

PHILLIP ISLAND & SAN REMO

ADVERTISER

Your Community Voice!

Thursday, April 13, 2023

\$1.60 Incl. GST



The local communities of San Remo and Phillip Island dug deep again for the Good Friday Appeal, raising over \$50,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital. Volunteers from the CFA were out rattling tins across the island and San Remo, ably assisted by the local SES and an army of community members. See more Good Friday Appeal photos and coverage on pages 8 and 9.

Melbourne suits vs local community: DAL

A former councillor who helped draft Phillip Island's town boundaries says he is "offended" by a lawyer's suggestion the only people who want to protect the island are "parochial" newcomers.

Island Voice president and former Bass Coast Shire councillor Peter Paul is calling for a moratorium on further development until "the infrastructure and the carrying capacity of the island is sorted and implemented".

For more than a month, landowners and their lawyers have been appearing before the independent planning panel that is hearing submissions on the Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL) project, which seeks to lock in town boundaries for Phillip Island and protect significant landscapes.

During the hearings, Best Hooper Property Lawyers' Geoff Lake represented the owners of land at the Phillip Island airport and Smiths Beach, who are arguing for their properties to be zoned for subdivision.

Mr Lake told the panel the DAL was "too parochial" and focused on the "biased influence" of residents who had moved to Phillip Island in recent years who "seek to shut the gate behind them".

Mr Lake concluded no town boundary in any town in Bass Coast should be protected, also questioning the merits of planning controls to protect landscapes.

Peter said he was shocked when he read the comments.

"Mr Lake denies all history. I'm offended by his comments that it's newcomers who are shutting the gate behind them. That ignores how the boundaries were created after years of community work," said Peter, who is a former mayor and was a councillor from 2005 to 2012.

"A huge amount of work went in to developing the boundaries, by people who have lived here for a long time and understand the issues deeply, with countless hours of discussion.

"They presented a vision for the future of the island. They

didn't want the island carved up."

Infrastructure

Peter said he had witnessed a "litany of failed developers" on Phillip Island and San Remo, including the WhyteSands development in Cowes west, given a permit because it was to be an aged care facility by AMP. But AMP immediately sold it and the new owners subdivided it.

"It should never have been given a permit," Peter said.

He was also on council when the state government investigated lobbying by San Remo landowners and developers, seeking to extend the town boundaries from Potters Hill Road to Punch Bowl.

Peter said while he recognised the right of landowners to profit from their properties, there was also a right for the community to ensure infrastructure could meet development growth, "which it currently isn't".

The Phillip Island and San Remo Visitor Economy Strategy proposes the island's infrastructure has a

maximum carrying capacity of about 25,000 people.

"I don't think we should be considering development until the infrastructure and the carrying capacity of the island is sorted. If 25,000 is our carrying capacity then we have a big problem," Peter said.

"This island is riddled with non-existent infrastructure.

"It should not just be vested interests who are having input into this and making decisions for our future. The community should be at the table the whole time, advocating their vision for the future."

Vision

Peter said given Phillip Island was of state and national significance, we needed to be clear about the direction we were headed.

"What will be the legacy of Phillip Island in the next 30 to 40 years?"

"Once lost it's lost forever.

"There are special issues here that need to be addressed."

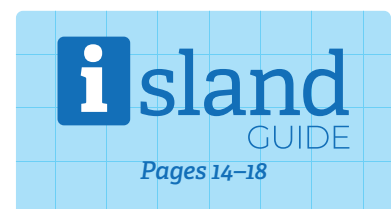
Peter said while the DAL set out a

vision for the island, developers did not share that vision.

He added that Island Voice had policy for the island to be an environmental, economic and tourist precinct.

"Development is a temporary fix to a monetary need. It's not a future vision. It is an ad hoc process."

More DAL on page 4

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Traffic slowed to a crawl as emergency services responded to a two-vehicle collision at Bass, at the intersection of Soldiers Road and Bass Highway on Monday morning.

Bass crash distressing end to holiday weekend

An accident at Bass on Monday caused a traffic snarl for drivers returning to Melbourne.

Commuters reported travel times of over one hour between Cowes and Bass, as holiday traffic leaving the island quickly banked up.

Emergency services were called to a two-vehicle collision just after 10am. Police, ambulance and SES vehicles attended the scene.

Police said a Ford sedan and a Mazda hatchback collided at the intersection of Bass Highway and Soldiers Road.

The sole occupant of the Ford, a 30-year-

old Heathcote Junction woman, was taken to Dandenong Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The driver of the Mazda, a 42-year-old woman from New South Wales, and four passengers of the vehicle were also taken to Dandenong with non-life-threatening injuries.

Police said an investigation into the incident was ongoing and anyone with information, dashcam/CCTV footage is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or submit a confidential report online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au.



Organiser Joey Thompson (right) said since 2016, NAB have loaned hundreds of millions to Whitehaven coal project, and called for the bank to stop funding the fossil fuel industry.

School Strikers for Climate picket NAB

A lively crowd of climate clowns, School Strikers for Climate and Bass Coast Climate Action Network members sent a strong message to NAB in Cowes that investment in coal mines is not acceptable to our community.

The action was part of Move Beyond Coal's national ten days of action calling for NAB to stop funding Whitehaven Coal, which has plans to double their coal mining operations with four dangerous new coal projects. NAB are funding the expansion.

"What kind of future will I have, when my generation has to deal with runaway climate change," said Phillip Island student Joey Thompson from School Strike 4 Climate.

"Floods, fires and unpredictable weather events will increase as our planet heats. This is our last chance to stop fossil fuel expansion.

"Since 2016, NAB have loaned hundreds of millions of dollars to Whitehaven, including \$110 million in 2020. They need another \$4 bil-

lion to get their coal expansion plans off the ground."

Jessica Harrison from the Bass Coast Climate Action Network said the world's scientists warn "that all coal expansion must stop immediately to avoid runaway climate change".

"We are determined and committed – look out for us at your nearest bank!" said Jessica.

Fifty branches were being picketed as part of the protest.

"Across the continent, people are dropping into their local NAB branches, talking with staff and customers, sending emails, making phone calls to tell NAB to rule out funding Whitehaven Coal," said Joey.

"Our protest was even visited by a cardboard version of NAB CEO Ross McEwan, who suggested painting NAB branches green as a compromise!"

See more from the picket line: www.youtube.com/watch?v=P362KdeVrkI

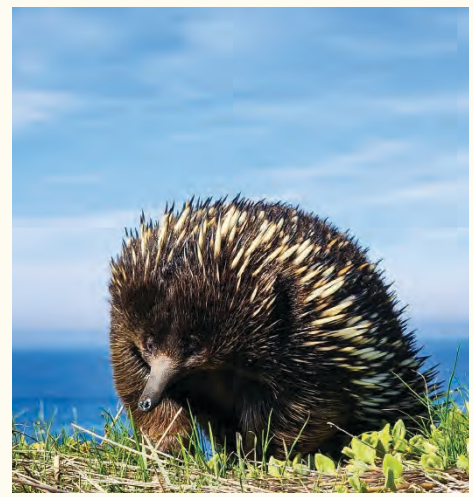
A close echidna encounter

This gorgeous spiky critter was spotted on the Summerland Peninsula recently, along the South Coast Road.

"I was heading home after a budget meeting and I met this most adorable little iwata (echidna), who was so curious she even came over to say hi," said Patrice Mahoney, artist and Aboriginal consultant.

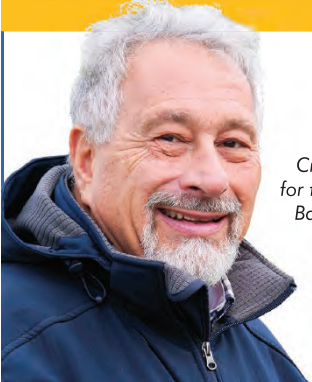
"In our Anēwēn culture the iwata (echidna) is a great sign, a spiritual animal that is respected as if it was your mother.

"So when it's crossing your path you must stop and say hello, let them know what you've been doing."



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Advertising: ads@pisra.com.au
Sport: sport@pisra.com.au
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Cr Ronnie Bauer
for the Island Ward,
Bass Coast Shire

PO Box 996 Cowes 3922
Tel: 0439 535 282
email: Ron.Bauer@basscoast.vic.gov.au
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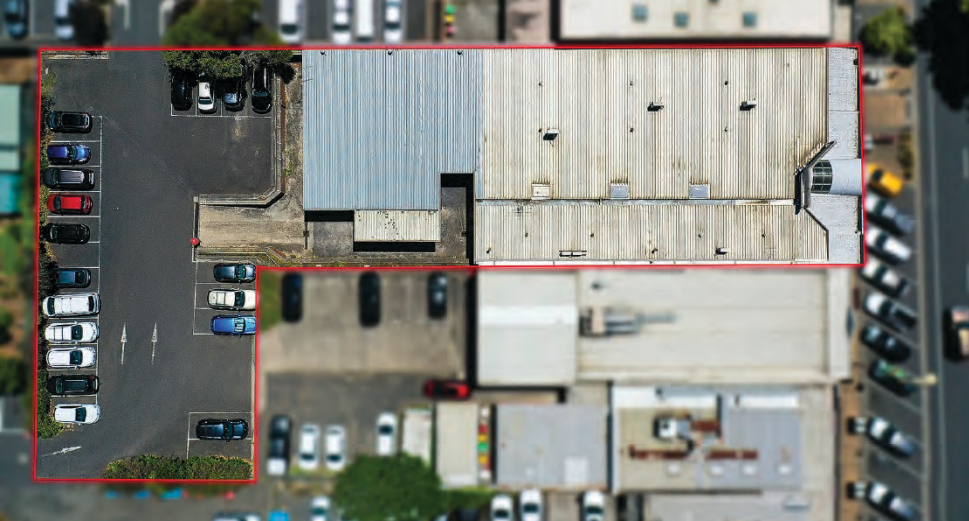
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Because the site – roughly totalling 3000sqm – has two frontages, the rear Warley Road section will feature the hotel, restaurant and apartment and the front retail and commercial.

Big plans for Cowes' main street

One of Phillip Island's biggest developers has confirmed he has purchased a large chunk of the Cowes' main street, with plans to construct a five-level hotel, apartments and retail area.

Renowned boxing promoter Brian Amatruda, who is currently developing the old Newhaven boys home and also owns the former Hollywood Hotel at the end of Church Street, told the Advertiser this month he had bought a private residential home on Warley Avenue.

The property backs on to the former Ellis Arcade on Thompson Avenue, which he purchased last year.

The two sales consolidate a large commercial area, with the Ellis Arcade and carpark including 44-46 Thompson Avenue (with a floor area of 589sqm) and 48 Thompson Ave (160sqm), a total of more than 1931sqm and a 20-metre frontage.

Brian said while the project would be many years in the planning and development, he envisaged it would be five storeys, with "scope to develop further".

"We could go up in the future as the town changes," he said. "It's early days but we'll be meeting with the architect in the next couple of weeks."

"We are not in a hurry, but will progress it over the next couple of years."

Because the site – roughly totalling 3000sqm – had two frontages, Brian said the rear Warley Road section would feature the hotel, restaurant and apartment and the front retail, stepped back "so it's not so prominent".

He said they had been ap-

proached by several would-be tenants – such as Dan Murphy's – but it was too early to commit to any specific tenant.

Brian confirmed his team had also been in talks with a series of celebrity chefs, but again it was too early to commit to details of any restaurant project.

"We'll get a great operator, no doubt about it. Phillip Island is crying out for it."

"People living here and visiting want a better dining experience than is currently available."

Brian owns Omni Property Group, which completed a range of projects across Melbourne.

Boys Home

Late last year updated plans for Newhaven's old boys home development were lodged with Bass Coast Shire, including an 80-seat café in the chapel, surrounded by outdoor pools and a "luxury apartment-style" hotel.

Last August the Advertiser reported the shire endorsed plans for 54-61 Forrest Avenue, based on a 2010 VCAT resolution, including: 21 lot subdivision, 10 dwellings, part demolition and alteration of an existing heritage building, including conversion of the heritage building into six residential apartments with ancillary garages, and vegetation removal.

According to Brian, the updated plans were an improved version of the 2010 permit because it retained and restored most of the heritage features and buildings.

"The 2010 plans were a ter-

rible permit, a travesty. Why would you demolish heritage buildings and add a carpark to the main building inside the rooms?" he said.

"This will be a better outcome. We are going to make this beautiful with very little demolition and the building restored."

However he said the shire had requested a long list of updated information for the new development, with the updates to be lodged this week.

"If it doesn't get through then I'll just go back to the original permit, which would not be the best outcome, disastrous for the site. It would be a butchered development."

As such currently all work is focused on the renovation, with plastering, tiling and lead light details added to the first block, with the second block ready to be tiled and the "third block not far behind".

As allowed under the 2010 permit, the recreation hall in the top north-east corner will be demolished for 14 townhouses – each with a plunge pool – with Brian planning to live in one.

A small section of the north-east wing of the boys home will be removed for a hotel entry, excluding the existing turret.

The entire main building will be retained for hotel accommodation, as well as the 1930s cottage facing Boys Home Road, and all outbuildings including the cell blocks.

There will be a boutique day spa and gym, as well as three outdoor and one indoor pool.

"It's a passion project. It will be a legacy building on Phillip Island and the region."



Phillip Island Hot Springs will include a casual, all-day dining area, as well as an apothecary and gift shop selling their own skin care range, 5EA, or Fifth Element Apothecary.

Hot springs construction update

The Phillip Island Hot Springs project will begin taking bookings at the end of this year.

Founder Jodie Vogt told the Advertiser while the project – currently under construction at the 35-acre 1215 Phillip Island Road property – had been delayed, they would release further news later in 2023.

"We will be opening bookings later in the year, when the timeline will be firmed up," Jodie said, adding there was currently no confirmed open date.

"The environment to do a project of this scale is still challenging – the weather and sourcing construction materials in particular. But it's speeding up."

The hot springs – which has a series of new images released – will include a main arrival building, sizeable lagoon and various bathing experiences.

There will be a casual, all-day dining area, as well as an apothecary and gift shop selling their own skin care

range, 5EA, or Fifth Element Apothecary.

"The products are based on ocean minerals and Australian botanical ingredients and will provide another important connection to the destination," Jodie said.

The former Cape Kitchen restaurant is being repurposed with ocean-front lounge and casual dining.

Future development stages will include the Cape Woolamai Lodge, a spa treatment facility, and thalassotherapy, which will use heated saltwater, believed to have beneficial health effects.

"Thalassotherapy will be a unique and a first-in-Australia, offering ocean-front therapy in this incredible location," Jodie said.

"This will be a signature wellness experience not just for the region, but the state."

So far 100,000 trees have been planted, with the next section of land now ready for regeneration.

Landscaping designs are by Kilcunda's Karl Russo, who

has drawn on local geological formations for inspiration.

Pools will be heated from a geothermal bore.

Last year Phillip Island Hot Springs partnered with Peninsula Hot Springs, who bring their experience in establishing facilities on the Mornington Peninsula, New Zealand and Metung in Gippsland.

Jodie said project costs were being revised, with ongoing benefits to the community through an emphasis on local employment.

Last year the hot springs received \$5.2 million in state government funding with the then Tourism Minister Martin Pakula saying the project would attract about 73,000 new visitors to the island in the first year.

"They are expected to contribute more than \$4.7 million to the island's economy," Mr Pakula added.

Social media has been running hot with speculation about the project, with Tara saying she catches herself "fantasising" about it.

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46C Albert St Warragul VIC 3820
P: (03) 5623 2064 E: russell.broadbent.mp@aph.gov.au
f russellbroadbentmp @ russellbroadbentmp
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Tim O'Brien and Cathie Beenie, members of the Save Western Port Woodlands group who took to the highway over Easter, to highlight the need to protect the woodlands. Photo: Renee Sterling.

Easter woodland message

Members of the Save Western Port Woodlands were dotted along the Bass Highway at Grantville over the Easter weekend, to remind visitors of the importance of the woodlands and the need to protect them from sand mining.

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Residents fired up over subdivision proposals

Once again, the Distinctive Areas and Landscape planning panel hearings have got local residents fired up.

This time residents were responding to our front page last week about a Ventnor landowner – a Chinese investor – seeking to have their land rezoned for subdivision (“Ventnor West” would add 280 homes).

Landowners in San Remo between Potters Hill Road and Punch Bowl Road were also seeking to subdivide.

Alan: “Paradise LOST I feel.”

Phillip: “The headline is a misnomer. Most of the buildings would not be homes (principal

residences) but holiday houses. The 2021 census for postcode 3922: occupied private dwellings 4,163, 44.6 per cent; unoccupied private dwellings 5,179, 55.5 per cent.”

Rob: “280 blocks seems a bit light for the 59 acre property. One acre is a bit over 4000 sqm so the blocks must be reasonably large. Blocks of 500 sqm would allow eight per acre $\times 50 = 400$ blocks.”

Anne: “More and more subdivisions going in because greedy developers can afford expensive lawyers to have rural land changed to residential with re-zoning.”

Ruth: “We need to fight this if you love Phillip

ing from the existing landscape.”

Others were less forgiving: “Benefit the developers most likely. Keep squeezing more people on to the island.”

Landscape architects representing developers have argued the Phillip Island and San Remo landscape is not so significant and therefore not worth protecting.

A local real estate agent quipped: “They must have come here blindfolded.”

Services

Economic experts have argued future home buyers won’t want to live in Wonthaggi (where the majority of future housing development is planned) and will only want coastal living on the island.

Those very same economic experts have all totally ignored the most pressing economic and planning issue: struggling services.

After all, they aren’t the ones who live here when roads across the island become bottlenecked, when mobile phone reception fails, when waste services crash, when medical facilities fall short, or even when the wildlife road toll skyrockets.

The Small Town Coastal Alliance (STCA) – which represents about 15 Phillip Island and Bass Coast community groups – last week made their presentation to the planning panel, highlighting the experts’ topsy turvy logic.

“Not one of these experts have addressed these issues,” STCA planner Nikki Taylor said.

“Their focus has been on justifying expanding the settlement boundaries based upon the demand for land.

“Just because there may be a demand for land in small coastal towns in the future, is not reason to expand the town boundaries.

“We submit that the small coastal towns do not have the infrastructure capacity to justify their expansion beyond what is proposed.”

Former Bass Coast Shire mayor and councillor and current Island Voice president Peter Paul agrees (see separate article), saying the island – which is environmentally and economically of national significance – has a maximum carrying capacity of about 25,000 people.

“It should not just be vested interests who are making decisions for our future,” he said.

“Once lost, it’s lost forever.”

During the panel hearings it was left to the Planning Minister’s counsel to highlight key issues, including that growth on an island cannot be limitless, and that merely rezoning land and making it available does not solve market failures such as unaffordable housing and the rental squeeze.

The planning panel hearing finishes on April 27, after which panel members will provide their independent report to the Planning Minister.

Residents call on the panel members and the government to ensure Phillip Island and San Remo aren’t loved to death.

Island.”

Sandra: “We have more than enough development already to accommodate the overload of people. Infrastructure will never keep up. If you think it’s hard to see a GP now, just wait.”

David: “The expected regional growth cannot happen as predicted without destroying all the reasons we love the island. Please stop any more development before the island becomes just another suburb.”

Kevin: “The place is at gridlock now when everyone leaves. One way in and out on a single lane. Got to be joking.”

Amanda: “I know developers ‘have’ to develop

land, and I get we are desperately short of long-term rental homes, but the development on tiny blocks, cramming houses in on top of each other in San Remo and on the island is an eyesore. The idyllic seaside charm is disappearing and it’s becoming another mass build suburb.”

Lorraine: “Another chunk of San Remo trying to be ripped from our town. Where will it stop? Heartbreaking seeing our beautiful town made into a suburb. Thank god I grew up in San Remo in the 50s and 60s. The future generations will never see the ambience of San Remo and what it was like. This must stop before the whole infrastructure will collapse.”

ADVERTISER EDITORIAL

A message to the DAL planning panel

We all love Phillip Island and San Remo.

So much growth is at unprecedented levels, not just tourism but residential development, with property prices fetching eye-watering prices, accompanied by a rental squeeze.

Seeing the potential to love this special place to an untimely demise, in 2019 the state government declared Bass Coast a Distinctive Areas and Landscapes (DAL), for Phillip Island locking in town boundaries and applying beefed up planning controls to protect significant landscapes.

As part of the DAL process, last year more than 750 public submissions were lodged with an independent planning panel currently in the process of hearing those submitters.

The panel this coming week (April 17-20) visits San Remo and Phillip Island, with the hearing at Silverwater Resort.

And judging by responses to the Advertiser so far, there is a clear, almost unanimous message from the community to the panel members.

Capacity

Many locals have been shocked by the planning panel process, which has been described as a “developers’ picnic” by one long-term planning observer, with landowners in San Remo, Ventnor, Newhaven, Cape Woolamai, Smiths Beach, Corinella and Coronet Bay arguing their land should be included in town boundaries for future subdivisions.

“Developers purchase large parcels of land on the island and around San Remo and then employ lawyers to argue why their land should be developed,” a reader commented.

“Is that how planning should work?”

Another reader put it succinctly: “No, absolutely no. The island is at capacity.”

Many residents have been frustrated that so-called “expert” witnesses in economics, landscape and ecology – representing developers – have given often uninformed evidence, their knowledge gathered from a few quick site visits, oblivious to real issues locals face.

For example, when a Melbourne ecologist suggested threatened species that live on the Phillip Island airport site would benefit from housing subdivisions, a top local ecologist questioned how he had come to this conclusion.

“Based on what evidence?” she asked.

“And not talking to the actual experts who work on Phillip Island. Bandicoots have already moved into Cape Wooli and are benefit-



An anonymous wildlife advocate erected a sign, along the Christian Easter theme, to call in the name of “Christ” to “be aware of wildlife on roads”. Within 24 hours the sign had been spray painted and it had been removed before the end of the Easter weekend.

A Good Friday plea to drivers

A passionate wildlife advocate took advantage of the influx of tourists onto the island on Good Friday to make a plea to drivers.

The anonymous advocate erected a sign, along the Christian Easter theme, to call in the name of “Christ” to “be aware of wildlife on roads”.

Over the Easter long weekend Wildlife Victoria sent an emergency team to work as the primary rescue unit for injured animals.

In February meetings between Nature Parks and partners were held to find solutions to the increasing wildlife road toll on the island.

On one Friday in early March, rescuers counted 53 dead animals on the Phillip Island Road between Cape Woolamai and Cowes and on the following Saturday between Ventnor Road and the bridge, 18 animals had been hit by cars.

The team will take the pressure off volunteer operator Colleen Gilbee – who has been volunteering since 2000 – and who said the

local wildlife death toll was taking an increasing financial and emotional toll.

On social media the issue continues to inspire discussion.

Angela: “The constant roadkill on the island in recent times has been tragic. I have had visitors to the island asking why so many dead animals on our roads. I have no answers I only feel sad and frankly embarrassed.”

Anita: “Is it a case of kill or get killed by swerving and potentially losing control of your vehicle. Sometimes it is unavoidable.”

Brian: “The sad fact of over development. Time to slow down and pay close attention.”

Judith: “This is the cost of development, eventually wildlife will disappear due to being slaughtered. People will forget and we will be like a suburb in Melbourne.”

Kevin: “I had to stop the other day for a koala crossing the road at night. The Rhyll road is bad for it. I’m very careful driving there at night and late afternoon. The wallabies just sit on the side of the road and they could just bounce across the road anytime. More care and patience would be good.”

The 24/7 number to call for injured wildlife rescue is: Wildlife Victoria 03 8400 7300.

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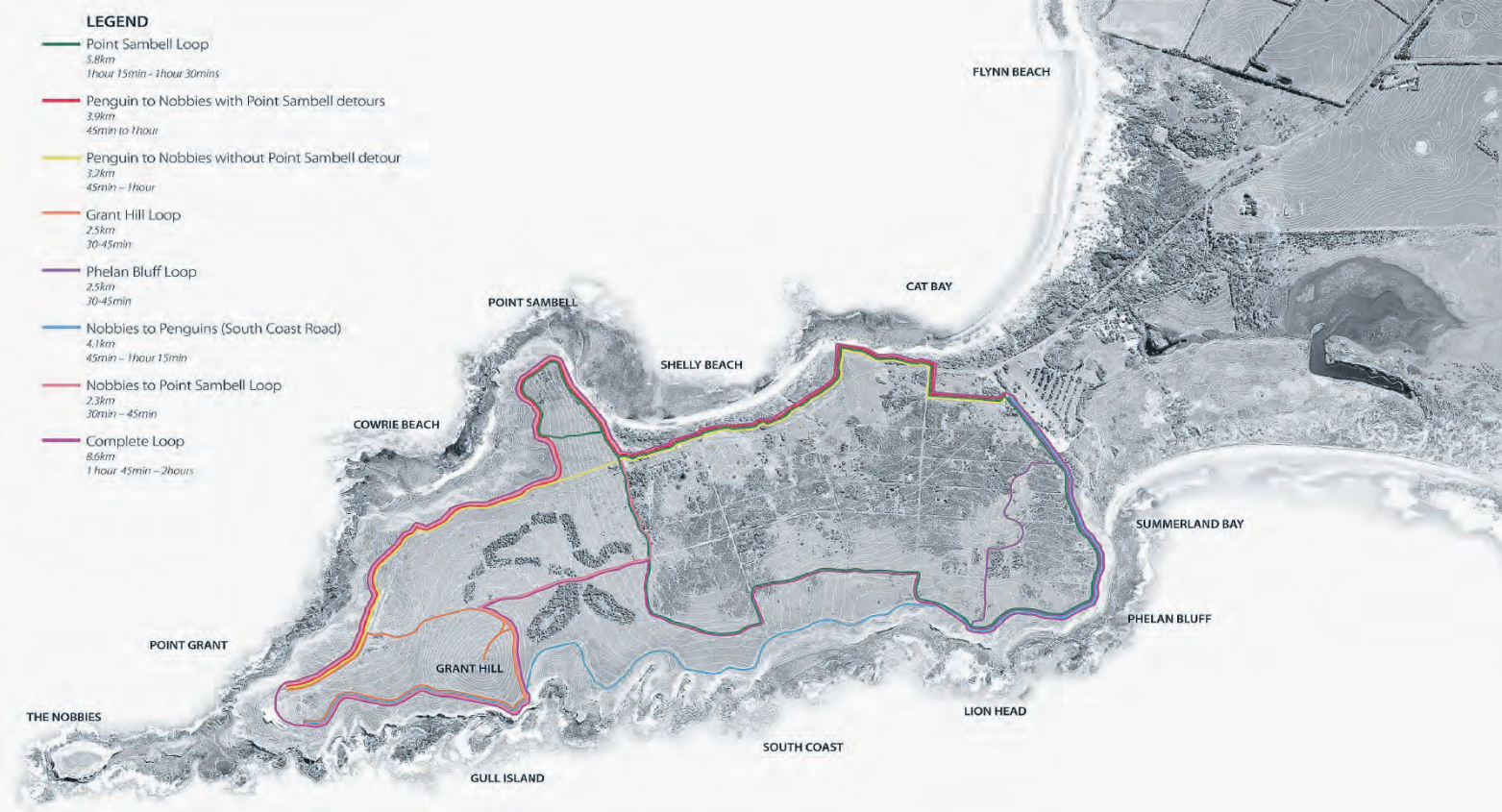
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A 2016 map from the Summerland Peninsula Trails Master Plan shows the eight proposed walking and bike trails.

South Coast Road will stay open: PINP

Phillip Island Nature Parks has again confirmed the scenic South Coast Road will stay open, as part of long-term plans to create a series of trails through the Summerland Peninsula.

The clarification came after the Nature Parks board last month released a statement saying they had received a progress report on the Summerland Trails Masterplan: 18km of trail networks, linking the Penguin Parade and Nobbies, which was endorsed by the board in 2016.

When released seven years ago, the most contentious part of the plan proposed a 1km section of the scenic South Coast Road on the Summerland Peninsula would be closed, overlooking the Penguin Parade, Summerland Bay and Phelan Bluff.

The South Coast Road has been mooted for closure in the past to community anger. In 1997 a petition against the closure was signed by 12,820 people, with the closure stopped after the intervention of the then state planning minister.

Last month the board said they “committed to maintaining vehicle circulation on the peninsula through this first phase of the planning”. When asked whether the road would only be kept open in the “first phase of planning”, a Nature Parks spokesperson confirmed they were “not proposing to close part of or all of South Coast Road as part of its detail designs”.

“The road circulation around the peninsula is not impacted by the Summerland Trails Detail Design,” the spokesperson said.

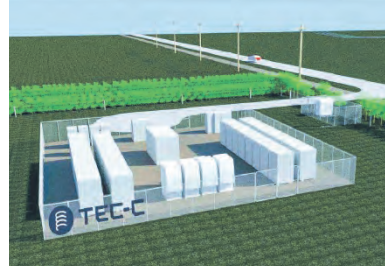
“The detailed design process we have just gone through is what we’re referring to as the first phase of planning/design.”

They added that Bass Coast Shire was the authority for the South Coast Road.

Under the masterplan, the first key trail would be an 8km loop walk from the Penguin Parade to the Nobbies, with a series of seven smaller loops around the peninsula, including the 5.8km Point Sambell loop, which will take up to 90 minutes to walk, or the smaller 2.5km Grant Hill loop.

About 90 per cent of the trails would follow existing management tracks or old roads, which would minimise the environmental impact, especially on penguin burrows.

Closure of the beautiful South Coast Road has been mooted as far back as 1985, but has always been opposed by the community.



A \$12 million, 10MWh lithium iron phosphate battery energy system has now finished being built on Gap Road. Testing is continuing, ready for operation around May.

Countdown on for big battery

The launch of Phillip Island’s new big battery has been delayed, expected to be operational next month.

Previously AusNet said the Phillip Island Community Energy Storage System (PICES), on Gap Road, would be ready for operation this month, following testing.

But last week an AusNet spokesperson said while PICES had been installed and most of the site works completed, the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) was completing required approvals, “which is anticipated to take place in the next two weeks”.

“Following that a second phase of testing will take place for three weeks to ensure it is ready for operations,” the spokesperson said.

“This storage system will offer greater reliability in electricity supply for the island, especially during peak holiday periods.”

PICES is a \$12 million, 10MWh lithium iron phosphate battery energy system, a series of units in a 38m x 34m fenced compound, connected to the electricity grid, on the north-east corner of 380 Back Beach Road – effectively 100 Gap Road.



Grade 6 Activity Days

Friday 28th April 2023

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Information will be provided directly to schools

Wednesday 10th May 2023

Grade 6 Students from St Joseph’s Korumburra and St Laurence Leongatha

Information will be provided directly to schools



Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College

For further information or to register please visit our website or contact the College:

03 5662 4255

ckitchingman@mmcrc.catholic.edu.au

Help sustain local news, says report

A national report into local news sustainability is challenging the perception that print newspapers are dead and is calling on governments to revise their advertising rules to help local news providers and better target regional and rural communities.

These are two recommendations of 22 in the new report, Media Innovation and the Civic Future of Australia's Country Press, the culmination of a three-year Australian Research Council project, led by Deakin University, in partnership with Country Press Australia, the nation's peak local news lobby, and RMIT University.

Project lead Professor Kristy Hess, of Deakin's School of Communications and Creative Arts, said the project's aim was to examine the local media landscape to identify challenges and opportunities for sustainability and innovation.

"We wanted to examine the challenges facing small-town news providers given the commentary in recent years about the crisis they are facing in Australia and across the world," she said.

This was the first comprehensive report of its kind in Australia and its recommendations provide a blueprint to preserve and grow rural and regional news for future generations.

The study began at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which resulted in the temporary or permanent closure of dozens of local mastheads across Australia and a shift among some to digital-only platforms.

"The first thing we did was conduct a major national survey to find out what people valued about their local mastheads. We found people in many regional and rural towns and cities were passionate about their local mastheads but rejected an overreliance on syndicated content, in print and digital, sourced from neighbouring areas or other parts of the country."

The research team conducted two main national surveys – one with local news audiences and one with those who do not engage with local news; 35 interviews with Australian news editors and proprietors; and seven interpretive focus groups with editors, journalists and advertising managers within the Country Press Australia network.

One key finding was the strain on local mastheads hit with lost revenue from local, state and federal government advertising, which in recent years had prioritised social media and metropolitan news outlets with a larger digital reach.

"Our research found there is this obsession with digital reach. That's all well and good, but a local mast-



A national report into regional newspapers examining the challenges facing small-town newspapers says people are passionate about their local mastheads, and called on governments to revise their advertising rules to support local media and better target regional and rural communities.

head, whether in print or online, isn't designed to reach one million people. If we use the digital reach metric as an indicator as to which news outlets should get government advertising, these independent regional and rural outlets are going to lose out every time," Professor Hess said.

The report supports a recent Parliamentary Inquiry recommendation that stipulates 20 per cent of all Federal Government advertising expenditure be directed to regional and rural news organisations.

Data from the study also showed government funding schemes for local news outlets were often tied to digital innovation, for instance to buy drones and other technologies, when what local news providers needed was financial support to upgrade print infrastructure or to hire more staff.

"Print is not dead for many regional and rural communities. We need to remember there is a digital divide in Australia that means some communities still struggle with poor-quality and unreliable

Internet connections. Some segments of the community, including older citizens, find it difficult to use newer technologies. Younger audiences also like the look of a printed newspaper," Professor Hess said.

The report also recommends better incentives, including pay, to attract seasoned reporters to the regions. Governments are also urged to provide seed funding for journalist-led news start-ups to counteract local 'news deserts' developing in some parts of Australia.

"Our research shows people in these communities want more local news content, including stories on locals' achievements, successes and milestones. They also want news on local events and more investigative-type pieces," Professor Hess said.

"We also found there is more capacity for regional and rural news providers to develop collaborative advocacy and solutions-style reporting campaigns that address important rural and regional issues that span multiple communities."

The report can be found at www.localnewsinnovation.org.

Support for local newspapers

The head of Australia's largest independent newspaper association has welcomed the release of a landmark Deakin University report into the future of country papers.

Country Press Australia president Andrew Manuel said the Media Innovation and the Civic Future of Australia's Country Press report should be seen as a beginning and not an end, and that the report highlights the essential role local papers play in serving their communities and delivering civic journalism.

"This is arguably the most comprehensive study of our industry ever undertaken and the report stands as a beacon for government, for policy makers and for the community to take the appropriate and necessary actions to ensure newspapers can continue to play such a vital role.

"The study was done across the most tumultuous time the media industry has experienced, and local papers remain such an integral cog in regional and rural Australia, despite the hardships we've all endured.

"The report defines regional and rural papers as essential services to the community, and better support from government, and a better understanding from government around this is an important next step," Mr Manuel said.

The Media Innovation and the Civic Future of Australia's Country Press report has been a three-year Australian Research Council project, led by Deakin University, in partnership with Country Press Australia and RMIT University.

The report reiterates a parliamentary inquiry recommendation for 20 per cent of all federal government advertising expenditure to be allocated to regional and rural news organisations and highlights the need for a better understanding of the role regional and rural newspapers play as well as the need to provide more support.

The study included a survey into attitudes towards local papers and the respondents' likes and dislikes, as well as interviews and interpretive focus groups with news editors, proprietors and key staff within the Country Press Australia network of more than 200 mastheads located at sites across Australia, including the Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser.

The report calls for a review of the focus on digital reach in regional areas, with questions about the effectiveness of digital over local media when it comes to engagement with regional and rural Australians.

It questions an obsession with digital reach among major adver-



Country Press Australia president Andrew Manuel said a new report into regional newspapers highlights the essential role local papers play in serving their communities.

tisers and government and says local papers' strength lies in their rich levels of engagement with the distinct local communities they are an essential part of.

Mr Manuel said people living in country areas remain passionate and engaged with their local mastheads, and the report highlights the need to better support local news, and equally, the pivotal role and responsibility of country papers to communities scattered across the continent.

"Our members continue to provide the local and civic news that readers crave more than ever, often as the only local media outlet serving a particular region. Coming out of the pandemic, many publishers have reported a strong revival in their readership, underpinned by a focus on hyper-local and unique news that has been a common denominator of country papers since their inception.

"Newsrooms in regional and rural areas can offer some of the most varied, fulfilling and interesting work to journalists, and it should never just be about country papers being seen as merely a steppingstone to a job elsewhere in the city," Mr Manuel said.

"The attractions and affordability of a regional lifestyle are well known to those of us who live in regional and rural Australia, and we should never accept our way of life, or our careers as being in any way inferior or less deserving."

Mr Manuel said Country Press Australia members would continue to innovate and adapt their businesses, and to seek ways to work together for a better media industry, but the need for more effective government support and understanding would be crucial to the long-term sustainability of country papers.

He also thanked Deakin University, RMIT and the Australian Research Council for the work that had gone into developing the report.

THE ISLAND #4 – OUT NOW!

PICK UP YOUR FREE COPY AT THE PHILLIP ISLAND AND SAN REMO ADVERTISER, CAFES, RESTAURANTS, STORES, ACCOMMODATION AND ATTRACTIONS, AS WELL AS LOCAL NEWSAGENTS.



Residents' Say No campaign continues

Over 75 residents from Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay attended an Easter Saturday meeting regarding Council's proposed special charges scheme for both estates, voicing many concerns regarding Council's next stage of the proposed Special Charges Scheme.

A spokesperson from the Say No group, which opposes the scheme said they understood Council will be sending each rate payer a submission for each rateable property the resident owns which will outline the proposed costs of the Scheme in June/July 2023.

"Many residents indicated that they will be away either overseas or travelling throughout Australia at this time, which is also school holidays and are worried that they (a) will not be home to receive the registered letter and (b) will not have a chance to indicate their objection within the proposed time frame of 28 days if they are away," the group spokesperson said.

"Many residents are querying how they will receive their registered submission from Council as there is no home delivery across the two estates, only via mail boxes.

"They would like further clarification as to whether the registered submission has to be picked up from the post office adding a degree of difficulty for those away or unable to get to the post office in time."

The group said there has been no indication from Council as to what the submission will require; whether it will be a simple yes or no tick box to proceed or do residents have



Over 75 residents from Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay attended an Easter Saturday meeting regarding Council's proposed special charges scheme for both estates, organised by the Say No group opposing the scheme.

to submit a written submission to Council to object or support.

"Residents are very concerned the final plans will not be developed until after the submission has been received to Council," the spokesperson said.

"This means that the costings per property will still only be an approximation with residents worrying about what the final cost will be, knowing full well that costs of construction are increasing year on year.

"Residents also raised the lack of debate or discussion at the March

15 Council meeting, as well as the accusations made by Councillors without proof, resulting in rubber-stamping the report to proceed to the submission stage.

"Residents' questions were not discussed despite the fact that they had specific relevance to the council report submitted.

"Council's lack of attention to residents' concerns certainly gives rise as to why the Say No group is gathering so much momentum with numbers increasing weekly in support of the Say No to the special charges scheme."



The path across the Phillip Island bridge is narrow and steep, with bikes especially posing a danger to pedestrians, says one resident.

Phillip Island bridge safety concerns

The growing popularity of the Phillip Island bridge as a bike and pedestrian path has increased the safety risk, according to a daily user of the path.

While e-bikes and e-scooters have seen a rise in collisions and injuries in Melbourne, Newhaven elderly resident Russell Riseley has warned of the growing risk for pedestrians with more users on the narrow 1400mm-wide path, cheek-to-jowl with cars.

"I walk or cycle almost daily between Newhaven and San Remo and find that crossing the bridge can be extremely dangerous," Russell told the Advertiser.

"A local couple on their electric cycles came hurtling down the steep decline on the western side ringing their bells to indicate 'here I come: out of my way'. But they are far from the only cyclists endangering others – it's a daily occurrence.

"Cyclists with a leashed dog running alongside add to the danger ... Constrained by railing does not constitute safety for pedestrians when the carriageway is being shared with cyclists."

Russell said the path was especially hazardous for the elderly, those on mobility scooters, in wheelchairs and parents with prams and toddlers.

Russell recently visited Geelong and found on a bridge across the Barwon River – "a shorter span but similar pavement width" – had safety of pedestrians as a priority.

"There the instruction was for cyclists to dismount. Indeed this is in marked contrast to the open slather on our bridge.

"A simple requirement such as 'cyclists must give way to other users' is all that is required, or 'keep left when passing (oncoming) users' would not be a waste of signage."

Department response

Department of Transport Gippsland regional director Beth Liley said as part of Regional Roads Victoria's continuing plans to upgrade San Remo roads, they were working with Bass Coast Shire "to see where we may be able to improve safety for all road users across Phillip Island".

"We constantly monitor the transport network, focusing on safety and accessibility for all users. Examination of treatments such as signing is part of this work," Ms Liley said.

She said the department was also working with the shire to explore options for improved public transport around Phillip Island.

Regional Roads Victoria presented the final concept plans for proposed road upgrades on Phillip Island Road, through San Remo to the community in late 2020 and is still seeking funding for the project.

Ms Liley said the funding would be considered against other high priority projects across Victoria.

"We will continue to plan for long-term upgrades to the Phillip Island and San Remo road network."

In 2016, \$3.2 million was provided to investigate safety improvement projects, which saw two roundabouts at Woolamai Beach Road and Back Beach Road completed in 2020.

Jump on the bus ... or train and save

The cost of a daily ticket on the entire regional Victorian network is now capped at \$9.20 for a full fare or \$4.60 for a concession – the same price as a metro daily fare. On a weekend or public holiday, daily fares are capped at \$6.70 and \$3.35 for concession.

"Getting on our regional coaches and trains just got a whole lot cheaper and easier for everyone across the state," said Member for Bass, Jordan Crugnale.

"This is a great leveller as it significantly reduces the cost of travel to our Gippsland region, provides a huge benefit to passengers, as well as our local businesses and also means we can travel to places like Ballarat, Shepperton, Mildura and Mallacoota too.

"The regional fare cap also encourages more people to travel to our area to enjoy our stunning surrounds and offerings, and also connects us in with our families, friends and loved ones."

Ms Crugnale said the fare cap means more money in regional Victorians' pockets, and ensures families living in Bass can visit family and friends and access vital health and education services right across the state.

For those who take long-distance V/Line journeys, the regional fare



Jordan Crugnale MP, at the Anderson Roundabout on the Bass Highway, said the cap on regional fares means travel just got a lot cheaper and easier for everyone.

cap can save people more than \$40 for each and every journey on the regional public transport network.

The cap also applies to interstate travel within 60 kilometres of the Victorian border, to ensure those living in border communities in New South Wales and South Australia benefit as well. The fare cap applies to all PTV regional buses,

town buses and V/Line trains and coaches.

Almost 200 extra weekend services are set to be added to the V/Line timetable from 2024 – with a further order of 23 VLocity trains to meet the demands of a growing network. For more information or to purchase tickets visit vline.com.au or ptv.vic.gov.au.

Collected recollections



Limited edition. On sale soon – Pre-order now at the Advertiser or Turn the Page! *Once upon an island – The early days of Phillip Island.*

CHICORY PUBLISHING



Bumper Good Friday Appeal in San Remo

The San Remo Good Friday Appeal raised over \$35,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital. The dismal weather didn't dampen community spirits as people turned out to support the fundraisers, taking on the challenge of the George Bass Walk and adjourning to the San Remo Hotel, for food, entertainment and auctions.

The raffles included a giant basket of Easter goodies, while the silent auctions included donations from local cafes and stores. The live auctions included four rounds of golf donated by the Phillip Island Golf Course, 18 holes do-

nated by the Keysborough Golf Club, a family Wildlife Coast Cruise and A Maze'N Things pass, tools from Bowens and vouchers from Cor Pilates and Island Healing.

The total fundraising included Walk for the Kids (\$13,522), the annual Fishing Competition by Jim's Bait and Tackle (\$3675) and the CFA tin rattlers (\$17,194).

**For more photos,
visit pisra.com.au**

All photos: Nici Cahill, Snapshot Photography.



Denise Watson, Amanda Black and Kaz Mock were kept busy on Friday, selling raffle tickets at the San Remo Hotel.



Lucy Manahan and Peter Williams at the afternoon fundraiser at the San Remo Hotel on Good Friday, which included raffles, entertainment and auctions.



Margie Vanderzalm and Judy Wilson from San Remo got into the Easter spirit on the Walk for the Kids along the George Bass Coastal Walk.



Chrissie Richards with Lucy Bergmanstanes and Tanya Marshall on the Walk for the Kids, raising money for the Good Friday Appeal.



Lovcan and Faith from Wonthaggi on the George Bass Walk for the Kids, raising money for the Good Friday Appeal.



CFA tin rattlers collecting money for the Good Friday Appeal. Sam, Steve Scott, Graeme Taylor and Keith Thiele.



Jenni McMillan, Floss Gorsuch and Bree Tiana were all part of the fundraising efforts at the San Remo Hotel on Good Friday, which raised over \$35,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital.



SES volunteers Corbin Dagg, Grace Rose-Wattke and Jareth Goss joined the fundraising efforts on Good Friday.



Patricia Jamison and Bree Tiana (Miss Galaxy Australia BC National Finalist Gippsland), with one of the fantastic Good Friday Appeal raffles.



Simon Furniss takes a donation from Travis Thompson. The Cowes CFA volunteers collected around \$19,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.



SES volunteers joined the CFA in the fundraising drive. Zara and Scarlett with Dad Athol.

A very Good Friday for Phillip Island CFA

Volunteers from the Phillip Island CFA took to the streets to collect money for the Good Friday Appeal, raising around \$19,000. Despite the dismal weather, the team were in great spirits and mo-

torists generously donated to the cause. Volunteers from the SES joined their CFA colleagues on the street for the fundraising cause. More photos at pisra.com.au



The SES also contributed to the Good Friday Appeal fundraising efforts with Julian Glynn and Bri Reid outside IGA in Cowes.



Fundraising carried on through to Saturday, with CFA volunteers running a BBQ outside Coles: Anita, Sue, Kay, Jeanette, Murray, Steve and Paul. The BBQ is generously sponsored by Bec Anderson at Ray White.



CFA members Robin Adair, Simon Hartley and Murray Johnston spent Good Friday collecting donations for the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal.



Jennifer Anderson has been raising money for the Good Friday appeal for more than 30 years, hitting the streets and door knocking around Cowes.



Phillip Island's vintage fire truck hits the streets for the Good Friday Appeal.



Simon Hartley, coordinator of the Cowes CFA Good Friday Appeal, explains the operations for the day to his crew. Simon said despite the wet weather, around \$19,000 was raised.



Lily Anderson with Harvey, Romy and Lottie from Ballarat joined the CFA volunteers collecting for the Good Friday Appeal.



Generous drivers donate to the Cowes CFA Good Friday Appeal, which raised around \$19,000.



This quality four bedroom brick home has a 6.0 star energy rating and is only a short walk to the popular Silverleaves north facing beach, golf and bowls clubs.

A modern entertainer with space

Only a short walk to the popular Silverleaves north facing beach, golf and bowls clubs, this as-new property with all facilities at its door step and landscaped gardens, is the one you have been waiting for.

This quality four bedroom brick home has a 6.0 star energy rating and double garage, and is located on a corner, with a reserve next door. As you walk into this home you will instantly feel the abundance of space and be inundated by natural light throughout the kitchen, dining and main living areas. The master bedroom/parents retreat is spacious with a full walk-in wardrobe and private ensuite with double shower.

The additional three large extra bedrooms give you plenty of room for your family and guests.

One living space adjoins the large hostess kitchen with stone bench tops and quality

900m stainless appliances, which opens up to a large alfresco and an amazing rear yard, with rural and Rhyll wetlands views.

The second living space provides a separate zone which can be used as a living/rumpus/entertainment room, or a work from home office.

The side courtyard fronting the kitchen area is ideal for that morning coffee and catching up on the daily news with an unobstructed view of the reserve running along the side of the property.

The property also provides you with the benefits of a second driveway, with ample room to store your boat/caravan or trailer behind securely closed gates, and a 5-kw solar power system to give you the peace of mind on low energy costs.

Call Alex Scott Cowes on 03 5952 2633 to arrange your own private inspection or find out when the next open house will be.



This 29-acre parcel of land is an exceptional opportunity to secure a property with great potential located at the entrance to Wonthaggi.

Exceptional opportunity

This 29-acre parcel of land is an exceptional opportunity to secure a property with great potential located at the entrance to Wonthaggi. This property benefits from easy access to Bass Highway with over 450 metres of highway frontage.

Wonthaggi is a thriving town with a growing population and a range of local amenities and services. The town

centre features a range of shops, cafes, and restaurants, as well as essential services such as supermarkets, banks, and the region's largest hospital. There are also excellent educational facilities, including primary schools and a secondary college as well as a large sporting precinct.

Overall, this 29-acre parcel of land presents a unique opportunity for those looking to

invest in a property for the future. With its excellent location, this property is sure to attract attention.

For Sale by Auction April 22, 2023 at 12pm.

Address: 362 Bass Highway, Wonthaggi

Terms: 10 per cent deposit up to 120 days settlement
Contact: Alex Scott, Cowes on 03 5952 2633



Cowes 13 Gordon Street, Cowes

4 2 3

\$1,950,000

This exquisite residence at 13 Gordon Street is situated in the highly coveted neighbourhood of East Cowes. The property boasts a prime corner block location, in close proximity to the local football ground and beach, with a leisurely stroll up Lovers Walk leading to the township of Cowes.

View Property:



Mike Foenander
0408 547 677

Joshua Dunstan
0407 558 933

Cowes 5952 5100
obre.com.au/sanremo

San Remo 5678 5885
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First impressions are everything and in an increasingly tough real estate market, Pint Size Property Styling can help your home stand out from your competitors. We know what it takes to create an emotional connection for potential buyers which translates to homes that sell more quickly and for higher prices. **Contact Steph on 0412 031 035**

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Seaclusion – A Boutique Development – INSPECT NOW!

1 & 7/14-20 Redwood Drive, Cowes
3 bed / 2 bath / 1 car
\$699,000 each

Construction is nearly complete – and Unit 7 has been furnished and is available for inspection.

Seaclusion is where sophistication and class meets the perfect seaside rural town of Cowes, Phillip Island. If you are looking for your perfect seaside getaway, then look no further.

These front positioned three bedroom homes will cater for a range of lifestyles. High quality fixtures and fittings

throughout will certainly impress the owners of these town houses including Smeg 600mm appliances, dishwasher, stone bench tops, laminate timber floors to living areas, carpet to bedrooms, LED downlights, Fujitsu reverse cycle heating and cooling, flyscreens to all openable windows ... the list goes on!

Seaclusion is situated a short stroll to the Cowes boutique restaurants and cafes, 3 major supermarkets, medical hub and many retail outlets. The most wonderful of all is a short walk to the Cowes jetty and front beach, with rolling grassed banks and shady trees, where you can spend many days relaxing overlooking the water or take the boat or jetski out for some enjoyment on the water.

Phillip Island with its many tourist attractions plus surf beaches and family friendly beaches cater for all, invest, live in or lease out for the busy holiday periods, the options are endless.

If you have been searching for the perfect beachside getaway, here is your chance to own your dream. Take advantage of the government grants to eligible purchasers.

Contact us for a full inclusion list and information pack today!

To arrange an inspection, please contact
 Bec Anderson 0402 211 823 or Sam Clark 0417 351 935

raywhitephillipisland.com.au

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5952 2799



FIRST NATIONAL PHILLIP ISLAND

**2-6 PHILLIP STREET,
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\$1,700,000 TO \$1,850,000

An extremely rare opportunity awaits, we are always asked for a large land holding and water views. With two separate homes the possibilities are endless, also the potential to create another block with its own road frontage STCA. This level parcel of land is perfect for the whole family with easy access to the Ventnor Beach and a short car trip to all Phillip Island has to offer. This property fronts onto rural land which only adds to the quiet environment, watch the stunning sun sets and let the stress of Melbourne wash away.

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD
 0412 712 034

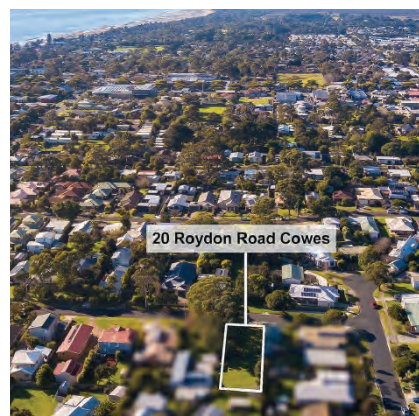


VIEWS AND LAND

**20 ROYDON RD,
 COWES**
\$599,000

Under 500 metres to the beach and walking distance to the main street makes it the ideal location. This vacant block has been heavily reduced to sell and is ready to build your dream home on now. This quiet pocket would be the ideal location to build your dream home.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY
 0410 595 130



MASSIVE PRICE REDUCTION

**23 HOPE WAY,
 COWES**
\$950,000 TO \$995,000

All the thought that has gone into this property means you don't have to do a thing. Just move in and enjoy, set over a single level with higher than standard ceilings creates the ideal oasis in this crazy world. With easy access to Cowes golf club and Silverleaves foreshore why would you want to go anywhere else. The stunning views easterly over the Nits only adds to this extremely sought after location. With double glazed windows creating a very warm and inviting environment. The larger than normal garage with an extra carport means storage is just simpler. The home is 3 yrs old so peace of mind with the remaining 4 yrs of warranty, also 6kw of solar to help with the cost of living

CONTACT MICHAEL MCLEOD
 0412 712 034



PRICED TO SELL

**599 DENSLEYS ROAD,
 WOOLAMAI**
\$2,100,000 TO \$2,300,000
FALL IN LOVE WITH THE LIFESTYLE

This stunning property is set over 5 acres and designed for growing families and entertainers, an easy drive to both San Remo or Wonthaggi and Bass Coast beaches. The home captures all natural light and has a north facing orientation, and captures extensive views across Westernport Bay, French Island, Bass Strait and surrounding farmland. You will appreciate your unique surroundings and enjoy the benefits of having no neighbours.

CONTACT KENDALL O'GAREY
 0410 595 130



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Water quality is our top priority

The regular cleaning of water mains is essential to maintaining the high-quality of Westernport Water's drinking water.

Pipe cleaning is done using a technique known as air scouring, which pushes compressed air into the water pipe at high velocity. This dislodges any naturally occurring sediment in the pipe, which is then flushed out at a nearby hydrant.

Planned air scouring will start on April 26 and go through to May 9. Townships include Wimbledon Heights, Smiths Beach, Surf Beach, Sunderland Bay, Cape Woolamai, Rhyll, Newhaven and Bass.

The water supply will be turned off temporarily in each affected street to clean the water main. Westernport Water's cleaning contractors will progressively work through each township.

"Preventative maintenance programs like this help us to provide high quality water on a consistent basis," said Dona Tantirimudalige, Managing Director Westernport Water.

"In 2022, Westernport Water received its highest level of customer satisfaction with drinking water.

"We are consistently investing in our water infrastructure and maintenance programs to ensure that our products and services meet the needs and expectations of our community."

Residents will be directly notified of work being done in their area, prior to any interruption. If possible, customers will be asked to turn their stop tap off at the water meter, prior to the time of commencement listed on the interruption notice.

Contractors do not necessarily have to be on your street or at your property to carry out their work. Customers are advised not to operate any tap or appliances that use water between the hours stated on the interruption



Westernport Water will begin a schedule of planned air scouring later this month, to clean the water pipes and maintain the quality of drinking water. Photo: Jacek Dylag, Unsplash.

notice to avoid the potential for discoloured water.

After the cleaning is complete, customers may notice that the water is a little cloudy, this is only air that will bubble out/settle if you leave the water in an open container. Alternatively, customers can run their back tap for a short time to flush the cloudy water through their internal plumbing.

A full schedule of works is provided at westernportwater.com.au/alerts-current-works/planned-works/

/ Sponsored article /

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tell us your views with a Letter to the Editor (350 word limit).
Email to advertiser@pisra.com.au, or submit online at pisra.com.au



Careful what you wish for

Dear Say No group, you admit the dust and drainage in Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay is problematic and something needs to be done. You also want us to vote down the council's special charge scheme. If the scheme gets voted down then nothing will change. We will be simply moved to the bottom of the list and have to live with the dust, mosquitoes, mud, rot, mould and all the associated health risks and diseases for another 20 plus years until we get offered another scheme. Council is under no obligation and have said they will not spend council money to fix the roads. Look at Sunset Strip. They stopped their special charge scheme about 10 years ago and council, as promised, have done nothing.

Be careful what you wish for.
Sam O'Loughlin, Surf Beach

Selling our soul

For sale. The soul of Surf Beach and Sunderland Bay estates. Prime opportunity for investors and developers to reap rich rewards after the Bass Coast Council has destroyed the cultural and natural landscape of the area. Once the urbanisation/gentrification of this "unique" area is complete, land values will increase providing an opportunity for developers and investors to step in and invest. On completion of the Road and Drainage program, developers and investors can expect a substantial return for their investment attracting more socially acceptable residents and/or holiday makers to the area. No more pesky backwater residents who say 'No'. Children will be able to ride their bikes up and down the street without a care in the world as the roads will be sealed with paved gold. Residents and tourists to these upgraded estates will feel that they have the comfort and reassurance just like home, no difference.

Now if you believe this fairy tale, then you might even believe the information that the Bass Coast Council has been circulating. If this estate upgrade is allowed to go ahead, say goodbye to the cultural and natural landscape of this area. This area will no longer be "unique" and if Council proceed, after the estate's "lobotomy" these areas will be urbanised just like Cowes, Cape Woolamai and Newhaven. Bass Coast Council needs to stop denigrating the Say No Group and go back to the drawing table to listen and parlay.

J and G Jones, Sunderland Bay

DAL coverage applauded

I wish to commend the reporting by the Advertiser on the DAL project hearings. It is great to see the facts and proceedings clearly and concisely presented. Having the history of the sites, as well as the narrative from the hearings helps readers to understand and appreciate the complexity of planning matters and the forces at play.

The April 5 article on Ventnor West was particularly interesting and informative. I well recall the earlier development proposal and political interference by then planning minister and former Liberal leader Matthew Guy, to facilitate the Cadogan farm subdivision for housing, then the \$3 million payout at Victoria's expense.

Keep up the good reporting. It's vital for our community and

underlines the importance of community newspapers.

Anne Paul, Ventnor

Ratepayers demeaned

At the BCSC meeting of March 16 Cr Tessari and most particularly Cr Halstead took the opportunity to publicly demean ratepayers for alleged bullying in relation to the Surf Beach/Sunderland Bay special scheme.

Cr Tessari spoke down to ratepayers for not attending the meeting in person to ask their questions. Unfortunately Cr Tessari was sadly unaware that the council itself does not allow ratepayers to attend meetings.

Not a good look councillor.

Cr Halstead took things to another level however, stating "It does sadden me to hear reports of intimidation and bullying tactics that have been used throughout the community to the point that I did read recently that ... an 80 year old lady had been bailed up in her kitchen with people trying to convince her to vote a certain way". She clarified this allegation on the front page of the following Sentinel Times where she stated she "is adamant the reports about opponents of the scheme behaving badly are bona fide".

A lack of any substantiation suggests her claims on this are hearsay at best.

However, there are more regrettable aspects to Crs Halstead and Tessari's behaviour than unfounded claims.

Both the "Victorian Govt Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020. - Schedule 1 Standards of Conduct", along with BCSC's own Councillor Code of Conduct 2021 policy (signed off on by then Mayor Brett Tessari no less) explicitly state amongst other things, the following points regarding councillor behaviour:

"Treatment of others: A councillor must, in performing the role of a councillor, treat ... the municipal community and members of the public with dignity, fairness, objectivity, courtesy and respect ... not engage in abusive, obscene or threatening behaviour in their dealings with members of the public ... Councillors must not discredit (the) public."

In light of this, it would appear perhaps that Crs Tessari and Halstead owe a significant section of ratepayers an apology for their claims and behaviour, as well as for failing to live up to both the state government and BCSC's own expected standards of councillor conduct.

Ross Bencraft, Surf Beach

Road safety issue ignored

At the March 2023 Council Meeting, council decided to proceed with the least egregious of the one option with add-ons. No debating from our councillors, no asking or answering questions, just grandstanding from some of the regulars and one councillor, not up to date with the current council meeting policy and living in the past as a young boy playing on the road. Unless Cr Tessari is younger than he looks, the special charge scheme had not been legislated when he was a child. So council has voted and moved and passed a motion for Option one with variations. One wonders what other variations may be snuck in to the scheme. Council claims safety is an issue with the estates, but fails to address the major

safety issue for all road users, along Phillip Island Road at Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Estates. The Sunderland Bay Surf Beach Traffic Management Plan completed in 2014 and hidden for nine years but available via a google search has failed to be implemented by either Bass Coast Council or VicRoads. So much for cutting the road toll. A crash occurred at Christmas, luckily not a death but a crash that could have been avoided if this major road safety issue had been addressed by the relevant parties in a timely manner. The plan highlighted major deficiencies along this section of road and even provided options to eliminate or reduce the incidence of crashes along this section of road. Council and VicRoads have ignored this issue, instead the priority is to get the scheme done and ignore the problem. But the problem will only get worse with traffic volumes increasing. When will another death occur as a result of ignorance and failure to act?

Philip Davy, Surf Beach

Budget blowouts

An article in the Sentinel Times headlined "Capital Works \$29.5 million higher than budgeted". It's no surprise that ratepayers living in the Bass Coast Shire would be shocked by major blowouts in the council budget. What is more disturbing is the fact that the budget deficits grow exponentially year by year without any apparent attempt to manage them by council executives. They seem to me, to work on the premise that ratepayers just have endless pots of money at council's disposal.

The so-called Cultural Centre, currently under construction in Cowes, is already millions over budget and nowhere near completion. Council has wasted in excess of \$130,000 on their desired proposal to "urbanise" Sunderland Bay and Surf Beach with sealed roads, drainage, footpaths etc which, if approved, will leave ratepayers with individual debts likely north of \$30,000. It is clear that in excess of 51 per cent of ratepayers do not want this current proposal to be implemented so why do they continue to waste money that we will never see anything for?

Council is presently organising a review of the current waste management strategy. Clearly the outcomes are already pre-empted with their comment that "kerbside waste collection had a detrimental effect on Council's budget (in the last financial year)".

How can this be when ratepayers already pay the waste charges for their individual properties, with new builds added to the council's financial collection process. Presumably Bass Coast Shire Council has a formal legal agreement with the waste collection company locking in the pricing and if not why not, so how can kerbside waste have a detrimental effect on the budget?

This whole process has been non-transparent for years and it's time for ratepayers to be fully informed about how much of their rates are used productively and how much is simply just wasted.

I'm not holding my breath about a positive outcome, but simply extending my working week to seven days to try and keep on top of the never ending increase in taxes and charges.

Rob Chandler, Surf Beach



Julie Crawford, Tracey Jarman and Helen Smith on the lawns at the Winery at the Cool World Tour.



Sally and Wayne Tennant and Cathy and Sean Bridge lap up the sunny weather at the Ross Wilson Cool World Tour concert.

Eagle Rock at the winery

The Ross Wilson Cool World Tour concert held at the Phillip Island Winery earlier this month was a huge success with 500 plus concertgoers enjoying an afternoon of great food and entertainment under sunny

skies, in beautiful surroundings.

Artists performing throughout the day included Ross Wilson and the Peaceniks, The Badloves, King Canyon and Mark Howard.



Members of the Phillip Island Dining group having a ball at the Phillip Island Winery on Sunday.

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Colourful fundraiser for OLSS

On Wednesday March 29 Our Lady Star of the Sea held a Colour Explosion Run, raising funds to buy bags of rice for each child in its sister school in Bali for Easter.

Through the generosity of the school community there was enough to do this as well as being able to send funds to buy much needed educational supplies for the school. “We were also lucky enough to have funds towards our new playground,” said Principal Catherine Blackford.

“We started the afternoon with a lunch for parents and students as part of the fundraising.

“This was followed by best afternoon with parents, students and staff joining in the fun.

“The highlight of the day was the opportunity for some of the students to slime the teachers.

“We had ten very brave staff members who ‘volunteered’ to be slimed if we reached our different targets. The great news was that we exceeded our expectations so all the ‘volunteers’ were slimed.”

Each child who raised \$20 or more went into the draw to be able slime the teachers.

More photos at pisra.com.au



Mr Ingles being slimed by Brylie. Each child who raised \$20 or more went into the draw to be able to slime the teachers.



Olivia at Our Lady Star of the Sea's Colour Explosion Run.

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Biosphere curious?

Ever wondered about the UNESCO Western Port Biosphere?

Now is your chance to find out.

On April 16, at the St Philip's Church Hall in Cowes, Western Port Biosphere Foundation CEO Mel Barker will be giving a presentation.

The event, from 2pm-2.45pm, is free and hosted by the Phillip Island Conservation Society (PICS).

The biosphere includes Phillip Island and was recognised by UNESCO 20 years ago and is one of only five biospheres in Australia.

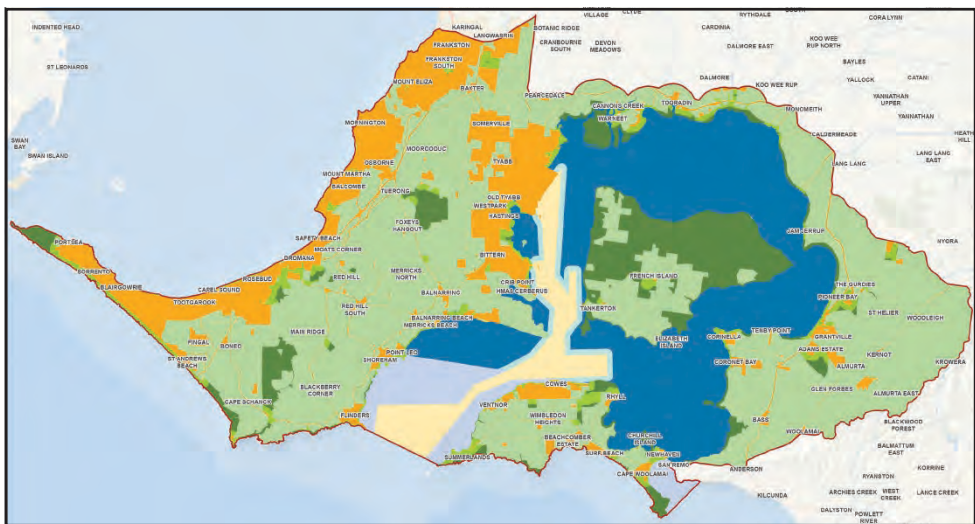
The foundation's projects include blue carbon ecosystems implementation and the develop-

ment – with PICS – of the Western Port framework to support sustainable marine and tourism industries in the bay.

“This is a great opportunity to hear about progress in protecting Western Port tourism and the businesses that are reliant on a healthy marine ecosystem,” PICS president Jeff Nottle said.

He said it was also UNESCO Biosphere's 20th year and the event would examine current priorities and future challenges.

Biospheres promote sustainable development based on community work and sound science.



A map of the Western Port Biosphere, showing the boundaries and key ecological areas. On April 16 the Western Port Biosphere Foundation CEO will be giving a free presentation at St Philip's Church Hall from 2pm.

Historic Homes of Rhyll

Have you ever wanted to take a peek into the past? Well, now's your chance.

The Phillip Island and District Historical Society in conjunction with the Bass Coast Branch of the National Trust have brought back the Pioneer Palaces Tour of Rhyll on April 29, to celebrate the 2023 Australian Heritage Festival, with the theme Shared Stories.

The Pioneer Palaces tour visits each of the nine remaining historic cottages in Rhyll dating back to the 1870s. The bus tour, led by local historians, will begin at the historic Rhyll Mechanics Hall, in the beautiful seaside hamlet and then proceed by mini coach visiting each of these heritage homes.

Participants will learn about the lives of original inhabitants of these remaining nine pioneers' cottages, and the roles they have played in shaping the Island's history.

Two tours will be offered – one in the morning and one in the afternoon, both on Saturday April 29. There are only 20 places available on each session.

Doug Waugh, President of the Society said, “We sold out so quickly last time, and had a number of disappointed people – that we decided to not only increase the tour from one coach trip to two, but also broaden the offering with a wonderful morning or afternoon tea at one of the cottages, so that attendees really get to experience the delights of these



This sketch is of Richardson's Cottage, one of the historic homes included in the Pioneer Palaces Tour of Rhyll on April 29.

cottages.”

Doug also said how much he appreciated the support of the owners of the cottages and thanked them for their willingness to share their homes.

Details on the tour can be found at: www.philipislandhistory.org.au

Tickets are \$25 for Phillip Island and District Historical Society Members and \$35 for non-members.

Bookings at: www.trybooking.com/CHJXZ

A changing of the guard

At the March AGM the new committee of the Probus Club of Philip Island was inducted ready for another year of friendship and fun.

“It's fair to say that the outgoing committee have performed above and beyond the call of duty being at the helm (albeit in different roles) for the entire Covid period – the worst times that we've known in more than a generation,” said club secretary Frank Robinson.

“They have well and truly earned their retirement from committee duties and the new committee will take the baton and steer the club into a brighter future.”

www.probusphillipisland.com/



Outgoing President Maureen Mortlock is presented with a certificate of recognition for her two years as president by incoming President Chris Cannin.

The poems, prayers and promises of John Denver

Considered one of Australia's most masterful storytellers, Darren Coggan takes audiences on a journey through the poems, prayers and promises of the life of John Denver in his new show, at the Wonthaggi Arts Centre on April 15.

The audience will share in an evening of singing, laughter and reflection.

Music fans will not be disappointed as Darren performs all the universal anthems, from Take Me Home Country Roads, Rocky Mountain High, Annie's Song, and Perhaps Love, to Thank God I'm A Country Boy, Calypso and Leaving On A Jet Plane, to name a few.

A revered country artist and multi-award winner in his own right, Darren delivers each performance with an authenticity and level of respect for songs that shaped generations.

"The show celebrates the close relationship and fondness that John Denver had for Australia, which I think helped inspire much of his work," says Darren.

"I hope that I can deliver the same sense of joy and yearning that John Denver had for performing and indeed living life to the fullest.

"I hope that the audiences emerge from the theatres feeling uplifted and inspired by the songs, taking with them a sense of moral concern to strive for a better world for our children."

For Darren, there has always been something about John Denver's songs, and song writing, that has always inspired him. Even from an early age, the music resonated with him.

"I have been a fan of John Denver's for as long as I can remember," he says.



Darren Coggan takes audiences on a journey through the poems, prayers and promises of the life of John Denver in his new show, at the Wonthaggi Arts Centre on April 15.

"The very first songs I learned to play on the guitar at age six were John Denver songs.

"The first big concert my parents took me to at age 13 was John Denver in Canberra, and after that night, the whole world started to spin in a different way for me.

"It was just John on stage, with his guitars and a voice full of sunshine. He completely filled the room with love and seemed to have a personal connection with every single person in the audience.

son in the audience.

"I thought, that's what I want to do. He was the reason I wanted to become a country singer-songwriter. I found great refuge in his albums and there was a spirit in his music that resonates with me to this day."

Darren has also recorded a new album specifically for the tour, featuring his favourite tracks. The album, *The Poems, Prayers and Promises of John Denver*, will be available at shows as well as digitally.

It isn't just Darren who finds solace in John Denver's music. As one of the world's most prolific songwriters, he made an indelible imprint on the 1970s music scene, and beyond.

Music historians attribute his influence to the 70s akin to what Frank Sinatra was to the 1940s, Elvis was to the 1950s, and The Beatles were to the 1960s. He effortlessly traversed folk, pop and country music and brought people together.

"John's timeless songs and his messages of love, peace, tolerance and understanding are just as important in our world today as when they were first written, perhaps more so," says Darren.

"In some kind of almost spiritual way, his music unites us, it brings us together and reminds us to love one another, and in the world that we live in today, being reminded to love each other is not such a bad thing."

As for his songs, and the stories behind them, Darren feels there is something in the songs that seems to resonate with each person on a different level, regardless of their beliefs.

"I think John was a masterful songwriter," he says.

"He had the ability to not only entertain his audience, but reach out to them and sing about them.

"I think it's the simplicity in which he delivers his lyrics; they are almost conversational and touch on universal themes of home, love, hope and things that are the essence of what we are all searching for.

"John's passion for love and life was so infectious, you can't help but get swept up in his enthusiasm. John spoke for the environment before it was popular to do so, and his songs have become voices for our planet, they offer us a vision of living in harmony with nature and with each other."

Tickets to Darren Coggan's *The Poems, Prayers and Promises of John Denver* are on sale now at the Wonthaggi Arts Centre (via www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=996249&) or online at www.darrencoggan.com.

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THIS SATURDAY NIGHT



Triple treat – an extravaganza of jazz

The Phillip Island Jazz Club presents a Jazz Extravaganza Day on April 16, at the Bowling Club in Dunsmore Road, Cowes.

Commencing at 10am and finishing at 5pm the day features three great bands.

“Leading the day’s entertainment will be Skiffle Party who were absolutely sensational at a club event last October,” said a club spokesperson.

“We have responded to audience and member pressure and have brought them back, they’ll be a star act on the day.”

The group is a trio made up of Floyd Thursby – vocals and rhythm guitar. Tom Flenady – double bass and vocals and Adam Russo – guitar and vocals. This high energy performing group are in high demand having recently been to Yackandandah and Canberra performing in festivals.

Also appearing on the day is Dan Bolton and Friends.

Dan Bolton is a singer/songwriter/pianist with a unique sound, honed over the years from his time living in New York City. His songs are 21st Century standards, incorporating elements of jazz, pop and Latin American styles. His music is reminiscent of George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin but with a modern twist.

Dan Bolton – vocals and piano, Paul Van Ross – saxophone, Steve Temple – bass and Luke Anderson – drums.

“Dan Bolton has travelled from Brisbane to perform and we are looking forward to hearing this very talented musician once again.

“Our third group is Andrew Nolte and His Dixieland Band.

“It is great to have Andrew Nolte living back in Melbourne after a few years living interstate.

“Be prepared for a well curated musical journey through classic titles with the some of the best musicians in this field.”

Featuring Andrew Nolte – guitar and banjo,



Dan Boulton is one of three acts appearing at the Phillip Island Jazz Club’s Jazz Extravaganza on April 16, at the Bowling Club in Cowes.

Sean Nihill – trumpet, Jim Glasson – clarinet and saxophone, Rob Moffatt – trombone, Richard Mander – bass and Sandra Talty – drums.

“All in all we have some of the best musicians available from Melbourne and interstate to give us a day to remember.”

There are still some tickets available. The cost is \$35 per head which includes a BBQ lunch.

For more information please contact Robin Blackman 0432 814 407 or Jill Boyce on 0417 416 300.

Venue is Phillip Island Bowling Club, 40 Dunsmore Road, Cowes, commencing at 10am and finishing at 5pm.



The Sydney Hotshots return to the San Remo Hotel on April 27 for a one-night-only sizzling performance.

Hotshots heat up San Remo

Look out ladies, the hunks from Sydney Hotshots are back to sizzle and seduce for one night only with a brand-new killer show, at the San Remo Hotel on April 27.

The two-hour production is a visual feast, choreographed and developed by Australia’s leading professionals. The hand-picked selection of dreamy guys has the ladies up from their chairs, screaming for more, night after night!

With a totally interactive production, The Secret Fantasies Tour is the perfect night out with the girls!

A high energy production, the show boasts the ideal mix of killer dance routines, eye-catching costumes, acrobatics, and jaw dropping athletic male physiques.

Hotshots’ smorgasbord of sexy guys are selected from 100s of men nationwide and put through an intensive “Hotshots Bootcamp”, all graduating with an A+ in hip thrusting!

“Our fellas come from various backgrounds from tradies, cops, farmers and even fireman to tour Australia and entertain the ladies,” said a Hotshots spokesperson.

Hosted by seasoned professional Paul Reynolds (original cast member of Manpower Aus-

tralia and Las Vegas headliner), Reynold’s showmanship and cheeky banter with audiences makes for an extra entertaining evening. It’s the most fun a girl can have standing up!

Don’t miss the Sydney Hotshots at the San Remo Hotel, Thursday April 27, from 7.30 – 9.30pm.

Tickets available from Eventbrite: <http://bit.ly/3j039T3>, or contact the San Remo Hotel on 03 5678-5352.

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The Advertiser has one VIP Entry Double Pass to give away to a lucky reader. The package includes an exclusive meet and greet, plus photo opportunity and a glass of bubbly on arrival.

Email your name and contact number to advertiser@pisra.com.au (put Hotshots in the subject line) or call 03 5952 3201 to go into the draw to win this fabulous VIP package. Entries close April 18.

“Australians All” a huge success

Offshore Theatre has just concluded a fabulous seven show season of Jonathon Biggins play “Australians All” ... to huge accolades from community members.

Director Amanda Price, and her production team and crew, have again excelled in bringing live theatre and entertainment of the highest calibre to Phillip Island, with this politically incorrect satire about the rapidly changing face of Australian culture, and how individuals from various walks of life find their place in it.

Planned for production by Offshore in 2020 ... the play was put on hold for three years due to the intervention of Covid ... the Offshore team was clearly delighted to back under the lights, and audiences over seven successive nights delighted to have them there.

Full houses were recorded every night at the new Newhaven College Black box theatre, with audiences immersed in this controversial yet hysterically funny presentation.

Many found themselves shrieking with laughter as political incorrectness reigned supreme on the stage ... but then squirming inwardly, questioning if that was in fact an acceptable reaction.

Whatever the answer, the dedication and teamwork of the Offshore cast and crew in bringing the familiar tensions created by social



Offshore Theatre’s Amanda Price (front) Director of Australians All, and cast members take a well deserved bow. Back from left they are Simon Furniss, Rui Mei Jian, Chris White, Julie Thomas, Ashley Reed and Remi D’Agostin.

changes to the surface, exposed attitudes and behaviours still evident across our nation today.

In so doing, Offshore Theatre successfully held up a mirror, reflecting who and what we Australians are, and challenged us to think, in the most entertaining of ways.

Congratulations Offshore Theatre on a thoroughly impressive and highly entertaining performance from all cast members, and the production team involved.

More photos at pisra.com.au



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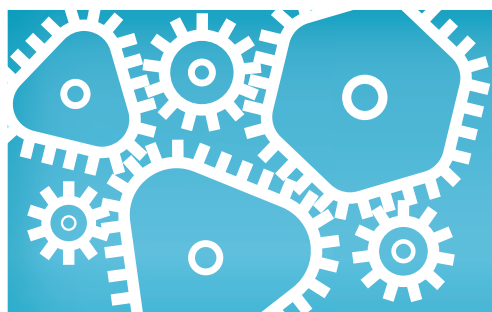
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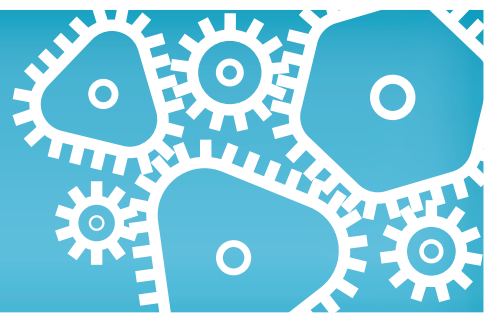
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DEATHS

FARVIS, Patricia Catheryn:

3/6/29- 9/4/23

Died peacefully surrounded by family. Loved wife of Arthur (dec)

Loving mother and Mother in law to Helen (dec) and Lyndon, Cathryn and Vin, John and Robyn and Pauline and Raoul, Richard and Toni.

Respected friend of Bill and Soiching and Alfie.

Daughter of Gwendolyn and John Joseph, sister of Verna (dec), Joan (dec) and Colleen.

Beautiful Grandmother to 21 grandchildren and Great Grandmother to 16 great grandchildren.

An Inspiration to us all, a life well lived. "Lovely"

Funeral details see www.handleyandandersonfunerals.com.au

SUNDERLAND, Ian Russell:

7.1.1942 – 7.4.2023

Cherished husband of Gwen.

Loved father of Mark, Robyn and Stephen.

Loved Grandfather of Kauri, and friend of Elisabeth, Nina and Tim.

Thankyou to the nurses from Bass Coast Health for their care.

PUBLIC NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Weekly meetings Bass Coast Shire, Wonthaggi - Tuesday 8pm; AA Cowes Big Book meeting at St Philip's Church (opp. Coles) - Tuesday 7pm, 0417 317 470; Salvation Army building, McKenzie St., Wonthaggi, Saturday 11am, 5672 3627. Phone head office 9429 1833.

FUNERALS

SUNDERLAND

— A Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Mr. Ian Sunderland will be held at The Newhaven Hall, 23 Cleeland Street, Newhaven on WEDNESDAY (April 19, 2023) commencing at 2:00pm.

Privately Cremated

Handley & Anderson
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

IN MEMORIAM

JUNE GLEESON

I can't believe you have been gone, for 6 years.

I was supposed to spend the rest of my life with you.

And then I realised you spent the rest of your life with me.

I smile because I know you loved me until the day you went away and I will keep loving you until the day we are together again.

Much Loved and Always Missed

Pat

PUBLIC NOTICES

Phillip Island RSL Community Men's Shed REPAIRS AND RESTORATIONS

From timber to metal – small to large projects. Reasonable prices. Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 9am to noon.

Contact Brian Walmesley at the Phillip Island RSL Community Mens Shed on email mensshed@pirsl.com.au Leave details and Brian will respond.

JO0006AA

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE AIR SCOURING



Water mains cleaning

As part of our continuing program to improve the quality of your water supply, Westernport Water will be undertaking water mains cleaning across Phillip Island, Bass and Woolamai from 26 April to 9 May 2023.

Air scouring is a proven method of cleaning water mains and involves injecting filtered pressurised air through the pipe, removing potential build-up.

Planned works will start on 26 April and go through to 9 May 2023 and include Wimbledon Heights, Smiths Beach, Surf Beach, Sunderland Bay, Cape Woolamai, Newhaven, Bass and Woolamai communities.

- Customers in the areas directly impacted will be notified up to 7 days prior to commencement of the water interruption
- Impacted customers may be without water for a few hours to enable works
- A schedule is available on our website
- If you experience water that appears milky following the works, this is caused by small pressurised air bubbles. This will resolve over time and is safe to drink.
- Contractor H&S Maintenance, who are cleaning the water mains, do not necessarily have to be in your street or at your property to carry out their work.

Please contact our Project Coordinator on 1300 720 711 if you have any questions.

westernportwater.com.au



FOR SALE

Attention sea changers, lifestyle seekers, young entrepreneurs!!

Exciting business opportunity for sale!

The Silverleaves Store is a beautifully unique space, right in the heart of Silverleaves, Phillip Island.

The only commercial business in the suburb, the store has a massive kitchen, indoor and outdoor seating capacity, and an on premise liquor license for 300+ people.

The sale includes all existing stock, furniture, equipment and goodwill. 2 terms of 3 years on the lease, with potential to extend.

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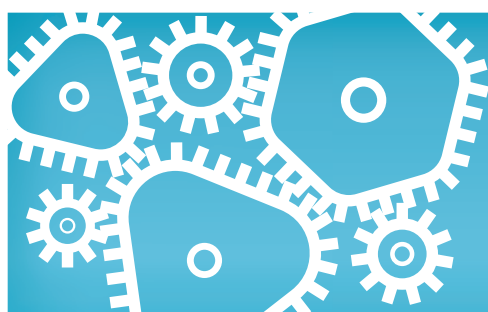
Motorsport and Venue Operations Assistant

Please visit our website to view the requirements, duties, and responsibilities - www.phillipislandcircuit.com.au/contact/careers

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Applications close Friday 28 April.

JD02463AA



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SITUATIONS VACANT



The Phillip Island RSL is searching for genuine people to become members of our fantastic team. We are seeking enthusiastic and motivated individuals who are looking for stable employment. If you are interested in making hospitality a career or just after some casual hours we encourage you to apply for one of our available positions. Training will be provided, you will require a Responsible Service of Alcohol certificate for some positions, Gaming and TAB accreditations an advantage but can be obtained during employment for the successful person.

Positions available:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Duty Manager | Full Time, Part Time and Casual |
| - Full Time – Salary based position | hours – RSA minimum requirement |
| Gaming/Bar Staff | Bistro Staff |
| Full Time, Part Time and Casual | Part Time and casual hours |
| hours – RSA minimum requirement | |
| Bar/TAB Staff | Dishwashers |
| | Permanent or casual hours |

All positions are required to work across 7 days including Public Holidays. If you are interested in working in hospitality and fit one of the above positions or require a position description email info@pirsl.com.au, please lodge a cover letter with your resume stating the position you are applying for or drop into the RSL.

SITUATIONS VACANT



BUS DRIVERS WANTED (F/T & CASUAL)

South Coast Bus are seeking experienced Heavy Vehicle Drivers for both full time and casual positions. The work will be covering a mix of scheduled runs as well as general charter from our Wonthaggi or Cowes Depots and suit those with previous exposure to driving medium rigid vehicles, with bus industry experience an advantage but not essential. There is plenty of work for the right candidates.

The successful applicant must be good with people, able to follow instruction and hold at least a MR license. You will be required to obtain a passenger endorsement (drivers certificate) and working with children check card if they don't already have one.

Please call 5951 4600 or send your resume to email: operations@southcoastbus.com.au or post PO Box 946, Cowes, 3922

SITUATIONS VACANT



Bus Driver - Casual

Banfields Aged Care is currently seeking an experienced and personable bus driver to provide driving services for, and to ensure the safe and comfortable transport of, our Residents and Clients. This is a casual position to work, as required.

DESIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE FOR THIS POSITION ARE:

- Current 1b (LR) license - mandatory.
- Proven experience and reliability in bus driving.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience in Occupational Health and Safety.
- The ability to solve problems independently.

WHAT YOU WILL ALSO NEED:

- A current influenza vaccination.
- Three COVID-19 vaccinations.
- A current Police Check.
- Current Victorian Drivers Licence.

We are a non-smoking facility.

If you believe you have the qualities and skills we are looking for, please forward your resume to reception@banfields.com.au



Maintenance Person - Permanent, Part-time

We are seeking motivated and dedicated Maintenance Person to be part of our team on a permanent part-time basis.

ABOUT THE ROLE

An exciting opportunity exists for an energetic and motivated Maintenance Person to work within our modern aged care facility at Banfields Aged Care.

IN THIS ROLE YOU WILL:

- have previous building and grounds maintenance experience,
- perform general maintenance tasks across the home and grounds,
- have a strong focus on ensuring a high standard of work,
- maintain compliance with a scheduled building and grounds maintenance program, providing a safe and attractive living environment for all of our residents to enjoy.

ABOUT YOU

- Demonstrated experience as an all-round handy person with solid skills in repairs, gardening and maintenance jobs
- Excellent problem-solving skills with strong attention to detail and a can-do attitude
- Proven customer service skills and the ability to build rapport with residents
- Outstanding communication skills
- The ability to work in a team environment or autonomously as required
- Reliable, friendly and professional manner

ADDITIONALLY, YOU WILL NEED:

- Current influenza vaccination
- Three COVID-19 vaccinations
- Current Police Check
- Current Victorian Drivers Licence

For more information or to apply, please email reception@banfields.com.au



Registered Nursing (RN) – Night Shift

Banfields Aged Care is seeking a motivated and dedicated Registered Nurse specifically for night shifts to be a part of our team.

Your responsibilities will be to provide nursing care guided by the Director of Care including medication management, clinical practice and supervision, documentation, wound management, and palliative care.

THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES WILL HAVE:

- Registered Nurse qualifications and current AHPRA registration (RN only).
- Previous experience in residential aged care essential.
- Ability to lead, motivate & educate staff.
- Strong communication skills.
- Team player qualities.

ADDITIONALLY, YOU WILL NEED:

- Current influenza vaccination
- Three COVID-19 vaccinations
- Current Police Check
- Current Victorian Drivers Licence

We are a non-smoking facility.

If you believe you have the qualities and skills we are looking for, please forward your resume to Reception via email reception@banfields.com.au

Network Maintenance Technician

South Gippsland Water (SGW) are currently seeking a qualified and enthusiastic person to join us as a Network Maintenance Technician. The key requirements of the role are:

- Demonstrated qualification or equivalent experience gained in an operations, maintenance, or equivalent industry.
- Demonstrated ability to work and participate as part of a team and autonomously.
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of water/sewer/network and other systems.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills along with well-developed computer skills including knowledge and understanding of Monitoring systems (SCADA).
- Permanent Full Time
- Starting Location Wonthaggi, Victoria
- Flexible Work Arrangements Available
- SGW Enterprise Agreement Band O3

At SGW diversity is celebrated and respected as important for our wellbeing and success. We strive for a workplace

that is equitable and inclusive. We welcome diversity in applicants.

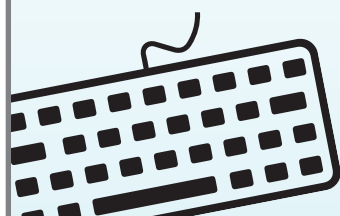
Please go to <https://www.sgwater.com.au/careers/> for more details about SGW, the role and how to apply.

All SGW employees and workplace participants must have received, at minimum, their first and second doses of a COVID-19 vaccine in accordance with SGW COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements Policy. Evidence requirements will be collected or viewed and may be stored strictly in accordance with SGW's Privacy Policy.

Applications Close
Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 5:00pm



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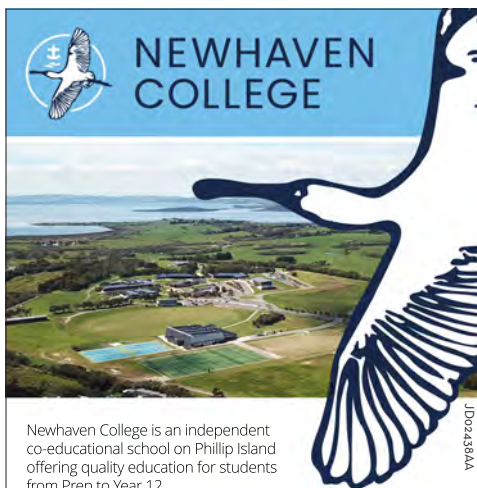
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For details on requirements, duties and responsibilities, visit our website www.newhaven-col.vic.edu.au/about/work-at-newhaven

Should further information be required please contact, Human Resources Manager, Leisa Lomax on 03 5956 7505

Newhaven College is a child safe environment. Every child has a right to be safe, and at the College we have a zero tolerance for child safety risks (including child abuse and reportable conduct). As such, preferred applicants will be subject to child protection screening, background and reference checks, verification of identity checks and must adhere to the College's child safe practices, as outlined in the Child Protection Program policies available on the College website.

Applications close 12.00pm Monday 24 April 2023

and to be submitted to: recruitment@newhavencol.vic.edu.au

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SPORT



Lexi Walton during the A grade match where the Island girls defeated Warragul 81-27.



Abby McCaughan in the midst of it all during the nail-biter of a match. More photos at pisra.com.au.

Island netballers take on Warragul in season opener

A grade

A grade had a remarkable start to round one of the season, defeating Warragul Industrials.

Both teams had a successful campaign despite the cold wind and rain.

The final score of 81 to 27 Phillip Island's way. Best on court went to Lily Mewett and Amelia Wragg.

B grade

The Phillip Island B grade team were defeated by the Warragul Industrials in their first game, with a final score of 50 to 45.

Despite the loss it was a promising start for the team, winning the first four quarters of netball and only missing out in the fourth.

There were some standout performances, particularly from Meika White and Isla Cousins who were awarded best on court.

Another player who showed impressive athleticism was Ahlee Penry, who put in a solid performance despite the tough conditions in the wet.

It was clear that the conditions made it difficult for both teams, but the Phillip Island team showed great composure and teamwork throughout the game.

The team has taken away some valuable lessons from the game and will continue to work hard to improve their performance.

C grade

C grade had a fantastic game, we managed to escape the rain until the very end. Although we had two late scratchings, we started with a solid seven eager guns who had never all played together.

Rachel Cameron and Poppy Marshall play their first games for PIFNC and how proud we were of them both.

Rachel excelled the whole day in C, reaching and scooping up loose balls on her way, proving you're never too old to start something

new. A true inspiration to us all.

Poppy proved her versatility playing both goals and defence and showed her skills are improving each week in her first every year of netball.

Captain of the day Tori Ryan played her best game after coming back since becoming little Tommy's Mum.

Karina the ballerina showed off her amazing leaps and quick moves in defence and just simply shone on a cloudy day.

To complete a very tight defence was the amazing Nikki Williams who time and time again proves she can not only play any position on the court at a minute's notice but smashes them. Nikki was unstoppable in GD flying high and deflecting one handed.

Then, moved her into goals working so well with Bella and once they sorted out their giggles and heckling of each other they both dominated.

It took Big Captain Tori to put on her new mothership voice and throw a big bomb into the ring from almost the centre circle, yelling out "just get in the ring".

Which Bella quickly did and got the goal. It's what they both needed to remember they still had a job to do whilst they were constantly laughing and having fun.

Bella Ross who hasn't played or touched a ball in a couple of years came out flying, killing it in goals and shooting long bombs all over the place. What she missed she quickly rebounded and passed around to get the job down.

Finally, our Rose girl in WA worked tirelessly with her quick moves and constant re offerings to move the ball in. Her level-headed decisions are a huge asset especially under pressure.

All seven girls took amazing intercepts at different times and played together like a well-oiled machine.

Just beautiful to watch even



Nikki Williams keeps her cool during the C Grade match against Warragul.

though we lost by a close two goals in the end, we felt like winners and are super pumped for the season ahead.

Finals scores Warragul Ind 28 defeated PI 26. Best on Bella Ross and Rachel Cameron.

U17s

The U17s started strong and stayed that way for the entire match.

Versatility within this team was put on display with changes and combinations being tried out during the game.

Meika and Lily were hard to beat with consistent goaling in windy conditions. Mid court showed great passages of play with Isla, Matilda and Sienna working hard and hunting turnovers.

Jazz, Ruby and Sophia ensured the Warragul girls were shut down with solid defensive pressure only allowing the opposition to shoot 10 for the game.

Score PI 69 – Warragul 10.

U15s

A tightly contested game saw Phillip Island take home the win 19 to Warragul's 16.

The game started on a high for

our girls who were presented their 2022 Premiership flag before the first whistle.

Despite taking home the win on Saturday the game was by no means the best this team is capable of. A combination of weather and stepping up to the next age group of netball for a predominantly bottom age team resulted in some sloppy passages of play and a high turnover count.

But some brilliant passages of play and the agility of the team with a lot of players being able to play multiple roles is a clear sign the best is yet to come for these girls. Best on court awards: Abby Clarke and Ellie Hennessy.

U13s

Our U13s, coached by club superstar Lawri Piera made a great start to the 2023 season!

All the girls played a part in a great team game.

Scores: 31 – 5.

Congratulations to Ciara for her solid performance in goals and Kate for her awesome netball debut!

U11s

Saturday morning saw the U11s take on Warragul Industrials for the first game of the season.

The girls continued their positive attitude from training all pre-season and brought it to the court in the first quarter.

After the nerves had settled and we got used to the big crowd rolling up, the girls got to work and brought home the first win of the day with a 6 – 4 victory!

The team was so well balanced, and all girls were all awesome!

There was a standout performance though and it was the captain for the day, Milla Cantwell.

She showed plenty of energy all day and was a great leader by example and encouragement.

The girls also thanked Claire and her parents for filling in for the day!

Phillip island bridge results

There were six and a half tables on Monday, April 3.

Greg Nicholson and Deb Anglim returned to their winning position for North and South with a neat 60 per cent.

Marnie Myall and Graham Mckergow were snapping at their heels on 59.58 per cent. Third spot was taken by Shirley Stewart and John

Farr on 49.58 per cent.

East and West players Ann Hodgson and Caroline Shaw got top percentage for the day with 53.93 per cent.

In equal second place were Maureen Stiles and Hannah Martin and Ruth Harvey and Maureen Stiles on 51.79 per cent. Lorrie Read and Neville Chapman finished third on 51.07 per cent.

Wednesday, April 5, was the first game of the mid-week pairs.

Club president Greg Nicholson, and partner Deb Anglim claimed first position on 61.90 per cent.

Not far behind were Diane Coleman and Graham Mckergow on 60.71 per cent. In third place were Bron Sund and Shirley Weaver on 55.36 per cent.

Phillip Island Bridge welcomes new players, free lessons are available for those new to the game.

It is a fascinating game where you are always learning, and a great way to make new friends over a glass of wine at the end of play.

For more information ring Wendy Mckergow on 0459 200 265.

Euchre results

Ladies winner: Bev Baulderstone, 8 wins.

Men's winner: Tony Fallon, 6 wins.

Encouragement award: Sandy Slaney.

Please Contact Bob Hee for any further information on 0418 173 388.

Come along everyone and have a great night out.

Tables booked for those wanting dinner before games start.

Bulldogs overcome plucky Dusties

From page 28

Well, what a difference a summer break makes.

With a smattering of senior players from last year's Finals, a couple from the PI veterans' team, combined with some stunningly talented Under 18s from 2022 graduating up, the ball movement from the Bulldogs was sublime.

Think the Dusties didn't know what hit them, and in some instances were left to wonder.

Tully Dickie, Liam Dayson and Ben Taylor led the junior charge, ably helped by Jessie Patullo and Damo Holmes from the Seniors.

A standout was Leigh (Woo) Woolford dominating in the ruck and the Dogs led by 19-13 into the wind in the first.

The second half saw the quality of the game decline as the effects of the first game of the season began to set in, with several players from both sides clearly showing that they may not have undertaken the same level of training in the off-season as their senior brethren.

The Dusties clearly decided enough was enough, rallying with the last three goals of the quarter with the wind, closing the gap to 19 points.

The last stanza saw Tully Dickie continuing on his merry way with the ball on a string, and then in stepped Sam McRae transitioning from his normal defensive spot to put away a goal late in the game.

All in all, a solid hit out with a 78-42 victory, and week off to savour a rest.

Scores:

Phillip Island: 3.1.19. 7.8.50, 8.8.56, 11.12.78.

Warragul Industrials: 2.1.13, 2.3.15, 5.5.35, 6.6.42.

Goals:

Phillip Island: Jesse Patullo 3, Matthew Jones 2, Tully Dickie 2, Ben Taylor, Liam Dayson, Harry Anderson and Jeremy van Strijp.

Best Players:

Phillip Island: Tully Dickie, Leigh Woolford, Damien Holmes, Ben Taylor, Matthew Jones and Kirby Fuller.

Warragul Industrials: Matthew Herbert, Kyan Willis, Ben Nichol, Declan Burton and Zac O'Hara.

Under 18s

The Bulldogs were keen to see what the Dusties had managed to put together in fielding an Under 18s for the first time in some time which is great for the competition.

The Doggies started off the first quarter well, with the weather providing good conditions to ensure the boys' skills could be on full display.

We had plenty of the ball early and while kicking three goals, we missed several opportunities to convert.

It was clear that Brady Ross and Jack Huther were going to have a big impact on the game.

The second quarter was a scrambling affair with neither side being able to control the play for any length of time, however, Sonny McMillan, Darcy Thompson and Kohen Beaumont worked hard and helped limit Warragul to two goals who had the aid of a handy wind.

After the main break we came out blazing and managed to take full control of the ball, resulting in a five-goal blitz and keeping our opponents scoreless.

Finn Cashman was leading from the front while Zac Walker seemed to be everywhere.

The last quarter was a bit of a hard slog as the frantic pace of the previous quarter was starting to take its toll on fitness of both sides.

Nevertheless, the scoreboard was ticking over with both sides moving the ball well when in possession.

Jack Johnston now had two goals and was another key focal point in the forward line.

A three goal to two quarter in the last ensured a win for the Bulldogs which was set up by a fantastic third quarter.

Well done to our boys on a good solid win!

Scores:

Phillip Island: 3.6.24, 4.7.31, 9.9.63, 12.10.82.

Warragul Industrials: 1.0.6, 3.2.20, 3.2.20, 5.3.33.

Goals:

Phillip Island: Brady Ross 4, Jack Huther 3, Jack Johnston 2, Zac Walker 2 and Finn Cashman.

Warragul Industrials: William Brewer 3, Toby Goswell and Jed Pinkerton.

Best Players:

Phillip Island: Brady Ross, Brayden Kleverkamp, Zac Walker, Sonny McMillan, Kohen Beaumont and Darcy Thompson.

Warragul Industrials: Jed Pinkerton, Brody Turner, William Brewer, William Grummisch, Ethan Nalder and Josiah Wells.

Under 16s

The first game of the 2023 season at the Kennel on Easter Saturday was always going to be a blockbuster, and it didn't disappoint.

After unveiling their 2022 Premiership flag, the Phillip Island Bulldogs U16s hosted Warragul Industrials in a tightly contested game.

Wearing black armbands in memory of Don Macklin and Artie Murdoch, the Bulldogs fought tough, keeping up the will and belief to bring home the win.

Scores:

Phillip Island: 0.3.3, 1.6.12, 3.8.26, 5.10.40.

Warragul Industrials: 1.3.9, 1.4.10, 2.5.17, 4.6.30.

Goals:

Phillip Island: Benjamin Chihotski 2, Isaac Savona 2 and Charles Martus.

Warragul Industrials: Thomas Cornwall 2, Nathan King and Damian Leslie.

Best Players:

Phillip Island: William Hill, Bailey Hennessy, Benjamin Chihotski, Jeremy Kelly, Oliver Duggan and Harry Arceo.

Warragul Industrials: Rylan Butler, Noah McDonald, Stephen Oling, Nathan King, Regan Awty and Cody Templeton.

For more sports coverage and photos, visit pisra.com.au/sport



Mark Griffin and Kai Mackenzie take an easy tackle during the Senior's match.



Benji Chihotski (U16s) weaves through the pressure.



The U18's under pressure during their fight against Warragul.



Jesse Patullo in the thick of the battle against Warragul.



Blake Olarenschow focused during the U18's match.

Hawkes and Demons descend on Wonthaggi

The community is invited to an historic game of footy featuring Box Hill Hawks and Casey Demons at Wonthaggi Recreation Reserve on Sunday April 30.

It is the first time a game for competition points at this level has been played in Bass Coast, so expectations are for a high-quality display of football.

Entry is free, with the VFLW game commencing at 11.30am, followed by the VFL men's game kicking off at 2.05pm. There will be kid's activities, plenty of food and drink options, plus, best of all, an opportunity to kick the footy or listen to the coaches during the quarter and three-quarter time breaks.

In addition to AFL and AFLW listed players, playing for both the Hawks and Demons, be inspired by and support local players Grace Matser, Sunday Brisbane, Grace McRae, Macie Gilmour and Max Walton as they represent the Box Hill Hawks.

Bass Coast Shire Council entered into a partnership with Hawthorn Football Club in May 2022, working collaboratively to promote Australian Rules Football in Bass Coast



As part of Bass Coast Shire Council's partnership with the Hawthorn Football Club, the Box Hill Hawks and Casey Demons will be playing at Wonthaggi Rec Reserve on Sunday April 30.

Shire. This double-header is also a significant step in Council's aim to increase women's participation in sport, by showcasing the pathways available for all our local players to pursue their sporting dreams.

Bass Coast Shire Council Mayor, Michael Whelan, is excited for the

VFLW and VFL to be coming to town and the benefits that it will bring for the local community:

"Bass Coast residents will be able to enjoy two highly competitive matches of the sport closest to Victorians' hearts within their own backyard.

"This fantastic family event is not only important recognition for Wonthaggi as a dynamic regional centre, but also our commitment to gender equality, inclusion and diversity as we drive visibility and opportunity."

The Mayor said the match is a

showcase for Bass Coast's huge potential, driven by Council's campaign, Wonthaggi Opportunity Unlocked. This advocacy strategy is designed to meet the demands of growth by generating positive business investment, employment, inclusion and liveability benefit to all community, including government investment.

"Wonthaggi is one of Victoria's fastest growing communities, with an expected rise in population of 33 per cent by 2036 to nearly 18,000 residents, so it is important that we bring these types of events to a town that is a highly sought after destination to live," says the Mayor.

"We look forward to discussing funding opportunities with both the state and Federal government to continue improving Wonthaggi's facilities and events into the future."

Where: Wonthaggi Recreation Showground and Reserve, 109 Korumburra Road.

When: Sunday April 30. Event starts 11am, VFLW from 11.30 am, VFL at 2.05 pm.

Details: www.basscoast.vic.gov.au/hawkswonthaggi

Phillip Island Angling Club Fishing competition

It was no joke that the Rhyll-Phillip Island Angling Club (RPIAC) started its 12th angling competition on April 1, closing out the 2022/23 season at 5pm the following day.

As a special reward for their dedication and persistence throughout the season, all angler's received a 6.30am Sunday sunrise and an extra hour of fishing from the state of Victoria, coinciding with the end of day light savings time.

The weather played with outdoor enthusiasts, with gusts up to 20 knots and occasional sprinkles of rain on Saturday, whilst Sunday fared better with bouts of sunshine and periods of relative calmness.

Consistent with previous weekend-long angling competitions, hopes for claiming one of the RPIAC Extraordinary Catch Incentives were high.

The members-only, competition weekend, \$1000 first-to-catch prizes, for senior competitors, have dried-up for another season. The incentives up for grabs were for eligible species that equal or exceed the nominated weight and included: King George whiting (1000 grams), snapper (10kg), gummy shark (20kg), mulloway (25kg) and kingfish (25kg).

The weigh-in team, comprising Weigh-in Maste, Russ Gallagher, and Club Captain Chris Leonardos, were pushed right to the end, with coolers and bags filled with fish awaiting assessment.

A total of 51 fish, two gummy sharks and three calamari made an imprint in the weekends' records and were in contention for prizes from RPIAC's sponsor, Phillip Island Marine.

The variety of species was impressive and included tuna, snapper, King George whiting, leather jacket, flathead, trevally, southern calamari and gummy shark.

With Sunday being the final weigh-in day of the competition, there was a supportive crowd at the club room to celebrate and acknowledge the achievements of all RPIAC anglers.

This weekend's post-competition presentation was also a special occasion for the Squidgies (anglers aged nine and under) and Juniors (anglers aged 10 to 16) as their season's participation awards and club champions were announced.

It was a great opportunity for members to catch up, enjoy a meal, and to thank all volunteers and the weekend's catering sponsors, Kristo's Charcoal Rotisserie and Bakers Delight Cowes.

The dynamic duo of Byron and Harley Griffin were ecstatic when they were announced winners of the weekend's Squidgie Mixed Bag Points competition.

Byron finished in second place after catching one fish worth 20 points, whilst brother Harley finished in first place with two fish worth 40 points.

The Junior Weight competition was won by Lachlan Newstead with a 13580-gram



Duncan Firth (left), Denver Firth (center), and Lachlan Newstead (right) had a great day on Sunday and were rewarded with some great tuna.

tuna.

The Junior Points competition saw Denver Firth take the prize after catching a King George whiting worth 1582 points (565 grams).

The Senior Heaviest Weight competitions were won by Duncan Firth and Kate Jinnette, after weighing-in a "big-big" fish, a 14475-gram tuna, and a "small-big" fish, a 990-gram trevally, respectively.

The Senior Points competitions were won by Len Bates and Pauline Leditschke, each catching an impressive King George whiting, worth 1848 points (660 grams) and 1624 points (580 grams), respectively.

The Shark competition was won by Vinco Anticevic, weighing-in a gummy shark, to turn the scale's dial to 14800 grams.

The Squid/Cuttlefish competition acknowledged a new club record, set by Michael Stefanakis, with southern calamari that weighed 2030 grams.

The Secret Weight prize was reeled-in by Steve Degering, who was closest to the weekend's secret weight with a 460-gram King George whiting (secret weight 456 grams).

The 2022/23 RPIAC Squidgie competition welcomed the participation of budding anglers, who spent some quality time outdoors to develop their skills.

The season closed with a three-way tie for second place, with Byron and Harley Griffin, and Saige Nicolaci all finishing with three fish worth a total of 60 points and becoming the Runner-up Squidgie Club

Champions.

Micah Goodwin had more success throughout the season and finished with a total of five fish, worth 100 points, to win the trophy and title of 2022/23 RPIAC Squidgie Club Champion.

Anglers showed great energy and enthusiasm in the 2022/23 RPIAC Junior Competition, which was close.

Lucas Chihotski impressed throughout the season and finished with a total of 17370 points in the competition, earning the trophy for Runner-up Junior Club Champion.

With a total of 22602.5 points, Denver Firth was consistent with his skills, frequently catching quality fish, and was awarded the title and trophy of 2022/23 Junior Club Champion.

The RPIAC Senior Club Champions will be announced at the RPIAC Senior Presentation Night function on May 20.

RPIAC encourages the sharing of interests and enthusiasm for angling to create lasting bonds and memories.

They promote responsible and sustainable practices and welcome participants in the next competition season, scheduled to commence in Spring 2023.

RPIAC's clubroom is located adjacent to the Rhyll boat ramp and is open to members and visitors on Fridays (from 5 pm) and competition weekends coinciding with weigh in.

For further information about the club, events, competitions, and rules, please visit the website: www.rpiac.com

Phillip island golf results

Tuesday, April 4

Mens 18-hole Stableford

A grade winner: Ron Magill (10) with 36 points from Tony Gay (11) with 35 points c/b.

B grade winner: John Monk (21) with 37 points c/b from John Hammon (21).

C grade winner: Peter Lawrence (38) with 37 points from Cecil Andrews (25) with 35 points c/b.

NTP: 5th David Therault, 7th Travis Johnson, 10th Paul Ledwith and 17th Trevor Reid.

BDL to 33 points c/b.

Mens 9-hole Stableford

Chris Hales (35) was the winner with 18 points c/b from Reg Browne (35).

BDL to 15 points c/b.

Wednesday, April 5, Ladies Stableford

A grade winner was Cheryl White (19) with 37 points.

B grade winner was Lynore Mercer (33) with 38 points.

C grade winner was Michelle Davey (45) with 36 points c/b.

NTP: 5th Emma Hall, 7th Debra Orr, 10th Helen Coghlan, 14th Lesley Meadowcroft and 17th Cheryl White.

BDL to 33 points. Nine-hole winner was Barb Moloney (40) with 15 points.

Thursday, April 6 Open Stableford

A grade winner: Debra Orr (15) 39 points from Peter Cartwright (5) with 38 points.

B grade winner: Glenn Botterill (20) with 37 points from Howard Black (16) with 36 points c/b.

C grade winner: Barry Melven (30) with 39

points from Liz O'Neill (32) with 38 points.

BDL to 34 points c/b.

NTP: 5th Lloyd Daire, 7th Kristian Formosa, 10th Vince Colella, 14th Bez Moustafa and 17th Tim Duff.

Open 9-hole Stableford

Winner was Chris Hailes (35) with 22 points from Paul Ledwith (12) 20 points.

BDL to 16 points c/b.

Saturday, April 8, Stableford

Men's results

A grade winner: Christian Lloyd (12) with 36 points from Scott Fullarton (6) 34 points c/b.

B grade winner: Steve Regnier (14) with 38 points c/b from Sam Orr (15).

C grade winner: John Hammon (22) with 36 points c/b from Simon Furniss (20).

BDL to 32 points c/b.

NTP: 5th Heath Grace, 7th Bob Niven, 10th Sam Orr, 14th Steve Pewtress and 17th Mark Jamieson.

Ladies results

Winners were Emma Hall (11) with 39 points from Septiana Cochrane (26) with 36 points.

NTP: 5th Ada Anglin, 7th Ada Anglin, 10th Vicki Roff-Smith and 17th Debra Orr.

BDL to 31 points c/b.

9-hole open stableford winner was Laurie Petrusch (23) with 19 points from John Rodakis (36) 15 points c/b.

BDL to 14.

Sunday, April 9, Open Stableford

Winter was Jack Ross (9) with 35 points c/b to Isaac Batty (-2).

AROUND THE BAY

WITH JIM'S BAIT AND TACKLE



Tuna were difficult to catch on the weekend, but Ash and Liam were lucky enough to find a couple.

A few things that are guaranteed to occur in life, death and taxes, and a long weekend on Phillip Island will always come with wind or rain, or if you're lucky, both!

This past weekend, our seventh annual Easter fishing competition for the Good Friday appeal ran over the four days of Easter.

Although the weather wasn't favourable and the ramps for most of the weekend remained partially empty, the window for fishing on Friday was wide open.

A lot of the fish we weighed for the weekend came from Good Friday, which as usual turned out to be much better than expected.

Light winds, a little drizzly, overcast and flat water, the good cocktail for fishing, but the larger fish we were seeing the week before had disappeared.

The comp began at 6am Good Friday and up until about 3pm that day, the largest fish weighed was a 190g whiting.

The good thing about running a fishing comp is that there is a larger amount of people on the water covering a larger area.

A lot of the entrants went out the front chasing the tuna/kingfish to win the major prize, but we only saw two all weekend.

Majority of the reports from the comp were whiting which dominated, only a very small handful were over the 500g size though, a lot falling in the 300gs category.

This year due to some extra generous donations we were able to offer the open category of heaviest snapper which brought in a nice early red weighing over the 3kg mark from the top of the bay.

One of the main things from the weekend was majority of the fish

weighed were by our junior and small fry categories. It's always good to see the kids coming up to weigh their fish and grabbing their catch out of the esky themselves without Mum and Dad's help.

Not as many calamari as we would normally being weighed, but the largest just over 1kg was one of the few caught.

Overall, the number of fish that were weighed for the quality of the fishing days was still positive.

Despite the above and the forecasted weather, we had record entries. Because of the generosity of everyone involved, those fishing and especially sponsors, donated a record amount for the weekend of \$3675 taking our total to over \$20,000 since we started the comp.

This is the seventh year of the Easter comp and almost three-quarters of the entries have supported us right from the start.

Many small fry are now juniors and juniors adults with more and more adults fishing with the next batch of small fry grandkids.

Almost all our sponsors have also been with us the entire time and none of this would be possible without them.

The whole idea of the competition is to make it more of a family competition. We now have many families adding it to their yearly calendar to be involved each year and much of the time the anticipation of waiting for the hourly text for the lucky angler prizes outweighs the fishing itself.

Holiday fishing

With the school holidays on over the next two weeks we are hoping the weather improves slightly so more people can get out and get some fish.



Max is just starting off in his fishing journey and was very happy to have won a rod and tackle box in one of the hourly draws.

The water temperature is dropping so we will start to see a changeover in the fish that are around.

Hopefully the larger 3kg+ salmon being seen offshore start moving in, as the reports from the beaches have been very slow.

We will see some of the rubbish fish move in, but the payoff is the table species that will be caught are generally very healthy and in good condition with their winter fat layers making them well worth the effort of heading out for a fish.

While the warmer days are numbered the fishing days/seasons don't seem to have a number anymore, with everyone pulling out the land-based gear to go and chase a calamari or two to get the bait freezer full for the spring.

Mel has now finished up in preparation for the impending birth of her first child and the next stages in her family's life, but she won't be far, and no doubt will show up on our Facebook posts from time to time.

Normal shop hours will continue until the end of April then we will go into our reduced winter hours and close during the week.

Once May rolls around the weekly auctions will start up again along with getting ready for the new season, which starts with our summer ordering.

We have made considerable changes to our stock range during the last 12 months but there is more to come. We're always open to suggestions from customers about items they would like to see on the shelves. Simply drop your suggestions into the shop.

For news on shop hours, competitions and auctions just keep an eye on our Facebook page and fishing reports.

Midweek bowls results

Another beautiful day for our Midweek Group.

Like an oasis in the middle of a desert, Thursday was a beautiful warm day surrounded by cool, cold and wet days. Twenty-seven players turned up to fight it out in our weekly challenge, and what a fight it was.

For the first time ever in our competition (as far as can be confirmed) it was a dead heat between two teams for the win.

Even on a count back we couldn't separate the winners, so we have no runners up this week only winners.

A big thank you to Marianne behind the bar with help from Colin, along with a big callout to Vern for all his work, and to Vicki for all her help too.

It's because of people like these

from the local clubs who are willing to help that our Thursdays are so successful.

As always, a big thank you to our regular management team who keep our competition going.

This week's winners (both teams on 36 points) were: John Nicholson (S), Phil Wright (3), Pauline McWilliams (2) and Peter Thorley (L).

As well as: Tony Heppleston (S), Luke Monckton (3) and Bobby Arnold (L).

Best One Game Winners on 23 points were: Denis Talbot (S), David Talbot (3), Gwen Jeffreys (2) and Shirley Corcoran (L).

Next week we will be at Corinella at 10am for a 10.30am start.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.



This week's winners: Tony Heppleston (S), Bobby Arnold (L), Luke Monckton (3), Pauline McWilliams (2), John Nicholson (S), Peter Thorley (L) and Phil Wright (3).



Best one game: Denis Talbot (S), Shirley Corcoran (L), David Talbot (3) and Gwen Jeffreys (2).

Island's golf croquet tournament

Last week, history was made at the Phillip Island Croquet Club when it held its inaugural two-day Golf Croquet tournament at the club's Blue Gum Reserve croquet lawns.

The tournament attracted competitors from the Albury, Wangaratta, Terang, Drysdale, Sale, Traralgon, Warragul, Leongatha and Wonthaggi croquet clubs and was very ably managed by the club's Tournament Manager, Claire Earl.

Refereeing the tournament were Tom Lacey (Wonthaggi CC) and Rob-

ert Smallwood (Phillip Island CC).

Right from the commencement of play on the first day of competition, the games were fiercely contested, and spectators were treated to some spectacular croquet shots and hoop scoring. This high standard of croquet was maintained throughout the tournament, much to the delight of spectators. Congratulations to all the competitors.

Anyone interested in learning to play croquet can contact Claire Earl on 0493 614 265.



Section one winner: Garry Shandley (Leongatha CC), with Tournament sponsor Lisa McPherson of Amaroo Holiday Park Cowes, and Claire Earl, Tournament Manager.



Section two winner: Denise Bray (centre, of the Phillip Island CC), with Lisa and Claire.

Social bowls results

In perfect conditions 23 bowlers competed in Thursday's competition with some exceptional bowling on show.

Runners up for the day were: Skip Robyn Dennis, 3rd Gloria Caile, 2nd Michael Frost and Lead Dvid Saric.

Congratulations to winners: Skip Lindsay Meredith, 3rd Barry Grazules, 2nd Derek Macdonald and Merrilyn King.



From left: Merrilyn King, Lindsay Meredith, Derek Macdonald and Barry Grazules.

TIDE GUIDE

Tidal predictions for Stony Point, Cowes -0.09 Newhaven -0.31 | HIGH TIDE IS MARKED IN RED

| WED 12 APR | THU 13 APR | FRI 14 APR | SAT 15 APR | SUN 16 APR | MON 17 APR | TUE 18 APR |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| HIGH 4:34 am 2.70 m | HIGH 5:11 am 2.67 m | HIGH 5:50 am 2.63 m | LOW 12:35 am 1.14 m | LOW 1:21 am 1.18 m | LOW 2:18 am 1.19 m | LOW 3:30 am 1.13 m |
| LOW 10:37 am 0.35 m | LOW 11:16 am 0.36 m | LOW 11:57 am 0.42 m | HIGH 6:33 am 2.57 m | HIGH 7:29 am 2.49 m | HIGH 8:41 am 2.43 m | HIGH 10:10 am 2.44 m |
| HIGH 5:41 pm 3.07 m | HIGH 6:22 pm 2.99 m | HIGH 7:05 pm 2.88 m | LOW 12:40 pm 0.53 m | LOW 1:30 pm 0.67 m | LOW 2:34 pm 0.83 m | LOW 3:56 pm 0.97 m |
| LOW 11:14 pm 1.03 m | LOW 11:54 pm 1.09 m | | HIGH 7:51 pm 2.76 m | HIGH 8:45 pm 2.66 m | HIGH 9:47 pm 2.60 m | HIGH 10:58 pm 2.59 m |

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Jack Taylor keeps his cool while under pressure from Warragul.

Bulldogs overcome plucky Dusties

Seniors

Quarter one began with a rain downpour and a slog out in the middle.

Dusties were up for this and after downing PI during the regular season last year, before having their hearts ripped out after the final siren in the prelim, they were playing like they've been waiting for this.

Tough but in the right spirit they attacked relentlessly.

The back half was busy repelling and Dyker was prominent, along with Tarquin McMillan.

Eventually the dam wall cracked and the Dusties sharked a ball at ground level from a marking contest and they were on the board.

Going to end of the ground being supported by a 35 knotter, the D's looked ominous.

Positive play from a back-half switch through Noah BH, back in a Bulldogs' jumper, saw him find new forward Woodfield for a set shot.

Missed the conversion but it looked pretty into the gale.

It didn't take long before the ball was again rushed forward, and this time Coach Pedersen marked strongly and goaled to level the scores.

Seventeen minutes in Not denied the Dusties kept

pushing forward and scored two majors late, both from crumbing opportunities despite the good work of the defenders.

Woody got another couple of opportunities late in the quarter but couldn't convert into the wind.

The Bulldogs went to the first break of the season behind on the scoreboard but with a sense that they were playing the more organised footy.

Quarter two commenced in the same way, in blinding rain.

A Philip Island snap from the boundary sailed through and low and behold, this amateur footy scribe could not work out who kicked it.

It started a barrage of attack on the Phillip Island forward line that saw goals to Snake Blake, Captain Taylor and Hayden Bruce.

The Dusties back line had been broken open like an Easter Egg and let's not forget, every time it went down back Dyker, Pearce, McMillan, Walton and co just kept sending it back.

A late 50 metre penalty against Pappas saw the D's convert late and go into the half time break with a 7.5 to 4.2 lead.

During the break Coach Pedersen re-enforced to the group that three of the four goals against were from crumbing opportuni-

ties, from the defenders doing their job but they needed more support from the ground fleet to dry up opportunities.

Sort that out and no reason why they wouldn't be holding the Dusties at bay.

Not sure if he believes in genies but he got his wish, and the ground fleet rolled their sleeves up.

Not a day of high possession for many players but everyone was doing their role and preventing scoring opportunities for the Dusties.

Wiz Richard's was proving he'd moved on from the cricket celebrations with a polished display.

The HB pencil was prominent and showed he was over last year's knee injury.

The second half was a bit of a low scoring slog between typhoons and sideways rain (bet the black puffer wearers were smiling like Cheshire cats) but saw the Island comfortably keep the Dusties at bay, running away with comfortable winners 62 - 36.

A week off and then Inverloch which would be a good sign of where we are truly at.

Scores:
Phillip Island: 1.3.9, 7.5.47, 9.6.60, 9.8.62.
Warragul Industrials: 2.2.14, 4.2.26, 4.4.28, 5.6.36.

Goals:
Phillip Island: Hayden Bruce 2, Cameron Brown 2, Jack Taylor 2, Jack Opitz, Cameron Pedersen and Max Blake.
Warragul Industrials: Mitch Pappas 2, Shane Brewster, Travis Ogden and Bailey Beck.

Best Players:
Phillip Island: Eli Richards, Tarquin McMillan, Alex Duyker, Jack Taylor, Max Walton and Travis Woodfield.
Warragul Industrials: Jackson Mockett, Kyle Beveridge, Todd Beck, Travis Ogden, Bailey Beck and Michael Debenham.

Reserves
Pre-game began with a warmup under the watch of new captain-coach James Nicolaci, ably aided by the evergreen Kevin Taylor, and Sean (Umpire turned assistant coach) Fuller.

After a desperate search, committee man Damian (Damo) Prendergast agreed to take on the club umpire role for the week!

Not sure whether we can convince him for later weeks but let's see!

Quarter one began with a bright sunshine, but with the regular strong breeze favouring the northern end.

Continued page 25

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AND STAFF**

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