**22 February 2017**

**0800 hours**

**POLICE MATCH UP AGAINST LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN 20/20 CRICKET**

Police from the Latrobe Valley will take to the pitch in a friendly cricket match with local multicultural communities this weekend.

Representatives from the Pakistani, Sri Lankan and Canadian communities from the Latrobe Valley will unite in an attempt to claim victory over the police cricket side.

Sergeant Ben McWilliam from the Morwell Proactive Policing Unit said the initiative was born out of the Latrobe Police Multi-Faith Council.

“Community engagement is an important part of what we do,” Sgt McWilliam said.

“We’ll have police from various stations involved – including Morwell, Moe, Bairnsdale, Drouin, Wonthaggi, Churchill and Leongatha.

“Police were approached by a member of the local community to put a team together. It is a great way to build relationships with local communities in a fun and friendly way.

“Sport is a terrific way to share common interests and experiences and it provides a different way for police to get to know their local communities.”

The match will take a 20/20 format – and will last for around three hours commencing from 4.00 p.m.

The local Pakistani community will host a post-match BBQ for players and spectators. Everyone from the local community is welcome.

The details of the game are:

What: Gippsland Police Vs Community Cricket match – 20/20 format

When: 4 p.m. Sunday 26 February

Where: Traralgon Rovers Cricket Club, Cnr Francis & Bank Street, Traralgon.

Cost: Free

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