawall is expected to take place prior to Christmas, subject to logistics, contractor availability and favourable weather and conditions.

“The timing of dune reconstruction and beach nourishment works is currently expected to occur following the summer school holidays, commencing in February 2026.”

## Axe falls on Ventnor trees after Bass Coast Council backflip

THE fate of two tall eucalypts at Ventnor has been sealed with Bass Coast Shire Council voting down its decision last month to save the trees.

Presented again with an application to remove the two trees at 24 Hastings Street, and after being informed that a branch from one of the trees had fallen on a fence during recent storms, Council this month voted to approve the application.

A total of 22 objections were received, but due to the declining health, structure and low useful life expectancy of each tree, and an assessment that the trees were at risk of further limb failure, council voted to reverse its previous decision.

It was acknowledged that 15 trees had previously been removed, and the removal of the two remaining trees would result in the clearing of all canopy trees on the site.

The property owner is now required to replant eight canopy trees selected from the Type ‘B’ and Type ‘C’ Bush Coastal list contained within the Bass Coast Preferred Canopy Tree Species, as well as 52 Indigenous species of shrubs, groundcovers and grasses selected from the Indigenous Plants of Bass Coast Shire.

Voting against the motion, Cr Tim O’Brien said the trees had stood the test of time and he could not see any reason why they should come down before a replacement canopy is in place.

“Neighbours expect their neighbourhood character to be preserved, and pulling these trees down would leave a denuded block,” said Cr O’Brien.



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# ‘Conspiracy theory’ or secrecy? You be the judge

“THIS is not just a creative interpretation of governance, this is borderline conspiracy.”

Strong words indeed from Bass Coast Shire Cr Morgan during a debate at this month’s council meeting to consider changes to the shire’s governance rules.

“Trust in government is on the decline,” according to Cr Morgan.

“The antidote is transparency and accountability.”

Supporting the update of Bass Coast Council’s ‘Support and Resource’ and ‘Gifts, Benefits and Hospitality’ policies, Cr Morgan said the changes were about strengthening transparency, accountability and trust between council and the community, not trying to hide anything or stop councillors from meeting their constituents.

“They set clear expectations on expense reporting and receipts and bring greater democratic accountability to significant decisions like overseas travel or professional development over \$5000 by requiring a resolution of Council before these activities can proceed,” said Cr Morgan.

“These updates are important, by improving how we manage the gifts register, adding clear rules around bribery attempts, ceremonial gifts, and conflicts of interest, and bringing our



**Cr Mat Morgan hopes changes in Bass Coast Shire Council’s governance rules will further increase community trust and confidence in how Council operates. B17\_3825**

thresholds in line with industry standards, we are sending a clear message that decisions made in this chamber must always be free from undue influence.”

After debating the governance changes, Cr Morgan called for common sense.

“The interpretation that councillors can’t meet with constituents has never been part of our governance rules and remains not part of our governance rules,” said Cr Morgan.

While generally supporting the governance rules and

greater transparency, Cr Meg Edwards said she had some concerns about the rules governing invitations to events.

Cr Edwards wanted clarification around what was defined as an invitation, claiming she was concerned the new rules impacted councillors freedom to meet with community groups and constituents about a tree or whatever may be.

“We need to be free to meet with our constituents and not be hamstrung by this,” she said.

“If I get invited to go and meet with a business, if I get invited to go and look at somebody’s tree, if I get invited to look at a sporting club, I should be free and able to do that,” said Cr Edwards.

“We should not be inhibiting our role as elected representatives.”

Cr Tim O’Brien said he was not quite sure whether he was for or against the policy.

Seeking to clarify the definition of invitation and events, Mayor Cr Rochelle Halstead said it was about invitations to events, not about invitations to meet with constituents. The new rule is as follows:

“Councillor Support will manage all Councillor invitations received and should be the first point of contact. Councillor Support will be clear with the intent of the invitation and the nature of the event and for non-council run events partners are welcome to attend at their own expense.”

Cr Morgan closed the debate by rejecting the “creative idea” that the motion somehow meant councillors wouldn’t be able to meet with their constituents.

“I’m going to put it to the vote,” said Cr Morgan.

The updated governance rules were adopted by unanimously by council.

## Council approves special charge scheme for The Esplanade

THE Esplanade special charge scheme between Sunderland Bay Road and Batman Street at Surf Beach has been given the official go-ahead by Bass Coast Shire Council.

Of the 11 submissions received from property owners during the feedback process 53 per cent (nine) were in favour of the scheme and 12 per cent (two) against it.

The remainder of the property owners declined to make a formal submission.

Council considered there was a broad level of support with minimal objections.

The total cost of the project has been estimated at \$1.55 million with property owners asked to contribute \$409,000, leaving ratepayers to pay the remaining \$1.11 million.

Cr Jan Thompson expressed concern about the interest rate that was being applied to those seeking financial and hardship assistance, particularly pensioners and people on special benefits who could not afford it.

Issues raised during the feedback process included the need to reduce dust, concern about the increased cost of the scheme compared to the abandoned Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach special charge scheme in 2023, the method used for determining the number of trips per property overestimating the daily trips of property owners, the need for a reduction in traffic speed limits along The Esplanade, and mandatory footpaths to increase pedestrian safety and accessibility.

Any person aggrieved by the imposition of the special charge has 30 days to apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal (VCAT) for a review.

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## South Gippsland Shire Council News

### Victorian Seniors Festival

October is officially Victorian Seniors Festival month, and this year's theme - "Connect, Create, Celebrate" - is a joyful invitation for all Victorians aged 60 and over to come together, try something new, and enjoy the vibrant community spirit of South Gippsland.

The annual celebration is returning for a fabulous month-long program full of free or low cost events and activities.

With over 60 events across nine different towns, there is something for every senior in South Gippsland to try during the month of October. All interests and abilities are

catered to, with a wide range of events focussing on movement, sport, socialising, learning, arts, culture, and creativity.

Seniors make up over a third of South Gippsland's population and contribute greatly to our community. So, if you're a senior citizen, make sure you get involved this Seniors Festival. Celebrate yourself and your peers for everything you do for South Gippsland!

#### GET INVOLVED

For more information and to view the full program of events, visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/seniorsfestival)

### Nyora Public Toilet Survey



Council is replacing the public toilets in Nyora's RSL park with new toilets. As part of the replacement, it is proposed that the facilities are relocated to a more accessible part of the park as the current location does not comply with current guidelines.

There are two proposed locations for the new facility. Each one has different benefits. Council is seeking feedback on the community's preferred location. Submissions close Sunday 12 October 2025.

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

#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 October 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)

#### CIRCLE OF SECURITY™ PARENT PROGRAM

This free program, for parents and caregivers of children aged up to five years, supports stronger, more secure parent-child relationships, helping parents make sense of their children's emotional needs.

For more information, visit: [www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/circle\\_of\\_security](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/circle_of_security)

#### COMMUNITY IMMUNISATION SESSIONS

**Date:** Tuesday 30 September

**Where:** Prom Coast Centre For Children, 30 Pioneer Street, Foster

**When:** 2.00pm to 4.30pm

For more information on other sessions or to book, visit:

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

#### EAT DRINK PLAY GIPPSLAND

Eat Drink Play Gippsland is a one-day (and night!) festival that celebrates the very best of our region's food, drink and music.

**When:** Saturday 18 October from 11.00am

**Where:** Leongatha Railway Precinct

For more information and to book your tickets, please visit:

[www.visitgippsland.com.au/eatdrinkplay](http://www.visitgippsland.com.au/eatdrinkplay)

#### REQUEST FOR TENDERS

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

**RFT/451 – Bridge Repair Works at Markley's Road, Mirboo North**

Proposals close 2.00pm AEST on Tuesday 7 October 2025.

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

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

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# Baffling council approach to Korumburra Senior Citizens dispute

WHILE ownership of the Korumburra Senior Citizens Centre site at 14 Radovick Street remains fiercely in dispute, councillors voted on Wednesday against Cr Steve Finlay's call to move to delay consideration of rezoning the land until the legal matter is resolved, appearing to risk expense for ratepayers.

After Cr Finlay's alternate motion was narrowly defeated, the original recommendation before councillors won support; therefore the proposal to rezone the land from Public Use Zone (PUZ) to Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z) will be referred to an independent Planning Panel for an estimated two-day hearing likely to cost \$15,000 to \$20,000.

South Gippsland Shire Council argues that the Panel is required because objections to council's intention to rezone the land to C1Z are unable to be resolved by negotiation.

However, that rezoning proposal is based on council's contention that it owns the land, despite that ownership being the subject of unresolved Supreme Court action.

Council argues that either way, the land will need to be rezoned.

"If the legal proceedings find that the land is owned by a non-government entity, the land will not be classified as public use and will necessitate a rezoning from the PUZ to a zone reflecting its private ownership," it is stated.

Although the Panel would be immediately informed of the Supreme Court battle between South Gippsland Shire Council and the Senior Citizens Club over the ownership of the land, it is unclear why the matter would need to be referred to the Panel at this stage if council doesn't own the land.

Any rezoning required due to private ownership appears to be a separate matter to the proposal on which submissions objecting to the C1Z rezoning were based.

A total of 43 submissions were received on the proposed Amendment, including a late petition containing 1828 signatures.

"Submissions raised a range of concerns relating to the proposed rezoning, the adequacy of existing and alternative facilities for senior citizens, and the legal status of the land," council states.

It argues the legal dispute over the land's ownership does not inhibit the



**Cr Steve Finlay's alternate motion was voted down on Wednesday, meaning council will push ahead with its efforts to rezone land at 14 Radovick Street, Korumburra, regardless of the fact that the Supreme Court is yet to determine ownership of the land.** A05\_3825

Amendment being referred to an independent Planning Panel for consideration, a view ultimately supported by a majority of councillors who weren't won over by Cr Finlay.

His alternate motion called for council to request the Minister for Planning to grant an extension of six months before it is required to refer the proposed Amendment to an independent Planning Panel, outlining to the Minister the need to first resolve the legal matter.

Cr Finlay highlighted the ongoing public concerns over the ownership at the land, noting, "We at council have not been able to satisfy the community view regarding the implications of rezoning this property," he said.

Cr John Kennedy backed Cr Finlay, confirming, "There are a lot of people in Korumburra unhappy about this, and as an elected member I'd like to go with what Cr Finlay said," he declared after seconding the alternate motion.

While Cr Nathan Hersey was content to support Cr Finlay's approach, Councillors Sarah Gilligan and Clare Williams were firmly in favour of pressing on with referring the planning matter to an independent panel.

"The submissions weren't actually about this process that we're voting on today," Cr Gilligan said, arguing that "This is about rezoning the land, which will have to happen anyway, and if we

pause it, when that (court) decision comes out, we've paused anything happening in an expedient way once that decision's made."

Cr Williams expressed appreciation of Cr Finlay's alternate motion and the discussion it sparked but argued, "We're looking at rezoning the land and no matter which way an outcome comes later on down the track, what we're looking at is beneficial for both parties; that's why I cannot support the amendment today."

Mayor John Schelling summed up his support of the recommendation to direct the planning matter to an independent panel rather than supporting the alternate motion.

"We have spent a long time over this in our term on council and I firmly believe we've made a strong decision on where we're going; consideration was given to all the right people at the right times and we need to push ahead with our original thinking and move towards continuing the process," he said.

Along with Councillors Hersey, Finlay, and Kennedy, Cr Scott Rae voted in support of the alternate motion, with Councillors Brad Snell and Bron Beach joining Councillors Williams, Gilligan and Schelling in opposing it.

With that motion defeated 4-5, councillors voted 7-2 in support of the original recommendation, only Councillors Finlay and Kennedy voting against it.

## Mayor's Message



Cr John Schelling



### Tom McIntosh's South Gippsland visit

Last week, Councillor Williams and I had the opportunity to meet with Tom McIntosh MP, who announced \$250,000 funding to upgrade the lighting at the Leongatha Recreation Reserve — a welcome investment in our local infrastructure. Council will contribute \$50,000 towards the project and aims to deliver the works alongside the planned lighting upgrade at Nyora Recreation Reserve.

While in South Gippsland, Councillor Gilligan and I had the opportunity to take Tom on a brief tour of Tarwin Lower and Venus Bay, highlighting key locations such as the Salt Marsh and Tarwin Lower Recreation Reserve. It was a great chance to connect with the local community and showcase some of the unique parts of our region. Building and maintaining strong relationships with our Members

### AFL Victoria Strategy

I recently attended the launch of AFL Victoria's Regional Football and Netball Facility Strategy in Drouin. This long-term plan, developed in collaboration with sporting groups, local leagues, councils, and government, aims to improve infrastructure for grassroots sport across the region — a great step forward for our sporting communities.

### Learning about planning

Councillors Finlay, Rae, Hersey, and Snell participated in the A to Z of Planning course last week, delivered by the Planning Institute of Australia. It provided them with the opportunity to deep dive into planning processes and the complexities involved in shaping our towns and communities.

### Have your say on the location of a new public toilet in Nyora

Community consultation is now open for feedback on the location of a new toilet block in Nyora. Submissions are welcome until Sunday 12 October, and I encourage residents to have their say.

While on the topic of Nyora, I'd like to acknowledge the establishment of the Nyora Progress Association. Strong local leadership is essential to any locality and with growth and development rapidly approaching this area, now is the time to step up for the community. Thank you to those who have decided to get involved.

<https://yoursay.southgippsland.vic.gov.au>

### Happy Birthday Avis Tilley

Last week, I went to the Austral Hotel in Korumburra to celebrate Avis Tilley's 100th birthday alongside Councillors Hersey and Kennedy. For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of meeting Avis, she is a committed local woman who has given an awful lot to the Korumburra community. A big happy birthday to you.

### Finals season

Congratulations to all our local sporting clubs competing in finals. A special shout-out to Foster's senior football team for their outstanding performance a couple of weekends ago, and to the Leongatha Parrots for their tremendous wins last weekend. I'd also like to acknowledge Korumburra-Bena's A Grade netball side for a fantastic win. Well done to all teams.

### 2025 World Athletics Championships

I'd also like to extend my congratulations to Eleanor Patterson for finishing fifth in the women's high jump final at the World Athletics Championships. Representing our region on the world stage is a remarkable achievement, and we're incredibly proud of her continued success.

### School holidays in South Gippsland

Finally, with spring school holidays now underway, I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the natural beauty of South Gippsland. It's also a great time to support our local businesses by shopping local. There are plenty of school holiday ideas and itineraries on the Visit South Gippsland website. <https://visitsouthgippsland.com.au/>

Please remember that school holidays bring increased traffic on our rural roads. As Rural Road Safety Month draws to a close, let's all commit to driving safely and responsibly — not just on rural roads, but everywhere.

Stay safe and enjoy the week ahead.

## Bright news for Parrots as grant greenlights \$300k lights boost

THE Parrots were thrilled heading into the Grand Final weekend, with Minister for Community Sport Ros Spence last week announcing that nine recipients would share in more than \$1.5 million from the 2025-26 Country Football and Netball Program — as well as announcing a new round of grants opening.

Developed in partnership with the AFL, AFL Victoria and Netball Victoria, the program will invest \$250,000 into new LED Sports Lighting at Leongatha Recreation Reserve. The figure will be supported by \$50,000 from the South Gippsland Shire Council.

The announcement came a lot sooner than expected, according to South Gippsland Mayor John Schelling.

"Very excited, came a lot quicker than expected," Mayor Schelling said to the Sentinel-Times last Thursday afternoon.

"We are very appreciative to Tom McIntosh and the Labor party for supporting us so well.

"It adds to Nyora Recreation Reserve's recent funding announcement, six weeks ago.

"(The announcement) allows Leongatha to compete with its peers in the Valley for facilities and a good kick along for them going into the grand final this weekend!"

Cr Clare Williams couldn't contain her excitement last Thursday night during the announcement at the club.

"It would not happen without a couple



**South Gippsland Councillor Clare Williams, Leongatha Football Netball Club vice-president Al Fixter, Labor Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh MP and Mayor John Schelling at the Parrot's Nest.**

of squeaky wheels, and both Al Fixter and I have been the squeaky wheels for months trying to get this funded," said Cr Williams, at Thursday night's training.

"And the icing on the cake would be bringing home the premiership on Saturday," said Cr Williams, which they certainly did.

Other successful grants include \$220,000 at Agnes Brereton Reserve in Traralgon to install 200 lux LED lighting on the 10 netball courts, and funding for Woodside Recreation Reserve for lighting upgrades.

"Finals time highlights just how important local grounds are to local communities and these grants will ensure clubs have the facilities they deserve close to home," Minister for

Community Sport Ros Spence said.

"Better home ground facilities mean clubs can encourage more participation, host more events, support volunteers, and draw bigger crowds which can be a major boost for regional economies and the jobs and businesses in those regions."

Applications for the new round of grants for the 2026-27 Country Football Netball Program close on February 26, 2026. Regional and outer metropolitan councils can apply for grants of up to \$250,000 for sports infrastructure developments, including court lighting upgrades, changeroom overhauls, new pavilions and more.

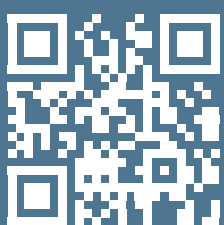
For the latest information and successful grant recipients, visit [sport.vic.gov.au](http://sport.vic.gov.au).



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# Don't wait for an Island tragedy, they say

By Bruce Wardley

REPEATED warnings that an unmarked school crossing on Phillip Island Road, near Gap Road, is an accident waiting to happen seems to be falling on deaf ears.

"Why is it so difficult to get the Department of Transport to act?" asked Bass Coast Shire Councillor Tim O'Brien at last week's council meeting.

Calling for urgent action on the school crossing, Cr Tracey Bell said parents are concerned about the longstanding and unresolved safety issue affecting children commuting from Wimbleton Heights to Cowes Primary School, Our Lady Star of the Sea Primary School, and Newhaven College.

"At least 64 students travel from Wimbleton Heights to school every day, and most rely on their parents to drive them because the crossing is too risky."

Residents have been working to raise awareness of the dangers of the pedestrian crossing for over a decade, but nothing has been done.

"There has been little traction," said Cr Bell.

"This crossing is extremely hazardous and poorly marked. Many drivers are unaware it even exists Cr Bell warned.

Unlike other intersections on Phillip Island, the speed limit does not reduce to 60km/h, making it particularly unsafe for children, the area's elderly and people with disabilities.

Compounding the problem is the lack of a school bus for families in Wimbleton Heights. The school catchment area is considered close enough to walk or cycle, the council was told last week.

But a 'Safe road crossing Wimbleton Heights' petition on change.org has only attracted 128 verified signatures.



Harry, Zack, Owen and Ned wait for a break in the traffic on Phillip Island Road near Gap Road at Wimbleton Heights.

"The residents of Wimbleton Heights, including children, young people and the elderly, are directly impacted by the current unsafe road conditions, particularly the pedestrian bike crossing near Bowman Road leading to Phillip Island Road," it says.

Kids are eager to ride their bikes to school but are unable to do so safely because of high vehicle speeds at the location.

There are multiple comments to the petition:

"My teens and others want to be able to walk and ride into town, but they don't because they feel unsafe crossing the main road. Trying to instil and develop independence and healthy living are so important. However, we need to ensure their safety," says one local resident.

Adding her support for urgent action on the crossing at Wednesday's meeting, Cr Jan Thompson said it was a dangerous road for adults, let alone children.

"Motorists do not adhere to the speed limits and don't have sufficient time to slow down if a child or adult is on the road.

"Parents calling out for action over the years have been met with a silent bureaucracy," said Cr Thompson.

"It's time we acted and make a commitment to protect these children."

Everyone chimed in with unanimous support for Cr Bell's 'Urgent Safety Concerns' initiative at last week's meeting, earning warm praise from fellow Island Ward councillor Ron Bauer.

## 'Looking at crossing options' says Crugnale MP

THE efforts of Island Ward Councillor Tracey Bell to get some action on a safer crossing of Phillip Island Road at Wimbleton Heights has been heard by Bass MP Jordan Crugnale.

And meetings with the relevant government depart-

ment already look promising.

"Following recent discussions between the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and Bass Coast Shire Council, I can confirm that DTP is investigating options to improve pedestrian safety when crossing Phillip Island Road near Wimbleton Heights," said Jordan Crugnale this week.

"Potential treatments under consideration include, but are not limited to, formalised crossing points and supporting infrastructure such as refuges, road markings, signing, and holding rails.

"Changes to the existing speed zones to support these treatments will also be examined.

"The investigation will also consider potential funding sources for any recommended treatments.

"DTP will continue to work with Council to identify suitable treatment options and to secure funding, both for the short, medium, and longer term."

## Delays in tender process create uncertainty

By Bruce Wardley

SOUTH Gippsland might well one day emerge as Victoria's new Latrobe Valley, but a decision by the State Government to delay the offshore wind tender process has created unwelcome turbulence in the offshore wind energy industry.

Better Transmission Gippsland Chair Kirra Bott said the decision by the Victorian Government to delay the offshore wind procurement process had rattled investors.

"Another offshore wind setback raises risk for proponents and proves the need for certainty, and that will only happen if the connections are built right," said Ms Bott.

Victorian Energy Minister Lily D'Ambrosio revealed last week that the plan to hold a competitive auction for offshore wind projects would be delayed indefinitely.

Ms D'Ambrosio blamed the failure to reach a joint funding agreement with the Federal Government.

Disappointed by the announcement, General Manager of Offshore Wind at the Clean Energy Council Morgan Rossiter said the delay would allow more time to ensure the first auction is well-placed to succeed, ultimately seeing the offshore wind sector supporting local regional development including Gippsland communities.

"Victoria is home to Australia's best offshore wind resource, making this technology an obvious choice for delivering gigawatt-scale capacity to replace Victoria's retiring coal plants over the coming decade.

"The decision reflects the Victorian Government's commitment to ensuring the auction design process is fit-for-purpose, giving developers more time for projects to advance their business cases, so that we can establish an industry for local workers to turn to when coal exits the system.

"These projects are large and complex, and like any new industry, require support to establish and mature."

The Victorian Government has set a target of delivering 2GW of electricity from offshore wind by 2032, 4GW by 2035 and 9GW of offshore wind energy by 2040.

Better Transmission Gippsland is calling on the Government to look beyond the election cycle and commit to underground transmission lines in Gippsland.

"Victorians want and need long-term energy security, and proponents and investors need certainty that projects will not be stalled by conflict, outages or shifting policy."

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# STANDING TOGETHER ON POLICE REMEMBRANCE DAY



Senior Constable Megan Krause with one of the young attendees at a previous Cuppa with a Cop.

## Community policing with a personal touch

THEY'RE probably some of the most familiar faces around Bass Coast and South Gippsland, and for good reason. You see Senior Constable Megan Krause and Leading Senior Constable Nick Carlson are part of the Bass Coast Proactive Policing Unit, a team dedicated to building safer, stronger community connections.

As well as referring people to different support services, one of their biggest roles is helping people positively engage in the community, particularly young people.

"We get them engaging in community activities; it might be sports teams or any activity to divert their attention away from what they're getting up to," Snr Constable Carlson said.

From school presentations on bullying and impaired driving, the topics are varied and tailored to the specific demographic in front of them at the time. They're also supported by partnerships with local businesses like SJD who have jumped on board with material resources.

Additionally, the duo provides individualised support to young people who need a bit of extra guidance, evidence that proactive policing is as much about listening and caring as it is about enforcing the law.

One initiative that everyone can be part of is Cuppa with a Cop, a relaxed Q&A catch-up held every few months across the region. The next session will be on October 10 at 10.30am at the Bunnings Wonthaggi café.

"It's a great opportunity to catch up with your local police, engage in a Q&A and discuss community safety. Come along!" Snr Constable Carlson concluded.



Bass Coast Sergeant Barry McCoy and First Constable Joshua Di Salvatore. B32\_3825

## Recognising their sacrifices

POLICE Remembrance Day is a time to reflect, remember and honour the crucial role Victoria Police officers play in our communities.

Day and night, officers put on the uniform and head out – through rain, hail or shine. Sometimes it's to support people in their darkest moments; other times it's to raise awareness or bring joy to children. And on some days, tragically, officers hug their kids, kiss their loved ones, and never walk back through their front door.

"It's important to maintain the public awareness of sacrifices Victoria Police members make," Sergeant Barry McCoy said to the Sentinel-Times in the lead-up to September 29.

"I think it's really important that the com-

munity is well reminded of those sacrifices.

"Many policemen and women have died on duty for various reasons. Some have been killed [in accidents] while performing their duties, and some have been murdered while performing their duties."

Over 45 years as a police officer, Sgt McCoy has experienced it.

"There are police officers who, unfortunately, have taken their own life because of the stresses and the strains that policing can put on them and the things that they have to deal with. I've seen a lot of policemen get killed on duty. I've known policemen who have been murdered, and I've worked with many who have died from illnesses, not just work-related. It's important we're including all police members.

"If there wasn't a Remembrance Day, if there wasn't a Blue Ribbon Day, and it wasn't made public then, imagine that. It's reminding us all what our job is about. It's also awareness and respect for the members who paid the ultimate sacrifice while performing policing duties.

"Keeping their memory alive means they're not forgotten."

For First Constable Joshua Di Salvatore, the day carries a slightly different but equally powerful meaning.

"It's about remembering the past police officers," First Constable Di Salvatore added.

"I'm the first police officer in my family, and looking forward to being a part of the legacy. It's a way we can recognise those who have served before us, and continue their legacy."

## New police recruit keeping an eye on young offenders

NEW Wonthaggi police recruit Constable Ri McLean has youth crime firmly in his sights.

A recent graduate from the Victorian Police Academy in Glen Waverley, 27-year-old Constable McLean is keen to put his 32 weeks of intensive training to good use.

Assigned to the Wonthaggi Police Station and Bass Coast Police Service Area, the young constable grew up in South Gippsland.

"I'm looking forward to re-engaging with the local community," said Constable McLean. "I want to bridge the gap and reduce youth crime."

Identifying 16-year-old adolescents as an

age group of particular concern Constable McLean said his training at the Police Academy included a focus on dealing with youth, family violence and mental health.

"I was always attracted to a structured career and police work," he said.

Marriage and two children initially put his entry into the police force on hold, however, Constable McLean is now enjoying something which offers a mental and physical challenge.

Ri's love of online gaming, painting and gardening may have to take a back seat.

"I'm really excited to be stationed at Wonthaggi," said Constable McLean.

"We're always appreciative of assistance

from the public.

"We're not the enemy, we're here to help.

"Don't hesitate to contact us."

For Constable McLean, Police Remembrance Day is now more important than ever since the recent events at Porepunkah, not only to remember members that have sadly fallen in the line of duty, but all members affected by it.

"When a member is killed or dies in the line of duty, it sends a ripple effect through the organisation," said Constable McLean.

"We are all human underneath the uniform and Remembrance Day is a day for the community and ourselves to come together."



## NATIONAL POLICE REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Monday, September 29, 2025 at 10am

St Paul's Anglican Church, 3 Queen Street, Korumburra

A morning tea will follow after the Service



National Police Remembrance Day honours the dedicated police officers who have died in the line of duty. Victoria Police and the community pay their respects to the officers who have lost their lives over the past 12 months while serving their community.

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# Brett Nagel to get on his bike as he hands over pharmacy reins

BRETT Nagel is delighted he and wife Margaret, and their then three young kids, made the move from Melbourne to Leongatha in 1992, having another child there, reflecting on the rewarding experience of country life as he approaches retirement from his pharmacy business.

His last shift in charge of Nagel's Amcal pharmacy is on Thursday, September 25, although he may do some relieving work for current business partner Kerryn Reidy, who will buy out his share of the business.

"I always thought I would work until I was 65," Brett said, that plan well organised, Kerryn joining as a business partner with an arrangement to buy the business in five years, that being now.

Meeting people and dealing with customers have been highlights, as has working alongside fantastic colleagues, Brett making lifelong friends along the way.

He's enjoyed getting to know customers much better than was possible in his time as a pharmacist in Melbourne.

After obtaining honours in science (genetics), he found his way into the industry that would become his career because mates from Ivanhoe Grammar were studying pharmacy.

He had a placement to go to America to undertake a PhD in genetics, but chose to re-



**Brett Nagel is ready to hand over to Kerryn Reidy as he looks forward to retirement.** A03\_3825

main in Australia, leading to his new career direction.

Brett's prior scientific knowledge when he started at the Pharmacy College in Parkville came in handy.

"You understand research development and the genetic side of it," he said.

His pharmacy course was four years, including a year of placement, with the first chemist he worked at being in Springvale.

He went on to other pharmacies in West Heidelberg, Box Hill and Waverley before going into partnership with Brian Smith of Smiths

Pharmacy in Leongatha, Brian retiring about 10 years later.

Running a business and ensuring everything is going smoothly, while keeping up to date with medical and health developments, are among the challenges, with plenty of technological changes over Brett's time in charge.

Having to keep up with change and continue learning has no doubt maintained interest, education nights with other pharmacists in the area being fun as well as informative.

Rather than reminiscing

about the 'good old days', Brett says changes during his time as a pharmacist have all been for the better, highlighting the PBS as "a great system" offering lifesaving or life-changing drugs at a subsidised price.

The ongoing release of new medicines is another positive.

A further improvement is the fact that there are now more pharmacists, Brett recalling that after breaking ribs in a collision with a wallaby when riding his bike, he had to check himself out of hospital the next day to work, with no chance of getting a locum in those days.

"You had to be at work every day," he recalled.

While Brett has had extensive involvement in various community organisations over the years, having belonged to Rotary, served on the Board of Gippsland Southern Health Service and on the committees of Leongatha Football Club at junior and senior levels, he's not looking to resume such responsibilities immediately.

In retirement, bike rides along the Great Southern Rail Trail beckon, albeit keeping an eye out for wallabies.

Brett wishes Kerryn all the best as she continues the tradition of running a pharmacy at the same Bair Street location where Brian's father, Lindsay Smith, established his business in the 1930s.

# Rare Meeniyen Bog Gums out of harm's way

ONE of the last stands of South Gippsland's rarest eucalypt, the iconic Bog Gum (*Eucalyptus kitsoniana*), has been protected in the Marinus Link project.

Identified as an increasingly rare species, Bog Gum along the Dumbalk-Stony Creek Road are no longer in the path of the Marinus Link open trench route to the Latrobe Valley.

Of the three species of eucalypt found to be critically endangered in the Marinus Link Environment Effects Statement, only Bog Gum was considered to be critically endangered under the Victorian Government's Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act of 1988.

Refinements made to the Marinus Link project design were considered sufficient to avoid a significant decline of Bog Gum on a regional scale and include horizontal directional drilling or thin drilling to replace open trenches in areas of sensitive habitat.

The Gippsland Threatened Species Action Group (GTSAG) has been actively involved in enhancing the habitat of Bog Gum with an ongoing program of weed control and supplementary planting of Bog Gum over some years at the Outtrim Cemetery Nature Conservation Reserve.

As Bog Gum is mainly confined to roadsides, GTSAG considers it vital that these important remnants of Bog Gum are protected. Stands of Bog Gum are also found along roadsides in Leongatha South, Koonwarra, Meeniyen and Pound Creek.

The small, smooth-barked mallee, like Bog Gum, is mainly found on the coastal lowland plain and was once common in Gippsland's damp heathy woodlands growing up to eight metres in height.

The Victorian Environment Effects Statement (EES) and Commonwealth Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Marinus Link project can be found at [planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects/marinus-link](http://planning.vic.gov.au/environmental-assessments/browse-projects/marinus-link).

## Nagel's Amcal team celebrate Brett's milestones and memories of the last 33 years.

A prescription for retirement and new beginnings is being filled.

Good bye and Good luck for your next chapter.



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Try your hand in one of the three Luminous Gallery workshops thanks to Bass Coast Shire this Seniors Festival.

# Get ready to connect, create, celebrate, in Bass Coast

THIS October, the Victorian Seniors Festival returns to Bass Coast. Bass Coast Shire Council is proud to be hosting and working with local community groups to hold events across the region – there's something for everyone!

With the theme Connect, Create, Celebrate, it's a fitting invitation for older Victorians to re-connect with hobbies, explore new interests, and come together with others to share joy.

From social competitions at sporting clubs and card games to band and vocal performances, art and craft events, history tours and lunches, there will be something to suit all tastes and interests in this year's festival.

A highlight of this year's festival is the free art workshops in Coronet Bay. Bass Coast Shire have partnered with Luminous Galleries to provide three free workshops followed by a stunning exhibition on the foreshore.

These workshops are all about trying something new – no experience required, just curiosity and a willingness to get creative. Each session is capped at 20 people, so bookings are essential.

Sunday, October 5 – Garden Plywood Workshop: Participants will paint and decorate their own unique plywood pieces in vibrant colours and take home a varnished artwork to treasure.

Saturday, October 11 – Fluid Art and Murals Workshop: Explore the magic of bold paint,

colour movement and creative play with unexpected tools like hairdryers.

Saturday, October 18 – Aluminium Art Workshop: Learn how to create textured, shimmering metallic artworks using glue, foil and imagination.

The program culminates in an exhibition showcasing the creativity on the Coronet Bay Foreshore from October 26 – November 30, with an opening celebration on Saturday, November 2 at 4pm. Everyone is welcome to come and celebrate the artists.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, said the festival is all about community connection and celebration.

"We're so proud to support the many local groups who have organised events or applied for festival grants this year. These groups are opening their doors to welcome you, so don't be shy! Lean into the spirit of the festival and Connect, Create and Celebrate!" Mayor Halstead said.

As an added bonus, Victorian Seniors Card holders can enjoy free public transport from Sunday, October 5 to Sunday, October 12 to participate in the Statewide events.

To view the full Bass Coast Seniors Festival program, book tickets to the Luminous Gallery workshops, or learn more about Healthy Ageing in Bass Coast, visit [basscoast.vic.gov.au/healthy-ageing](http://basscoast.vic.gov.au/healthy-ageing).

# Hero doctor sanctioned for telling the truth

THE Leongatha doctor who played a key role in the Erin Patterson mushroom murder case, Dr Chris Webster, has been sanctioned by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

But not because the agency identified a problem with remarks Dr Webster made on TV on Tuesday, July 8, the day after Erin Patterson's triple murder conviction was handed down. It was a small number of complaints from the public which prompted an investigation by AHPRA.

Various described as "the hero doctor who alerted police to the murderous mushroom chef Erin Patterson", by encouraging them to visit her home on Monday, July 31, 2023, where they collected the crucial evidence of a piece of death cap mushroom laden Beef Wellington, he has had two formal conditions placed on his registration over breaches of patient confidentiality and privacy.

Dr Webster must undergo one-on-one education with an approved educator on topics related to professionalism and ethics for a minimum of eight hours.

He is also required to undergo five one-hour sessions with an approved mentor on a monthly basis over a five-month period with a focus on professional communication and patient confidentiality.

In an interview with the ABC, Dr Webster said that while he wasn't happy about the conditions, which he said would impact access by patients to an already limited number of doctors in the area, he was relieved the investigation was over.



Leongatha doctor Chris Webster said he would effectively be allowed less time to see patients as a result of industry sanctions.

"I am not the only one being punished by the onerous mentor condition."

"I have the full support of the community, my patients, my clinic staff and, most importantly, my family."

"The biggest impact will be on people that don't deserve to be punished by having reduced access to their trusted GP."

In the days following the verdict, Dr Webster described Ms Patterson as a "crazy bitch", "sociopathic nut job" and, in an interview with ABC's 7.30 Report, described her actions as having "an element of sociopathic evil".

Despite the sanctions levelled against him, he told the ABC he stood by the comments he made about Patterson.

"The media sought me out and, when the questions were asked, I provided my honest response," he said.

## Victorian Seniors Festival 2025

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# Senator tours Bass Coast, backs council's push for key projects

FEDERAL Senator for Victoria Michelle Ananda-Rajah swapped the halls of Parliament for the Bass Coast last Thursday, joining council representatives for a tour of some of the region's most pressing community sites.

After attending the sod turn for the Cowes Foreshore Precinct, Senator Ananda-Rajah spent the afternoon visiting Bass Coast CUC, the old Wonthaggi Secondary College site, Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre, and the Inverloch foreshore.

To the everyday local it may not sound like an exciting agenda, but the Senator listened closely, offered advice, and highlighted federal funding avenues that could ease the shire's financial burden, particularly for redevelopment of the McBride Avenue school site and the long-awaited new aquatic centre. Council is currently awaiting a grant to undertake a feasibility study into the old college site.

Mayor Rochelle Halstead described the project as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity", stressing council's determination to make the right choices and deliver the best outcome for the community.

Senator Ananda-Rajah was enthusiastic about a mixed-use development, noting millions of dollars in federal incentives, such as funding streams for social housing and childcare, that could help underpin the project and free council funds for other priorities at the site.

"There are ways to achieve this without costing council [the full amount]," she said. "It's really exciting."

A small tour on the outside of the old school site was followed by a visit to Wonthaggi Leisure Centre, where mounting maintenance costs are a growing concern for the outdated facilities.



**Bass Coast Shire Mayor Rochelle Halstead toured the old Wonthaggi Secondary College site with Senator Michelle Ananda-Rajah last Thursday. C02\_3825**

A ticket straight out of the Senators hat, she acknowledged opening the Carnegie Memorial Pool earlier this year after securing federal funding. She pledged to advocate alongside Bass Coast Shire for federal support.

Whilst locals could only dream of a setup similar to Casey RACE, that could also provide a solution for youth entertainment over the holidays and increase swimming participation, at this stage anything would be a step up, and would be warmly welcomed by residents and no doubt our local international and national underwater hockey athletes.

Speaking after the Senators' visit, Mayor Rochelle Halstead stated:

"It was wonderful Senator Ananda-Rajah took extra time to visit these two important sites while she was in Bass Coast.

"Council is keen to attract support from

both the Australian and Victorian Governments that will help us to deliver a much-anticipated and valued community use for the old Wonthaggi Secondary College site.

"We are awaiting the outcome of an application for funding from the Australian Government's Regional Precincts and Partnerships Program that will allow us to conduct a feasibility study, giving options to get the best possible results for the site.

"It is very clear the current regional facility that is Wonthaggi Aquatic Centre needs attention with council committed to progressing with plans to attract funding that will deliver a more fit for purpose space for our growing population. We were grateful Senator Ananda-Rajah was generous with her time and her counsel. Offering her experience and willingness to support our vision. It was a pleasure to accompany her on this tour of Bass Coast and we hope to see her visit us again."

## CUC Bass Coast proves to be a real asset in our community

COUNTRY Universities Centre (CUC) Bass Coast proudly welcomed Federal Senator Michelle Ananda-Rajah last Thursday afternoon.

Senator Michelle Ananda-Rajah toured the space, and met with staff and students to learn about the impact of the program, the challenges that regional students face firsthand, and understand the strong community support that drives the mission to help people live and learn locally. The Senator commended the Centre for its innovative role in expanding educational opportunities and providing the same access as those in the city for local students.

Students echoed the sentiment, sharing how the Centre offers more than just quiet study spaces and dual-screen computers, providing a safe space for connection and support in the often-isolating world of remote learning.

"Being around other like-minded people inspires you to grow in new and different ways. That's the real beauty of a place like CUC; it brings people together, encouraging one another to further themselves



**Senator Michelle Ananda-Rajah joins CUC students John, Kasey and Vic, along with CUC staff member Rhett McLennan and centre manager Sarah Bourke. w34\_3825**

through higher education. That sense of community is really something special," local PhD student Mary-Clare said.

Following the visit, Senator Ananda-Rajah praised the remarkable growth of CUC, noting it had far exceeded its original forecast of around 90 students,

with 208 now supported through the centre. While describing this as a "good problem to have," she emphasised it underscored the urgent need for greater resourcing of initiatives like this in regional areas.

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

Want to fill your events and grow your audience?

BASS Coast Shire Council is hosting an event to help locals in the creative industries learn some valuable marketing and PR tactics.

Attendees will gain industry information, build a marketing campaign and plan, get insights into the best ways to market for their audience and enjoy the Meet the Press session where they'll get to connect with and chat with local journos who can help them succeed.

This free session is catered for and will be held in the community rooms at Berninnet, Cowes, on Wednesday, November 12, 5pm-7pm.

This workshop will be particularly useful for musicians, bands, theatre companies, artists and others who want to book venues and events.

Bass Coast Mayor, Cr Rochelle Halstead, said "we are proud to present this event to help maximise the success of people working in the creative industries. Our venues enjoy a very high sold-out rate for our programmed shows and our team are keen to help bring this success to others in the creative industry in our region.

"With a thriving arts scene and the creative industries being a key priority for Council, we look forward to this adding value to our existing services"

Spots are limited, bookings are essential - [trybooking.com/DFQWV](http://trybooking.com/DFQWV).

## Libraries make school holidays easy!

SCHOOL holidays can be expensive, but they don't have to be! Myli libraries offer free ways for families to keep kids busy, learn something new and enjoy time together without stretching the budget.

During the holiday break, libraries are filled with activities for children and young people. Young readers can join craft sessions, Storytimes and hands-on workshops that encourage creativity and discovery. Teens can take part in Youth Fest events, with games, challenges and social activities to enjoy with friends.

Beyond holiday programs, Myli provides everyday services that help families save. Library members can borrow ebooks and audiobooks, browse magazines and newspapers online, and access homework help and learning resources. Each library also offers free WiFi, quiet study spaces and public computers, making it easier for parents to catch up on work or for students to study without extra cost. Families can find entertainment, information and support all in one place.

Myli is part of a network across Bass Coast, South Gippsland, Baw Baw and Cardinia Shire. Local branches include Phillip Island, Wonthaggi, San Remo, Inverloch, Grantville, Korumburra, Leongatha, Foster, Mirboo North, and Poowong. A library card opens the door to thousands of books to borrow, along with events, resources and digital collections across the whole network. For more information, visit [myli.org.au](http://myli.org.au).

If you're planning school holiday activities, try your local Myli library first. It's an easy, no-cost option that keeps kids entertained, supports parents and connects people in the community. Visit [myli.au/spet25](http://myli.au/spet25) to see what's on or pop into your nearest branch to join in.

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Red Mo the Pirate offers some of the tricks of the trade to San Remo visitors Stephen and Harley at the fishing festival at the weekend.

# Aarrgh, it was a fine start to the holidays!

SAN Remo was alive with music, visitors, fish, fun and possibilities on the weekend as the town kicked off the school holiday influx in style with its annual fishing festival.

From the blessing of the fleet on Saturday to the

deckies' races on Sunday, to the fresh seafood on display and sale outside the San Remo Fishermen's Co-op and all the fun of the fishing fare, there was a lot to like and a lot to do.

As many an old sea shanty will tell you, the

westerly wind was blowing up a storm, but the entertainment continued with the Invy Horn Jam on the march. Max the Magician moving through the crowd and Red Mo the Pirate up to his old tricks.



Members of the Invy Horn Jam strike up a tune of two at the San Remo Fishing Festival at the weekend.

## Bass Coast Specialist School R U OK? Day



Bass Coast Specialist School hosted an R U OK Day morning tea recently.



A splash of yellow helped mark the occasion as Bass Coast Specialist School supported R U OK Day.



A morning tea celebrated R U OK Day at Bass Coast Specialist School.



The school community at Bass Coast Specialist School took the time to ask, "R U OK?" with a morning tea before the end of term three.

## ExxonMobil Australia Decommissioning Update: When an offshore platform retires, what's next?

### September Update: Stasis Mode

The Bass Strait is home to 19 offshore platforms that have produced oil and gas that has played a vital role in powering Australian homes and businesses and supported Australia's energy security for more than 50 years. Today, we continue to supply much-needed gas to south-east Australia from only six of these facilities.

While ongoing investments will see us maintain our reliable supply of gas from Bass Strait into the 2030s, we are also decommissioning the 13 offshore facilities that are no longer producing oil and gas. Some of these platforms are ready to enter stasis mode, meaning they've officially retired. Retired platforms are no longer producing oil or gas, and we have securely plugged all associated wells, and prepared them for removal.

Until these facilities are removed, we're utilising renewable energy to ensure they remain in a safe and stable condition.

During active operations, platforms use diesel or fuel gas because they need a lot of energy. But once a platform has officially retired its energy needs drop significantly, making solar and wind power an ideal solution.

Retired platforms still need a small amount of power to protect the steel structures from rust and corrosion. This protection is important to keep the platform safe and stable.

To meet this need, Esso Australia is now using Energy Pods on some of its platforms. These pods use solar panels and wind turbines to generate renewable energy, replacing the need for fuel-powered generators.

A recent example is the Fortescue platform, where we installed an Energy Pod with solar panels around the sides and a wind turbine on top which can generate all the energy the retired platform needs. It's a practical and environmentally responsible way we're safely managing our offshore infrastructure.

We remain committed to transparent engagement with our community—keeping stakeholders informed and ensuring our work aligns with local expectations. If you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to reach out via [consultation@exxonmobil.com](mailto:consultation@exxonmobil.com).







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# Corinella raises vital funds

By Claire Chitty

DESPITE blustery conditions, the community came together for the 'Equinox Rox 2' charity event in support of Corinella CFA.

The local hall was transformed into a social evening of celebration, unity and purpose, where four talented bands from around the Bass Coast provided the music as residents and visitors alike gathered to dance, clap and sing to popular songs.

Behind closed servery doors, volunteer CFA members in their distinctive uniforms, were busy in the kitchen cooking sausages and finger food; some sold raffle tickets with generous prizes, along with a silent auction, and others were on hand to answer questions related to the organisation.

The fundraising efforts exceeded expectations. By the end of the night, the community had raised thousands of dollars to support equipment upgrades, training programs, and emergency response initiatives for the Corinella CFA. Speeches from the CFA representative and event organisers highlighted the importance of collective action and the deep gratitude felt toward every contributor.

As the final chords rang out and the crowd began to disperse, a sense of pride lingered in the air. Many may not have realised the significance of the Spring Equinox, which not only marks a shift in season, but it represents new beginnings, rebirth and the spirit of togetherness. Through music, laughter, and shared purpose, Corinella once again proved that when the community rallies, even the smallest town can make a mighty impact.

The CFA (Country Fire Authority) is a volunteer-based fire and emergency services organization that responds to bushfires, house fires, car crashes, hazardous material incidents, and more. The benefits of volunteering are many including leadership and teamwork skills, emergency training and a strong sense of purpose and belonging.

Community Education: Volunteers help residents prepare fire plans, run safety workshops, and engage in local fire awareness campaigns.

Support Roles: Not all volunteers fight fires. Many contribute through logistics, administration, fundraising, health and safety, and mentoring in junior program leadership.

Youth Engagement: The Junior Volunteer Development Program introduces 11-15-year-olds to fire safety and community service.

Volunteering may fit around full-time jobs, parenting, or study, with most brigades offering flexible hours and weekend training.

## Ice creams help to save lives

STREETS, Coles and the Australian Red Cross have joined forces to strengthen community resilience and help people living in Australia to get emergency ready.

Until tomorrow, September 24, for every purchase of participating Golden Gaytime, Magnum or Paddle Pop multipacks made at Coles supermarkets, Streets will donate 20 cents to the Australian Red Cross, up to a total of \$75,000.

The funds will support Australian Red Cross emergency response teams and help communities across South Gippsland and Bass Coast, and the country prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

The partnership coincided with EmergencyRedi Week (September 15 to 21), an annual campaign by Australia Red Cross to equip Australians with the tools and knowledge to face emergencies with confidence.



Members of local RSL branches met with federal member for Monash, Mary Aldred, last Tuesday to discuss the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. C01\_3825

# Local RSLs call for completion targets and action

RSL members from across the Bass Coast/South Gippsland region gathered last Tuesday with federal member for Monash, Mary Aldred, at Wonthaggi RSL sub-branch to discuss and advocate for veterans, particularly on the topic of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

It has been twelve months since the Commission's final report was released and nine months since the federal government handed down their response.

The Government accepted a majority of the report's recommendations; 96 were agreed to, 18 were agreed to in principle, seven were noted, and one was not supported in part.

"There are three suicides per fortnight," Inverloch RSL secretary, Lindsay Guerin, stated at the opening of the meeting.

"Female veterans are twice as likely as their male counterparts to suicide, and that is something we need to address."

It's a bold statement, one that should spur immediate action by every Australian; however, after 12 months, only nine of the recommendations have been fully implemented, according to Minister for Veterans Affairs Matt Keogh MP.

"With a significant number of recommendations to be completed by the end of this year – one year from the Government's response to the Final Report," Mr Keogh stated on September 4.

According to the passionate veteran advocates in the Wonthaggi meeting last week, it's not enough; if only nine are completed every year, it

will be 13 years before the life-changing recommendations are all implemented. And for some service personnel, this will be too long.

Fiercely passionate, Mr Guerin believes it's not just a matter for the Australian Defence Force to work through, but rather national, state and local RSLs all have their part to play in supporting defence personnel, those who have served, and those who are serving.

"We have a voice, we care, and we want our community to care," Mr Guerin continued.

"We want to express that this is what needs to happen."

Both Mr Guerin and fellow Inverloch RSL member Rob Gallagher spoke of their personal experiences attending the Royal Commission meetings and hearing directly from serving and ex-service members over the years.

"It's heart-wrenching to hear the stories, and they are real!"

"We are pleased with the nine recommendations that have been achieved, but there's a need for greater action," Mr Guerin stated, as he called on Ms Aldred to advocate as part of the opposition for completion dates for the remaining 112 recommendations.

After thanking Lindsay for organising the meeting, Ms Aldred acknowledged the work the government has done to date, but stated some intentions are at crosshairs.

"I want to very strongly reflect and represent the issues that we talk about around these tables. It is very good that the government have gotten out of the blocks on

this relatively quickly, and I want to acknowledge that, because this is particularly an area where, as far as possible, we should have all parts of the parliament working together. But the opposition does have a role to play in making sure that the government is held to account, and we need to make sure that the good progress that we saw at the start is followed through.

"There's been a couple of things of late that I've scratched my head on. I actually had the opportunity to sit through a number of those speeches that Minister Keogh and other government members contributed to. I was in the chair in the Federation chamber. I think there's been a couple of other things that have swung against the tide of intention here, and one of those things, which is important in some ways, perhaps less so in addressing the welfare side, but for example, the government are looking at introducing legislation to cut off at 20 years the ability of honours and awards. For example, there are two Victoria Cross recipients who wouldn't have their Victoria Cross medals had this legislation been in place, because they wouldn't have been able to go back beyond 20 years to investigate the circumstances which led to them being awarded those medals.

"So, I think there's a few things at the moment that are serving in a cross purpose to what we really need to get at out of this royal commission, which is essentially the special compact that we, as the Australian

government, make with veterans when they sign up to serve and that if they're injured mentally or physically in doing so we need to live up to that obligation when they return. I'm all ears."

Mr Gallagher spoke of the ADF's culture of the warrior and the war fighter, and noted statistics from around the world, including Finland and Canada, even showing easy-to-follow support information, that differs greatly from Australia's multi-page references.

Wonthaggi RSL member and former servicewoman Toni Cornelius shared her experiences as a woman during the Vietnam War, as did Kathie Surridge.

All those in attendance had an opportunity to speak on the topic and share with Ms Aldred, with Mary noting at the end that she is looking forward to the conversations continuing.

One thing that all the participants made very clear was that they hoped the future would open further doors, whilst taking into account privacy, to check in with service personnel who had left the force to make sure they are okay and have all the resources they need, whether now or in the future.

For all the former defence personnel reading this, reach out to your local RSL – they want to make sure you are okay and that if you're not, that you get the support you deserve.

If you need urgent help, contact Open Arms 1800 011 046, the ADF on 1800 628 036, Lifeline on 13 11 14, or 1800Respect (1800 737 732).



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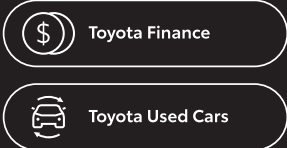
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OH WHAT A FEELING



## Sentinel-Times

### COMMENT

## Police and community partnership is vital

NEXT Monday, September 29 is National Police Remembrance Day and also Victoria's Blue Ribbon Day held by the Victoria Police Blue Ribbon Foundation to perpetuate the memory of members of the Victoria Police who have died in the line of duty through the support of worthwhile community projects around the state.

Of course, after the shooting deaths of two police officers at Porepunkah in the state's north-east recently and the injuries sustained by another, this year's memorial event will take on even more significance than usual.

Those killed in the line of duty were Detective Leading Senior Constable Neal Thompson, aged 59, and Belgian-born Senior Constable Vadim De Waart-Hottart, aged 35. Thompson, a 38-year police veteran, was only days away from retirement.

He had recently built a new home and was planning for his imminent retirement with his partner Lisa, according to an obituary released by Victoria Police.

Senior Constable De Waart-Hottart, who had been in the service for seven years, is survived by his parents, who live in Belgium, and his younger brother in Switzerland, as well as extended family in Melbourne.

As well as the National Police Remembrance Day march and service in Melbourne, there will be a number of events in regional areas as well including at St Paul's Anglican Church, 3 Queen Street, Korumburra, at 10am on Monday, September 29.

The march in Melbourne will commence at Princes Bridge at 10am and proceed down the St Kilda Road service lane to the Victoria Police Memorial. A remembrance service will then be held at the Victoria Police Memorial from 10.20am to 11.20am.

So, what can we do?

Anyone who would like to can attend the memorial service at Korumburra or you might also like to make a donation to Victoria Police Legacy (VPL) via their website. They use all the money donated to support police families in Victoria who have lost a partner or parent.

The events in the north-east of the state have brought police and the community closer together, reinforcing the idea that the work of police is much more effective with the support and cooperation of the community.

## Ninety-four per cent doesn't add up

IN THE September BCSC meeting, when introducing the motion for the Special Charge Scheme (SCS) on The Esplanade from Sunderland Bay Road to Batman Street, Cr Bell stated that "94 per cent of the street support this."

This assertion runs contrary to council's own published data. The figures supplied by the BCSC Engage page state 53 per cent voted Yes, 12 per cent voted No, and 35 per cent failed to vote at all.

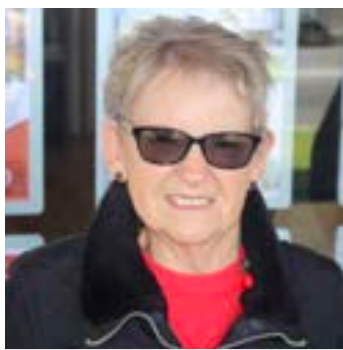
In reality, this means that out of 17 homes, nine supported the SCS, two objected, and six did not vote.

Hardly the almost unanimous 94 per cent support falsely claimed by Cr Bell.

So why did Cr Bell make this grossly inaccurate claim? Was she poorly prepared and

## Vox Pop

### What do you like about Wonthaggi and what do you think is missing?



**Krys Kent**

"The people are very easy to get along with, but we need more parking, and a Spotlight for us ladies. The blokes have Bunnings."



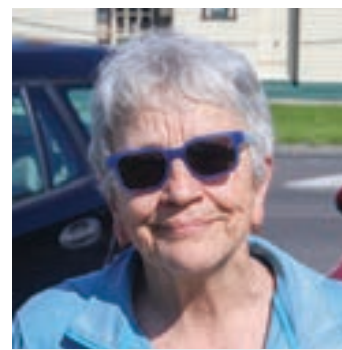
**Max Kent**

"More parking and a better bus network would be nice, but the people are friendly and there are a lot of good facilities, like doctors' clinics."



**Lauris De Serre**

"I like that it's a smaller place, but growing quickly. It needs more shopping. More people are buying online or going out of town. We need to keep the money in the town."



**Wendy Bignell**

"It needs a bowling alley, or something for adolescents and adults to do. I do like the wetlands and the guide park."

quite simply ignorant of the genuine voting figures? Perhaps she was ill-advised.

Whatever the reason, it has to be questioned as to whether or not this false representation of facts is acceptable. Is this an adequate and satisfactory degree of knowledge, understanding and preparation being demonstrated by a councillor when moving a motion for a scheme which will cost ratepayers multimillions of dollars?

Or is it simply not good enough?

However, as the Say No group can sadly suggest through experience, this is consistent and commensurate with the level of accuracy, openness and clarity that BCSC demonstrated from day one and throughout the entire failed Sunderland Bay/Surf Beach SCS saga.

**Ross Bencraft, Surf Beach**

### Life

LIFE is a simple game, if you know the rules. Cards are not all the same, be sure not to choose the fools. There are no 'turns' to play. You play them when you ought. Play when you want your say. Pass when the chance is nought.

**Geoff de Jonge, San Remo**

### Why Erin Patterson was wrongly convicted

FROM the moment I first heard about the mushroom poisoning, I knew it only made sense as a tragic accident. Yet I have watched in disbelief – from the arrest through to the verdict and its aftermath – as the glaring inconsistencies between Erin Patterson's conviction and the actual evidence went unchallenged.

The most striking example is the so-called "panicked cover-up," which the prosecution presented as its strongest evidence of guilt. But this reasoning collapses under scrutiny. A premeditated killer plans their cover-up in advance, not in desperation afterwards. Panic makes sense only when something unexpected and unintended has occurred. If the crime had been deliberate, nothing would have taken her by surprise.

The jury were correct in recognising Patterson's post-incident behaviour as guilty and deceptive – but they mistook its meaning. What they saw was not the legal guilt of a murderer, but the moral guilt of someone whose accidental actions caused the deaths of her friends. That distinction was blurred, and in that confusion, justice was lost.

Because the verdict rested on the false premise of premeditation, key parts of the prosecution's narrative fail to align with the evidence. I have identified seven such inconsistencies, each of which adds to the reasonable doubt. Together they strongly support a not guilty verdict.

By contrast, the accidental poisoning narrative fits seamlessly with the facts.

For every piece of circumstantial evidence the prosecution framed as sinister, there is a plausible, innocent explanation – and no clear proof to sustain the prosecution's claims.

By combining the anomalies in Patterson's conviction with the defence's original arguments, I developed a revised defence strategy and tested it before a "virtual jury" of 12 independent AI platforms. Each was instructed to disregard the original verdict and reach its own decision as if serving on the jury.

The outcome was unanimous: 12-0 for not guilty beyond reasonable doubt. Of course AI cannot prove innocence. But this result strongly echoes my own assessment, and I believe a real jury, given the same presentation, would have reached the same conclusion.

I have opened an Instagram account, 'erin.patterson.support', which briefly describes my argument. It includes a link to an online PDF which is much more comprehensive.

An innocent woman now unfairly faces decades behind bars. Please consider using your platform to help expose this injustice.

**erin.patterson.support**

### Have a safe long weekend

AS WE head into the AFL Grand Final public holiday, I want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable long weekend – no matter which team you are cheering for.

Sadly for me, my beloved Carlton did not make the finals this year, so I will be watching the big game a little more relaxed than some of you.

With the school holidays and long weekend, many people will be hitting the road. It is a perfect chance to get out and enjoy all that Gippsland has to offer, from our beautiful beaches and national parks to local wineries, cafes and tourist attractions.

If you are travelling, please take care on the roads so that everyone can enjoy the break and make it home safely.

Whichever colours you are flying, I hope you enjoy the game, the holidays and some time with family and friends.

**Danny O'Brien MP, State Member for Gippsland South**

### Industrial-scale operations don't belong in Pommy Town

WE LIVE in the small community near Wonthaggi known as 'Pommy Town' where most local residents are opposing a proposed 'contractors depot'. The associated businesses operating the depot have done so without planning approval for around eight years. Despite a previous planning application rejection and a Council order to cease four years back, these operations continue to this day, leaving residents extremely frustrated, as reflected in numerous objections.

Nobody should be exposed to these levels of dust, noise, fumes, or road safety risks, we

all deserve to live without these constant and dangerous impacts. Of wider concern however is that it is no longer just local residents who will be impacted as these activities also endanger users of the soon-to-be-opened Inverloch-Wonthaggi Trail.

The Inverloch-Wonthaggi Trail crosses the roads in the estate in three places which will put them in front of large tippers towing low-loaders carrying excavators, a range of ancillary and workers vehicles, as well as a school bus. The excessive level of traffic is unsuited to narrow gravel roads and this industrial-scale activity should have long ago been confined to an industrial estate.

We hope and trust that future users of the Inverloch-Wonthaggi Trail will share our outrage about this inappropriate and illegal activity and will join us in letting Bass Coast Shire Council know in no uncertain terms that business interests should never be at the expense of road safety.

**Jim Barritt, Wonthaggi**

### Footy and furry friends this Save the Koala Day

THE Koala Conservation Reserve will come alive with family fun this Save the Koala Day, coinciding with the AFL Grand Final public holiday and the second half kick-off for the Victorian school holidays.

This Friday, September 26 from 11 am to 2 pm, the Reserve will host a free, footy-themed celebration on the front lawn of the Visitor Centre, including:

- Footy-inspired colouring-in
- Footy face painting
- Goal kicking and handball competitions
- Delicious game-day favourites from Create Catering
- Special appearances from U18 Phillip Island Bulldogs Football Club players, who are helping to run the activities

Visitors are also invited to take part in special experiences inside the Reserve with ticketed entry, where they can join a guided ranger tour, spot resident koalas on the tree-top boardwalks, and take part in a scavenger hunt.

Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to share fascinating facts about these much-loved marsupials. We will also be collecting donations for the Penguin Foundation, which supports the vital koala conservation and rehabilitation work at the Koala Conservation Reserve.

**Phillip Island Nature Parks**

The 'Sentinel-Times' encourages readers to write with issues of interest or concern but letters that have a local reference point will be given priority. Writers are also urged to be brief where possible. Letters may be edited for space and legal reasons, and must be submitted with the author's name and contact details of which only the name and town location will appear.



# PIMHAG continue to advocate for Mental Health services in Bass Coast

A PIVOTAL movement advocating for enhanced mental health services is underway in Bass Coast, prompted by the recent success of a forum hosted by the Phillip Island Medical and Health Action Group (PIMHAG) and as a result, a Mental Health First Aid course is being held at the Phillip Island RSL on October 8-9.

PIMHAG, established over 16 years ago, has long advocated for mental health services in Bass Coast, and the sub-committee's latest efforts included the introduction of a comprehensive training program led by a qualified Mental Health First Aid trainer, Kellie Buissink.

Jenny Lonergan, the acting secretary and event organiser, said the program focuses on equipping adults with essential skills to recognise and respond to mental health issues in others.

"The first event will be held on Phillip Island, and we hope to expand the program across Bass Coast," said Jenny.

Participants will learn about the signs and symptoms of mental health challenges and how to provide appropriate support to others. This



Jordan Larkman, Jenny Lonergan, Kellie Buissink (course instructor), Claire Joseph, Rosie Colette, together with John Matthews, Peter Paul (PIMHAG President), and Michael Feehan are holding a Mental Health First Aid course at the Phillip Island RSL on October 8-9.

training is particularly relevant for staff in various sectors, including employers and sporting clubs.

"Having at least one mental health first aider within each organisation is really important," said Jenny.

"A central aspect of this initiative is establishing a mental health assistant registry to simplify access to necessary services, and address

transport challenges, as there is already minimal transport on Bass Coast, particularly on Phillip Island – especially for those seeking help late at night.

"The initiative is open to the public, supported by a grant that allows participants to attend the two-day course for just \$30, culminating in a certification."

BCH Interim CEO Professor

Simone Alexander said BCH provides some supportive outpatient and inpatient services in line with BCH's status as a sub-regional health service.

"We understand mental health is a significant health matter for our community and we work collaboratively with other organisations to provide support," she said.

"Our Community Outpatient team provides skilled and qualified counsellors by appointment.

"To people presenting to our Emergency Department at Wonthaggi Hospital, we also offer the services of our experienced medical team, which includes a psychiatric nurse from Latrobe Regional Health who also works with any patients on our Kodowlinun Acute Ward needing mental health care.

"For people with more complex psychiatric care needs, BCH liaises with Latrobe Regional Health to support access to specialist care."

Jenny said PIMHAG will continue to advocate for additional mental health services on Phillip Island.

Free 24/7 support is available. Visit [beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au) or call 1300 22 46 36.



Avis Tilley celebrated her 100th birthday last Tuesday surrounded by friends and South Gippsland councillors, with her family travelling from near and far for a second celebration on Sunday.

## Celebrations and joy as Avis celebrates 100 years

AVIS Tilley celebrated her 100th birthday last Tuesday at Korumburra's top pub, The Austral. There was plenty of chatter and laughter, with Avis sharing her top three reflections on how she made it to 100 – much to the delight of those there.



Avis prepares to cut the cake on Tuesday.

## CWA Kardella's capers at Kaye & Carricks

THE July meeting for the Kardella Branch in Gippsland Hills Group was held at the home of president Kaye and her husband Carrick at Ruby.

Reason being that Kaye was going to divulge her secrets of prize-winning shortbread making.

Another first for Kardella. The meeting started as usual by singing both verses of the National Anthem, but this time, the choristers were accompanied on the piano by Carrick. What a difference it made to the dulcet tones of the Kardella ladies. An excellent start to the day's proceedings.

As usual, secretary Niki had prepared the agenda, which covered all normal meeting items: correspondence in and

out, treasurer's report, etc.

Then we were admitted to the secrets of Kaye's prize-winning method of shortbread making. Too many to mention here, but suffice to say, we now know why Kaye is so successful in the Gippsland Hills Home Industries Exhibition.

We also know why those best sellers at the Coal Creek Market at Korumburra are such a favourite with the customers.

Kaye is not going to share with you these secrets, but suffice to say, two of hers are:

1. Do not hurry the production,
2. A 1990 model 'Kenwood Chef is a Godsend'!

If others would like to learn these secrets, then Membership of the Kardella branch is obligatory!



CWA Kardella members Margaret Robson, Niki Curtic, Mandy Kuhne, and Jo Carfrae with teacher Kaye Barter.

## Inverloch Garden Club honours a century of Jean Sartain

THE Inverloch Garden Club filled the local Scout Hall with colour on Thursday, September 18, as more than 50 people gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of Jean Sartain.

Jean is known in town as the founding member of the Garden Club, established in 1988, and as a founding member of the Probus Club of Inverloch in 1991. She has played a central role in the social fabric of Inverloch for decades, and her milestone birthday drew plenty of friends, family, and fellow gardeners together in a fitting tribute.

The hall was adorned with flowers, a nod to Jean's lifelong passion, and guests enjoyed sandwiches, good company, and, of course, a slice of birthday cake.

Jean did not make a fuss when asked about turning 100.



Jean Sartain addresses the crowd at her 100th birthday, joined by current club president Bev Phillips and a cake fit for the occasion. W07\_3825

"It feels no different to turning 80. It's just another number," she said with a smile.

She shared simple but steady advice for younger

generations.

"Keep working hard, and be outside as much as you can."

For Jean, community

involvement has been vital to her long and active life.

"It means everything. You don't have to just sit at home doing nothing and watch your brain go," she said.

She also expressed her delight at seeing the Garden Club flourish since its early days.

"I'm really pleased the club has kept going. It's a lovely group and they have done a great job with it."

Bev Phillips, current president of the Garden Club, said Jean's influence cannot be overstated.

"The fact she's been here so long, and her special interest in gardening. She has so much knowledge that she willingly shares with everyone," she said.

Life member Robyn Allen added, "She's such a bright spark and full of enthusiasm."



Inverloch Horn Jam entertained at Avis's 100th birthday last Tuesday.



# Bringing arts to regional Victoria

NEXT year, towns across regional Victoria will be buzzing with theatre, dance, music and comedy shows. A new round of the Small Regional Presenters program has been announced, which helps not-for-profits and community groups attract performances to their local area. Grants up to \$15,000 are available to support the presentation of events. For further details about the program and to apply, visit the Regional Arts Victoria website.

## LIFE Moments



**ISLA Matsunaga was born at Wonthaggi Hospital on August 17, 2025, weighing 3.63 kilograms. Isla is a daughter for Meagan Sneddon and Koyu Matsunaga of Ventnor.**

Send your birthday, anniversary or baby photos to [news@sgst.com.au](mailto:news@sgst.com.au)

### • FAITH FACTOR

## God's new thing

By Captain Amanda Hart, Corps Officer, South Coast Gippsland Salvos

I'VE been thinking a lot lately of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:19). There's a freshness in those words – a sense of God at work, not only in the pages of Scripture but in our lives today. Yet at the same time, they can feel confronting. New things mean change, and change isn't always comfortable. Many of us prefer the familiar, the steady rhythm of what we know. But God keeps nudging us beyond that, into places where trust and faith are needed. In Wonthaggi, we've just stepped into a new season with the opening of our building. It's a wonderful milestone, but God's new thing is never just about bricks and walls. It's about people – about community being shaped, relationships being formed, and hope being shared. That truth has me reflecting on my own journey. Am I open to God's new thing in me? Am I willing to release old patterns that no longer give life? Can I allow God's Spirit to reshape how I love, how I listen, how I extend grace? I think that's an invitation for all of us. God's new thing might not look dramatic – sometimes it's as simple as offering a kind word, extending forgiveness, or opening our hearts to someone who feels left out. God is still doing new things today. The question is whether we have eyes to see them and the courage to step into them.



**Bass Coast Health District Nurse Georgie Young checks on client John Christensen in his home.**



**Bass Coast Health District Nurse Maryanne Plenkovich provides care to client Mervyn Jones in his home.**

# Community Nurses bring expert care to Bass Coast homes

ACROSS the Bass Coast region, people are living more independently and staying out of hospital thanks to the vital work of Bass Coast Health's (BCH) Community Nursing team. In celebration of Nursing in the Community Week, September 22-28, BCH is recognising the incredible nurses who deliver expert care in homes across the community. "Our nurses make a profound difference every day, not just in our facilities but also throughout our community," BCH Interim CEO Simone Alexander said. "Whether they're providing wound care, supporting someone with a chronic illness or ensuring comfort at the end-of-life, they are helping people remain in the place where they feel most secure – their home." BCH's largest Community Nursing team

is the District and Palliative Care Service, which supports clients with everything from medication management to end-of-life care. Other teams include Maternal and Child Health, Transition Care, Residential In-Reach, Domiciliary Care and Better at Home, a service providing hospital-level care at home through programs like Hospital in the Home (HITH) and GEM@Home. BCH's Community Nurses also include specialist roles such as Diabetes Educators, Cardiac and Respiratory Clinical Nurse Consultants, Stomal Therapy Nurses, Wound Care Nurses, Continence Nurses, Older Persons Nurse Practitioners and Aboriginal Health Clinical Nurse Consultant, all providing expert care that empowers clients to live well.

Clinical Nurse Consultant Karen Billman said the one-on-one nature of the work was especially rewarding and that patients often recover faster at home. "We develop close relationships with our clients, and they value knowing we'll be there to support their health needs. It's a privilege to help people maintain their independence," she said. Patient Leonard Koninx said, "Being able to remain at home surrounded by loved ones in a familiar setting has a huge impact on a patient's wellbeing and recovery." Ms Alexander said, "These nurses truly embody what Nursing in the Community Week is all about. We are proud of their dedication to helping our community live healthier, more independent lives."



**Bass Coast Winter Shelter volunteers were celebrated at a recent Thanksgiving event.**

# Bass Coast Winter Shelter wraps up first season

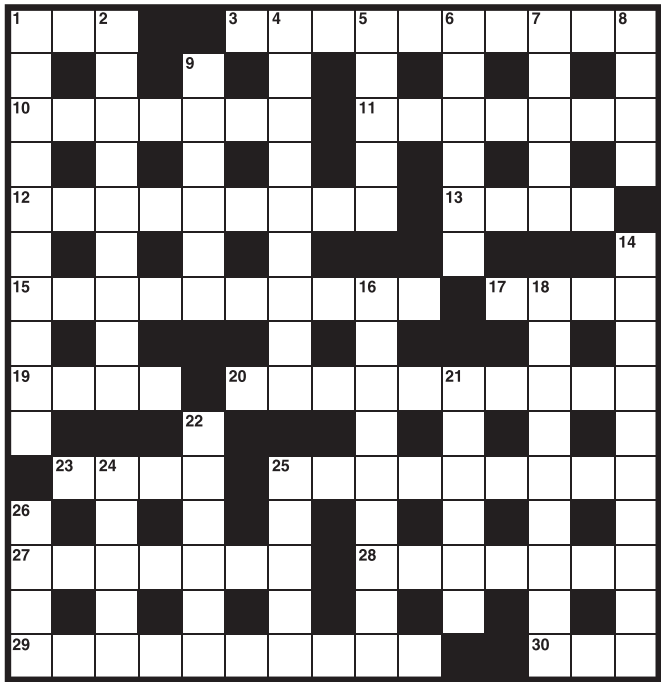
THE Bass Coast Winter Shelter officially concluded its 2025 season on Thursday, September 12, following eight weeks of operation in Cowes. The inaugural shelter, an initiative of the Interchurch Council of Phillip Island, was established to support community members experiencing homelessness. Strongly backed by local residents and community groups, the shelter operated from church buildings to offer an evening meal, dormitory-style accommodation – and importantly, a safe, welcoming space for care and connection – three nights a week throughout the winter season. The establishment and operation of the shelter was no small task. "Put simply, the inaugural Bass Coast Winter Shelter could not have happened without the extraordinary generosity of our local volunteers, donors and partner organisations," explained Wendy Elson, Project Coordinator. To celebrate and acknowledge the incredible efforts of everyone involved, a special volunteer thanksgiving event was recently held at St John's Uniting Church in Cowes. The thank you event was an opportunity for the 50-plus volunteers to come

together, reflect on the season and recognise the hard work and heart that made the Bass Coast Winter shelter possible. "Volunteers were truly at the heart of the Bass Coast Winter Shelter – they stepped forward and trained up to make the shelter a reality. Some worked behind the scenes, looking after logistics, cooking meals and more, while others offered a listening ear and a welcoming space. It is thanks to the efforts of these incredible locals that the shelter gave hope. It really did create community during the hardest time of the year," said Wendy. "We're deeply grateful to every single person who contributed. From volunteering, to donating supplies and spreading the word – this has been a community effort. Support from the Bass Coast community has been inspiring. "As we wrap up our inaugural season, we will take time to reflect on what was achieved and how we can build on this for next year. The need for a winter shelter remains, and we know that the strength and generosity of this community will continue into next year," Wendy concluded. Looking towards the 2026 Bass Coast Winter Shelter, the committee will now

review the inaugural season to see how it can further increase the connections between the shelter, local service providers and those experiencing homelessness. Plans for the 2025 Bass Coast Winter Shelter evolved from the homelessness think tank forums run by Bass Coast Shire Council in 2023. Establishment of the shelter was underpinned by the churches that form the Interchurch Council of Phillip Island, including the Uniting, Baptist, Anglican, Catholic, Surf Church and Equip Church. Assisting the churches to deliver the Winter Shelter were the Bass Coast Shire Council, Salvation Army Homelessness Services – Gippsland, Phillip Island Community and Learning Centre (PICAL) and Housing Matters Bass Coast (HMBC), which is auspices of Wonthaggi Neighbourhood Centre (WNC). Stable One, a registered charity that has successfully operated the Yarra Valley Winter Shelter since its inception in 2017, also supported and guided plans for the 2025 Bass Coast Winter Shelter. Bass Coast Winter Shelter extends its heartfelt thanks to the entire community. Every act of kindness has made a difference.



CROSSWORD

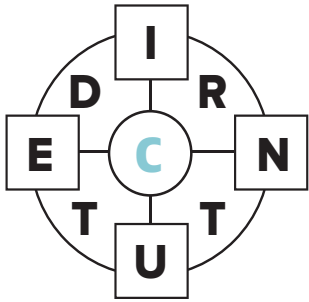


- ACROSS**
- 1 Soup ingredient with ham (3)  
3 Tenacious (10)  
10 Resolute (7)  
11 Stone fruit (7)
- 12 Too quiet to be heard (9)  
13 Tranquil (4)  
15 Think again (10)  
17 Norway's capital (4)  
19 Casserole (4)  
20 Benevolent (10)

9-LETTER

Using the nine letters in the grid, how many words of four letters or more can you list? The centre letter must be included and each letter may only be used once. No colloquial or foreign words. No capitalised nouns, apostrophes or plural nouns ending in 's'.

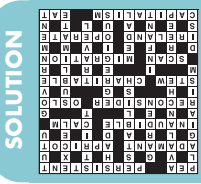
- Today's Aim:**  
20 words: **Good**  
30 words: **Very good**  
41 words: **Excellent**



- 23 Scrutinise (4)  
25 Seasonal movement of animals (9)  
27 Island in the North Atlantic (7)  
28 Work (7)  
29 Economic system (10)  
30 Masticate (3)

DOWN

- 1 Act of stealing other's work (10)  
2 Landslide (9)  
4 Found (9)  
5 Screen from sun (5)  
6 Rigorous (6)  
7 Shine (5)  
8 Ballet skirt (4)  
9 Cultivate plants (6)  
14 Group of people with authority to govern (10)  
16 Appalling (9)  
18 Transmute (9)  
21 Tour (6)  
22 Babe (6)  
24 Sneak (5)  
25 Award (5)  
26 Flat circular object (4)



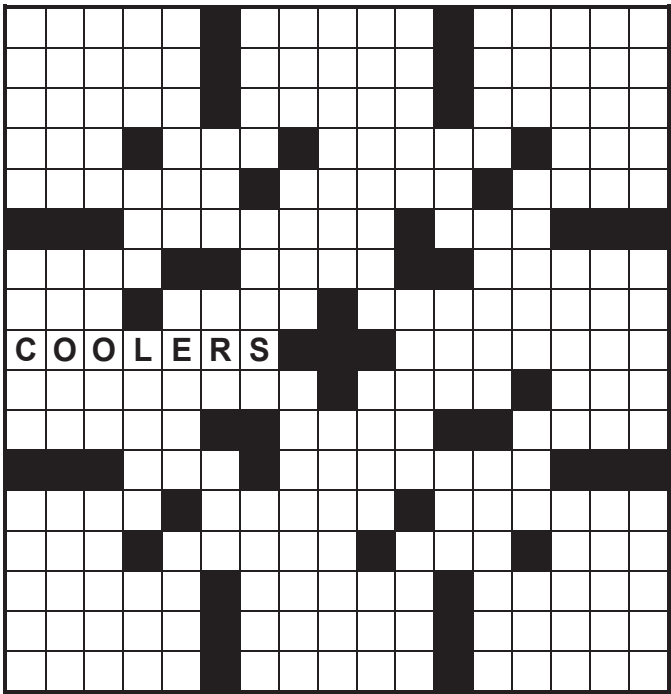
cent, cider, chinder, cite, cited, credit, crelin, creed, crude, cruel, cure, cure, cured, curle, curt, cute, cutter, cutter, duct, dunce, ecrut, edict, erruct, iced, incur, induce, induct, nice, nice, rice, runic, tinct, tincture, tinctured, trice, true, tunic, uric

WORDFIT

- 3 LETTERS**
- ACT  
ADS  
ALL  
COO  
ELM  
ERA  
GEE  
ICE  
IDS  
IMP  
LEE  
LEG  
MOW  
OHM  
OIL  
OVA  
SEE  
SPA  
SUE  
TAP  
URN  
VET  
WAG  
WEB
- 5 LETTERS**
- SCAN  
SUIT  
TACT  
TAPE  
WEST  
ACRID  
AGREE  
ALERT  
ARISE  
AURAL  
AVAIL  
CACHE  
CHIRP  
DOOMS  
DOONA  
DOTES  
EDGES  
EMITS  
ENACT  
ERASE  
GENUS  
GRAPE  
IRATE  
LAPSE  
LARVA  
LIKES  
LINER  
LURCH  
OASES  
OCCUR  
ONSET  
OUTDO  
PARKA  
PAUSE

4 LETTERS

- ACES  
BAWL  
BITS  
EPIC  
LESS  
ODDS  
ODES  
PASS  
PLUM



- POISE  
PUPIL  
RADII  
RAISE  
RASPS  
RESIN  
RODEO  
ROUTS  
SAGAS  
SEEPS  
SENSE  
SLATS  
SLITS  
SLOPS

- SWATS  
THEME  
TINGE  
TOLLS  
TUNED  
ULTRA  
USAGE

6 LETTERS

- COBRAS  
COERCE  
SHEAVE  
SLEEVE

7 LETTERS

- COOLERS  
DEGRADE  
INTRUDE  
LATTICE  
NOISING  
PATENTS

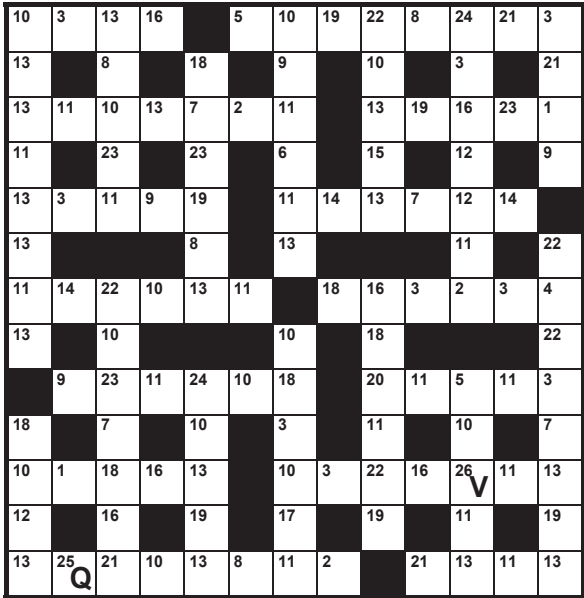
8 LETTERS

- DELUSION  
SERENEST  
TEMPERED  
UNMANNED



CODEWORD

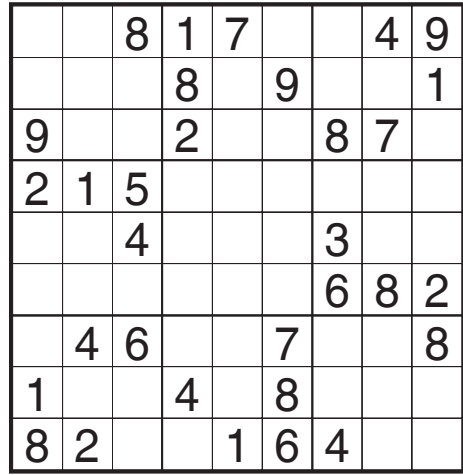
Each number corresponds to a letter of the alphabet. Two have been filled in for you, can you work out the rest?



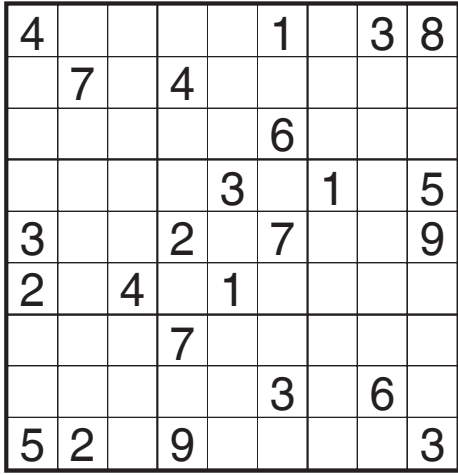
No. 289

SUDOKU

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in: each of the nine vertical columns, each of the nine horizontal rows and each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes. Remember, no number can occur more than once in any row, column or box.

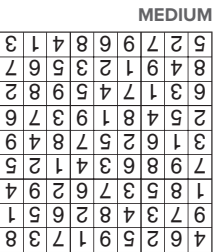
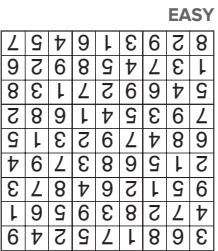


EASY



MEDIUM

SOLUTIONS



QUICK QUIZ

- Melissa McCarthy (pictured) starred as Sookie St. James in which television drama series?
- Who of the following was not a wife of Zeus: Hera, Leto, Metis or Aphrodite?
- Beginning with 'G', what is the name of the hearty stew that is the official cuisine of Louisiana, US?
- Robert Smith is the lead singer of which English rock band?
- What is the name for the side of the triangle opposite from the right angle?
- 'He was soon borne away by the waves, and lost in darkness and distance' is the final line of which famous gothic novel?
- Julia Roberts played which US environmental activist in a 2000 film?
- What pivotal event in world history took place on November 9, 1989?
- Which French writer and philosopher is generally credited as being the father of the essay genre?
- Clove hitch, butterfly loop, sheet bend and carrick bend are all types of what?



ANSWERS: 1. Gilmore Girls 2. Aphrodite 3. Gumbo 4. The Cure 5. Hypotenuse 6. Frankenstein 7. Erin Brockovich 8. The Fall of the Berlin Wall 9. Michel de Montaigne 10. Knots

WORD SEARCH



No. 209

Can you find all the words listed? The leftover letters will spell out a secret message.

- |                |          |          |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| ADD            | GEOMETRY | RATIO    |
| AVERAGE        | INDEX    | RESIDUE  |
| AXIS           | LIMIT    | ROOT     |
| CIRCLE         | LOGIC    | RULE     |
| CLASS          | MATRIX   | SET      |
| CONIC          | MEAN     | SIGN     |
| CUBE           | MODAL    | SMOOTH   |
| CUBIC          | MODE     | SPHERE   |
| DIFFERENTIABLE | OPEN     | SQUARE   |
| DIRECT         | PARITY   | SUM      |
| DIVERGE        | PI       | TRIANGLE |
| DIVISOR        | PLANE    | ZERO     |
| ELLIPSE        | POLE     |          |
| EVEN NUMBER    | QED      |          |
| FORMULA        | RADIANS  |          |

SECRET MESSAGE: Mathematics is the music of reason





Author **Holly Cardamone** recently launched her debut Young Adult contemporary novel, **Summer, In Between**.

## Summer, In Between

AUTHOR Holly Cardamone recently launched her debut Young Adult contemporary novel, *Summer, In Between*, drafts of which were written on Phillip Island and at Cape Paterson, inspired by Holly's own adolescence growing up in the Bass Coast.

"That said, it is certainly not autobiographical; the town that the novel is set in is fictional, but inspired by Cape Paterson, and this novel is a bit of a love letter to this town that I spent every summer of my life in," said Holly.

*Summer, In Between* is a story of adolescence, the dynamics of a close-knit family, growing up in a small country town, and finding yourself through the complexity of societal pressure.

This story follows a young girl navigating the pressures of her future.

"I had this image in my head of a young girl sitting on the beach with a monster textbook on her lap, completely oblivious to the group of good-looking surfer boys nearby. And then, of course, the question is, is she oblivious?" Holly explained.

Launching as a Young Adult novel, Holly said there is a lot of discussion in the publishing world on whether young adult is a genre or a readership. *Summer, In Between* is based on a 17-year-old character, so it is considered a Young Adult novel.

"But, what's really interesting to me is that 28 per cent of readers are over the age of 28, and that's me. I love young adult fiction. I've always loved it," she said.

"They're the books that we read in our formative years, like *Looking for Alibrandi*; it's those novels that really stick with us. I've spoken with many librarians on *Summer, In Between* who have shared that it's a great book for those kids who aren't interested in fantasy.

"I really wanted to write something especially for country kids, one where they can see themselves on the page. And I didn't want it to be moralising or belittling or judgmental. I really wanted it to speak in their voice, but it's surprised me how many adults are reaching out and loving it, because it has that nostalgia bump as well."

From an idea to a draft that sat in a side drawer for over six years, *Summer, In Between* remained with Holly. When she finally decided to begin picking it apart, she still felt compelled to the characters and the story; it was then, after two years of the publishing roller coaster for a first-time novelist, that Holly entered the manuscript in a development prize and won, being offered a contract and awarded Hawkeye Prize Winner 2024.

"There is a real vulnerability in sharing a story, but in writing again after the long process of publishing, it also reminded me of the joy of creating and a feeling of accomplishment.

"This story is one that's relevant to teens, it's on the pressure to succeed, misogyny, toxic masculinity, cultural heritage, the dynamics of small towns pushing against the boundaries of labels. And, of course, first love.

"I felt it was too important a story not to share."

Fancy an award-winning coming-of-age Young Adult novel? Say hello to *Summer, in Between*.

Holly will be at Hare and Tortoise signing for Love Your Bookshop Day on October 11.



Wonthaggi Citizens Band and conductor Craig Marinus celebrating their win as C-Grade National Champions.

## Wonthaggi Citizens Band win as C-Grade National Champions

FRESH from a National Championship win and a sold-out show with James Morrison, the Wonthaggi Citizens' Band present their Annual Concert on Saturday, October 11, 2025, at the Union Theatre, Wonthaggi, 7.30pm.

Featuring the Wonthaggi Citizens' Band, Wonthaggi Youth Brass, training group and local talents Xander Beach (harp) and Jay Hills (guitar), this concert promises a night of celebration, music, and community spirit. The band proudly provides free brass

music education in local primary schools thanks to a Department of Education grant, making the support go even further.

Don't miss out – book now and join us for an unforgettable night on [trybooking.com/events/landing/1331847](https://trybooking.com/events/landing/1331847).

## Sun, secrets and shenanigans for your viewing pleasure

THE Bass Coast Fine Film Group is happy to present "Riviera Revenge", a French film from director Ivan Calbérac, full of sun-soaked shenanigans with a touch of substance

Ivan Calbérac, known for his charming and character-driven comedies, returns to the director's chair with "Riviera Revenge", a film that promises sunny escapades and a healthy dose of lighthearted chaos. Set against the picturesque backdrop of the French Riviera, the movie largely delivers on its promise, offering a visually appealing and enjoyable cinematic experience.

The premise centres around a group of estranged friends who reunite for a destination wedding on the glamorous coast. What begins as a seemingly idyllic celebration quickly unravels as old resentments, unspoken desires, and a healthy dose of mistaken identities bubble to the surface.

Calbérac masterfully uses the opulent setting not just as a backdrop, but as a character in itself, the shimmering azure waters and manicured gardens mirroring the seemingly perfect lives of the characters, which are, of course, anything but.

The ensemble cast is a significant strength of "Riviera Revenge 2024." While specific actors might not be universally household names, their collective



A sun-drenched slice of French comedy, *Riviera Revenge* screens with the Bass Coast Fine Film Group this Sunday in Wonthaggi.

chemistry is palpable. There's a genuine warmth and lived-in quality to their interactions, making the ensuing comedic mishaps and dramatic revelations feel earned, even when they skirt the edge of predictability.

The film excels in its quieter moments, allowing for genuine character development and glimpses into the complexities that bind these individuals together despite their differences.

Calbérac's direction is steady and confident. He has a keen eye for visual storytelling, capturing the beauty of the

Riviera with a painterly touch. The pacing is generally brisk, keeping the audience engaged with a series of escalating comedic set pieces.

The humour in "Riviera Revenge 2024" leans towards situational comedy and witty dialogue, with a few broader gags thrown in for good measure. It's a film that understands the comedic potential of awkward social situations and the inherent absurdity of trying to maintain appearances.

Where the film truly shines is in its underlying theme of reconciliation and the enduring power of friendship, even after years of separation and unspoken grievances. Calbérac avoids cynicism, opting instead for a hopeful and ultimately optimistic outlook on human connection. The "revenge" aspect, while a central plot driver, is less about malicious intent and more about cathartic confrontation and the release of pent-up emotions.

Screening at 10.30am, on Sunday, September 28, at The Union Theatre, 96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi. BCFFG members entry free, with general public welcome at usual box office prices.

To find out more, visit the website: [basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com/current-season](https://basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com/current-season), and follow the links to the film. The Bass Coast Fine Film Group is proudly sponsored by the Bass Coast Shire.




**WEDNESDAY 1pm - 3pm**  
**THURSDAY 7pm - 9pm**

**Wonthaggi Workmen's Club, 75 Graham Street**  
Come and join in the laughs at South Coast FM Bingo

★ RAFFLES ★ DOOR PRIZES ★



**10.30am SUNDAY 28th SEPTEMBER**  
**RIVIERA REVENGE**

On the sunny French Riviera, a family revelation spirals into a mischievous journey brimming with love, vengeance and surprises.

General public welcome. Members Free Entry!

**@ THE UNION THEATRE**  
96 Graham Street, Wonthaggi.

Check the website for more info:  
[basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com](https://basscoastfinefilmgroup.weebly.com)





**We may never meet again: The music of Amy Winehouse with Elly Poletti, live on Saturday, November 15 at Meeniyan Town Hall at 7.30 pm.**

## Elly Poletti's tribute to Amy Winehouse heads to Meeniyan this November

FAST forward a decade, and vocalist Elly Poletti will step onto the stage at the Meeniyan Town Hall for her highly anticipated performance, titled *We May Never Meet Again: The music of Amy Winehouse*, on November 15 at 7.30pm.

"It's incredible how a place can hold so much nostalgia and promise," said Elly.

"I brought this same show here just with a different lineup of instruments, and this show will bring music that people are familiar with, but it'll be done differently.

"The show is about the arranger behind the pieces, Jo McEvily. Jo arranged the music so that it would highlight the heartache and trauma that were going on in Amy's life at the time."

"A lot of her songs, when you listen to them, if you take away the music and just focus on the lyrics, you can tell that she was going through a hell of a time," Elly explained.

"But then she put this music behind

it that was super upbeat – for instance, when you listen to Rehab, everyone dances along to it, and she's literally singing a song about how she has to go back to rehab because she's an alcoholic.

"It's the music behind it that makes it a fun, dance-worthy song, and that's what this show is all about – it's highlighting the lyrics and what's going on."

Amy Winehouse was an artist who was an inspiration for Elly.

"As a songwriter, I think she is incredible, and I took a lot of inspiration from watching the documentary. In fact, she started off her career just wanting to be that blues, jazz singer, and she really pushed for that, but unfortunately, she got swept up in the industry."

Elly shared that she believes it is so important to stick to your main love. "My main love is that soul, funk, pop kind of music. I don't feel the pressure or the need to strive to be a famous musician

and sell number one hits; I strive to do the best that I can."

"The industry isn't like it used to be," said Elly.

"Back in the early 70s, you got discovered by playing at a pub, you released some records, and you weren't up against a lot of people. Nowadays, you could release a song, and it will go into the ether of Spotify with the 10 billion other songs that someone else has released – it's so easy to upload music, and therefore, you're constantly in competition. Almost like you compete with yourself, and that's why it's important to remind yourself that you're doing this because you love making music."

Elly is in the process of writing new songs, with her music set to be released early next year.

To see Elly's tribute to Amy Winehouse – 10 years on, visit [trybooking.com/events/landing/1451532](http://trybooking.com/events/landing/1451532)



## Cannelloni with Ricotta and Spinach

By Meg Viney

THIS is one of those comfort dishes. Just crunchy bread and a salad to accompany. Because I make pasta, I don't need to buy cannelloni, but it is easy to buy cannelloni and it works beautifully. I can't be bothered with fresh spinach anymore, although it is superior.

### Ingredients

- A box of cannelloni (or make fresh pasta and use a piece about 12 x 12 cm for the wrapping of the filling.
- 250 gm ricotta
- 250 gm frozen spinach, thawed and juice squeezed out
- 1 onion cooked as I always suggest
- ½ cup grated parmesan
- A grating of fresh nutmeg
- A few shakes of white pepper

### Method

Mix the ingredients well then stuff into the cannelloni (or wrap with fresh pasta).

Oil a baking dish and lay the cannelloni in the dish, close together then top with a fresh tomato sauce (recipe given a few times).

Top with more grated parmesan and place in a 180 degree oven for 30 minutes.

A brown top is nice, so you may want to grill at the end to achieve a crunchy top.

Salad and crunchy bread to accompany.

## Fun but moving play for Lyric

By Andrew Paloczi

A FUNNY and uplifting celebration of music, friendship and community is in store for audiences at Leongatha Lyric Theatre's production of playwright Aidan Fennessy's *Heartbreak Choir*, opening on Friday, October 24 at the town's Memorial Hall.

While the production features music and singing, it is a play rather than a musical.

Director Bernadette Grainger remarked that it will have a more intimate feel than Lyric Theatre musicals, with just 140 seats, all of those at ground level but tiered to provide a clear view for audience members.

Colin Mitchell OAM continues his long involvement with Lyric, with Bernadette saying he has designed another fabulous set, its construction being well underway.

In contrast to the theatre group's musical productions, the Leongatha Memorial Hall stage is large enough to accommodate the *Heartbreak Choir* set, avoiding the need to construct a stage for the show.

Set in a small rural town approximately 150 kilometres from Melbourne, that might well be Leongatha, the story centres on five women who split from their original choir on a matter of principle.

While the cast consists of just seven members, they will ultimately be joined by up to 27 choristers, following some A Capella singing earlier in the play.

The choristers include representatives from the South Gippsland Singers, Treble F Singers, and Leongatha Lyric Theatre.

"There's a lot of humour," Bernadette said, noting the women who break away to form a new choir are a diverse group, the play's audience gradually learning about each of the ladies and the reason for the rift.

Aidan Fennessy also wrote *The Architect*, which Bernadette directed for Foster Arts Music & Drama Association, that production winning multiple Gippsland Associated Theatre Awards including Best Director.

As well as being amused, *Heartbreak*



**The small but enthusiastic cast of Heartbreak Choir are looking forward to the opening of the latest Leongatha Lyric Theatre production in late October.**

Choir audiences will be moved, confronted and delighted.

Bernadette praised the cleverness with which the late Aidan Fennessy wrote his scripts, ensuring they have a bit of everything and will keep attendees engaged.

For some of the *Heartbreak Choir* cast, it will be a new experience, being their first play after previously appearing in musicals.

One of the cast members, Bianca Wicks, who plays Mack, is also the production's vocal coach.

The remaining cast members are Alison McIntyre (Barbara), Melita Berzins (Totty), Yasmin Tough (Savannah), Ariane 'Kiki' Joseph (Asini), Lachlan Denbrok (Beau) and Trevar Skillicorn-Chilver (Peter).

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased through [trybooking.com](http://trybooking.com) with the show running from October 24 until November 2, with tickets costing \$35 for adults and \$30 for students and children.

# WE MAY NEVER MEET AGAIN:

*The music of*

# AMY WINEHOUSE

WITH ELLY POLETTI

FOR TICKETS

SAT 15TH  
NOVEMBER

MEENIYAN  
TOWN HALL

LIVE AT  
7.30PM





Barbara Walker, Don and Helen Lyon-Jones and Noel Walker were enjoying the festivities at Avis Tilley's 100th Birthday. ob01\_3825



Gilbert Kelly, Kris Chriton and Harry Prosser enjoyed the entertainment from the Invy Horn Jam at Avis Tilley's 100th Birthday celebrations. ob02\_3825



Pam Coulston and Helen Lyon Jones with Sheila Broady and Betty Thompson were having a great time socialising at Avis Tilley's 100th Birthday celebrations. ob03\_3825



Grade 3 students Patrick, Beau and Max donned their AFL gear at Inverloch Primary School on Wednesday. Tk04\_3825



Jack Membrey, Anne Tiplady and Mark Membrey get ready to support Leongatha Knights, both the men's and women's sides making Grand Finals. A40\_3825



Eleanor and Laura Smith came to check out the women's Grand Final after seeing their team, the Inverloch Stars, outgunned in the Reserves Grand Final. A42\_3825



Emma, Jess, Lauren and Naomi, along with dog Ruby, await the start of the men's Senior Grand Final. A44\_3825



Owen Schnoor and Gemma Sinfield of Leongatha show their support for the Knights. A46\_3825



Ian Hornby of Trafalgar with Elders Agent Graeme Brettley at the Victorian Livestock Exchange store cattle sale in Koonwarra. B21\_3825

# Snapped Out

Pictures of you and your friends at Avis Tilley's 100th Birthday Celebrations, Soccer Grand Finals and Leongatha Store Sale.



Councillor's Nathan Hersey and John Kennedy presented new Centenarian Avis Tilley with a bunch of flowers on behalf of the South Gippsland Shire Council. ob04\_3825

## Sentinel-Times

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Australasian Team Roping Champion Aaron Bookluck of Nilma and Jayden Boulton of Sale with Logan and Elders Agent Bryce Dodd at the Victorian Livestock Exchange in Koonwarra. B23\_3825



Kilcunda grazier Andrew Harmon with Elders Agent Carlo Taranto at the fortnightly store cattle sale at VLE Koonwarra. B24\_3825



Neka McKenzie is a true knight, making no secret of where her support lies. A41\_3825



Lucy holds Banksy, with Clancy completing a trio of enthusiastic supporters of the Inverloch Stars. A43\_3825



Kerri and David Robinson of Moe make the sensible decision to watch the men's soccer Grand Final from a sheltered spot on a bleak and wet day at Wonthaggi. A45\_3825



Pauleen Boulton and Jake Taylor of Phillip Island watch the men's soccer Grand Final on Sunday in Wonthaggi. A47\_3825



Stuart Storr of Storr Transport Toora, Noel Gnaden Raedean Red Angus, and farmer Peter McRae at the VLE store cattle sale in Koonwarra. B26\_3825





Junior School Orchestra: Emily Hardy, Ollie Armstrong, and Theodore Wilson.



Middle School Choir: Evelyn McCabe, Sally McPherson, Aggie Andrianopoulos, Ava Mannix and Evie Felstead.

# A night to remember

LAST Monday night, the stage of the Wonthaggi Union Community Arts Centre came alive as Newhaven College students from Years 1 to 12 showcased their talents at the College’s annual Spring Concert. It was truly a night to remember, filled with passion, dedication, and the joy of music.

The evening commenced with the Senior Guitar Ensemble before a diverse program unfolded, including Junior, Middle, and Senior choirs, string orchestras, concert bands, percussion and Taiko drum ensembles, and a stunning array of vocal and instrumental performances.

Highlights included Junior School Orchestra’s playful rendition of the Bluey Theme, Chamber Strings’ moving Canon, the combined choirs’ powerful performance of Running Up That Hill, and the Senior Concert Band’s energetic take on Bohemian Rhapsody. Earlier this month, more than 50 students attended the annual Music Camp at Urban Camp in Melbourne, rehearsing intensively with their ensembles and choirs. That preparation was evident, with every performance brimming with confidence, commitment, and a shared love of music.

Newhaven College’s Director of Music, Matthew Goss, expressed his pride in the College’s music students and staff.

“The Spring Concert is the culmination of not only this year’s work, but also the dedication and passion of our students and teachers. We are blessed to have such talented and professional staff who mentor and inspire our young musicians. I thank the parents and carers whose ongoing support makes evenings like this possible – it is a privilege to be part of a school where the Arts are so highly valued by our community.”

This year, Mr Goss also acknowledged the leadership of the 2025 Music Captains – Cecily de Gooyer (Year 12), Archie Robson (Year 12), and Charlee Pedersen (Year 8) – who have inspired their peers and played an important role in connecting staff and students.

The College also farewelled graduating Year 12 musicians Marley Brown, Mackenzie Cameron, Cecily de Gooyer, Archie Robson, and Gabe Di Falco, recognising their significant contributions to the musical life of the school and wishing them every success beyond Newhaven.

With over 60 music students from Year 5 upwards also participating in music camps and workshops throughout the year, the College’s Performing Arts Wing (PAW) remains a daily hub of creativity, collaboration, and performance.



Spring Music Concert Guitar Ensemble: Hamish Dakers-Hock and Flynn Dengerink.



Ninety-five acres in Mirboo is one of the properties on the market set to go under the hammer in October.

## Surge in buyer confidence improves market

THE housing market in Bass Coast and South Gippsland is showing signs of gradual improvement, primarily due to the ongoing adjustments in interest rates, giving buyers more confidence in purchasing; however, the higher-than-usual cost of living is still causing hesitation among first-time buyers and investors.

According to realestate.com, some buyers remain confident in the long-term value of properties in Bass Coast and South Gippsland due to the appeal as an alternative to more expensive city living, and sales recorded in September are higher than those recorded in the past six months.

Director of Ray White Inverloch, Fiona McMahon-Hughes, said the auction clearance rate in Melbourne has risen, and that has a flow-on effect down here.

“Many vendors are choosing to sell at auction, therefore bringing the days on market down, and interestingly, there has been a shift from investors to permanent residents,” said Fiona.

“Prices have adjusted since COVID, but there’s faith in the market again, and with

less stock on the market, it’s a good time to sell.”

“The demand is also there for land sales, too, with more permanent buyers actively looking, many are looking to build a substantial home that ticks all the boxes,” Fiona explained.

The August rate cut delivered immediate results, as lower borrowing costs quickly reignited buyer confidence, and there is still an influx of land for sale, giving buyers a choice.

According to the Ray White economic update, despite Victoria being the most heavily taxed state for property, the August response to the rate cut suggests underlying demand remains intact, and further rate cuts should provide ease for those first-home buyers and investors; therefore, South Gippsland and Bass Coast should see more of a substantial recovery.

With the considerable influx of people relocating permanently to the area, Fiona indicated that the stock availability is limited, rendering this an opportune time to sell due to reduced market competition.

Elders Real Estate

UPCOMING AUCTION

470 CLEAR CREEK ROAD, MIRBOO

‘MIRBOO GRAZING’ – 95 ACRES

- 95 acres of undulating land offering a blend of productivity and lifestyle appeal
- Water security with two dams, including a reliable spring-fed dam
- Comfortable weekend bungalow ideal for getaways or temporary accommodation
- Practical improvements including steel stock yards and sundry shedding
- Well sheltered and attractively treed, providing shade and shelter for livestock

Inspection by private appointment only

AUCTION Saturday 25th October at 2pm

Location: Mirboo Recreation Reserve

19 Clear Creek Road, Mirboo

Terms: 10% on signing contract and balance in 30/60 days

Web ID: 300P134630

Address: 470 Clear Creek Road, Mirboo

Contact: Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487

Elders Leongatha | 37 Bair Street, Leongatha

eldersrealestate.com.au



# Set up for horses on the edge of town!

ENJOY the quiet life, set on approx. 12.5 acres (plus frontage to Bennison Creek) just five minutes from the centre of town. With the Rail Trail at the end of the road, you're close enough to park the car and walk or cycle instead.

Brilliantly maintained with flat productive paddocks ideal for horses or running a few stock, complete with excellent shedding including double carport, hay shed, two four-bay sheds, workshop, stockyards, race and crush.

Manicured gardens line the long driveway and the north-facing verandah, just the spot to sit and take in the view over the paddocks to the distant hills. Inside the home is filled with natural light, and every window frames lovely rural views. Comfortable year-round, the living room has a central wood heater and the convenience of RC/AC.

Well-appointed kitchen with breakfast bar/servery to the adjoining dining area. There are three fitted bedrooms, the master with a walk-in robe and ensuite. Central family bathroom, separate w.c., laundry/utility room.

Covered rear fernery and gazebo. Town water, mains and solar power. If you're looking for a rural lifestyle in a convenient location, this is a must-see.

Contact Andrea Adams on 0429 822 801 to arrange an inspection.

3 2 5

12.5 acres

85 Elphicks Road, **Foster**  
**For Sale** \$1,050,000  
**Agent** SEJ Foster  
Andrew Adams 0429 822 801



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[www.sej.com.au](http://www.sej.com.au)

ANDREA ADAMS  
0429 822 801  
[aadams@sej.com.au](mailto:aadams@sej.com.au)

FOSTER  
Ph 5682 2800

IRENE WALKER  
0429 045 632  
[iwalker@sej.com.au](mailto:iwalker@sej.com.au)

LEONGATHA  
Ph 5662 4033

STONY CREEK

- 3 bed 2 bath, 2 car
- Cedar home, 1.2ha approx
- Master w/ensuite.
- Garage, fenced paddock
- 6 mins - Fish Creek.

**\$770,000**

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

WONGA

- Set up on a hilltop this 5 bed 3 bath, 2 car exceptional modern homestead
- Magnificent views, energy efficient and total privacy on approx. 1.26 hectares
- 7 star energy rating - double glazing, triple insulation, stylish and quality build
- Master suite with dressing room, ensuite, office, and sauna. Guest wing
- Self contained barn with living room, kitchen, bathroom, and a bedroom
- Fenced paddock, vegetable garden, orchard, shedding, 15 min to Foster

**\$985,000**

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

LEONGATHA

- Prime residential land
- Subdivision opportunity
- 1.095ha / 10,950m2
- W/B 4 bed, 1 bath home
- Great location, walk to shops

**\$1,350,000 - \$1,400,000**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045632

RANCBY

- 23ha/60 acres (approx..)
- Ideal turnout block, close to town
- 5 paddocks, inc hay paddock
- Good quality steel yards
- Undulating hill country

**\$595,000**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632

TOORA NORTH

- 3 bed 2 bath, 3 car contemporary home on 1ha, panoramic coastal views
- Polished floors, modern kitchen, north facing lounge and covered deck
- Three fitted bedrooms, the master with walk in robe and ensuite
- Central bathroom with spa, separate w.c. and laundry
- Solar power and hot water, underfloor insulation, panel heating
- Lock up garage / workshop, fully fenced paddock with a dam

**\$795,000**

Contact Andrea Adams 0429 822 801

NERRENA

- Just minutes from town
- Rural living, expansive views
- 20ha/50acres exc. Grazing
- Good shedding, yards, trees
- Beautiful home 4 bed, 2 bath

**\$1,900,000**

Contact Irene Walker 0429 045 632





## Dairy today, beef tomorrow

ELDERS Rural Services proudly presents this 145-acre property in the sought-after Bena district. The property includes a four-bedroom, one-bathroom home with a new roof and external cladding. Whilst the interior has character, it needs work to match the exterior. With approximately 90 per cent of the land tractorable, the property lends itself to a grazing or dairy operation.

Divided into 16 paddocks with 13 troughs, six dams and a main dam connected to three-phase power, water security is a standout. Improvements include 12m x 12m hay shed and 18m x 18m machinery shed, a 32-aside dairy with auto systems, and a 400-cow holding yard.

Importantly, the existing dairy infrastructure could be converted into quality undercover cattle yards, providing buyers with the option to transition the property into a well-equipped beef operation.

Located 15 minutes from Korumburra, 30 minutes from Inverloch beaches and 1 ¾ hours from Melbourne CBD. For further information or to inspect the property, please contact Ben Townsend on 0400 594 487.

For a Due Diligence Checklist go to: [consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist](https://consumer.vic.gov.au/duediligencechecklist)

4 1 4 145 acres

30 Canobios Road, **Bena**  
**For Sale \$1,800,000**  
**Agent Elders**  
Ben Townsend 0400 594 487



Real Estate

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eldersrealestate.com.au

**Mardan**286 Acres  
**Red & Grey Soils**

- Machinery, hay & sundry shed
- Water via catchment dams, springs
- 15 paddocks with troughs

Web ID: 300P184219\$3.25 Million

**Korumburra**406m<sup>2</sup>  
**Downsizers Dream Home**

- 3 bedrooms main with WIR & Ensuite
- Functional spacious kitchen
- Double garage with internal access to unit

Web ID: 300P177680\$630,000

**Korumburra**550m<sup>2</sup>  
**Unit with an Abundance of Space**

- 3 bedrooms main with WIR & Ensuite
- Spacious kitchen & dining area
- Undercover entertaining area

Web ID: 300P179982\$630,000

**Loch**26 Acres  
**Private Bush Haven**

- Getaway or camping block
- Multiple sheds, office/workshop
- Native trees, small orchard

Web ID: 300P184236\$600,000

**BEN TOWNSEND**  
Licensed Estate Agent  
0400 594 487

**SHARON TURTON**  
Sales Consultant  
0447 604 796

**KATRINA GRIGGS**  
Sales Consultant  
0428 571 083

**HELEN ARESTIA**  
Sales Support  
03 5662 3523

**NATALIE RES**  
Property Manager  
0439 383 091

**Elders Korumburra**  
11 Commercial Street  
Ph 5658 1894

**Elders Leongatha**  
37 Bair Street  
Ph 5662 3523

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 | 31

JAZ2108-17





# Stunning coastal living awaits in Kilcunda

DISCOVER your dream home at 2 Seaview Crescent, where coastal charm meets modern comfort. This expansive 882m<sup>2</sup> allotment boasts three spacious bedrooms, all featuring built-in robes, with the master bedroom offering a luxurious ensuite. The light-filled open-plan living area invites you to relax and unwind, complemented by a separate lounge that showcases breathtaking ocean views. Enjoy year-round comfort with a wood heater and split system, along with double-glazed windows for added insulation.

The heart of this home is its modern kitchen, equipped with a gas cooktop, electric oven, and dishwasher, plus ample bench space for culinary adventures. Step outside to a massive deck area, perfect for entertaining, complete with a pizza oven and bar, all while soaking in more stunning coastal vistas. An additional deck area on the opposite side of the house provides even more outdoor space to enjoy those beautiful sunny days.

Surrounded by wonderful established gardens, this property offers plenty of privacy, making it a serene retreat. With ample parking for up to five cars and a van, convenience is at your fingertips. Plus, the 6kw solar power system adds an eco-friendly touch. Located just a short stroll from local cafes and pristine beaches, this home truly embodies the best of coastal living. Don't miss your chance to make this slice of paradise your own!

3 2 4 882m<sup>2</sup>

2 Seaview Crescent, **Kilcunda**  
**For Sale** \$1,050,000  
**Agent** Alex Scott & Staff  
Wonthaggi 5672 1911  
Mick Chambers 0418 349 783  
Cal Nation 0439 334 163

## 312 acre grazing farm in 3 titles

FIRST time offered since 1959; this beef grazing farm has been in the same family for over 65 years. Ran as a dairy farm up until 10 years ago, it is now being run as a successful beef fattening farm. Situated in some of the best farming land regions in the state, the property offers heavy carrying country and reliable rainfall.

Situated less than two kilometres from the front gate to the township of Foster, this property offers three titles (150 ac, 117ac and 45 ac) of approximately 312 acres plus an unmade road lease and river frontage.

Being offered as a whole, the breakdown of the titles are as follows:

Title 1: 150 acres with a beautifully renovated five-bedroom and study home. The home features a master with ensuite and walk-in robe, formal lounge, family room with wood fire and R/C split, modern kitchen with electric cooking, second bathroom with shower, bath and toilet, two large decks, one adjoining the living room, and one to the South East end of the home overlooking the farmland and Wilsons Promontory.

This title also features two large sheds, approximately 12 m x 8 m and 10 m x 7 m, and the balance of the land is clear and clean, with stunning views of Corner Inlet and Wilsons Promontory.

Title 2: 117 acres featuring a disused dairy, cattle yards and loading race and highway frontage. Excellent water with electric pump sending water to the main header tank and then gravity fed to troughs. Also serviced by several dams throughout the property, as well as a secondary main dam feeding water troughs through a syphon.

Bennison Creek also runs through this property and features a beautiful stand of native trees and excellent shelter for the cattle. There are also excellent home sites on this title (STCA) with front row views of Wilsons Promontory.

Title 3: 45 acres of grazing land with highway frontage. This title also features a loading race and stock yards.

Other features of the farm include:

- Several hay paddocks
- Laneway systems for ease of cattle movement
- Clean pasture
- Several native shelter belts
- Opportunity for you to on-sell one or more of the titles
- Sealed road, highway frontage and more

This property has been well cared for by its current owners for two generations and is ready for its new owners. Contact Andrew Newton 0402 940 320 or Richard Faulkner 0408 595 174 to arrange an inspection, we'd love to show it to you.













Disclaimer: Whilst every care has been taken in preparing the above information, it is to be used as a guide only. Please refer to the appropriate legal documentation to complete your due diligence.

5 2 1 312 acres

3655 South Gippsland Hwy, **Foster**  
**For Sale** \$2,975,000  
**Agent** Alex Scott & Staff Leongatha  
Andrew Newton 0402 940 320  
Richard Faulkner 0408 595 174





<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>42 Brumley Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spacious 3 bed 2 bath 2 living area home</li><li>• Approx 1026 sqm block with studio &amp; shed</li><li>• Rear lane access, fruit trees/ veg garden</li></ul><div>\$820,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>JEETHO</div> <div></div> <div>190 South Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rural hideaway</li><li>• 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 7 acres</li><li>• Views, shedding</li></ul><div>\$895,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>SMITHS BEACH</div> <div></div> <div>173 Smiths Beach Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Walk to iconic Smiths Beach</li><li>• Quality finishes, 6-star luxury</li><li>• 6 beds/4 baths/ample car parking</li></ul><div>\$1,490,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>CAPE PATERSON</div> <div></div> <div>4 Swan Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom</li><li>• 2 storey with 2 living zones</li><li>• Short walk to the beach</li></ul><div>\$725,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>6 Willow Grove</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• As new, low maintenance 3 bed 2 bath 2 car</li><li>• Undercover outdoor entertaining</li><li>• Located next to parkland reserve</li></ul><div>\$630,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>36 Queen Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 bedroom, 1 bath California Bunglaow</li><li>• Garage / Garden shed</li><li>• Central location / Rear access</li></ul><div>\$520,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>RHYLL</div> <div></div> <div>1 Snapper Court</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 'Snapper House'</li><li>• Open plan, heated spa</li><li>• 6 beds/5 baths/ample car parking</li></ul><div>\$1,450,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>KILCUNDA</div> <div></div> <div>8 Peppermint Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom</li><li>• Magnificent ocean views</li><li>• Good shedding for cars</li></ul><div>\$1,050,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>LEONGATHA</div> <div></div> <div>2/13 Hassett Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 bed 1 bath unit in excellent condition</li><li>• Open plan kitchen/living with natural light</li><li>• Single lock up garage, private courtyard</li></ul><div>\$485,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>5/6 Ruddville Avenue</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modern 1 bedroom apartment</li><li>• Fully furnished</li><li>• Nothing to spend</li></ul><div>\$390,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>12-16 Waratah Close</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4000m2 (approx.) established block</li><li>• Generous shedding, veggie gardens</li><li>• 4 beds/2 baths/2 car garage</li></ul><div>\$1,950,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>KILCUNDA</div> <div></div> <div>7 Trawler Drive</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modern family home,</li><li>• short walk to the beach</li><li>• 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms</li></ul><div>\$895,000 to \$960,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>
<div>TOORA</div> <div></div> <div>40 Irelands Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clean 5.93ac approx. acres zoned farming</li><li>• Located just out of the township of Toora</li><li>• Minutes' drive from Toora Jetty</li></ul><div>\$240,000</div><div>Contact: Leongatha Office</div></div>	<div>KORUMBURRA</div> <div></div> <div>23 Bridge Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grand period home</li><li>• Prime corner location</li><li>• 3 bedroom, 3 living</li></ul><div>\$675,000</div><div>Contact: Korumburra Office</div></div>	<div>COWES</div> <div></div> <div>1/35 Steels Street</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 500mt to Cowes beach</li><li>• Gas log fire, 2 living areas</li><li>• 4 beds/2 baths/2 car garage</li></ul><div>\$1,550,000</div><div>Contact: Cowes Office</div></div>	<div>WEST CREEK</div> <div></div> <div>7 Hickey Road</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Almost 2 acres with rural outlook</li><li>• Great shedding for traddie</li><li>• Good family property</li></ul><div>\$799,000</div><div>Contact: Wonthaggi Office</div></div>

LEONGATHA

5662 0922

41 Bair Street

Andrew Newton 0402 940 320

Emily Hillberg 0422 622 299

Tony Giles 0407 528 192

Dan Huther 0418 334 801

KORUMBURRA

5655 1133

36 Bridge Street

Scott McKenzie 0427 552 898

COWES

5952 2633

113a Thompson Avenue

Greg Price 0419 337 441

Brian Silver 0407 347 509

Chase Waters 0423 272 819

WONTHAGGI

5672 1911

Cnr Murray & Billson Streets

Cal Nation 0439 334 163

Mick Chambers 0418 349 783

Phil Hanley 0417 140 508

HM12576-V7



# WAR on WEEDS



The Envirogain fleet is ready for action in the war on weeds this spring.

## Springtime means a war on weeds at Envirogain

SPRING in southeast Victoria brings new growth but also a familiar battle with weeds.

Ragwort, blackberry and thistle are on the march again, threatening pastures, choking out native vegetation and spreading fast if left unchecked.

For landholders across Bass Coast and South Gippsland, weeds are not just an inconvenience; they cut into productivity, degrade land and undo years of hard work.

That's why Envirogain has been leading the fight against weeds since 2006.

Family-owned and locally based Envirogain has built 20 years of experience in specialised conservation and land management.

From government agencies to private landholders, Envirogain works across Victoria using a strategic approach to tackle invasive plants, restore landscapes and protect biodiversity.

Weed control begins with correct identification, mapping and a management plan.

Envirogain uses targeted herbicide application, mechanical slashing, woody weed techniques like cut-and-paint, and even manual hand weeding for sensitive sites.

Backed by GPS mapping and data collection, Envirogain's work is precise and effective.

Weed control is only part of the battle.

Once infestations are managed,

Envirogain's revegetation programs help the land recover by planting native species, improving soil health and stabilising sites with erosion-control measures.

Envirogain creates resilient landscapes that keep weeds from returning.

As the warmer months set in, now is the time to act.

Every season left unchecked gives invasive weeds more ground.

This spring join Envirogain in protecting the productivity and beauty of our landscapes because when it comes to weeds, prevention is the best defence.

With Envirogain's expertise, equipment and commitment, landholders can stay on the front foot in the war against weeds.

## Invasive species under the spotlight

LEARN your local weeds and the most effective ways to control them, as well as information on local rabbit and fox control programs with Bass Coast Landcare Network at a series of field days coming up this spring across the region.

Bass Coast Landcare Network (BCLN) is working with local Landcare groups to deliver four sessions designed for anyone on any-sized property, with one each at Phillip Island, Korumburra and Kilcunda/Wonthaggi, as well as an online session on the various apps and technologies in play to help identify, track and map invasive species.

These will be free sessions, with the first one on Phillip Island at Berninnet and the new Phillip Island Recreation Reserve in Cowes on Saturday, October 4, from 10am to 2pm, including a catered lunch.

Each of the sessions will follow a similar format but with a focus on weeds and pest animals that are more relevant to each area. Hear from various BCLN staff at these days, who will share their extensive experience in weed spraying, woody weeding, community programs, and rabbit and fox control.

BCLN's Works Crew leading hand Bill Barry will show samples of various weeds, answer your questions and discuss the

most effective control methods and timing to get better impact for your weed control efforts.

The BCLN Invasive Species team will share information on control programs and methods, featuring Jack Harriss, on rabbit control programs, including exclusion fencing techniques, as well as Aaron Stephens, who will share information about fox control programs. BCLN's education, training and communications manager Lisa Wangman will also facilitate a short session on working together, discussing needs and pooling resources for better impacts on controlling invasive species.

Each of these days will include a guided walk at a local reserve, highlighting some of the local weeds, demonstrating removal techniques, and discussing impacts across the region.

To book your place at the first session on Phillip Island on Saturday, October 4, please go to [trybooking.com/DFQLP](http://trybooking.com/DFQLP). The next sessions in the series will be confirmed in the coming weeks.

Please check the BCLN News and Events webpage for updates and confirmation dates, locations and details for events in the series at [basscoastlandcare.org.au/newsandevents](http://basscoastlandcare.org.au/newsandevents). For enquiries on this series, please contact Lisa Wangman on [lisa.wangman@basscoastlandcare.org.au](mailto:lisa.wangman@basscoastlandcare.org.au).



### TAKE CONTROL BEFORE WEEDS TAKE OVER

- High and low volume weed control
- Woody weed control
- Revegetation preparation
- GPS mapping
- Servicing Gippsland wide
- Over 25 years' industry experience
- Fully insured and accredited operators

Simon 0434 880 618 | [simon@envirogain.com.au](mailto:simon@envirogain.com.au) | [www.envirogain.com.au](http://www.envirogain.com.au)

### Partnerships Against Pests Spring 2025 Series

#### Integrated Invasive Species Management

#### Field days for Bass Coast

Learn your local weeds, the most effective and efficient ways to control them, and information on local rabbit and fox control techniques and programs.

**Session 1: Phillip Island**

**Dates/Time:** Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October – 10am to 2pm

**Venue:** Starting @ Berninnet Cowes 91-97 Thompson Avenue, Cowes VIC 3922. Then self-drive to Phillip Island Recreation Reserve (old carnival site).

**Catering:** Lunch provided, RSVP essential

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# HAY and SILAGE



Tom Peters, Cameron Chapman and Gavan Stewart of Chapman Machinery Service are keen to provide advice on hay and silage. A01\_3825

## Great hay and silage deals at Chapman Machinery Service

CHAPMAN Machinery Service is ready to tackle your hay and silage needs, with some great deals available, including on Krone VariPack balers and other equipment from the innovative and reliable German manufacturer.

The VariPack offers high-speed baling, with control over bale density, having been released a few years ago and proving its worth in the field.

Cameron Chapman said the machine's speed enables it to handle a large quantity of grass in a short time for both hay and silage.

He explained that with current weather patterns and shorter windows available to farmers and contractors for hay and silage, the VariPack's speed is advantageous.

It is easy to load the net into the baler, with an efficient system for doing so.

"It's a good way to do it, fold out the chute at waist height and slide the new roll into the cradle, rather than lifting up over your shoulder and climbing up the front of a baler; it's user friendly," Cameron said, with that reducing the risk of injury and allowing for a user to choose to load the bigger net roll for less reloads.

Chapman's friendly and knowledgeable team are happy to bring the VariPack baler or the Krone EasyWrap silage bale wrapper to your property for a demonstration of its capability and ease of use.

Simply call into the store at 58 Yarragon Road, Leongatha or ring the office on 5662 3973 to learn



Cameron Chapman shows off a Valtra T175 tractor. A02\_3825

more or arrange a demonstration. Krone Australia have price-adjusted their balers to clear out stock and are offering zero per cent finance on the Krone VariPack, with a 20 per cent deposit, 60 months. Call Chapmans for details.

Krone Australia are also clearing out some select hay tools stock; Chapmans have picked up a selection of items to pass on savings, mowers, rakes and tedders.

Chapman Machinery Service ensures team members have a thorough understanding of the equipment they offer and service.

"We sent one of our mechanics over to Krone Germany last year to do specialised training on a couple of Krone products," Cameron said.

He elaborated on Krone's approach to ensuring farmers enjoy high-quality machinery.

"They're always innovating and they put a lot of money into their R & D; Krone just announced overseas an all-in-one rake into combi baler machine to run off the one tractor," Cameron said.

There's plenty of other equipment available at Chapman Machinery Service to meet your hay and silage needs with Fendt and Massey Ferguson hay tools.

The Valtra T175 tractor from Finland is another excellent piece of equipment available there, with the Chapman team happy to arrange a demonstration at your property.

Valtra T Series tractors provide excellent visibility, efficiency, comfort, smart technology and easy control, with plenty of brawn and the ability to handle a wide range of terrain, being ideal for hay and silage needs, whether you are a farmer or contractor.

## South Gippy's hay helpers



Ryanston mornings don't get much better. Trevor takes in the scenery while tackling daily chores.



Frank and Farmer Brown enjoying the view from the top of the hay bales.



Axel makes sure every bale is right where it should be.



Another day in the paddocks helping for Shiloh.



Pip puts in the hard yards, unloading hay straight off the back of the ute with farmer John.



Nathan Hersey and trusty sidekick Pickle geared up for a day in the fields.

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# HAY and SILAGE

## South Gippy's hay helpers



There's no resting on a dairy farm, but there are some pretty special views.



Silage stacked to perfection and given the tick of approval by Rip. Always ready for a trip to the train station.



Rip's predecessor of 18 year's Kali, in charge of the bales.

## ACE Industrial gears up for the hay and silage season

ACE Industrial Leongatha is ready to help with hay and silage gear, including belts, drive chain, hydraulic hoses and bearings and PTO shafts and spares.

"We're selling a lot more chain already and the PTO items," manager Trevor Arnold said, as people get ready for hay and silage season.

The business has been in Leongatha for almost 10 years, offering expertise and products to suit the needs of everyone from farmers to hobbyists.

And this season, there are a couple of new faces behind the counter.

Adrian Haig and Joel Vivian have recently joined the ACE team, bringing with them very different but complementary backgrounds.

Joel, who has been with ACE for three months, was previously working around Dandenong in customer service roles, including at Drummond Golf. After moving to South Gippsland a few years ago, he was keen for a new challenge that connected him with the agricultural industry.

"I've had more of an interest in agriculture, farm life and equipment, so this is definitely something different and a new challenge," Joel said.

"I'm learning about new products every day, meeting new customers and getting to understand how things work. At the moment, a lot of enquiries relate to maintenance – nuts, bolts, welding, bearings – as



Trevor Arnold, Joel Vivian and Adrian Haig show off a PTO shaft. A04\_3825

everyone is getting ready for the hay season. The weather's not quite right yet, but there's plenty of maintenance happening in the build-up."

He added that ACE has made sure to stock up heavily for the season, with drive chains, belts and other essentials on the shelves and ready to go.

For Adrian, joining ACE has meant a big lifestyle change after 25 years working as a mechanical fitter in the food industry. He's three weeks into the role and enjoying the new rhythm of daytime hours and weekends free.

"I'd been on rotating shifts for years, day and night, and you just don't get to catch up with friends when you're working like that," Adrian explained.

"It's a nice change now – a bit of a sleep-in, more time to

spend with people, and a good challenge in learning something different. The transfer of skills is pretty straightforward, but the hardest part is definitely memorising all the new parts and part numbers. There's a lot of stock!"

A born and bred Wonthaggi, who now lives in Leongatha, Adrian says he's looking forward to helping the community prepare for the busy season ahead.

"As a mechanical fitter, I have worked on all sorts. If you have any questions, pop in and ask away."

With a wealth of products in stock, local knowledge and a team eager to support the region's farmers, ACE Industrial is well placed to keep South Gippsland's hay and silage season rolling smoothly.



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# HAY and SILAGE

## Manks Rural is a one-stop agricultural contractor

MANKS Rural is a family-run business offering a wide range of agricultural services for farmers right across Gippsland, including harvesting silage and hay – large round and small square baling, fertiliser spreading, crop sowing and protection and offering client-exclusive agronomist advice.

With over 30 years in the business and eleven employees, Manks Rural covers a lot of ground efficiently, working from Cranbourne down to Philip Island and across to Fish Creek, and are now taking on new clients.

They also run large equipment and have their own transport with two large semi-drop deck trailers, and with the ability to cart fodder. They also sell round bales of hay and silage to new and existing clients.

Shane Manks runs the operation with his brother and father, and is also an agronomist by trade.

Shane offers exclusive advice to clients about growing grass, soil tests, fertility and the general science side of growing things in the paddock.

He commented that they've had an early start to the hay/silage season because of the low rainfall during winter.

"Farmers that have been proactive and fertilised have yielded



Shane Manks from Manks Rural in a crop of rye corn, the agricultural contractors recently cut for round bale silage using the Krone Big MII mower conditioner.

really good silage crops. There's been a shortage of hay and silage over this winter because of the dry, and it's on farmers' minds to make sure they can conserve as much hay and silage as they can this year," explained Shane.

"Grass production in the winter, if it was fertilised, has actually done really well. It wasn't impacted by the wet or damaged."

While it's been a dry start to the

season and all farmers still need rain to fill their dams, because grass production has been good, dairy farmers will likely be able to have two or even three cuts of silage/hay this year.

Manks Rural is a one-stop agricultural contractor who can do everything from advising on soil and pastures, to fertilising and sowing crops, to harvesting and selling them.



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AT Si.Co contracting we specialise in round bale silage with our two McHale fusions balers. We also offer hay services including baling of both round and small squares, mowing using mower conditioners, raking, tedding, cartage, spraying, seeding, fencing and a variety of agricultural services. Our experienced team is dedicated to supporting your agricultural needs with efficiency and expertise to ensure quality and reliability you can count on. Contact Jake on 0429 552 282 for any enquiries.

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for any enquiries or bookings**



# HAY and SILAGE

## Local farmers rejoice as spring arrives on the Bass Coast

ALTHOUGH the big dry continues to hang on in West and East Gippsland farmers along the Bass Coast have started to see a long-awaited boost to spring pasture growth.

A combination of soaking rain and warm nights has seen pastures shoot away in coastal areas with some farmers already starting to mow and wilt for early silage.

"We haven't pulled on the gumboots yet," said one farmer.

Most farmers plan to be making silage within the next few weeks, with conditions still dry enough to get tractors and silage-making equipment onto the paddocks.

With the application of longer-lasting pasture boosting fertilisers based on urea, farmers can improve the quality of hay and silage, especially when applied in spring.

Most farmers in South and Central Gippsland expect to start making silage within three to four weeks.

"We've cut a small amount of silage, but it's too early just yet," said one local farmer.

"With the application of urea, we may get a second cut.

"We'll definitely be cutting hay by Christmas, using contactors."

Producers are currently monitoring their pastures closely using strategies such as locking up paddocks or applying urea to stimulate growth.

According to Agriculture Victoria, pasture grown through the use of urea as a nitrogen source is a cheap source of feed and less prone to leaching and denitrification; however, it is crucial to keep stock off the treated pasture for

21 days.

It is estimated that every extra kilogram of pasture grown on a farm costs about 10 to 15 cents a kilogram of dry matter to produce. If approximately 10 kilograms of dry matter pasture (depending on quality) is needed to produce one kilogram of liveweight gain on cattle, that's an investment of \$1.50 in pasture costs for a return of \$4.50 in liveweight.

A good potential return on investment, according to Feeding Livestock Victoria.

Grazing management in spring can be straightforward. Rotational grazing will reduce waste and keep the pasture in a vegetative state while avoiding the pasture getting long and rank.

Shortening the rotation, keeping more stock on the pastures with spring calving cows or buying more store cattle post-winter will also help keep the pastures responsive.

Taking paddocks out of the rotation for silage and hay harvest allows more grazing pressure to be put onto the remaining paddocks, therefore helping to maintain pasture quality.

Wonthaggi received over 60mm of rain for the first two weeks of September compared to just 47mm in August. The long-range forecast from the Bureau of Meteorology for most of eastern Australia is average to above-average rainfall up to December.

For more information on getting the best from your pastures in spring go to [feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au/2025/09/08/getting-the-best-from-your-pastures-in-spring](http://feedinglivestock.vic.gov.au/2025/09/08/getting-the-best-from-your-pastures-in-spring).



Farmers are gearing up for silage season.

## Clamping down on quality silage

ON MANY farms, grass silage can be a significant component of the animal diet, particularly through the summer months.

Yet, it can be the one that is the most variable, and these variances can have a huge impact on animal performance.

Fertiliser for the upcoming grass silage harvest will already have been applied at optimum levels, tailored to suit your farm.

A good quality grass silage for milking cows and finishing cattle or sheep should have metabolisable energy (ME) of 11.5 + MJ/kg DM, a crude protein of more than 14 per cent and a dry matter content of 30-35 per cent.

The effect of silage quality can be shown by using an example of a cow eating 10 kilograms of grass silage dry matter (DM) with an ME of 12 versus an ME of nine.

The difference in energy density can be enough for up to six extra litres of milk.

For the cow to achieve the same performance, this difference will have to be made up by using extra concentrate grain blends.

In order to gain these benefits of a higher-quality silage, steps need to be taken in all aspects of silage making.

Ground conditions permitting, an early cutting date is key to making quality silage.

After the grass plant has headed out and a seed head is visible, each day that passes, the digestibility (DMD) value will decline by 0.5 units, so aim to cut just before the seed head emerges.

Ensure enough time has passed between nitrogen (N) application and cutting dates.

When N is not completely used up in the standing silage crop, excess nitrogen impacts on ensilability, which may result in a poorer fermentation with dark, unpalatable and unstable silage at feed-out.

Cut silage swards to target increased dry matter and sugar content of the crop.

Better sugar content will improve preservation and subsequent feed out quality.

The opposite of this is wet grass with acidic silage that can be unpalatable.

The use of a silage additive will not compensate for poor silage harvest management or quality, but can be used to improve preservation and feed-out characteristics.

Effluent running from silage stacks with forage at less than 30 per cent DM is rarely an issue in Australia.

However, grass can also be ensiled too dry, which will result in consolidation issues and can lead to secondary fermentation once opened.

Once cut, the grass needs to be ensiled as quickly and cleanly as possible to avoid feed value losses.

Chop length should be one to two centimetres for 25 to 40 per cent DM crops.

Regarding pit preparation and management – old, mouldy and rotten silage should already be removed from the clamp area.

To ensure quality, clamps need to be filled as quickly as possible, and the area should be cleaned to minimise soil contamination.

Even fill and regular rolling is a must.

However, avoid rolling the next morning before filling/sealing if a pit has been left overnight, as this will draw air in.

The stack needs to be well covered and sealed as soon as compaction is complete.

Take care that the sheeting is not punctured.

These small steps should help improve silage quality and have a positive impact on feed costs and animal performance.

For many, silage season is the best time of year, but due care and attention is needed to keep everyone involved safe, healthy and ready to go again for the upcoming feeding period.

Contact Donal Blackwell on 0408 377 304 for more information on Alltech's new silage inoculant.

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## New bull honours GA sales rep Greg Tiller

GIPPSLAND farmer Daryl Hoey has had numerous bulls in the AI system, but his latest addition is something special.

GT, which is joining the Genetics Australia Jersey portfolio this spring, has been named in honour of Daryl's great mate, Greg Tiller.

While it's a bittersweet moment, it also gives Daryl great pride to recognise the contribution Greg made to his Beulah Jerseys herd and to the cattle breeding industry in general.

Greg died suddenly on August 20, 2023, after a 20-year career as a Genetics Australia field sales representative based at Rochester in Northern Victoria.

Daryl now farms at Wonthaggi, but met Greg not long after he bought his previous farm at Katunga in 2002.

"Greg started at GA a few months after we bought the farm, and he became one of my best friends," Daryl said.

"We spent plenty of hours on the phone or at the kitchen table discussing genetics.

"My enjoyment of breeding cows and breeding bulls has never been the same since the loss of Greg. I've lost someone whom I spent so much time discussing and debating genetics. His death left a massive hole in my life – I just don't have those same conversations with anyone else."

The connections Greg made with farmers went well beyond genetics. "Apart from just calling on farms to make sales, Greg would talk about farming and life and making sure people were okay. Greg was always there if you needed those conversations. He was always conscious of other people's circumstances and always checked in on people and made sure everyone was okay."

Despite Daryl's loss, GT the bull is set to do the man proud.

While Daryl has had plenty of bulls in AI, GT is special not only for the emotional connection but for his outstanding potential.



Greg Tiller and Daryl Hoey in 2014.

"I don't necessarily strive to put a bull into AI. With over 80 per cent of semen used being sexed, breeding bulls are not a focus. I just strive to breed better genetics in my herd, and then sometimes the genetics come together to produce something special", Daryl said.

"If you have consistent cow families and high-indexing animals, then the chances of that happening are greater. The high genomic animals keep coming to the top if you keep breeding your better lines with good bulls."

GT comes from a long line of cows stemming back to south-west Victorian farmers Rosemary and Pat Roache's Fairy cow family, which produced the bull Outinfront that Genetics Australia bought more than 20 years ago. This led to the Fairy family in Daryl's Beulah Jerseys, one of his

strongest cow families.

GT's mother Dougg T Fairy, was the number one genomics heifer in Australia, and is still ranked ninth, and his grandmother, Triple N Fairy, was one of the top genomic animals in her year group.

"The cow family for four or five generations has always been high on genomics for the year level, and GT seems to have picked up a lot of his sire's attributes," Daryl said.

"He's got strong mammary and fertility, which are some of the key areas that I'm focusing on at the moment. Fertility is something the breed seems to have forgotten about. He's a really solid bull, not necessarily outstanding in one particular area but solid across the board."

Dougg T Fairy was sent to Genetics Australia's TLG centre at Camperdown to be flushed, and when they got

two heifers and two bulls, Daryl was determined to make sure a bull was named in recognition of Greg.

"This has special meaning," he said.

GT's two embryo transfer Starlord sisters are still the number one and two females born in 2024 and will soon be flushed at TLG.

Daryl now milks about 300 cows, 95 per cent Jersey, on 177 hectares near Wonthaggi.

He hopes that by adding GT to the Genetics Australia spring 2025 release, he will be able to honour his friend and breeding buddy.

"We didn't always agree, but he never told you that you were wrong," Daryl said.

"Greg always let you decide for yourself, but he challenged you and threw different options on the table. He always kept the communication lines open."

## Water quality testing essential for food safety

HORTICULTURE growers should take appropriate action to ensure that produce impacted by weather events or drought conditions is safe for consumption.

These events can physically damage produce and/or contaminate it with dirt, chemicals or animal faeces carried by wind or water. It is important to note that weather events and sources of contamination may not always occur at the growing site, but rather in the larger catchment area, which can impact water quality.

More frequent water testing is recommended during these times.

Escherichia coli (E. coli) is the most common bacterium and is a reliable indicator of microbial contamination of water, and should be the key test requested. If the risk of surface water contamination is high, for example, due to proximity to livestock and wildlife, testing for additional foodborne pathogens (should also be requested).

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## Calls for protection against Q fever ahead of season

GIPPSLAND farmers are being urged to protect themselves against Q fever this spring, particularly those in contact with cattle, sheep and goats.

Spring calving is a peak risk period when farmers are exposed to birthing fluids, placental material, and animal waste, which increases the risk of contracting Q fever.

Q fever is mainly spread by inhaling dust or air particles contaminated by bacteria from infected animals.

It is a serious and potentially long-lasting disease that continues to disproportionately affect the Gippsland farming community at alarming rates.

In 2024, Gippsland

accounted for 45 per cent of all Q fever cases in Victoria, the highest rate recorded in the state in the past decade.

Gippsland Region Public Health Unit (GRPHU) is encouraging all eligible workers aged 15 and over to get vaccinated before calving workload intensifies.

GRPHU is working closely with local GPs, farmers and industry bodies, including GippsDairy and AgVic, to raise awareness at this critical time of the year.

GRPHU Public Health Physician Dr Shereen Labib said vaccination remained the most effective way for workers to protect themselves.

"Don't wait until it's too late, get protected this calving season," Dr Labib said.

"Get tested early if symptoms appear, as Q fever is treatable with antibiotics if caught promptly, and make sure to tell your GP if you work in a high-risk occupation."

Q fever can cause severe flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headaches, drenching sweats, muscle aches and fatigue and, in serious cases, it can affect the lungs and liver.

Occasionally, people can develop chronic Q fever, which can affect the heart and joints.

About one in 10 people experience long-term fatigue, impacting farm productivity due to inability to work and recovery can take months, or even years.

People most at risk include

farmers, stock agents, livestock transporters, shearers, wool handlers and abattoir workers in close contact with cattle, sheep and goats.

Family members and others living with high-risk workers are also urged to remain vigilant, as the bacteria can cling to contaminated clothing, boots and equipment brought into the home.

Dr Labib also urged people to wear P2 masks and gloves when working with birthing animals, as well as washing hands and arms thoroughly with soapy water after animal contact.

For more information, or to find out where to get vaccinated, visit lrg.com.au/news/q-fever-awareness-campaign-for-farm-workers.



Shed Talk brings farmers together to tackle mental health along the coast

IN A relaxed setting on Wednesday, September 17, a table of farmers gathered on Phillip Island with nothing but slice, fruit and open conversation between them, speaking honestly about mental health and the challenges of life on the land.

The event titled 'Shed Talk' was led by AgMind Australia founder Nikole Schellekens, who told the group she started AgMind to merge her two passions, farming and mental health.

"It's a conversation today," she said. "Hopefully, we can walk away with some really good strategies to help support ourselves."

The session began with farmers listing what they wanted to cover. Topics included early signs of stress, tools to manage pressure, and ways to minimise the strain that comes with running a farm.

What followed was an open discussion where the farmers themselves carried most of the conversation.

One retired farmer said, "Make time and talk about things. People say grown men don't cry, but you'll cry."

Another farmer shared how losing three cows in a single night left him "flat as a tack", and reflected on a friend who once lost 15 in one night.

The tone was casual yet serious.

The farmers spoke about the constant demands of the job, from changing rules and regulations to sudden losses and financial strain. Several said some families are being pushed out of the industry because they cannot afford the millions of dollars required for new technology.

"Growing up, the farm was our life. A good weekend was



The discussion was led by the group, with farmers speaking openly about the pressures of life on the land. W02\_3825

going out and cutting firewood with dad," said one farmer.

"Farmers tend to be time poor," he added, noting the demanding nature of farming that many in the industry face on a daily basis.

Nikole reminded the group that much of the stress they feel is not a sign of weakness, but rather a human response to long-term pressure. "Sometimes it's not your inability to handle things, it's just a chemical imbalance," she explained. She also noted the reality that farmers are among the occupations with the highest suicide rates in Australia.

Rather than a lecture, the Shed Talk was deliberately informal. Farmers shared experiences and reflected together on strategies to support themselves and each other. The event showed the power of a simple conversation and the value of being able to speak

openly with people who understand the realities of farm life.

AgMind has become known for delivering farmer-focused wellbeing workshops across the region. With more than 20 years of experience working in mental health, including crisis and acute care, Nikole combines clinical knowledge with the lived reality of farm life. Her aim is to create safe spaces where farmers can talk about stress without judgement and share strategies that work in real life, and last week's Shed Talk was another step in the right direction.

If you need support, talk to a GP or health professional.

Support services include:

\* SANE Australia on 1800 18 SANE (7263) or sane.org.

\* Lifeline on 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au.

\* MensLine Australia on 1300 789 978 or mensline.org.au.

Prices hold firm

By SGSAA

Agents yarded another large offering of 4400 head at this weeks VLE Leongatha store sale in another good offering.

There was a very good run of heavy Angus feeder steers which attracted strong competition from regular feedlot buyers along with a grazier order keeping the pressure on with prices topping at \$3230. A couple of feature lines of heavy Angus yearling off steers and heifers received very strong competition from local restockers with prices fully firm. The balance of the straighter bred lines were a little bit more mixed and lighter in weight and may have just been a whisker easier in line with quality. There was increased numbers of Xbreds & dairy types in a very mixed offering with something for everyone with the good pens selling very well and the plainer types just a shade off.

MARKET REPORT

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Leongatha Store Sale on Thursday, September 18, 2025 Steers

D Boulton 17 Ang	603kg	\$4.64	\$2800
L Licciardello 15 Ang	600kg	\$5.16	\$3100
CJ Stothers 12 Ang	586kg	\$5.51	\$3230
I Peterson 22 Ang	577kg	\$5.59	\$3230
I Peterson 19 Ang	570kg	\$5.61	\$3200
D Boulton 10 Ang	560kg	\$5.12	\$2870
K P & R Hourigan 12 Hfd	553kg	\$4.79	\$2650
I Peterson 16 Ang	547kg	\$5.40	\$3100
I Peterson 19 Ang	540kg	\$5.40	\$3040
I Peterson 12 Ang	534kg	\$5.54	\$2960
I Peterson 14 Ang	530kg	\$5.71	\$3030
Lotus Farms 27 Ang	510kg	\$5.62	\$2870
I Petrson 18 Ang	494kg	\$5.68	\$2810
Nuntin Pines 14 Ang	478kg	\$5.62	\$2690
F & D Oconnor 33 Ang	475kg	\$5.64	\$2680
D Gronow 25 Ang	463kg	\$5.61	\$2600
NW Page 13 Spark	463kg	\$4.96	\$2300
NW Page 21 Ang	460kg	\$5.54	\$2550
D Goodwin 20 Ang	453kg	\$5.64	\$2580
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 20 Ang	453kg	\$5.69	\$2580
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 22 Ang	443kg	\$5.64	\$2500
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 24 Ang	428kg	\$5.84	\$2500
K Smith 15 Ang	420kg	\$5.47	\$2300
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 24 Ang	411kg	\$5.88	\$2420
T & JA Christensen 18 Ang & BB	409kg	\$5.59	\$2290
M Dowel 12 Ang	405kg	\$5.38	\$2180
P & L Whitehead 15 Ang	396kg	\$4.87	\$1930
GT Cummaudo 13 Char	393kg	\$4.93	\$1940
B & L Taylor 18 Ang	391kg	\$4.60	\$1800
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 24 Ang	385kg	\$6.00	\$2310
J Langley Nom. 10 Angx	378kg	\$4.89	\$1850
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 26 Ang	374kg	\$5.97	\$2210
P Fleming 11 Ang	365kg	\$5.75	\$2100
Dairy Cropping Aust. 21 Ang	358kg	\$5.78	\$2070
Chester S'horns 16 S/Horns	358kg	\$4.91	\$1760
AJ Chatfield Services 12 Ang	357kg	\$5.46	\$1950
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 28 Ang	356kg	\$5.92	\$2110
Pro Viticultur Services 17 Ang	355kg	\$5.46	\$1940
B Rinaldi 10 Ang	338kg	\$5.67	\$1920
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 27 Ang	337kg	\$6.26	\$2110
Leeandale Holding 17 Ang	337kg	\$5.66	\$1910
K P & R Hourigan 18 BB	332kg	\$5.36	\$1780
P Peluso 11 Ang	314kg	\$5.73	\$1800
A & F Westbury 11 Hfd	312kg	\$4.51	\$1410
A Warner 16 Ang	312kg	\$5.19	\$1620
J Harjdr 11 Ang	311kg	\$5.78	\$1800
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 17 Ang	307kg	\$5.70	\$1750
Gt Cummaudo 19 Char	307kg	\$5.01	\$1540
Teana Farms 10 Ang	303kg	\$5.90	\$1790
BL Johnson & G Woods			
11 Char	290kg	\$5.37	\$1560
Crockfield Pastoral 10 Ang	289kg	\$5.19	\$1500
T Mcguinness 14 Ang	277kg	\$5.59	\$1550
Yering Cattle P/L 12 Ang	280kg	\$5.42	\$1520

Heifers

Glenshiel Past 14 Bb	447kg	\$5.15	\$2160
Glenshiel Past 15 Ang	419kg	\$5.15	\$2160
IK & JM Box 17 Spek Park	399kg	\$4.71	\$1880
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 18 Ang	391kg	\$4.98	\$1950
R Visser 19 Ang	381kg	\$4.90	\$1870
Glenshiel Past 16 BB	369kg	\$5.45	\$2160
GT Cummaudo 10 Char	367kg	\$5.01	\$1840
C & C Wraith 24 Hfd 3	55kg	\$5.01	\$1780
R Visser 19 Ang	351kg	\$4.70	\$1650
S Madden P/L 11 Ang	339kg	\$4.79	\$1610
A & F Westbury 15 Hfd	339kg	\$4.36	\$1480
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 18 Ang	338kg	\$4.58	\$1550
Lk Pastoral 22 Ang	332kg	\$4.51	\$1500
C & C Wraith 16 Hfd	332kg	\$4.42	\$1470
Fleming Holding P/L 17 Ang	327kg	\$4.80	\$1570
Teana Farms 16 Ang	316kg	\$4.43	\$1400
C Ferguson 18 Ang	307kg	\$5.11	\$1570
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 26 Ang	307kg	\$5.88	\$1500
B Rinaldi 12 Ang	310kg	\$4.64	\$1440
Gt Cummaudo 17 Char	307kg	\$4.33	\$1330
GG, EJ, MG & R Bates 28 Ang	293kg	\$5.71	\$1320
Teana Farms 15 Ang	292kg	\$4.96	\$1450
Leeandale Holdings 17 Ang	290kg	\$4.13	\$1200

Xbred

G Butler 16 Ang/FFX Steers	318kg	\$4.68	\$1490
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Jack Curtis	0427 762 670	Rob Ould - Livestock Manager	0408 595 183
WARRAGUL		David Holden	0428 749 390
Neil Darby - Livestock Manager	0418 595 265	Alan Bolding	0419 723 255
Terry Ahearn	0438 562 816	PAKENHAM	
Jordan Sim	0448 058 435	David Setches - Livestock Manager	0409 443 473
Mark Malacarne	0418 654 590	Glenn Barwick	0408 975 476
Georgie Snell	0417 100 657	Morgan Croucher	0457 001 877
		Tim Gibson	0420 306 599
		Imogen Price	0417 225 498

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WONTHAGGI		Peter Dwyer	0428 855 244	COWES	
Phillip Hanley	0417 140 508	Emily Hillberg	0422 622 299	Greg Price	0419 337 441
Cal Nation	0439 334 163	Tony Giles	0407 528 192	Brian Silver	0407 347 509
Mick Chambers	0418 349 783	Dan Huther	0418 334 801	Chase Watters	0423 272 819
GRANTVILLE		WARRAGUL		VENUS BAY	
Angus Hall	0466 326 487	Alan Steenholdt	0409 423 822	Daniel Lawrie	0417 631 252
INVERLOCH		PAKENHAM		Sue Lawrie	0419 885 489
Marni Lee Redmond	0403 525 413	Tom Gibson	0438 574 472	KOO WEE RUP	
BERWICK		LANG LANG		Tom Gibson	0438 574 472
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Bass Coast starts to feel the benefit of spring with a big yarding of 4400 store cattle at the Victorian Livestock Exchange in Koonwarra.

## Cattle prices holding steady with a second big yarding at Koonwarra

By Bruce Wardley

WITH two yardings above 4000, of 4600 and 4400, cattle this month at the Victorian Livestock Exchange (VLE) spring is looking good for local farmers with improved prices and timely rain.

Records continued to tumble last week as store cattle dominated yardings.

Strong prices and the usual seasonal turnoff combined to drive record yardings at the VLE last month, delivering the second-largest August throughput on record.

Spring still hangs in the balance across most of Gippsland, but on the Bass Coast good rain and a few warm nights have seen pastures shoot away.

A total of 20,579 cattle were sold through the VLE in August with store stock making up 61 per cent of the yarding, a significant lift from July when store cattle accounted for just 52 per cent of the 21,206 head yarded.

Store numbers increased 33 per cent from 17,749 to 23,588 head as producers looked to capitalise on strong prices after a tough season.

Ian Hornby of Trafalgar was more than happy to get \$2910/head for a single pen of Angus steers averaging 538.57 kilograms.

"An excellent sale," said Elders agent Graeme Brettley.



Danna and Logan of Seaspray were happy to get \$2680/head for their pen of Angus steers averaging 560kg, but said more rain is still needed in East Gippsland. B22\_3825

"We still need more rain," said Ian Hornby.

"We'd take two inches every week."

Seaspray farmer Danna and young son Logan received \$2680/head for their pen of Angus steers averaging 560 kilograms.

"It's still very dry in Seaspray. We need more rain," said Danna.

"We're down to our last two bales of hay."

Elders Agent and grazier Jayden Boulton agreed with Danna.

"We need rain. I had to buy in feed, I'm out of hay and silage."

Another pen averaging 575 kilograms sold for \$2400/head.

With Bass Coast one of the few areas to see spring pasture growth, Kilcunda farmer Andrew Harmon bought a pen of nine-month-old Angus weaners.

"Spring has arrived at Kilcunda, so I'll fatten them up to 500 kilograms," said Andrew.

"Rainfall has been OK, but it was very dry for the five to six weeks previous.

"It's expensive to re-stock, you just have to be patient."

According to livestock agents, large numbers of cattle are being bought to be taken into

feedlots, depending on their size, driven by a strong demand from domestic markets due to a continued shortage of cattle in Northern NSW.

The dry summer, autumn and winter have left calves at the Victorian Livestock Exchange weighing up to 30-40kg less than last year, but stronger prices have kept producers ahead.

Steers averaging 419kg sold for 447c/kg to return \$1873 in August.

A year earlier, steers were nearly 13kg heavier but made just 332c/kg for an average \$1433/head.

Auctioneer Brian McCormack (Nutrien) said improved prime market prices were drawing cattle off farm and flowing through to the store market.

"The EYCI (Eastern Young Cattle Indicator) is higher than this time last year and there are a lot of things driving the market price up," he said.

"This will probably continue a little longer, but ultimately the season will determine supply and that will flow through to price."

McCormack said the Victorian Livestock Exchange had built its reputation as a store complex over the past five years, and this was contributing to the number of cattle travelling across Gippsland to be sold at Leongatha.

### Lardner Park Calf Market Report

Monday, September 15, 2025

Jersey & Jersey x .....\$12 to \$61

Friesian Bulls .....\$25 to \$65

Beef Bulls .....\$32 to \$130

Beef Heifers .....\$24 to \$60

Friesian Heifers .....\$52 to \$100

Number of Calves: **457**

Number purchased to rear: **124**

## STORE SALE

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**Starting at 9am**

PLEASE NOTE: 4PM WEDNESDAY CURFEW APPLIES

### GROWN STEERS

A/c Jasmel Nom, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)

60 Hereford Steers 14-15 mths

A/c B & J Trail, Woodglen (Nutrien)

50 Angus Strs, 20 mths, Ne Accred, Sparta Blood

A/c Folicks P/L, Leongatha (SEJ)

50 Angus Steers, 2yr old, Hazeldean Blood

A/c S Hederman, Brodribb River (Nutrien)

50 Angus Strs, 18 mths-2yo,

Sparta & Kunuma Angus Blood

A/c L Mitchell, Newmerella (Nutrien)

35 Angus Strs, 2yo, Kunuma Angus Blood

A/c AA Birss, Stradbroke (Nutrien)

20 Angus Strs, 20 mths, Kunuma Blood

A/c P & J Scott, Kongwak (Nutrien)

20 Angus Steers, 18-20 mths, By Black Spur Bulls,

NE Accred

A/c D & M Adams P/L, Yarram (Nutrien)

18 Angus Steers, 16 mths, Pepper Hill Bred,

by Stud Wattiewood & Absolute Bulls, very quiet

A/c B Frawley, Sale (Nutrien)

15 BB Steers 20 mths

A/c Harris & Underwood, Inverloch (SEJ)

6 Angus steers 15-16 mths,

6 Angus x steers 15-16 mths

A/c Arejaydee, Loch (SEJ)

8 Angus steers 14-15 mths

### WEANERS

A/c Jasmel Nom, Tarwin Lower (SEJ)

20 Angus Steers 12-14 months (VB GF ABF)

20 Angus Heifers 12-15 months

20 Angus, BB, & Speckle Heifers 12-15 months

A/c AG Landy, Walkerville (SEJ)

50 Angus & Hereford steers, 12 months,

by AI Landfall and Newcome sires,

drenched and well weaned, VB, GF, AF

A/c Dave Harris Earthmoving, Tarwin (SEJ)

40 Angus Steers, 12-14 mths, Battersby Bld. VB, GF,

A/c R & K Telling, Woodside (PHC)

40 Angus mixed sex weaners, 9-10 months,

Innesdale & Pinora Blood, Weaned, VB, GFO, ABF

A/c Snowy River Angus, Bairnsdale (SEJ)

40 Angus Heifers, 12 months, Dunoon & Alpine

blood, EU, VB, GF, ABF & NE accred.

A/c J Greenwood, Neerim (Nutrien)

36 Angus Strs, 12-14 mths, Sparta Blood

A/c B & D Harrison, Dumbalk North (PHC)

30 Angus mixed sex weaners, Fernleigh Blood,

weaned VB, GF & ABF, NE Acc

A/c M Haupt, Tarraville (PHC)

25 Angus Mixed Sex Weaners 12 mths, weaned,

VB, GF & ABF

A/c M Jonkers, Orbost (Nutrien)

20 Angus Strs, 12 mths, Weaned, Rosskin Angus

Blood

A/c Dr Hall, Fish Creek (SEJ)

15 Angus Steers 12-14 mths, Temania Blood

A/c JT & P Fleming, Rosedale (Nutrien)

15 Angus Mixed Sex, 10-11 months, Rosken Blood

### XBRED & DAIRY

A/c McQuestion Farms, Kernot (SEJ)

12 Angus/Fries x steers 20-22 mths.

A/c Meen Veiv, Koonwarra (SEJ)

40 Angus/Friesian X heifers, 15 months old,

PTE, 2x 5 in1.

A/c W & A Holwerda, Stony Creek (SEJ)

20 Angus Friesian x Steers, 6mths

20 Angus Friesian x Heifers, 6mths

Bucket Reared, Drenched 10/9/25



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## Chemical residue exposure risk to stock

WITH the drier conditions and some paddocks looking a bit bare, it's only natural to start eyeing those unused corners of your property.

Perhaps it's the area around the old shed, the house paddock that hasn't seen stock in years, or even that overgrown tree plantation.

Some might even be thinking about letting cattle into places like an old dip site or the farm rubbish tip.

Agriculture Victoria Veterinary Officer Dr Lydia Nicholson said before farmers swing open the gate, it's worth taking a moment to consider what might be lurking in these spots, and whether they're really safe for grazing.

"By opening up some of these areas, farmers may

unknowingly expose their cattle to chemical residues," Dr Nicholson said.

"Stock can readily pick up residues if they have access to localised areas of high-level contamination.

"Another thing to keep in mind is the legacy of older agricultural chemicals – particularly organochlorine (OC) pesticides such as DDT, dieldrin, and heptachlor. These chemicals were once widely used around sheds, yards, dip sites, and orchards, and can persist in the soil for decades.

"While you might not be using them today, residues can still pose a serious risk.

"Farmers need to do their research about areas that may have been used for

chemical storage or treated in the past."

Common OC risk areas include:

- buildings, yards, fences, stumps, and power poles treated for termite control
- sheep dip sites used before 1963
- old chemical containers or waste in farm rubbish dumps
- chemical storage, mixing, and disposal areas
- lawn clippings from OC-contaminated areas
- land used for potatoes or tobacco before 1986
- land used for orchards before 1988, or vegetable production before 1986.

Dr Nicholson said if farmers are unsure, Agriculture Victoria holds historical records of

known contaminated sites.

"Plus, speaking with previous property owners may also help identify historical uses of some areas. In some cases, soil sampling may be needed – but often, simply fencing off suspect areas is the safest and easiest option.

"It's just one more reason to walk the paddocks, ask the right questions, and take a cautious approach before opening up new ground to stock.

"A bit of local knowledge and forward planning can go a long way in protecting animal health, food safety, and your bottom line."

For further information, contact your local veterinarian or Agriculture Victoria veterinary or animal health officer.



# Chocolate prices expected to ease, but won't return to pre-'cocoa crisis' levels

CONSUMERS can expect some relief from rising chocolate prices with cocoa futures prices starting to ease after hitting record highs according to a new international research report by Rabobank.

In the report 'Chocolate retail prices hit predicted highs – end of surge in sight', the bank's RaboResearch division found while consumers globally can expect some respite from price increases, retail chocolate prices will remain well above pre-"cocoa crisis" levels, signalling a new normal for the industry.

Chocolate manufacturers and retailers are adapting to this challenging environment, balancing cost recovery with consumer retention, the report said.

RaboResearch agriculture analyst Paul Joules said since 2021, retail chocolate

prices globally have surged, driven by a cocoa market in crisis due to poor harvests, crop disease and structural supply issues. And this had also seen higher chocolate prices for Australian consumers.

"This has led manufacturers and retailers to expand their value ranges, offering more affordable alternatives to cost-conscious shoppers," he said.

Mr Joules said chocolate manufacturers were employing strategies like "shrinkflation" and "skimpflation" to protect margins without losing consumers.

"Shrinkflation involves reducing pack sizes, while skimpflation changes recipes to lower cocoa content, often replacing cocoa butter with cheaper fats or fillers," he said.

Mr Joules said in some European markets, these changes have altered products

to the extent that they no longer meet the legal definition of "chocolate," forcing brands to update product descriptions.

Mr Joules said the worst of the "cocoa shock" appears to be over, with cocoa futures expected to fall significantly by mid-2027. However, he said, global cocoa prices will remain above "pre-crisis" levels due to ongoing structural issues such as aging cocoa trees, crop disease, and climate swings, which means retail prices – including in Australia – could be slow to fall.

While chocolate prices are projected to ease gradually, they will still be higher than in 2021, the report says.

"The chocolate market is entering a new era of higher costs and persistent volatility, requiring agility and continuous adaptation from industry players."



Chocolate is back on the menu, though mind the "shrinkflation" and "skimpflation." Pictured is RaboResearch agriculture analyst Paul Joules.

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DEATHS

**DROWLEY**  
(nee Kelly/Bromley),  
Mary:

Aged 87, passed away on September 16, 2025, at Peninsula Health Palliative.

Loving wife of Frank (dec.) and Les (dec.).

Beloved mother of Patricia, Irene, Diane, Coral, Steven and Theresa.

Adored Nanna to 12 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

*“Now at rest our English Rose.”*

FOSTER (nee Gardiner), Jean Elizabeth:

12.08.27 - 11.09.25

Loved sister to Mary, sister-in-law to Trevor (dec.) aunt of Gary, Irene, Joy, Phil (dec.), Pam, Ray, Vicki, Andrew and Families.

*Always in our hearts,*

Rest in Peace.

FOSTER (nee Gardiner), Jean Elizabeth:

12.08.27 - 11.09.25

Much loved sister and sister-in-law to many, she is remembered with love by those who remain.

*Peacefully sleeping.*

PETERS, Bill:

Loved brother of Raymond. Brother-in-law of Joan. Uncle of Michael, Julie and Sharon and families. No more suffering.

DEATHS

**ROY, Natalie (Nat) Yvonne:**

Natalie (Nat) Yvonne Roy, of Budgeree and Leongatha, died on Friday, September 12, 2025, aged 99, after a short illness.

Natalie lived a full life and was the beloved wife of Charlie (dec.), mother of Marjorie, Allan (dec.) and Chris. Grandmother of Phil, Danni, Tamsin, Jessica and Katie.

Great grandmother of Olivia, Joshua, Sienna, Angus, Ryan, Heidi and Addy.

TYLER (nee Stockdale, Orchard), Mary Isobel:

Born September 19, 1938, and passed away peacefully in Blackburn on Friday, September 19, 2025. Formerly from Inverloch and Wonthaggi.

Loved Mother of Jim, Anita and Julie.

Loved Grandmother of Erich, Robert, Sam, Hayley and Keeley.

Loved Great Grandma Mary of Sophia, Alissa, Isabella.

*Forever in our hearts.*

WAKEFIELD, Leslie (Les) Birkett:

Les Wakefield passed away on Monday, September 15, 2025.

Much loved husband of Sue, father to Glenn (dec.) and Karen.

Many thanks to the staff at Woorayl Lodge and Leongatha Hospital for their care to Les.

At the request of Les, a funeral service will not be held.

A private cremation will take place.

FUNERALS

**DROWLEY:**

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Mary Drowley will be held at Handley and Anderson Chapel,

3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road on Thursday September 25, 2025, commencing at 1pm.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.

Request from family is that a touch of red to be worn.



**ROY:**

A funeral service to celebrate the life of Mrs Natalie Roy, will be held at the Boolarra Co-operating Church on Monday, September 29, at 10:30am.

At the conclusion of the service, the funeral will leave for the Hazelwood Cemetery.

In celebration of Nat's life, please wear colours.



FUNERALS

**TYLER:**

The Funeral Service for Mrs. Mary Tyler will be held at

Handley and Anderson Chapel, 3085 Loch-Wonthaggi Road, Wonthaggi on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, commencing at 11am.

At the conclusion of the service the funeral will leave for the Wonthaggi Cemetery.



**IN MEMORIAM**

**BOAG, Eileen:**

05.04.1915 - 25.09.2005.

Twenty years have passed. Always remembered.

Patti, Geoff, Karen, Julie, Lindsay, Darren and families.

**LAMERS, Col:**

20.09.2022.

Three years have passed, and we still grieve and miss you each day. I look around to talk to you and you're gone. Always in our hearts.

Adored husband, father and pop.

**MARTYN, Barrie:**

Five years have passed.

We talk about you still; we talk about you always. You will never be forgotten.

We hold you close to our hearts.

-- Sophie and Family.

FOR SALE

**CABINET:**

Old style kitchen cabinet, leadlights, good condition.

Tara spinning wheel, as new condition.

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Contact-5657 3291.

**PLANT SALE:**

Every Friday and Saturday in September.

9am - 3pm.

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Natives, pots, tubes, bunches, flowering shrubs, hanging baskets etc.

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**WANTED ANTIQUES, COLLECTABLES, ESTATE LOTS, JEWELLERY AND SHED ITEMS:**

Cash paid.

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**HELP IS AS CLOSE AS THE TELEPHONE**

**13 11 14**

**MEETINGS**



Notice is hereby given by the Committee of Management that the **AGM** of the Foster Golf Club will be held on **Thursday, September 25** in the Clubrooms at 7 Reserve St, Foster at 7pm. Ph: 56822272 Only Eligible Voting Members may attend.

**PERSONALS**

**CRANBOURNE:**

Male. 72 years. Widower, slim.

Seeking a lady for friendship and possible travel companion by caravan.

Brian, 0451 776 821.

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS:**

Advertisements offering a used motor car for sale must include in the advertisement: (a) The cash price of the motor car; and (b) Whichever of the following is applicable... • If the motor car is registered, the registration number; or • If the motor car is unregistered, the engine number of the vehicle.

GARAGE SALES

**BUFFALO:**

400 Buffalo-Stony Creek Road.

Saturday September 27, 8:30am-3pm.

**WONTHAGGI:**

7 Asquith Court, Saturday, September 27, 8am start.

Clearance - everything must go. One day only.

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**



**Wonthaggi Power Football Netball Club Inc.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday 16 Oct 2025 7pm at Power Rooms**

- To confirm minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 14 November 2024
- To receive Committee reports.
- To elect officers of the Association and ordinary members of the Committee for a term of not less than 12 months.

**BRENDAN KNIGHT**  
General Manager



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**SITUATIONS VACANT**



**GIS Coordinator**

With our 2040 Vision and Strategy guiding us toward our vision - to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations - we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to join us.

South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:

- Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
- Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
- Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
- Family friendly workplace, including Paid Parental Leave
- Attractive Salary Packaging options available (eligibility conditions apply)
- Flexibility to work from home, with base location at any of our offices in Wonthaggi, Foster or Leongatha

Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

- Permanent Full Time
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band 7 - \$91,505.57 - \$101,070.60 + Leave Loading + Superannuation
- Foster or Leongatha Office/Hybrid working arrangements available subject to negotiation

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

**Applications Close: Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 5pm**

1300 851 636 | [www.sgwater.com.au](http://www.sgwater.com.au)

44 | TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 | SOUTH GIPPSLAND SENTINEL-TIMES



# Sentinel-Times Classifieds

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Lawyer

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BRB LAW is a leading firm in South Gippsland and offers legal service in residential, business, rural and commercial conveyancing, estate planning, wills and powers of attorney, probate, commercial law and family law.

This position offers opportunities for career development and to work in all these areas of the firm.

Applicants should include a short cover letter and resume.

Please forward your application to [info@brblaw.com.au](mailto:info@brblaw.com.au).

**Applications close at 5pm Tuesday, October 7, 2025.**



ME0611

## SITUATIONS VACANT



### Administrative Assistant

We are seeking an Administrative Assistant to provide general office support to our Partners, Practice Manager and the Administration team.

This is a full-time in-office role based in our Leongatha office and available for an immediate start. Work business hours, Monday to Friday – no weekend or public holiday work!

Experience in a similar role / field is not essential. We would love to attract applicants from a range of businesses and industries.

The role's responsibilities are diverse. If you are highly organised, systematic, have great initiative and an eye for detail, this is the role for you!

The Administrative Assistant role will provide our Practice with executive support, assistance with day-to-day operations, managing systems, ATO liaison, client services and the like.

#### Key Responsibilities:

- Executive Support: handling correspondence – including emails, phone calls and letters on behalf of the Practice, diary management, internal and external liaison and administrative support
- Client Services: Management of client files and data, preparing engagements and proposals, liaising with the ATO, ASIC, banks, financial planners and software providers on a client's behalf
- Contribute to the smooth daily operation of the office including managing systems and creating new processes
- Assist with all tasks associated with the operational, logistical and administrative aspects of the Practice

A wage commensurate with skills and experience will be offered to the successful applicant.

Please forward your resume and short cover letter to [practice@mjacpa.com.au](mailto:practice@mjacpa.com.au) by COB Friday, October 3, 2025.

HM13009

## SITUATIONS VACANT

### Administrative Assistant

BRB Law is seeking an administrative assistant.

Roles include:

- Reception
- Diary Management
- Opening, closing and managing files
- Preparation of documents/letters
- Liasing with clients
- Filing
- Archiving
- Deeds management
- Assistance to lawyers
- General clerical duties

Skills in Outlook, Word and Excel are important. Prior experience in the legal industry would be desirable but is not a requirement.

Please submit applications to [info@brblaw.com.au](mailto:info@brblaw.com.au)

**Applications close 5pm, Tuesday, September 30, 2025**



ME0595



South Gippsland Hospital

#### Positions Vacant

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Campus DON, Group 8D  
1.0 EFT full time position

##### Occupational Therapist

Grade 2

0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

##### Allied Health Assistant - Casual

AHA, Grade 2

##### Dietitian

Grade 2

0.42 EFT fixed term parental leave position

##### Administration Officer –

##### Front of House

HS1A- HA1 (depending on experience)  
Casual

For more information:

<https://southgippslandhospital.com.au/employment-2/>

AF0034

#### Volunteer - Expression of Interest

Community Information Volunteer  
Volunteer Catering Administration Assistant

For more information call

Annie on 5683 9704

[www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers](http://www.southgippslandhospital.com.au/volunteers)

## DEADLINES

**Classified single column**

**Mondays 12.00 noon**

**Classified double column**

**Fridays 3.00pm**

Please note that double column advertisements requiring a proof must be received at least two hours prior to deadline and proofs will not be provided for single column advertisements.

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#### Office Hours:

**9am-5pm Monday to Friday**

#### Payments accepted:



#### Advertising conditions:

Full name and address of advertiser must be supplied even though not necessarily included in advertisement.

The publishers reserve the right to omit and alter any advertisement. Please check your ad is correct the first day it appears. While every care is taken to ensure your ad is correct, errors can occur. We regret that we cannot be responsible for any errors beyond the first day if you fail to bring it to our attention.

All advertisements must be prepaid unless client has an existing credit facility. Accounts are due and payable on the due date as shown on the account.

#### The Motor Car Traders Regulations:

States that from July 1, 1998 all advertisements for used vehicles including motorcycles must include the cash price of vehicle and registration number or engine number if not registered.

**Sentinel-Times**

### Water Treatment Plant Operator



With our 2040 Vision and Strategy guiding us toward our vision - to be a trusted partner, advancing water services to support customer and community aspirations - we are seeking a skilled, enthusiastic and community focused person to join us.

South Gippsland Water is a diverse, community-oriented organisation and offer the following:

- Strong focus on career opportunities, professional development and training
- Highly flexible work options, including modified hours and/or work weeks
- Employee Assistance Program and broad wellbeing offers
- Family friendly workplace, including Paid Parental Leave
- Attractive Salary Packaging options available (eligibility conditions apply)

Diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. Through our Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Strategic Plan, Gender Equality Action Plan and upcoming Reconciliation Action Plan we are actively working to address the gender pay gap, create opportunities for underrepresented groups and partner with Traditional Owners.

- Permanent Full Time
- Starting Location Western Region
- Flexible Working Arrangements Available

Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply

**Applications Close: Monday, September 29, 2025 at 5pm**

AF0029

## Is your employment opportunity listed online?

**Advertise your job vacancy in the Sentinel-Times and get a FREE listing in our online and searchable directory at [www.sgst.com.au](http://www.sgst.com.au)**

**Email your job adverts to: [ads@sgst.com.au](mailto:ads@sgst.com.au)**

**DEADLINE: Fridays 3.30pm**

**Sentinel-Times**



# Radak shoots for the stars at Wonthaggi Table Tennis

WHEN the Voyager spacecraft snapped a photo of the planet in distant space, it showed how minuscule our home is amongst a gazillion stars.

A pale blue dot.  
Astronomer Carl Sagan famously observed Earth as being “a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam”.

It gives cause to wonder what is life's point?  
Well, Mr. Sagan, the point is called match point.

Radak defeated Andro five to zero.  
When Radak's number two, Fred the Wily, had match point against Andro's number one Luke, Fred realised that the Cosmos had thrown him a bone.

He duly cashed in and set in train a five-nil demolition of Andro.

Radak is back in the finals mix.  
Donic defeated Stiga three to four.

Donic has won three in a row.  
Captain Charley hits so hard that the ball vanishes at the speed of light and not seen again until it hits something.

When it's the opponent, the squeal of pain can rattle the rafters.

Donic's doubles win 11 to nine in the seventh set had Charley and Michael singing the song.

Nittaku defeated Butterfly four to one.  
Nittaku proved its credentials in a commendable win over Butterfly.

Jake now finding his old groove and captain Braden, continuing his stellar form, was too good this time for Butterfly.

Braden's starry seven-setter versus David was worth the price of admission alone.

Admittedly, that price is zero, but still very much worth it.

Double Fish had the bye.  
Ladder: Double Fish 28; Nittaku 20; Stiga 20; Andro 12; Donic 12; Radak 8; Butterfly 4.

Leading players: Braden 12; Tim 11; Brad and David 10.



Inverloch Primary School students Charlotte, Mali, Amelia and Nyoka with the course they created for the South Gippsland Sphero Robot Challenge. Tk07\_3825

## Students compete in tech challenge

WONTHAGGI North Primary School hosted the first South Gippsland Sphero Robot Challenge on Wednesday.

Twelve teams of four from five different schools took on the robotics challenge.

The schools represented were Wonthaggi North, Cowes, Inverloch, Toora and Yinnar South primary schools.

The challenge was coordinated by Energy Breakthrough, which is based in Maryborough, with the aim to inspire children to explore technology.

“This is our first satellite event,” Energy Breakthrough robotics coordinator Rob Higgins said.

“The students were given a challenge to prepare prior to the event that involved two robots going around a course.

“After lunch, they were given a problem they hadn't seen before. They had 45 minutes to code the solution, sending their robots to go shopping at the Bunnings store.”

Mr Higgins said the event was about engaging with technology and competing as a team.

The teams selected to compete in Maryborough become the Australian Sphero Champions, and if they score high enough, they get to go on to the world championships.

A secondary college from Mildura placed fifth in the world last year.

“It's a competitive sport for the brain. You don't have to be a footballer or netballer – this is a team sport for intellect,” Mr Higgins said.

“The teams also had to be at least 50 per cent female. We are focused on getting girls involved in technology and STEM programs.”

The students had a month to prepare for the first challenge, and the event was very well received by the schools.

Mr Higgins confirmed more events will be held next year, following Wednesday's model.



## Bass Girls crowned softball champions

BASS Valley Primary School's girls' softball team was crowned State Champions for the fifth year in a row. The students put in a lot of effort to achieve this wonderful success, practising for most of the term. Recesses were dedicated to practising skills in the gym to refine their throwing, catching and hitting, and at lunch time they would focus on match play. The commitment was commendable, and the school hopes the students will take these lessons of hard work and dedication on later in life. Congratulations on a huge achievement.




Bass Valley Primary School students enjoyed a sausage sizzle after their Bike Education Day.



A sausage sizzle was a special treat after Bass Valley Primary School's Grade 5 and 6 students took part in Bike Education Day.

### PUBLIC NOTICES



**ROSE LODGE**  
COMMUNITY AGED CARE  
WONTHAGGI & DISTRICT  
ELDERLY CITIZENS' HOMES INC.

**ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the 63rd Annual General Meeting of Life Governors and Contributors of the Wonthaggi and District Elderly Citizens Homes Incorporated A0031611G will be held in the Upper Floor - Activity Room Crellin Wing– Rose Lodge on

**Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 4.30pm**

1. Attendance:

2. Previous Minutes:  
To confirm the Minutes of the 62nd Annual General Meeting held on October 15, 2024.

3. To receive and consider the Annual Reports on the activities of the Association during the 2024/2025 financial year:

4. Annual Subscription and Fee on Joining:

5. To appoint an Auditor for the 2025/2026 Financial Year:

6. Election of the Members of the Board whose term has expired.

6. General Business:  
Any items of general business received by the Secretary Mr Kilgour addressed to Rose Lodge of which seven (7) days written notice has been given.

Mr John Duscher  
President

HMT3007



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with us**  
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# Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre celebrates 20 years

OVER the weekend, Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre marked a remarkable milestone – 20 years since the bowling alley first opened its doors in September 2005. What began as a converted go-kart track has grown into one of the island's most loved family and community venues.

The celebration was packed with fun, laughter and nostalgia, as the centre's history and future came together in one unforgettable night. The original owners, Steve Davie and Ritchie Laing, joined current owners Craig Holmes and Jeremy Westaway, who have proudly run the centre since 2008. Together, they recreated the iconic 2008 handshake photo to symbolise the journey from past to present.

Guests were treated to a party atmosphere complete with balloons, a giant "20" helium centerpiece, a spectacular birthday cake shaped like bowling pins and a ball, and even custom biscuits decorated with the PI Tenpin logo. The highlight of the night was undoubtedly the live performance by The Laing Brothers – Jim, Ritchie and Darren – who had the crowd rocking all evening with music, energy and laughter.

Reflecting on the centre's growth, Steve and Ritchie remarked on how far the business has come since its early

days and praised what it has become – a thriving hub for locals and visitors alike.

For Craig, who has been involved since day one, and Jeremy, who started working at the centre in 2007 before stepping into ownership alongside Craig the following year, the celebration was a proud milestone.

"This place has always been about more than just bowling. It's about community, connection, and creating memories. To celebrate 20 years with so many familiar faces, including the people who started it all, was really special," said Jeremy.

The night was also an opportunity to thank the dedicated PI Tenpin team – past and present – whose energy, warmth and hard work have made the centre what it is today. Staff members are not just employees, but part of the PI Tenpin family, and their role in welcoming guests, running events and creating a fun, inclusive space has been central to the centre's success.

Today, PI Tenpin Bowling & Entertainment Centre is known not only for bowling, laser tag and arcade fun, but also as an exciting venue for live music, celebrations and functions. From birthday parties and school groups to community events and corporate nights out, the centre continues to prove that it's a place where people come together.



Original owners, Ritchie Laing and Steve Davie with current owners Craig Holmes and Jeremy Westaway, as they celebrated 20 years.

## The Old Timers crowned business league champions

ON THE evening of Thursday, September 18, the lanes of Phillip Island Tenpin Bowling and Entertainment Centre echoed with laughter, cheers, and the thunder of crashing pins.

Eight teams gathered under the glow of overhead lights, not just for a game, but for a shot at becoming legends.

It was the grand finale of the 2025 Business League season three, and the centre was alive with energy. Families watched from the sidelines, coworkers leaned forward in anticipation, and friendly rivalries hung thick in the air.

Everyone knew something special was about to happen.

The night began with eight hopeful teams: Balls of Fury, Balls Deep, The Turkey Slappers, City Lights, S&R Clarke Automotive, The Woolly Rollers, The Ex Men, and The Old Timers.

Each team had bowled their way through a tough season to earn their place in the finals – and now, it was time to prove who truly ruled the lanes.

Round One kicked off with intensity. Balls of Fury outlasted Balls Deep in a tight match (593-565), while The Turkey Slappers brought serious firepower to topple City Lights (661-534). On the other side of the draw, S&R Clarke Automotive edged out The Woolly Rollers (568-543), and The Old Timers delivered a composed, clinical victory over The Ex Men (622-587).

With just four teams remaining, the pressure was palpable.



Business League winners Old Timers (Glenn Collins, Katy Betts and Gerard Munnink).

In the first semi-final, The Turkey Slappers and Balls of Fury went strike-for-strike in what many called the match of the night.

But when the final frame ended, it was The Slappers who stood tall, 657 to 640.

Meanwhile, The Old Timers were quietly, confidently doing what they do best – staying steady.

Against a spirited S&R Clarke Automotive, they rolled to another victory, 628 to 603, earning their place in the final.

As the last two teams took their places for the grand final, the centre hushed.

It was The Old Timers – Katy Betts, Gerard Munnink and Glenn Collins up against The Turkey Slappers – J.L., Jack Ross and Ben O'Brien.

Two teams with wildly different styles. One title on the line. Frame by frame, they went blow for blow.

Strikes, spares, missed chances – the lead changed hands more than once.

Supporters on the sidelines could barely stay seated.

But when it came to the closing stretch, The Old Timers found another gear. Calm, composed, and collected, they closed the game with trademark precision.

Final score: 622 to 603. As the final pin fell, a cheer erupted across the centre.

The Old Timers had done it. Champions of Season 3.

They lifted their individual trophies, then raised the coveted Business League Comp Shield high above their heads.

### Results:

2SCompany: First place Him And Her on 18pts, second place King Pins on 17pts and third place Jail on 17pts.

ABL: First place Just Bowl Already on 115pts, second place Fairlanes on 108.5pts and third place The Fireballs on 105pts

Phantom: First place Herdy Gerdy on 186 pts, second place Spin King on 179pts and third place Noddy on 159pts.

### Top Scores:

Men: 208 Justin Porthouse, 207 Jason Bence and 197 Raff Merante.

Woman: 152 Valma Peterson, 151 Mary Dardha and 150 Jacky Dow.

Probus: Phillip Island defeated Corinella 941 to 820 pins. Top scores Frank Robertson 279 and Lorraine Leek 215.

## SOUTH GIPPSLAND BRIDGE

MONDAY Bridge is having a rocky start and was cancelled last week due to inadequate numbers.

Time will fix that, as more people remember the opportunity to play is there.

Julie Perriam and Bron Sund led the field on Tuesday, September 16, with 58.72 per cent, followed by Ruth Stevenson and Catherine Burton 58.45, Lois Dwyer and Alan Johnston 56.37, Matti Shub and John Quayle 52.17, and Faye Rowlands and Doug McIntosh scoring 51.43 per cent.

The club played a team event on Friday with three teams out of eight scoring positive IMPs.

Matti Shub, John Quayle, Faye Rowlands and John Currier 92, Bron Sund, Phillip Chapman, Lorrie Read and Neville Chapman 74, and Deborah Anglim, John French, Alan Johnston, Clive Hope 58 – the slightly differing playing style adding an element of novelty.

## PHILLIP ISLAND BRIDGE

IT'S been a huge week of bridge on Phillip Island, starting with players converging from near and far for a packed weekend of competition and camaraderie.

On Saturday and Sunday (September 13 and 14), the Phillip Island Bridge Club hosted its annual Congress – a highlight of the local bridge calendar – attracting more than 80 players from Melbourne, interstate, and local clubs. Saturday's Swiss Pairs event saw top honours go to the visiting duo of William Jenner-O'Shea and Vanessa Brown from Canberra, who outplayed a strong field to take the title.

On Sunday, the Swiss Teams event was won by a formidable Melbourne team comprising George Lovrecz, Thilak Ranasinghe, Paul Ruan and Philip Chang.

Whilst local players didn't make the winners' circle this year, the Congress was nonetheless a terrific opportunity for island-based bridge lovers to test their skills against experienced competitors – and learn a thing or two along the way.

Regular club play continued on Monday, September 15, with 15 pairs taking to the tables. North/South winners were Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour, finishing with an impressive 64.58 per cent. East/West honours went to Anne Ferrari and Don Stewart-Uden on 57.14 per cent.

Wednesday's competition was Nationwide #18. Club winners on the day – Greg Nicholson and Jean Barbour with 62.50 per cent.

## Stony Creek in Melbourne Cup Sweep

THE visit of the Melbourne Cup to Stony Creek racecourse and Meeniyar Town Hall highlighted Stony Creek's participation in the Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour National Sweep, the town in with a chance of winning \$50,000 towards a worthy cause.

Through the sweep, each rural and regional destination on the tour is allocated a barrier for the 2025 Melbourne Cup.

If the horse drawn in that barrier wins, the chosen community charity receives the money, that being the National Jockeys Trust (NJT), if Stony Creek triumphs in the race that stops the nation.

"This recognition means more than words can express – not only does it offer us the exciting possibility of winning \$50,000, but it also provides invaluable exposure through the sweep's national marketing reach, NJT CEO Kerrie Wilkinson said.

"That visibility helps us share our mission with a broader audience and reminds the racing community and beyond of the vital support we offer to jockeys and their families in times of need."

The NJT is a charity supporting injured and ill jockeys Australia-wide, CEO of the Stony Creek Racing Club Jason Benbow having led significant advancements of that organisation during his riding career and remaining a passionate advocate.





Raph is very happy with his ribbons from his first junior race night. Amazing effort.

SGB junior race nights

THE last week of term is always fun for the South Gippsland Bass (SGB) Swimming Club junior swimmers with a race night at both Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre and YMCA South Gippsland SPLASH.

Race nights are an introductory, relaxed swim meet for the junior swimmers to put together the skills that they work on each week during the term. A big thank you to the NAB Leongatha and Wonthaggi branches for sponsoring the SGB 2025 Junior race nights, held at the end of each term.

Pennant season starts at Wonthaggi Croquet Club

WONTHAGGI hosted Korumburra on September 16 for the first game of the 2025 West Gippsland Pennant season.

This will be a shorter season than previous years, as Wonthaggi is only fielding one team and Morwell is unable to field a team.

The weather was a bit ordinary with windy conditions and intermittent rain making play unpleasant at times.

However, this did not detract from the competitive atmosphere during the day and at the conclusion, Wonthaggi came out on top, winning nine games to five.

Other results:

Phillip Island defeated Warragul seven games all but 82/77 hoops; Drouin defeated Leongatha eight games to six.

In the east the results were: Bairnsdale 1 defeated Orbost; Lakes Entrance 1 defeated Bairnsdale 2; no result yet available for the Lakes Entrance 2 v Sale match.

Leongatha hosted a handicap singles tournament on the weekend September 6 and 7, and five Wonthaggi members and one associate member attended this event.

In Section 1, Marjorie Prendergast won four of her games with Kevin Young from Morwell winning.

In Section 2, the contingent of John Priller (three games), Philip Bool (four games), Kathy Ross (three games) and Sue Priller (five games) acquitted themselves extremely well.

Sue finished as runner-up (five games +10) to Terry Nash (five games +14) from Korumburra.

Wonthaggi can almost claim this as a win as Terry is an associate member of the club.

Well done everyone.

Eleanor just misses a medal in Tokyo

LEONGATHA'S prolific international medal winner, Eleanor Patterson, has narrowly missed out on claiming a medal at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.

Jumping in appalling conditions with constant delays for rain, Eleanor cleared a height of 1.97m, equal with Ukrainian Yaroslava Mahuchikh and Serbian Angelina Topic but out of the medals on a countback.

She finishes fifth after making the final in another world championships.

Her Aussie teammate, Nicola Olyslagers, claimed the gold with a clearance of two metres also on a countback from Poland's Maria Zdzik, who won the silver.

Speaking afterwards to the ABC's Simon Smale, Eleanor Patterson was philosophical and typically generous in her assessment of the competition.

"If I had one clearance a little bit earlier it would have been incredible," she said.

"But that's the nature of our sport.

"I feel like I'm ready to jump high and I just didn't bring it today."

She may not have won a medal, but she was able to share a special moment regardless.

"I was very proud that I was able to be a part of a moment with Angelina Topic," Patterson said.

"She had half an hour to wait to see if she had a bronze medal.

"She was quite overwhelmed. She wasn't sure if she was able to retain that bronze medal.

"That was a beautiful moment for me.

"In some way, I was happy I didn't jump two metres, and I was able to share that moment with her.

"There's so much beauty, even in failure," she said.

Gippsland South MP Danny O'Brien was one of the first to jump on social media and congratulate Eleanor for doing the region proud at the highest level, while also congratulating Nicola.



Eleanor Patterson clears 1.97m in tough conditions at the World Athletics Championships in Tokyo overnight, enough to be equal with the bronze medallists but missing out on a medal on a countback.



Phillip Island and District Darts League's Monday night winners were Marilyn, Alby, Vince and Allan.



John Battista was the winner of the popular San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle at Phillip Island darts on Monday.

Sudden death bullseye decides darts league thriller

IT WAS a night of high stakes and even higher tensions at the Phillip Island and Districts Darts Centre this past Monday, as a solid turnout of 30 players took to the oche for the second round of the spring series.

The competition was fierce, with three teams locked in a dead heat, all finishing with an identical record of 5-2.

To settle the score and add

a thrilling twist to the night, officials called for a sudden-death throw for the bullseye.

The crowd held its breath as each team's designated player stepped up to the line, the fate of the night's victory hanging on a single dart.

When the dust settled, it was the team of Marilyn, Alby, and Vince, led by the cool-headed Allan, who emerged victorious,

snatching the win with a perfectly placed dart.

Their victory was met with cheers and applause from a captivated crowd, proving once again that in the world of darts, anything can happen.

The excitement didn't stop there.

The popular San Remo Butchers meat tray raffle also found a deserving winner in

John Battista, who walked away with the prize.

"Nice work, JB," a league official was heard saying, commending his luck.

The league will continue to play throughout the school holidays, with round three set for next Monday night.

If this week's action is any indication, players and spectators alike are in for another thrilling night of darts.

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 23
▲ 12.47am	1.46m
▼ 6.36am	0.55m
▲ 1.06pm	1.48m
▼ 7.00pm	0.48m

WEDNESDAY	September 24
▲ 1.37am	1.54m
▼ 7.19am	0.55m
▲ 1.42pm	1.50m
▼ 7.37pm	0.40m

THURSDAY	September 25
▲ 2.18am	1.61m
▼ 7.56am	0.56m
▲ 2.12pm	1.51m
▼ 8.10pm	0.35m

FRIDAY	September 26
▲ 2.54am	1.64m
▼ 8.30am	0.58m
▲ 2.41pm	1.51m
▼ 8.43pm	0.32m

SATURDAY	September 27
▲ 3.26am	1.65m
▼ 9.02am	0.60m
▲ 3.09pm	1.51m
▼ 9.15pm	0.32m

SUNDAY	September 28
▲ 3.55am	1.63m
▼ 9.35am	0.62m
▲ 3.39pm	1.49m
▼ 9.47pm	0.33m

MONDAY	September 29
▲ 4.27am	1.59m
▼ 10.08am	0.66m
▲ 4.11pm	1.46m
▼ 10.20pm	0.35m

Email us your fishing photos

news@sgst.com.au





St Paul's Anglican Grammar School's Junior School Tee Ball team placed third at the School Sports Victoria State Championships. Pictured back from left, Mr Cameron McConville, Ms Gretta Denton, Mr Paul Boraston, middle from left, Zach Klason, Oscar Cryle, Hayden Ka, Charlie Brewer, Patrick Jarvis, Timothy Townsend, Miles Benac, Charlie Stoll, front from left, Ahaan Vyas, Quin McConville Plant, Lachlan Perry, Harley Mohr and Ruben Ashworth.

# St Paul's spirit shines at State Championships

ST Paul's Anglican Grammar School's Junior School Tee Ball team has plenty to celebrate after placing third at the School Sports Victoria State Championships, held at the Waverley Softball Centre.

Alongside their impressive results, the team was also recognised with the Spirit of Sport Award, a testament to their conduct throughout the day.

The championships brought together eight schools, divided into two pools of four, with each game played over seven innings in one hour.

St Paul's started strong, taking on Kerang Primary School

in the opening match.

The players quickly shook off any nerves, dominating in all areas of the game to record a commanding 23 to zero victory.

Next up was St John's Primary School, Euroa.

This match proved more competitive, but St Paul's rose to the challenge, showcasing sharp catching and ground fielding to secure a solid 20 to three win.

With two wins from two games, the final pool match against Marymede Catholic College, South Morang, would decide who advanced to the championship playoff.

St Paul's burst out of the

blocks, leading six to zero after two innings.

Marymede fought back to narrow the margin after four innings, and by the final stages, St Paul's trailed nine to 10.

Despite a spirited team effort, the team was unable to add to their score, with Marymede finishing on top.

Although they missed the final, the St Paul's players' outstanding conduct and determination were recognised with the Spirit of Sport Award.

St Paul's physical education and sport teacher, Mr Paul Boraston, was proud of the team's demonstrated values

and character.

"Each player's respectful conduct, skill, teamwork, effort and improvement was on display and was outstanding to see. As a result of this, the team was well deserved to be awarded the Spirit of Sport Award," he said.

Tee ball is just one of the co-curricular activities at St Paul's, which encourages students to step out of their comfort zones and try new activities.

Through co-curricular activities such as tee ball, students gain social, leadership, empathy and teamwork skills beyond the classroom.



Leongatha's Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) Level four team won at the South East Regionals and qualified for the State Championships for the first time in the club's history. Photo: Leongatha Gymnastics Club.

# Leongatha Gymnasts make history amid uncertain future

LEONGATHA Gymnastics Club is celebrating a remarkable achievement, with their Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) Level four team winning at the South East Regionals and qualifying for the State Championships for the first time in the club's history.

Athletes Billi Olden, Annabelle Walkley, Anda Sriraksa, Molly Francis, and Samara Parke, under the guidance of coach Lily Akers, have shown what passion, grit, and determination can achieve – even in the face of adversity.

This milestone is even more extraordinary given the challenges the club faces. Leongatha Gymnastics Club is the only gymnastics club in South Gippsland, yet its future hangs in the balance as it risks losing its training venue. For years, the athletes have trained with mismatched and second-hand equipment, but they have never let that stop them. Now, at the very moment they have reached the State stage, the community risks losing a club that has nurtured hundreds of members over the years.

Head coach Lily Akers said the loss of LGC would be a devastating blow to South Gippsland.

"As a non-profit organisation, we have always run as a service to the community, keeping our fees low so that as many people as possible can access sport," said Lily. "Our programs are not just for children and teenagers – we run classes that cater to all ages, from toddlers to adults, and even the elderly."

For many, LGC is more than a sporting club; it is a place of connection, fitness, and belonging.

"Despite these uncertainties, the success of our WAG team has lit a spark for the next generation of gymnasts and beyond," Lily said.

"Younger athletes in our programs now believe that they, too, can compete at the highest levels, while our broader membership sees the power of persistence and community spirit. But for these opportunities to continue, we urgently need a secure facility where people of all ages can grow, move, and shine."

To help make that future possible, LGC have launched the #SaveLGC campaign.

"We are asking the community to rally behind our athletes, support our club, and ensure that gymnastics remains accessible in South Gippsland. Every dollar helps us fight for the future of our club and the many people – young and old – who call it home."

"Together, we can make sure that the achievements of Billi, Annabelle, Anda, Molly, and Samara are not the end of an era, but the beginning of a stronger future."

# Mary MacKillop senior girls netball team crowned State Champions

HISTORY was made recently as the Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College Senior Girls Netball team claimed victory at the SSV State Titles, marking a milestone achievement for the school.

The championship win capped off a dominant season, with the team competing in and conquering three separate competitions throughout the year. They began their campaign with a strong performance in the local competition, securing an easy win and progressing confidently to the regional level. There, they remained undefeated, solidifying their reputation as a formidable force on the court.

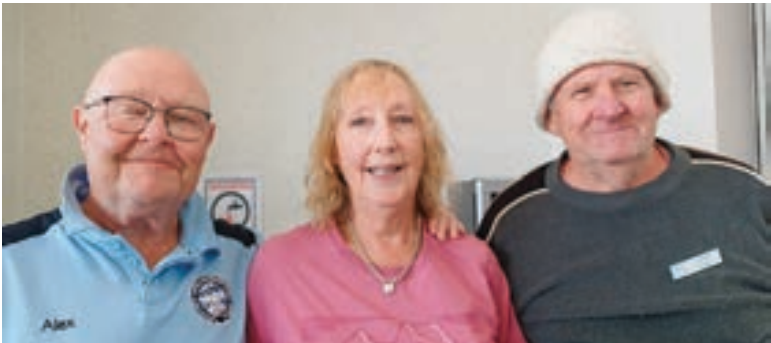
At the state finals, the girls faced a setback in their opening game against Rowville Sports Academy. However, showing resilience and determination, they bounced back, powering through the remaining matches. In a dramatic grand final rematch, they turned the tables on Rowville, defeating them 29 – 21 to secure the state title.

The College has expressed immense pride in the team – not just for their sporting excellence, but for the way they represented the school with integrity and sportsmanship throughout the competition. The team was expertly guided by coach Ms Higgins, with Mr Maskell providing support as team manager.



Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College has congratulated the Senior Girls Netball team on their outstanding achievement and historic win. Mary MacKillop senior girls netball team, back, from left: Tyla Peters, Audrey McGannon, Gemma Meadley, Hattie Jefferis and Mackenna Whiteside. Front, Sienna Musilli, Annalise O'Halloran, Lucy Heber, Heidi Nicholas and Lara Landry.





South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group's winners on Thursday were Alex Martin (L), Cheryl Floyd (3) and Jimmy Kirk (S).



Ron Fenton (S), Anne Shaw (L) and Max Summers (3) were Thursday's best one game winners for the South West Gippsland Midweek Bowls Group.



Inverloch Bowling Club's September Triples winners were Tony McKiernan, Sandra Read (skip) and Frank Cimino.



Wonthaggi Bowls Club's Wednesday winners were Joy Phillips, Trevor Teer and Charlie Wright.



Foster Branch Bendigo Bank manager Katie Fraser with Foster Bowls Club president Mark Taylor, vice president Ray PRAIN and grant officer Bev Tyers with the club's new chairs.



Ray McCurry, Jean Wylde, Pat Smith and Jim Wilson were the Friday winners at Wonthaggi Senior Indoor Bowls.

BREAKAWAY BOWLS

MONDAY'S bowlers were keen and enthusiastic to play, all who attended enjoyed their games.

Monday's winners on +16 were Jan Murphy and Brian Newman.

Friday brought a beautiful sunny day with light pouring in on the lovely Cape Paterson Hall, lifting the club members' spirits. What an enjoyable day had by all.

Friday's winners on +24 were Helen Gladstone, Brian Newman and Jan Clark – impressive bowling by all.

If you would like to try out Indoor Carpet Bowls pop in at Cape Paterson Hall on Monday or Friday from 1pm to 4pm or call Linda Newman on 0487 424 131.

FOSTER

MEMBERS are loving the new chairs – and toilets – at the club.

The club is getting lots of compliments as they are very stylish and comfortable – the chairs not the toilets, although they are pretty good too.

The club sends a big thank you out to Bendigo Bank for all the wonderful support it offers to the community with its Community Bank Grants.

Back in early June, the club was privileged to be a successful recipient with its grant application for some new chairs and to upgrade the toilets.

It's all been happening – the chairs arrived and they look great.

They are sturdy, stackable and functional, and everyone is very happy.

Katie Fraser, manager of the Bendigo Bank Foster Branch, came down to check them out and get a great photo to share.

The club also showed off the new toilets, which are being installed progressively.

You can see that photo on the Facebook page.

The club looks forward to all the events it will be holding this season and seeing you all there.

INVERLOCH

A BIG change is coming to the start of the Club Championships this year.

All first-round games of both the Men's and Ladies' Major Singles will be played together on the same day at the same time. This will be at 9.30am on Saturday, October 11.

The club would like as many eligible affiliate members as possible to enter the major competition.

Everyone should have a go and challenge the champions and each other.

Markers will also be required on the day and all other members as spectators.

There will be an egg and bacon roll breakfast available for \$5 from 8am before the games and refreshments during the morning.

The club would like to make this competition more popular as a club bowls event, so please enter the major competition.

If you any queries, please see a match committee member.

Following the games at about 1pm will be the pie lunch for all weekend and weekday Pennant players only.

The list will be available for names for catering.

Pennant's starting dates are Tuesday, October 14, and Saturday, October 18.

The club welcomes new board

members Brett O'Donovan and John Sutcliffe to the Board of Directors.

The Monthly Triples season has started and the first day greeted the bowlers with some challenging weather conditions.

Twenty-two teams played over four games of 10 ends with a break for lunch.

The winners on the day with three wins and 35 shots up were Frank Cimino, Tony McKiernan and Sandra Read (skip). Runners-up were Graeme Cornell, Peter Forrest and John Newcombe (skip) with three wins and 25 shots up.

Best first game with 14 shots up went to the team skipped by Marj Pearson.

Best second game went to the team skipped by Arthur Newsome with nine shots up.

Best third game with 11 shots up, eight ends and 86.6 per cent went to Graham Turton's team.

Best fourth game with 14 shots up was won by the team skipped by George.

The next Triples Day is October 15.

Thirty-two players played in the Inverloch Social Day last Thursday.

After two games, there were only two teams who had won both their games.

Runners-up on the day with two games 33 points and 16 shots up was the team of Darryl McStravick, Laurel Lee, Bill Brown and Rob Howard.

The winning team with two games, also 33 points and with 17 shots up was the team of Bill Selby, Karen Orford and Darryl Floyd.

MIDWEEK BOWLS

WHAT a day it was for the 50 members who turned up to Koo Wee Rup to fight it out for team of the week.

The forecast seemed reasonable for springtime, so they kept their fingers crossed that this would be the case.

As they arrived, they were greeted by Bev and John, while Vern was kept busy preparing the teams for the day.

Once the teams were prepared and the teas and coffees were finished, they headed out to the green.

The weather certainly didn't disappoint – it was a lovely day overall.

However, quite heavy wind was a challenge to many of the players.

Wind or no wind, the quality of the bowls was above reproach.

It was quite a good day for the Royal Children's Hospital, as many seemed to be in a very charitable mood – keep up the good work, bowlers.

The winners on a score of 34 were Alex Martin (L), Cheryl Floyd (3) and Jimmy Kirk (S).

Runners-up on a very close score of 33 were Margaret Hoy (3), Steve Banks (L), Katherine Bray (S) and Enid Johnston (2).

Best one game on a score of 19 were Ron Fenton (S), Anne Shaw (L) and Max Summers (3).

Koo Wee Rup always look after the club excellently and Thursday was no different.

Tim set up the green before everyone arrived and left Steve to look after the bar with help from Tracey, who also looked after the kitchen.

It is these wonderful volunteers who keep the group coming back week after week.

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

ANOTHER week has come and gone, with the weather not being the best.

Wednesday saw a windy day to greet 21 bowlers, as triples at Inverloch drew a number of players.

The club managed to play one match before a heavy shower of rain made the conditions very cold, and it was decided to call the day off and retire to the clubhouse to fan the cards to find a winner – a good move, as the clubhouse was warm and cosy.

The winning team was Joy Phillips, Trevor Teer, and Charlie Wright.

Saturday saw Wonthaggi venture to Phillip Island for the third year of the Graham Jackson/Daryl Major Memorial Shield, played as a Pennant practice match.

After an epic battle all day, Phillip Island retained the shield by a slim margin of six shots.

The match was played under match conditions on a fine but cool afternoon with little to no wind.

Thursday social bowls started off once again with the weather being the key factor for numbers.

Friday night went off well with 40 people in the rooms, making the night a success.

The members' draw didn't go off, so next week it will be \$140.

Steve Bruynen was a happy meat tray winner.

Mal and Bryan each won a brekky pack.

Other winners were Howard, Rod, and John.

Next week, there will also be a chicken pack included in the raffles.

Bowls this week:

Wednesday: Social bowls at 12.30pm.

Thursday: Social bowls at 10am.

Saturday: Grand Final Day.

Bowls start at 11am, with a barbecue sausage sizzle lunch and a raffle, first prize being a meat tray.

Don't forget to wear your footy colours.

Friday night will again be a good night, especially with the public holiday.

The members' draw stands at \$140, plus four meat trays to win and lots of other prizes.

Doors open at 4pm.

Have a good week and good bowling.

WONTHAGGI INDOOR

THIS week, the club had a total of 57 players.

Tuesday's winners with a plus 12 were Paul Holmes, Sylvia Mattock and Max Sweetnam.

Runners-up on plus nine were Helen Rook, Jenny Bakker and Fred Demenech.

On Friday, the club had its annual general meeting, which was extremely well attended with the normal bowling following. The winners on the day with a plus nine were Ray McCurrie, Jean Wylde, Pat Smith and Jim Wilson.

Running a very close second on plus eight were Helen Rook, Jan Milkins, Sylvia Mattock and Max Sweetnam.





**Korumburra's Doris Chambers Foursomes Victoria Golf event winners Shelley Snooks and Karen Sorrell.**



**Karen Sheerin and Catherine Bolding were Wonthaggi Golf Club's grade winners on Wednesday.**



**Leongatha Golf Club hosted the Joyce Berry 4BBB Par Championship. Pictured are Leongatha's B Grade Handicap winners Alison Strong and Maryann Gartner, Woorayl's B Grade Scratch winners Sherrill Winkler and Elly Berryman, Foster's Scratch Championship winners Robyn Galloway and Beth Curram, and Meeniyans A Grade Handicap winners Irene Holm and Heather Poletti.**

FOSTER

IT WAS a very small and committed group of seven players that fronted for our Saturday competition this week. Peter Bohn (15) claimed bragging rights with his score of 33 pts, which included two birdies. Will Cashin (30) took out a ball down the line with 30 pts. Ben Cooper birdied the fourth with his tee shot that earned him a nearest to the pin.

On Tuesday, the threat of rain kept most people indoors with just seven players entering in the Stableford competition. Kylie Collins (11) won nearest to pin on the sixth on her way to winning the day with 37 pts. Dave Hutchinson (13) played out his singles knockout match and ran away with a 4/3 victory and a ball down the line with 36 pts.

Wednesday's event this week was American Foursomes with a blind draw for partners. In this unusual format, both team members teed off before swapping to hit one another's ball, the teams then select the best position to play out the hole via alternate shots. Robyn Galloway and Shirley Cook (15) were teamed up and combined for a quality score of 79 nett. Kaylene Morris and Kylie Collins (15) took out the only ball down the line with 81 nett. Nearest to pins for the day went to Jan Best on the sixth and Shirley Cook on the 17th. The nine-hole Stableford competition was on the back nine and was won by Beth Curram (20) with 13 pts.

Eighteen players contested Thursday's Par event. Kiwi Jones (27) continued along his recent run of form by winning via a countback with an impressive score of +1. This month's medalist, Mick Connellan (16) finished as the unlucky loser after finishing on the same score of +1. Dave Hutchinson (13) took home a ball down the line with -1. Brad Coates (13) rounded out the daily awards by winning the final ball down the line with -2 and nearest to pin on the 17th.

This week's chicken run was again our biggest comp for the week, 26 players entered over the six days. The scene of the crime this week was the back nine with only two entrants playing to their handicap or better. Kylie Collins (12) finished on top with 21 pts. Mitch Dyke (25) had a very impressive 19 pts to win the first of four balls down the line. Kelly Pruy (28) and Russell Forte (14) took out the final 2 BDL with 16 pts each. Lloyd McKenzie was the final award winner for the week with his sensational birdie on the 13th.

Yarram Plate: In what were difficult conditions, nine of our men headed to Yarram to represent Foster in the annual Yarram Plate. Our club manager, Peter Furborough (8) did us all proud by taking out the A grade handicapped event with 35 Stableford pts. It was a hard day for all who attended.

This week, just remember, the more you play, the luckier you'll get. The Caddy.

KORUMBURRA

TUESDAY, September 16: Stableford: 24 players. Winner: A Grade Barry Kerr 36 pts. B Grade Bob Newton 34 pts. NTPs: first Wayne Knights, seventh Barry Kerr, 10th Mick Belvedere and 13th Iain Riddell. Thursday, September 18: Stableford: 27 players. Winner: A Grade Greg Jones 40 pts. B Grade Ian Morris 35 pts. NTPs: first Wayne Knights, seventh Greg Jones, 10th Shayne Harland and 13th Ian Morris. Saturday, September 20: Sponsor: Bob Newton. Par: 39 players. Winner A Grade: Billie Wrigley 39 pts. B Grade: Brodie Senior-Gibson 38 pts. NTPs: first Richard Johnson, 10th Wayne Knights and 13th Ray Ludenia.

Ladies

THE women played in the Doris Chambers Victoria Golf Foursomes event last Wednesday. Congratulations to the winning pair, Shelley Snooks and Karen Sorrell (25), teaming up together to score 32 pts.

R/up close behind with 31 pts were the team of Heather Grist and Kim Enbom (23).

BDTL went to Trudy Olden and Dianne Maskell (33) 29 pts.

Shelley and Karen will now go on to play the State Final at Sanctuary Lakes on Thursday, October 23.

The club wishes them all the best and good hitting.

On Friday, the club had two pairs play in the Joyce Berry 4BBB South Gippsland Golf Inc (SGGI) Day at Leongatha.

Well done for representing the club and to all who played.

On Saturday, the women decided to stay indoors keeping warm and dry.

Just a reminder this Wednesday, September 24, the club will have its October Monthly Medal instead of October 1.

This is due to the new Connect System merging with the old.

LEONGATHA

TUESDAY, September 16: Stableford. Tuesday's Stableford round had 51 members/guests entering the competition with some individual highlights recorded on the day.

Overall winner: Michael O'Rafferty (13) with a high score of the day with 37 pts.

A Grade winner: Michael O'Rafferty (13) with 37 pts. R/up: Rod MacKenzie (11) with 36 pts on a countback.

B Grade winner: Dave Brownnett (16) with 34 pts. R/up: Peter Read (17) with 33 pts.

Great score from Nicholas Byrne with a hole-in-one on the fourth hole.

Great score also for Craig Hutchinson with an eagle on the first hole and in the same group on the very next hole, great score for

Winton Knop with an eagle on the second hole.

NTP fifth second shot: Rod MacKenzie (11) at .28m. 14th: Rebecca Brown (9) at 2.62m. 16th: Craig Hams (9) at 2.49m.

Thursday, September 18: Captain's Call Stableford Event.

Thursday was a special day called for by Leongatha Golf Club men's captain Dave Brownnett with every player restricted to the use of four clubs of your choice.

This Stableford round had 73 members/guests hitting off with a shotgun start.

Overall winner: Dave Brownnett (16), of course, the very man who put on the event wins the day with a score of 33 pts on a countback.

A Grade winner: Ray Matthews (12) with 32 pts. A Grade r/up: Paul Deery (10) with 31 pts.

B Grade winner: Dave Brownnett (16) with 33 pts. B Grade r/up: Bernard Skerys (18) with 33 pts.

C Grade winner: Hugh Goodman (21) with 31 pts. C Grade r/up: Dougal Scott (23) with 30 pts.

NTP fifth second shot: Conor Hosking (13) at 2.18m. 14th: Malcolm Gin (10) at .86m. 16th: Andrew Smith (15) at 1.49m.

Saturday, September 20: Par.

Saturday was a Par round with the bleaker weather keeping numbers down with 46 members/guests entering the competition.

Overall winner: David Richards (17) with a score of -1.

A Grade winner: David Richards (17) with a score of -1. A Grade r/up: Gordon Morrison (15) with a score of -2.

B Grade winner: Scott Blencowe (23) with a score of -2 on a countback. B Grade r/up: Alan Black (23) with a score -2.

NTP fifth second shot: Alan Black (23) at 2.60m. 14th: Paul Ross (20) at .46m. 16th: David Barrack (20) at 2.84m.

MIRBOO NORTH

TUESDAY, September 16: Stableford.

Winner: M. Payne (11) 39 pts.

DTL: G. Shandley and S. Beitz 37 pts. NTP: fourth S. Mills, sixth S. Mills, 13th G. Shandley and 16th M. Payne.

Birdies: 13th M. Payne and G. Shandley.

Saturday, September 20: Stableford,

Winner: G. Shandley (13) 34 pts.

DTL: T. Bradshaw and S. Woodall 33 c/b. NTP: fourth T. Whitelaw, sixth S. Woodall, 13th P. Woodall and 16th S. Hill-Smith.

Birdies: 13th P. Woodall.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND GOLF INC

Joyce Berry 4BBB Par Championship 2025

FIFTY-SIX women participated in the Joyce Berry 4BBB Par Championships at Leongatha Golf Club, which was held in extremely windy conditions.

The event, established more than 40 years ago, recognises

Joyce Berry, a former Wonthaggi Golf Club captain, champion, and South Gippsland Ladies Golf Association life member.

Most clubs in the district were represented, and prize winners came from various clubs.

Robyn Galloway and Beth Curram from Foster Golf Club won the Joyce Berry 4BBB Par Championship with a scratch score of 85.

The Minor Scratch was awarded to Elly Berryman and Sherrill Winkler from Woorayl Golf Club, who scored 94.

This event marked Sherrill Winkler's first time playing 18 holes at Leongatha and participating in a South Gippsland Golf Inc (SGGI) event away from Woorayl.

Meeniyans combination of Irene Holm and Heather Poletti won the A Grade Handicap event with +4.

The B Grade Handicap winners were Maryann Gartner and Alison Strong from the host club, Leongatha, with +5, on a countback.

Down the line balls went to +2: Jenny McRae and Andrea Grenville Wonthaggi Golf Club, Patsy Britt and Marg Ryan Wonthaggi Golf Club, Bronwyn Debenham and Jenny Fraser Leongatha Golf Club, Coralie Baker and Karen Orford Leongatha Golf Club, Carole Sartori and Donna Brosnan Wonthaggi Golf Club, Heather Grist and Debbie Wrigley Korumburra Golf Club, Lynda Bassett and Cheryl Borg, and Joc Howson and Lianne Adamson Leongatha Golf Club.

Nearest the pins went to Kylie Collins Foster Golf Club on the seventh, Sue Straw from Meeniyans Golf Club was closest on the 14th and Facebook administrator Elly Berryman was nearest to the flag on the 16th.

Support and best wishes were extended to the Country Team representatives and officials by SGGI match committee representative Elly Berryman.

Sue Hoskin, chair of the SGGI match committee and team manager, announced the team for 2025, to play in Mildura from Monday, September 29, to Wednesday, October 1, at Redcliffs Riverside is Kay Dumbleton Leongatha, Beth Curram, Kylie Collins Foster, Heather Grist, Shelley Snooks, and Merrissa Cosson Korumburra, Deb Orr, Vicky Ramage, and Michelle Pardoe Phillip Island, Judy Davey Lang Lang and Faye le Page assistant manager.

The SGGI women's committee would like to extend thanks to Leongatha Golf Club and the women's captain Janet Monk and her committee for their organisation in running the event and the delightful lunch prepared by Bec Brown.

Special thank you to John Payne for unravelling the MiClub system for this complicated event.

The final SGGI event for the year is the Foursomes to be played at Wonthaggi on Friday, October 24.

WONTHAGGI

RESULTS: September 18, SR. 71.

Competition: Stableford 18-hole. Winner: Adrian Nixon 38. Runner up: Ian McNish 38.

Ball sweep: Peter Kane 36, Rod McBride 35, Gino Manfred 34, Glen Turner 34 and Graeme Campbell 33 C/B.

Results: September 18, SR. 34.5.

Competition: Stableford front nine-hole.

Winner: Paul Cornelis 17.

Ball DTL: Bob Cornelis 16 and Graham Ryan 15.

Results: September 20, SR. 71.

Competition: Pro Stroke.

A Grade: Rod McBride E.

B Grade: Kevin Bayley +2.

C Grade: Max Ahearne -1.

BDTL to +4.

Ball sweep: Bill Howard E, Brad Andrew +1, Joshua Kilgour +3, Ian Baker +3, Jim Jordan +4, Julian Wintle +4, Aaron Yann +4 and Paul Brusamarello +4.

NTPs: David Hynes second, not claimed fourth, Ian Baker propin eighth, Julian Wintle 13th and Ian Baker money hole 17th.

Coming events:

September 27: AFL Grand Final Day – 9am shotgun start.

October 5: Equal Opportunity Mixed.

October 19: J&P Martin Club Mixed Foursomes.

November 4: Melbourne Cup Day Ambrose – 9am shotgun start.

November 9: Wonthaggi Hospital Charity Day.

Ladies

WIND, squalls, more wind – yep, typical volatile spring weather.

There were two events being played on Wednesday – two semi-finals of the Foursomes knockout and a Stableford competition.

Both semi-final matches went the distance with Jenny McRae and Donna Brosnan the victors on the 18th over Marg Ryan and Patsy Britt.

In the other match, Marg Johnson and Anne Tschiderer had to go to the 19th to overcome Kaylene Hodgetts and Bev Sloan.

The remaining 14 players also battled the elements with Catherine Bolding (17)34 pts the run-away best round winning A Grade, while Karen Sheerin (33)27 pts was the B Grade winner.

BDL went to Robyn Wilkinson 29, and Yvonne Everitt, Betty Bowmar and Chris Hamilton all 26 pts.

WOORAYL

Ladies

A DIFFERENT format was played on Wednesday – Par, sponsored by Sherrill Winkler.

Ten ladies played in very windy conditions and, at times, rain.

Sharyn Rayson was the A Grade winner with -6.

Janet Thompson was the B Grade winner with -5.

BDTL: Sherrill Winkler -5 and Elly Berryman -6.

NTP: eighth Sharyn Rayson, 11th Elly Berryman and 17th Pauline Lancaster.



2025 Best & Fairests

Ellinbank League:

U17 Equal: Emma Henshall (Poowong)  
  
Gippsland League:  
Seniors: Ben Harding (Leongatha)  
B Grade: Courtney Young (Wonthaggi)  
Finlay Bradley (Leongatha)

Mid Gippsland League:

Seniors: Angus Norton (Foster)  
A Grade: Madeline Stewart (Foster) and Kelsey Angwin (Foster)  
B Grade: Emma Watkins (Fish Creek)  
Reserves: Luke Anedda (Toora)  
C Grade: Jodie Arnup (MDU)  
D Grade: Abby Walsh (Yinnar)  
U17: Esther Konyi (Boolarra)  
U15: Willow Butinar (Toora)  
U13: Georgie Schaeche (Mirboo North)

West Gippsland Competition:

Seniors: Hayden Bruce (Phillip Island)  
Reserves: Finlay Cousins (Phillip Island)  
Fourths: Blake Eden (Kilcunda Bass)  
A Grade: Gemma Dixon (Korumburra Bena)  
U17: Aisha Hibbert (Phillip Island)

Inverloch Kongwak:

Seniors: Joe Nowell, Paul Pattison and Ethan Park  
Reserves: Shem Hawking  
A Grade: Renee Pilkington  
B Grade: Lara Mullin  
C Grade: Rebecca Massaro  
D Grade: Marli Box

Mirboo North Tigers:

Seniors: Jesse Chila  
Reserves: Luke Gervasi  
Thirds U 18: Charlie Crutchfield  
A Grade: Marley Wallace  
B Grade: Emma Evans  
C Grade: Amy Symmons  
D Grade: Lexie Andrews  
U17: Marley Wallace  
U15: Amy Conlan  
U13: Georgie Schaeche

Poowong:

Seniors: Zac Gray  
Reserves: Connor King  
Thirds: Gavin Monson  
Fourths: Lachie Moriarty  
A Grade: Sarah Hogan  
B Grade: Emma Henshall  
C Grade: Ishkah Butler  
U17: Emma Henshall  
U15: Nicola Fort  
U13: Aaylah Tagliaferro

Stony Creek:

Seniors: Cam Stone  
Reserves: Andrew Logan  
A Grade: Livinia Mandemaker  
B Grade: Jessica Brown  
C Grade: Taylor Mitchell  
D Grade: Lousie Strickland  
U17 Equal: Madeline Cook and Amber Charlton  
U15 Equal: Leo Winkler, Charlotte Lawler, Holly Lawler  
U13: Marlee Dowel

Toora:

Seniors: Michael Bezzene and Jake Smart  
Reserves: Josh Griffin  
A Grade: Nat Griffin  
B Grade: Willow Butinar  
C Grade: Ali Wogon-Browne  
D Grade: Mollie Rose

Wonthaggi Power:

U17: Lily Cengia  
U15: Alyssa Jarvie  
U13: Mikayla Jeffries



Shuttle Smash – a junior badminton program – was recently held in Wonthaggi with great success.

Badminton program a smashing success

BADMINTON is making a comeback in Wonthaggi. The challenges of COVID-19 caused some setbacks to the junior program, but the Shuttle Smash initiative has started to breathe new life into the Wonthaggi Badminton Club. Aimed at children aged between five and 12, Shuttle Smash was well received during July and August. Fifteen children took part in the program, with an influx of young families taking interest in the sport.

The program promoted badminton by involving the participants in fun and inclusive activities to develop fundamental skills and physical literacy. The program came about after club representative Kim Wong and Badminton Victoria was successful in securing a grant. “We decided to use this funding to run this Shuttle Smash program and Badminton Victoria supplied us with equipment, training materials and helped to cover the costs,” club

representative Adrian Falvey said. “Without this support, we couldn’t have done it. The program was a success, and we’ve been able to carry on the junior group since the program finished a few weeks ago. “The biggest difficulty has been raising awareness that this is even running. We’ll probably run it again and have plans for a few more promo activities for the juniors over the next few months.” The club welcomes people of

all ages and skill levels. Following the success of Shuttle Smash, Wonthaggi will extend its junior program until October to ensure children can continue to develop their skills. Badminton Victoria congratulated the Wonthaggi Badminton Club for its outstanding efforts to promote the program and sport. The club’s commitment and hard work ensured the success of Shuttle Smash and the growing enthusiasm for badminton the community.

Local schools celebrate ahead of footy grand finals



Essendon and Hawthorn were fan favourites with Grade 1 students Declan, Ethan and Charlie wearing their colours to Bass Valley Primary School on Friday.



Inverloch Primary School turned into Tigerland on Wednesday with Prep students Blair, Mia and Zoe choosing yellow and black for Footy Colours Day.



Isobel, Sophie and Nathan dressed the part for Footy Colours Day at Inverloch Primary School.



Grade 3 students Mav, Leon, Marlee, Taylah, River and Lorenzo showed support for their favourite footy teams at Bass Valley Primary School.



Harrison, Issy, Claire, Hazel and Piper got into the spirit of Footy Colours Day at Bass Valley Primary School.



The Grade 6 students at Bass Valley Primary School took on the staff in an AFL match on Friday, which resulted in a draw.





Wonthaggi celebrate the U14 win. Coach Dean Harvey, Jerriah Murfin-Barden, Chance Wheatley, Mitch Dynes, Bailen Dryden, Axel Moore, Casey Geer, Harper Pallot, Will Taylor, Bailey Whitehead, team manager Andrea Phillips, Lewey Murray-White, Xavier Gilliland, Hayden Purton, Captain Ollie Phillips, Ryhs Prater, Mustafa Darwesh and Josh Satchwell.

# Celebrations all round as Wonthaggi host Grand Final Carnival

IT WAS a huge Sunday for the Wonthaggi United Soccer Club, for the first time in the Club history they were hosting the GSL Grand Final Carnival. Not only were the usual pitches transformed but so to the main AFL ground. Thanks to the efforts of the Bass Coast Shire Council the Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve looked spectacular and thousands of people turned up to support the 18 teams and six clubs competing. Wonthaggi had other reasons to celebrate with two teams competing.

## U12 Girls

WONTHAGGI United secured a 2-1 victory in the U12 Girls Grand Final in a well-fought match that featured tricky wind conditions and strong defensive play. Wonthaggi's early goals set them up for success, and their solid defensive performance in the second half was key to holding off a determined Phillip Island.

With the wind at their backs, Wonthaggi started the match with high energy, creating several scoring opportunities. They took advantage of the conditions and took a 2-1 lead in the first half.

Phillip Island came out strong in the second half, the wind now worked in their favour, and they pressed hard for an equaliser. However, the home team's defence, led by some key clearances and solid positioning, stood firm throughout the second half.

Wonthaggi's goalkeeper Emily was also outstanding, making a series of important saves to keep Phillip Island from leveling the score. With the pressure mounting, the goalkeeper remained composed and made key stops at crucial moments, helping to



Amity Wilkinson, Hannah Taylor and Ella Coyne celebrate Wonthaggi's U12 Grand Final win.

preserve the lead. Wonthaggi's midfield worked hard and help in the defensive effort, while the defence remained organised and resolute. Despite Phillip Island's efforts, they couldn't break through, and Wonthaggi held on for the win. The final whistle saw Wonthaggi U12 Girls celebrate their 2-1 victory, with their early goals and strong second-half defence proving the difference. Phillip Island fought hard, especially after pulling a goal back, but couldn't find the equaliser. Both teams gave it their all in a thrilling final. Congratulations to Wonthaggi on their well-earned win, and to Phillip Island for their determination and hard work. It was

a fitting end to a competitive season for both sides. **U14 Mixed** WHAT a game! A great end to the 2025 season for the Wonthaggi Under 14s. Despite the windy conditions the game started fast paced testing both the back lines with Hayden kicking the first long range goal. The ball continued to move from end to end with both goal keepers doing well saving multiple shots on goal. Wonthaggi's Mustafa and Will managed to sneak through two more goals before half-time making the score 3-0 at half time. The second half started similar to the first with Phillip Island using the wind to constantly test Wonthaggi's

defence. Phillip Island scored their first goal to bring the score to 3-1. Both teams moved the ball just before the whistle blew making the final score 4-1. Wonthaggi Wolves under 14s won the premiership lead by coach Dean Harvey and captained by Ollie Phillips. The team supported each other and had a lot of fun along the way. Fantastic effort by every single person on the team!! Wonthaggi's Hayden Purton was awarded MVP by the referees in the Grand Final match, a strong player this award was well deserved for his Grand Final efforts.



Harry Sivori was named the Most Valuable Player in the Under 12A Mixed Grand Final, won by his side Phillip Island. A49\_3825



Wes Gijbsers looks to break away from his Drouin opponent Jacob Linklater during Phillip Island's exciting Grand Final win in Under 12A Mixed competition. A53\_3825



Henry Kennedy takes a kickout for Phillip Island, his energy and efforts to motivate the team playing a part in his side's comeback win over Drouin. A51\_3825



The game's best player Harry Sivori of Phillip Island pursues Rio Puncher of Drouin Dragons. A52\_3825





Jacob Gwynne of Phillip Island Breakers was the Most Valuable Player in his side's 3-0 Reserves win over the Inverloch Stars. Photo: MDR Digital Images.



While Phillip Island was beaten by Wonthaggi in the Under 12 Girls Grand Final, Breaker Gabrielle Titmarsh was named the game's Most Valuable Player. Photo: MDR Digital Images.



Hayden Purton was the Most Valuable Player in Wonthaggi United's 4-1 win over Phillip Island Penguins in the Under 14 Mixed Grand Final. Photo: MDR Digital Images.



Phillip Island Breakers player Hannah Titmarsh helped her side to a 2-1 Grand Final victory over Drouin Dragons Yellow in the Under 15 Girls competition, earning the Most Valuable Player award in the process. Photo: MDR Digital Images.



Despite the disappointment of their Grand Final loss to Trafalgar, Leongatha Knights teammates celebrate Ethan Bath's achievement in reaching 100 Senior Men's games.

# Leongatha Knights fall at final hurdle

By Beth Milkins

ON SUNDAY, the 2025 Gippsland Soccer League grand finals took place at Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve.

Despite some decidedly winter weather, the day was a wonderful celebration of local soccer.

Leongatha Knights FC had three teams make it to the final event, U17 Blue, Senior Women and Senior Men.

All teams put up a brave battle on the pitch but unfortunately were unable to secure their respective trophies.

Congratulations to our teams for their massive efforts; we are very proud.

## ETHAN BATH - 100 GAMES

The Senior Men's grand final may not have gone Leongatha's way but it was still a wonderful opportunity to celebrate midfielder Ethan Bath's 100th



Ethan Bath goes for the header in the Senior Men's Grand Final against Trafalgar.

Senior Men's game with the club.

An accolade 10 years in the making, Ethan has played for the club since he was a junior, first taking to the senior pitch back in 2015 as a 16 year old.

He has become a core member of the Senior Men's team and

consistently delivers in the mid-field attacking role.

He was a member of our 2022 League Champions team and our 2023 Premiership-winning squad.

Congratulations Ethan on reaching an iconic milestone. We are incredibly proud!



The ball is in dispute, with Leongatha's Trent Beggs and Drouin's Julian Darcy closest and Leongatha's Bede Challis looking on during the Under 17 Mixed Grand Final. A57\_3825



Leongatha's William Langley-Jones looks like he might take off in the windy conditions as he attempts to pressure Drouin opponent Julian Darcy. A56\_3825



Drouin's Quinten Linklater and Leongatha's William Langley-Jones eye the ball during the Under 17 Mixed Grand Final. A55\_3825



Leongatha Knights Blue and Drouin Dragons Maroon battle for possession in the Under 17 Mixed Grand Final won 6-1 by Drouin. A54\_3825





Phillip Island Breakers delight in their perfect season after a comprehensive Grand Final win over Leongatha Knights. Back row: Helen Masters, Kellie Cox, Tiki Reed, Ailish Flynn, Andrea Dempsey, Jarrah Van Stekelenburg, Yarlini Baum, Evie Titmarsh and Tine Hicks. Middle row: Pauleen Boulton and captain Kelly Wall. Front row: Joss Geronimo, Miki Marr, coach Benita Russell, Luka Alford and Annie Dempsey. A61\_3825

# Phillip Island Breakers cap unbeaten season in style

PHILLIP Island Breakers completed the perfect season with a 5-1 victory over Leongatha Knights in the Senior Women's Grand Final at Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve, topping off an unbeaten campaign.

Breakers coach Benita Russell said an early goal enabled her players to hit their stride and "get back into the way we've been playing all season, which is about possession, passing and positioning".

Genevieve 'Evie' Titmarsh led the way, named the game's Most Valuable Player. "She controlled the middle, just worked really hard on the ball," Russell said of her centre midfielder, adding, "Evie's just a champion all round."

Jarrah Van Stekelenburg opened the scoring early in the match and Phillip Island mostly controlled proceedings from then, Annie Dempsey the winner's multiple goal scorer, finding the net a couple of times, while skipper Kelly Wall and Christine Hicks contributed single goals.

Naomi Eaton gave Knights fans reason to hope a boilover was possible, scoring an equaliser 18 minutes into the contest, but the Breakers were too strong.

The action took place on a full-sized pitch on Wonthaggi footy oval, that being a test for the players of both sides who are used to playing on slightly smaller pitches.

Russell said her team is well-suited to the larger pitch.

While her side was able to keep dangerous Knights striker Melisse 'Lisse' Bath scoreless, the Breakers coach acknowledged, "She's always tough; when the ball gets to her feet and she can do a run through, she's dangerous."

"Our defence played so well to keep her quiet."



Noel O'Donnell of Leongatha pressures his Trafalgar opponent but Victory triumphed 3-0 in the Men's Senior Grand Final. A58\_3825



Phillip Island skipper Kelly Wall holds the Premiership Cup as teammates join the celebrations. A63\_3825

## Trafalgar too strong for Knights men

ALTHOUGH Grand Final foe Trafalgar Victory proved the superior side on the day, its 3-0 scoreline did little justice to Leongatha Knights, the beaten team creating plenty of opportunities to score.

A well-timed sliding tackle from Trafalgar keeper Ross Johnson followed shortly after he had stopped a powerful shot from a free kick by Leongatha's Luke Knights.

Those were among the thwarted efforts for the team in blue and white during the first half, with Victory threatening a breakthrough at the other end, that coming through the zippy and skilful Logan Winter 39 minutes into the contest. His shot from a free kick hit the corner of the net, giving Leongatha keeper Charlie Dougherty no chance and setting up a 1-0 halftime lead for Trafalgar.

Leongatha started the second half brightly but when Henry Mbuthia was tripped just outside the area, Luke Knights' shot from the resultant free kick sailed over the net. Winter soon struck again at the other end, going on to be deservedly named the Most Valuable Player.

Facing a 0-2 deficit, the Knights stuck at their task, continuing to create chances but either failed to capitalise or met decisive defensive resistance.

Mbuthia, who looked promising, was injured 18 minutes into the second half when Trafalgar opponent Caleb Lester went to ground in front of him, albeit making contact with the ball, as the Knights player was mounting an attacking run. With Mbuthia out of action on the ground, Lester charged on, bringing down Ethan Bath with a sliding tackle from behind, earning the wrath of the referee, who showed the Trafalgar player a yellow card, Lester's seventh for the season. Mbuthia had to leave the ground with a badly rolled ankle, robbing Leongatha of some of its spark, Bath's shot from his free kick going over the top.

On what was largely a miserable day weatherwise, a surprising burst of sunshine appeared late in the match, much of the first half having been played in rain of varying intensities, and Leongatha kept searching for a goal to get back into the contest.

It took until the 89-minute mark for Jacob Vitale to finish the matter with Trafalgar's third goal. It looked like Leongatha would pull a goal back in the dying moments when it got the ball over keeper Johnson but Trafalgar's Monty Coots made a spectacular clearance from the goal line to put the ball out of play. It summed up the day for the sides and the fact Trafalgar earned its win.

GIPPSLAND SOCCER LEAGUE

GRAND FINALS - SUN, SEP 21  
AT WONTHAGGI REC. RESERVE

- Senior Mens:**  
Trafalgar Victory 3 d Leongatha Knights 0.  
MVP was Logan Winter (Trafalgar).
- Senior Womens:**  
Phillip Island Breakers 5 d Leongatha Knights  
1. MVP was Evie Titmarsh (Phillip Island).
- Mens Reserves:**  
Phillip Island Breakers 3 d Inverloch Stars  
0. MVP was Jacob Gwynne (Phillip Island).
- Under 17 Mixed:**  
Drouin Dragons Maroon 6 d Leongatha Knights Blue 1. MVP was Will Stevenage (Drouin).
- Under 15 Girls:**  
Phillip Island Breakers 2 d Drouin Dragons Yellow 1. MVP was Hannah Titmarsh (Phillip Island).
- Under 14 Mixed:**  
Wonthaggi United 4 d Phillip Island Breakers 1. MVP was Hayden Purton (Wonthaggi United).
- Under 12 Girls:**  
Wonthaggi United 2 d Phillip Island 1. MVP was Gabrielle Titmarsh (Phillip Island).
- Under 12A Mixed:**  
Phillip Island Breakers 4 d Drouin Dragons Maroon 3. MVP was Harry Sivori (Phillip Island).
- Under 12B Mixed:**  
Drouin Dragons White 4 d Phillip Island Penguins 2. MVP was Joshua Fairress (Drouin)





**Aisha Hibbert has the ball for Phillip Island, scoring 33 of its 36 goals in a narrow loss to Cora Lynn in the 17 & Under Grand Final. A37\_3825**



**Ash Cuff passes off the ball mid-action in Korumburra-Bena's A grade win on Saturday. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography.**



**Best on Court Chelsea Fox assesses her options during Korumburra Bena's thrilling one-goal Grand Final win. A10\_3825**



**It's all eyes to the sky as Phillip Island battles Cora Lynn in the 17 & Under Grand Final. A38\_3825**



**Korumburra Bena captain Ashlee Cuff has possession. A11\_3825**



**Under 17s Aisha Hibbert goes up against her Cora Lynn opponent securing the ball. Photo: Carol Ratcliff.**



**2025 West Gippsland League Best and Fairest Aisha Hibbert receives the pass. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography.**



**Best on Court, Chelsea Fox competes with her Nar Nar Goon opponent. A12\_3825**



**Korumburra Bena Goal Keeper Fiona Burns enjoys Premiership success with Owen. A17\_3825**



**Ellie Hennessy contests the ball for Phillip Island in the U17s. Photo: Carol Ratcliff.**



**Brother and sister Jacob and Mackenna Whiteside celebrate after Korumburra Bena's Grand Final victory. A18\_3825**



**Captain Ashlee Cuff and coaches Kate Attenborough and Gemma Dixon proudly display the A Grade Premiership Cup. A14\_3825**



**Gemma and Nyah Dixon, and Elisha Nicholas relish a successful afternoon. A19\_3825**



**Phillip Island and Cora Lynn battle for ascendancy during a thrilling 17 & Under decider. A39\_3825**



**Olivia Holmes was on point. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography.**



**Korumburra Bena coach Gemma Dixon looks for an option. A15\_3825**



**Chelsea Fox has her Best on Court medal and awaits her Premiership medal. A20\_3825**





Jodie Arnup during the 2025 Grand Final C Grade win. C07\_3825

# MDU captain Jodie Arnup guides MDU to record flag run

By Andrew Palocz

MDU skipper Jodie Arnup added to her personal success in winning this year's Mid Gippsland League Best & Fairest by guiding her team to a fourth C Grade Premiership in a row, the side's feat all the sweeter after scraping into the finals in the last Round.

She's the only member of this year's winning team to have played in all four Grand Finals, the first against Newborough and the last three against Yinnar, the run starting in 2022 after experienced MDU players put off retirement plans when COVID scuttled likely success in 2021 when the Demons were top of the ladder.

After beating Tarwin by just a couple of goals to qualify for the 2025 postseason, MDU defeated Foster and Fish Creek to advance to the decider, not having conquered either opponent during the home-and-away campaign.

Despite a couple of close finishes against the Magpies this year, each team winning one, MDU was on song from the start of the Grand Final, charging to a 17-goal win.

In her customary role as centre, Arnup regularly fed the ball to coach and goal attack Nat Rayson, who scored a stunning 30 goals out of MDU's 42, Ebony Dean and Ayla Lafferty accounting for the rest of the scoring.

"Nat had an amazing final series and her confidence grew each week," MDU's captain said.

Arnup believes it was about 2012 when she made the shift to MDU, having already featured in Leongatha Premierships in the Under 17s and A Grade.

As for this year's success, she identified wing attack Tegan Renden's final round return from a stint in B Grade, then injury, as a key to the turnaround after the side sat seventh on the table before the Round 18 clash with Tarwin, Renden being Best on Court in the Grand Final.

Enjoyment of the sport is another important factor in the triumph, Jodie saying the players have embraced the Melbourne Vixen's 'Let's go to the pub' mantra.

While the Demons have already set a record with their four flags in a row, Arnup is likely to be there to guide her

young teammates again in 2026.

"I just love playing netball," she said, relishing taking the court with friends.

Along with her memorable finals campaign, Rayson deserves credit for keeping Arnup on court, after Jodie was going to retire at the end of the 2023 season before Rayson reminded her that she needed just one more game to reach 100 for the Demons, so should push on.

Who knows how many more matches Arnup can play, fitness not being a problem for the avid runner who is also a cricketer.

She's savoured playing her netball alongside a mix of club stalwarts and young players.

When it's eventually time to retire from the court, it's hard to imagine Arnup stepping away from netball, having previously coached MDU's 15 & Under and 17 & Under sides, guiding the former to a Premiership.

While Arnup acknowledges her good fortune in being involved in so many Premierships, her love of the game and the friendships it creates are perhaps bigger factors in her long career following her first flag at the Parrots in 2001.

## Korumburra Bena triumphs in thriller

By Andrew Palocz

KORUMBURRA Bena capped off its stunning A Grade season, Elisha Nicholas delivering the winning goal against Nar Nar Goon when it seemed certain the match was headed for extra time.

She exuded calm as she broke Goon hearts after the umpire spotted contact with the scores locked on 43 apiece, celebrations erupting among Giants players and supporters the moment Nicholas scored.

The buzzer had already sounded when it became apparent Nicholas would have a chance at glory.

It was an apt conclusion to a stunning match that was close throughout, Korumburra Bena pulling away a little in the last quarter to lead by four goals before Nar Nar Goon surged.

The decibel level soared in the dying minutes, shrieks of excitement and anguish emerging from members of the large crowd, adding to an electric atmosphere.

Talented basketballer Chelsea Fox took charge as the Giants Centre, her athleticism, sure ball handling, speed and composure driving forces in Korumburra Bena's win and earning her the Best on Court medal.

Playing coach Gemma Dixon was a pillar in defence for the victor with her telling intercepts and fair but uncompromising physicality, while non-playing coach Kate Attenborough maintained a largely calm demeanour at the breaks.

However, at the final change, the passion flowed as Attenborough implored the players to "Show everybody why we finished on top of the ladder and got through to a Grand Final".

While the Giants did just that, they needed every ounce of determination to see off the tenacious and classy Nar Nar Goon.

Respect between the sides was apparent at the presentation, the match an illustration of sport at its finest, neither team giving an inch, as illustrated by some robust clashes as players competed for the ball, but there was nothing untoward.

Goal Attack Darcy Uther's impressive shooting in tough, windy conditions gave Nar Nar Goon every chance in what was a high-standard and zippy game, characterised by decisive ball movement.

The Giants lost just two games in a memorable campaign, finishing the regular season a couple of wins ahead of Nar Nar Goon, the Grand Final adversaries beating each other once on the way to finals, Korumburra Bena then winning its semi-final against the Goon.

They were all competitive clashes, culminating in a fitting finale.



Chelsea Fox finds an opening for Korumburra-Bena. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography.



Annalise O'Halloran move the ball up court in the midfield. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography.



While the weather was often dreary on Saturday, the bright orange of the Giants' supporters stood out all the more. A16\_3825



Piper O'Brien lands the pass between her Cora Lynn opponents. Photo: Bec Casey Sports Photography.





Wonthaggi's Chloe Marshall flies for the rebound. w23\_3825



Leongatha's Kate Sperling and Wonthaggi's Macie Gilmour locked in a physical contest. W24\_3825

# High-flying Parrots clinch B Grade title after early Power surge fades

JUST as the weather couldn't decide between rain and sunshine in Morwell on Saturday, September 9, the Gippsland Netball League's B Grade grand final result was also up in the air until the final whistle blew.

Wonthaggi burst out of the gates and set the early pace, finding avenues to goal quickly and putting Leongatha under pressure. The Parrots, however, responded with a calmness and experience that firmly reflected the club's proud history of success. It was clear they were not going to give up, and they soon steadied themselves and worked their way back into the contest, finding a rhythm that they wouldn't lose for the rest of the afternoon.

From there it became a battle. The game swung back and forth, with both sides enjoying strong patches of play and leading at various stages of the game. Wonthaggi's Milly Jobe was a reliable target in attack and finished with 25 goals, while Courtney Young contributed 10 and showed great leadership. Late in the match, Emma Main

added three goals to keep Power within striking distance.

Leongatha's attack was impressive. Emma Ton shot 28 goals in a commanding performance, supported by Ava Brown with 14. In the midcourt, Kate Sperling was a stand-out on the wing, delivering sharp passes and creating numerous opportunities for the Parrots. Her incredibly strong impact earned her the Best on Court medal.

In defence, the Parrots were just as strong. Alicia Marshman rotated between GD and GK, showing both impressive athleticism and timing to contest Wonthaggi's shooters. Kayla Redpath also impressed, pulling in crucial rebounds when the game tightened.

Despite Wonthaggi's spirited effort, Leongatha held firm in the closing minutes. When the final whistle sounded, the Parrots emerged as premiers with a 42 to 38 victory.

Both sides had impressive seasons, but the Leongatha Parrots will add to their trophy cabinet as the 2025 Gippsland Netball League B Grade Premiers.



Milly Jobe fires the ball past her direct opponent, Alicia Marshman. W25\_3825



Jess Tiziani eager to keep the ball moving for Power. w15\_3825



Wonthaggi's Isabella Tiziani shows some bounce to receive a pass. W16\_3825



Libby Hutchinson fired up as Wonthaggi extended their lead over Morwell. W18\_3825



Bec Farrell turns on the jets to catch up to a pass downcourt. W17\_3825



In a battle of the centres, Parrot Stacey Giliam goes head-to-head with Wonthaggi's Jess Blair. W26\_3825



Leongatha's Alicia Marshman uses her athleticism to contest Milly Jobe's shot and force a miss. W27\_3825



Wonthaggi's Bridget Tack had a stellar final series in goals, being awarded best on court after winning C Grade.



Wonthaggi C Grade team member Sam Clarke-Smith shares premiership joy with son Jack after the game.





# 2025 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

SEPTEMBER 20 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE



Leongatha's Noah Bradley stands the mark for the hero of the day for Maffra, Jack McQuillen, who finished with six goals on a blustery, occasionally stormy day, in Saturday's Thirds grand final at Morwell.

## McQuillen's six puts paid to Parrots Under 18s challenge

LEONGATHA needed everything to go right if they were to challenge the dominant team in the Gippsland League Thirds competition in Saturday's grand final at Morwell.

And the fact that the Gippsland Power Under 18 Boys team narrowly lost to the Sandringham Dragons the previous Saturday didn't help.

Two of the best Gippy Power players in that game, Zac O'Keefe and Judd Burgiel, immediately slotted back into the Maffra side, a team that already boasted seven other players who'd played most of the season in Maffra's seniors, including Jack McQuillen, who kicked a match-winning six goals on the day.

He set the pattern early with the opening goal from the boundary and a couple of minutes later had the next after a fine mark near goal.

The Parrots were under immense pressure up forward when Finn Donohue took a towering, goal-saving mark in the square, and Sam

Bradley was taking it up to Fabian Vera in the ruck, with those two having a ding-dong battle all day.

Leongatha settled and contested well for the ball, against the wind, and seemed to be holding their own until their efforts were undone by a free to McQuillen, as if he needed any help, and a goal resulted.

Having not scored in the first quarter, it immediately looked better for the Parrots, with the wind advantage, in the second, Alby Logan combining with Kade Berryman to get the ball forward and finally it was Aydan Williams who broke the Parrots' duck with a goal, bringing the big green and gold supporters' contingent into the game.

But any momentum that might have created was snuffed out when McQuillen took a mark and was awarded a 50-metre penalty before booting his fourth. He could do no wrong, judging the wind to perfection as he allowed for the drift.

When Jett McMahon combined with O'Keefe on the

move to Elijh Berry, a player with a dozen senior games under his belt, they added to their burgeoning tally and had their tails up when they ran the ball away from the next centre break through Lachie Harrington and their captain Jack Dowsett. Here Beau Cottrell combined with, you guessed it, Jack McQuillen for his fifth and their sixth, incredible kicking in the conditions.

The Parrots redoubled their efforts, with Jhett Brown forcing a turnover close to goal after a fine tackle, but only a point resulted when they could have done with a major just before half-time.

Instead, Maffra were off to the races via Will Burgiel to O'Keefe for a goal and the match was effectively over by halftime, especially after the weather turned cold, wet and even windier after the break, blowing an early strike by Alby Logan well off course.

Finn Donohue was bobbing up everywhere for Leongatha and featured in a goal-assist to Rhett Hume, but they were

still 30 points behind. They peppered the scoring zone in their most promising period of play, but, again, all the hard work was undone by two late Eagles' goals, one to Archer Stobie and another, after a free to Darcy Scott right on the siren.


They weren't done with yet, Tom Phillips, with 13 senior games this year, chased a ball around the boundary line with impressive perseverance, and Hamish Gill had a shot for the Parrots which hit the post before star of the day, McQuillen delivered the coup de grace when he dodged and weaved around a handful of Leongatha defenders before kicking a miracle goal... cue the celebrations.


At the presentations afterwards, Leongatha coach praised the Maffra side as "one of the junior sides I've seen" but he said his side battled some early setbacks and injury to make rapid improvement through the year.

**Final scores: Maffra 12.4.76 def Leongatha 3.6.24.**

**GIPPSLAND LEAGUE RESULTS**

**GRAND FINAL**

**125**

**30**

**LEONGATHA**

**TRARALGON**

**Leongatha** 6.2 10.6 12.9 19.11 (125)

**Traralgon** 0.1 1.3 3.6 4.6 (30)

**GOALS, Leongatha:** J Garnham 7, P Ireland 4, A Heppell 3, N Argento, K Drew, D Heppellm, J Hume, Z Lamers 1 each

**BEST:** D Heppell, J Hume, J Garnham, K Drew, A Heppell, T Sauvarin

**GOALS, Traralgon:** D Loprese 2, T Hourigan, J McMahon 1 each

**BEST:** L Willaton, B Roscoe, T Hourigan, L D'Angelo, C Little, C Ambler

**RESERVES**

**Leongatha** 2.0 4.0 4.0 4.0 (24)

**Traralgon** 0.3 0.3 1.7 2.9 (21)

**GOALS, Leongatha:** J Cochrane, T Gannon, F Materia, C Rump 1 each

**BEST:** C Rump, X Bolge, I Fox, L Marshman, N Clark, N Skewes

**GOALS, Traralgon:** K Marsh, Cohen Ruyters 1 each

**BEST:** R Adams, J Cashmore, F Kennedy, C Ruyters, A Lovison, K Marsh

**THIRDS**

**Maffra** 3.1 7.1 9.2 12.4 (76)

**Leongatha** 0.0 1.1 2.4 3.6 (24)

**GOALS, Maffra:** J McQuillen 6, A Stobie 2, E Berry, Z O'Keefe, D Scott, H Walker 1 each

**BEST:** J McQuillen, F Vera, Z O'Keefe, S Anderson, J Dowsett, W Burgiel

**GOALS, Leongatha:** H Gill, R Hume, A Williams 1 each

**BEST:** F Donohue, S Bradley, K McGrath, C Reid, A Livingstone, A Gannon

**FOURTHS**

**Traralgon** 2.0 3.2 3.2 4.3 (27)

**Maffra** 0.2 2.3 3.6 4.7 (31)

**GOALS, Traralgon:** H Connolly, L Nicholls, B Stevenson, K Thorley 1 each

**BEST:** M Fox, B Stevenson, L Nicholls, L Pass, K Thorley, F Adams

**GOALS, Maffra:** J Little 2, N Brady, T Grumley 1 each

**BEST:** N Olsson, N Young, H Aillsop, J Strating, F Aubrey, T Senini



Leongatha ruckman Sam Bradley and Maffra's Fabian Vera both served their teams well in the ruck.

The Sentinel-Times wishes to thank all the contributors across the many football and netball clubs within the Gippsland league who assisted throughout the year. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to provide the extent of coverage that is provided weekly.





The Leongatha Reserves completed a nail-biting premiership win at Morwell on Saturday by narrowly holding off a resurgent Traralgon side to win by three points. Members of the team after receiving the premiership cup include, from left, back, Chris Rump, Rob Houston (obscured), Darby Kratzat, Connor Watson, Isaac Fox, Jake Cochrane (coach), Noah Clark (c), Jarrod Stewart, side, Rhys Butler, Grant Fleming, Blake Vanrooy, front, Hayden Lindsay, Luke Marshman, Xavier Bolge, Ned Hanily, Flynn Materia, Jacob Warne, Beau Grabham-Andrews, Ben Fort, Tadh Gannon, Nathan Skewers, Jaxon Hayes, Tyler Richards, Brok Davidson, and Mitch De Kleuver.

## Disaster narrowly averted as Parrot Reserves squeak home

THE Traralgon Reserves had only one loss during the season, by little more than a goal in Round 1 to Leongatha.

Every other week during the season, they won by 10 goals, 20 and even 35 goals to a hapless Drouin side at one stage. They were red-hot favourites to win the flag last Saturday at Morwell.

But they hadn't reckoned on the dynamic intervention of Leongatha's Ned Hanily, who could be considered unlucky not to have been named in the senior side on Saturday after solid contributions in Rounds 15, 16, 17, 18 and the Parrots' qualifying final against Traralgon.

He started the match as if shot out of a gun, getting the first kick of the day, and playing a key role in the Parrots' dominant opening quarter.

He featured twice in a chain of possessions which resulted in the Parrots' first meaningful attack and several others followed his lead, Jarrod Stewart with a nice mark up forward and Jacob Warne clunking one in the defensive goal square

Hanily was caught near goal trying to make something happen but it was ultimately the playing coach, Jake Cochrane, who was rewarded with a free after a crunching tackle for the first goal, Tadh Gannon involved in the lead-up.

Traralgon responded and would have had the replying goal if Ben Fort hadn't touched Oliver Haberl's shot off the boot, an effort which became crucial later.

Jarrod Stewart ran clear but exposed one of Leongatha's issues all year, a lack of pace on the forward line and his efforts amounted to naught until Flynn Materia won a free kick near goal just before the siren to reward his teammates for a solid quarter.

Traralgon inexplicably failed to fire a shot in the second quarter, as well as Leongatha's onballers, including Chris Rump or Mitch De Kleuver in the ruck, the likes of Hanily and Brok Davidson matched it with the Maroons at the stoppages, while Xavier Bolge, Isaak Fox, Noah Clark and Nathan Skewes were

doing the business down back.

Traralgon's defenders were on top too, but a couple of crucial goals, one to Rump after a fine mark near goal and another from Tadh Gannon, getting good service from Hanily and Cochrane, were vital as the Parrots went to the break in control, leading by four goals to three solitary points in the wind-affected game.

But Traralgon came on strong after half time, peppering the scoring zone, thankfully for points mostly, finally kicking one through Cohen Ruyters to have them only 13 points adrift halfway through the term when a couple of brain fades by two of the Parrots' stalwarts, Jacob Warne and Flynn Materia, very nearly cost them the game... and the premiership!

Both were yellow-carded and the remaining 16 players fought a rear-guard action until the Parrots were allowed to bring two more on. Traralgon's Kade Marsh, drifting forward unchallenged, closed the gap further with a straight kick after the restart from the boundary, and

to the Parrots' credit, they held on for more than 10 minutes with only five, then four points the difference.

Ned Hanily rushed one through, the coach Jake Cochrane clunked Brok Davidson's clearing kick, Isaak Fox punched it clear and Chris Rump sent the ball into attack... every move counted.

But Traralgon continued to come, Peter Strong with a mark at half forward and Adams kicking it forward before Xavier Bolge took a goal-saving grab.

The ball was pinging around on the half forward flank when the Maroons engineered a chance for Beau White from close range but his snap went wide.

Beau Grabham-Andrews marked Brok Davidson's clearing kick and they bottled it up on the defensive side of the ground until the siren signalled exhaustion and relief with the sort of sheer elation you get only after narrowly avoiding disaster.

**Final scores: Leongatha 4.0.24 def Traralgon 2.9.21.**





# 2025 GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

SEPTEMBER 20 • MORWELL RECREATION RESERVE



These five Leongatha players have all won five premierships in the green and gold including in 2017, 2018, 2022, 2023 and 2025; Luke Bowman, Ben Willis, Sam Forrester, Tom Marriott and Cade Maskell.



While praising Traralgon for their heroics in last year's grand final, Leongatha coach Trent McMicking acknowledged afterwards that it was a near-perfect performance by his side in 2025. Pictured on the dais with captain Tom Marriott.

## Parrots' premiership by the numbers

LEONGATHA put up some seriously impressive stats in their runaway win over Traralgon on Saturday, and while there's no tackle count or 'pressure acts' numbers in these figures by league statistician Paul Carter, you could imagine they'd be off the scale.

Here are some of Paul's numbers, taken on the fly on Saturday, for Radio Station TRFM:

- Inside 50s: Leongatha 58 to Traralgon 33. By the quarter (L-T) (20-4) (12-12) (12-9) (14-8).
- Clearances: Leongatha 41 to Traralgon 28. By the quarter (L-T) (15-6) (12-7) (6-11) (8-4).
- Centre Clearances: Leongatha 12 to Traralgon 12.
- Free Kicks: Leongatha 18, Traralgon 20.
- Marks: Leongatha 78, Traralgon 40.
- Contested Marks: Leongatha 11, Traralgon 2.
- Marks Inside 50: Leongatha 11, Traralgon 7.
- Intercept Marks: Leongatha 19 to Traralgon 9.
- Scores From Set Shots: Leongatha 11.6 to Traralgon 4.3.
- Leongatha's scores came 16.9 from turnovers and 3.2 from stoppages.
- Traralgon's scores came 4.6 from turnovers and 0.0 from stoppages.

Leongatha players:

- Hit Outs: Ben Willis 42, Justin Pellicano 10, Patrick Ireland 4.
- Dyson Heppell: 35 disposals (22 kicks, 13 handballs), 8 marks, 10 clearances, 5 inside 50s, one goal.
- Ben Harding: 31 disposals (19 kicks, 12 handballs), 7 marks, 5 clearances, 3 inside 50s.
- Aaron Heppell: 20 disposals (11 kicks, 9 handballs), 6 marks, 2 clearances, 2 inside 50s, 3 goals.
- Tom Marriott: 19 disposals (10 kicks, 9 handballs), 1 mark, 7 clearances, 4 inside 50s.
- Cade Maskell: 19 disposals (18 kicks, 1 handball), 10 marks, 0 clearances, 1 inside 50.

Paul Carter note: "Player stats are done on the fly and will probably differ from the official numbers when they come out in the next day or so."



Dyson and Aaron Heppell share a moment on the ground after Dyson kicked a goal in the Gippsland League grand final on Saturday, early in the third quarter.

## Perfect Parrots make Dyson's day

### From Cover Story

It was the type of play that told everyone the Parrot forwards were on for a big one.

Traralgon tried to respond but the wind wasn't doing them any favours at the highway end, blowing Harvey Neocleous' shot off course and making it tough for Mustoe to get his kick home.

Two more goals for Garnham and Nick Argento followed, but with Hourigan blocking the approach with his superb marking and superior anticipation, the Parrots' braintrust went to 'Plan B' and sent Luke Bowman in to disrupt his access. It worked.

Traralgon missed his drive and Leongatha capped off a dominant first quarter with a goal to Kim Drew, six goals two, against one solitary point to the Maroons at the first break.

It had been a stunning opening by the Parrots, more so because of the blustery conditions, with their ferocious attack on the ball driving their opponents backwards, even when they did have the ball, and their shots on goal unerringly accurate.

But Traralgon's response with the wind in the second quarter was still to come.

It didn't arrive.

In fact, after a point by Traralgon in the opening minutes, it was Leongatha which continued its dominance, Jack Hume marking strongly on the wing before linking up with Ireland and Garnham for the team's seventh.

Predictably, Tye Hourigan went forward as a marking option with the breeze, only to be picked up by Tim Sauvarin, who was already having an excellent game in defence. In one of the plays of the day, Sauvarin brought Hourigan down in a game-defining tackle that saw him return to the backline as Leongatha's scoring pressure mounted.

Aaron Heppell threw himself



**Dyson Heppell turned back the clock to a time when he so dominated the play as a 12-year-old in green and gold that they had to take him off the ball to give the other kids a go, with one of his highlights on Saturday being this spectacular mark on the wing.**

headlong into a contest to stop Traralgon releasing the ball forward and it was Hume that got the next goal, a snap from close range.

Dylan Loprese finally got Traralgon's first after he judged the incoming ball better than his opponent Jackson Harry, but Dyson Heppell, Kim Drew and Tom Marriott were dominating the clearances and it was Leongatha which finished the quarter best with goals to Jenson Garnham, his fourth, and Aaron Heppell at the 27-minute mark.

The Parrots led by almost 10 goals at the half-time break and there was no coming back from there.

They extended that to a near-record margin of 95 points at the end, the third-biggest winning margin in a Gippsland

League grand final.

Leongatha named Dyson Heppell, Jack Hume, Jenson Garnham, Kim Drew, Aaron Heppell and Tim Sauvarin among the best but there wasn't a passenger in the Parrots' line-up.

Dyson Heppell won the 'Stan Aitken Medal' and also the umpires' best-on-ground award, but it was a humble Heppell who said afterwards that he was just happy to be part of it.

"I've always had a lot of love for this club, where I played all my junior footy, and the opportunity to roll out today with some blokes I played with in the Under 12s and Under 13s was a real thrill.

"Also, with my brother Aaron, who I've never played with before.

"But we said to each other

during the week that we were really going to get after it today and I absolutely loved it."

Among those who played in Saturday's premiership win were five who've tasted success with the Parrots on five occasions; including Ben Willis, Cade Maskell, Sam Forrester, Tom Marriott and Luke Bowman, but new arrival at the club, Ben Harding, the Trood Award and Rodda Medal winner this year, revealed afterwards that he'd never won a premiership of any kind before lifting the cup at Morwell on the day.

"Fantastic, yeah, great," said an overjoyed Harding who shared the moment with former teammates from the Old Melburnians.

In his acceptance speech after the game, Trent McMicking noted Leongatha's respect for Traralgon and how after the disappointment of last year, they put the word 'Redemption' up on the noticeboard in the rooms at the start of the year and set about trying to get improvement out of every player and every contributor to success on matchday.

He also noted they'd added a couple of additional players as well, not mentioning Harding and Heppell by name, but clearly, they've been huge additions to the team's output.

The return of a fully fit Tom Marriott, who played his part on the day, and Luke Bowman, also boosted the Parrots' prospects.

The celebrations were off and running on the ground and in the rooms after the game, and there was a hot time in the old town on Saturday night with four premierships to celebrate; the seniors and reserves, and the Under 13s and B Grade netball as well.

We didn't ask Dyson what happens next. We'll just let him enjoy this one, his first at senior level, for now!



Hartley Wells

Betta

Leongatha

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GIPPSLAND LEAGUE GRAND FINAL	
Seniors:	Leongatha 19.11.125 d Traralgon 4.6.30
Reserves:	Leongatha 4.0.24 d Traralgon 2.9.21
WEST GIPPSLAND COMPETITION GRAND FINAL	
Seniors:	Nar Nar Goon 9.11.65 d Tooradin-Dalmore 6.8.44
Reserves:	Tooradin-Dalmore 10.9.69 d Nar Nar Goon 2.3.15

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WEST GIPPSLAND  
COMPETITION  
RESULTS

GRAND FINAL

 65

 44

NAR NAR GOON	TOORADIN-DAL
Nar Nar Goon 3.4 4.5 7.7 9.11 (65)	Tooradin-Dal 3.1 4.5 4.7 6.8 (44)
GOALS, NNG: B Rice 3, D Yawney 2, M Gentile, K O'Sullivan, C Pursell, J Smith 1 each	
BEST: B Rice, N Picicelli, R Bromley, T Armour, A Picicelli, K O'Sullivan	
GOALS, Tooradin-Dal: D Ahern, A Dean, J Flannery, L Hill, A Oxley, P Papas 1 each	
BEST: J Esler, M Buntine, J Craven, P Wright, C Shinnars, K Sabbatucci	
RESERVES	
Tooradin-Dal 2.2 5.3 8.7 10.9 (69)	NNG 1.0 1.0 1.1 2.3 (15)
GOALS, Tooradin-Dal: A Miurauya 3, N Lang 2, L Gregson, L Hill, J O'Donnell, A Proctor, B Sellings 1 each	
BEST: J O'Donnell, L McKenna, A Galea, N Lang, R Lengyel, A Mirauta	
GOALS, NNG: names	
BEST: M McGreal, T Nicholls, Z Smith, J Hamilton, J Gribbin, L Graham	
THIRDS	
Inverloch-K 1.1 1.1 1.2 1.2 (8)	Phillip Island 1.2 6.4 6.7 7.8 (50)
GOALS, Inverloch-K: R Harris 1	
BEST: A Terlich, P Dwyer, J Aeschlimann, F Anderson, A Finsterer, M Ward	
GOALS, Phillip Island: Y Caffieri 4, F O'Brien 2, O Duyggan 1	
BEST: J Kelly, Y Caffieri, F O'Brien, B Hennessy, C O'Garey, N Forrest Mabilia	
FOURTHS	
Warragul Ind. 1.7 3.10 5.10 8.12 (60)	Inverloch-K 0.1 1.1 2.4 3.5 (23)
GOALS, Warragul Ind: O Ireland 3, K Bannister 2, C Belsham, M corwall, S Oling 1 each	
BEST: M Cornwall, K Bannister, S Oling, C Belsham, J Huggins, J Morgan	
GOALS, Inverloch-K: T Debono 2, M Tonkin 1.	
BEST: Z Bertacco, T Debono, J Martin, C Newman, J Brown, A Rayner	



Best on Ground Mathew Cornwall of Warragul Industrials closes in while Inverloch Kongwak's Hayden Bell comes to the aid of his teammate. A34\_3825

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OVER 60S & OVER 70S

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IK fights it out but Dusties too strong in Under 16 decider

AFTER a tough first half that resulted in a deficit of 21 points, Inverloch Kongwak players responded to the urging of coach Jim Soumilas to tighten up on Warragul Industrials through the midfield and be more physical to fight back into the game, noting that's just what they did against Tooradin Dalmore recently.

The Sea Eagles were quickly into attack when the third quarter got underway, Ty Debono soon demonstrating the side's increased intensity with a tackle that earned a successful shot at goal.

"When we knocked these boys off earlier in the year, you were in the same position, down by the same margin and you came back," Soumilas had told his charges at halftime, and Debono's goal would have sparked confidence of repeating that round eight resurgence.

However, Dusties took little time to hit back with a major of their own.

While the Sea Eagles stuck at the task, refusing to give up, they couldn't find another major in the third term, Warragul increasing its lead to 24 points at the final change.

The Dusties continued their hold on the game with three goals to one for the remainder.

Debono registered two of the Sea Eagles' three majors for the day, Max Tonkin chiming in with the other, Debono only behind Xavier Bertacco on IK's best players list.

Ollie Ireland topped the winner's goal kicking, booting three majors, Ky Bannister the other multiple goal scorer with a couple, but it was Mathew Cornwall's performance that earned the Best on Ground medal, Bannister right behind him on the Dusties' best players list.



Inverloch Kongwak's Hayden Bell tries to rein in Ollie Ireland, who booted three goals for Warragul Industrials. A35\_3825

The Sentinel-Times wishes to thank the photographers and scribes who contributed throughout the year across the many football and netball clubs within the West Gippsland league. Without their support, we wouldn't be able to provide the extent of coverage that is provided weekly.





Phillip Island's Under 18 players and officials relish Premiership success. A27\_3825

# Phillip Island takes charge for back-to-back triumph

PHILLIP Island backed up last year's Under 18 Premiership, being in control for much of the Grand Final and beating Inverloch Kongwak by seven goals after the Sea Eagles started brightly with the game's first major at Garfield Recreation Reserve.

Jeremy Kelly led the way, showing his class despite the Grand Final pressure and relentless wind, earning the medal for Best on Ground, Yianni Caffieri's four goals also decisive in the Bulldogs' victory.

A commanding second term from Phillip Island set up the win, adding five goals while keeping IK scoreless.

That followed a competitive first term in which each side managed a goal, Phillip Island coach Hayden Bruce largely pleased with the effort to that point, although he encouraged his boys not to rush when entering their forward 50 arc.

He highlighted that they looked impressive when they lowered their eyes and found a target, and singled out Oliver Duggan for his tenacious start to the game.

At halftime, Sea Eagles coach David Newman reminded his players that there is a reason they made the Grand Final, expressing confidence that the match was still there to be won.

"We need to go back to basics and we need to roll the dice as well," he said, calling on his charges to start matching the Bulldogs' intensity, and acknowledging "They were harder than us."

While the Sea Eagles responded to force a strong contest in the second half, holding Phillip Island to just one major, which came late in the final term, IK couldn't find any avenue to goal.

That task wasn't made easier for either side by the torrid, windy conditions, albeit the ground surface was a credit to Garfield.

Archie Terlich was most impressive for the beaten team, winning and using the ball effectively and covering plenty of ground, with Patrick Dwyer and Jack Aeschlimann other strong performers for the Sea Eagles.

Riley Harris booted IK's lone goal.

Although Phillip Island was a deserving winner, the Sea Eagles stuck at the task, and you can't ask for more.



Best on Ground Jeremy Kelly tackles his Inverloch Kongwak opponent watched on by Isaac Savona. Photo: Carol Ratcliff.



Jeremy Kelly earned the Best on Ground medal, helping Phillip Island to the Under 18s flag with victory over Inverloch Kongwak. A29\_3825





Korumburra Bena players savour the moment after their A Grade Premiership victory over Nar Nar Goon. Back row: Felicity Fox, captain Ash Cuff, team manager Beth Derrick, Annalise O'Halloran, Sophie Thomas, and Fiona Burns. Middle: Coach Kate Attenborough. Front row: Mackenna Whiteside, Chelsea Fox, coach Gemma Dixon, Caitlin MacDonald and Elisha Nicholas. A13\_3825 See pages 56-57 for report and match photos.

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OH WHAT A FEELING





2025

# GRAND FINAL

PHOTOS



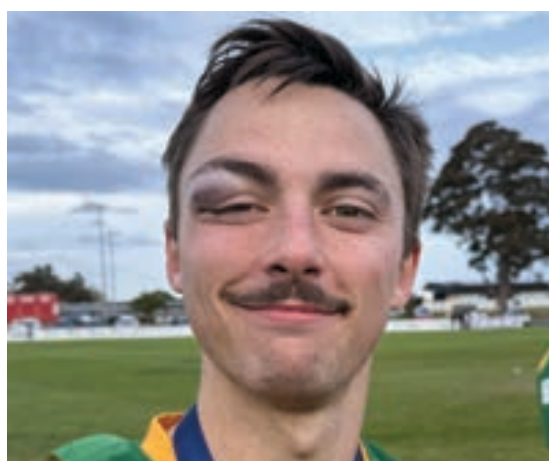
You've got to have a winning defence and Leongatha's 'back six' allowed only four Traralgon goals in for the day. Pictured enjoying the moment are Jackson Harry, Jay Walker, Tim Sauvarin, Cade Maskell, Sam Forrester, Will Littlejohn and Travis Nash.



What's better than a league best and fairest medal, for Leongatha's Ben Harding? His first premiership cup!



Bar staff volunteers back at the Leongatha Grandstand Function Rooms, Frank Dekker, Greg Marshman and Darryl McGannon like what they see sitting on top of their bar in the aftermath of the celebrations.



Travis Nash finished the day with his own trophy from an errant elbow in the heat of the battle on Saturday.



Trent McMicking is now Leongatha's greatest ever coach, surpassing the likes of Angus Hume, Neville Stone and Brian Royal, as the only Parrots' mentor with three victories.



Leongatha Football Operations Trevor Walder, and club stalwarts Darryl McGannon and Glenn Wright were delighted with the victory in the Reserves grand final, but the best was yet to come.



The score on the board early in the third quarter tells the story as Cade Maskell is all concentration going up for this spoil attempt.



Leongatha Premiership player Justin Pellicano enjoys his medal presentation with his kids.



After a mighty win, there was a celebration of equal measure in the rooms afterwards with key players Jack Hume, Ben Harding, Benny Willis, Aaron Heppell and Dyson Heppell passing around the cup.



Dyson Heppell racked up a game-high 35 possessions on the day, umpteen tackles and eight marks including this towering take on the grandstand side wing at Morwell on Saturday.



The big Parrots' crowd was a factor on the day, with plenty to cheer about as Leongatha led all the way to their third premiership in four years.





The Leongatha Parrots won their third Gippsland League premiership in four years on Saturday by the near-record winning margin of 95 points against Traralgon. Members of the victorious team and their coaching group include, from left, back, Jack Hughes, Mark Hardy, Justin Pellicano, Patrick Ireland, Jackson Harry, Stew Wigney, Kim Drew, Jack Hume, Tim Sauvarin, Ben Willis, Clint Johnston, Matt Davies, middle, Cade Maskell, Sam Forrester, Jay Walker, Tom Marriott (c), Tallin Brill, Will Littlejohn, Xavier Lamers, Nick Argento, Jenson Garnham, front, Travis Nash, Ben Harding, Luke Bowman, Trent McMicking (Coach), Aaron Heppell, Dyson Heppell, and Ty Hall.

## ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT

### *said Dyson Heppell*



Dyson and Aaron Heppell share a moment on the ground after Dyson kicked a goal in the Gippsland League grand final on Saturday, early in the third quarter.

THE return of one of Leongatha's favourite sons, Dyson Heppell, back to where it all began for him 20 years ago, principally to play with his younger brother Aaron, has been one of the main motivations for the Leongatha Football Netball Club in 2025.

That and chasing redemption for the way things turned out last year, when they were humbled in the 2024 grand final by their opponents on Saturday, Traralgon.

And after a year when the club was riddled with injury, especially at the top end, calling up 39 different people to fill the ranks, it all came together just in time.

There wasn't a more delighted person at the ground than Dyson Heppell, who hasn't tasted premiership success since playing in the Leongatha juniors all those years ago.

Speaking to the match broadcaster, radio TRFM, after the game, Dyson paid tribute to the league, the Leongatha footy club, brother Aaron and his teammates for putting some love, joy and a lot of fun back into his footy.

"I've had an absolute ball today, a lot of fun coming back and playing

with the boys. I've got a lot of love for this club. I've grown up playing all my junior footy here and to roll out there with some of the boys I played in Under 12 and Under 13 flags with, especially my little brother Azza. I've never played with him before, so just had an absolute ball," said Dyson immediately after the game.

Asked about what his coach, Trent McMicking, rated as "the perfect four-quarter game" from Leongatha, Heppell said he was determined to do his very best on the day.

"Yeah, no doubt, Azza and I put it on each other throughout the week to go and get after it today. It was like going right back to backyard footy, and just running amok at home. It just felt like that. I couldn't be more proud of the way he goes about it and leading this group, and just to get amongst that and do my bit as well has been good fun."

How have you balanced playing at Port Melbourne and coming back here each time?

"Yeah, I'm just about knackered now. I haven't had a breather all year. On the bye weeks I've come back and played with the Parrots, but I've really enjoyed my season down at Port.

Obviously, we didn't have the year we would have liked, but to polish it off here has been just a really unbelievable reward and just brought a lot of joy and love and fun back to footy again."

How have you found coming back to this league and did you have a specific role?

"First a nod to the league in general, it's got some incredible talent. The top end talent could play VFL football no dramas at all, they're elite. To come back and play in a quality league, I think it's been really important. I've really enjoyed it.

"To Trent, he really encouraged me. I was wondering at the start. I was a bit iffy. I was going I didn't want to kick anyone out of the team but he sent me and Azza a message before the start of the season, with a picture of his brother and him when they won a flag together back in the day and said it was one of the best days of his life and he really encouraged me to just come and do it. I'm so glad I did. Unreal."

So, how does it feel to be a Leongatha premiership player at last?

"Yeah, pretty nice, thanks," said Dyson.