

Campaign aims to get chatting

“LET’S Chat Gippsland” is a community focused campaign that aims to prevent men’s violence against women and gendered violence across Gippsland.

The campaign theme of Let’s Chat seeks to support and remind people that men’s violence against women and gendered violence is preventable. Family (domestic) violence crime reporting in Gippsland continues to be some of the highest in Victoria. Latrobe Valley, East Gippsland and Wellington Shire are all in the top four local government areas in Victoria in 2022/2023, according to the Crime Statistics Agency.

Other forms of men’s violence against women and gendered violence in many areas of Gippsland are also higher than the Victorian state average including rape, indecent assault and sexual harassment. The Let’s Chat Gippsland campaign is part of the annual international United Nations (UN) 16

Days of Activism campaign to prevent gendered violence initiative that runs from November 25 to December 10.

This is the third year Gippsland Women’s Health has partnered with local communities, government and organisations. Gippslanders are encouraged to attend the events happening across Gippsland where they will learn that social and attitude change can start with a simple conversation, whether it be with their family, friends, colleagues, classmates or neighbours.

“I’m proud to support the community in its determination to prevent gender-based violence in Gippsland,” Minister for Prevention of Family Violence, Vicki Ward said.

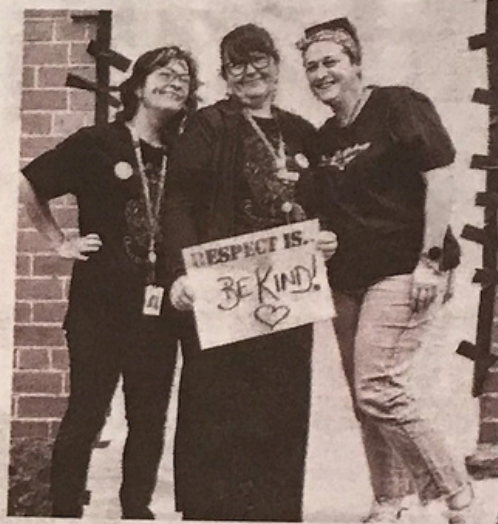
“Local organisations have a critical role to play in breaking down the barriers women and gender diverse people face, which is what our Investing in Women’s Grassroots Grants Program is all about.”

The final event as part of the 16 Days of Activism will be back in Wellington Shire in Yarram this Saturday (December 9) at the Yarram Christmas Market.

This year, Gippsland Women’s Health wants the community to tell them what respect in our community should look like.

Local Gippsland artist PollyannaR has invited Gippslanders to share what they think “Respect Is”. To read more about PollyannaR, visit pollyannar.com/big-respect-gippsland.

By working together, we can shift attitudes and practices to make Gippsland a safer community



Samantha Graves from Central Gippsland Health Service-Pathway’s to good health, Joanne Wilson from Central Gippsland Health Service - Social Work, and Virginia Donohue - Quantum FV.

for everyone. Visit the Let’s Chat website 16days-gippsland.com.au for more details on how you can get involved in an event near you. Also, look out for the social media campaign #LetsChatGippsland.



■ STUCK for stocking fillers, Kris Kringle or Secret Santa ideas? Maffra Neighbourhood House has some items for sale that could be ideal. All items are either made or donated to the house for fundraising. Single items from \$4, shortbread and gingerbread packs \$3, Maffra Calendars \$25, Christmas shopping bags \$5 or knitted and home sewn items from \$3. Raffle tickets \$1 each for Christmas Hampers. Call in during business hours Monday to Friday 9am to 3.30 pm.

■ DUE to inclement weather, the St Vincent de Paul monthly garage sale, the last for this year, will now take place this Saturday (December 9), at the Jack Kelly store, 28 Laura Street, Maffra from 9am until 10.30am.

Crystal clear water vision

GIPPSLAND Water is looking to the future, with the release of its 2050 Vision which explores future pathways for the organisation. The 2050 Vision is a public document that looks almost 30 years ahead and charts possible pathways to achieve success.

Gippsland Water Managing Director, Sarah Cumming said the 2050 Vision was one example of how Gippsland Water was planning ahead. “Our customers expect us to plan for the future and this document is one example of that and what it could mean for our organisation and most importantly our customers,” she said.

“The vision describes a future state where responsible water management is harmoniously integrated to support the wellbeing of people, Country and economy. “To help shape this future state, we have considered the impacts of climate change, increased

“These long views will help to inform our future decisions including leading in delivering circular economy outcomes and innovation in how we maintain and modernise our infrastructure.

“While this document looks to 2050, it is a vision not a plan and we will adapt to a changing world as necessary.”

Ms Cumming said developing the vision had stretched and enhanced the strategic-thinking capability of the organisation.

“We’re first in our sector to create a vision out to the year 2050 and look to how we will operate then,” Ms Cumming said.

“We’ve identified and considered the biggest risks, challenges and opportunities to inform and guide this vision and the work, such as capability building, required to reach this end state.